Women’s Caucus for International Studies (WCIS)
Annual Report 2014-2015

The year 2014-2015 began on an enthusiastic note with a large number of WCIS members attending the annual breakfast meeting at the International Studies Association annual convention held in Toronto in March 2014. The WCIS Executive Council met soon after to chart a course of action for the year ahead, and identified a number of initiatives. These included the setting up of two committees to reflect upon the mandate and Charter of the WCIS, especially in light of the increasing diversity in membership, new developments in the International Studies profession and, at an operational level, the need to ‘update’ the scope and responsibilities of the Executive Council members. The Executive Council also committed to communicating more effectively with the WCIS membership, and work actively towards fulfilling the advocacy goals of the Caucus. The ongoing efforts to further strengthen the WCIS community are reflected in an increase in membership from 306 in 2013-2014 to 418 in 2014-2015 (as of November 2014).

Financial Matters
The primary source of income continues to be annual membership dues. As such, owing to the expansion in membership, the Caucus is financially stable. In keeping with this increase, it has committed to contributing more than in previous years for the joint reception hosted with the Feminist Theory and Gender Studies (FTGS) Section and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Allies (LGBTA) Caucus. The second major expense is the business breakfast meeting. The Caucus continues to offer subsidized rates to graduate students, and has added a similar category for adjunct faculty members. Finally, along with the Global South Caucus and FTGS, WCIS has committed to sponsoring the registration fees of panelists taking part in the Innovative Panel After Deepwater Horizon: Rebuilding Indigenous Communities After the BP Gulf Oil Disaster at the 2015 annual convention.

WCIS Committees
As noted above, the WCIS Executive Council set up two committees at the beginning of the term. The aim of the Mandate Committee was to reflect on the changes and continuities in the Caucus’ role in light of the current ISA membership being more international and diverse than before as well as the transformations in academic work today. It also looked into the Caucus' relationship with ISA administration. The Charter Committee was set up with the aim to ‘update’ the WCIS charter, specifically on two issues: (a) mandate of the Caucus; (b) specify further the role and tenure of board members. The Committees were chaired by Marijke Breuning and Soumita Basu respectively. Executive Council members contributed substantively to both sets of discussions. Feedback was also invited from the Caucus membership. The need to highlight the inclusivity of WCIS, both in terms of its constitution and its agenda, appeared to be most prominent in the Mandate Committee deliberations. The changes proposed by the Charter Committee would be placed before the general
body for their consideration at the 2015 business meeting.

Nominations for ISA Committees
In response to a call for nominations for ISA Committee positions initiated by ISA President-Elect Paul Diehl, the WCIS Executive Council invited Caucus members to submit their nominations for these committees. Based on the response, the Executive Council submitted a list of nine candidates for the ISA Committee positions. Of these, eight were appointed to various committees. Summary statistics shared by Professor Diehl suggest that 52% (an increase from the previous 49%) of the Committee positions will now be held by women. The Caucus has been advocating for increasing participation of women in ISA’s deliberative bodies, and this is a promising development.

2015 Awards
Deborah (“Misty”) Gerner Grant for Professional Development – Dr. Jonneke Koomen
The recipient of the 2015 Gerner Grant for Professional Development is Dr. Jonneke Koomen, Assistant Professor of Politics at Willamette University. The Deborah Gerner Grant for Professional Development is awarded by WCIS and sponsored by Lynne Rienner Publishers. Funds from this grant may be used to support any legitimate professional development need identified by the candidate. The Gerner Grant will support Dr. Koomen’s visit to The Hague in 2015 for additional field research for her book manuscript titled *Unspeakable Suffering: Sexual Violence, Survivor Testimony, and International Justice in Africa*. Her research in The Hague will focus on recent developments at the International Criminal Court relevant for her book project.

Susan S. Northcutt Award – Professor Gale A. Mattox
The Susan S. Northcutt Award was established in 2003 by the Women’s Caucus to honor the Caucus’ founder, Susan S. Northcutt. The award “recognizes a person who actively works toward recruiting and advancing women and other minorities in the profession, and whose spirit is inclusive, generous and conscientious.” The recipient of the 2015 Northcutt Award is Professor Gale A. Mattox, Professor and former Chair of Political Science at the United States Naval Academy (USNA). Professor Mattox is well regarded for her excellent scholarship on European politics, US foreign policy and international security. Importantly, she has consistently worked towards improving the professional opportunities available for women in the military and in the field of national security, and has led formal and informal initiatives at a number of institutions including the International Studies Association, Women in International Security as well as USNA. She has also served as Co-Chair of the Women’s Caucus. WCIS celebrates the generous and inclusive spirit of Professor Mattox, and is delighted to nominate her for the Northcutt Award (presented at the ISA Business Meeting).
WCIS Presence at the 2015 ISA Annual Convention (New Orleans)

WCIS has sponsored or co-sponsored a total of eight panels and seven roundtables, six more than last year. This is due to a number of factors, including an increase in panel allocation as well as an active search for co-sponsorships.

In terms of submissions, only one roundtable was proposed with WCIS as first choice; one paper was proposed with WCIS as second choice (not accepted); four roundtables were proposed with WCIS as second choice (two accepted by WCIS, one accepted by FTGS and Theme; one accepted by International Education); one panel was submitted as second choice and accepted.

The tally of co-sponsorships is as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Co-sponsors</th>
<th>Number of Panels/Roundtables</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>1 roundtable</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1 panel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1 roundtable</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>5 panels &amp; 2 roundtables</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>3 roundtables &amp; 1 panel</td>
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</tbody>
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One panel was entirely sponsored by WCIS.

The sections/caucuses that co-sponsored with WCIS include: Theme (5); FTGS (12); Global Development (3); Global South Caucus (2); International Education (2); Peace Studies (1); LGBTQA Caucus (1); International Ethics (1); International Security Studies (1); Science, Technology and Art in International Relations (1); and, Theory (1).

ISA Compendium

The Board would like to thank Meredith Sarkees for her tremendous contributions to the Caucus’ section in the ISA Compendium. Professor Sarkees stepped down in 2014, and the Caucus is currently looking for a WCIS member to assume this position.

Officers for 2014-2015

Chair: Soumita Basu
Vice-Chair/Program Chair: Catia C. Confortini
Secretary/Treasurer: Christine Balarezo
Awards and Nominations Coordinator: Jennifer R. Lander
Communications Coordinator: Serena Oswald Serrano
Members-At-Large: Marijke Breuning and Galia Golan
Past Chair: Sandra McEvoy

Submitted by Soumita Basu, Caucus Chair (February 1, 2015)
- with inputs from Catia C. Confortini.