The Political Demography and Geography section of the International Studies Association has seen a steady growth in membership since its inception in 2011. Once again, I am pleased to report on the exciting developments happening in ISA’s Political Demography & Geography Section. First of all, we are holding our own; our membership stands at 114 (Figure 1) and is anticipated to grow as we reach out to ISA’s general membership.

Our section’s finances are also in good shape as shown in Table 1.

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<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PDG Finances</td>
<td>THROUGH</td>
<td>THROUGH</td>
<td>THROUGH</td>
<td>THROUGH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance Forward</td>
<td>4,259.85</td>
<td>3,957.85</td>
<td>3,991.85</td>
<td>3,991.85</td>
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<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditures</td>
<td>-325</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>YTD</td>
<td>3,937.85</td>
<td>3,978.85</td>
<td>3,991.85</td>
<td>3,991.85</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As of October 2016, our funds stand at roughly $3,991. During 2015-16, contributions to PDG came
from the USC’s Hatfield School of Government, Portland State University’s Center for Turkish Studies, PRIO/Journal of Peace Research, Texas A&M University’s Bush School, and The Stimson Center.

ISA 2017 Panels:

Our program chair, Jennifer Sciubba, and Distinguished Scholar Event Director, Alex Braithewaite, organized a rich collection for PDG sponsored/co-sponsored panels for ISA Baltimore 2017.

PDG will be sponsoring and co-sponsoring 18 panels in Baltimore. We are co-sponsoring panels with the following sections: Ethnicity, Nationalism, & Migration Studies; International Political Sociology; Intelligence Studies; Environmental Studies; Understanding Change in World Politics (Theme); Global Development; International Communication; Science, Technology and Art in International Relations; International Law.

Furthermore, at the joint PDG/FPA/SSIP Reception our section will host a poster session, with five posters included.

We will recognize Professor Harvey Starr as PDG Distinguished Scholar who will receive the Fourth Annual Myron Weiner Distinguished Scholar Award. Professor Starr’s (Department of Political Science, University of South Carolina. current research interests include the causes and consequences of failed states; geopolitics and the use of Geographic Information Systems; the democratic peace; and the theory and methods of necessary conditions. He joined the faculty at the University of South Carolina in 1989 as the Dag Hammarskjold Professor in International Affairs. While formally retired in June 2014, he remains an Institute Associate of The Walker Institute of International and Area Studies, a Consulting Faculty in the Jewish Studies Program, and a Rule of Law Collaborative Faculty Member. From 1991-2000 he served as Editor of International Interactions, and as Associate Editor of the Journal of Politics from 2001-03. He has served as President of the Conflict Processes Section of the American Political Science Association (1992-95), as Vice President of the American Political Science Association (1995-96), and as President of the Peace Science Society (International) (2000-01). He has also served as President of the International Studies Association in 2013-14. Professor Starr is author or co-author of 18 books and monographs, and almost one hundred journal articles and book chapters, and notes. He has received three grants from the National Science Foundation. His most recent books are World Politics: the Menu for Choice, 10th edition (Cengage, 2013) co-authored with Bruce Russett and David Kinsella), along with the edited volume Dealing with Failed States (Routledge, 2009) and On Geopolitics (Paradigm: 2013) and Zaryab Iqbal and Harvey Starr, State Failure in the Modern World (Stanford University Press: 2015).

Graduate Student Paper Award:

This year, we continued to award The Jacek Kugler Political Demography and Geography Student Paper Award to the best paper with a political demography and geography themes presented at the ISA Annual Convention in Atlanta. The award committee (Fisunoglu [chair], Alex Braithwaite, Andrea den Boer) selected the following winner and runner up for the Jacek Kugler Political Demography and Geography Student Paper Award.
1. "Igniting the Fire? State Institutions, Food Price Shocks and Urban Unrest" by Ida Rudolfsen (PRIO & Uppsala University) has been awarded the Jacek Kugler Political Demography and Geography Student Paper Award.

2. "Randomized Rain Falls on Political Groups: Discovering an Average Causal Effect of Climate Variability on Armed Conflict Onsets" by Jonas Nordkvelle (PRIO) has been awarded the runner-up for the Jacek Kugler Political Demography and Geography Student Paper Award.

PDG Board Members, 2016-2017:
- Patrick James, Section Chair, March 2016 – April 2018 (University of Southern California)
- Birol Yesilada, Past Section Chair, March 2016 – April 2018 (Portland State University)
- Jennifer Sciubba, Program Chair, March 2016 – April 2018 (Rhodes College)
- Jonathan Potton, Newsletter Director, February 2015 – February 2017 (University of Aberdeen)
- Alex Braithewaite, Distinguished Scholar Event Director, March 2016 – February 2017 (University of Arizona)
- Ali Fisunogli, Graduate Student Awards Director, March 2016 – February 2017 (Ozyegin University)

PDG Board Members-At-Large:
- Alex Braithwaite, March 2016 – February 2017 (University of Arizona)
- Ismene Gizelis, March 2016 – February 2017 (University of Essex)
- Scott Gates, March 2016 – February 2017 (PRIIO)
- Jack Goldstone, March 2016 – February 2017 (George Mason University)
- Jacek Kugler, March 2016 – February 2017 (Claremont Graduate University)
- Tadeusz Kugler, March 2016 – February 2017, (Roger Williams University)
- Steven Pickering, March 2016 – February 2017 (Kobe University)
- Jennifer Dabbs Sciubba, March 2016 – February 2017 (Rhodes College)
- Ronald Tammen, March 2016 – February 2017 (Portland State University)
- Henrik Urdal, March 2016 – February 2017 (PRIIO)