

THERE'S A FIRST TIME FOR EVERYTHING

YOUR GUIDE TO THRIVING AT YOUR FIRST ISA CONVENTION

**Figuring out just who we are
and what we're here for!**

Sections, Caucuses & Regions

Academia can be a daunting place to navigate alone – check out our caucuses, sections and regions to see where to find colleagues interested in the same stuff you are!

Developing Professionally

See what you might pick up through professional development panels, mentoring opportunities, and learn productive ways to approach controversial issues in higher education.

**Read about what others wish
they had known at their first ISA
convention**

Do's and Don'ts

Check out our code of conduct to ensure your convention experience is a positive one!

Who are we?

The International Studies Association (ISA) has been the premier organization for connecting scholars and practitioners in the field of international studies since 1959.

Fast Facts:

- Founded in 1959 to promote research and education in international affairs
- ISA cooperates with 57 international studies organizations in over 30 countries
- ISA enjoys nongovernmental consultative status with the United Nations.



The International Studies Association works to promote international understanding by supporting communication and contact between educators, researchers, practitioners and policy makers around the world. The Association supports the continued development of best ways to disseminate knowledge and improve teaching practices through its seven journals, compendium, Professional Resource Center and other publications.

Under the aegis of the ISA Constitution and the leadership of Past ISA Presidents and Executive Directors, ISA has grown exponentially to bridge national and geographic boundaries and build a truly global community of scholars and practitioners. To learn more, please visit: <http://www.isanet.org/ISA/About-ISA>

"Find Your Niche, but Don't Be Afraid to Try Something New..."

"When I first attended ISA, it was completely overwhelming. My thinking was that I needed to try and see everything. **That's a noble idea, but it's one that is untenable and exhausting.** What I learned over time is that you have to embrace regret; you're simply not going to see everything. **Instead, figure out your niche or a particular issue in which you are interested.**"

Jeremy Youde

Fellow/Senior Lecturer at Australian National University

Check out our sections, regions & caucuses to see where you could find scholars whose academic interests and goals align with yours!

"Sections are a great way to meet people, within what can be an overwhelming conference. If you attend panels sponsored by one or two sections, that's a strong signal that you might look there for an intellectual home. Very quickly, you will develop a network, and then the meeting will become a wonderful place to reconnect in person, whether on panels, at receptions, or over a meal."

Audie Klotz

Professor of Political Science at Syracuse University

VP of ISA

6 Regions

Regions are **geographic** sub-units of ISA, offering opportunities for members to exchange ideas and research with local colleagues.

Membership in regions is automatically determined by the geographic location of the member and many regions have smaller conferences in the summer and fall.

4 Caucuses

Caucuses offer a collaborative environment for ISA members who are interested in supporting and advocating on matters of concern for identified constituencies within ISA. Members of ISA are welcome to join any caucus they would like.

Anyone is welcome to attend the caucus meetings and receptions at the Convention!

29 Sections

Sections are **thematic** sub-units of ISA organized around specific topics and research interests in international studies. Members of ISA are welcome to join any sections they would like.

Anyone is welcome to attend the section meetings and receptions at the Convention – you do not need to be a member of the section to attend these events!

Many panels in the program are sponsored by our sections.

To find out when and where the section and caucus meetings and receptions are happening, please refer to pp. 28–40 in the program.

Sections & Caucuses

Active Learning in International Affairs (ALIAS)

International Political Sociology (IPS)

Comparative Interdisciplinary Studies (CISS)

International Securities Studies (ISSS)

Diplomatic Studies (DPLST)

Peace Studies (PEACE)

English School (ENGSS)

Political Demography and Geography (PDG)

Ethnicity, Nationalism & Migration Studies (ENMISA)

Pos-Communist Systems in International Relations
(POSTCOMM)

Environmental Studies (ESS)

Religion and International Relations (REL)

Foreign Policy Analysis (FPA)

Science, Technology and Art in International Relations
(STAIR)

Feminist Theory and Gender Studies (FTGS)

Scientific Study of International Processes (SSIP)

Global Development Studies (GDS)

South Asia in World Politics (SAWP)

Global Health Studies (GHS)

Historical International Relations (HIST)

Theory (THEORY)

Human Rights (HR)

Global South Caucus (GSCIS)

Intelligence Studies (ISS)

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer & Allies
Caucus (LGBTQA)

International Communications (ICOMM)

Women's Caucus (WCIS)

International Education (IEDUC)

Online Media Caucus (OMC)

International Ethics (IETHICS)

International Law (ILAW)

International Organization (IO)

International Political Economy (IPE)

**To learn more about our sections and caucuses,
please visit**

<http://www.isanet.org/ISA/Caucuses>

<http://www.isanet.org/ISA/Sections>

Navigating the Program...part 1

There are four panel sessions throughout the day, and in the program they are labeled A B C D and correspond with different times. For example:

A = 8:15-10am
B = 10:30-12:15pm
C = 1:45-3:30pm
D = 4:00-5:45pm

WA, TB, etc. are codes for the various days.

