ISA’s *Political Demography and Geography Section (ISA/PDG)*, which was launched in 2011, continues to grow in membership, in the breadth of its activities and in the depth of its professional scope. At ISA/2013, our Panel Chair, Alex Braithwaite (University College London), has helped organize 12 regular panel sessions, one distinguished scholar session, and three poster sessions. Non-US scholars at ISA/2013 represent about 40% of the participants in these sessions, which are split between demographic and geographic interests. Besides our annual meeting sessions, PDG fielded a panel of six presentations at the British International Studies Association Annual Convention in Edinburgh, in June 2012.

The PDG Board voted on our first “Distinguished Scholar” honoree for 2013, choosing demographer Michael Teitelbaum, who has written extensively on population aging and its social and political implications. PDG-member Jennifer Sciubba (Rhodes College) will chair the session at ISA/2013 (to be held on Friday, April 5, 4PM, Plaza A). We have plans to repeat this session at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC, at a later date.

During the 2012-13 year, PDG’s editor, Steve Pickering, organized and produced three issues of the PDG Newsletter (the pre-annual meeting edition is in progress). Besides section information, the newsletters have featured a short paragraph describing the research of a PDG Board Member.

The current board will be discussing the possibility of reorganizing to produce a “functional board”, with several types of board members—members who would supervise necessary duties: (a) program chair; (b) PDG reception organizer; (c) PDG newsletter editor; (d) PDG liaisons with other sections/organizations [demography/geography]; (e) PDG distinguished scholar selection chair; (f) a listserv organizer/manager; and (g) PDG membership/recruitment supervisor; (h) webmaster; (i) election committee chair (plus two committee members). We are conducting searches for officers whose service would start in 2013.

Goals for the upcoming year include organizing a listserv for the section, and making closer links to organizations that could further PDG’s mission.
Membership and Finance

PDG currently has 89 members as of January 2013 (2011 membership was 43, 2012 membership was 64). While still below the ISA section minimum of 120, membership continues to grow steadily. With some effort, we should cross that threshold in the latter part of 2013.

PDG has scheduled a “Political Demography Breakfast” at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America (PAA) in New Orleans, on April 10, 2013. It will be our chance to reach out to demographers who might consider joining ISA/PDG, and to reach out to the PAA leadership.

As of Oct, 2012, our ISA account balance stood at $770. This year, PDG has received pledges from The Stimson Center ($200), and from the Univ. of Southern California’s Center for International Studies ($500).

The next business meeting of the section will take place on Friday, April 5, 2013, from 6:00-6:45 pm in the “Continental Room (no. 4)” at the Hilton/San Francisco/Union Square. The reception will take place the same day right after the business meeting at 6:45 pm in the Golden Gate Room (no. 1). Whereas PDG is currently continuing our relationship with SSIP and FPA by co-sponsoring a joint reception in 2013, that will change. As of ISA/2014, PDG will produce its own reception (sponsored, in part, by the Woodrow Wilson Center’s Environmental Change and Security Program).

Activities


- “Global Trends 2030: Alternative Futures” was published by the (U.S.) National Intelligence Council and features a chapter on demography, which the NIC considers to be a driver of changes in the international system. Several PDG members contributed to the writing and workshops that led up to GT2030.

- PDG Board member Valerie Hudson (Texas A&M Univ.) co-authored a volume on woman and conflict entitled “Sex and World Peace.” The launch in Washington, DC, at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars featured Richard Cincotta, current PDG Chair, as discussant.
“Political Demography”, edited by Jack Goldstone (George Mason U.), Eric Kaufmann (U. London) and Monica Duffy Toft (Trinity College), and featuring articles by several PDG members, was purchased and reprinted by Oxford University Press.

Richard Cincotta (The Stimson Center), 2013-14 PDG Chair, presented an invited paper in the initial 3-person panel of Warning and Foresight Series at the Pentagon, US Armed Forces Headquarters, in Arlington, VA, USA.

2012-13 Board Members

- Richard Cincotta (rcincotta@stimson.org), PDG Chair
- Alex Braithwaite (alex.braithwaite@ucl.ac.uk), PDG Program Chair
- Ismene Gizelis (tig@essex.ac.edu)
- Henrik Urdal (henriku@prio.no)
- Patrick James (patrickj@usc.edu)
- Scott Gates (scott@prio.no)
- Tadesz Kugler (tkugler@rwu.edu)
- Ronald Tammen (tammen@pdx.edu)
- Valerie Hudson (valerie_hudson@byu.edu)
- William Thompson (wthomps@indiana.edu)
- Steven Pickering (sdpick@essex.ac.uk), Newsletter Editor
- Jacek Kugler (jacek.kugler@cgu.edu), Outgoing Chair
- Jennifer Sciubba (sciubbaj@rhodes.edu), Organizer, Distinguished Scholar Panel