The ISA Innovative Pedagogy Conference Planning Committee has worked steadily over the past year to advance plans for the Association’s first annual conference on innovative teaching and learning. This conference will be linked with ISA Midwest, and held on November 15, 2018, in St. Louis, MO. Our committee has held one formal meeting at ISA Baltimore in 2017, and we have corresponded frequently to advance our planning throughout the year. Pursuant to our charge from the Governing Council for a three-year pilot program, our goal is to create an exciting opening conference and establish the foundations for a successful series of ISA conferences on pedagogy in the years to come.

HISTORY

This pilot project was advanced in 2016 by ISA members Carolyn Shaw and Victor Asal, on behalf of the Long-Range Planning Committee. Their original proposal called for a full-day workshop on active teaching and learning in international studies to be held prior to the annual meeting of the ISA. They ran a successful pilot project as a pre-conference workshop at the 2017 ISA meeting in Baltimore. ISA President-Elect Ashley Leeds and Executive Director Mark Boyer helped advance the initiative to the Governing Board in a new form: a proposal for a three-year pilot program that would offer one or two-day workshops on active teaching and learning and would be held in conjunction with regional ISA meetings. The goal would be to create an interactive workshop format with hands-on exercises, debriefing and discussion. The intention was not a conference that would produce publishable output, but rather offer participants an opportunity to exchange information and perspectives on best practices in innovative pedagogy. This workshop pilot plan was seen as an attempt to mirror the best aspects of the APSA’s Teaching and Learning Conferences—and as a creative extension of alternative formats in the ISA (e.g., Working Groups programs, Workshop Grants, and Career Courses). This three-year pilot project received unanimous support from the ISA Governing Board at the Baltimore meeting in February 2017, and the planning committee immediately began its coordination and dialogue with all interested parties.

2018 CONFERENCE PLANNING

The ISA-IPC Planning Committee has conducted extensive deliberations and coordination with ISA headquarters officers and staff to advance our plans. We have initiated a planning cycle to first launch a one-day conference in 2018 linked to ISA Midwest, and we have begun to explore possible connections to the ISA West and ISA South regional conferences for locating our meetings in 2019 and 2020.

There will be two types of sessions at the first ISA-IPC in St. Louis: workshops and plenary meetings. Workshops will be directed by leading voices on pedagogy, assessment, and professional development. Participants will attend four workshops during the day, chosen from a rich menu, to share innovations and ideas about different themes in international studies pedagogy. Among the workshop themes for 2018 are: Simulations & Games for Teaching Violence
and Peace; Publishing Your Innovative Teaching Work; International Studies Research Literacy; Assessment; International Studies Curriculum Design; Faculty-Led Study Abroad Programs; and Online Course Design. These interactive sessions will provide hands-on experience and materials for ready application, along with opportunities for professional networking and sharing of ideas. Plenary sessions will focus on best practices in innovative teaching and promote opportunities for networking, collaboration, and exchange. A keynote presentation by a renowned teacher-scholar will foster further dialogue on best practices in active teaching and learning. Modest registration fees will cover participation in all scheduled events at the conference, including a plenary morning session, four workshops, and a plenary evening reception featuring a keynote address.

Promotion and Outreach
The ISA-IPC planning committee has already begun reaching out to many constituencies to provide early information about the 2018 conference and help build interest in the Association. We have worked closely with our partners at ISA Midwest, and met with and corresponded with leaders of the ALIAS section and the International Education section of ISA. In addition, we have submitted a promotional advertisement to ISA headquarters for inclusion in the ISA Newsletter online and possibly in the printed program for ISA San Francisco in 2018. Committee members also have discussed this idea with leaders of all four U.S. regions. Our goal is to help get the word out early and to encourage our colleagues in regional conferences and ISA sections to buy-in to the model. Not only will this help with general promotion, but we also expect to call on these constituencies for help us in future planning. Across the board, the reception of the new about a future pedagogy conference has been very positive.

ISA-IPC Planning Committee
Finally, we are thankful for contributions of the International Studies Association leaders and staff, as well as members of the planning committee in development of this exciting new conference. Committee members include:

- Jeffrey S. Lantis, Chair, The College of Wooster
- Amy Below, Oregon State University
- Paul F. Diehl, University of Texas-Dallas
- John Ishiyama, University of North Texas
- Heidi Hobbs, North Carolina State University
- Ashley Leeds, Rice University, President of ISA, \textit{ex officio}
- T.V. Paul, McGill University, Past President of ISA, \textit{ex officio}
- Patrick James, University of Southern California, President-Elect of ISA, \textit{ex officio}
- Mark Boyer, Executive Director of ISA and University of Connecticut, \textit{ex officio}