Peace Studies Section

Annual Report (2011-2012)

Membership

Peace Studies is happy to report a membership increase from 526 to 591 in 2012. We added 65 members during the last year which is considerably more than we did in the previous year. Members have actively participated in nominations, competitive elections, and award committees and in sharing developments within the discipline, new positions and significant publications with other members. Our call for nominations for the executive committee positions and to serve on Boulding Award committee has also seen a marked increase in the last one year. All these suggest that members are actively engaged with the section and its activities.

There are still issues regarding some emails not being included in the general mailing list. Several members have raised concerns that they are not receiving any emails from the HQ. We have asked those concerned to check with ISA or with the PSS excom about their membership status.

Finances

As of 30.09.2011, our balance statement reads a surplus of $6,461.09. The other months are still being updated in the ISA data entry system.

Awards

1. Kenneth Boulding Award 2011: Results

The Peace Studies Section is proud to announce that Allan Dafoe and Devin Caughey’s paper, “Honor and War: Using Southern Presidents to Identify Reputational Effects in International Conflict” has been selected as the winning submission in the 2011 Kenneth Boulding Award competition. Dafoe and Caughey are students at the University of California at Berkeley and will be recognized as the winners of the competition at the 2012 convention in San Diego. The winners will both receive a certificate and will split the first prize of US$250.00 in cash and a travel grant of up to US$300.00 for travel to the San Diego convention.

Dafoe and Caughey’s paper uses formal modeling to account for southern cultural predilections for protecting and defending honor to explain a heightened concern for coercive reputation on the part of some US presidents, finding that disputes under southern presidents are twice as likely to involve the use of force and last twice as long than disputes involving non-southern presidents.

In addition to the two winners, we are pleased to announce that the committee will award a runner-up prize to Oliver Westerwinter for his paper “Hierarchy and Power in Networks”. Westerwinter, a student at the European University Institute in Florence will also be recognized at the San Diego convention, receiving a certificate and a cash prize of US$50.00.

Finally, we would like to give honorable mention to papers submitted by Emma Elfversson and Maria O’Reilly and to thank all of those who submitted papers. Ten papers were submitted to the award committee, who looked for argumentative coherence, importance, relevance to peace studies, clarity of expression, appropriateness of method, use of theory and overall quality.
The Peace Studies Section thanks the awards committee chair, Dr. Landon Hancock, and committee members Dr. Gearoid Millar and Dr. S. Erendira Serrano.

2. Distinguished Scholar Award/ Global South Scholar Award:

At the business meeting in Montreal, some members suggested that we establish a new award as the ones mentioned above. ISA had informed us that we are in a position to have another award for our section which would mean a cash award and a plaque. We are hoping to receive some suggestions from members so that we can work on this in the coming year. Once we have approval from the membership, we can include the new award into our charter and make the first award (if we can possibly do it) at the 2013 Convention.

Activities

We replaced 3 executive committee members, whose terms had expired, by holding elections last year. Maia Carter Hallward, Abigail E. Ruane and Catia Cecilia Confortini were elected through e-ballot and this election brought our section back into compliance with our charter by-laws, which call for an election prior to each annual convention, with staggered two-year terms of executive committee service. We are holding elections again before ISA this year to replace 3 more excom members and the section chair, whose terms expire this year, in accordance with our by-laws. The section chair, Swati Parashar, is not seeking a re-election and we have received a number of nominations for the vacant positions, again a good sign of active membership willing to take responsibilities within the section.

Our section charter needs to be revamped and updated, particularly as it does not mention the position and role of a program chair. In recent years, section chair and excom members have served as program chair. We would like the charter to specify the role and election process for the program chair. With an entire new team of excom members and section chair taking over before the San Diego Convention, it is our hope that the issue of revamping the charter and putting it to vote will be undertaken in the months ahead as a priority and that the membership will actively participate in the process.

Thank you.

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