FULL REPORT

CURRENT OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair: Daniel J. Whelan (2016 – 2018)
Past Chair: Chandra Sriram (2016-2017)
Vice Chair: Courtney Hillebrecht (2016 – 2018)
At-Large Members

OTHER SECTION OFFICERS

2017 Conference Program Co-Chairs: Courtney Hillebrecht and Clair Apodaca
2017 Reception Liaisons: Jelena Subotic and Bethany Barratt
Elections Officer: Feryal Cherif
H-Human Rights Editor (ex officio): Kurt Mills

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As of October 2016, the Section has 551 members – a decline of about 4% from our 2015 membership count, which was 574. It appears that most sections’ membership numbers have slipped from last year: 18 out of the 33 sections showed declines, and 4 had numbers roughly equal to last year. Only ten sections showed increases (one was a brand new section), but these were extremely modest.

ISA 2017 (BALTIMORE) – PROGRAM CO-CHEIRS’ REPORT (COURTNEY HILLEBRECHT & CLAIR APODACA)

For the 2017 conference, we received a large and diverse number of submissions on topics ranging from gender rights to the nexus between security and human rights. We have a total of 71 panels (two of which are provisional, at the moment) for the 2017 conference, a fairly substantial increase from the 51 panels we sponsored or co-sponsored in 2016. Of these, 22 are solely sponsored by the Human Rights Section, and 48 are co-sponsored with other sections. We will also be sponsoring a Distinguished Scholar Panel to honor the work of Alison Brysk, the recipient of the Distinguished Scholar award in 2016.
The Program Co-chairs emphasized strategic co-sponsorships not only to increase the number of human rights-related panels but also to highlight the interdisciplinary nature of human rights research. In addition to the 2017 Conference program theme -- **Understanding Change in World Politics**, our section partners are diverse, including:

- International Law
- The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer & Allies Caucus
- Ethnicity
- The Women's Caucus
- National and Migration Studies
- Feminist Theory and Gender Studies
- International Political Sociology
- Comparative Interdisciplinary Studies
- Environmental Studies
- International Ethics
- Historical International Relations
- Global Development
- Post-Communist States
- International Communication
- International Security Studies
- The Online Media Caucus
- International Organization
- Global Health
- Peace Studies
- International Political Economy
- Scientific Studies of International Processes
- Active Learning in International Affairs

At Baltimore, our Section Business Meeting will be on Thursday, Feb. 23rd from 12:30 – 1:30pm, and we will be co-hosting our reception with ENMISA, International Law, and International Organizations at 7:30pm that evening. We hope you’ll all join us.

**2017 Elections**

There are four positions on the Executive Committee that will be open for nominations for the 2017 elections. They are:

- Chair (elect) (2018-2020)
- Treasurer (2017 – 2019)
- Two At-Large Officers (2017 – 2019)

Our esteemed Elections Officer, Feryal Cherif, has already sent out a call for nominations for these positions. Note that following the revisions to our Section Charter that we approved at our Business Meeting last year, the Treasurer position is now elected; and we are returning to our past practice of electing the new Chair as “Chair-elect,” who will assume office in 2018, so that s/he may become acquainted with the responsibilities of the Chair prior to taking the office.
2016 SECTION AWARDS

The following Human Rights Section members will receive awards, and will be honored at the 2017 Conference:

- **Professor Reza Afshari** (Pace University) is the recipient of the Section’s award 2016 Distinguished Scholar award.
- **Steven L.B. Jensen** (Danish Institute of Human Rights) is the recipient of the Section’s 2016 Best Book Award for *The Making of International Human Rights: The 1960s, Decolonization, and the Reconstruction of Global Values* (Cambridge University Press)
- **Stefan Borg** (Stockholm University) is the recipient of the Section’s 2016 Best Paper Award for “Discourses of Secular and Sacred Rights in Post-Revolutionary Tunisia,” presented at the 2016 ISA Conference
- **Nicole De Silva** (University of Oxford) is the recipient of the Section’s 2016 Steven C. Poe Award for the best graduate student paper on human rights presented at the 2016 ISA Conference, for “Africa vs. the International Criminal Court: The Strategy of Regionalizing International Criminal Justice.”

We would like to thank the following Section members for serving on our Awards Committees this year:

**Distinguished Scholar**
- Rhoda Howard-Hassmann (Past Recipient; Committee Chair)
- Chandra Sriram (ExComm)
- Ruti Teitel

**Best Book**
- Jelena Subotic (ExComm; Committee Chair)
- Antonietta Elia
- Scott Straus (Past Recipient)

**Best Paper**
- Susan Kang (ExComm; Committee Chair)
- Anthony Chase
- Bethany Barratt

**Poe Award – Graduate Student Paper**
- Carrie Booth Walling (ExComm; Committee Chair)
- Jacqueline McAllister
- Tina Kempin Reuter

2016 JOINT HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE, FORDHAM UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK CITY

The ISA Human Rights section held its fifth conference at Fordham University in New York on 13-15 June 2016. The theme of this year’s conference was **Human Rights in an Age of Ambiguity**.

As with previous conferences, it was co-sponsored by the human rights sections of ISA, APSA, IPSA and ECPR. Also as with the previous two conference, the Academic Council on the United Nations System
(ACUNS) served as a cooperating partner, and a number of attendees attended the ACUNS annual meeting immediately afterwards at the same venue.

The organization of the conference was led by Melissa Labonte of Fordham University and Kurt Mills of the University of Glasgow. There were around 300 paper proposals submitted, and around half of those were ultimately accepted onto the program. Two hundred people registered for the conference. The program consisted of 38 panels composed of papers submitted to the program. Highlights included a keynote address delivered by Bertrand Ramcharan, a senior UN diplomat and former High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as other plenary lectures and panel discussions on conference themes from prominent practitioners and academics.

This was the biggest joint conference to date and will contribute to the expansion and solidification of a global network of human rights scholars and practitioners we have developed over the past decade since the section was created.

We are grateful to Fordham University for hosting the conference and to ACUNS for the logistical support provided. On behalf of the Section, I would like to extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to Melissa and Kurt for all of their hard work in making this conference a resounding success.

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 inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations.

Financial Report

The Section stands in excellent financial health. At the time of our last annual report, the Section had $23,095 in its account. The most recent report shows we are now merely dollars shy of $45,000 – and this figure accounts for all of the paid expenses from the 2016 Atlanta Conference (including the reception) and the revenues and expenses from the Fordham Conference, which netted $4,419 in revenue.