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, with the projected membership figure for 2019 being 433 numbers (down 12 from the previous year). This makes ESS a mid-sized section in ISA (currently ranking 15th in size out of 33 sections and caucuses).
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. This notwithstanding, there are slight declines in some years, including 2014, 2017 and also 2019. This may reflect the fact that the deadline for annual reports was moved back by 2 months, so numbers are not always entirely comparable.

**FINANCES**

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.

For 2019, the selection committee took the rare decision of honouring two winners for their outstanding work:

- Tim Bartley, Rules without Rights: Land, Labor and Private Authority in the Global Economy (Oxford UP)

Each of them receives $400 in prize money. There are no runners-up in 2019. The total prize money for the Sprout Award will hence amount to $800.

The section also gives a **Graduate Student Paper Award** for the best paper presented by a student at the 2018 annual ISA Convention. The Award will be presented to the winner(s) at the next convention in Toronto in March 2019.

The 2018 / 19 award is given to:

- Craig Charlotte Grech-Madin, Uppsala University, Sweden; Paper title: ‘Currents of Conscience Evolution and Operation of the Water Taboo’
The runner-up is:


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

In 2019, we will also give out our 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 of our section’s Distinguished Scholar 2019:

- Robyn Eckersley, University of Melbourne, Australia

**ACTIVITIES**

The annual ISA Convention is the major event of the year for ESS. For the 2019 Convention programme in Toronto, ESS accepted (including through co-sponsorship offers from other sections) 29 submitted panels and 8 submitted roundtables (the latter including the roundtable for our distinguished scholar and a speed mentoring event). Another 21 panels were crafted (also including crafted panels through co-sponsorship offers), allowing for the acceptance of approximately 105 individually submitted papers, equaling a paper acceptance rate of 62.8%.

Together with the Distinguished Scholar Panel, this makes a total of 61 ESS panels and roundtables for the 2019 Convention. Most of these panels are co-sponsored, with the Development and IPE sections and the conference theme as our major collaborators this time.

In terms of total submissions we received:

- For 1st preference: 27 panels, 11 roundtables, 166 papers.
- For 2nd preference: 5 panels, 1 roundtables, 65 papers.

In April 2018, at the last business meeting of our section in San Francisco, we established a new committee, the ESS Outreach Committee with four members. The committee’s tasks are to reach out to new potential members and non-academic stakeholders, support early career researchers and enhance the diversity of our section’s membership, conference participation and office holders.

ESS Newsletter is administered by Evgenia 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: New Publications (Books, Articles and Chapters), Reports and Dissertation Abstracts, Calls for Submission (conferences, journals, and workshops), Career and Student Resources, and Announcements such as membership awards and upcoming events. The next edition (Fall Newsletter) is due in mid-December 2018.
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 one of the largest list serves of its kind with several hundred professors, graduate students, and experts participating.
ESS Officers 2018-2019 (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):
• Agni Kalfagianni (2019), Utrecht University (The Netherlands), a.kalfagianni@uu.nl
• Ken Conca (2019), American University, conca@american.edu
• David Downie (2019), Fairfield University, ddownie@fairfield.edu
• Michele Betsill (2020), Colorado State University, m.betsill@colostate.edu
• McKenzie Johnson (2020), Purdue University, john2209@purdue.edu
• Christopher Paul (2020), North Carolina Central University, cpaul5@nccu.edu

Sprout Award Committee (5 members, rolling 2-year terms):
• Jörg Balsiger (2019), University of Geneva (Switzerland), joerg.balsiger@unige.ch
• Tabitha Benney (2019), University of Utah, tabitha.benney@poli-sci.utah.edu
• Stacy VanDeveer (2019), University of Massachusetts Boston, Stacy.VanDeveer@umb.edu
• Thomas Hickmann (2020), University of Potsdam, Germany, hickmann@uni-potsdam.de
• Kimberly R. Marion Suiseeya (2020), Northwestern University, kimberly.suiseeya@northwestern.edu

Nominations Committee (4 members, rolling 2-year terms):
• Charles Roger (2019), University of Toronto, charles.roger@utoronto.ca
• David Gordon (2019), University of California Santa Cruz, dagordon@ucsc.edu
• Colin Kuehl (2020), Northern Illinois University, ckuehl@niu.edu
• Hamish van der Ven (2020), McGill University, hamish.vanderven@mcgill.ca

Outreach Committee (newly established):
• Charles Raul Pacheco-Vega (2019), Center for Economic Teaching and Research (Mexico), raul.pacheco-vega@cide.edu
• Rachel Tiller (2019), Norwegian University of Science and Technology, rachel.tiller@sintef.no
• Craig Johnson (2020), University of Guelph, cjohans06@uoguelph.ca
• Katharine Rietig (2020), Newcastle University, katharine.rietig@ncl.ac.uk

Representative to the ‘Global Environmental Politics’ Editorial Board:
• Eve Bratman (2021), Franklin and Marshall College, eve.bratman@fandm.edu