This report was prepared by Gearoid Millar, PEACE Section Chair

FULL REPORT

ISA PEACE STUDIES SECTION ANNUAL REPORT 2019

This has been another good year for the Peace Studies Section. In addition to our usual activities at the annual convention, such as the distinguished scholar roundtable and reception, in 2019 we also successfully co-hosted our first joint conference, awarded our first jointly sponsored global south travel grant, and secured another co-sponsor for our second such grant. These additional initiatives have allowed the section to further promote and support the field of peace and conflict studies, driven an increase in membership to its highest levels ever, and raised the profile of the section both within ISA and internationally. Further details regarding our 2019 activities are below.

ANNUAL CONVENTION ACTIVITIES

PANELS AND PAPERS

Through the excellent work of our Program Co-Chairs (Nicolas Lemay-Hebert and Caroline Hughes), the section managed to organize a total of 102 panels for the 2019 convention in Toronto; up from 101 in 2018, which was already up from 71 in 2017). This was a result of a great amount of work coordinating the co-sponsorship of panels (33 panels were sponsored only by Peace Studies while our remaining 32 panels were leveraged into 69 co-sponsored panels), and shows the level of commitment to work with other sections to ensure the broadest reach for Peace Studies Section scholars at the annual convention. For the upcoming Honolulu 2020 convention our current Program Co-Chairs (Caroline Hughes and Neil Cooper) have worked extremely hard to sift through 87 submitted panels, 655 submitted papers, and 37 submitted roundtables (including all submissions with PSS as either first or second choice). While this massive submission means that quite a number of papers were not selected for the final program, we are nonetheless looking forward to a great Peace Studies Section contribution in 2020.

DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR AWARDS

At the 2019 convention in Toronto we also held our 7th annual Distinguished Scholar roundtable and reception. This year’s events honoured Professors Marc Gopin of the School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution (SCAR) at George Mason University, Oliver Richmond of the University of Manchester, and Carolyn Nordstrom of Notre Dame University. As in previous years we held our now traditional fish-bowl style discussion with the honourees, and, although Professor Nordstrom could not join us, the discussion was insightful and interesting. We have already completed the nomination and selection of honourees for 2020 and are happy that we will be awarding the Distinguished Scholar prizes to Dr Cyril Obi and Professor Paul Diehl and Ronni Alexander at the 2020 convention in Honolulu.
**PEACE RECEPTION**

As has also become traditional, the reception to honor our awardees followed the roundtable and was very well attended. This was the sixth year that we have been able to present our Distinguished Scholar Awards at a great big boisterous reception, and for that must thank our long list of 2018 sponsors:

- The School for Conflict Analysis & Resolution (S-CAR), George Mason University
- The United States Institute of Peace (USIP)
- The Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, University Notre Dame
- Lynne Rienner Publishers
- Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO)
- The Journal of Peace Research (JPR)
- Program for the Advancement of Research on Cooperation and Conflict (PARCC), Syracuse University
- Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution (ASPR)
- Peace and Conflict Studies Institute Australia (PaCSIA)
- Arthur V. Mauro Centre for Peace & Justice, University of Manitoba
- Program on Justice and Peace (PJP), Georgetown University
- Center for Justice and Peace (CJP), Eastern Mennonite University
- International Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR), American University, Washington DC
- School for Peace and Conflict Studies (SPCS), Kent State University
- The School of Conflict Management, Peacebuilding and Development (SCMPD), Kennesaw State University

**USIP PEACE DISSERTATION PRIZE**

In Toronto we were also planning to host, for the fourth time, the presentation of the USIP Peace Dissertation Prize. This is a $1000 prize for the best peace dissertation written and defended in the past year. However, as the awardee this year was sadly unable to attend the convention, the presentation was not conducted at the reception, although Joe Hewitt, USIP’s Vice President for Policy Learning and Strategy did announce the winner and we are happy to again plan to host the presentation for the 5th time at the upcoming Honolulu 2020 convention.

