The Intelligence Studies Section (ISS) was established in 1985 in order to promote scholarly research and teaching in all aspects of intelligence, to internationalize the study of intelligence, and to build healthy, collaborative relationships with other academic disciplines. As of October 2018, the section had 386 members, a slight decrease from 401 in 2017, but still representing a steady growth over the past 15 years.

As of November 2018, the section has a financial balance of $4,384.15. The balance tends to fluctuate between $3,000 and $9,000 depending on the time of year and the cycle of income and expense.

Highlights From the 2018 ISA Conference:

At the 2018 ISA conference in San Francisco the section sponsored or co-sponsored 30 panels and roundtables, and helped support one Innovative Panel.

Gregory Treverton was honored as the 2018 ISS Distinguished Scholar at a very well attended reception sponsored by Georgetown University Press, Lynne Rienner Publishers, Pherson Associates, the Center for Asymmetric Threat Studies at Swedish Defence University, the Justice Institute of British Columbia, and the RAND Corporation.

The 2018 Outstanding Student Paper Award was presented to Cullen Nutt for his paper titled “Seek, And Ye Shall Find: The Dynamic Effects of Previous Failure on Detecting Nuclear Programs.”

The ISS Early Career Scholars Group held a meeting and reception at which a panel of guest speakers discussed opportunities and positioning for intelligence scholars inside and outside academia.

At the section business meeting, the section thanked Steve Marrin for his outstanding service as Section Chair for the past five years. Erik Dahl was elected Chair for a three year term through April 2021, and section program co-chairs Damien Van Puyvelde and Cris Matei graciously agreed to continue as program co-chairs for another year. Other section leaders include:

- John Pyrik, Secretary-Treasurer, elected to a three-year term in 2017.
- Michael Landon-Murray, continuing as Director of Communications and H-Intel coordinator, assisted by Constant Hijzen.
- Daniela Baches-Torres, continuing as the Chair of the Early Career Scholars Group and as Newsletter Editor.
- Richard Aldrich, who agreed to continue as the Student Paper Award committee Chair.
ADDITIONAL ISS ACTIVITIES DURING THE PAST YEAR:

Many thanks to Richard Aldrich (chair), Andres De Castro, Dina Rezk, and Mark Stout for serving on the Student Paper Award Committee for the Toronto conference. We were also happy to announce in 2018 that Lynne Rienner Publishers generously agreed to sponsor the student paper award, which has been named the Intelligence Studies Section / Lynne Rienner Publishers Best Student Paper Award.

With Daniela Baches-Torres as its chair, the ISS Early Career Scholars Group has continued to actively support the work of junior and aspiring scholars in the field of intelligence. In addition to hosting a meeting at the annual convention, the group posts items of interest to its Facebook page, including jobs, fellowships, calls for papers, new publications, and other opportunities. More early career scholars and practitioners have joined the Group in the last months, and discussions between members have significantly increased.

Daniela Baches also edits the ISS Section email newsletter, which is sent out roughly once a month, informing section members about new books, calls for papers, job openings, and other news about the study of intelligence.

ISS remains a partner organization with H-Intel, which is part of the H-Net family of scholarly networks. The H-Intel editor is Michael Landon-Murray, who has been joined this year by C. W. Hijzen as co-editor. They post publications on the H-Intel site, organize book and article reviews, and generally help to make it a useful resource for the field. For more information on H-Intel, see https://networks.h-net.org/h-intel

IN 2018, ISS ACTIVITIES AT THE ANNUAL ISA CONFERENCE WILL INCLUDE:

At the 2019 Toronto conference, ISS will be again sponsoring or co-sponsoring 30 panels and roundtables, and we are grateful to Cris Matei and Damien Van Puyvelde for their hard work putting together another superb program. Panels will examine everything from hot-button current issues such as “Intelligence in the Age of Donald Trump,” to intelligence in the private sector, to discussions of diversity in the intelligence community. And to recognize ISA’s return to Canada, several panels will consider aspects of intelligence in Canada.

The Section Business Meeting will be held at lunchtime on Wednesday, March 27, with a light lunch provided. In addition to discussing committee assignments for the next year and other important business, we will present the best student paper award to Pauline Blistene, for her paper titled “Real and Reel Secrecy: cinematic fiction and the ‘mask of transparency’ in France and the United States.”

The Early Career Scholars Group Reception will be held on the evening of Wednesday, March 27, with light snacks and guest speakers who will provide advice for young scholars and graduate students about getting published and advancing in the profession.

The section reception will be held Thursday evening, March 28, with refreshments provided through the generosity of several sponsors, including Intelligence and National Security / Routledge, Taylor & Francis; Lynne Rienner Publishers; Georgetown University Press; CQ Press/SAGE Publishing; ABC-CLIO/Praeger; and the Justice Institute of British Columbia. Many thanks for the hard work of section Treasurer John Pyrik in soliciting that sponsorship.
LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Although it is something of a cliché to say we are living in difficult times, as we look back on the past year we must acknowledge that our world faces a daunting array of threats and challenges. And although each of us has more data at our fingertips than previous generations could have dreamed of, we often lack the information and the knowledge we need to make sense of it all. The Intelligence Studies Section brings together scholars, intelligence professionals, and others who seek to help us understand our increasingly complex world. As we look toward 2019 and beyond, we endeavor to continue and to expand the work of the section through greater outreach to the broader intelligence studies community, through seeking to increase our membership and widen our activities, and through generally promoting scholarly and professional opportunities for our members.