This report was prepared by Monica Duffy Toft, REL Section Chair

Full Report

This annual report of the Religion and International Relations Section covers the section’s activities for the period 2019-2020.

Annual Conference Program Contribution

The REL section of the 2020 annual conference program was organized by Vice Chair/Program Chair Peter Henne. We sponsored 6 panels, 55 papers, and 4 roundtables.

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 C. Agensky (Chair, Ohio State), Atalia Omer (Notre Dame) and Yasemin Akbaba (Gettysburg College). The committee awarded Gina Giliberti for “Religious Passions and Legal Liability: An Emotional Practices Approach.”

REL Distinguished Book Award

This year’s Book Award Committee was composed of Fabio Petito (Chair, Sussex), Vendulka Kubalkova (Miami) and Jonathan Fox (Bar Ilan). This year’s award goes jointly to Dmitry Adamsky for Russian Nuclear Orthodoxy: Religion, Politics, and Strategy and Daniel Philpott for Religious Freedom in Islam: The Fate of a Universal Human Right in the Muslim World Today.

And for honorable mention, the committee also recognized Elizabeth A. Foster for African Catholic: Decolonization and the Transformation of the Church

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 2019 committee was Anita Weiss (Chair, Oregon), Scott Appleby (Notre Dame) and Peter Mandaville (Georgetown). The committee extended the Distinguished Scholar Award to Jocelyne Cesari.

REL will hold a Distinguished Scholar Panel. The other awards will be presented during the REL business meeting at ISA.

Reception at the Annual Conference

REL raised $2000 for the 2019 Reception. The main sponsors were Georgetown University’s Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs and the Center for Strategic Studies at Tufts University’s Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. The total cost of our reception was $2288, so we used only $1288 from our section budget for the reception.
For the 2020 reception in Honolulu we are partnering with the International Security Studies section (ISSS). Given the savings from last year and the expense of the venue in Honolulu, the section will pay $1500. This is in addition to the continued generous support from Georgetown University’s Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs.

**MEMBERSHIP HISTORY FOR REL**

2015= 216 members  
2016= 245 members  
2017= 250 members  
2018= 260 members  
2019= 230 members  
2020= 233 members

Membership has improved a bit. We need to redouble our efforts to gain additional members.

**REL BUDGET**

Our budget is healthy. Our balance as of November 2019 is $9,103 (for reference, in 11/14 the balance was $2581, in 11/15, the balance was $3228, in 11/16, the balance was $8249, in 11/17 the balance $8740, and 11/18 $8804).

**ELECTIONS**

There were no elections this past year.

**MEDIA/SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE**

REL has a regularly updated webpage under ISA and also has an active Facebook group that increased from 140 to 152 members. To further boost membership, future administrations might want to consider creating / managing a Twitter account or make use of other platforms to reach out to potential and current REL members and scholars whose work are in the intersection of religion and international studies.