International Political Economy Section 2014-2015 Report

2014-2015 Section Chair: Wesley Widmaier, Griffith University
2014-2015 Program Chair: Eleni Tsingou, Copenhagen Business School

The International Political Economy section has had another excellent year. The section membership remains robust, as IPE remains the third largest section behind Foreign Policy Analysis and International Security Studies. For the 2015 conference, the IPE section was involved in sponsoring 94 roundtables or panels.

These included three for its standing awards. Every year, the IPE section recognizes scholars in two categories: IPE Distinguished Scholar, and Society of Women in International Political Economy (SWIPE) Mentor Award. In addition, the section recognizes an eminent scholar-practitioner (“Outstanding Activist Scholar”).

The Distinguished Scholar Award recognizes senior scholars of exceptional merit whose influence and intellectual works will likely continue to impact the field for years in the future. This year’s Distinguished Scholar Committee, chaired by J.P. Singh, selected Louis W. Pauly of the University of Toronto as its honoree. Dr. Pauly, currently Chair of the Department of Political Science at the University of Toronto, has held the Canada Research Chair in Globalization and Governance since 2002. As Director of the Centre for International Studies from 1997 to 2011, he helped build what is now the Munk School of Global Affairs, where he remains a member of the faculty. A graduate of Cornell University, the London School of Economics, New York University, and Fordham University, he is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, a Senior Fellow of Massey College, a Fellow of Trinity College (Toronto), and an affiliated faculty member of the U of T’s School of Public Policy and Governance. He has held the Karl W. Deutsch Guest Professorship at the WZB Berlin Social Science Center and other visiting positions at Oxford University, Northwestern University, Osaka City University, the University of Munich, the Institute for Advanced Studies in Vienna, the Brookings Institution, and Japan's Ministry of Finance. With Emanuel Adler, from 2007 to 2012 he edited International Organization, the top-ranked journal in the fields of international relations and international political economy. Before his initial appointment at the U of T in 1987, he held management positions in the Royal Bank of Canada, won an International Affairs Fellowship from the Council on Foreign Relations, and served on the staff of the International Monetary Fund. His personal and collaborative publications include *Power in a Complex Global System; Hong Kong’s International Financial Centre; Global Ordering: Institutions and Autonomy in a Changing World; Global Liberalism and Political Order; Complex Sovereignty: Reconstituting Political Authority in the Twenty-First Century; Governing the World's Money; Democracy beyond the State? The European Dilemma and the Emerging Global Order; The Myth of the Global Corporation; Who Elected the Bankers? Surveillance and Control in the World Economy; and Opening Financial Markets: Banking Politics on the Pacific Rim.*

The SWIPE Mentor Award pays tribute to women and men who have invested in the professional success of women in the IPE field. Originating in the early 1990s, the Society for Women in International Political Economy (SWIPE) observed that many women in IPE did not have the close mentoring relationships that their male counterparts seemed to benefit from. Indeed, while research across disciplines has shown that mentoring can be key to higher publication rates and successfully achieving tenure, women tend to get less mentoring than men. The SWIPE Committee, chaired by Michelle Frasher, selected Benjamin J. Cohen
as its honoree. Dr. Cohen is the Louis G. Lancaster Professor of International Political Economy at the University of California, Santa Barbara, where he has been a member of the faculty since 1991. He previously taught at Princeton University and at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University. His research interests mainly involve issues of international monetary and financial relations, and he has written about matters ranging from exchange rates and monetary integration to financial markets and international debt.

The Outstanding Activist Scholar (OAS) Award is given to an honoree who has successfully straddled academia and activism. Recipients should have a record of writing that is used and recognized within the academic community, as well as a record of work that moves beyond academia into activism. This year’s committee, chaired by Hasmet Uluorta, selected Angela Davis of UC Santa Cruz as its honoree. Professor Davis is known internationally for her ongoing work to combat all forms of oppression in the U.S. and abroad. Over the years she has been active as a student, teacher, writer, scholar, and activist/organizer. She is a living witness to the historical struggles of the contemporary era. Professor Davis's political activism began when she was a youngster in Birmingham, Alabama, and continued through her high school years in New York. But it was not until 1969 that she came to national attention after being removed from her teaching position in the Philosophy Department at UCLA as a result of her social activism and her membership in the Communist Party, USA. In 1970 she was placed on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted List on false charges, and was the subject of an intense police search that drove her underground and culminated in one of the most famous trials in recent U.S. history. During her sixteen-month incarceration, a massive international "Free Angela Davis" campaign was organized, leading to her acquittal in 1972. Professor Davis's long-standing commitment to prisoners' rights dates back to her involvement in the campaign to free the Soledad Brothers, which led to her own arrest and imprisonment. Today she remains an advocate of prison abolition and has developed a powerful critique of racism in the criminal justice system. She is a founding member of Critical Resistance, a national organization dedicated to the dismantling of the prison industrial complex. Internationally, she is affiliated with Sisters Inside, an abolitionist organization based in Queensland, Australia that works in solidarity with women in prison.

In terms of panels at the 2015 Conference held in New Orleans, IPE Program Chair Eleni Tsingou assembled an impressive set of roundtables and panels, co-sponsorships and linked panels. The IPE Section sponsored 2 roundtables on its own, was lead sponsor on 1 other, and co-sponsor on 3. With respect to panels, it was sole sponsor on 53, lead sponsor on 17, and co-sponsor on 15. Taken as a whole, affiliated sections included: International Political Sociology, Environmental Studies:,, Global Development, International Organization,Feminist Theory and Gender Studies, Ethnicity, Nationalism and Migration Studies, Historical International Relations, International Communication, International Security Studies, Theory, English School, Global Health, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, Queer & Allies Caucus, Political Demography and Geography, and Religion and International Relations