This report was prepared by Sara McLaughlin Mitchell, chair of the ISA Publications Committee (members include A. Cooper Drury, Han Dorussen, Peace A. Medie, Jon Pevehouse, Norrin M. Ripsman, James M. Scott, Jacqui True, and Wesley Widmaier, with ex-officios Deborah Avant, Klaus Brummer, Brian Lai, Debbie Lisle, Renee Marlin-Bennett, Amanda Murdie, Laura Neack, Jeff Pickering, Brandon Prins, Krista Wiegand, Patrick James, Cameron G. Thies, Helen Milner, Mark A. Boyer and Jennifer Fontanella). The report was submitted December 2, 2019 for the 2020 Governing Council meeting in Honolulu.

FULL REPORT

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This report summarizes the discussions of the ISA Publications Committee in 2019 and provides information about the ISA journals based on the editors’ annual reports. Deliberations from the Committee produced a
recommendation for the editorial team of *Foreign Policy Analysis*, which is summarized in a separate report by Executive Director Mark Boyer.

The committee met in Toronto on March 28, 2019. Topics of discussion included editors’ use of the virtual editorial office (VEO) services from Oxford University Press (OUP), norms for editorial transitions, and future changes in open access policies. OUP representatives reported that journal subscriptions were renewing at a healthy rate and that journal article downloads increased in 2018. OUP representatives presented information about changes in open access and answered questions from those in attendance about these issues.

The ISA Editorial Summit occurred on May 11, 2019 in New York. OUP provided information about updates for the Oxford Academic platform, production team workflow, and discussed how to effectively use data analytics in Altmetric Explorer and other platforms (e.g. Twitter, OUP Blog) to maximize the reach of ISA publications. Participants also discussed the possibility of developing an open access ISA journal, translation services for multi-language abstracts, new editor training, and strategies for increasing diversity and inclusion. The Publications Committee Chair is working with OUP to write a blog post on gendered patterns in citations, describing tools and strategies to improve gender equity in citations in ISA publications. The Publications Committee continued discussions about the possibility of a new open access journal via email after the May meeting (led by Mark Boyer).

ISA editors and their staffs each year compile a very impressive set of data that provides details regarding manuscript submissions, acceptance rates, turn-around times, manuscript reviewers, diversity in authors/reviewers, and journal’s impact scores. It is truly impressive how much thought and effort the editors and staff at each journal puts into these annual reports, and they are easily found under the Publications tab on the ISA site. We urge you to take a closer look at these individual reports housed at the ISA website. Some highlights in 2019 are detailed below.

- **Contracts**: Continued success in our contracts with Oxford University Press (OUP) and Taylor and Francis.

- **Virtual Reach**: Enhanced web presence for ISA journals through blog posts, podcasts, and virtual issues; increases in ISA journals’ article downloads and impact factors in 2018 and 2019. All ISA journals were very active on Twitter and other social media outlets. *Foreign Policy Analysis (FPA)* created a YouTube channel for video abstracts and other content ([https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDmYOPSuN0TGPchZzA9YOTA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDmYOPSuN0TGPchZzA9YOTA)). *International Interactions (II)* launched a new policy blog site ([https://think.taylorandfrancis.com/gini-blog/?utm_source=shared_link&utm_medium= post&utm_campaign=JOB08162](https://think.taylorandfrancis.com/gini-blog/?utm_source=shared_link&utm_medium= post&utm_campaign=JOB08162)). *International Political Sociology (IPS)* maintains a podcast for the journal ([https://academic.oup.com/ips/pages/podcast](https://academic.oup.com/ips/pages/podcast)). As an example of the success of these outreach initiatives, *Journal of Global Security Studies (JoGSS)* articles were viewed online 58,110 times in 2019, an increase of 67% compared to the previous period. Furthermore, the *Oxford Research Encyclopedia International Studies (OREIS)* is the 4th most visited module (up from 9th in 2018) of the Oxford Research Encyclopedia program (out of 25), with 478,196 views and 389,861 visits.
• **Submission Rates:** ISA’s journals processed close to 2,000 new manuscript submissions last year, continuing a long-term trend of a high number of annual submissions. Acceptance rates ranged from 10% to 20%. Several journals including *FPA* continued taking successful steps to handle the large back-log of accepted articles. *International Studies Quarterly (ISQ)* provided detailed information about substantive and methodological areas for submitted manuscripts.

• **Turnaround Time:** Our target for ISA journals’ turnaround time is 75 calendar days. Most journals were better than this standard in 2019 (ranging from 49 to 76 days), which makes our journals attractive to potential authors.

• **Female Participation in ISA Publications:** Women authors represent 24-50% of the authors for accepted articles in ISA journals in 2019, paralleling the rates for female submissions (with averages near 33%). Reviewer pools at our journals also show that gender participation closely parallels manuscript submission rates. Moreover, the rates at which women and men decline to review is nearly equal. *II* confirms this pattern in the journal’s annual report in a detailed analysis of gender patterns in the review process.

• **Addressing Gendered Citation Gaps:** Many ISA journals address potential biases in citations to women’s research in accepted publications. *International Studies Review (ISR)* continued its policy of using the Gender Balance Assessment Tool (GBAT) to report to authors the percentage of females cited in the bibliography and provided authors with 100 additional manuscript words to address gender gaps. The use of this tool was adopted by several other ISA journals this year (e.g. *ISQ*).

• **Non-North American Participation in ISA Publications:** We see improvements in participation by scholars from outside the United States and Canada in ISA journals. OUP is moving away from reporting data on authors’ countries, which makes it more difficult to track global reach of ISA publications, but we continue to see increased representation across all regions. Editors engaged in a variety of activities to increase non-North American submissions including panels and other sessions at international conferences. Several journals continued to provide a pre-submission exchange to non-North American authors (*JoGSS, FPA, IPS*) and translate article abstracts into French and Spanish.

• **Financial Reporting:** ISA instituted a policy of requiring editorial teams to provide a financial report each summer. The publications committee received and reviewed reports for all seven journals and we are pleased to report that the journals are in strong financial shape.

• **Other Innovations:** Several ISA journals created new awards to recognize outstanding papers, data features, and reviewers.
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 the management of our journals is very sound. The readership and external impact of ISA publications 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, although we can and will continue to improve on these fronts.