

## **ISA-Northeast Annual Report 2014**

Samuel Barkin, University of Massachusetts Boston

The ISA-Northeast had a successful 2013. With the invaluable support of the ISA HQ staff, on November 7 and 8, 2014, we had a well-attended and well-reviewed conference in Baltimore, at the Embassy Suites and Grand Historic Venue (and it is indeed grand). ISA-NE continues to be the largest of ISA's regional organizations, and our membership, currently at 1,157, continues to grow. As of August 31 ISA-NE had \$33,799 in cash reserves. The annual conference will likely lose roughly \$3,000 this year, as conference expenses continue to grow (partly as a result of inflation, partly because of increased expectations of audiovisual support) while registration fees have not increased for half a decade.

Harry Gould (Florida International University), our 2014 program chair and current President-Elect, put together an excellent program. 191 people registered for the conference, which featured 44 panels in addition to special events. The conference featured a keynote address delivered by Margaret Keck (Johns Hopkins University), and a luncheon address delivered by ISA President Amitav Acharya (American University). 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 Jack Amoureux (Wake Forest University), for his book, *A Practice of Ethics for Global Politics*. The conference was sponsored by the Global Governance and Human Security Program at the University of Massachusetts Boston; the University of Michigan Press; the Academic Council on the United Nations (ACUNS); American University, School of International Service; and Palgrave Macmillan.

In conjunction with our conference, ISA-Northeast hosted its annual Graduate Student Workshop in Interpretive and Relational Research Methods on the Saturday of the conference. This year's Workshop was organized by Daniel Levine (University of Alabama) and Jessica Auchter (University of Tennessee at Chattanooga) selected student participants, invited faculty mentors, and ran the workshop. Faculty mentors this year were Francois Debrix (Virginia Tech), Lauren Wilcox (University of Cambridge), Patrick Thaddeus Jackson (American University) and Jennifer Mitzen (Ohio State University). The Workshop was funded by an ISA Professional Development Grant, with additional funding from ISA-Northeast's conference funds.

The workshop continued the format followed in previous years: a morning of open presentations on the craft of interpretive and relational research from faculty mentors; an informal lunch that included students, mentors, and the leadership of the ISA-Northeast; and small-group conversations on dissertation prospectuses and chapters in the afternoon. The organizers matched mentors to students. Morning sessions were recorded and will be placed on Levine's website for public access. Discussions ended at 4:00 pm, but continued informally over coffee into the evening; students also had the option to attend an informative session on academic publishing organized by the ISA-NE Program Chair and University of Michigan Acquisitions Editor Melody Herr.

The Governing Council also announced the winners of two of our annual awards. The 2014 Fred Hartmann Award for Best Graduate Student Paper Presented at ISA-NE 2013 was awarded to Swati Srivastava (Northwestern University) for “Varieties of Constructivism.” The 2014 A. Leroy Bennett Award for Best Faculty Paper Presented at ISA-NE 2013 was awarded to Giovanni Mantilla (Brown University) for “Social Coercion in International Law-Making: The Forgotten Revision of the Geneva Conventions in the 1970s.” Honorable mention went to Isaac Kamola (Trinity College) for “Realism from the African Anti-Colonial Archives: Cabral and the Limits of International Relations Theory.” The committee for the Yale H. Ferguson Award have not yet chosen an awardee.

At the completion of the ISA-Northeast conference, Jennifer Lobasz (University of Delaware) succeeded Samuel Barkin as President of ISA-Northeast, Harry Gould became Vice President and President-Elect. Daniel Levine succeeded Harry Gould as Program Chair. Randal Neumann (Penn State Berks) continues as Secretary. Jessica Auchter and Stefanie Fishel (Hobart and William Smith College) were elected co-conveners of the Workshop for 2015.

Continuing our recent pattern of alternating conferences between Baltimore and Providence, the 2015 ISA-NE conference will be back in Providence, at the Biltmore Hotel. We have extended this alternating pattern through 2018, by signing contracts with the Providence Hilton for 2017 and the Embassy Suites and Grand Historic Venue in Baltimore for 2018.