This report was prepared by Susan Park, Environmental Studies Section Chair and submitted on November 23, 2015.

**Full Report**

**Introduction**

Founded in 1983, the Environmental Studies Section seeks a better understanding of feedbacks between human and natural systems within global, regional, and national contexts. We promote interactions within the scholarly community and encourage member engagement with practitioners and policy makers when appropriate. ESS supports innovative research, theoretical diversity, interdisciplinary perspectives, and the application of a wide array of methodologies for analyzing international environmental issues and global environmental governance.

**Section Membership**

ESS membership has been increasing on average in recent decades. As shown below, current membership is about three times greater than membership in 2005. The section has worked to expand its membership, striving to recruit a wide array of academics in the field, with particular focus on junior and international scholars. The slight decline in membership for 2014 may reflect the fact that the deadline for annual reports was moved back by 2 months, so numbers are not entirely comparable. This assumption is verified by the renewed increase from the new baseline in 2015 (to 439 members in February 2015).
FINANCES

As of 1 November, 2015, ESS had a positive balance of $11,834.97. This figure includes the $2,000 in sponsorship provided by MIT Press and Routledge for the 2016 ESS reception in Atlanta. Another $1,000 will be provided by the Earth System Governance Project in January of 2016. This year we lost our $1000.00 sponsorship from Ashgate publishing, a long standing partner of ESS. This was because they dropped their global environmental governance series featuring ESS scholarship when they were incorporated by Taylor and Francis publishing. Attempts to replace Ashgate to the same amount were unsuccessful but we hope to attract new sponsors in the following year.

In 2015 ESS expenses included awards ($300), travel bursaries ($500) and the 2015 ESS reception in New Orleans ($3,810.24). We also sponsored a junior scholars luncheon held at the annual meeting of the Association of Environmental Studies and Sciences on 25 June 2015 ($≈300) as a means to reach out to junior scholars and build international membership. This amount is not reflected in the current budget but should be disbursed soon.

AWARDS

The section administers several awards. The ISA annual Harold and Margaret Sprout Award is given for the best book published in the field of international environmental politics—one that makes a contribution to theory and interdisciplinarity, shows rigor and coherence in research and writing, and offers accessibility and practical relevance. Nominated works must be published during the two years prior to the year they are nominated.


The section also gives a Graduate Student Paper Award for the best paper presented by a student at the annual ISA Convention. In 2015 the award was given to two winners:

- Kimberley Suiseeya, Duke University ‘Negotiating the Nagoya Protocol: Indigenous Demands for Justice’
- Robert Gampfer, ETH Zurich ‘Do individuals care about fairness in burden sharing for climate change mitigation? Evidence from a lab experiment.’

The papers were presented at the ISA 2015 meeting in New Orleans.

In 2015, there was no Distinguished Scholar Award.

ACTIVITIES

The annual ISA Convention is the major event of the year for ESS. For the 2015 Convention in New Orleans, 36 panels, 6 roundtables, and 183 papers were submitted to ESS as a first or second choice. We were able to sponsor or co-sponsor 56 panels and roundtables at the 2015 meeting.
For the upcoming 2016 conference in Atlanta we have, 29 panels, 9 roundtables, and 172 papers were submitted to ESS as a first or second choice. The section is sponsoring or co-sponsoring 66 panels and roundtables in 2016, up by 10 from the previous year.

The ESS Newsletter is currently edited by Richard Matthew, University of California, Irvine, and Crystal Murphy, Chapman University. The ESS Newsletter includes sections on: ESS Section News, New Publications (Books, Articles and Chapters), Dissertation Abstracts, on the Web, Announcements, Career Resources, Student Resources. The next edition is due in Spring 2015.

ESS continues to maintain a website (developed by Ron Mitchell, University of Oregon, and currently administered by Rachel Tiller, Norwegian University of Science and Technology). The website provides information about ESS, the ESS charter, ESS Officers, Sprout Award Winners, the ESS Newsletter, Journals of interest to the section, and environmental studies graduate programs. We maintain our ESS page on the ISA website. We will continue to have parallel sites but ensure that there are clear links between the two. Rachel Tiller also maintains our facebook and twitter accounts.

ESS maintains an active discussion list (open to all) on teaching global environmental politics. The list was created by ESS member Michael Maniates, Yale-NUS College, Singapore. This list provides a forum for discussing substantive and pedagogical issues related to the teaching of global environmental politics (GEP) at the undergraduate and graduate level. The list, gep-ed@googlegroups.com, is certainly one of the largest list serves of its kind with several hundred professors, graduate students, and experts participating.

Finally, in 2015 ESS sponsored a junior scholars lunch at the annual meeting of the Association of Environmental of Environmental Studies and Sciences, 25 July, 2015, in San Diego. ESS was represented by Wil Burns (Sprout committee chair) and several other ESS members who attended the meeting.
ESS Officers 2015-2016 (Year term expires in parentheses)

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Teresa Kramartz (2017)
Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto
SPROUT AWARD COMMITTEE (5 MEMBERS, ROLLING 2-YEAR TERMS):

Note: one of the Sprout Committee members with a 2015-2017 term may step down in 2016, to ensure overlap in the Committee is staggered.

Chair: Wil Burns (2016)
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