This report was prepared by Halvard Leira, HIST Section Chair

FULL REPORT

This is the third annual report for HIST, as 2013 was our first year in existence and we held our first business meeting at the San Francisco ISA conference in 2013, just days after being approved as a new section. Now coming to the end of our third full year, with our fourth business meeting coming in Atlanta, we continue with a record of notable successes and accomplishments.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:
The section has the following roster of officers, with terms indicated:

Section Chair – Halvard Leira (2015-17)
Section Program Chair – Benjamin de Carvalho (2015-17)
Secretary – Ayşe Zarakol (2015-17)
Treasurer – Andrea Paras (2013-16)
Member-at-Large – Daniel Nexon (2013-16)

To avoid full turn-over from the founding committee, and to ensure future continuity, two of the initial members were elected for a three-year term. Starting in 2016, all terms will be two-year, with the expectation that the Program-Chair is also chair-elect.

MISSION:
The intended purposes of the HIST section are to: 1) promote the exchange of ideas among HIST-interested scholars across both disciplinary and international boundaries; 2) support a scholarly community and promote HIST-related studies; 3) facilitate networking and cooperation among scholars and students working on Historical International Relations, and 4) strengthen research and teaching in the field and attract talented new scholars to it.

SECTION MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCES (AS OF DECEMBER 2015):
It was another good year. Our membership at this time last year had reached the very healthy number of 303, ranking HIST 18th out of ISA’s then 31 sections and caucuses. By the end of 2015 we have grown to 342 members, an increase of 39 (13 %) and now ranking us 16th of 32 ISA sections/caucuses. While our growth-rate has predictably slowed somewhat after the initial rapid expansion, our growth still outpaces overall section/caucus membership growth (7,5 %), and HIST is the largest of the sections established in the last five years. While we are in general very happy with the development in membership, like a number of other ISA sections we continue to have a gender imbalance in our membership. The ExCom is working actively to encourage female participation in section activities. The finances are satisfactory, as
of November 30th, 2015 the section had a new record account balance of $4,728, up from $2,112 a year ago.

**Section Activities**

Thus Far HIST has undertaken several important initiatives to promote awareness of the section and advance our mission to promote historical international relations:

1. **The Francesco Guicciardini Prize for Best Book in Historical International Relations.** This book prize is now well established and the committee will announce its winners for the 2015 competition early in 2016, with the prize to be formally presented at the section business meeting in Atlanta. This prize, named after the Renaissance Italian historian and statesman, recognizes the best book on subjects related to historical international relations published in the previous calendar year. Recipients receive an honorary plaque and a check for $250. The Award Committee is comprised of Ayşe Zarakol (chair), Yale Ferguson and Xavier Guillaume, each serving for two years (2015-17). The deadline for submissions for the 2016 prize will be July 1.

2. **The HIST Advisory Council (AC).** The purpose of this initiative is to establish a council of friends of the section and enthusiasts of historical IR who can be (and have been) consulted on various topics and section concerns. Members of the AC have an ongoing voice in section business and will no doubt serve in more formal capacities as section officers in the future. Current AC membership is: Lucian Ashworth, Stacie Goddard, Xavier Guillaume, Sandra Halperin, George Lawson, Jeppe Mulich, Ann Towns, Julia Costa Lopez and Daniel Green. More members will be added periodically.

3. **A HIST Facebook Page.** Set up and maintained by our own Andrea Paras, this page allows us to further promote HIST initiatives, make announcements, etc.

4. **Third Annual Business Meeting in Toronto.** This meeting was relatively well attended and served to further launch the section. We gave out the Guicciardini Prize and discussed a variety of new initiatives for the coming year, including whether there should be a women’s history prize. There was agreement that the section should sponsor a panel on women in IR (coming as “What can feminist historiography offer the study of IR?”). It was decided to establish a graduate paper award starting in 2016, with a committee headed by Jordan Branch (2016-18). There was also some reporting of news from the ISA Governing Council meeting.

5. **Historical IR at EISA-Sicily 2015 and EISA-Izmir 2016.** HIST officers Halvard Leira and Benjamin de Carvalho of NUIP organized a very successful historical IR section at EISA Sicily, and Julia Costa Lopez and Xavier Guillaume will organize one for EISA in Izmir. Much thanks for all their efforts.

6. **Working Groups.** A nineteenth-century working group was set up after the Toronto meeting and has organized panels and roundtables for ISA-Northeast, ISA-New Orleans and EISA-Sicily. A working group on Empires and World Order is in the making.

7. **ISA Workshop** Benjamin de Carvalho, Xavier Guillaume and Julia Costa Lopez will be arranging the very first HIST grant workshop at ISA-Atlanta, with the title: “Beyond Ruptures and Crises: International Relations and the Long Unwinding Road of the Middle Ages”
PREPARATIONS FOR THE ATLANTA MEETING, ISA 2015

Since its inception, HIST has had a steadily growing presence at ISA Annual Conferences. Submission-numbers have been high since our first year, and with a growing number of slots, we have been able to accommodate a steadily increasing proportion of those desiring to present under the HIST umbrella. For Toronto 2014, HIST had 4 solo-sponsored and 11 co-sponsored panels, and In New Orleans 2015, this had increased to 6 solo-sponsored and 23 co-sponsored panels. Our new program chair, Benjamin de Carvalho has built on this initial success, and at Atlanta 2016, HIST will have its largest ever presence – 10 solo-sponsored and 34 co-sponsored panels. Thanks are due to our chief co-sponsoring sections, International Political Sociology, Theory, Theme, Development and the English School for their collaboration. Finally, HIST is again this year on board with the English School, Diplomatic Studies and CISS sections in co-sponsoring a Joint Reception on Thursday night, March 17th, 7:30-8:30). The group reception in New Orleans was very well-attended and a huge success. Our section business meeting will be on Friday, March 18th (12:30-1:30) this year.

FUTURE SECTION ACTIVITIES

The following will be/have been the subject of ongoing discussion via email and at the next business meeting: - proposals for a distinguished scholar panel(s) for coming conferences - section participation in the Compendium Project – establishment of a functional mailing list.