The ISA Theory Section continues to grow at a rapid pace. At the end of 2013 the section had 543 members—an approximately 25% increase from the end of 2012. Despite its relative youth—the section was founded in 2010, Theory is now the seventh largest section of ISA. As of September 1st, the section had $2,373.44 in monetary resources, a net increase of $809.97 from the prior year. This state of affairs is the product of external sponsorships, particularly from Cambridge University Press.

2013 saw a leadership change in the section. The founding officers made their departure. Daniel H. Nexon (Georgetown University) was elected President, Annette Freyberg-Inan (University of Amsterdam) was elected Vice-President, Shannon K. Brincat (University of Queensland) was elected Treasurer, and Lauren Wilcox (Cambridge University) was elected Secretary and Communications Officer.

For the 2014 Annual Convention, Theory was listed as the primary section for 103 paper, sixteen panel, and eight roundtable submissions. It also received 158 paper, 27 panel, and eleven roundtable secondary submissions. Annette Freyberg-Inan, who took responsibility for the program, reports that:

The Theory Section was allocated 20 (initially 18) panels for ISA 2014 Toronto, which was seven more than the year before, so we benefitted from a substantial increase in our quota, even though compared to other sections our quota is still small. Combined with a slight contraction in the number of submissions we received this meant that the program chair’s job was a more pleasant one than it had been the previous year, when rejection rates were through the roof. This year, 57% of the papers submitted to us in either the first or the second round made it onto the program (either via us or another section); 74% of the panels and roundtables submitted to us in either the first or the second round made it onto the program (either via us or another section). Thanks to the previous section leadership’s efforts, we now have a reasonable quota. That being said, ISA is currently reconsidering its allocation rules, and it will be important for the section to keep an eye on this process…..

The section program chair… sponsored 39 panels (at the time of writing, the number may still increase by convention time), including nine roundtables, which was mainly achieved through co-sponsorship (including three-way co-sponsoring) of 29 panels and roundtables with other ISA sections.

The Theory section will make its first awards at the 2014 ISA. These include “best paper” awards—divided into a non-PhD and PhD category—for the 2013 ISA:

- Eric Van Rythoven, PhD Candidate at Carleton University’s Department of Political Science, for “Realism, Securitization, and Statecraft”; and
- Andrew Davenport, Aberystwyth University’s Department of International Politics, with the paper “Theory and Practice: Kantian Questions” (co-winner) and Simon Glezos, University of Victoria’s Political Science Department, with the paper “Of Fortuna and Facebook: Social Media and Social Networks in Global Politics” (co-winner).

Theory will also honor its first distinguished scholar, Robert W. Cox, with a roundtable—from 10.30-12.15 on 27 March—and presentation. The committee for Theory’s Best Book award is in the process of finalizing its selection.

In other developments, the changeover of the ISA website has forced the section to rebuild its online presence. For the time being, many of Theory’s resources will continue to be hosted on an external site, although we are in the process of moving them from their temporary home at http://www.whiteoliphaunt.com/duckofminerva/isa-theory-section to a dedicated location.

Please join us at the business meeting, which will be held from 12.30-13.30 on 28 March, and at our joint reception with International Ethics, which will be held from 19.15-20.15 on 28 March. Thanks to Shannon Brincat for making the necessary arrangements.