The ISA Innovative Pedagogy Conference Planning Committee is pleased to report on our progress in advancing teaching and learning initiatives in the Association. We have organized and administered two conferences on innovative teaching and learning over the past three years, and we have established a rotational plan that will allow us to reach out to all regional sections in the United States. Our first conference was held on November 15, 2018, in St. Louis, MO, in conjunction with ISA Midwest, and it was very successful. Our second conference was linked to the ISA West section conference, and it was held on September 26, 2019, in Pasadena, CA. In addition, our planning committee has held three formal meetings (at ISA Baltimore in 2017, ISA San Francisco in 2018, and ISA Toronto in 2019) and corresponded frequently to advance our planning and assessment processes. Pursuant to our charge from the Governing Council for a three-year pilot program that began in 2017, our goal is to hold successful conferences, serve as a hub of communication in the Association on pedagogy, and establish the foundations for future ISA support for active teaching and learning initiatives.

**History**

This pilot project was first advanced in 2016 by the ISA Long-Range Planning Committee. Original ideas included a full-day workshop on active teaching and learning in international studies to be held prior to the annual meeting of the ISA. Executive Director Mark Boyer and ISA President-Elect Ashley Leeds helped advance the initiative to the Governing Board in 2017 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, to be held in conjunction with regional ISA meetings. The goal was to create an interactive workshop format with hands-on exercises, debriefing and discussion. These would not be conferences that necessarily 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 Jeffrey Lantis and the planning committee immediately began coordination and dialogue with all interested parties.

**2019 Conference Planning**

The planning process for our second annual conference in 2019 involved committee correspondence and meetings for about eighteen months. In addition to face-to-face meetings during the annual conventions, we engaged in hundreds of e-mail exchanges between committee members, the chair, and ISA headquarters staff. Committee e-mails included regular planning updates and requests for input. In addition, the planning process involved solicitation of co-sponsorship
support for the IPC from dozens of different organizations. Our co-sponsors for IPC West 2019 were: the International Studies Association; Professor Paul Diehl and the University of Texas-Dallas; the Department of Political Science and International Relations at the University of Southern California; ALIAS: The Active Learning in International Affairs Section of ISA; the Department of Political Science at the University of Iowa; the Department of Political Science at the University of North Texas; the International Education Section of ISA; the Center for International Affairs at the California State University Channel Islands; the Department of Political Science at The College of Wooster; and Stylus Publishing. We also received valuable assistance from student workers and administrative coordinators at The College of Wooster.

Promotion efforts for the ISA-IPC West were extensive. Jeffrey Lantis attended the ALIAS and International Education Section business meetings at ISA Toronto and made brief announcements about our plans, and we invited contributions to help support this new initiative. We also promoted the 2019 linked conferences through the ISA website and postings in the ISA Newsletter. Our committee communicated regularly about the conference with leaders of ISA West, and Lantis met with representatives of those sections and other pedagogy initiatives throughout the conference. We sent a direct appeal to graduate directors of Ph.D.-granting institutions within 200 miles of the Pasadena conference location to help advertise the IPC and encourage their students to participate. Finally, with the assistance of ISA headquarters staff, we also established a cross-registration system on the isanet.org website to encourage individuals to sign up for both conferences.

2019 Conference Success

We held our second ISA Innovative Pedagogy Conference in September 2019, and it was a successful meeting. 54 people (representing at least three different countries) registered for the conference, including participants, workshop presenters, and speakers. The one-day conference included: 1) A brief opening plenary session to welcome participants and help them plan their day; this featured a keynote address by ISA Executive Director Mark Boyer; 2) A series of four workshops sessions offered during the day. Eight different workshops were offered throughout the day. Among the interesting workshop themes for 2019 were: Simulations and Games for Teaching Conflict Resolution; De-Colonize, Decenter, and Disrupt: Challenging Traditional Paradigms; Pedagogy Shark-Tank; Essentials of Teaching Intro to International Studies; Teaching with Film and Literature; and Mentoring Undergraduate Research; 3) A graduate student teacher training workshop led by Paul Diehl, with a light lunch provided; 4) An evening reception and plenary session that included a keynote address by ISA President Cameron Thies, and included distribution of certificates of participation and a Stylus Publishers book raffle.

Anecdotal evidence and our preliminary assessments suggest that the IPC West conference was successful. Not only did the conference proceed smoothly from an administrative/organizational standpoint, our workshop participants and leaders offer praise for their experience. Lantis received very positive comments from a number of participants. Attendees seemed to appreciate the variety of offerings, the level of engagement expected in each workshop, and learning from some of the best-known names in the field. Participants also agreed that the graduate student teacher training session was an engaging component of the experience.

Finances

To date, the Innovative Pedagogy Conference initiative has been financially successful. Our first conference finished with a positive financial balance, and our second conference ended at a near break-even point. Some of the largest expenses each year have been audiovisual requirements in conference rooms, plus catering and service costs. Additional costs included printing, materials shipment, and miscellaneous. Key factors that helped us remain financially solvent included: co-sponsorship support from other associations, departments, and individuals; wonderful support for ISA staff in negotiation of lower-cost options with the hotel; and our strenuous efforts to keep conference and hotel costs lower.
And critically, our workshop leaders and speakers have paid for all of their own expenses; the contributions of these dedicated individuals have been essential to the success of our initiative.

**Conference Planning for the Future**

Our committee is now engaged in assessment of the 2019 conference experience, planning for a 2020 conference, and preliminary conversations about 2021. We are pleased to report that the leaders of ISA South leaders have agreed to host a joint conference in October 2020 in Atlanta, Georgia. We expect that our conference format will be somewhat similar—with plenary sessions, workshops, and graduate student teacher training. But our committee is also carefully considering creative options for 2020 and beyond. Among the ideas we are considering for future workshops are: innovative teaching of research methods; teaching global social justice; problem-based learning; diversity and education in the 21st century; and gender and international studies.

**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 successful initiative for the Association. Committee members include:

1. Jeffrey S. Lantis, Chair, The College of Wooster
2. Amy Below, California State University-East Bay
3. Victor Asal, SUNY-Albany
4. Heidi Hobbs, North Carolina State University
5. Brian Lai, University of Iowa
6. Patrick James, University of Southern California, Past President of ISA, ex officio
7. Cameron Thies, Arizona State University, President of ISA, ex officio
8. Helen Milner, Princeton University, President-elect of ISA, ex officio
9. Mark Boyer, Executive Director of ISA and University of Connecticut, ex officio