The Theory Section continues to grow in membership. According to the figures from ISA headquarters, we have grown from 5 in 2010, 53 in 2011, 260 in 2012, 433 in 2013, 543 in 2014, 593 in 2015, to 597 members at the beginning of 2016. This makes us currently the 7th largest of the 32 ISA sections and caucuses.

Preparation for the 2016 Atlanta Conference

The Theory Section received an allocation of 38 panels this year, a considerable increase from last year’s allocation (30), and in keeping with the section’s continued growth within ISA. One of these was used for the distinguished scholar panel honoring Kimberly Hutchings, organized by Shannon Brincat. This left us with 37 open panel slots.

Through co-sponsorships – sometimes with as many as four or five other sections – our actual presence on the program became much larger. Key co-sponsorships included author-critic panels for recent books by Alex Wendt, Ron Krebs, Brian Rathbun and Robert Vitalis; panels and roundtables highlighting theorists and concepts of wide disciplinary or cross-disciplinary interest (Gilles Deleuze, Erving Goffmann, Thucydides, Martin Wight, Pierre Bourdieu; ‘soft power’, ‘globalization’, etc.); and panels and roundtables with strong cross-field interest: from music, emotions and affect theory, to ethics, anthropology, and auto-ethnography. Rather than legislate a particular meaning to the term ‘theory’, the aim of our program chair Daniel Levine was to reflect in these panels and topics the breadth of the term, as our members seem to use and understand it.

In total we sponsored or co-sponsored 78 panels and roundtables. Theory created 17 panels ‘from scratch’ and contributed papers to joint efforts at panel construction from other sections as well. The key difficulty here has been, as always, finding good discussants. In part, it is important to encourage our members to volunteer for chairing and discussant duties to facilitate ‘from scratch’ panel creation. In part, we may need to ask ISA to update the keywords list to include terms closer to our section’s interests, so that we can better assess who’s a good fit for what.

Our section received the following submissions for Atlanta 2016:

**Submitting to ISA Theory as first choice:**
13 panels, 9 roundtables, 90 papers

**Submitting to ISA Theory as second choice:**
22 panels, 13 roundtables, 132 second choice papers

**Final acceptance rates to the program:**
panels: 20/35- 57.1%, roundtables: 14/22 - 63.6%, papers: 79/222 - 35.6%
These acceptance rates are markedly lower than last year. This may mean that the section’s continued growth has outstripped our panel allocation; or alternatively, that the program chair needs to give more priority to creating panels from scratch – or both. In addition, the acceptance rate changes depending on whether you measure it before the ‘enforced withdrawal’ deadline or after – some number of ‘accepted’ authors do not find their way onto the final program because the submitters choose not to register. This data is taken after the deadline, and so the acceptance rates may appear lower than they actually were in terms of ‘straight odds’. (We have, however, tried to fill in withdrawals in order to make sure these spaces do not go to waste.)

The program chair has requested the following additional data from ISA: The most common second choices for those who submitted a paper/panel/rts to Theory as their first choice; and the most common first choices of those who submitted to Theory as a second choice. This would give us some sense as to where the section ‘lives’ in the thinking of those who submit to it.

Liz Fausett-Furman at ISA HQ does not have a means to obtain this information, however. We may ask if they can find a means to generate it in future.

**Other Activities**

The main ISA Theory website is live at [http://www.isanet.org/ISA/Sections/THEORY](http://www.isanet.org/ISA/Sections/THEORY). We continue to host most resources at an external site: [http://www.isa-theory.org/](http://www.isa-theory.org/). For news relating to the ISA Theory section and its substantive concerns, all are welcome to join our Google Group (located at [https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/isatheory](https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/isatheory)), and follow us on Twitter at @TheorySectISA. We also created a Facebook Page this year ([https://www.facebook.com/isatheory/](https://www.facebook.com/isatheory/)) to provide another point of contact with our members.

The Theory section will hand out its 2015 awards at the 2016 ISA Annual Convention in Atlanta. The Paper Award committee has bestowed the Post-PhD Paper Award to Dr. Michael Crawford Urban, of the University of Toronto, for his paper “How to study trust in international relations.” The Pre-PhD Paper Award has been awarded to Nicole Sunday Grove, now at the University of Hawai’i at Manoa, for her paper, “The Cartographic Ambiguities of HarassMap: Crowdmapping Security and Sexual Violence in Egypt.” The committee has also given an honorable mention to Alena Drieschova, of the University of Toronto, for her paper “Peirce’s Semeiotics: A Methodology for Bridging the Material-Ideational Divide in IR Scholarship.” The Best Book Award has been awarded to Dr. Lauren Wilcox, of the University of Cambridge. Her book is titled *Bodies of Violence: Theorizing Embodied Subjects in International Relations* (Oxford, 2015). The book award committee has also granted an Honorable Mention to Dr. Ayten Gündoğdu, of Barnard College, for her book *Rightlessness in an Age of Rights: Hannah Arendt and the Contemporary Struggles of Migrants* (Oxford, 2015). Theory will present these awards at its business meeting, which will be held at 6:15 pm on 18 March in room 302 at the Hilton Atlanta. We would like to thank the members of both award committees for their efforts: Simon Glezos, Harry Gould, Mark Salter, Helen Kinsella, Jairus Grove, and Kathleen Brennan.

The recipient of the 2014 “Best Book Award” was undecided at the time of our prior report. Stefano Guzzini won for *Power, Realism, and Constructivism* (Routledge, 2013). Thanks to Rebecca Adler-Nissen, Andreas Behnke, Charlotte Epstein, and Patrick Thaddeus Jackson for their hard work on this committee, which was chaired by Daniel Nexon.
Our distinguished scholar in 2015 was Raymond ‘Bud’ Duvall. The panel honoring him in New Orleans included Tarak Barkawi, James Caporaso, Michael Barnett, Jutta Weldes, Helen Kinsella, and Himadeep Muppidi.

Our third distinguished scholar, to be honored in Atlanta in 2016, is Kimberly Hutchings. Her distinguished scholar panel – including Fiona Robinson, Christine Sylvester, Mervyn Frost, R.B.J. Walker, Martin Weber, Jane L. Parpart, and Elke Schwartz - is scheduled at 1:45 pm on 18 March in room 315 at the Hilton Atlanta. Please join us for this event as well as our business meeting and at our joint reception with International Ethics. The last will take place at 7:30 pm on 18 March in Grand Ballroom C at the Hilton Atlanta.

FINANCES
The Theory Section has continued to grow in membership numbers and the budget remains healthy. As of 31/07/2015 (the most recent balance sheet) our net position was $3605.44.

We will continue to hold the joint International Ethics/Theory Section with International Ethics on a 40/60 split. We managed to secure funding for the joint reception for the ISA Convention NOLA (2015) and for Atlanta (2016) from Cambridge University Press for $1,000 each year. The funding for 2016 was secured far more quickly than previous years, which indicates a formalizing of the relation – though we still need to secure this each year.

We have organized with CUP to have free access to the journal International Theory for all our members also – this was part of the sponsorship agreement for the reception, along with publicity/advertising.