The section has had a productive year, with significant growth in its membership, significant panel presence at ISA 2014 and forthcoming 2015, and increasing engagement with other similar sections in other professional associations. The section is also healthy financially. The success of the section, as ever, is thanks to the Executive Committee, *ex officio* members, and the wider membership.

**Membership**

As of October 2015, the Human Rights section has 573 members, a healthy increase from the previous year’s 530. This reflects continuous growth in the section since its founding in 2006 with 12 members. Gender data were not provided this year.

**ISA Annual Conference, Atlanta, 2016**

Dave Benjamin has again been a fantastic section program chair. As a result, our numbers of panels are significant, due to strategic co-sponsorship. To use Dave’s summary as he puts it so well: “HR has 58 panels on the program, including one roundtable. We had compiled 59 panels, 4 of which were provisional, so our final tally is impressive. Of this number 40 are sponsored solely by HR, and 18 are co-sponsored. Our partners are: Global Development, Ethics, Peace Studies, Comparative Interdisciplinary Studies, International Law, Scientific Study of International Processes, Feminist Studies, International Organization, Global Health, and International Political Sociology. We placed emphasis on broadening the scope of human rights inquiry to include development, non-state actors, resources and environment, and children.” I would note that this is a total number of panels up from 51 in 2015.

In celebration of the tenth anniversary of the section, this year we will host a solo **Human Rights Section Reception**, which will take place on the Thursday of the conference, immediately after the presidential address. Please come and celebrate with us, and with our section award recipients! The annual business meeting will take place the following day at 12.30 and we hope you will join us and have your say.

**Section awards**

At the 2016 Annual Meeting, the Human Rights Section will be distributing the following awards:

- **Robyn Linde** (Rhode Island College) will receive the 2015 **Best Paper Award** for “Gatekeeper persuasion and issue adoption: Amnesty International and the transnational LGBT network,” which was presented at the 2015 Annual Convention.
• The 2015 **Stephen C. Poe Award**, given annually to the best paper presented by a student, will go to Mi Hwa Hong (Ph.D. candidate, University of Michigan), for her paper entitled “Vying for a Good Reputation: Autocratic Participation in the United Nations Universal Periodic Review.”


• Finally, for her outstanding and impressive level of accomplishment and achievement in the areas of human rights scholarship and student mentoring, Alison Brysk (University of California-Santa Barbara) will receive the 2015 **Distinguished Scholar Award**.

**JOINT HUMAN RIGHTS SECTIONS CONFERENCE, THE HAGUE JUNE 2015**

The ISA Human Rights Section recently held its fourth joint conference in The Hague on “Human rights and justice”. The conference was co-organized with the Human Rights Section of the American Political Science Association; the Standing Group on Human Rights and Transition of the European Consortium for Political Research; and the Human Rights Research Committee of the International Political Science Association. It was held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Academic Council on the United Nations System, which met immediately after.

**JOINT HUMAN RIGHTS SECTIONS CONFERENCE, NEW YORK, JUNE 2016**

The human rights sections of the International Studies Association, the American Political Science Association, the European Consortium for Political Research, and the International Political Science Association will hold the fifth joint international conference on human rights on the theme, “Human rights in an age of ambiguity” in New York, at Fordham University.

**H-HUMAN RIGHTS**

The section sponsors the electronic discussion group H-Human-Rights, which is hosted by H-Net. Presently, there are more than a thousand subscribers. The membership is global and it goes far beyond the section and the ISA to encompass academics, practitioners and officials from governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

**OFFICERS**

Chandra Lekha Sriram served as chair of the section from March 2014 until October 2015 and stays on as past chair.

Current Chair –from October 2015; previous Vice-Chair: Daniel Whelan

Secretary: Anthony Tirado Chase

At Large (2 years):
Ann Marie Clark—until 2016
Monica del Carmen Serrano Carreto—until 2016
Ruti Teitel—until 2017
Carrie Booth Walling—until 2017
Additional thanks to our ex-officio members who have been performing important functions for us:

Section Elections: Eric Leonard (ex officio)

2015 Award Committee Chairs:

- **Poe Award**: Bethany Barratt (ex officio)
- **Best Paper Award**: Anthony Tirado Chase
- **Best Book Award**: Daniel Whelan
- **Distinguish Scholar Award**: Ruti Teitel

Program Chairs: Dave Benjamin (ex officio) and Monica del Carmen Serrano Carreto

H-Human-Rights Lead Editor: Kurt Mills (ex officio)

**TREASURY**

As of November 2015, the section had $23,095.56 in its coffers. This is before costs incurred for the annual reception and the upcoming joint sections conference.