

**ISA-Northeast Annual Report 2012**  
**Patrick Thaddeus Jackson, American University**

The ISA-Northeast continues to thrive since our decision to end our partnership with the Northeast Political Science Association and start hosting our own conference in 2008. Thanks to the support of the ISA HQ staff, particularly Jeanne White, we have negotiated appropriately-sized room blocks at two conference hotels (one in Providence, RI and one in Baltimore, MD) between which we alternate each year. We have signed contracts for an annual conference through 2016. This year, because of Hurricane Sandy, we contemplated cancelling the 2012 conference, but decided against it because of the last-minute shifts in the storm track; in the event we ended up with 208 conference attendees, made 89% of our hotel room block, and ended the conference about \$1000 in the black. ISA-Northeast stands, as of the last financial report from ISA HQ, with an overall balance of about \$23,000, and the fact that we make clear efforts to meet our conference costs with registration fees and some external sponsorships means that we don't usually have to dip into our funds to cover conference shortfalls.

At this year's conference in Baltimore, ISA-Northeast gave out three awards: the Hartmann Award for the best graduate student paper presented at the 2011 conference went to Lauren Wilcox of Johns Hopkins University, while the Bennett Award for the best paper presented by a faculty member went to Rose Shinko of American University. The Yale H. Ferguson book award was shared by Michael Barnett (George Washington

University) and Patrick Thaddeus Jackson (American University).<sup>1</sup> In addition, ISA-Northeast awarded \$1850 in graduate student travel support grants ranging from \$50 to \$300, helping to make conference attendance possible for students traveling from as far away as Finland and as close as Norfolk VA.

ISA-Northeast also hosted its seventh annual Graduate Student Workshop in Interpretative and Relational Research Methodologies in conjunction with the annual conference. Four faculty presenters—Nicholas Onuf (Florida International University, emeritus), Shampa Biswas (Whitman College), Derek Beach (Aarhus University), and Ian Bruff (University of Loughborough)—spent the better part of a day with nine graduate students, working through some of the practical and conceptual challenges of doing research according to a logic of inference that is not exhausted by the neopositivist quest for nomothetic generalizations. ISA-Northeast has been running this workshop, with the generous support of the Professional Development Committee, annually since 2005, and plans to continue doing so into the future.

This year at the ISA Annual Meeting, Daniel H. Nexon (Georgetown University) becomes President of ISA-Northeast, while Samuel Barkin (University of Massachusetts-Boston) becomes Vice-President and President-Elect. Jennifer Lobasz (University of Delaware) will be the Program Chair for the 2013 conference in Providence.

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<sup>1</sup> I hasten to add—perhaps unnecessarily—that, as would be expected of a professional organization, I had no role in the award deliberations for the Ferguson Award, especially since I was both the incoming President of the organization and a nominee for the award.