FULL REPORT

The members of the Committee on the Status of Women met at the ISA 2015 Annual Convention. This report provides information about our current activities in pursuit of the advancement of women in the discipline.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

ISA 2016 PRECONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

- We organized the third annual workshop called “Pay It Forward: Women Helping Women in International Relations.” This is a full-day workshop that focuses on mentoring junior women scholars on professional development. Thanks to the ISA Governing Council’s support, this event is a recurring workshop. This year, we have 30 junior scholars (out of 170+ applicants) and 12 senior scholars participating. The junior participants are awarded travel funds to help cover the expenses of coming early to the conference, and we have also encouraged them to share rooms.
- This workshop is followed by our inaugural reception, “Allies and Alumni of Pay it Forward” from 5:30-6:30pm in Hilton Atlanta, Rm. 212. We invite the Governing Council to join us after their meeting!

ACTIVITIES AT ISA 2016

The Committee on the Status of Women organized and sponsored two roundtables for ISA 2016:

“Reflecting on the Role of Allies in IR Scholarly Practices”

Abstract: In the past decades, several strands of scholarship have underlined particular forms of power relations and practices that engage in perpetuating an imbalanced field of IR among its constituent actors and discourses. For instance, scholars have emphasized the gendered, ethno-cultural, and linguistic inequalities that are reproduced in the discipline of international studies, which are then re-inscribed in the way we study and represent international relations. Simultaneously, however, some scholars have discussed and engaged in practical actions for opening and re-balancing the field. One important set of such re-balancing actions has involved developing ‘allied’ practices, whether it is related to the teaching, research, and/or service roles. Yet, these practices have, until, now evaded explicit and thorough discussion in the field. In this roundtable, we open an explicit discussion on the role(s) of allies in international relations scholarly practices. Drawing on concrete sets of experiences and studies in the sociological, historiographical, and geo-epistemic dimensions of IR, this
project reflects on the stakes, relevance, and necessary cautions in taking on such a role. Accordingly, the contributors will highlight how re-balancing and emancipatory projects can be supported by IR scholars, and the normative and political issues that related practices and roles entail.

*Participants: Felix Grenier, Arlene Tickner, Annick Wibben and Jeff Colgan.*

“Taking Stock of the Status of Women in ISA”

Abstract: To highlight the launch of the 3rd ISA gender-focused survey at ISA Atlanta, this roundtable will provide an overview of survey research on the climate for women in international studies. Participants will discuss the findings, both statistical and open-ended answers, from the surveys conducted in 1996 and 2006, including comparing their results to each other. This will be set in the context of the politics and debates involved in the historical process between the genesis of the Committee on the Status of Women in 1994 to its formal institutionalization in 2007. Those conducting the 2015 survey will discuss the current survey instrument, as well as comment on preliminary results.

*Participants: Runa Das, Ann Tickner, Valerie Hudson, Marie Henehan, Meredith Reid Sarkees, Marijke Breuning.*

**Survey Research**

At a previous meeting, the Governing Council approved the CSW to undertake a survey/interview study of the climate for women in ISA and in the field of IR. A subgroup of CSW (Runa Das, Jennifer Ramos, Christina Fattore) and the Women’s Caucus (Valerie Hudson, Meredith Reid Sarkees and Marie Henehan) drafted the survey in July 2015. Christina Fattore took the lead as principal investigator and got approval from IRB in November 2015. It was then fielded to ISA members in late November through early December 2015. The preliminary results will be shared in the roundtable mentioned above. We thank the Women’s Caucus for helping us to complete this project!