ISA Theory Section (TS) Annual Business Meeting
San Diego 1 April 2012

MINUTES

Meeting started at 6:15 pm in room 310, Hilton Bayfront Hotel.
Minutes taken by Andrew Neal

Meeting chaired by Janice Bially Mattern (vice-chair) and Andrew Neal (treasurer)
Apologies from Felix Berenskoetter (chair) and Rosemary Shinko (secretary)

I REPORT FROM ISA GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING

Janice reported a motion by ISA-NE to amend the ISA charter so that sections/regions don't lose voting privileges if they are represented in the GC meeting by someone other than the chair/president (for instance, the Theory section was represented by the vice-chair who was not allowed to vote).

Janice also reported a discussion about ISA journals from the meeting. This affirmed that there is no journal/section link, and that any decision about new ISA journals is on hold for the next year. Janice affirmed the supportive relationship but absence of a formal link between the Theory Section with the journal International Theory.

II SECTION PROGRAM REPORT—SAN DIEGO

Janice reported that for ISA 2012 the section was allocated seven panels and two poster sessions. A total of 231 papers were submitted to the Theory Section (95 in the first round, 136 in the second round), as well as 39 panels (10/29) and 12 roundtables (2/10). The section program chairs Felix Berenskoetter and Janice Bially Mattern sponsored 21 panels plus two poster sessions, mainly through co-sponsorship for 19 panels. In addition, the section was awarded one Innovative Panel (organized by Felix, which had to be cancelled because Felix could not attend the conference). Overall there were few dropouts and the TS executive committee was happy with the range of panels it was able to sponsor:

- The End of International Relations Theory I (0.5)
- The End of International Relations Theory II (0.3)
- The End of International Relations Theory III (0.5)
- Theorizing IR From Outside the West (0.3)
- Leo Strauss and the Theory and Practice of International Relations (1.0)
- Realism and Ethics (0.5)
- The Global City: Contradictions Collapsed? (0.3)
- The State as Person: Re-Assessing the Debate (0.5)
- Practice, Practical Reason and Classical Realism (0.3)
- Metatheoretical Musings in (seemingly) Post-Positivist Times (1.0)
- New Critical-Reflexive Spaces: Notes From Within a Hermeneutic Sphere (0.5)
- The Fact/Norm Dichotomy in International Relations: Ethical and Epistemological Implications (0.5)
- Alkerian Global Studies: Is There Room for Complexity? (0.3)
- (Re)imagining the World Through a 'Chinese School' of International Relations? (0.3)
- Theory: From Where and For What? (0.5)
- Telling the Tale of Constructivism (0.5)
- Advancing Securitization Theory (0.5)
- Tracing Structures of Power (0.5)
- Systems Upgrade: Adapting Realist Theory for the 21st Century (0.3)
- Conceptualizing Democratic Possibilities (and Challenges) (0.5)
- The Formation of Security Policy in the Age of Global Mass Communication (0.5)
- Mapping and Interrogating the Theoretical Universe of IR (Innovative Panel)
- Conceptualizing the International: Orders and Levels (Poster Session)
- Disciplining Theory (Poster Session)
III SECTION DEVELOPMENT—2011-2012

Membership and Finances
Janice reported that the section enjoyed a steady influx of members during its first year. In January the section had just over 260 members (about half faculty, half students) and by the time of the conference membership had exceeded 300. Janice noted the executive committee was very pleased with this development.

Treasurer Andrew Neal reported that corresponding to its growing membership, the section has shown a steady growth of its financial base. Although still rather modest compared to other sections, by the end of February the TS account showed a positive balance of $2,440. This includes $1,000 received from Cambridge University Press towards the reception.

Website and Mailing List
Janice reported that content was added to the section website (hosted by ISA) throughout the year. This included a list of relevant journals, course syllabi shared by section members, as well as links to theory blogs and other useful internet resources. Janice encouraged members to sent items of relevance to TS officers.

Janice reported that in summer 2011 the TS created a mailing list through GoogleGroups, which currently has 190 members and sees regular postings. Members can join through the TS website and are encouraged to post relevant announcements, queries, etc.

