International Political Sociology section annual report (2011-12)

The Montreal Convention was a great success for the section with more than 65 panels/roundtables/poster sessions (co-)sponsored and one working group panel on norms. IPS is confirming and strengthening its status as one of the most dynamic section of the ISA.

ISA Annual Convention, San Diego, April 1-4, 2012

Pınar Bilgin (Bilkent University) was in charge of this year IPS program and I would like to thank her for her hard and still on-going work on it. As of December 2011, 137 papers, 49 panels and 9 roundtables were submitted to IPS as 1st choice. If one adds those items submitted to IPS as 2nd choice, then the overall figures respectively raise to 327, 92 and 20. While IPS fares relatively well in terms of the numbers of paper submitted, the section ranks respectively third and second among all sections in terms of panels submitted as first choice or in terms of the overall number of panels submitted to IPS (either as 1st or 2nd choice). As of today, 56 panels are (co-)sponsored by the section as well as 7 roundtables, 2 poster sessions and 1 innovative panel, from an original quota allocation of 44 total panels and roundtables. This is essentially due to a strong co-sponsorship with other sections. It is a policy within IPS to seek partnership with other sections to enable intellectual projects that move beyond “disciplinarian” conceptions of the international. In terms of the acceptance rate, 55% of the panels submitted directly to IPS were accepted, as were 35% of the roundtables and 21% of the papers.

IPS Communication (website, newsletter, listserv)

Our communication is managed by our communication director Can Mutlu (University of Ottawa) who has been doing an outstanding work to design and manage our website and listserv. The section website (www.ips-isa.org) has become, and we intend to make it more so in the future, the institutional memory of the section. It hosts the announcements that are forwarded on the listserv, the newsletters sent by the chair, important documents for members (annual reports, business meeting minutes, results of the elections), information about the book and graduate student paper awards, and more general information about the section itself.

Two newsletters were sent to members of the IPS listserv in March and in November. The March newsletter focused on informing the members about the 2011 elections, the section's finance, practical information about opportunities with the ISA (ISA-BISA conference, ISA speciality panels) and about some tips as to how submit a panel for the next ISA. The November newsletter focused on informing members about the upcoming convention in San Diego and providing them with some key figures on panel and paper acceptances at this stage. It also informed members about the up-coming elections and sent forward a call for people interested in participating to the elections to informally contact the treasurer (in charge of managing the elections) and myself to get more informations. It finally provided information about the submissions for the book and graduate student prizes awards.

Our listserv has 802 members (as of January 2012). Established in May 2009, the listserv enabled to exchange information about call for papers/panels, job openings, conferences among members of the IPS community. A total of 205 messages have been sent via the listserv (16 in 2009, 63 in 2010, 116 in 2011 and 10 in January 2012). It is a mark of the vitality and vibrancy of IPS research community.
IPS membership

The section membership is enjoying a steady growth after a fourfold growth between 2006 and 2011. As of January 2012, the section was 535 members strong (359 faculty and 176 students), making it the 6th largest section of the ISA. With the success of the journal International Political Sociology and a listserv consisting of 802 members, we hope to attract more members in the near future.

IPS finances

IPS finances are strong but not sustainable in the long run unless more is not done to either cut the cost of the reception, attract more sponsors for IPS events or increase IPS revenue. IPS is facing new expenditures such as the book and graduate student awards prizes (a total of 550 USD per year) and an average reception of cost of 1500 USD that cannot be covered by membership fees alone. As only partial figures were available at the date of this report, the total balance as of September 30th, 2011 was 5,571.77 USD.

IPS elections 2012

IPS election will be held on 5 March 2012. Three positions are at stake in the 2012 elections: the program/vice-chair and two members at large of the Executive Committee. The program/vice-chair’s primary task is to organise the IPS program for the next ISA convention (2013 in San Francisco) and is also the chair-elect for one year and then succeed the chair, for a one-year term. The chair’s tasks now also include the chairing of the Book and Graduate Student Paper awards. In addition to helping the section’s affairs for the two years they are elected, the members at large now serve in the Graduate Student Paper award committee in their first year and in the Book award in their second year.

IPS section officers 2011-2012

Past Chair: Charlotte Epstein, University of Sydney (Australia)
Chair: Xavier Guillaume, University of Geneva (Switzerland)
Vice-chair/program-chair: Pınar Bilgin, Bilkent University (Turkey)

Secretary-Treasurer: Rebecca Adler-Nissen (2011-2013), University of Copenhagen (Denmark)
Communication Director: Can Mutlu (2011-2013), University of Ottawa (Canada)

Executive committee:
Paulo Esteves (2010-2012), IRI-PUC Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)
Daniel H. Nexon (2010-2012), Georgetown University (U.S.A.)
Vicki Squire (2011-2013), Open University (United Kingdom)
Karen Smith (2011-2013), University of Cape Town (South Africa)

IPS book and graduate student awards

IPS has instituted in 2011 two yearly awards for “best book” and the “best graduate student paper” (presented at an IPS panel at the ISA) in the field of international political sociology (regulations regarding each prizes can be found on IPS website). The awards
will be presented at the section’s business meeting. The winner of the book prize will receive a prize of USD300 and a plaque and the winner of the graduate student paper prize will receive a prize of USD150 and a certificate. 19 books we submitted for the book award and 7 papers for the graduate student paper award.

IPS chair serves as both award committees' chair, members of the executive committee serve in either award committee in turn (see IPS election 2012) and three external selection committee members are serving for either the book award (Jenny Edkins, Aberystwyth University and Barry Hindess, Australian National University) or the graduate student paper award (Nick Vaughan-Williams, University of Warwick) for a period of two years.

Respectfully submitted,
Xavier Guillaume I Geneva, Switzerland 5 February 2012
IPS section chair