This report was prepared by Patrick James, acting as the chair of the ISA Professional Development Committee (members include Tim Dunne, Marc Doucet, Mark Salter, Marc O’Reily, Wesley Renfro, Patrick Thaddeus Jackson, Sean Giovanello, Robert Williams, Catia Confortini, Ann Marie Clark and Margit Bussman). The report was submitted January 2013 for the 2013 Governing Council meeting in San Francisco.

FULL REPORT

Overview
The Professional Development Committee (PDC) had a productive meeting at ISA 2012, which produced a range of interesting ideas for immediate and potential future implementation. I am grateful to all members of the PDC for their valuable participation.

This report provides a list of events at ISA 2013 either sponsored by the PDC or facilitated in some way by its work. Summaries of funding requests from the regions and approved by the PDC appear next. (More details can be obtained from the respective regional web pages.) Finally, ideas for mentoring in ISA, which reflect conversations with Catia C. Confortini, a PDC member, are provided for further consideration. With the Junior Scholar Symposia getting underway at ISA 2013, it seemed prudent to leave discussion and potential implementation of these ideas about mentoring to the new committee.

Panels at ISA 2013
- SA08: Saturday 8:15 AM – 10:00 AM Roundtable: “An Academic Career Outside One’s Country of Birth: The Pros and Cons.” Co-sponsored with Association for Canadian Studies in the United States
- WC08: Wednesday 1:45 PM – 3:30 PM Roundtable: “Professional Development and Grant Writing.”
- TC04: Thursday 1:45 PM – 3:30 PM Innovative Panel: “Surviving the Politics of Academe.”

Regions

ISA Asia-Pacific
ISA Asia-Pacific will hold a workshop at Gadja Mada University in Indonesia. The workshop focuses on the meaning of international studies research, along with regional variations and a number of other interesting themes. The workshop also includes work in progress presentations for early career researchers seeking feedback on their work and how such scholars might be mentored by those with more experience. The workshop’s various components seek to advance the discipline of International Studies in the region by providing meaningful professional development opportunities for prospective academics and early career researchers.
ISA Canada
ISA Canada conducted four professional development workshops during its regional meeting, with a focus on new and emerging scholars. The subject areas include: managing your academic career with success; “I’ve made it to associate, now what?”; how to write a lot; and writing a journal article in twelve weeks.

ISA Midwest
ISA Midwest conducted three roundtables at its annual conference, with a focus on increasing the participation of women. Activities scheduled include: roundtable on women’s professional development issues; roundtable on tenure and publishing; roundtable on post-tenure success; meeting of invited participants and ISA Midwest leadership; and broader recruitment.

ISA Northeast
ISA Northeast continues to hold its annual workshop on interpretive and relational methodologies. Faculty and graduate students come together for discussion and advanced training in non-statistical methodologies that are not covered in many departments. The alternative approaches to knowledge production include cutting edge techniques from across the social sciences.

ISA South
ISA South held a roundtable, composed of five panelists, with a focus on professional writing and publication. The roundtable aimed to inform the region’s membership, especially graduate students and junior faculty, about opportunities for publication and processes that accompany those opportunities. The roundtable included considerable audience interaction with the panelists.

ISA West
ISA West held two specialized roundtables, with videography services, at its annual meeting. One roundtable offered advice from recognized experts regarding effective teaching within the discipline of International Studies. The other roundtable focused on how professionals in the non-profit sector deal with issues related to human rights and security “on the ground”.
APPENDIX: IDEAS FOR MENTORING IN ISA

This list is meant to be the beginning of a conversation on mentoring initiatives to be sponsored through the ISA Professional Development Committee.

1) Innovative panel: This could be modeled after the one offered by FTGS for four consecutive years. The purpose of the FTGS panel was to connect students and early career scholars with senior members of FTGS. The panel offered the opportunity to network with other scholars in the field and share teaching and research strategies in feminist theory and international studies. The panel was divided into sections to discuss the following: teaching, research/publishing, work/life balance, activism/scholarship, and professional networking. The room was divided into four areas corresponding to each topic. In each area two-three senior scholars with specific expertise on the topic had volunteered to offer both general and more specific ideas to junior scholars. Junior scholars rotated between the groups at set time intervals. Having been among the junior scholars that participated in this panel, Catia Confortini observes that she was offered excellent advice and had a very positive experience. The panel was discontinued (probably) because of a poor attendance during the last year it was offered. If done at ISA level with the right amount of publicity, it could generate a lot of interest.

2) Roundtable on publishing, tenure and promotion. This roundtable was also offered at last ISA meeting; it was organized by Kristen Williams and co-sponsored by FTGS. Participants from different kinds of institutions talked about their experiences and advice on publishing and achieving tenure/promotion. The institutions represented were R 1 (Columbia and Georgia Tech), private liberal arts college (Whittier), public four-year institution not R 1 (California State University Sacramento), and a non-US institution. Each person spent 10-12 minutes describing their institution and expectations for publishing (emphasis on books and/or articles, how many, etc) and what was needed for tenure (for some, research was the most important, for others it was a combination of research and teaching). The roundtable had an audience mostly of graduate students but also a few faculty. The roundtable received overwhelmingly positive feedback.

3) APSA model: the APSA Mentor Initiative connects junior scholars to scholars and professionals who have volunteered to provide advice, support, and guidance. There is a downloadable APSA Mentoring Request Form on the APSA website, where the person seeking a mentor specifies particular issues for which s/he is seeking a mentor, and/or s/he can request someone for generalized guidance. Based upon the request, APSA staff matches the seeker with a volunteer mentor who commits to respond. The mentor-mentee relationship is then negotiated on a case-by-case basis. Patrick James reports positive experiences as an APSA mentor over the last year. As a side note: FTGS intended to try this model, but only one senior scholar volunteered to be a mentor, so the initiative never took off. If ISA were to follow this model, a strong effort will need to be put in soliciting volunteer mentors and, possibly, assisting them in becoming effective mentors.

4) The APSA website also has a dedicated mentoring page, with a list of resources at the following URL: http://www.apsanet.org/content_6514.cfm

5) The APSA Committee on the Status of Latinos y Latinas in the profession also offers awards (the Adaljiza Sosa-Riddell Award) for exemplary mentoring of Latinos/as. We could think of doing the same for several underrepresented categories of students and junior scholars in IR.