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

FULL REPORT

This is the third annual report of the International Studies Association’s Section on South Asia in World Politics (SAWP). SAWP is the first region-based section established by the Governing Council of ISA in 2016. We are now coming to the end of our third year, with our third business meeting upcoming at the 2019 annual ISA meeting in Toronto.

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. SAWP at-large members were also elected in early 2018 and announced at the 2018 Annual Meeting in San Francisco. Moreover, SAWP is electing new officers who will be announced at the 2019 Annual Meeting in Toronto. The following is the current 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
The Officers-at-Large are as following:

- Ali Riaz, Illinois State University
- Arzan Tarapore, National Bureau of Asian Research
- Constantino H. Xavier, Brookings India
- Daniel Naujoks, Columbia University/The New School
- Devin Hagerty, University of Maryland, Baltimore County
- Elizabeth (Betty) C. Hanson, University of Connecticut
- Jayita Sarkar, Boston University
- Jivanta Schottli, Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore
- Neil DeVotta, Wake Forest University
- Nematullah Bizhan, University of Oxford
- Rajesh Basrur, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University
- Shibashis Chatterjee, Jadavpur University
- Sumit Ganguly, Indiana University

The SAWP business meeting revolved around announcing our newly elected at-large members (most of whom attended our meeting), strategies for continuing to attract new members including increasing our social media presence, funding for our annual reception, possibilities for funding prizes, and other general updates on the South Asia Working Group.

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 2019 annual meetings, SAWP received an allocation of 14 panels. While this was an increase over our 2018 allocation, where we were only allocated eleven panels due to certain ‘programming errors’, we at SAWP are still disappointed with this allocation. Moreover, while we proposed to sponsor many more panels through getting co-sponsorship, in the end, ISA yet again did not enable us to make full use of our full 14 panel allocation.

For the 2019 Annual Convention in Toronto, SAWP will be fully sponsoring six panels and one roundtable, co-sponsoring six panels, and co-sponsoring with two other sections one panel. This comes to a total of 10.3 panels out of our allocation of 14 panels. These 14 panels include 9 submitted panels, 1 roundtable and 4 crafted panels from submitted papers.

SAWP has only been in existence for three years and during all these three 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 and during our first three years of existence, we have fallen short of allocations given to sections with similar membership sizes. For comparison, please look at table 1 below. With the exception of Peace Studies, which has a much higher membership number, sections with similar or even lower membership numbers were able to sponsor a greater number of panels at the 2019 ISA Annual Meeting.
We sincerely hope that SAWP will be allocated a higher number of panels for the 2020 ISA Annual Conference and that SAWP will be allowed to make full use of the full number of panels allocated.

Table 1: Selected ISA Sections, their membership numbers, and number of panels sponsored at the 2019 ISA Annual Meeting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ISA Section Name</th>
<th># of Section Memberships</th>
<th># of panels sponsored by section in the 2019 ISA Annual Meetings Program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English School</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Health</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intl. Communication</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peace Studies</td>
<td>791</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Demography &amp; Geo</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAWP</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 fourteen different events, which included with thirteen panels and one roundtable. We accepted panels on themes ranging from “Gender and Politics in South Asia,” “Contentious politics in South Asia,” to panels focused on “Inter-region linkages: South Asia and the Extended Neighborhood.” We were also able to sponsor two panels focused on India, one focused on its International Security and one on its foreign policy. The SAWP section co-sponsored both panels and roundtables with four other sections including Foreign Policy Analysis, Historical International Relations, Diplomatic Studies and the overall theme of the Conference on ‘Re-Visioning International Studies’.

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 in Toronto in 2019: 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 paper.
MEMBERSHIP & FINANCES

SAWP membership has grown each year since its inception in 2016 when we had 92 members. As of December 2018, our section membership stood at 161, with 112 standard members and 49 student members.

The most recent Section balance communicated to the SAWP Section from the ISA Headquarters was $1,409.44 at the end of December 2018. This $250 by way of sponsorships by the Georgetown University Press in for the Annual Meetings reception in 2018 and 2019. In 2018, our expenses included $1,310.34 for hosting a reception at the San Francisco ISA convention with Asian Security funding $1,000 of those expenses and Georgetown University Press funding $250.