12:30pm, February 20, 2015, New Orleans Louisiana

Meeting III of ISA’s Religion and International Relations Section. Nukhet Sandal (Vice Chair/ Program Chair) filling in for Ron Hassner (Chair).

About 30 people in attendance

I. Welcome. Budget and membership announcement.
   b. Budget: $2271.26 (The reception is funded by donors)
   c. Report from ISA governing council:
      i. ISA HQ transitioning to Connecticut.
      ii. There were discussions that Sapphire series is not diverse enough. Lesson for REL: Diversity (in terms of scholarly approaches, race, gender etc.) should be an important consideration.
      iii. Next year there may be six person panels. Four person panels are not recommended.
   d. Pat James couldn’t be here. He is our only nominee for Awards chair and nominated unanimously.
   e. REL reception (2/20) sponsored by the Religion, Politics and Globalization Program (U.C. Berkeley) and by the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs (Georgetown University), Journal of The Review of Faith & International Affairs
   f. Motion passed: Distinguished scholar should be a part of advisory committee.
      i. Discussed whether the term “International Relations” in the section name was limiting in awards and activities. Sandal emphasized that the section was open to all approaches, not just “International Relations”; she encouraged award nominations from the audience to ensure diversity.
      ii. Executive committee members cannot be nominated for awards (motion voted and passed)

II. Discussion of Social Media (Led by Turan)
   a. Opened with the question to ask what people wanted to see on FB, Listserves? The following points came out from the discussion:
      i. Section members are allowed to publicize their own work on the lists.
      ii. ISA has some space for a webpage but REL doesn’t have much control over it. Access is limited. We will need a volunteer to run it if that’s what we want.
      iii. For a section member, the listserve is the primary means to communication with the REL community; FB is understood as a supplement.
      iv. Suggestions for a website: Free wiki can be crowd sourced.
      v. Called for nominations for Awards committee.
vi. Deina Abdelkader made an announcement about partnership with COIRIS: Cohort for the Study of Islam and International Relations
vii. Members should be encouraged to attend REL panels so REL can receive more slots next year

III. Awards
a. Best Graduate Paper Award: Jason A. Klosek, University of California, Berkley "Band of Believers?: The Impact of Religion on the Organizational Structure of Rebel Groups"
b. Joceylne Cesari resigned from the Awards committee.

IV. Deina Abdelkader will be the liaison for our new relationship with COIRIS

Meeting adjourned 1:15pm.