This report was prepared by Inanna Hamati-Ataya, IPS Section Chair, and was submitted on December 1, 2015.

FULL REPORT

ISA Annual Convention, Atlanta, March 16-19, 2016

Dirk Nabers was IPS’s program chair for the 2016 ISA Annual Meeting, and has done an absolutely fantastic job, increasing the Section’s presence on the program to 136 panels and roundtables, as sponsor (16 panels/roundtables) and co-sponsor (120 panels/roundtables). This is again a higher number of IPS sessions than in the past years (127 in 2015 and 90 in 2014). Based on the new allocation rules, the Section obtained a panel quota of 59, which is a slight increase from the initial allocation last year (56 panels).

The Section keeps receiving a significant number of submissions. For the 2016 Convention, 128 papers, 39 panels, and 7 roundtables were submitted with IPS as a first choice. Although the number of IPS panel submissions has slightly declined, the section continues to have a high number of panel submissions relative to paper submissions compared with other sections. We think this is a positive sign that reflects the level of collaborative work initiated and produced by Section members. All in all, IPS received 5.8% of the convention allocation (based on submissions, membership and prior allocation).

IPS Communication (website, newsletter, listserv)

Our communication is managed by our communications director Xavier Mathieu. Our listserv includes 583 members and we have about 530 followers on Twitter. The social media presence serves mainly for a wider distribution of the information provided by members of the listserv, where appropriate.

We continue to operate with two mailing lists – the opt-in list based in Google Groups, which is open for anyone to join, and a group mail program that allows us to send mail through ISA HQ to active Section members. The opt-in mailing list operates as before, providing a valuable forum for calls for papers, news and notices, dialogues, etc. Announcements related to section business (sending newsletters, announcing award winners, etc.) is now done with direct emails from ISA HQ to currently active section members (the ISA offers variable term memberships and they expire and are renewed constantly rather than at a set time of year, and the IPS Section is not allowed direct access to members’ email addresses, due to privacy concerns).

Additionally, Xavier has completely updated and modernized the section website (http://ips-isa.org/).

Plans for the future include uploading more documents related to the section life and adding new pages (a News page and a collection of syllabi used by our members in their IPS modules).
MEMBERSHIP
After a steady growth from 2005 (73 members) to 2014 (652), IPS membership has stagnated in 2015, with 651 active members at the time of writing this report (November 2015). IPS is now the 6th largest ISA Section (5th in 2014). It is too early to interpret the interruption of the past trend, but the creation of new ISA sections, especially STAIR, might have contributed to membership stagnation in 2015.

IPS FINANCES
IPS currently has a balance of $10,268, which is solid. The costs of the Book Award and Graduate Paper Award are at $550 (1 plaque at $100 and 2 cheques of $300 and $150 respectively). The most significant cost relates to the IPS reception. Following members’ feedback from 2014, the reception was upgraded for ISA 2015 in New Orleans, and the same standards will be maintained for ISA 2016 in Atlanta. The reception will be organised conjointly with the STAIR Section, and IPS will contribute $3,000.

At the time of writing this report sponsorship for the 2016 reception is still pending.

IPS ELECTIONS 2016
IPS will hold elections as per the IPS Charter for the following positions: Program/Vice Chair and two members-at-large.

IPS SECTION OFFICERS 2015-16
Chair: Inanna Hamati-Ataya (Aberystwyth University, UK)
Vice-Chair/Program Chair: Dirk Nabers (University of Kiel, Germany)
Past Chair: Tanja Aalberts (VU University, Amsterdam)
Secretary-Treasurer: Can E. Mutlu (Bilkent University, Turkey)
Communications Director: Xavier Mathieu (University of Sheffield, UK)
Members-at-Large: Christian Bueger (Cardiff University, UK)
George Lawson (LSE, UK)
Meera Sabaratnam (SOAS, UK)
Ann E. Towns (University of Gothenburg, Sweden)