COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

This report was prepared by Christina Fattore, acting as the chair of the ISA Committee on the Status of Women (members include Gigi Gokcek, Debbie A. Mohammed, Priya Dixit, Ritu Vij, Heidi Hudson, Patrick James, and Jana von Stein). The report was submitted November 15, 2016 for the 2017 Governing Council meeting in Baltimore.

FULL REPORT

The members on the Committee on the Status of Women met at the ISA 2016 Annual Convention. This report provides information about our current activities in pursuit of the advancement of women in the discipline.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

ISA 2017 PRECONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

- We organized the fourth 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 215 applicants) and 10 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 a reception, “Allies and Alumni of Pay It Forward” from 5:30-6:30PM in the Paca Room in the Hilton. We invite the Governing Council to join us after their meeting!

ACTIVITIES AT ISA 2017

The Committee on the Status of Women organized and sponsored two roundtables for ISA 2017:

“Moving Beyond Work-Life Balance: Self-Care and Well-Being in the Academy”

Abstract: Scholars are predisposed to the emotional and physical repercussions of chronic stress and anxiety in their everyday lives. However, how do scholars take care of their own persons in such a way where these negative inputs do not have an affect on our professional as well as personal lives? Discussions of work-life balance often turn to squeezing in work around our family responsibilities, sometimes creating a more stressful situations. This focus also excludes scholars without families. Instead, by focusing on self-care, we encourage scholars to embrace themselves as well as to sustain their passion within the classroom, in their research, but also beyond the traditional limits of their career responsibilities. This roundtable will discuss scholars’ personal experiences with self-care, focusing on the physical, emotional, and spiritual benefits of this practice and how it has allowed them to succeed professionally.

Participants: Christina Fattore, Amanda Donahoe, Raul Pacheco-Vega, Annemarie P. Rodt, and Laura K. Landolt.

“Succeeding without Fear: Moving Beyond Imposter Syndrome in the Academy”
Abstract: Both women and men have been susceptible to imposter syndrome, the feeling that one does not belong in the academy, that their achievements are just “luck” or that they are a fraud that will be “found out” soon. This issue affects many facets of an academic’s life, whether it is publishing, teaching, fitting into a department, applying for jobs, or presenting and networking at conferences. Scholars have begun to discuss their fears about academia and how it could possibly hold them back from advancing in their careers. At this roundtable, participants will discuss how fear and/or imposter syndrome affected their careers as well as their day-to-day lives and also offer suggestions on how to move forward from these restrictions.

*Participants: Tavishi Bhasin, Barbara Walter, Laura Sjoberg, Ruth Blakeley, and Jane Sumner*

**STARTING THE CONVERSATION**

In conjunction with the Women’s Caucus, the Feminist Theory and Gender Studies section, and other entities, the Committee on the Status of Women was involved in organizing a series of roundtable discussions on professional culture and oppression. The panels aim to map problems and to identify solutions in the process critically examining systems of power and privilege that enable various forms of discrimination (especially racism, disability, religion, regionalism, sexism, homophobia, and transphobia) that have condoned violent practices, including sexual harassment and assault. We believe that starting and furthering the conversation regarding the treatment of women and other underrepresented groups in international studies will raise awareness of these issues.