This report was prepared by Erik Dahl, ISS Section Chair

FULL REPORT

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 November 2019, the section had 402 members, a slight increase from 386 in 2018 and just barely surpassing our previous record high number of 401 in 2017. Overall the section continues to show steady growth over the past 15 years.

As of November 2019, the section has a financial balance of $3,708.27. The balance tends to fluctuate between $3,000 and $5,000 depending on the time of year and the cycle of income and expense.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2019 ISA CONFERENCE

At the 2019 ISA conference in Toronto the section sponsored or co-sponsored 30 panels and roundtables, and held three well-attended section meetings.

The ISS Early Career Scholars Group, led by Daniela Baches-Torres, held a meeting at which Marie-Claire Antoine of Lynne Rienner Publications and Julia M. Macdonald of the University of Denver provided advice for young scholars and graduate students about getting published and advancing in the profession.

The section held a very successful reception, which was sponsored by Intelligence and National Security, Routledge, and Taylor and Francis; Lynne Rienner Publishers; Georgetown University Press; CQ Press/SAGE Publishing; ABC-CLIO and Praeger; and the Justice Institute of British Columbia. Many thanks go to Secretary-Treasurer John Pyrik for leading our fundraising effort.

At the reception the section recognized Loch Johnson, who is stepping down as editor of Intelligence and National Security, for his many years of service to the section and the profession. Steve Marrin, our former section chair, will relieve Loch as INS editor. We also recognized David Martin Jones as the winner of the INS best article award for the past year.

At the section business meeting we presented the 2019 ISS/Lynne Rienner Publishers Best Student Paper Award to Pauline Blistene for her paper, “Real and Reel Secrecy: cinematic fiction and the ‘mask of transparency’ in France and the United States.” Our thanks go to student paper award committee members Richard Aldrich (chair), Andres De Castro, and Dina Rezk. The award was presented by Richard Aldrich and Marie-Claire Antoine, representing Lynne Rienner.

Also, at the business meeting the section voted unanimously to approve a set of changes to the section charter, which will next be brought to an electronic vote of the entire section membership. The proposed changes will establish a position of Vice Chair, to be elected at the business meeting, who will normally become Chair at the end of his or her term as Vice Chair without standing again for election. The terms of office for both the Chair and Vice Chair would be set at two years (instead of the current
three-year term for the Chair), and the section program chair term is also changed to two years rather than a single year. These changes are intended to provide for greater continuity in section leadership, and if ultimately approved by the full membership, will resemble the process used by many other ISA sections and ISA headquarters.

Section program co-chairs Damien Van Puyvelde and Cris Matei graciously agreed to continue on for another year as program co-chairs. Other section leaders are:

- John Pyrik, Secretary-Treasurer, whose three-year term will conclude at the Hawaii conference in 2020.
- Michael Landon-Murray and Constant Hijzen, continuing as Co-Directors of Communications and H-Intel coordinators.
- Daniela Baches-Torres, continuing as the Chair of the Early Career Scholars Group and as Newsletter Editor.
- Dan Gressang, as the Chair of the Distinguished Scholar Committee for 2020, together with committee members Richard J. Aldrich, Michael Goodman, and Cris Matei.
- Andres De Castro, Chair of the Student Paper Award committee for 2020, together with committee members Mark Stout, Pauline Blistene, and Daniela Richterova.

**Coming up at the 2020 annual ISA conference in Honolulu**

Our panel allotment for the 2020 Honolulu conference was reduced somewhat from previous years, but through the hard work of our section program chairs Damien Van Puyvelde and Cris Matei in obtaining co-sponsorships with other sections and coordinating with the overall ISA program chairs, we expect to sponsor or co-sponsor a total of 29 panels. Panels will examine topics ranging from in-the-headlines subjects such as disinformation and its threat to democracy, to continuing challenges concerning the nature and philosophy of intelligence, to cutting-edge thinking about postmodern and critical intelligence studies.

Because of space constraints at the conference hotels in Honolulu, the timing of section events will be a little different from past conferences. The Section Business Meeting will be held at 7:45pm on Wednesday, March 25 (rather than at lunch time), in South Pacific 3 at the Hilton, with light refreshments provided. In addition to discussing committee assignments for the next year and other important business, we will present the best student paper award to Benjamin Oudet, a PhD student at Poitiers University, France, for his paper “Bridging the gap between intelligence and the Administration: the normalization of French intelligence through the case of counterproliferation.”

The Early Career Scholars Group meeting will be held immediately before the business meeting, at 6:30pm Wednesday, March 25, in the same room. The highlight of the meeting will be an informal panel discussion involving a number of experts on how to get published in intelligence studies.

The section main event in Honolulu, our Distinguished Scholar Reception, will be held Thursday evening, March 26, at 7:30pm in South Pacific 1 at the Hilton, with refreshments provided through the generosity of several sponsors. We will present our Distinguished Scholar award to Mark Phythian of the University of Leicester.