Janice reported that the section published its first newsletter, reviewing section activities, in February 2012. Shorter, more immediate information was/will be posted via the mailing list throughout the year.

Journal Discounts
Janice reported that the TS negotiated a deal for section members allowing them to get a discount on a personal subscription for three journals:

- TS members pay only £20/$30 for a one-year personal subscription to International Theory (Cambridge University Press), this includes print and online copies.

- TS members receive a 25% discount on online subscriptions for European Journal of International Relations and for Millennium: Journal of International Studies (both SAGE).

IV SECTION DEVELOPMENT—2012-2013

Panels at BISA/ISA 2012 Conference
Janice reported that thanks to the work by Andrew Neal, the TS supports five panels for the 2012 joint BISA/ISA conference in Edinburgh (20-22 June). The titles of the sponsored panels are:

- Thomas Hobbes and the International Politics of Nature and Artifice (co-sponsored with the BISA Working Group on Interpretivism in International Relations)
- Race, Colour, Nation and Colony in Contemporary IR Theory (co-sponsored with the BISA Africa and International Relations Working Group)
- Diversity in IR Theory: Pluralism as Opportunity for Understanding Global Politics
- Time, temporality, and the limits of International Relations I
- Time, temporality, and the limits of International Relations II

ISA Compendium Project
Renee Marlin-Bennet, co-editor of the International Studies Compendium Project, asked the Theory Section to discuss appointing an editor for the theory component of the compendium. Robert Denemark, co-editor or the Project, has been fulfilling this role so far. Renee briefed the meeting about what this entails. It was agreed to appoint someone as editor.

Renee explained that there are a number of ‘theory’ essays already held by the Compendium editors, some of which have been peer reviewed, and some of which are incomplete. There are also some unassigned essay topics. The role of the Theory Section editors would be to decide what goes in to the Compendium, what new essays we want to commission, and who to ask to be peer reviewers. The
essays are to have a neutral tone and chart the historical development of an area of international studies (i.e. they are not meant to make an argument or critique). There is also the future possibility for the publication of Section specific volumes from the Compendium (e.g. ‘greatest hits’).

On the question of how to proceed with the appointment, Chris Brown suggested to elect a group to select an editor. Kimberly Hutchings suggested that this group should represent a broad range of approaches within the field. The executive committee should be proactive in approaching people for this job. The question of whether the editor should serve a limited time period or would be a ‘lifetime’ editor was also raised (but not decided).

**Establishing TS Awards**
Janice reported that the TS executive committee discussed plans to establish TS Awards for *Best Graduate Student ISA Paper* and *Best Theory Book of the Year*, and to create two committees tasked with collecting nominations and selecting a winner for each award. Janice announced that the TS officers had decided to postpone this task until 2013 so it can be pursued by the new democratically elected executive committee.

**V SECTION GOVERNANCE—FUTURE**

**Elections of new TS Executive Committee**
Janice reported that, as planned, to allow for continuity in the first two-years of the section, the current officers will stay on for another year. Elections for a new TS executive committee will be held in Spring 2013 in accordance with the TS Charter. Janice and Andrew invited suggestions on the best ways to organise the election.

Xavier Guillaume explained that for IPS, the executive committee is the search committee for identifying candidates, but can also accept nominations. IPS holds electronic elections. A representative from the IPE section reported they have elections at their business meeting, which was thought not to be an optimal approach. Representatives from the Human Rights section and the IPS section reported that they both have ‘members at large’ in addition to the main executive roles to help, for instance, with section awards. A representative from the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, Queer, & Allies Caucus reported that they have a graduate student representative too.

The meeting discussed the relative merits of appointing/electing a communications officer (no decision made).

**Creating Links**
Janice noted the aim to create links with ISA regional sections and other related associations. Now that the Theory Section has been established, the TS executive committee wants to create connections with similar (theory-oriented) bodies to probe opportunities for collaboration/cross-fertilization.

**VI RECEPTION**
Janice thanked Cambridge UP for their $1000 sponsorship of the TS reception, shared with the International Ethics section. The meeting adjourned and relocated to Room 310 for the reception.