**KENNETH E. BOULDING AWARD**

The Kenneth E. Boulding award for the best student paper at the 2018 convention in San Francisco was also awarded again at the 2019 reception. This award provides the winner with a certificate, a cash award of $250, a two year membership to ISA, and a $300 travel grant to attend the 2019 convention in Toronto. The top prize this year went to Therese Anders from the University of Southern California for her paper titled “Territorial Control in Civil Wars: Theory and Measurement Using Machine Learning.” The runner up was a co-authored paper titled: “To Pardon or To Prosecute? Experimental Evidence on Attitudes toward Post-Conflict Justice in Ukraine”, which was written by Rachel Myrick and Ala’ Alrababa’h, of the University of Stanford. Congratulations are due to each of the awardees for their impressive contributions at such an early stage in their academic careers.

**PEACE STUDIES SECTION – LYNNE RIENNER PUBLISHERS GLOBAL SOUTH TRAVEL GRANT**

One of our other new initiatives in 2018 was the start of an effort to leverage our section membership fees for the co-sponsorship of Global South Travel Grants. The first such grant was launched last year in partnership with Lynne Rienner Publishers, who contributed $500 to match our own $500 contribution and, thus, to make up a $1000 travel grant to a scholar from the global south. I am very happy to report that this was a great success, with the first awardee – Fiifi Edu-Aful of the Kofi Annan International
Peacekeeping Training Centre – traveling to Toronto to participate in the 2019 convention by presenting two papers and receiving his certificate at the Distinguished Scholar Reception. In Honolulu we will present the award for the second year, this time to Eduardo Bechara-Gomez of the Universidad Externado de Colombia, who will be very busy presenting one paper, participating on a roundtable, chairing a panel and serving as a discussant on another. Congratulations are due to Dr Edu-Aful and Dr Bechara-Gomez, and thanks to Lynn Rienner Publishers for their support of this new award.

**JOINT PEACE STUDIES SECTION/PEACE HISTORY SOCIETY CONFERENCE**

Perhaps the biggest success of our year in 2019 was the outstanding joint conference held by the Peace Studies Section (PSS), the Peace History Society (PHS), and the School for Peace and Conflict Studies (SPCS) at Kent State University. This was the first such endeavor for the section and was led admirably by our former president, Landon Hancock, and a long-standing member of the Peace Studies community, Professor Pat Coy (both at the SPCS at Kent State University). The conference was titled “Commemorating Violent Conflicts and Building Sustainable Peace” and was held successfully on October 24-26 of 2019 to commemorate the May 4, 1970 shooting by the Ohio National Guard of Kent State Students during the demonstration against the US wars in Vietnam and Cambodia and the occupation of the Kent State Campus.

By all accounts the conference was a huge success, and we must thank Landon, Pat, our Executive Committee member Gratzia Villaroel (who represented the section on the planning committee), and all of the efforts made by the 200 attendees who presented 125 papers across 23 panel sessions. Both PSS and PHS had agreed to support the conference with $5000 of sponsorship ($10,000 in total) if the funds were necessary, but this has proven unnecessary as the excellent planning and creative program of the convention meant that there were more than enough attendees to balance the budget and the most recent report (from November 20, 2019) indicates a small surplus of just less than $1000 to be payed to the PSS account. This is a hugely impressive accomplishment – almost entirely due to Landon and Pat’s hard work – and should pave the way for further such efforts by the section in the future.

**A NEW GLOBAL SOUTH TRAVEL GRANT**

Building on the success of the Peace Studies Section – Lynne Rienner Publishers Global South Travel Grant in 2018/2019, earlier this year we encouraged additional sponsors to consider co-sponsoring a grant of the same type, and received a further commitment from the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at Notre Dame University to join us in this initiative. As a result, I am extremely pleased to report that we have recently completed the submission and selection process for our first annual Peace Studies Section – Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies Global South Travel Grant, which will be awarded to Zineb Benalla of Alkhawayan University in Morocco, at the 2020 convention in Honolulu. We are extremely proud to be able to contribute, via both of our co-sponsored grants, to the Global South inclusion goals of the ISA more broadly, and to be leading the way for other sections to follow. But, of course, for this we must also thank both Lynne Rienner Publishers and the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies for taking this proactive step with us.

