The Women’s Caucus for International Studies (WCIS) seeks to advance the status of women in international studies. Its membership has grown over the years, demonstrating that female-identifying scholars continue to feel the need for a space to meet with other women. Although the ISA now includes a distinctly larger proportion of female-identifying scholars than it did when the WCIS was founded, the caucus remains an important focal point for many women in the ISA.

The WCIS offers an annual breakfast meeting, as well as panels and roundtables to enable women to meet, share their work, mentor one another, and simply enjoy one another’s company. This year, the WCIS was able to pioneer the mini Pay It Forward (mini-PIF) mentoring program at one international and several regional ISA meetings in the US (see below for details). We hope the mini-PIF will become an annual feature of the regional meetings and will be extended to additional international ISA meetings as well.

Membership

Membership in the WCIS has continued to rise. Our membership in 2019 stood at 661 members, with growth to 715 in 2020. Membership has steadily grown over the past decade, which suggests that the WCIS remains important for female-identifying members of the ISA.

The strong interest in the WCIS Breakfast meeting at the Annual Meeting of the ISA underscores that female-identifying scholars appreciate the fellowship and mentoring that happens in the context of the activities of the WCIS. Despite the cost of the breakfast at the conference in Honolulu ($27 for faculty and $15 for students), all available spaces filled and we worked with the ISA staff to make additional seats available. The breakfast was originally scheduled for 150 people and 50 additional seats were created.

Our program organizer for 2020, Jennifer Ramos, put together a total of 8 sessions (6 panels and 2 roundtables). This number is well above the panel allotment and the result of co-sponsorship with several other sections and caucuses.

Finances

The financial position of the WCIS remains strong. The balance, as of December 1, 2019, was $7877.95. Our revenue relies on two sources of income: 1. Annual membership dues; 2. Sponsorships.

This year’s sponsors include: Lynne Rienner Publishers; Department of Political Science, Dominican University of California; College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, Georgia Southern University; Department of Political Science and International Relations, Loyola Marymount University; Castleberry Peace Institute & Peace Studies Program, University of North Texas; Department of Political Science,
University of North Texas. Together, these sponsors contributed $2700.00 towards our joint reception with FTGS and the LGBTQA Caucus.

Our expenses are:
1. The WCIS Breakfast meeting (and especially the subsidized breakfast for graduate students)
2. The annual reception, which is jointly sponsored with FTGS and the LGBTQA Caucus
3. The cost of the awards

AWARDS
The WCIS offers three awards. The WCIS governance organized several subcommittees to judge submissions for each of these awards. The winners, who will officially receive their awards at the 2020 Annual Meeting of the ISA, are:

- **Susan S. Northcutt Award**: Dr. Malinda S. Smith, Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada
- **Gerner Professional Development Grant**: Mariam F. Alkazemi, Assistant Professor of Public Relations, Richard T. Robertson School of Media and Culture, Virginia Commonwealth University, US
- **WCIS Best Graduate Student Paper Award**: Sevde Arpaci Ayhan, Ph.D. candidate, Seoul National University, Republic of Korea, Paper title: “Reassessing Aid Effectiveness: The Impact of Economic Complexity”

CONFERENCES
As the result of a successful Special Projects Grant proposal prepared by Gigi Gokcek, Penny Griffin, Jamie Scalera, and Annick Wibben, the WCIS was able to offer a series of mini Pay It Forward (mini-PIF) workshops at regional ISA conferences. The PIF workshops at the ISA’s Annual Meetings have been an important initiative for women mentoring women in the discipline. The mini-PIF program sought to replicate this effort at the regional conferences.

Working with each region’s program organizer, members of the WCIS committee organized the mini-PIF programs, recruited mentors, and selected participants on the basis of an application process. The participants receive $100 in travel reimbursement and there is $25 budgeted per person for a mentoring lunch/dinner.

Over the summer of 2019, the first mini-PIF was held at the CEE-ISA Joint International Conference in Belgrade, organized by Annick Wibben and Jelena Subotic. This international mini-PIF served 11 mentees with 5 mentors. During the fall of 2019, the ISA West served 4 mentees with 3 mentors; the ISA South served 4 mentees with 5 mentors; the ISA Northeast served 12 mentees with 4 mentors; and the ISA Midwest served 13 mentees with 6 mentors. Gigi Gokcek, Jamie Scalera, Christina Fattore, and Marijke Breuning worked to implement the regional mini-PIFs.

We thank the regional program organizers for the assistance and support they provided to the WCIS mini-PIF organizers. The programs were well-received and we anticipate that the mini-PIF program will become a regular feature of the regional meetings.

*Complete data on the expenditures associated with the regional mini-PIFs are not yet available. We anticipate reporting on this at a later date and in the context of the mini-PIF grant.*
CURRENT OFFICERS OF WCIS:

Chair, 2019-2020: Marijke Breuning, University of North Texas
Vice-Chair/Program Chair, 2019-2020: Jennifer Ramos, Loyola Marymount University
Past Chair, 2019-2020: Gigi Gokcek, Dominican University of California

Member-at-Large, 2019-2021:
Srobana Bhattacharya, Georgia Southern University
Kristina Hinds, Universities of the West Indies
Dr. Anwar Mhajne, Stonehill College

Member-at-Large, 2018-2020:
Penny Griffin, University of New South Wales
Jamie Scalera, Georgia Southern University
Aakriti Tandon, Daemen College

Graduate Student Representative, 2019-2021:
Hind Atef Alhelou, American University in Cairo
Kelebogile Zvobgo, University of Southern California/College of William and Mary