The International Political Economy section is a dynamic, pluralistic group of scholars who benefit from engagement with each other and the broader International Studies Association.

MEMBERSHIP

With 812 current members, IPE is the fourth-largest ISA section, behind International Security Studies, Foreign Policy Analysis, and Peace Studies. For the 2020 Annual Convention, the IPE section received the third-largest number of individual paper submissions (353), behind only the International Security Studies and Foreign Policy Analysis sections. The IPE section was the instead the second-largest recipients of panel submissions (57), behind only the International Security Studies section.

In order to encourage graduate student membership, following the Section Business Meeting in Toronto in 2019, section membership dues for graduate students were lowered to $1 per year.

GOVERNANCE

Following a decision taken at the 2019 Business Meeting in Toronto, the IPE section governance was modified by introducing the position of section Vice-Chair, in addition to the positions of Section Chair and Section Program Chair. Juliet Johnson of McGill University was confirmed as Section Chair, Manuela Moschella of Scuola Normale Superiore in Pisa as Section Vice-Chair (after having served as 2019 Program Chair), and Erin Lockwood of University of California-Irvine as Section Program Chair.

AWARDS

The IPE section is affiliated with 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. The section further sponsors the IPE Best Book Award and the IPE Best Graduate Student Paper Award.

Following a decision taken at the 2019 Business Meeting in Toronto, beginning in 2020 the cash prize for the IPE Best Graduate Student Paper Award has been raised from $100 to $500.

THE DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR AWARD

This award recognizes senior scholars of exceptional merit whose influence and intellectual works will likely continue to impact the field for years in the future. The Distinguished Scholar Committee selected Professor Eric Helleiner (University of Waterloo) as the 2020 honoree.

2019-20 Distinguished Scholar Award Committee

- Rachel Wellhausen (Chair), University of Texas - Austin
- Juliet Johnson (ex-officio), McGill University
- Kathryn Ibata-Ahrens, DePaul University
- Susan Park, University of Sydney
THE SWIPE MENTOR AWARD

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 Committee selected Kathleen McNamara (Georgetown University) as the 2019 honoree.

2019-20 SWIPE Mentor Award Committee

- Cindy Cheng (chair), Technical University of Munich
- Layna Mosely, University of North Carolina
- Anna Schultz, University of Pennsylvania
- Axel Dreher, University of Heidelberg
- Cullen Hendrix, University of Denver

THE OUTSTANDING ACTIVIST SCHOLAR AWARD

The 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.

Hasmet Uluorta (chair) and this year’s committee selected Heikki Patomäki, University of Helsinki, as the 2020 Outstanding Activist Scholar honoree.

THE IPE BEST BOOK AWARD

The award recognizes an outstanding monograph in the field of IPE published within the last two years, on the basis of originality, significance, and rigor. Two books are the co-winners of this year’s prize:

1. Jonas B. Bunter’s Raise the Debt (Oxford University Press)

The committee commended Bunter’s book for making an important contribution by explaining how and why developing countries choose their creditors. Employing sophisticated multi-method analysis that utilizes process-tracing based on scrutiny of primary sources and 112 elite interviews to understand choices made in Ecuador, Colombia, and Peru as well as rigorous statistical analysis of the borrowing activities of 127 developing countries from 2004-2015, Bunte shows that developing country lending decisions are influenced by the composition of the powerful domestic societal coalitions. Bunte’s surprising findings are not only robust to a range of control variables such as their existing debt portfolio, they also hold after taking into account different loan prices, demonstrating that the financial terms of loans are not as important as the political conditionalities attached to them. In the process, Bunte’s statistical analysis develops innovative techniques to overcome the opacity of Chinese lending data, the quantification of coalitional power, and the compositional nature of his dependent variable, developing countries borrowing portfolios.

The committee commended St. John's book for its engaging analysis of the decades-long process that gave rise to the current system of investor-state arbitration. Employing assiduous historical research based on thousands of archival documents from the national archives of five countries, St. John shows that the powerful corporations that dominate the system of investor-state arbitration today were not supporters of its creation. Nor did the impulse for the creation of the system come from the leaders of states. Instead, it came from a group of dedicated officials associated with the World Bank. St. John's sophisticated use of the historical institutionalist analytical perspective and her posing of provocative counterfactuals produces a fascinating historical narrative that offers novel and counterintuitive insights about the rise of the investor-state arbitration regime and international political economy more broadly.

2019-20 Best Book Award Committee
- Sylvia Maxfield (Chair), Providence College School of Business
- John Echeverri-Gent, University of Virginia
- Alison Johnston, Oregon State University
- Tony Porter, McMaster University
- Lena Rethel, University of Warwick

THE BEST GRADUATE STUDENT PAPER AWARD
Recognizes the best single-authored graduate student paper presented on an IPE section panel at the previous ISA Annual Convention. The 2020 winner is Alexandra Zeitz (European University Institute) for the paper “Paying for Sovereignty? The conditional nature of risk perception and African governments' entry into international bond markets,” presented at the 2019 Toronto convention.

2019-20 Best Graduate Student Paper Committee
- Jim Roberts (Chair), Towson University
- Susanne Soederberg, Queens University
- Eleni Tsingou, Copenhagen Business School

ANNUAL MEETING
Erin Lockwood has assembled an impressive set of 66 roundtables and panels for the 2020 Annual Convention in Honolulu. This includes 24 sessions co-sponsored with a wide range of other sections and caucuses.

FINANCES
The finances of the section remain strong, with available funds for the section currently standing at US $20,317. The 2020 IPE reception at the Annual Convention will be sponsored by the Review of International Political Economy (US$2,000). The reception takes place on the Friday of the Convention after the Business Meeting and the Distinguished Scholar panel. In the past 12 months, the section spent funds on the annual reception and on expenses related to awards.