**LEADERSHIP AND ELECTIONS**

As usual we held our annual elections for new Executive Committee members prior to the 2019 Convention. It is important that we thank the members who completed their service between 2017 and 2019 (Annika Björkdahl, Madhav Joshi, and Sheverazade Jafari), and thank our newly elected members for volunteering to serve from 2019 to 2021, these are Whitney Grespin, Cedric de Coning and Nicolas Lemay-Hebert. This year, however, an unfortunate situation arose in which one of our members who was elected in the last election to serve from 2018 to 2020 (Dominik Balthasar) had to step down from the committee early (in 2019). As a result, we approached the 4th placed nominee from the 2019
election (Nemanja Džuverović) who kindly agreed to step in for one year to complete Dominik’s term. The current officers for this year are:

**Chair**  
Gearoid Millar (2018-2020)

**Executive Committee:**  
Mandi Donahoe (2018-2020)  
Gratzia Villarroel (2018-2020)  
Nemanja Džuverović (2019-2020)  
Nicolas Lemay-Hebert (2019-2021)  
Whitney Grespin (2019-2021)  
Cedric de Coning (2019-2021)

**Boulding Award Committee:**  
Agnieszka Paczynska (chair)  
Galia Golan  
Mateja Peter

**Nominations Committee:**  
Mandi Donahoe (chair)  
Wim Laven  
Jelica Sefanovic Stabuk

**Program Co-Chairs for 2010 (Honolulu)**  
Caroline Hughes (2018-2020)  
Neil Cooper (2019-2021)

**Global South Travel Grants**  
Lina Tuschling (chair)  
Birte Gippert  
Elena Stavrevska

**Membership**

The section has experienced robust growth over the last year, expanding from 791 at this point in 2018, to 875 current members (a 10% increase). This has allowed us to regain our status as the third largest section in ISA (which we had briefly lost last year). This is the largest the section has ever been, equally the 875 members we had in 2016, a year in which the numbers seem to have been inflated by the theme of the annual convention, which was “Exploring Peace”. The figure this year, therefore, may represent a more organic expansion of our membership, but may also be a result of our recent initiatives, including the joint conference with PHS and the School of Peace and Conflict Studies at Kent State University and the two co-sponsored Global South Travel Grants. It is, therefore, unclear if this growth will be sustainable, particularly if the additional members who due to the October 2019 conference. As noted in last year’s report, expanding the membership of the section has been a key element of the current Chair’s agenda, so we are happy to see this growth over the past year. We realize, however, that maintaining this rate of growth may be a challenge in the coming years.

**Budget**

Finally, our budget figures are again quite healthy this year, although it is difficult to get a completely accurate picture for the joint conference with PHS and the SPCS at Kent State University have not yet been deducted from the account. However, as the conference appears to have broken even, with just a little surplus, I will report the more basic figures regarding are usual finances. At the start of FY 2019, after the Toronto convention, we had a balance of $25,316.28. In addition to this we have brought in membership dues of $3,656.20 over the past year, and following another successful sponsorship campaign this year we managed to raise $8,850 for the annual Distinguished Scholar Award reception. In total this is an income of $12,506.20, which gives us a balance of approximately
$37,822.48. The entire sponsorship amount ($8,850) will be used for the annual convention reception and $1,600 of the $3,656.20 will be used to pay for awards and certificates. This will leave a surplus of approximately $2,000 for 2019 (not including the surplus of almost $1,000 from the joint conference). The result, in short, is a healthy balance after the 2020 convention of approximately $27,500.