Peace Studies Section Annual Report for 2012-2013

February 13, 2013

**Membership**

Peace Studies membership continues to grow, increasing from 591 to 627 in 2013. We are the 5th largest section in ISA and have continued to grow at an average of 19% per year since 2006. Members continue to actively participate in nominations, competitive elections, and award committees and in sharing developments within the discipline, new positions and significant publications. Our recent call for nominations for the executive committee once again elicited more nominations than positions available, suggesting that members remain actively engaged in the section and with its activities.

As with last year’s message, members who are not receiving section emails from ISA are encouraged to check their membership status on MyISA to ensure that they are registered as members. If they are and are still not receiving emails, please contact ISA HQ or the PSS ExCom to ensure their placement on the email list. Alternatively, PSS members can access section news and share their own information on our [Facebook](#) page.

**Finances**

As of 11/30/12, the Section’s balance stood at $16,575.04. Much of this surplus is due to generous donations on the part of academic programs and publishers in the field, which will be used for our Section Reception and Distinguished Scholar Awards detailed below.

**Awards**

**Distinguished Scholars Award**

The Peace Studies Section is proud to announce that at the upcoming Annual Convention in San Francisco we will be celebrating the scholarship of our field and beginning a tradition of honoring our distinguished scholars. With grateful thanks to our many supporters from the publishing realm and, for the first time ever, with the strong support of many programs in peace and conflict studies, we will be not only showcasing our senior scholars at a roundtable designed to share their experiences in shaping our field, but we will also be honoring them at a Distinguished Scholars Reception following the roundtable. We will celebrate the scholarship of peace and conflict studies and the work of Robert Johansen, Louis Kriesberg and Betty Reardon. Both events take place on the first day of the conference, Wednesday, April 3rd.

We are proud to acknowledge and gratefully thank the following publishers and programs for contributing to the success of both the roundtable and the reception.

- The International Peace & Conflict Resolution Program at American University’s School of International Service.
• The Program on Negotiation and Conflict Management at the University of Baltimore
• Bloomsbury Publishers
• The Peace Studies Program at the University of Bradford
• The Conflict Resolution Institute at the University of Denver
• The School for Conflict Analysis & Resolution at George Mason University
• Keesing’s World News Archive
• The Conflict Analysis Research Centre at the University of Kent
• The Center for Applied Conflict Management at Kent State University
• Lynne Rienner Publishers
• Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group
• The Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies at the University of San Diego

We will also take time during our roundtable for a eulogy to the life and work of the late Professor John Darby by his close friend and colleague, Dr. Roger Mac Ginty.

Kenneth E. Boulding Award

The Peace Studies Section is proud to announce that Patrick E. Shea of Rutgers University has been selected as the winner of the 2012 Kenneth E. Boulding Award competition for his submission titled “Financing Victor: Credit, Democracy, and War.” Shea will be recognized at the 2013 convention in San Francisco and will receive a cash prize of US$250.00, a travel grant of up to US$300.00 for travel to San Francisco, and a certificate recognizing his achievement.

Shea’s paper combines quantitative and qualitative methodologies to study the effect of access to affordable credit on war outcomes. First, he uses the Correlates of War dataset to analyze 200 years of data covering the period from 1823 to 2007, before focusing on the case of the Chaco War between Bolivia and Paraguay to illustrate his findings. In brief, he found that the costs of borrowing have a significant impact on the outcome of war, but affect democracies more than they do autocracies.

In addition to the winner, we are pleased to announce that the committee will award two runnerup prizes this year. The first to Aila M. Matanock of Stanford University for her paper titled “Bullets for Ballots: Examining the Effect of Electoral Participation on Conflict Recurrence,” and the second to Jennifer A. Mueller and Shawna M. Bradle’s of the Graduate Center of City University of New York for their submission titled “International Human Rights Law vs. International Humanitarian Law: Why are the Boundaries of These Bodies of Law so Clear in Theory but so Blurred in Practice?” Both of these papers will receive a US$25.00 award in recognition of their submissions.

These three papers stood out among the twenty two submissions to this year’s call for papers. The committee judged each paper for clarity, methodology, innovation and potential contribution the field of peace studies.

The section would like to thank the committee members, Gearoid Millar of Radboud University Nijmegen (chair), Henry (Chip) Carey of Georgia State University, Serena Erendira Serrano Oswald of National Autonomous University of Mexico and Harmonie Toros of the University of Kent.
Activities

We replaced three executive committee members whose terms expired in 2012 by holding elections before the 2012 Annual Convention. Soumita Basu, Roger Mac Ginty and Jessica Senehi were elected via email ballot. Landon Hancock was elected as Chair of the section, replacing Swati Parashar. We will be holding elections before the 2013 Annual Convention to replace three members of the executive committee whose terms come to an end this year.

Roger Mac Ginty and Soumita Basu agreed to serve as the PSS Program Co-Chairs for the 2013 Annual Convention. The section was allocated 44 panels for the upcoming convention and received many more submissions than available slots. The Co-Chairs were able to organize an additional 10 panels through co-sponsorships with other sections, bringing our total (as of February 1) to 55 panels.

In addition to the new Distinguished Scholar Awards mentioned above, the Section has instituted its own Facebook page, created by Soumita Basu, and is considering a number of changes to its charter. We expect to deliver a report to the membership before the Convention detailing proposed charter changes which would, as stipulated in our bylaws, have to be voted upon at our annual business meeting and, if approved, be submitted to our membership by e-ballot for ratification.

This is an exciting time as the Peace Studies Section moves forward, expanding its activities and adapting its structures to meet our continued growth. The Section leadership is grateful for the continued support and engagement we receive from individual volunteers, the Section membership and ISA as a whole.

Thank you,

Landon E. Hancock (Chair)
Associate Professor
Center for Applied Conflict Management
Department of Political Science
Kent State University
P.O. Box 5190
Kent, OH 44242-0001
lhancoc2@kent.edu