Membership growth is slowing down and even slightly decreasing in 2016/2017. This is a possible effect of the recent creation of overlapping ISA Sections (STAIR 2014; HIST 2013) and a slight dip in overall ISA membership from 2016 to 2017.

The balance of the IPS budget was $12,629.36 at the end of October 2016. The main expenditures included the book award and graduate paper award 2016 (1 plaque at $100 and 2 cheques of $300 and $150 respectively) as well as the reception (IPS contribution: $3,000), jointly held with STAIR.

The initial panel allocation for ISA 2016 was 59 panels (5.8% of convention allocation). IPS sponsored 136 panels/roundtables in the Atlanta program (2015: 127; 2014: 90): 16 as sponsor and 120 as co-sponsor. Our section had 128 paper submissions, 39 panels and 7 roundtables with IPS as first choice.

Dirk Nabers (Kiel University) served as chair in 2016/17, David McCourt (UC Davis) was elected as vice-chair/program chair. Other positions included Can E. Mutlu (Treasurer), Xavier Mathieu (Com.), Meera Sabaratnam, Ann Towns (Members-at-Large); Ty Solomon (Members-at-Large), Francesco Ragazzi (Members-at-Large).


For the first time since its establishment, IPS is organizing a working group at an annual convention. The title of the working group is “The Global Rise of Populism”. To that end the working group will meet three times during the conference, beginning the day before the conference:

- Full-day meeting on Tuesday, February 21st from 8:30am-6:00pm
- Check-up lunch meeting on Thursday, February 23rd from 12:30-1:30pm
- Wrap-up lunch meeting on Saturday, February 25th from 12:30-1:30pm.

Topics for an IR perspective on populism include:

1. underlying dynamics that give rise to populist developments,
2. commonalities and differences between the different phenomena commonly labeled populism, both in terms of domestic and foreign policy,
3. global links between different populist movements and
4. the search for a precise theoretical framework for the analysis of populism as a global phenomenon.