This report was prepared by Shannon Lindsey Blanton, SSIP Section Chair

FULL REPORT

ORGANIZATION

In April 2017, Michelle Benson (University at Buffalo, SUNY) completed her term as section chair as did Carla Martinez Machain (Kansas State University) who served as section program chair for the 2017 annual meeting. Shannon Lindsey Blanton (University of Alabama at Birmingham) became the new section chair (2017-2019) and Olga Chzyh (Iowa State University) became the new section program chair for the 2018 annual meeting.

The SSIP leadership through the 2017 annual meeting was:

- Michelle Benson (University at Buffalo, SUNY), section chair
- Carla Martinez Machain (Kansas State University), section program chair
- Hanne Fjelde (Uppsala University), councilor
- Ursula Daxecker (University of Amsterdam), councilor
- Jacob Kathman (University at Buffalo), councilor
- Håvard Hegre (Uppsala University, Peace Research Institute Oslo), ex-officio past chair

At the 2016 business meeting, SSIP decided to return to the convention of having a treasurer and secretary. Elected in 2016, both of these positions began service in 2017.

Following the 2017 business meeting, the current SSIP leadership is:

- Shannon Lindsey Blanton (University of Alabama at Birmingham), section chair
- Olga V. Chyzh (Iowa State University), section program chair
- Govinda Clayton (University of Kent), secretary
- Daina Chiba (University of Essex), treasurer
- Hanne Fjelde (Uppsala University), councilor
- Jacob Kathman (University at Buffalo), councilor
- Carla Martinez Machain (Kansas State University), councilor
- Michelle Benson (University at Buffalo, SUNY), ex-officio past chair

The SSIP councilors and chair have nominated a section chair and section program chair for vote at the 2018 business meeting. In accordance with the SSIP by-laws, the candidate for chair will serve as chair-elect in 2018 and assume the section chair position for her 2019-2021 term. The section program chair
will be responsible for conference programming for the 2019 ISA meeting. These nominees have confirmed their willingness to serve:

- Erica Chenoweth (University of Denver), nominee for chair 2019-2021
- Ragnild Nordas (University of Michigan), nominee for section program chair for 2019 annual meeting

**Activities**

*Sponsoring and organizing panels at the annual meeting of the Association:* Olga V. Chyzh organized the 2018 SSIP conference program. In preparation for the 2018 ISA annual meeting, SSIP has sponsored or co-sponsored 52 panels and roundtables, compared to 44 panels, poster sessions, and roundtables in 2017. Although our panel allocation decreased from previous years to only 32 panels, we were able to maximize the number of panels on the program through cosponsoring panels with one or more sections. Out of the 52 total panels and roundtables, 38 are co-sponsored with one or more sections. Along with our joint-organizers (FPA section and PDG section), this year SSIP decided against sponsoring a poster session at our joint-reception given the increased costs at the conference site. Attendance at SSIP panels in Baltimore was generally good. We anticipate a strong attendance in San Francisco as well.

**Dina Zinnes award:** The section selects a recipient each year for the Dina Zinnes award for the best graduate student paper presented at a panel or poster session sponsored by the SSIP Section or the Convention Theme. At the 2017 business meeting, the award was presented to Adam Scharpf from the University of Mannheim for his paper “Dirty Skills: Guerrilla Wars and Military Training at the School of the Americas” that was presented at the 2016 annual meeting. This year, SSIP has received seven nominations for the best graduate student paper presented in 2017. The advisory council and chair have selected a recipient and Hannah Smidt (University College London; a post-doctoral research fellow at the University of Oxford since June 2017) will be recognized at the 2018 business meeting for her 2017 conference paper “Making Electoral Peace: How Peacekeeping Activities Influence Electoral Violence.”

**Maintaining and enhancing the SSIP website and listserv:** The section chair maintains a listserv hosted by Rice University. We use this listserv to send information to section members about section business. We have updated the ISA website to reflect current officer information, and the ISA-SSIP section listserv is used, through distribution requests to ISA staff, to share information.

**Reception:** SSIP will continue to host jointly a reception at the annual meeting in San Francisco with the Foreign Policy and Political Demography sections. For the 2017 annual meeting, the Foreign Policy section was responsible for obtaining sponsorships and organizing the joint reception; for 2018, the Political Demography section has this responsibility.

**Membership and Finances**

ISA continues to grow its membership. Based on data distributed by ISA headquarters in November 2017, membership for SSIP increased from 322 for 2017 to 342 for 2018. This represents the largest SSIP membership to date.
Based on data distributed by ISA headquarters in November 2017, the section balance at the end of October 2017 was $3,300.37. In addition to the SSIP reception, which we sponsor jointly with the FPA and PDG sections, the only other deduction from our balance sheet this year was a $400 sponsorship of the ISA Mid-West meeting.