

Dear IPS Colleagues,

I hope this email finds you all well.

Please find below some important updates on the Section and forthcoming events for 2015-16:

1. New IPS Officers

It is a great pleasure for me, as incoming Section Chair, to introduce you to the new members of the team and to thank our former members for all their great work.

First, many thanks to Tanja Aalberts for her exemplary leadership as Section Chair, and my personal gratitude for her help in my own induction into the IPS Executive Committee. We are lucky to have her with us for another year as Past Chair, and benefit from her experience and advice.

Thanks are also due to Rebecca Adler-Nissen for her fantastic work as Secretary-Treasurer, to Morten Andersen for his excellent management of the Section's communications, and to Tarak Barkawi and Vincent Pouliot for their invaluable contributions as Members-at-large.

Last but not least, we're grateful to Ole Jacob Sending for his dedication and leadership in the past three years.

Several new officers have enthusiastically joined the team this year, and I look forward to working with them all. Please welcome:

Dirk Nabers, our new Vice Chair and Section Program Chair for ISA 2016;
Can E. Mutlu, as Secretary-Treasurer;
Xavier Mathieu, as Communications Director;
Meera Sabaratnam and Ann Towns as our new Members-at-large.
We're very happy to have George Lawson and Christian Bueger with us as Members-at-large for another year.

2. IPS Business Meeting 2015

If you missed the IPS Business Meeting in New Orleans, here are some updates on the Section (see also the attached presentation that Tanja gave at the Meeting)

- a. Our membership has increased from 615 members in 2014 to 652 in 2015 (6% steady increase). We currently are the 5th largest ISA section in terms of membership. This increase is also reflected in the number of members on our mailing list (544) and the significant development of our social media profile.

- b. IPS had the 2nd highest presence on the ISA 2015 Program (after ISS), with 127 sponsored and co-sponsored panels and roundtables.
- c. IPS Awards 2015:

The joint winners of the IPS Book Award 2015 were Rebecca Adler-Nissen for *Opting Out of the European Union. Diplomacy, Sovereignty and European Integration* (CUP, 2014) and Lisa Stampnitzky for *Disciplining Terror. How Experts Invented Terrorism* (CUP, 2014).

The winners of the IPS Paper Award were Katharina Glaab and Stephan Engelkamp, for their paper entitled "Remembering the Past, Mystifying Resistance? A tale of Desires, Delusions, and Heroic Resistance" (presented at ISA Toronto).

- d. IPS Elections 2016:

An amendment to the nomination procedure was suggested at the Business Meeting, to allow for self-nominations supported by a CV and a short statement. This will be discussed further this year within the Executive Committee.

3. ISA 2016 Convention

Dirk will soon send you all the relevant information for next year's ISA Convention in Atlanta (16-19 March, 2016). In the meantime, a few points arising from this year's experience:

- a. The allocation formula for next year will remain the same, namely: 0.3 participation + 0.3 membership + 0.4 prior allocation. It is therefore important that you keep your membership active and encourage colleagues to join the Section, as well as indicate IPS as your 1st-choice section when you submit your proposals.
- b. We encourage you to be strategic in choosing your 2nd- choice section. The most successful collaborations this year have been with Theory, Global Development, and STAIR. ISS much less so. Although the Program Chair will solicit co-sponsorship from any section that is relevant to your proposal, it always helps if that section is indicated as 2nd choice. Please also consider the ISA Program Chair's Annual Convention Theme if it suits your submission, as this increases significantly the chances of being included in the program.
- c. Given the allocation formula and the overlaps between us and other ISA Sections, please consider membership in those sections (*in addition to* your IPS membership), as this increases opportunities for collaboration – this applies especially to such a young and small section as STAIR, which was relevant to a very significant number of IPS submissions in 2015.

- d. As usual, we encourage you to use as many relevant tags and keywords as possible. This will make the Program Chair's job much easier and help him construct strong and interesting panels out of individual submissions. When choosing your tags/keywords, please try and make them as informative as possible: a tag that refers to the content of your submission (say, surveillance) will be more useful than one pointing to the sub-field (say, critical security studies).

4. IPS 2016 Book and Graduate Paper Awards

The competition for the IPS 2016 Awards is now open.

Nominations for the *IPS Book Award* (see here: <http://www.isanet.org/Programs/Awards/IPS-Book>) should be received by **July 15, 2015**. Copies of nominated books should be mailed to all 4 members of the Committee (contact details here: <http://www.isanet.org/Programs/Awards/IPS-Book/Committee>).

This year, we welcome Laleh Khalili as external member, with George Lawson and Christian Bueger as internal members.

Nominations for the *IPS Paper Award* (see here: <http://www.isanet.org/Programs/Awards/IPS-Paper>) should also be received by **July 15, 2015**. Nominated papers should be emailed to all 4 members of the Committee (contact details here: <http://www.isanet.org/Programs/Awards/IPS-Paper/Committee>).

We are glad to have Marieke de Goede as our external member for another year, and we welcome Meera Sabaratnam and Ann Towns as internal members.

If you have any questions on these Awards, please don't hesitate to contact me (inh3@aber.ac.uk).

5. IPS Website

Our new Communications Director, Xavier Mathieu (x.mathieu@sheffield.ac.uk), has started updating the IPS website (<http://ips-isa.org/>). I'm in the process of getting clarifications from ISA HQ on the type of Section information and documents that can be publicly shared there in accordance with ISA's "members' privilege" rules, but Xavier and I would like to make the website more useful to the larger community of IPS colleagues beyond official announcements.

So please send us your suggestions on what you'd like us to add in terms of categories and information, and ideas on how to make the website more interesting to the members and the community more generally.

Many thanks to all and best wishes on behalf of the IPS team.

Inanna Hamati-Ataya
IPS Section Chair