COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF ENGAGEMENT WITH THE GLOBAL SOUTH
2019 ANNUAL REPORT

This report was prepared by Jorge A. Schiavon, acting at the chair of the ISA Committee on the Status of the Global South (members include Faten Ghosn, Kristina Hinds, Audie Klotz, Folashade Soule, Jason Strakes, and Pichamon Yeophantong).

The report was submitted December 7, 2018 for the 2019 Governing Council meeting in Toronto.

FULL REPORT

BACKGROUND

A Global South Task Force (GSTF) was convened by past ISA President T.V. Paul (2016-2017). “In an effort to make ISA a more inclusive and globally representative academic body, the Association’s leadership felt that an examination into the issues facing Global South (GS) scholars of international studies disciplines was warranted”. At its meeting in Atlanta in March 2016, the Governing Council (GC) of ISA unanimously approved the creation of a presidential Task Force on the Global South, in collaboration with the Global South Caucus (GSCIS), to complement and expand on the work of the GSCIS. In 2017-18, the GSTF worked on gathering and analyzing information and produced the ISA Task Force on the Global South Report 2018 (TFGSR-2018), including a series of proposals and policy recommendations for ISA. These recommendations were presented as resolutions and put forth for the approval of the 2018 ISA Governing Council. Six action items were approved:

1. Create a permanent standing Committee on the Status of Engagement with the Global South;
2. Amend the Travel Grant Guidelines to include general norms and concrete selection criteria, to improve on the transparency and efficiency of the travel grant selection process;
3. Establish an Emerging Global South Scholar Workshop (with a budget line item of $2,500 per year);
4. Revise ISA’s guidelines for its Research and Workshop Grants to include specific provisions geared toward Global South scholars.
5. Institute a system for annual tracking of Global South data, including publication submissions, responses, acceptances, conference participation, governance participation, and travel grant awards.
6. Establish funding structures geared toward Global South members’ advancement within the ISA

With the approval of the 2018 ISA Governing Council of these six actions items, the Committee on the Status of Engagement with the Global South (CSEGS) was created and its members selected: Jorge A. Schiavon (Chair), Faten Ghosn, Kristina Hinds, Audie Klotz, Folashade Soule, Jason Strakes, and Pichamon Yeophantong.

REPORT

The members of the CSEGS met at the ISA 2018 Annual Convention in San Francisco, California. This report provides general information about the activities of the Committee pursuing objectives designed to increase the participation, status and visibility of Global South scholars in ISA.

Its activities are guided by the six action items approved by ISA’s Governing Council.
I. CREATE PERMANENT STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF ENGAGEMENT WITH THE GLOBAL SOUTH

This action item has already been achieved with the creation of the CSEGS at ISA’s 2018 Governing Council meeting in San Francisco on April 3, 2018. Since then, the Committee has been working smoothly on achieving the other five action items.

The first activity of the Committee was to create its web page at ISA’s website (https://www.isanet.org/ISA/Governance/Committees/Status-of-Global-South). In the web page, the Committee’s responsibilities, membership, and information is provided, as well as the report of the Task Force on the Global South (full report and condensed version). We also have the information on our first Emerging Global South Scholar Workshop.

The Committee was allocated with three panel slots for the 2019 Annual Convention in Toronto. We presented three panel proposals:

1. Assessing the state of knowledge on global South IR and foreign policy: Special roundtable honoring the contributions of Jacquie Braveboy-Wagner

During the past 15 years, scholarly activity on the IR discipline, participation in global politics and foreign policy as observed in distinct settings in the global South has grown considerably. Given the creation and growth of the Global South Caucus, and more recently, of the Committee on the Status of the Global South, among whose mandates include assessing and promoting global South participation within the IR discipline and the International Studies Association, this roundtable will reflect on the state of knowledge on IR and foreign policy, as well as on the challenges that still remain. In so doing, it will also honor the contributions of Jacquie Braveboy-Wagner to the study of global South foreign policy and to the positioning of global South concerns and issues within the agenda of the ISA.

