After years of incredible growth, the membership of the Theory section seems to have stabilized this past year. According to the figures provided by the ISA Headquarters, the membership of the Theory section in 2019 was 660, while the membership in 2018 was 656—virtually identical numbers. Our membership grew from 5 in 2010 to 53 in 2011, from 260 in 2012 to 433 in 2013, from 543 in 2014 to 569 in 2017. We are 1 of 8 sections with over 600 members, which is quite impressive for a section that has only been around for ten years.

I. The 2020 Annual Meeting (Lina Benabdallah, Program Chair)

For the Hawaii meeting, the Theory section was allocated 36 panels, which was 4 less than for the 2019 meeting. Nonetheless, through the careful use of co-sponsorships, the overall number of program appearances by the section has remained a constant 102 panels. This consists of 33 (pre-made and submitted) panels, 43 crafted panels, 25 roundtables, and a distinguished scholar panel. The distinguished scholar panel is the only panel on the program for which we do not have a co-sponsor; everything else is the result of cross-section collaboration. The Theory section received a total of 138 first-choice submissions: 23 panels/roundtables and 115 individual papers. The section also received 114 individual papers and 14 panels/roundtables listing Theory as a second choice.

IPS was our closest collaborator with 52 co-sponsored events, then a tie between GDS, STAIR, and HIST with 25 each, International Organization with 10 co-sponsorships, Ethics with 8, FTGS and ILAW with 7 each, FPA 6, English school 4, Peace Studies 4, Conference Theme 4, Active learning in international affairs 3, Human Rights 2, Environmental Studies 2, Religion and IR 2, Post-Communism 2, LGBTQA Caucus 2, ISS 2, IPE 2, Global South Caucus 1, Ethnicity nationalism and migration studies 1.

The Theory section, along with IPS and with support from the conference program chairs, was very intentional about diversifying panelists, mixing graduate students, early, mid, and advanced career scholars in panels. We also agreed that a panel that has all male participants but with female scholars serving only as chair or discussant was not enough to count as gender-balanced; instead, we insisted on seeing the gender balance reflected in the papers presented, and not just in service roles.

II. Other Activities

The Theory Section will hand out its 2019 awards at the 2020 ISA Annual Convention in Honolulu. The book and paper awards committees have bestowed the following awards:

- **Best Monograph**: Adom Getachew, *Worldmaking After Empire* (Princeton UP, 2019). A powerful, detailed examination of the role that the notion of self-determination played in anti-colonial thought and practice. Instead of the standard story in which former colonies accepted state sovereignty and joined the international system as previously constituted by their colonial rulers, Getachew presents an account which locates self-determination as part of a broader...
strategy of attempting to overcome empire in total, by making an alternate world where international hierarchy would be replaced by relations of nondomination. While charting the rise and fall of that project, she recovers the contributions to international theory made by key "anticolonial nationalists," and offers a trenchant critique of contemporary cosmopolitanism’s inability to overcome colonial legacies.

- **Best Edited Volume:** Duncan Bell, ed., Empire, Race and Global Justice (Cambridge UP, 2019). A trenchant exploration of the ways that debates about global justice have systematically ignored issues stemming from the legacy of colonialism, including the racial categories and hierarchies that are entwined with that legacy. The authors in this collection grapple with the question of whether the tradition of liberal theory is constitutively incapable of effectively addressing these issues, and how we might rework the claimed universalism of different approaches to justice so that they become better resources for a critical practice in the present.

- **Best Pre-PhD Paper Award:** Dean Caivano and Sarah Naumes, York University, "'Just Before Dawn': The Reemergence of Political Thought through Narrative and Autoethnography." A valuable attempt to grapple with questions of method and methodology in autoethnographic work. The paper urges us to move beyond simply reacting to the emotionally compelling quality of autoethnographic scholarship, and harnesses the notion of the sublime in order to generate evaluative criteria for making sense of such work.

- **Best Post-PhD Paper Award:** Marina Duque, Florida State University, "The Logic of Expressive Rationality." An innovative effort to sketch out a logic of political action that differs from both instrumental calculations and rule-conforming appropriateness, by taking seriously Weber's work on questions of status and its link to charisma. The account of "prestige projects" provides a nice empirical illustration of how this alternate logic plays out in practice.

Please join us for the Theory Section business meeting, where we will present these awards. The business meeting will be held at 7:00 pm on 26 March in Nautilus 2, Hilton Hawaiian Village. We would like to thank the members of the award committees for their efforts: book awards, Jens Bartelson (co-chair), Patrick Thaddeus Jackson (co-chair), Anna Beyer, Asli Calkivik, Nicholas de Zamaroczy, Ada Sonia Peter, and Ramon Blanco; paper awards, Charlotte Heath-Kelly (co-chair), Patrick Thaddeus Jackson (co-chair), Matthew Evans, Sassan Gholiagha, and Gitte du Plessis.

Our seventh distinguished scholar to be honored in Hawaii in 2020 is Professor Friederich Kratochwil from EUI. The distinguished scholar panel will include Gunther Hellmann, Antje Wiener, Christian Reus-Smit, Chira De Franco, Mlada Bukovansky, Daniel Deudney, and Patrick Thaddeus Jackson. It is scheduled at 2:15 pm on 26 March (Thursday) in Honolulu 2, Tapa Tower, Hilton Hawaiian Village. Please join us for this event, and for our joint reception with International Ethics that is sponsored by Cambridge University Press, where we will further celebrate Professor Kratochwil. The reception will take place at 8:00 pm—immediately following the section’s business meeting—on March 26 in South Pacific 2.

The section continues its cooperation with the journal Millennium, which has resulted in a published Forum on the 2019 book award winner’s book (Jens Bartelson’s War In International Thought), and will soon result in a published Forum on this year’s award-winning book. The journal also generously provides a $500 bursary to the winner of the pre-PhD paper award, to help fund attendance at a future ISA conference.

### III. Finances (Jason R. Weidner, Treasurer)

According to the most recent financial information provided by ISA, the Theory section’s account balance stands at $3,475.59. This is up from $1,936.88 in October 2018, and is primarily due to the fact that the joint reception now has an external sponsor. If more sponsors could be secured, that would
help the financial bottom line even more, and perhaps allow the section to consider providing additional travel funds to members in need. Overall, our finances are considerably healthier than they were at this time last year.