This report was prepared by Benjamin de Carvalho, HIST Section Chair

FULL REPORT

This is the fifth annual report for HIST, as 2013 was our first year in existence. Now coming to the end of our fifth full year, with our sixth business meeting coming in San Francisco, 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 – Benjamin de Carvalho (2017-19) Section Program Chair – Ayşe Zarakol (2017-19)
Secretary – Ellen Jenny Ravndal (2017-19)
Treasurer – Julia Costa Lopez (2016-18)
Member-at-Large – Mauro José Caraccioli (2016-18)

Graduate Student Representative (2017-18) – Pascal Lottaz

All terms are two-year, with the Program Chair being the Chair-Elect. The Graduate Student Representative was a test, suggested and accepted at the 2016 business meeting, and continued until 2018 by decision of the Annual Meeting.

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 2017):

Last year, we thought our section membership had reached an equilibrium with 342 members. This year, we are still the 16th largest section/caucus of the ISA, albeit with 420 members. Although we assume this reflects a general increase in ISA membership rather than a trend for our section only, this is a good development for our section in terms of finances and future panel slots. 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. This year, the non-male membership of the section is 28%, which is much too low. I would strongly advise the 2019 Business Meeting to set up a committee to come up with ideas on how to address the gender imbalance of the section.
In terms of finances, we have experienced quite a leap. As of 07.11.2017, the section’s balance was USD 10,068. I assume that the increase in membership accounts for some of this. At the same time, our experience with solo receptions was quite good in 2018, and allowed us to secure independent sponsorship. The Department of Political Science of Iowa State University contributed USD 500, and the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) contributed 1,200. We are grateful for their contributions. NUPI will sponsor the 2018 reception with the same amount.

We should probably come up with ways of increasing our spending somewhat, possibly through funding working groups, grants, or workshops.

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.

In 2018 (for books published in 2016), the winner of the award was


Runner-up and honorable mention goes to


The prizes will be formally presented at the section business reception in San Francisco. 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 Lucian Ashworth (chair), Halvard Leira, and Julia Costa Lopez, each serving for two years (2018-19). A new committee will be chosen in 2019. The deadline for submissions for the 2019 (books published in 2017) prize will be August 1, 2018.

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: Daniel Green (past Chair, ex officio), Halvard Leira (past Chair, ex officio), Lucian Ashworth, Stacie Goddard, Xavier Guillaume, Sandra Halperin, George Lawson, Jeppe Mulich, Ann Towns. More members will be added periodically.
3. A HIST Facebook Page.
The section still needs a Facebook strategy, as the past group did not function due to high membership from non-interested parties.

This meeting was well attended. A variety of new initiatives for the coming year, including a dedicated web-page and mailing-list. The mailing list is functioning, although membership is still low. There was also some reporting of news from the ISA Governing Council meeting.

5. Historical IR at EISA.
Halvard Leira and Benjamin de Carvalho of NUPI organized a section for EISA in Barcelona, and Julia Costa Lopez and Zeynep Gulsah Capan are ensuring our presence at the 2018 EISA in Prague.

A nineteenth-century working group was set up after the Toronto meeting and has organized panels and roundtables at later conferences, aiming towards publication. Working groups on Global Connected Histories and on Empires and World Order are in the making.

7. Distinguished Scholar Prize and Panel
The ExCom decided to arrange a distinguished scholar prize for the section every second year, with panel and reception honoring the winner. Yale Ferguson and Richard Mansbach were the winners of the prize the first year, and both panel and reception were well attended. The Business Meeting confirmed the arrangement, and the next prize will be give out in 2019.

8. Barbara W. Tuchman Prize for the Best Graduate Student Paper
The ExCom decided to arrange a distinguished scholar prize for the section every second year, which was confirmed by the Business Meeting. In order to get the Prize going, an email has been sent out to all members, asking graduate students presenting in 2017 to forward their papers to the Prize Committee. The Committee consists of Jordan Branch (Chair), Daniel Greene, Or Rosenboim.

9. Preparations for the San Francisco Meeting, ISA 2017
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 (15 panels), and in New Orleans 2015, this had increased to 6 solo-sponsored and 23 co-sponsored panels (29 panels). For Atlanta 2016, we had 10 solo-sponsored and 34 co-sponsored panels (44 panels), and in Baltimore 2017 we had 8 solo panels and 48 co-sponsored ones (56 panels).

In 2018, we will have a total of 50 panels, the 13th largest section, with 5 solo-sponsored panels and 45 co-sponsored ones. Thanks are due to our excellent program chair, Ayse Zarakol. This year’s Business Meeting will take place on Wednesday 4 April between 12:30 and 13:30 in Franciscan C at the Hilton, and the reception will be on the same night between 19:30 and 20:30 in the same room.
**Future Section Activities**

The section needs to address the gender imbalance in its membership. Furthermore, the web presence and mailing lists need to be better attuned to the needs of the section. Conceived as a broad church for any member interested in historical IR – however defined and whatever topic – the section also needs to continue to ensure that we accommodate all strands of historical work within the panels we organize. I believe intellectual openness and curiosity account for much of the success of the section thus far, and it is important that we work together to maintain this.