The ISA - Midwest held its annual conference at the Hilton at the Ballpark in St. Louis, Missouri, from November 16-17, 2018. Carla Martinez Machain (Kansas State University) served as the program chair.

Brian Lai (University of Iowa) was the president. Our sponsors this year included the following:

- Arizona State University, School of Politics and Global Studies
- Foreign Policy Analysis Section (ISA)
- Foreign Policy Analysis Journal
- Institute for Intelligent Systems, University of Memphis
- International Studies Review Journal
- Iowa State University, Department of Political Science
- James Scott, Texas Christian University
- Kansas State University, Department of Political Science
- Oklahoma State University, Department of Political Science
- Scientific Study of International Processes Section (ISA)
- Taylor & Francis
- University of Georgia, School of Public & International Affairs
- University of Iowa, Department of Political Science
- University of Memphis, Department of Political Science
- University of Missouri, Department of Political Science

Sponsorship totaled $6,950 (plus printing costs covered by KSU, which were estimated to be around $700). Registration totaled $12,430.

This year the conference was held in coordination with the first annual ISA Innovative Pedagogy conference, which was held on the Thursday before ISA Midwest.

With generous support from the ISA Professional Development Committee, we were able to continue the Emerging Scholar Forum. This is similar to the Junior Scholar Symposium at ISA, and it placed four groups of four emerging scholars with four senior scholars in the field.

There were also several roundtables. Two of them were organized by the program chair. One of them honored the Quincy Wright Award Recipients Amanda Murdie (University Georgia), while the other one honored Excellence in Teaching and Mentoring Award winner James Scott (Texas Christian University). In addition, four more roundtables were proposed by participants, which covered teaching and learning topics, research discussions, and success in an academic career. We had 201 paper
submissions (up from 194 last year) participants and 42 panels and roundtables (up from 37 last year). We did not use the 7th available conference room or Sunday panels. 211 individuals registered (up from 161 last year). We were able to cover our hotel room block. We were also able to provide small stipends to 8 KSU graduate students who volunteered at the registration desk. The stipends covered their conference registration, hotel rooms (4 students per room, for a total of 2 hotel rooms, and their mileage (students carpooled in 2 cars). Financially, our projections suggest that the conference generated a budget surplus to carry forward to the 2019 conference.

**Highlights**

ISA President Patrick James (University of Southern California) gave the keynote address at the reception on Friday evening. Amanda Murdie (University of Georgia) was the Quincy Wright Distinguished Scholar this year and delivered an address at the Quincy Wright luncheon on Saturday.

In our business meeting we discussed options to make the conference more green. We noted that we made the vegetarian option the default for the luncheon, asked those attending to recycle their badge holders (these were passed on to next year’s program chair), and discussed a bring-your-own-badge-holder incentive program for next year.

We had also several other award winners listed in the program. We honored them at the reception on Friday evening. James Scott (Texas Christian University) won the Excellence in Teaching and Mentoring Award, Naji Bsisu and Amanda Murdie (University of Georgia) won the Frank J. Klingberg Award for Best Paper Presented by a Faculty Member. Pearce Edwards (Emory University) won the Lynne Rienner Award for Best Paper Presented by a Graduate Student. Grayson Cupit, Leah Windsor, and Alistair Windsor (University of Memphis) won the Margaret G. Hermann Award for Best Paper Utilizing Text Analysis in Leadership Studie.

**New Developments**

The ISA Midwest governance is the following:

- Carla Martinez Machain (Kansas State University), President
- Baris Kesgin (Elon University), Program Chair
- Brian Lai (University of Iowa), Past President
- Jonathan Ring (University of Tennessee), Secretary.
- Thomas Guarrieri (START, University of Maryland), At-Large Member. Term expires in 2019
- Michael Tyburski (Kansas State University), At-Large Member. Term expires in 2019
- Rebecca Best (University of Missouri, Kansas City), At-Large Member. Term expires in 2020.
- Mark Nieman (Iowa State University), At-Large Member. Term expires in 2020

The committee to selected the Singer Award for Best Book for 2019 is composed of the following:

- David Carter (Washington University), Chair
- Leah Windsor (University of Memphis)
- Clayton Webb (University of Kansas)

We have 6 nominees for the best book award, which will be given out at the 2019 meeting.