FULL REPORT

CURRENT OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair: Courtney Hillebrecht (2018-2020)
Vice Chair: Lisa Sundstrom (2018-2020)
Secretary: Robert Shepard (2018-2020)
Treasurer: Tina Kempin-Reuter (2017-2019)

At-Large Members

- Anuradha Chakravarty (2017-2019)
- Shareen Hertel (2018-2020)
- Mikyung Kim (2017-2019)
- Rebecca Sanders (2018-2020)

OTHER SECTION OFFICERS

2019 Conference Program Co-Chairs: Clair Apodaca and Daniel Whelan
Elections Officer: Linda Veazey
H-Human Rights Editor (ex officio): Joel R. Pruce

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As of November 2018, the Section has 611 members. Section membership has grown exponentially since the Section’s founding in 2006 with only 12 members. Today, the Human Rights Section is one of only 10 ISA Sections to have over 600 members.

CHANGES IN THE SECTION CHARTER

During the Section meeting in San Francisco, the Section voted to amend our charter such that the Chair-Elect will serve as Program Co-Chair alongside another Section member chosen by the Chair and in conjunction with the Chair-Elect. Our amendment also encourages the Vice-Chair to run for election as the Chair-Elect during the second year of his/her/their term of November 2018, the Section has 611 members. Section membership has grown exponentially since the Section’s founding in 2006 with only 12 members. Today, the Human Rights Section is one of only 10 ISA Sections to have over 600 members.
PROGRAM CO-CHAIRS' REPORT FOR TORONTO 2019 (CLAIR APODACA & DANIEL WHELAN)

Many thanks to our program co-chairs for putting together an excellent roster of panels for 2019. We particularly would like to thank Clair Apodaca for taking on the lion’s share of this work, which is a testament to her ongoing dedication and service to the Human Rights Section.

For the 2019 ISA Conference at Toronto, the Human Rights Section will sponsor 17 panels and co-sponsor an additional 42 panels with other sections, for a total of 59 panels. We will also be sponsoring a Distinguished Scholar Panel to honor the work of Professor Kathryn Sikkink, the recipient of our Section’s 2019 award.

Of our 42 co-sponsored panels, our section is the lead co-sponsor of nearly half. Here is a list of the ISA Sections with whom we co-sponsored panels for the 2019 Convention:

- Conference Theme: Revisioning International Studies – Innovation and Progress (4)
- Environmental Studies (1)
- Foreign Policy Analysis (2)
- Global Development (5)
- Global Health (1)
- Global South Caucus (1)
- Interdisciplinary Studies (2)
- International Communication (2)
- International Law (1)
- International Organization (9)
- International Security Studies (1)
- International Political Sociology (2)
- Peace Studies (12)
- Religion and International Relations (1)
- Scientific Studies of International Processes (3)
- Theory (1)
- The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer & Allies Caucus (2)

While we were pleased that we were able to extend our allotment through co-sponsorship, we would like to raise the issue that more than one-third of them are concentrated in two timeslots: TD (Thursday, 4:00 – 5:45pm) and FA (Friday 8:15 – 10:00am). Unfortunately, 15 percent of our panels are scheduled at the same time as our Distinguished Scholar Panel.

Our Section Business Meeting in Toronto will be on Thursday, March 28, 2019, from 12:30 – 1:30pm. We also will host our distinguished scholar celebration and reception on March 28 from 7:30-8:30. We hope you’ll all join us.
2019 Elections
There are four positions on the Executive Committee that will be open for nominations for the 2018 elections. They are:

- Chair-Elect (2019-2020)
- Treasurer (2019 – 2021)
- Two At-Large Officers (2019 – 2021)

Our Elections Officer, Linda Veazey, will be circulating the call for nominations in December 2019. Balloting will take place between January 15 and February 15.