For example:

WA means Wednesday during the A slot.

TB Means Thursday during the B slot

FC means Friday during the C slot

SD means Saturday during the D slot

What you'll see:

1. Panels: typically range from 4-6 papers, and might have one or two discussants.
2. Roundtables: similar to panels, but participants do not present papers. There is at least 1 chair and 3 participants who discuss a topic.
3. Poster Sessions: scholars present their work visually on a poster and are available to discuss their work with session attendees. Feel free to browse the posters that interest you at any time during the session.

"ISA provides a unique opportunity to interact with scholars from other disciplines and other countries, as well as from other methodological traditions. While it certainly can be challenging to have conversations across boundaries, it also can be very rewarding. I'd advise new attendees to take advantage of the meeting's 'big tent' nature, and to attend some panels that might not seem like obvious 'fits' at first glance."

-Layna Mosley, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
ISA VP, 2012 ISA Program Co-Chair

Navigating the Program...part 2

Specialty Sessions

1. Career Courses are half-day courses that offer in-depth instruction on advanced topics such as methodology, teaching strategies, software and more! Participation is by pre-registration only. Check out p.18 on your program for Career Courses in Baltimore.
 2. Film Screening Panels are designed to highlight one or more films and can take the form of a film showing and moderated Q&A or roundtable discussion.
 3. Innovative Panels provide scholars with the ability to move beyond the traditional panel format, often using technology to broadcast to a greater audience. Check out p.18 on your program for Innovative Panels in Baltimore.
 4. Working Groups meet before and during the conference and provide a forum for members and individuals to have in-depth discussions on substantive areas that extend across the complex boundaries of International Studies. (Participation is by application)
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Networking...Networking...Networking

Advice from our experts!

- Attend a business meeting or reception: you don't need to be invited!
- Network with publishers in the exhibit hall
- Take a break! There's no need to attend a panel in every time slot. Meet up with an old friend or someone you just met for coffee or a drink. Some of the best discussions at ISA are outside the ones on the official schedule!

Carrie Reiling
PhD Candidate in Political Science at the
University of California, Irvine

Go to some panels that are 'how to' or about publishing in journals. Those can be more informative than the substantive panel.

Jennifer Sterling-Folker
University of Connecticut and
ISA VP

Developing Professionally

The International Studies Association's Annual Convention is one of the primary places for early career scholars and professionals to deepen their knowledge of international studies, expand their networks, showcase their research and learn some tools of the trade. If you are still a student, newly graduated or just a few months or years into your professional career, the 2017 Annual Convention provides many opportunities for you to grow professionally. Showcased below are just some of the events that ISA's Annual Convention space provides to you.

A Few Events of Interest

Early Career Scholar Town Hall (WD38)
Wednesday, February 22, 4:00pm–5:45pm
Stadium 1, Marriott Inner Harbor

Early Career Scholar Reception:
Thursday, February 23, 8:15pm–10pm
Holiday 3, Second Floor, Hilton Baltimore

Early Career Scholar Lounge
Open Feb. 22 – 25, 7:30 AM – 6:00 PM (until 5pm on Feb. 25)

Find out more information highlighting professional development panels on p. 19 of your program.

Junior Scholar Symposium

The JSS is a special opportunity for graduate students and junior scholars. Each JSS panel brings together approximately 16 junior scholars with four discussants from among ISA's leading scholars. Following a broad introduction to the session, the symposium divides into four small thematic groups wherein participants present and discuss their work in a small group setting. Presenters each spend 20 minutes presenting and discussing their paper with their small group and discussant.

This format provides a fantastic opportunity for junior scholars to meet and connect with senior scholars in their field. The sessions are held during normal panel sessions but take place early in the Convention cycle (the 1st and 2nd days of the Convention). This way, participants will have met and worked closely with some senior scholars – most of whom play an active role in ISA's current leadership – and have a friendly connection through the remainder of the conference. It is also a great chance to meet similar junior scholars from other universities.

JSS will be running Wednesday and Thursday of the Convention during all four time slots. For specific topics, please see your program.

All are invited to come in and listen!

Starting the Conversation

As part of an innovative program to help generate active discussion in the discipline about systemic discrimination in academia, ISA is sponsoring the following ten panels at ISA 2017. The panels will take place over four days in the Ruth Room of the Hilton Baltimore.

Panel Topics include:

WA30 Welcome to the ISA! Starting the Conversation

WB30 Queer/s in the Academy: Challenging “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell”

TA30 Confronting Systems of Power and Privilege in Higher Education at ISA and in the Classroom

TB30 The Academy as a Hostile Work Environment: Challenging the Chilly Climate for Women

TC30 Everyday and Exceptional Discriminations in the Academy: Survival Strategies

TD30 “The Master’s Tools Will Not Dismantle the Master’s House”: How to Cope with Retaliation, Co-Optation and Resistance To Systemic Change

FB30 Speaking Truth to Power: Challenging Toxic Masculinities, Faculty Predators and Institutional Betrayal

FC30 Neoliberalization and the Academy; Building Networks of Solidarity/Resistance

SA30 Sexisms and White Privilege in the International Studies Classroom

SB30 Plenary Session – Best Practices, Recommendations, and Strategies to Transform International Studies' Professional Culture(s)

Be sure to join the conversation!



