The Global South Caucus (GSCIS), now in its seventh year of operation, continues to grow and consolidate its status within ISA in line with its key objectives:

1. To provide a channel for the sharing of research, information and ideas among scholars and practitioners of/in the various regions of the south;
2. To promote the ISA as a forum for dissemination of cross-regional global south research;
3. To encourage South-oriented scholars to participate in the association’s conferences and other initiatives;
4. To encourage and facilitate South scholar publication in ISA journals and other mainstream publications;
5. To work with ISA committees and sections to encourage work on South issues and regions; and
6. To engage in professional development activities intended to improve employment and advancement opportunities for South-oriented scholars.

MEMBERSHIP
GSCIS membership has increased exponentially over the past seven years and is currently at 322 members -up from 2 in 2010, 149 in 2013 and 278 in 2016, - a figure that consolidates the efforts to position the Global South within ISA and surpasses the membership of various ISA sections. Because of its interdisciplinary, cross-regional orientation and caucus status (affiliation costs are minimal and less than the cost of joining an ISA section), GSCIS continues to attract a wide range of IR, development and political science scholars focused on developing regions.

Member communications are aided by the GSCIS Facebook page, https://www.facebook.com/isa.gsc/, external blogsite, http://gscis.blogspot.com/ and Twitter account, https://twitter.com/gscisa. We are currently in the process of unifying these outlets with an eye to streamlining the Caucus’ outreach.

FINANCES
As in past years, the sources of income for GSCIS activity derive from annual membership dues and revenue from GSCIS-led conferences and workshops, of which there have been three to date, Havana (Cuba) in 2017, Singapore in 2015 and Menton (France) in 2012.

The caucus’ current financial stability is largely the result of earnings accrued at the 2015 conference in Singapore. Expenses generated in 2017 relate to the Cuba workshop (whose income was equivalent to its expenses) and to the GSCIS Distinguished Scholar Luncheon held at the ISA annual conference in Baltimore.
ISA Participation and Event Planning

The GSCIS is jointly participating in the ISA Presidential Global South Task Force effort (2017-2018). A Long-Range Planning Committee (LRPC) proposal for setting up a presidential taskforce on ISA’s relations with the global South was approved by the Governing Council at its March 2016 meeting in Atlanta. Following this, the GSCIS worked with then ISA President, T.V. Paul, to identify Task Force committee members and topics to be considered, and has participated actively throughout 2017 in the researching, debating and preparing the draft report. A final report, which focuses on actionable resolutions that would advance a number of the GSCIS objectives, will be presented in early 2018.

At the 2017 annual convention in Baltimore, the GSCIS was well represented, sponsoring or cosponsoring nineteen panels and roundtables, which was accomplished by stretching our limited caucus allocation of three slots through extensive cooperation with other panels and caucuses. Specifically, we collaborated and continued to collaborate with the Global Development, FTGS, IPE, Peace Studies, ISS, CSW and Professional Development groups, among others, to expand both our network and cosponsorship opportunities. The Caucus, additionally, co-sponsored the Global South Dialogue session during the Baltimore conference, which documented a number of issues that limit broader participation of GS scholars in ISA, along with potential solutions for addressing them. This work also set the stage for much of the Global South Task Force planning and will continue to form a part of the annual conference programming.

Mid-year activities focused on the San Francisco 2018 conference program and we are pleased again to co-sponsor fifteen panels within the standard program, as well as co-sponsoring the Mentoring Café: Strategies and Support for Global South Scholars with the Committee on the Status of Diversity and Representation. We were fortunate enough to secure the support of 20 outstanding academics who will discuss with attendees a diverse array of challenges faced by scholars working in GS environments. Although not sponsored directly by the caucus, we worked actively with ISA Headquarters in the preparation of the call for submissions and the selection process for three In Other Words pilot roundtables that will be conducted in French and Spanish at the San Francisco convention.

The call for submissions also included Portuguese-language proposals, but none were submitted.

The second semester of 2017 has also been a time for planning our next caucus activities. Of particular note, the GSCIS prepared and submitted a proposal for an ISA Special Projects Grant to initiate a Mentoring, Training and Networking Program for Emerging Scholars of the Global South. Unfortunately, our bid was not successful, but we plan on resubmitting the proposal again next year with an eye to initiating the program between 2018 and 2019.