2018 Section Awards
The following Human Rights Section members will receive awards and will be honored at the 2019 Conference:

- Kathryn Sikkink (Harvard University) will receive the Section’s biennial 2018 Distinguished Scholar Award and be celebrated at our conference reception on March 28.
- Mala Htun (University of New Mexico) and S. Laurel Weldon (Simon Fraser University) are the winners of the Section’s 2018 Best Book Award for their book, The Logics of Gender Justice - State Action on Women's Rights Around the World, published by Cambridge University Press in 2018.
- Benjamin A.T. Graham and Kelebogile Zvobgo (both of the University of Southern California) are the recipients of the Section's Best Paper award for their paper, “The World Bank as an Enforcer of Human Rights.”
- Jeonghyon Kim (Ph.D. candidate, University of Nebraska) will receive the 2018 Steven C. Poe Award for her paper, “The Politics of Refugees: Comparative Case Studies on Canada and Australia.”

We would like to thank the following members for serving on the 2018 Awards Committees:

**Best Book**
Anu Chakravarty (Ex-Comm and Chair)
Ezequiel Gonzalez-Ocantos (2017 Winner) & Lucrecia Iommi

**Best Paper**
Rebecca Sanders (Ex-Comm & Chair)
Shareen Hertel (Ex-Comm)
Suparna Chaudhry (2017 Winner)

**Poe Award – Graduate Student Paper**
Mikyoung Kim (Ex Comm & Chair)
Tina Kempin-Reuter (Ex-Comm)
Rebecca Cordell (2017 Winner)
Distinguished Scholar Award
Daniel Whelan (Ex Comm)
Alison Brysk (2016 Winner & Chair)
Mark Gibney

In addition to our longstanding awards, this year we are pleased to introduce the Human Rights Section Lynne Reinner Publishers Award for Best Dissertation. This award is accompanied by a $500 stipend provided by Lynne Reinner Publishers. The inaugural winner is Filiz Kahraman (PhD, University of Washington) of the University of Toronto, for her dissertation entitled “Claiming Labor Rights as Human Rights: Legal Mobilization at the European Court of Human Rights.” The Section thanks the executive committee and this year’s selection committee, Mahmood Monshipuri (Chair), Kristi Kenyon and Joel R. Pruce (Ex Comm), for helping to develop this exciting new award.

Financial Report
The Section continues to stand in excellent financial health. As of November 2018, our balance is $50,113.71. Given the financial wellbeing of the section, we are establishing a new initiative to provide financial support for scholars from the Global South to be able to attend the Annual Meeting.

Global Scholars Fund
At our section meeting in San Francisco, we decided to establish the Chandra Sriram Human Rights Section Global South Travel Grant. This grant, which will roll out for the 2019 Annual Convention, is offered on a competitive basis to help scholars from the Global South attend the Annual Conventions. Bethany Barrett serves as the chair of the committee appointed to develop the travel grant and review the applications.

H-Human Rights
The section sponsors the electronic discussion group H-Human-Rights, which is hosted by H-Net. There are more than a thousand global subscribers, including academics, practitioners, activists and governmental and inter-governmental officials. Joel R. Pruce serves as the H-Net Editor.

Section-Affiliated and Co-Sponsored Conferences
The Section was a co-sponsor, along with the Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS), of the conference entitled Human Rights, Migration, and Global Governance held in July 2018 in Rome at LUISS University. This was a change in practice from previous years where the section held a separate conference immediately before the annual ACUNS meeting, but the collaboration worked well to bring those working on global governance issues and those working on human rights issues together. Attendees numbered around 300, which represents the largest conference for both ACUNS and the Human Rights Section.
The section is pleased to also similarly support the ACUNS conference on the UN and Africa: Progress Towards Achieving the SDGs, to be held at Stellenbosch University in South Africa in June 2019. This conference will provide opportunities for engaging both with topics and scholars who have not featured centrally in previous human rights conferences but which provide clear linkages to human rights research. More information can be found here: https://acuns.org/am2019/

In 2020, the Section will organize a standalone conference in London. While this will coincide with the 2020 ACUNS conference, this will be an ISA Human Rights Section-led effort and an opportunity to (re)-engage with the human rights sections of APSA, IPSA and ECPR. Planning will commence in 2019.