

## ISA-Northeast Region Report

ISA-Northeast held its annual conference in Baltimore, Maryland November 5-6, 2010. The conference featured ISA President David Lake as the Keynote Speaker, speaking on "Why Isms are Evil: Theory, Epistemology, and Academic Sects as Impediments to Understanding and Progress." The Luncheon Speaker Series Address was given by past ISA President J. Ann Tickner (2006-2007), whose talk was entitled "Dealing with Difference: Problems and Possibilities for Dialogue in IR." Each year, ISA-Northeast holds the Northeast Circle, honoring and discussing a forthcoming book likely to be of impact in the field. This year's honoree was Daniel J. Levine, for his book "Recovering International Relations: The Promise of Sustainable Critique." The conference also featured a distinguished author panel for Vivienne Jabri, and a panel discussing Patrick Thaddeus Jackson's *The Conduct of Inquiry in International Relations*.

The conference recovered from its recession-low attendance last year, and more than 200 people attended and presented at the conference. In addition to the featured events, the conference featured 46 panels, many of which addressed the conference theme of "Pluralism, Pragmatism, and the Practice Turn in IR."

The conference was sponsored by America Abroad Media, the Washington Center, Palgrave MacMillan (on behalf of the *Journal of International Relations and Development*), the University of Michigan Press (on behalf of the book series *Configurations: Critical Studies of World Politics*), the University of Delaware Global Governance Graduate Student Association, and the Consortium on Gender, Security, and Human Rights at the University of Massachusetts-Boston.

The conference was run by Program Chair (now President-Elect) Patrick Thaddeus Jackson (American University) and President Laura Sjoberg (University of Florida), with the aid of a number of members of the Governing Council, including Eric Leonard (Treasurer), Randall Newnham (Secretary), and Andreas Behnke (University of Reading), Linda Bishai (US Institute of Peace), Robert Bosco (Centre College), Dan Green (University of Delaware), Jennifer Heeg (Texas A&M University Qatar), Peter Howard (State Department), Jennifer Lobasz (Minnesota), Jennifer Mitzen (Ohio State), Julie Mueller (University of New England), Daniel Nexon (Georgetown), Anat Niv-Solomon (College of Staten Island), Ausra Park (Davidson), Bahram Rajae (Delaware), Mark Sachleben (Shippensburg), Will Schlickemaier (Georgetown), Rosemary Shinko (Bucknell), Matthew Weinert (Delaware), Lauren Wilcox (Minnesota), and Ayse Zarakol (Washington and Lee).

At the Business Meeting at the Conference, several new members of the Governing Council were elected, including Daniel Levine (Colgate), Anna Agathangelou (York), Jessica Auchter (Arizona State), J. Samuel Barkin (Wellesley College/University of Florida), Ralitsa Donkova (Minnesota), Julia Lau Bertrand (Georgetown), Amy Skonieczny (San Francisco State), Jacob Stump (Shepherd University), and Halit Mustafa Tagma (Sabanci University). Daniel Nexon (Georgetown) was elected Vice President and Program Chair for the ISA-Northeast 2011.

The ISA-Northeast Business meeting at ISA Montreal will be Thursday, March 17, 2011, 7am, in the Kafka Room. ISA-Northeast 2011 will be at the Providence Biltmore, November 4-5, 2011.

In addition to its many other activities, ISA-Northeast is committed to running a professional development program throughout the conference. This year, it included:

Panel FA01: Problems and Tactics in International Experiential Learning

*A roundtable on the utility, potential, and challenges of experiential learning*

Panel SA05: Innovations in Teaching International Relations

*A paper and multimedia presentation panel covering topics such as the challenges and rewards of teaching to foreign students, the pros and cons of data-driven teaching, performance in the IR classroom, integrating map, border, and demographic analysis, and taking advantage of multimedia tools.*

Panel SC05: Professional Development: Publishing and More

*A Roundtable and Question and Answer Session on how to publish in the discipline from a broad variety of perspectives, including that of an acquisitions editor (Melody Herr, University of Michigan Press), the general editor of the ISA Compendium (Robert Denemark), a journal editor (Laura Sjoberg), and faculty members with experience in teaching and research tracks (Rosemary Shinko and Eric Leonard)*

Panel SD05: Reflections on our Scholarly Craft

*A paper-based panel exploring the directions and potentialities of the future of the field, including the relationship between creativity and responsibility in research; the practice of IR at the modern university; and the rediscovery of geography in the field.*

In addition to these panels, ISA-Northeast ran its annual methodology workshop, featuring faculty mentors Patrick Thaddeus Jackson (American University), Christine Sylvester (Lancaster University), Vivienne Jabri (King's College London), J. Samuel Barkin (University of Florida/Wellesley College), and Vincent Pouliot (McGill University). As usual, eight graduate student participants had opportunities to discuss their work with the faculty participants, and to engage in lively question-and-answer sessions with those faculty participants; as in past years, audio recordings of the public sessions are posted on [www.kittenboo.com](http://www.kittenboo.com). The workshop continues to be one of the premier locations for students to obtain comprehensive feedback from established interpretive and relational scholars, and to develop their own projects along these lines. As such, the workshop underscores a commitment to methodological pluralism that is characteristic of the global field of IR at its best.