LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER AND ALLIES (LGBTQA) CAUCUS
2017 ANNUAL REPORT

This report was prepared by Melanie Richter-Montpetit, LGBTQA Caucus Section Chair

FULL REPORT

Now in its sixth year of full operation, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Allies Caucus continues to play an important role in supporting LGBTQA scholars and scholarship in the field of International Relations. Our activities in 2017 have focused on sponsoring panels and roundtables related to LGBTQA issues and promoting policies and practices in the International Studies Association that support sexual and gender diversity. We continue to collaborate closely with the Feminist Theory and Gender Studies section and the Women’s Caucus in International Relations and are grateful for their support and cooperation.

MEMBERSHIP AND BUDGET

Caucus membership stands at 186 as of September 2017, meaning that membership has remained stable in 2017 compared to 2016. The Caucus’ financial position remains solid, with $3,584.77 in the account as of January 2017. Expenditures in 2016 were:

- $600 contribution to the FTGS-WCIS-LGBTQA Joint Reception
- $200 on plaques for recipients of the Courage and Scholar Awards
- $90 on signage at the Annual Convention in Baltimore

Looking ahead to 2018, the Caucus will contribute $750 to the joint reception and spend approximately $100 on certificates for award recipients.

ISA ANNUAL CONVENTION 2017 BALTIMORE

The LGBTQA Caucus sponsored or co-sponsored 11 panels at the 2017 Annual Convention (co-sponsoring sections/caucuses shown in parentheses):

- WA34: Transnational Feminist Solidarity and the Politics of Resistance (Women’s Caucus; Global South Caucus; Feminist Theory and Gender Studies)
- TB12: Reinvigorating International Politics: Taking Global Voices (Gender & Diversity) Seriously in IR, Part I – Theory (Historical International Relations; Women’s Caucus; Feminist Theory and Gender Studies; Active Learning in Global Affairs; Global South Caucus; Comparative Interdisciplinary Studies)
- TB21: War and the Production of Change: Reconfigurations of Race, Disability, Sexuality and Gender (Feminist Theory and Gender Studies)
- TC29: War and gender-based violence in the Global North (Women’s Caucus; Feminist Theory and Gender Studies)
- TC78: Feeling the Neoliberal University: Beyond Fixing the Individual, Feminisms as Resistance (Feminist Theory and Gender Studies; International Political Sociology; Women’s Caucus; International Political Economy)
- FA31: The Politics of Transnational Feminist Solidarity: Gender, Sexuality and the BDS Movement (Human Rights; Global Development; Feminist Theory and Gender Studies; Women’s Caucus)
- FA53: Taking the everyday seriously: Life and allyship as an IR scholar (Feminist Theory and Gender Studies; Women’s Caucus)
- FA74: Queer Subjectivities: Human Rights, Identity, and Political Agency (Feminist Theory and Gender Studies; Human Rights)
- FB74: LGBT Politics in the Americas (Human Rights; International Political Sociology)
- FD06: Sexual Change, Social Change: LGBTI experiences as a challenge to ideas of progress in world politics (Feminist Theory and Gender Studies; International Political Sociology; Conference Theme)
- SD32: Sex, Tongue, and International Politics (Global Development)

Given the Caucus’ standing sponsorship allocation of three panels, co-sponsorship continues to be an effective strategy for maximising the presence of LGBTQ scholarship at the Annual Convention and helping to ensure that LGBTQ issues are included in a wide range of ongoing disciplinary and sub-disciplinary debates and discussions.

The Caucus also held its annual business meeting in Baltimore. The main business was the election of new executive committee officers (see details below).

