The International Political Economy section has had another excellent year. With 772 current members, IPE is the fourth largest ISA section behind International Security Studies, Foreign Policy Analysis, and Peace Studies. For the 2017 Annual Convention, the IPE section has sponsored 95 roundtables or panels.

The IPE section has three long-standing awards that each involve the organization of roundtable sessions at the Annual Convention to honor the award recipients: the IPE Distinguished Scholar Award; the Society of Women in International Political Economy (SWIPE) Mentor Award; and the Outstanding Activist Scholar (OAS) Award for eminent scholar-practitioners. This year the IPE section established a new IPE Best Book Award, which is awarded for the best sole-authored or co-authored research monograph published in IPE in the two preceding calendar years (excluding edited volumes, textbooks, and reference works).

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 was chaired by Wesley W. Widmaier, with the full committee comprised of Dorothee Bohle, Matthew Eagleton-Pierce, Kathryn C. Lavelle, Matthias M. Matthijs, Manuela Moschella, and Carla Norloff. The committee selected Professor Helen V. Milner of Princeton University as the 2017 honoree. Her outstanding influence on IPE scholarship has come through her research contributions, her record as a teacher and mentor, and her leadership. Professor Milner has been a major organizing force in the profession. She is Director of the Niehaus Center for Globalization and Governance at Princeton’s Woodrow Wilson School, in which capacity she has run the largest fellowship for early career IPE scholars in the United States, and has served on the board of the leading journal *International Organization* and as President of the International Political Science Association. Her scholarship has played a major role in shaping the development of the field of IPE. She has authored or edited ten books and has authored nearly fifty articles to date that include publications in all of the leading journals in the field. Her scholarly contributions have made a lasting and decisive intellectual influence in IPE, and in particular to the study of political institutions and international trade and foreign investment.

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 benefitted 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 Silke Trommer and including Juanita Elias, Surupta Gupta, Laura C. Mahrenbach, and Timothy M. Shaw, selected Professor Vivien
Schmidt of Boston University as the 2017 honoree. Professor Schmidt was selected for her contributions to improving the role of women in IPE. The committee noted how Professor Schmidt consistently works to support young female scholars across all aspects of academic life, including providing academic and personal support, and forming informal peer groups and networks in which female scholars can exchange their experiences of navigating the field. The committee found impressive Professor Schmidt’s work to increase both the profile of women in IPE and to enable female colleagues to leave their mark on the field.

The Outstanding Activist Scholar Award is given to an honoree who has successfully straddled academia and activism. Recipients 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 and Andrej Grubacic, selected Medea Benjamin as the 2017 IPE Outstanding Activist Scholar honoree. Benjamin is co-founder of the women-led peace-group CODEPINK and co-founder of the human-rights group Global Exchange. She has been an advocate for social justice for more than 40 years. She has been described as ‘one of America’s most committed -- and most effective -- fighters for human rights’ (New York Newsday) and ‘one of the high profile leaders of the peace movement’ (Los Angeles Times). Benjamin has authored eight books, including Drone Warfare: Killing by Remote Control, Greening of the Revolution: Cuba’s Experiment with Organic Agriculture, and How to Stop the Next War Now: Effective Responses to Violence and Terrorism.

The Best Book Award recognizes an outstanding monograph in the field of IPE published within the last two years, on the basis of originality, significance, and rigor. The Best Book Award Committee for the inaugural 2017 award was chaired by J.P. Singh, with the full committee comprised of Soo Yeon Kim, Sylvia Maxfield, Abraham Newman, and Eleni Tsingou. The committee selected Dr Lauge N. Skovgaard Poulsen of University College London as the 2017 honoree for his book Bounded Rationality and Economic Diplomacy: The Politics of Investment Treaties in Developing Countries. The committee also recognized Dr Alison Johnson of Oregon State University with an honourable mention for her book From Convergence to Crisis: Labor Markets and the Instability of the Euro.

The Best Graduate Student Paper Award recognizes the best (sole-authored) IPE graduate paper presented at the previous ISA Annual Convention. Co-chairs James C. Roberts and Wesley W. Widmaier selected Vincent Dreher of the Free University of Berlin for his paper presented at the 2016 ISA Annual Convention in Atlanta: ‘The Regulatory Initiative Addressing Too Big to Fail: Domestic Vulnerability as Driving Factor of International Policy Change’.

Kathryn C. Lavelle has assembled an impressive set of roundtables and panels for the 2017 Annual Convention in Baltimore. This includes sessions co-sponsored with a wide range of other sections as well as the Global South Caucus, the Women’s Caucus, and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Allies Caucus. The 2017 IPE program in Baltimore consists of 85 panels and 10 roundtables (including the three award roundtables).

The finances of the section remain robust, with available funds for the section currently standing at US$14,890. Future commitments include a contribution of US$1,150 towards the IPE reception at the Annual Convention, sponsored by Lynne Rienner. The reception is an excellent occasion to toast this year’s IPE award honorees and for members to interact informally. It takes place on the Friday of the
Convention, at the end of a packed day of formal IPE section events, including the three honoree roundtables and the section business meeting. In the past 12 months, the section spent funds on the following activities: contribution towards the annual reception; expenses related to awards; and expenses related to the attendance of the OAS honoree Margaret Levi.