Participants:
- Chair Arlene B. Tickner
- Participant Jacqueline Braveboy-Wagner
- Participant Siba Grovogui
- Participant Amitav Acharya
- Participant Bahgat Korany
- Participant Jessica M. Byron
- Participant Andres Serbin
- Committee Chair Jorge Alberto Schiavon

2. Global South Scholars in ISA: What does the Data Show?

ISA is starting to keep track of data on GS scholar membership, participation in conferences, and publications. More systematic registration, monitoring and analysis of statistics in these areas is essential to understand GS scholars’ involvement in the association better. Tracking such data is vital for monitoring GS scholars’ publication and participation trends over time and can be used by ISA to design strategies for addressing some of the gaps in the involvement and representation of GS participants in its activities. In a follow-up from the ISA-Global South Dialogue from 2018 San Francisco Meeting, this roundtable will analyze the preliminary data on GS scholar publication submissions/responses/acceptances and the number of GS peer reviewers/editors by ISA journal. Also, we look at the GS scholars’ ISA conference attendance, ISA governance participation, and receipt of ISA travel grant awards.
Participants:
Chair Fabricio H. Chagas-Bastos
Discussant Jorge Alberto Schiavon
Participant Darshan Vigneswaran
Participant Aigul Kulnazarova
Participant Lembe Tiky
Participant Kristina Hinds
Participant Fabricio H. Chagas-Bastos
Committee Chair Jorge Alberto Schiavon
Committee Chair Michael J. Bosia

3. Does the Global South need De-colonial/Postcolonial Theory? A Debate
The Northern, Anglo-American dominance of international studies, particularly as represented at ISA conferences, is by now a well-understood and well-recognised structure within the field. Increasing efforts are being made at an institutional level, particularly with the work of the Global South Task Force, led by scholars from /based in the Global South, to increase representation and recognition within institutional structures, as well as to create material opportunities for scholars from the Global South for further participation. The recent establishment of the Global South Caucus within the ISA has been instrumental in moving aspects of this forward. However, the intellectual questions posed by the exclusion of the Global South have long been a focus of work within the Global Development Section, with a particular focus on questions of colonial relations, postcolonial theory, race and indigeneity alongside questions of development, dependency and hierarchy. Scholars working on these questions are however based in a variety of locations. In this collaborative roundtable between the Global South Caucus and the Global Development Section, we ask whether and how de-colonial and post-colonial theoretical approaches should be the primary way in which Global South scholarship engages with questions of international studies.

Participants
Chair Meera Sabaratnam
Chair Arlene B. Tickner
Participant Navnita C. Behera
Participant Siba Grovogui
Participant Imad Mansour
Participant Amy Niang
Participant Joao P. Nogueira
Participant Cintia Quiliconi
Participant Robbie G. Shilliam
Committee Chair Jorge Alberto Schiavon

II. Amend the Travel Grant Guidelines
With the support of the Committee, ISA is already working to include general norms and concrete selection criteria to improve on the transparency and efficiency of the travel grant selection process. It is also revising its guidelines for Research and Workshop Grants to include specific provisions geared toward Global South scholars. Some special consideration was given to participants in our Workshop who requested travel grants.
III. Establish an Emerging Global South Scholar Workshop

We are organizing the logistics for the first Emerging Global South Scholar Workshop. It will be a training, mentoring and networking program designed for emerging scholars of the Global South within the International Studies profession. This workshop is sponsored by the ISA’s Committee on the Status of Engagement with the Global South (CSEGS), in collaboration with the Global South Caucus (GSCIS).

The call was sent in June 1, 2018 and the deadline to submit a proposal was July 20. We received 108 applications and selected 33 participants, from which 16 will be attending the Workshop in Toronto.