**OFFICERS**

Elections were held for two positions on the executive at the 2017 business meeting. We elected a new Vice-Chair and due to the resignation of the Secretary-Treasurer, Mike Bosia, an election was held for that position as well. We decided that the new Secretary-Treasurer would stay in office for two years so that terms would be staggered in order to avoid the entire committee (except the Chair) changing at the same time:

- Chair: Melanie Richter-Montpetit (2017-2018)
- Vice-Chair: Charlotte Heath-Kelly (2017-2018, then Chair 2018-2019)
- Secretary/Treasurer: Anna Weissman (2017-2019)
- Nominations and Awards Officer: Alison Howell (2016-2018)
- Graduate Student Member-at-Large: Justin Perez (2016-2018)

The committee would like to thank outgoing committee members Cai Wilkinson and Mike Bosia for all their work in sustaining and supporting the work of Caucus.
AWARDS
At the 2017 Annual Convention, the Courage Award was presented to Tyler Vile, a Baltimore-based trans and disability activist and poet, while the Scholar Award was presented to Cynthia Weber in recognition of her longstanding work on Queer IR.

The Awards Committee decided to award the Scholar Award 2018 to V. Spike Peterson. The Courage Award will go to the group El/la Para Translatin as.

Recipients of both awards will receive a certificate. While there has been discussion of providing a monetary award to recipients, ensuring that this could be provided each year would require yearly fundraising given the additional budgetary liability that would be incurred.

There has been discussion this year about developing more detailed award criteria, and a new draft description will be presented and voted on at the business meeting in San Francisco.

ISA ANNUAL CONVENTION 2018 SAN FRANCISCO
The LGBTQA Caucus is co-sponsoring 10 panels or roundtables. Co-sponsorship continues to enable us to ensure strong representation of LGBTQ scholarship, and our success is evidence of the salience of work on sexualities and gender diversity for a wide range of debates and issues. We would like to thank co-sponsoring sections and caucuses for their support and cooperation, and especially program chairs for their collegial approach to negotiating co-sponsorships.

The panels and roundtables are:

- WB72: Queering Modernity: Decolonizing Gender and Sexuality in Global Contexts
- WC77: Rethinking sexual politics in security sector reform
- WD56: Who/How/What Can One Speak Intelligibly in the Classroom
- WD71: Sex, Gender and Beyond: Broadening Debates on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence
- TD66: The Geopolitics of LGBT Human Rights: From Cold War to Queer War?
- FA77: Queer/in/security: Learning from Queer Lives
- FB73: International Relations at the intersection of Homophobia, Islamophobia and EUrophobia
- FB72: Gender, Social Construction and the Politics of Global Development
- FC78: Queering International Relations: Ethics, Norms and Activism
- SA78: ‘Queer logics of statecraft’: Global LGBT politics between Rights, Death and Homonationalism

The LGBTQA Caucus has also been an active participant in continuing the “Transforming International Studies’ Professional Culture(s): Challenging Systemic Oppression” series of panels developed in response to concerns about systemic discrimination in academia. The whole series of panels will be promoted to members alongside Caucus-sponsored panels and we are looking forward to engaging discussions and debates on how to make the ISA and academia more widely more equitable and inclusive. Our Caucus will contribute a panel/workshop titled “Navigating ‘Power of Rules and Rule of Power’ in the profession while Queer, Trans, Femme/Women and/or Racialized: On mentoring and being mentored.” The panel will provide a space to addresses and problematizes spoken und unspoken power structures, rules and norms in the discipline, and the challenges they pose to Queer, Trans,
Femme and/or Racialized scholars. Panelists will discuss coping strategies for multiple-oppressed scholars to survive and thrive. The panel seeks to offer guidance also to mentors who are intentional about supporting multiple-oppressed colleagues and students, yet unsure about how to provide meaningful and effective mentoring, particularly when they themselves never had to negotiate the kind of power structures as their mentees.

As in previous years, the Caucus’ open business meeting will be held on Friday lunchtime at the Annual Convention in San Francisco, and the joint FTGS-WCIS-LGBTQA reception will be held on the Wednesday evening. For 2018, the Caucus will contribute $750 like last year, and has also worked closely with the FTGS and WCIS to secure external sponsorship for the reception.