This annual report of the Religion and International Relations Section captures the activities for the period 2017-2018.

Annual Conference Program Contributions:
The REL section of the 2018 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 16 panels (up from the 15 panels we were allotted last year). Through co-sponsorships with other sections we stretched it to 23 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 Nil Satana (University of Maryland), Ozlem Madi-Sisman (University of Houston) and Tanya Schwarz (Hollins University). This year’s award goes to Moria Bar Maoz’s conference paper, “What we talk about when we talk about state-secularity?”.

REL Distinguished Book Award
This year the Book Award Committee was composed of Michael Horowitz (University of Pennsylvania), Davis Brown (Baylor University) and Anita Weiss (University of Oregon).


The book awards 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 2017 committee was composed of Ron Hassner (University of California, Berkeley), Erin Wilson (University of Groningen) and Jonathan Fox (Bar Ilan University). The committee extended the Distinguished Scholar Award to Mark Juergensmeyer
REL will hold a Distinguished Scholar Panel and a reception to celebrate Professor Juergensmeyer’s work in the 2018 Annual Convention, and the award will be extended during the reception.

**Reception at the Annual Conference:**
REL raised $2000 for the 2018 Reception. The main sponsors are Georgetown University’s Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs ($1000) and Center for International Studies at Ohio University ($1000).

The total cost of our reception will be $3500, so this year, we will be using only $1500 from our section budget for the reception.

**Membership History for REL:**
2015= 216
2016= 245
2017= 250
2018= 260

Membership figures have been consistently increasing for REL since its foundation.

**REL Budget**
Our balance as of November 2017 is $11882 (for reference, in 11/14 the balance was $2581, and in 11/15, the balance was $3228, and in 11/16, the balance was $8249).

**Elections:**
REL elections will be held in 2017-2018. A call for nominations was sent to members in November 2017.

**Media/Social Media Presence**
REL has a regularly updated webpage under ISA and also has an active facebook group with 125 members. Future administrations might want to consider creating / managing a Twitter account or make use of other platforms to reach out to REL members and scholars whose work are in the intersection of religion and international studies.