

## **Science, Technology, Art and International Relations (STAIR) Section 2014-15 Report**

2014-15 Section Chair:

J. P. Singh, George Mason University

2015 Program Chairs:

Michele Acuto, University College London,  
Maximilian Mayer, Bonn University

Full list of STAIR officers on the last page

The **Science, Technology, Art and International Relations (STAIR) Section** 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.”

The STAIR Section has generated enthusiasm within and outside of ISA and seeks to both deepen the study of STAIR issues and also to broaden their scope by attracting members from outside of the ISA. Many of the STAIR officers have reached 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).

By October 2014, the STAIR Section had 116 members. The Section had a positive balance of \$681 in November 2014. The section membership compares well with other sections that started two years ago or other small sections that are more than two years old:

### Comparable Sections to STAIR

<b>Section name</b>	<b>2014 Members</b>	<b>2015 Members (by Nov. 2014)</b>
STAIR	NA	116
Religion and IR (chartered 2012)	139	216
Global Health (chartered 2012)	72	117
Historical IR (chartered 2012)	185	303
Political Demography and Geography (Chartered 2009)	110	126
English School (chartered before 2005)	154	177
International Communication (chartered before 2005)	184	188
International Education (chartered before 2005)	86	104

#### Program Chairs Report: ISA Annual Convention 2015

The Section will have a sizable presence at the ISA for its first annual convention with 30 panels and a Working group. STAIR was initially awarded five panels for the ISA Convention. There are 27 "official" STAIR panels, some of them with 3 or 4 co-sponsors. In addition there are two innovative panels (organized by Michele Acuto and J.P. Singh). The Policy Studies Organization also made its one panel allocation available to STAIR and that's an additional panel for the Section.

Maximilian Mayer also organized several panels at the 2014 Annual Convention through other sections around STAIR themes. This helped to increase the visibility of the section at the 2014 ISA.

#### STAIR Working Group:

ISA selected STAIR's proposal for a Working Group at the 2015 Annual Convention. The Working Group is titled "Worldviews in Science, Technology and Art in International Relations. Section Chair JP Singh organized the effort. STAIR Officers

Madeline Carr and Renee Marlin-Bennett served as member of the selection committee for the Working Group.

The working group will critically analyze the diverse worldviews, methodologies, and issue-areas for STAIR scholars. The workshop will have the following concrete objectives: (1) identify the strengths and weaknesses of the diversity of theoretical and methodological approaches in STAIR; (2) examine "hybrid" research programmes (to extend a Lakatosian metaphor) and their usefulness in understanding current problems; (3) highlight the links between worldviews and core issue areas that STAIR scholars have addressed or neglected as well as the 'regional variations' in approaches (for example, when STAIR was chartered European scholars generally liked the inclusion of art/design with science and technology whereas Canadian and U.S. scholars questioned this inclusion).

We expect around two-dozen scholars to attend the working group deliberations, which includes an all-day program on Tuesday, February 17. Further details on the Working Group can be found at:

<http://www.isanet.org/Conferences/New-Orleans-2015/Program/Working-Groups>

#### Collaboration with the Policy Studies Organization

PSO generously allocated several resources to STAIR during the 2014-15 year. Section Chair JP Singh's has close association with PSO activities.

Four collaborations during 2014-15 are important:

- Panels for PSO's "Du Pont Summit on Science, Technology and Environmental Policy." STAIR is co-sponsored two panels at the annual Du Pont Summit on Science, Technology and Environmental Policy.  
<http://www.ipsonet.org/conferences/the-dupont-summit>
- PSO is sponsoring the Section's first reception at the upcoming annual convention 7:30 PM. February 20, 2015
- PSO allocated its one panel at the ISA Convention to STAIR members.
- Journal: *Arts in International Affairs*. The online journal, published through the Policy Studies Organization, cannot be formally affiliated with STAIR, because of ISA policy on journals, but we hope to attract submissions from our members. The details will be announced at the STAIR/PSO reception at the ISA.

#### Future Plans

Maximilian Mayer will take the lead for an ISA 2016 Venture Workshop application building on working group conversations and participants' networks.

Maximilian Mayer is also leading the effort for creating an "authoritative" reading list for STS/IR as one of the STAIR projects

## **Executive Committee**

### **J.P. Singh, Section Chair**

April 2014 - March 2016  
George Mason University

### **Anna M. Agathangelou, Vice Chair**

**April 2014 - March 2016**  
**York University**

Michele Acuto, Section Program Co-Chair  
April 2014 - February 2015  
University College London

Maximilian Mayer, Section Program Co-Chair  
April 2014 - February 2015  
Bonn University

Asif Nawaz, Treasurer  
April 2014 - March 2016  
Kansas State University

Madeline Carr, Communications Officer  
April 2014 - March 2016  
Aberystwyth University

Rocco Bellanova, Member at Large  
April 2014 - March 2016  
Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) & Université Saint-Louis (Brussels)

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

David Hornsby, Member at Large  
April 2014 - March 2016  
University of the Witwatersrand

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 Gothenburg