



ISA-NORTHEAST REGION

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

This report was prepared by Daniel J. Levine, ISA-Northeast Region President

FULL REPORT

The ISA-Northeast had a successful 2017.

REGION MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCES

ISA-NE continues to be the largest of ISA's regional organizations. Our 2018 membership stands at 1,207, a slight rise from 2017 (1,157). As of 12/1/2017, our cash holdings stood at \$29,904. This sum is inclusive of all conference expenditures.

For the first time in five years, our conference finished with a modest budgetary surplus – just over \$1,200. Increased registration and sponsorship revenue covered the shortfall experienced in past years. We also enjoyed increased sponsorships, and benefited from decreased travel reimbursement costs. While the break in travel costs will likely not recur in future years, we seem to have found the right financial footing for the conference to reliably break even.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

With the invaluable support of the ISA HQ staff, we had a well-attended and well-reviewed conference in Providence, RI at the Hilton Providence. The conference took place on November 3-4, 2017.

Program Chairs. Stefanie R. Fishel (University of Alabama) was our 2017 VP/program co-chair, ably assisted by co-chair Benjamin Meiches (University of Washington/Tacoma). Fishel and Meiches put together an excellent program that featured **35** panels and roundtables. A total of **188** people were listed on the program. Registration and submission levels declined slightly from previous years, with **230** registrants in total and **248** submissions.

Travel Funding. We awarded 10 travel grants to graduate students and contingent faculty, in sums ranging from \$200-\$400, for a total of \$2,600. These grants were paid out of the region's membership dues.

Special events included a **plenary roundtable** chaired by Fishel and Meiches, which featured Siba Grovogui (Cornell), Peter Haas (UMass-Amherst), Annick Wibben (University of San Francisco), and Rafi Youatt (The New School). ISA President Brett Ashley Leeds (Rice University) delivered the **presidential address** over a buffet lunch. The ISA-Northeast **Scholars Circle** honored Jennifer K. Lobasz's (University of Delaware) manuscript *Strange Bedfellows: Evangelicals, Feminists and the Fight Against Human Trafficking*. Rosemary Shinko (American), Brett Ashley Leeds (Rice), Laura Sjoberg (Florida), and Cara New Daggett (Virginia Tech) were the discussants.

Sponsorships. The conference received generous sponsorships from Boston University's Pardee School, the University of Alabama College of Arts and Sciences, the University of Delaware Department of Political Science, Palgrave-Macmillan, the Political Science Department of UMass-Amherst, the University of Michigan Press, the Doctoral Program in Global Governance and Human Security at UMass-Boston, the Active Learning in International Affairs Section of the ISA, the ISA Professional Development Committee, and the ISA Special Projects Fund. Our sincere thanks to them all.

Workshops. Our annual **Interpretive and Relational Research Methods Workshop** took place on the Saturday of the conference, under the renewed leadership of Patrick Thaddeus Jackson (American University) and Laura Sjoberg (University of Florida). Patrick and Laura selected student participants, invited faculty mentors, and Laura ran the workshop itself. Faculty mentors this year were LHM Ling (New School), Brent Steele (University of Utah), and Matthew Hoffmann (University of Toronto-Scarborough). 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 included students, mentors, and the region leadership; and small-group conversations on dissertation prospectuses and chapters took place in the afternoon. The organizers matched mentors to students.

This year was the second year in which we offered our new **Pedagogy Workshop**, once again under the able leadership of Jamie Frueh (Stonehill College). In addition to Frueh, the mentors included Annick Wibben (San Francisco), Rose Shinko (American), and Samuel Barkin (UMass-Boston).

This was our first year at the Providence Hilton, and we are grateful for the efforts of the hotel's staff and administration. *We also wish to underscore our gratitude for the continued support and professionalism of the ISA leadership and staff.*

AWARDS

The Governing Council announced the winners of our three annual awards in November 2017.

- The **Fred Hartmann Award** went to Patricia Greve (Toronto), for her paper "Ontological Security, the Struggle for Recognition, and the Maintenance of Security Communities."
- The **A. Leroy Bennett Award** went to Dr. Cara Daggett (Virginia Tech) for her paper "Energetic Racism: Fossil Fuels and Thermodynamics in 19th Century New Imperialism."
- The **Yale H. Ferguson Award** for the book that most advances the vibrancy of International Studies as a pluralist discipline went to Cynthia Weber's (University of Sussex) *Queer International Relations: Sovereignty, Sexuality and the Will to Knowledge*.

ELECTIONS

Upon completion of the ISA-Northeast conference, Jessica Auchter (University of Tennessee, Chattanooga) succeeded Daniel J. Levine (University of Alabama) as region president, with Levine replacing Harry Gould (FIU) as past president. Stefanie Fishel (Alabama) became President-Elect, while

Andrew A.G. Ross (Ohio University) was elected 2018 Program Chair. Randall Newnham (Penn State Berks) continues on as Secretary; our thanks for his continued service.

The 2018 ISA-Northeast conference will be held in Baltimore at the Embassy Suites. We hope to see you there!