International Political Sociology section annual report (2013-14)

ISA Annual Convention, Toronto, March 26th-29th, 2014
Tanja Aalberts has been program chair. She has done a truly outstanding job and has been able to increase IPS program presence up to 90 as either sponsor or co-sponsor. This is significantly higher than in the past few years. IPS received a very high number of submissions for the 2014 Convention, with 363 papers, 136 panels, and 22 roundtables submitted with IPS as first choice. IPS initially had a panel quota allocation of 49, which was a reduction from last year. Through active engagement with ISA HQ, IPS received an additional 5 panel quotas.

IPS has a high number of panel submissions relative to paper submissions compared with other sections. We think this is a positive sign and that the IPS community is conducive to research collaboration. IPS has submitted its comments to the Professional Rights and Responsibilities Committee, whose job is to review and suggest a new panel allocation formula for the ISA Annual Convention. A decision will be made at the Governing Council meeting in March, 2014. We suggested emphasizing membership numbers and submissions, with a slightly heavier weight on membership as a means to help build strong and well-functioning Sections where membership matters.

IPS Communication (website, newsletter, listserv)
Our communication is managed by our communication director Morten Skumsrud Andersen. He took over from Can Mutlu, who stepped down after the Annual Convention in San Francisco. Mutlu and Andersen have been able to transfer the IPS listserv from the server at the University of Ottawa to Google Listserv. This transition has, as was to be expected, reduced the members currently on our listserv, but we expect it to gradually increase to previous levels. Our listserv now has just short of 500 members. On Facebook and Twitter, there are 257. The listserv is mainly used for postings of workshops, seminars, PhD courses and job opportunities, and for IPS related issues such as newsletters, information about Book Award etc. The Executive Committee have discussed but not concluded on ways to improve communication and build a stronger IPS community and would like to invite IPS members to offer input in this regard.

In an effort to help build institutional memory for the IPS Executive Committee and Chair/Vice Chair, we have established a Dropbox folder where past Chairs have uploaded their notes and material. We hope this will offer future IPS leadership with institutional memory so as to function as effectively as possible vis a vis its members and ISA HQ.

Membership
Over the last five years, IPS has grown steadily in terms of membership. In 2005, IPS had a membership of 73. Five years later, in 2010, it had 420. As of December 2013, IPS section has a membership of 615, making it the fifth largest section of ISA.

IPS finances
IPS currently has a balance of 8435,17 USD, which is solid. The costs of Book Award and Graduate Paper Award are at 550 USD per year. The most significant cost relates to the IPS Reception. Last year, it cost 1911 USD. In the past, IPS has had joint receptions with other sections. Given IPS’ size, however, having joint receptions with other (smaller) sections appear less probable. This raises the question of how much the section should spend of its own funds on each year’s reception, and how to improve efforts to raise external funds for future receptions.

IPS elections 2014
IPS will hold elections as per the IPS Charter for the following positions: Program/Vice Chair and two members-at-large.

**IPS section officers 2013-2014**

Chair: Ole Jacob Sending (Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, NUPI)
Vice-chair/program-chair: Tanja E. Aalberts (Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam).
Past Chair: Pinar Bilgin (Bilkent University, Turkey)

Secretary-Treasurer: Rebecca Adler-Nissen (University of Copenhagen)
Communication Director: Morten Skumsrud Andersen (London School of Economics/Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, NUPI)

Executive Committee
Carolina Moulin Aguiar (Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro)
Thierry Balzacq (University of Edinburgh/University of Namur)
Tarak Barkawi (London School of Economics)
Vincent Pouliot (McGill University)

-----

Book Award Committee:
Ole Jacob Sending (chair)
Jens Bartelson (Lund University, Sweden)
Carolina Moulin Aguiar (Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro)
Thierry Balzacq (University of Edinburgh/University of Namur)

Graduate Paper Award Committee:
Ole Jacob Sending (chair)
Charlotte Epstein (University of Sydney)
Tarak Barkawi (London School of Economics)
Vincent Pouliot (McGill University)

Sincerely,

Ole Jacob Sending / Oslo, Norway, December 17th, 2013.
IPS Section Chair