This report was prepared by Cian O’Driscoll, IETHICS Section Chair

FULL REPORT

OFFICERS

The Section’s current officers (concluding the second year of their two-year terms) include: Cian O’Driscoll (University of Glasgow) as Chair, Eric A. Heinze (University of Oklahoma) as Vice-Chair, and Valerie Morkevicius (Colgate University) as Secretary. T. J. Ligouri (PhD, Florida International University) occupies the at-large position of social media coordinator. Joy Gordon (DePaul University) has the brief to advance the publication of ethics-related work by scholars from the Global South.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the section has dipped slightly from 255 in 2019 to 219 in 2020. While our membership figures tend to bounce around quite a bit from year to year, this is the lowest number we have hit this decade. This contrasts with the growth in membership most other sections have enjoyed this year. Section officers have encouraged renewals via the Facebook and Twitter pages and annual newsletter, along with encouragement at panels and roundtables sponsored by the Section at the ISA and regional conferences.

AWARDS

I

The International Ethics Section Annual Book Award is announced every year at the Section’s business meeting at the ISA Convention. The prize is an award of $200 along with a plaque to the author(s). The 2018-19 Book Prize Committee comprised Amy Eckert (Metropolitan State University of Denver), Harry Gould (FIU), and Rory Cox (St Andrews). It awarded the prize to Professor Catherine Lu for Justice and Reconciliation in World Politics (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018). A book roundtable on the winning book has been organised for the next annual convention in Hawaii. The Section voted Rory Cox (St Andrews), Neil Renic (IFSH Hamburg), and Raul Salgado Espinoza (FLACSO) in as the members of the 2019-20 Book Prize Committee. We are very grateful for their hard work. They will announce the winner of the 2019-20 Prize in February.

II

The International Ethics section also awards the Frances V. Harbour award. Named for the late Fran Harbour, a former section leader, this award is given annually to the best graduate student paper. The prize is an award of $200 along with a plaque.

- The winner of this annual award for the 2018 conference was Maggie Fitzgerald Murphy (Carleton University) for her paper “A Pluriversal Critique of Habermasian Discourse Ethics.” The Committee which awarded this prize included Valerie Morkevicius (Colgate University) as Chair, alongside Steve Rosow (SUNY Oswego) and Luke Campbell (Northwest Missouri State University) as serving members.
• The winner of this award for the 2019 conference has recently been announced: Michael R. Gonzalez (Baylor) will receive his prize in Hawaii for his paper “Order without Authority? Francisco Suarez on the Question of International Order”. The Committee which awarded this prize included Valerie Morkevicius (Colgate University) as Chair, alongside Jack Amoureux (Wake Forest) and Luke Campbell (Northwest Missouri State University) as serving members.

As in previous years, the Committee noted the relatively low number of submissions for this award. This appears to be a recurrent issue. The Section will discuss this issue at the annual convention.

III

A proposal was raised at last year’s Business Meeting to discuss the viability of establishing a prize for the best article in Ethics & International Affairs. The Section’s officers are exploring this possibility with Joel Rosenthal of the Carnegie Council on Ethics and International Affairs.

Activities

The membership’s Facebook page continues to be a critical site for circulating information to members: http://www.facebook.com/pages/International-Ethics-ISA/164199640304894. With the addition of our social media coordinator, we now have a Twitter account (@IntlEthics_ISA) as well. It currently has 213 followers (up from 125 last year).

With a section panel quota of 15, through co-sponsorship we have 30 panels on the program for ISA Hawaii. These include a Distinguished Scholar panel honouring Prof. Kim Hutchings (Queen Mary University London), a Book Prize panel honouring Prof. Catherine Lu’s Justice and Reconciliation in World Politics, and eight roundtables. This is despite a high level of withdrawals from this year’s programme. We have also taken the step this year of hosting roundtables on books that received honourable mentions in the Book Prize.

Finances

Balance as of November 2019: $3,690.25. Near-Future expected expenditures: Hawaii reception $1361.90; ISA Book award and plaque $200.00; Fran Harbour Award $200.00; Distinguished Scholar plaque $100. IEthics has proactively pursued sponsors in 2018-19 and recently procured support of $1000 from Cambridge University Press for its annual reception. We have also approached other sponsors (e.g., Bristol University Press and Routledge) for sponsorship, but are still awaiting their response.