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 above, 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
The assumption is verified by the renewed increase from the new baseline in 2015. We also lost some members between October 2016 and October 2017, but the projected figure for 2018 will bring us to an all time high of 445 members. This makes ESS a mid-sized section in ISA (currently ranking 14th in size out of 33 sections and caucuses).

**FINANCES**

As of 31 October, 2017, ESS had a positive balance of $15,173.57

The figure already includes the $4,500 in sponsorship provided by the journal ‘Global Environmental Politics’ / MIT Press, the journal ‘Environmental Politics’ / Taylor & Francis, the journal ‘Nature Sustainability’ / Springer and the Earth System Governance project for the 2018 ESS reception in San Francisco.

This makes four sponsors in total now, with ‘Nature Sustainability’ and ‘Environmental Politics’ being new sponsors. Taylor & Francis / Routledge stopped supporting us directly but are now represented by their journal ‘Environmental Politics’.

**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 within two years of the year they are nominated.

The winner for 2018 is:


(receiving $400 in prize money)

There are two Runners-up (with a prize of $100 for each of them)

- Kemi Fuentes-George, Middlebury College; for “Between Preservation and Exploitation: Transnational Advocacy Networks and Conservation in Developing Countries”, The MIT Press (2016)

The total of prize money for these three awards is $600 ($400 for the winner and $100 for each runner-up).

The section also gives a *Graduate Student Paper Award* for the best paper presented by a student at the 2017 annual ISA Convention. The Award will be presented to the winner(s) at the next convention in San Francisco in April 2018.
The 2017 / 18 award is given to:

- Saskia van Wees, University of Florida; Paper title: ‘Normative Pressure and Environmental Governance’

The runner-up is:

- Abby Lindsay, American University; Paper title: ‘Social Learning as an Adaptive Measure to Prepare for Climate Change Impacts on Water Provision in Peru’

The total of prize money for these two awards is $250 ($150 for the winner and $100 for the runner-up).

In 2018, we will also present again the Distinguished Scholar Award to honour a scholar with exceptional research and teaching contributions in the field of international environmental governance studies. We are very proud to award this in 2018 to:

- Jennifer Clapp, University of Waterloo, Canada

**Activities**

The annual ISA Convention is the major event of the year for ESS. For the 2018 Convention in San Francisco, ESS accepted (including through co-sponsorship offers from other sections) 28 submitted panels and 13 submitted roundtables. Another 25 panels were crafted (also including crafted panels through co-sponsorship offers), allowing for the acceptance of approximately 125 individually submitted papers. Together with the Distinguished Scholar Panel, this makes a total of 67 ESS panels and roundtables for the 2018 Convention, 41 of them co-sponsored with one or two other sections.

Please note: Due to the late correction of panel over-allocations in other sections we lost 3 panels, which we had previously marked for acceptance.

In terms of total submissions:

- For 1st preference: 22 (28) panels, 15 (15) roundtables, 168 (200) papers.
- For 2nd preference: 7 (9) panels, 2 (2) roundtables, 71 (83) papers.

(Bracketed numbers show official ISA system statistics. Likewise, there are smaller discrepancies between system statistics and our other panel figures presented in the first paragraph of this section. These various differences are likely due to irregularities in the online submission mask, which were also experienced in past years.)

The ESS Newsletter is currently administered by Genia Nizkorodov, University of California at Irvine. The newsletter editors are Richard Matthew, Evgenia Nizkorodov, Bemmy Maharramli, Maureen J. Purcell, Paroma Wagle, and Kristen A. Goodrich.

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 December 2017.
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 including, the ESS charter, ESS Officers, Sprout Award Winners, the ESS Newsletter, journals of interest to the section, and environmental studies graduate programs. In addition to this self-run page, 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. The 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.
ESS OFFICERS 2017-2018 (YEAR TERM EXPIRES IN PARENTHESES)

Chair:
- Fariborz Zelli (2019), Lund University (Sweden), fariborz.zelli@svet.lu.se

Vice-chair & Programme Chair:
- Sikina Jinnah (2019), University of California Santa Cruz, sjinnah@ucsc.edu

Executive Committee (6 members, rolling 2-year terms):
- Wil Burns (2018), Forum for Climate Engineering Assessment, American University, wil@feronia.org
- Ken Conca (2019), American University, conca@american.edu
- David Downie (2019), Fairfield University, ddownie@fairfield.edu
- Agni Kalfagianni (2019), Utrecht University (The Netherlands), a.kalfagianni@uu.nl
- Susan Park (2018), University of Sidney, susan.park@sydney.edu.au
- D.G. Webster (2018), Dartmouth College, D.G.Webster@dartmouth.edu

Sprout Award Committee (5 members, rolling 2-year terms):
- Chair: Wu Fengshi (2018), Nanyang Technological University (Singapore), isfswu@ntu.edu.sg
- Jörg Balsiger (2019), University of Geneva (Switzerland), joerg.balsiger@unige.ch
- Tabitha Benney (2019), University of Utah, tabitha.benney@poli-sci.utah.edu
- Beth DeSombre (2018), Wellesley College, edesombr@wellesley.edu
- Stacy VanDeveer (2019), University of Massachusetts Boston, Stacy.VanDeveer@umb.edu

Nominations Committee (4 members, rolling 2-year terms):
- Deborah Barros Leal Farias (2018), University of British Columbia deborahbarrosleal@gmail.com
- David Gordon (2019), University of California Santa Cruz, dagordon@ucsc.edu
- Charles Roger (2019), University of Toronto, charles.roger@utoronto.ca
- Kimberly R. Marion Suiseeya (2018), Northwestern University & Purdue University, kmarions@purdue.edu

Representative to the *Global Environmental Politics* editorial board (3-year term):
- Mark Axelrod (2018), James Madison College and the Department of Fisheries & Wildlife, Michigan State University, axelrod3@msu.edu

We also plan to establish an Outreach Committee at our next business meeting in April 2018 in San Francisco. Our Executive Committee has approved of this motion and we will seek nominations from early 2018.