ISA-Northeast Region Report 2011

ISA-Northeast held its 2011 Annual Conference in Providence, Rhode Island. The conference featured ISA President Beth Simmons as the Keynote Speaker, speaking on “Mobilizing for Human Rights: International Law and Domestic Politics.” The Luncheon Speaker Series Address was given by past ISA President Craig Murphy whose talk was entitled “IR is not Enough: Global Problems, Global Citizens, and Global Studies.” 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 Ty Solomon, for his book “The Affective Politics of American Foreign Policy Discourse.” The conference also featured a panel discussing J. Samuel Barkin’s Realist Constructivism.

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 “Continuity and Change in Global Politics.”

The conference was sponsored by the Watson Institute at Brown University, the Department of Political Science at Providence College, the Mortara Center for International Studies, 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 Ph.D. program in Global Governance and Human Security of the John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies at the University of Massachusetts Boston, Taylor and Francis (on Behalf of Routledge’s New International Relations Series), Cambridge University Press (on behalf of the Review of International Studies), and Digital World Construction.

The conference was run by Program Chair (now President-Elect) Dan Nexon (Georgetown University), 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 Randall Newnham (Secretary), and 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 Rajaee (Delaware), Mark Sachleben (Shippensburg), Will Schlickenmaier (Georgetown), Rosemary Shinko (Bucknell), Matthew Weinert (Delaware), Lauren Wilcox (Minnesota), Ayse Zarakol (Washington and Lee), Daniel Levine (Alabama), Anna Agathangelou (York), Jessica Auchtter (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). J. Sameul Barkin (UMass-Boston) was elected Vice President and Program Chair for the ISA-Northeast 2012.

The ISA-Northeast Business meeting at ISA San Diego will be Monday, April 2, 7am. ISA-Northeast 2012 will be at the Tremont, November 2-3, 2012.
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: Peace and Conflict Studies (P-Con) at Colgate University: Notes from Teaching an Interdiscipline
A roundtable on the utility, potential, and challenges of peace and conflict studies

Panel SD02: Stylizing the Profession: Enfashioning the IR Scholar
A paper and multimedia presentation panel covering discussing the potential contributions of fashion studies to International Relations

A Roundtable and Question and Answer Session on performative pedagogical techniques.

In addition to these panels, ISA-Northeast ran its annual methodology workshop, featuring faculty mentors Patrick Thaddeus Jackson (American University), Alexander Montgomery (Reed College), L. H. M. Ling (the New School), Ole Waever (University of Copenhagen), and Frederic Schaffer (University of Massachusetts, Amherst). 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. 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.