This report was prepared by Nukhet Sandal, REL Section Chair

**FULL REPORT**

This annual report of the Religion and International Relations Section captures the activities for the period 2016-2017.

**Annual Conference Program Contributions:**

The REL section of the 2017 annual conference program was organized by Vice Chair/Program Chair, Larry Rubin. REL successfully stretched its original panel quota with numerous co-sponsorships. The initial REL quota was 15 panels (up from the 14 panels we were allotted last year). Through co-sponsorships with other sections we stretched it to 22 panels. A total of 11 panels were co-sponsored.

**REL Graduate Student Paper Award:**

REL annually gives an award to the best paper written and presented by a graduate student at the previous ISA annual conference. This year’s award committee members were Jonathan Agensky (Ohio University), Marie Besancon (Portland State University) and Andrea Paras (University of Guelph). This year’s award goes to Matthew Isaac’s paper, “The Strategic Logic of Religious Violence”.

**REL Distinguished Book Award**

This year the Book Award Committee, which was composed of Vendulka Kubalkova (University of Miami) Dilshod Achilov (University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth) and Runa Das (University of Minnesota, Duluth). The award will be presented by REL during the REL reception at ISA.


**REL Distinguished Scholar Award:**

REL annually recognizes a scholar who has achieved high distinction in scholarship and service to the field with its Distinguished Scholar Award. The 2016 committee was composed of Ron Hassner (UC Berkeley); Jocelyn Cesari (Harvard/Georgetown) and Jeff Haynes (London Metropolitan University). The committee extended the Distinguished Scholar Award to Jonathan Fox (Bar Ilan University). REL will hold a
Distinguished Scholar Panel and a reception to celebrate Professor Fox’s work in the 2017 Annual Convention, and the award will be extended during the reception.

**RECEPTION AT THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE:**
REL raised $3080 for the 2017 Reception. The main sponsors are Georgetown University’s Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs ($1000); War and Peace Studies at Ohio University ($1000); Centre for Religion, Conflict and the Public Domain at the University of Groningen ($500); Political Science Department at Ohio University ($250); Cambridge University Press ($200); and Critical Approaches to Religion and Politics Series at Rowman and Littlefield ($150).

The total cost of our reception will be $3515, so this year, we will be using only $435 from our section budget for the reception.

**MEMBERSHIP HISTORY FOR REL:**

2015= 216
2016= 245
2017= 250

For 2017, there is a downward trend for most of ISA section memberships. For now, membership figures are still increasing for REL, even if not drastically.

**REL BUDGET:**
Our balance as of November 2016 is $8249 (for reference, in 11/14 the balance was $2581, and in 11/15, the balance was $3228).

**ELECTIONS:**
REL elections will be held in 2017-2018.

**MEDIA/SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE:**
REL has a regularly updated webpage under ISA and also has an active facebook group with 115 members. Future administrations might want to consider creating / managing a Twitter account or make use of other platforms to reach out to REL members.