Established Global South scholars (and Northern scholars interested in the Global South) will act as mentors throughout a one-day workshop and hopefully beyond. The workshop will address issues such as publishing, proposal writing, networking and conducting research in challenging settings. The purpose of the workshop is to provide more comprehensive information about how to navigate academia, locally, regionally and globally, to create robust networks of emerging Global South scholars and to address current inequalities and asymmetries within the International Studies profession with respect to the Global South.

Special attention will be given to the conditions that characterize academic work and IR communities in many Global South sites, including lack of resources, institutional barriers, unhelpful government policies, constraints on academic freedom, and limited support for social science and humanities programs (as compared to professional and trade fields). Throughout the course of the full-day workshop, it is expected that all attendees participate in question and answer sessions, break-out groups, and mentoring and networking activities.

The workshop will include training seminars by established scholars in distinct areas of professional activity and sessions to provide feedback/advice on emerging scholar research. Additionally, mentoring efforts will focus on how emerging scholars can build local and regional institutions for knowledge production and foster connections with northern institutions and across the Global South.

The preliminary program is:

FIRST EMERGING GLOBAL SOUTH SCHOLAR WORKSHOP
Sheraton Centre Hotel, Toronto, Canada
Sheraton C Room

Preliminary Program
Tuesday, March 26, 2019

9:00– 9:30  Introductions and coffee
Chaired by Arlene B. Tickner and Meera Sabaratnam
9:30–10:30  The pressures of internationalization in the Global South
Chaired by Jason Stakes
10:30–11:30  Publishing strategies in peer reviewed journals
Chaired by Laura Neack
11:30–12:00  Research proposals and fundraising
Chaired by Pichamon Yeophantong
12:00–13:00  Lunch and networking
13:00–14:00  Teaching experiences and challenges
Chaired by Eric Selbin
14:00–15:00 Breakout sessions: Working at an institution in the Global South: General work conditions, job expectations, and getting a job (participants will be divided in three groups by regions) Chaired by Kristina Hinds, Chih-yu Shih and Folashade Soule-Kohndou
15:00–15:30 Coffee break
15:30–16:30 Local and global networking Chaired by Navnita Behera (TBC)
16:30–17:00 Wrap up Chaired by Jorge A. Schiavon
17:00- Informal happy hour meet up (Sheraton A room)
Generously provided by International Studies Perspectives

The participating mentors are:

Arlene B. Tickner (Universidad del Rosario) (only morning)
Chih-yu Shih (National Taiwan University)
Eric Selbin (Southwestern University)
Folashade Soule-Kohndou (University of Oxford)
Jason Strakes (OSCE Academy in Bishkek)
Jorge A. Schiavon (CIDE, Mexico)
Kristina Hinds (University of the West Indies)
Laura Neack (Miami University)
Meera Sabaratnam (SOAS, University of London) (only morning)
Navnita Behera (University of Delhi) TBC
Pichamon Yeophantong (University of New South Wales)

IV. REVISE ISA’S RESEARCH WORKSHOP GRANT GUIDELINES

With the support of the Committee, ISA is already working to include general norms and concrete selection criteria to improve on the transparency and efficiency of the research workshop grant selection process. It is also revising its guidelines for Research and Workshop Grants to include specific provisions geared toward Global South scholars. Some special consideration was given to participants in our Workshop who requested travel grants.

V. INSTITUTE SYSTEM FOR ANNUAL TRACKING OF GLOBAL SOUTH DATA

In terms of developing a system for annual tracking of Global South data (including publication submissions, responses, acceptances, conference participation, governance participation, and travel grant awards), the Committee is working with the ISA’s Executive Director, Sara Mitchell and two journal editors (FPA and ISP) to advance on these issues. Work is still in progress.

VI. ESTABLISH FUNDING STRUCTURES GEARED TOWARD GLOBAL SOUTH MEMBERS

With the support of the Committee, ISA has included in its donation page (https://www.isanet.org/ISA/Donate) the possibility to designate specific contributions to be used for “Global South Initiatives”, to “expand opportunities and enhance programming for ISA members from the Global South”. Donations can be of 25, 50, 100, 250, 500 or 1,000 USD.