This report was prepared by Brian M. Pollins, acting as the chair of the ISA Publications Committee (members include Shirin Rai, Brett Ashley Leeds, John Ravenhill, W. Andy Knight, Shannon Blanton, Marijke Breuning, Jennifer Sterling-Folker, Kristian Gleditsch, Miroslav with ex-officios Kelly Kadera, Laura Sjoberg, Dan Nexon, Jef Huysmans, João Nogueira, Cooper Drury, Laura Neack, Renee Marlin-Bennett, Michael Colaresi, Gerald Schneider, Amitav Acharya, Paul Diehl, T.V. Paul and Mark Boyer). The report was submitted January 22, 2016 for the 2016 Governing Council meeting in Atlanta.

FULL REPORT

As is our practice, I will leave most detail regarding individual ISA journals and the Compendium Project to the individual reports made available to the Governing Council by the editorial teams from those publications. See ISA website for detailed copies and data. Our editorial teams have worked hard to provide a wealth of information for ISA members regarding many issues such as the participation of women and non-North American scholars in the publication and reviewing process in ISA publications. I encourage you to examine their detailed reports. Here I will concentrate on overarching issues and highlights concerning ISA publications during 2015 as well as looking ahead at larger trends. Major points include the following:

• Transition of five of our journals to publication by Oxford University Press – as well as the launching of the Journal of Global Security Studies under the Oxford banner – were the most significant developments for ISA Publications during 2015. While the contractual relationship between ISA and Oxford began officially on January 1, 2016, a great deal of work to effect the transition from Wiley to Oxford was conducted throughout calendar 2015. This required extra work from our editorial teams as they moved to new production platforms and practices, redesign of our journal covers and fonts. Planning for new strategies in electronic publishing and marketing as well as the web presence of ISA journals.

• Regarding Web presence, it is important to note that visits to ISA journal sites, and downloads of articles (some of which are revenue-generating) are growing tremendously. The visibility of ISA scholarship continues to rise.

• The Impact Scores and Rankings of our six journals, in the main, remain healthy. These ISI scores vary from year-to-year for all journals. It is best to watch the five-year average for a given journal, so we will need to be patient in tracking our numbers since our journals are different ages (some mature, others quite new to the ISI system), and the “scoring rules” require continuous monitoring given the varied mission of our journals.

• The Committee conducted a successful search for a new editorial home for International Political Sociology. The five year term for the current team led by Jef Huysmans and João Nogueira will end in December 2016, and the Committee received two proposals to succeed the current team. The Publications Committee gave approval to both proposals, and their ranking recommendation is provided in a separate memorandum.

• The Compendium Project continues to work through management transitions. Editorial control has changed smoothly from Robert Denemark at the University of Delaware to Renee Marlin-Bennett at Johns-Hopkins. And Marlin-Bennet now receives support and guidance from the Publications Committee in a similar fashion to ISA journals (the Compendium previously had an independent Advisory Board). We do have concerns about the management at Wiley Books in London and the impact this has on the operation of the Compendium. I leave details of this issue and its discussion to Prof. Marlin-Bennett’s report to ExCom and the GC, noting that the Publication Committee is aware of the details and supports Prof. Marlin-Bennett.
LOOKING ACROSS ALL SIX JOURNAL REPORTS FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAMS I UNEVERSCORE THE FOLLOWING:

Submission Rates:
ISA’s journals processed nearly 1,600 new manuscript submissions last year, setting another all-time record. (This does not count over sixty individual book reviews accepted for publication in ISR.) In addition, more than 700 works were in Revision as they (hopefully) moved toward publication. Each of our journals maintains an annual submission rate sufficient to expect a long-term, high quality pool of publishable manuscripts.

Turnaround Time:
Our target is 75 calendar days. For the first time, I can report that all ISA journals meet or better that standard. All six are trending to shorter times or holding well below our 75-day target, which makes our journals attractive to authors.

Female Participation in ISA Publications:
Data gathering on this question continues, and we have now accumulated enough data to identify several patterns. Again, I refer you to individual journal reports for a detailed picture. In very broad terms, women authors represent 30-40% of the submissions to our journals, and the acceptances closely parallel submission rates at each journal. The lone exception is IPS, where women have nearly a 50% acceptance rate. Reviewer pools at our journals also show that gender participation closely parallels their manuscript submission rates. Moreover, the rates at which women and men decline to review is nearly equal. An important exception here is found at ISQ, where women decline to review manuscripts at a rate that is significantly higher than men (38% women decline vs 30% men). Relevant ISA Committee(s) may wish to examine these data in finer detail, now readily found in our individual journal reports.

Non-North American Participation in ISA Publications:
We see only slow increases in participation by scholars from outside the U.S.A. and Canada in our journals. International Political Sociology continues to lead the way when it comes to non-North American manuscript submissions, and it should be noted that one trade off experienced by IPS editors is longer turn-around time for such manuscripts – especially the few which are submitted in languages other than English. We will need to make allowances for this. Note that OUP, our new publishing partner, has in-house manuscript translation capabilities for nominal costs which we may want to devote resources if we are sincere about expanding participation by global scholars.

In Sum:
The state of ISA Publications appears to be very solid, and trending in desirable directions in several ways. The quality of our editorial teams is excellent, the relationship with our publishers is first-rate, and as a result the management of our journals is very sound. Our readership continues to rise markedly, as does the number of scholars seeking to publish with us. We are increasingly diverse in both gender and geographic terms, though we can and will continue to improve on these fronts. ISA Publications alone cannot be the sole force for improvement here, it must also include an effort from the membership as a whole.