This report was prepared by Navnita C. Behera and Rani Mullen, SAWP Section Co-Chairs

Full Report

This is the second annual report of the Section on South Asia in World Politics (SAWP). SAWP is the first region-based section established by the Governing Council of ISA in 2016. Now, coming to the end of our second year, with our second business meeting coming in San Francisco in 2018, we continue to work towards achieving new milestones.

The Mission

The South Asia in World Politics (SAWP) Section was created to encourage fertile dialogue between areas such as international relations theory, comparative regionalism, foreign policy analysis, and brings in the contextual knowledge of South Asia to ISA. Its mission is the following:

1. Highlight South Asia as an important source of knowledge production in International Studies by sharing innovating epistemological, methodological, analytical and theoretical perspectives that emerge from its study.
2. Encourage research on the international engagements between South Asian states and/or non-state actors within the region and/or with the rest of the world.
3. Facilitate the development of vigorous networks of communication and collaborative research among scholars of South Asia across disciplinary, methodological and geographical boundaries.
4. Provide a common platform for scholars located in different parts of the world, who are working on South Asia and actively seek members from a wide range of disciplines.
5. Strengthen research, training and new pedagogical approaches and practices to the study of South Asian international relations.
6. Encourage and disseminate scholarly work on IR and from the South Asia region.

Executive Committee

The SAWP Section held its first elections in 2016 and these results were announced at our Business meeting held during the Annual Convention of ISA held at Baltimore in 2017. The following is the roster of officers, with terms indicated.

Section Co-Chairs: Rani Mullen and Navnita Chadha Behera, February 2017-March 2019
Section Program Co-Chairs: Surupa Gupta and Nicolas Blarel, February 2017-March 2019
Section Secretary: Sahar Khan, February 2017-March 2019
Section Treasurer: Aseema Sinha, February 2017-March 2019
In order to provide an element of continuity, the Officers-at-Large were requested by the members of Executive Committee to continue in their roles. These are as following:

- Rajesh Basrur
- Shibasis Chatterjee
- Devin Hagerty
- Ian Hall
- Happymon Jacob
- Aqil Shah
- Nematullah Bizan
- Ayesha Siddiqa
- Ali Riaz
- Jivanta Schottii
- Smruti Pattanaik
- Jennifer Murtazashvili
- Elizabeth (Betty) C. Henson

The SAWP business meeting revolved around strategies for continuing to attract new members, the anticipation of holding our first reception, an update on the South Asia Working Group and the election of our new officers and Executive Committee members. We also thanked Sumit Ganguly, the first co-Chair of the Section whose service ended with the announcement of election results at the business meeting.

**Activities**

The SAWP Section has worked hard to maximize its panel allocations for the annual ISA meeting, organize an annual reception for its membership, and is working to increase its membership. For the 2018 annual meetings, SAWP received an allocation of eleven panels, but due to certain ‘programming errors’, we were very disappointed to not have been allowed to make full use of our allocated quota. Several panels that had been highly ranked by the program chairs and that had secured co-sponsorship, including one panel with two section co-sponsors, did not make it to the ISA 2018 program. SAWP has only been in existence for two years and during both these years we have not been allowed to make full use of the number of panels we were originally allocated. As a new ISA section, sponsoring and co-sponsoring panels is the main instrument for expanding our reach and presence at ISA. We sincerely hope that SAWP will be able to make full use of the full number of allocated panels for the 2019 ISA Annual Conference.

However, despite this lower number of panels compared to the original allocation, SAWP was able to use co-sponsorship of panels to have an actual presence in the program of sixteen events with thirteen panels and three roundtables. We accepted panels on themes ranging from strategic issues of military practices, nuclear deterrence and inter-state rivalries as well as South Asian internationalism, Indian experiences of international power and the larger issue of state capacity in Asia to those discussing civil wars and terrorism and, at the same time, cosmology, difference and post-western IR and exploring the promise of aesthetics in international politics.
The SAWP section co-sponsored both panels and roundtables with almost ten other sections including Foreign Policy Analysis, International Security Studies, Global Development, Theory, Peace Studies, Human Rights, Historical International Relations and International Organization along with the overall theme of the Conference on ‘Power of Rules and Rule of Power’, and the Global South Caucus.

The Program Chairs focused on selecting panels and roundtables that highlighted theoretical contributions from different schools of thought in international relations while exploring both their historical and contemporary empirical dimensions. Another consistent goal of the Section has been to find ways for bringing together scholars from across the globe who are working on South Asia. An important challenge that the South Asia in World Politics section has faced is that the low levels of funding from ISA prevent participation of scholars from the region as well as from other parts of the Global South.

Our Section received the following submissions for the Annual Conference of ISA to be held at San Francisco in 2018: Submissions to SAWP as First Choice: seven panels and one roundtable, sixty-six papers; Submissions to SAWP as Second Choice: six panels, one roundtable and sixty-five papers.

Membership & Finances
SAWP membership has grown since its inception in 2016. As of 31st December 2017, our section membership stood at 137. This includes 94 standard members and 43 student members.

The most recent Section balance communicated to the SAWP Section from the ISA Headquarters was $1127 at the of 31st October 2017. This included $ 960 in lieu of membership fees and $1250 by way of sponsorships by the Georgetown University Press. In 2017, our expenses included $1,082 for hosting a reception at the Baltimore meeting with Asian Security funding $1,000 of those expenses.