Cuba Workshop, Havana

GSCIS hosted its third international event in Havana, on July 6-8, 2017, with Jacqueline Braveboy-Wagner acting as its organizer. Given Cuban resource limitations, it took the form of a workshop co-sponsored by the University of Havana (UH), “Norman Girvan” Chair. The theme was “Exploring the Local in International Relations” and paper proposals were solicited in three sub-areas: IR theory, IR Practice/Foreign Policy, and Pedagogy. Participants included 151 paper presenters, and approximately 50 additional Cuban participants and conference observers. Although registration fees were kept low
($60-$80), the number of attendees allowed us to provide eight travel grants, more than initially expected. Based upon the highly positive experience of the workshop format used in Havana, the GSCIS is currently considering future venues to conduct a similar exercise in the Middle East or Africa.

AWARDS

Also in Baltimore, the GSCIS held its annual luncheon for a Distinguished Global South scholar. The membership chose to honor Argentine professor, Diana Tussie. As in past years, generous financial assistance was provided by ACUNS, and a contribution was also received from the Philippine International Studies Association (PHISO).

The 2018 Distinguished Scholar award will honour scholarship from Africa or the Middle East. Given the difficulties of coordinating a membership vote to select the GSCIS Distinguished Scholar annually, and the low rates of participation in the voting process itself, the acting GSCIS Executive Committee unanimously decided to modify the selection process as follows. The Executive Committee will appoint the Distinguished Scholar Selection Subcommittee, to be comprised of the GSCIS Chair, the acting GSCIS Board Member(s)-at-Large from the award region and two former at-Large Board Members from the award region. The Selection Subcommittee will review nominations received from the Caucus membership, add its own nominations (if it so decides) and present a final candidate to the GSCIS Executive Committee for approval. The Executive Committee will vote on the candidate presented for the award. If a majority of the Executive Committee does not approve the candidate, the Selection Subcommittee must again review the nominations and present an alternate candidate for approval. Different from past years, the Executive Committee also decided to host the award ceremony at the Distinguished Scholar Award breakfast, for which participants pre-register (at a subsidized rate) on the ISA website when registering for the 2018 convention. At the close of the San Francisco convention registration process, there were over 100 attendees preregistered for the GSCIS breakfast.

ELECTIONS

The GSCIS elected in Baltimore a new Chair, Vice Chair and Regional Representative positions, and with greater communication efforts we achieved 22.3% of membership voting. The new Global South Caucus Governance and Leadership is as follows:

- Arlene B. Tickner  
  Chair (2017-19)  
  Universidad del Rosario

- Mariana Kalil  
  Program Co-Chair (2017-19)  
  University of Brasilia

- Nanette Svenson  
  Immediate Past Chair (2017-19)  
  Tulane University
Executive Committee At-Large Members

- Pichamon Yeophantong
  Asia (2017-18)
  University of New South Wales

- Waleed Hazbun
  Middle East (2017-19)
  American University of Beirut

- Rirhandu Mageza-Barthel
  Africa (2017-19)
  Goethe University Frankfurt

- Fabricio H. Chagas-Bastos
  Latin America/Caribbean (2017-19)
  University of Cambridge

- Murad Ismayilov
  Developing Eurasia (2017-19)
  University of Cambridge

Administrative

- Thiago Rodrigues
  Communications Director (2017-19)
  Universidade Federal Fluminense

- Kevin Funk
  Newsletter Editor (2017-18)
  Spring Hill College

- Matthew Bishop
  Treasurer (2017-18)
  University of Sheffield

Global South Caucus Nominations for the Association’s Different Committees

The GSCIS participated actively in nominating its membership for different ISA committee roles. The Caucus currently holds positions in the following committees:

- Academic Freedom
- Status of Women
- Status of Representation and Diversity
- Evaluation of Executive Director
- Finance
- Gerner Innovative Teaching Award
- Junior Scholar Symposium Organizer
- Long Range Planning
- Nominating
- Professional Development
- Professional Rights and Responsibilities
- Publications
- Research and Workshop Grants
- Rosenau Post-Doc
Best Book of the Year Award
• Carl Beck Award
• Tickner Award
• Deutsch Award
• Rosenau Award

REQUEST FOR INCREASED PANEL ALLOTMENT

As an interdisciplinary, cross-regional caucus initiative, the GSCIS also continues to request consideration for a Governing Council move to increase annual conference panel allocations for caucuses, as was initially discussed in Atlanta. Currently capped at three per caucus, this represents a serious handicap to programming and networking efforts—changeable now only through ascent to section status, which was not the initial objective of the GSCIS and which is not in line with its collaborative, cross-section origins. As is true for the ISA sections, if caucus conference allocations could be made more reflective of actual membership status, this would not only facilitate caucus programming but also work to create a more representative range of ISA panels and roundtables for the annual meetings.

The GSCIS extends its thanks to both HQ staff and the other ISA sections and caucuses for the ongoing support, collaboration and assistance that make our broad-based programming possible.