Cabaret Night

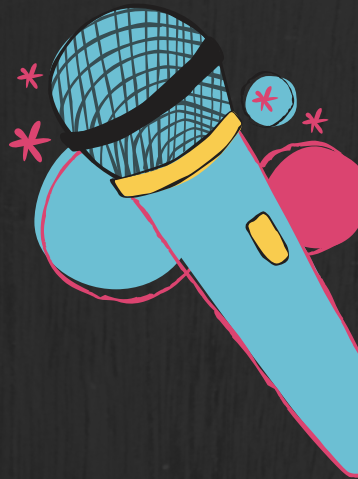


Calling all Convention attendees with hidden talents, or an affinity for the stage! Come to ISA Cabaret, an open mic night of musical and other performances!

When: Friday February 24, 8-11pm

Where: Holiday 3 in the Hilton.

Come to perform, cheer on colleagues or simply unwind at this fun and light event. And don't worry if you've left your guitar at home - we have a spare one for you to borrow!



See you there!

Code of Conduct

The International Studies Association wants you to be fully informed of the rules and regulations of the Association. We are a diverse group committed to and supportive of the integrity and success of our members. Whether it's your first or fifth Convention, you need to be fully aware of what is and is not acceptable...

This code of conduct refers to relations between ISA members and participants in the course of ISA activities. ISA Office Holders, from the President and Executive Director to members of the Governing Council and Editors of ISA journals, have a special responsibility to uphold and observe the Code of Conduct, promoting in the Association's activities a professional environment characterized by constructive debate and the treatment of all members and participants with dignity and respect.

The ISA recognizes that there is a distinction between victimization through bullying and/or harassment and legitimate, justifiable, and appropriate constructive criticism. Nothing in this document shall be construed as a limitation on the ability of members and participants to constructively evaluate and critique one another's work.

The ISA recognizes its duty to ensure that members and participants are not bullied and/or harassed. It further recognizes that this duty is of wider application and includes all members and participants, regardless of status (full, postgraduate, or retired) or the period of time.

Bullying may be characterized as: Offensive, insulting, intimidating, or malicious behavior targeted at another person or persons; An abuse or misuse of power intended to undermine, humiliate, denigrate, or injure the person or persons at whom such behavior is targeted. Harassment may be defined as: Unwanted conduct affecting the dignity of men and women. It may be related to age, gender, sex, sexual orientation, race, disability, religion, nationality, or any personal characteristic of the individual, and may be persistent or isolated. The key is that the actions or comments are experienced as demeaning and unacceptable by the recipient.

The ISA recognizes that members and participants who feel that they have been victims of bullying and/or harassment as defined in this code of conduct are entitled to pursue their case in a safe and non-threatening environment.

Any alleged violations of ISA's Code of Conduct or concerns related to the issues included in the Code can be reported to any member of ISA's Executive Committee. See <http://www.isanet.org/ISA/Governance/ExComm> for the list of current members of the Executive Committee.

For the full language, please visit:
<http://www.isanet.org/ISA/Governance/Policy> >
academics, publications, participation >
ISA Code of Conduct

Cheers to 'laffing heartily!'

"...the best part is coming with, or finding someone, you can feel comfortable with as you negotiate this maze... and laffing heartily together regarding the scene at the end of the day; perhaps also comparing notes about what you learned and how to make the next day/interaction/event /writing project more productive (or at least, more enjoyable!?). No universal formulae because it is different for everyone... Deep breathing when you feel lost; deep breathing when you have to present; hug yourself internally to cope and endure... and try very hard not to take it all toooooo seriously. Doing your best is all one can ever do, so don't expect miracles!"

V. Spike Peterson, Professor of International Relations
University of Arizona



Stay in Touch!

Post-Convention things to check out...

Free access to our Journals

ISA publishes seven academic journals and a comprehensive compendium of international studies as well as maintains a variety of online resources for the international studies community.

Awards

Check out our awards page to see if you have any books, papers or achievements you would want to nominate a colleague (or yourself) for!

<http://www.isanet.org/Programs/Awards>

Research Workshop

Grants for San Francisco

Research workshop grants aim to bring together small groups of participants focusing on a significant research problem that stimulates cross-national examination or perspectives and engages the interests of several disciplines.

Find out more:

<http://www.isanet.org/Programs/Grants/Workshop-Grants>

Professional Resource Center

<http://www.isanet.org/Programs/PRC>

*Note that all of the above opportunities only apply to members, so be sure to become a member! ISA offers a range of services and opportunities for members, including online access to six premier journals, professional networking at our annual Convention and international conferences, a private listserve, a variety of grants and United Nations opportunities, and discounts on annual Convention registration.

Stay in Touch!

Follow us on social media for updates,
deadlines and more!



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