



# SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ART AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (STAIR) SECTION

## 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

*This report was prepared by Michele Acuto and Maximilian Mayer, STAIR Section Co-Chairs*

### FULL REPORT

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#### 2015-17 Section Co-Chairs:

Michele Acuto, University College London – [m.acuto@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:m.acuto@ucl.ac.uk)

Maximilian Mayer, Tongji University - [maximilian\\_mayer@tongji.edu.cn](mailto:maximilian_mayer@tongji.edu.cn)

(2014-15 Section Chair: J. P. Singh, George Mason University)

#### 2014-16 Section Vice-Chair

Anna Agathangelou, York University - [agathang@yorku.ca](mailto:agathang@yorku.ca)

#### 2015-17 Program Chairs:

David Hornsby, University of Witwatersrand - [david.hornsby@wits.ac.za](mailto:david.hornsby@wits.ac.za)

Madeline Carr, University of Cardiff - [madeline.carr@aber.ac.uk](mailto:madeline.carr@aber.ac.uk)

#### 2014-16 Section Treasurer

Asif Nawaz, Kansas State University - [asif@ksu.edu](mailto:asif@ksu.edu)

#### 2015-17 Section Communications Officer

Sarah Logan, Australian National University - [sarah.logan@anu.edu.au](mailto:sarah.logan@anu.edu.au)

Full list of STAIR officers on the official ISA page: <http://www.isanet.org/ISA/Sections/STAIR>

At the entry to its third year of operations, and after a solid appearance on the 2014 and 2015 ISA Annual Convention programs, the **Science, Technology, Art and International Relations (STAIR) Section** is steadily growing in numbers and presence in the Association. As with the last annual report from 2015-16, STAIR has confirmed and cemented its burgeoning collaborations with other sections, as testified by (amongst others) a repeated joint reception with International Political Sociology, as well as numerous co-sponsored panels covering an exciting mix of science, tech, art and IR themes. The Section has ran a series of successful panels at the last convention in Atlanta and, against the record of other sections with declining membership, has attracted new members and prompted several new initiatives at the next Convention in Baltimore.

## MEMBERSHIP

By November 2016, the STAIR Section had 184 members from 174 members one year before (and 116 in 2015). The section membership compares well with other sections that started two years ago or other small sections that are more than two years old (see table below). The Section had a positive balance of \$2,440.5, up from \$1,794 in November 2015 (and \$681 in 2014).

Many of the STAIR officers have continued reaching out to other interdisciplinary science, technology and arts organizations already. These include the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the Policy Studies Association (PSO), and the Society for Social Studies of Science (4S). A joint roundtable and reception was held at ISA 2015 with PSO (see below) and a similar panel will take place with AAAS at ISA 2016. Plans for a set of joint panels with 4S at the next annual convention, as well as formal accreditation as cooperating organization, are underway. STAIR Section Program co-Chair David Hornsby was also elected as At-Large Representative at the 2017-2018 ISA Governing Council Officer Election.

Section name	Nov. 2014 Members	Nov. 2015 Members	Nov. 2016 Members	% increase
STAIR	116	174	184	5.7
Religion and IR (chartered 2012)	216	245	250	2
Global Health (chartered 2012)	117	120	136	13
Historical IR (chartered 2012)	303	342	343	.02
Political Demography & Geography (Chartered 2009)	126	125	114	-0.8
English School (chartered before 2005)	177	184	166	-10
International Communication (chartered before 2005)	188	195	197	1
International Education (chartered before 2005)	104	101	97	-4

## ISA 2017 PROGRAM

Former STAIR Officers and Section Program Chairs Dr David Hornsby (University of Witwatersrand) and Dr Madeline Carr (University of Cardiff) led once again the STAIR effort in reviewing a vast variety of submissions and compiling the ISA 2017 program for the section with great success.

For 2017, STAIR saw its points allocation increase from 14 to 16. This has, including co-sponsorship, translated into a record 43 panels that STAIR has sponsored. The good news continues for 2017. STAIR received 50 first choice papers submitted, 13 Panels and 8 Roundtables for ISA. To achieve such a success STAIR is reliant on the continued collegiality and generosity in other ISA sections. We are grateful for the support of colleagues in several other sections like IPS, Theory, Environmental Studies,

Global Health amongst others. Considering imperatives related to diversity and gender representation we are pleased that STAIR has lined up *no all male panels* for 2017 (prior to any last minute withdrawal), and has an all female panel. We have taken into account the need for a cross section of theoretical and empirical perspectives and thus have made space for non-western content. STAIR attained its target of placing over 50% of individuals papers into panels constructed by the program chairs. Gender and geographical balance were recognized throughout.

In the spirit of collaboration with other sections, STAIR has organized for its annual reception to be held once again jointly with the International Political Sociology (IPS) section, with further sponsoring from MIT Press and its *Leonardo* journal.

## 2015 STAIR WORKING GROUP OUTCOMES: ROUTLEDGE *WORLDVIEWS IN STAIR*

STAIR's successful Working Group at the 2015 Annual Convention, which was held on the day prior to the convention with over 22 participants from universities all over the world, has led to a now finalized Routledge 'handbook' on the work of STAIR titled *Worldviews in Science, Technology and Art in International Relations* and edited by STAIR Officers Madeline Carr and Renee Marlin-Bennett and former STAIR Chair JP Singh.

## SECTION BACKGROUND

**STAIR** was chartered at the March 2014 Governing Council Meeting of the International Studies Association. The rationale for the section is summarized in the first paragraph of the Section's Charter: "Science, technology, and design are at the core of global politics. They now shape much of the everyday reality of international security, statecraft, development, design of cutting-edge military ware, and global governance. Science, technology and design or art (i.e., in the form of cultural industries, computer software and videogames, architecture of spaces and urban flows) permeate international affairs in the form of material elements and networks, technical instruments, systems of knowledge and scientific practices, to the extent that they challenge most existing conceptual approaches. Yet, IR as a discipline and field has sporadically engaged these matters, or only in existing subsections that rarely communicate with each other. Therefore, we are still lacking in systematic theoretical understandings how we go about creating, assessing, and deliberating scientific, technological and artistic design and their impact on the shifts of contemporary world order. To use a methodological metaphor, science, technology and arts are held constant by most IR models."

## SECTION ELECTIONS

Coming to its third year, STAIR is formally due to elect a new executive group, including a new chair (or co-chairs), vice-chair, treasurer and program chair(s). The nomination process is currently underway and voting will be taking place ahead of the Baltimore Convention (February 2017, with voting in January 2017), and at least one 'group' nomination for a new executive already received by the current chairs as of November 2016, testifying to the collaborative spirit of the section.

## SECTION AT-LARGE OFFICERS (FULL LIST)

J. P. Singh, Former Section Chair & Member at Large  
February 2015 - February 2017  
George Mason University

Rocco Bellanova, Member at Large  
April 2014 - March 2016  
Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO)

Christian Bueger, Member at Large  
April 2014 - March 2016  
Cardiff University

Jairus Grove, Member at Large  
April 2014 - March 2016  
University of Hawaii at Manoa

Alison Howell, Member at Large  
April 2014 - March 2016  
Rutgers University, Newark

Arthur Imperial, Member at Large  
April 2014 - March 2016  
York University

Alejandra Kern, Member at Large  
April 2014 - March 2016  
Universidad Nacional de San Martin

Emily Hannah Merson, Member at Large  
April 2014 - March 2016  
York University

Renee Marlin-Bennett, Member at Large  
April 2014 - March 2016  
Johns Hopkins University

Peer Schouten, Member at Large  
April 2014 - March 2016  
University of Copenhagen