



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

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

This report was prepared by Claudia Aradau, STAIR Section Chair

FULL REPORT

2017-2019 Section Chair

Claudia Aradau, claudia.aradau@kcl.ac.uk

2017-2019 Program Chair

Aida Hozic, hozic@ufl.edu

2017-2019 Section Communications Officer

Jonathan Luke Austin, jonathan.austin@graduateinstitute.ch

2017-2019 Section Treasurer

Rocco Bellanova, r.bellanova@uva.nl

SECTION AT-LARGE OFFICERS (FULL LIST)

The full list of STAIR officers on the official ISA page:

<http://www.isanet.org/ISA/Sections/STAIR>

STAIR MEMBERSHIP

The STAIR membership has been growing steadily since 2014. In November 2017, STAIR membership raised to 256 members from 184 members in November 2016. The section has a positive balance, with a budget of \$4,074.50 (November 2018).

Section	2017	2016	2015	2014
STAIR	256	184	174	116

STAIR ELECTIONS

In 2017, the STAIR section held elections for including a new chair, vice-chair, treasurer and program chair and a new team took over the section leadership from March 2017. The results were announced at the Baltimore Convention 2017.

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.”

STAIR COMMUNICATIONS

The new STAIR team has followed up on the excellent groundwork built-up by the previous executive committee in order to expand its communications work substantively. The goal here has been both to raise wider awareness of the work of the section among the ISA community, to broaden its audience into difference spheres, and to provide STAIR-relevant resources to members and other elements the community. To achieve this, STAIR has established a new website (www.stair-isa.com). This website includes general information about the section and ISA, and a set of resources including a syllabus archive (cross-referenced with the main ISA archive), a repository of recorded lectures from STS-relevant figures, a list of section-relevant journals, and an archive of open-access texts of interest to the section. In addition, STAIR has expanded its Twitter activity considerably, providing links to relevant current events, disciplinary debates, and beyond on a regular basis. Due to this work, our Twitter follower count has increased more than tenfold from ~100 to ~1250. In addition, the section has established a Facebook page following the activities of its Twitter account, and redesigned its newsletter to consist of key section news, calls for papers, etc., relevant general news items, jobs of interest to section members, and beyond.

STAIR AWARDS

Starting in 2017-2019, STAIR has introduced three as part of its work.

- The first of these awards honors the best graduate student paper presented at the preceding year's ISA.
- The second honors the best book recently published in (interdisciplinary) fields of relevance to STAIR.
- From 2018, STAIR has also introduced a Distinguished Scholar Award ‘Transversal Acts’ to honour interdisciplinary work across International Relations, Science and Technology Studies, and the Arts. In 2018, STAIR honours the work of Professor William Walters (<https://carleton.ca/polisci/people/walters-william/>).

STAIR ISA 2018 PROGRAM

The STAIR Program Chair, Aida Hozic, led the substantial work of reviewing the STAIR submissions and compiling the programme for ISA San Francisco.

For 2018, STAIR saw its points allocation increase from 16 to 18. The number of submissions to STAIR for ISA 2018 has also, once again, surpassed the numbers from previous years. STAIR received 67 first choice papers submitted, 16 Panels and 3 Roundtables for ISA 2018. This has, including co-sponsorship, translated into 46 panels that STAIR has sponsored or co-sponsored. Detailed breakdown of the ISA 2018 program is 37 panels (29 panels submitted to STAIR or co-sponsored and 9 panels crafted from submitted papers), 8 round tables and 1 distinguished scholar panels.

To achieve such a success STAIR must rely on excellent working relations with other ISA sections. We are grateful for the support of colleagues in several other sections like Theory, IPE, IPS, Communications, Environmental Studies, Global Health amongst others. In addition, one of the panels at ISA 2018 was co-sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science and, therefore, did not count against our regular allocations. Considering imperatives related to diversity and gender representation we are pleased that STAIR has lined up *no all male panels* for 2018 (prior to any last minute withdrawal), and several all female panels. 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.

For ISA 2018, STAIR has also organized a Distinguished Scholar Panel, honoring William H.C. Walters (Carleton University). The Panel will be followed by reception co-sponsored by International Political Sociology Section.

STAIR ACTIVITIES

As noted above, the section has continued to collaborate with the International Political Sociology section. The two sections will hold a joint reception at ISA San Francisco. STAIR has continued the collaboration with American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

STAIR BUSINESS MEETING SAN FRANCISCO

The STAIR section business meeting will take place Wednesday 4 April, 12.30-13.30 (Golden Gate 2, Hilton San Francisco Union Square).