There's a first time for everything

Your guide to thriving at your first ISA Convention

Read about what ISA is and does!

Sections, Caucuses & Regions

Academia can be daunting to try 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 Career Courses.

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

- Was founded in 1959 to promote research and education in international affairs
- Cooperates with 57 international studies organizations in over 30 countries
- 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 innovative ways to disseminate knowledge and improve teaching practices through its seven journals, Oxford Research Encyclopedia of International Studies, 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
**Six 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 conferences in the summer and fall.

**Four 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!

**Twenty-Nine 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!

Most panels in the program are sponsored by our sections.

To learn more about our sections, regions and caucuses, please visit:
  http://www.isanet.org/ISA/Sections
  http://www.isanet.org/ISA/Regions
  http://www.isanet.org/ISA/Caucuses
Sections & Caucuses

Active Learning in International Affairs (ALIAS)
Interdisciplinary Studies Section (IDSS)
Diplomatic Studies (DPLST)
English School (ENGSS)
Ethnicity, Nationalism & Migration Studies (ENMISA)
Environmental Studies (ESS)
Foreign Policy Analysis (FPA)
Feminist Theory and Gender Studies (FTGS)
Global Development Studies (GDS)
Global Health Studies (GHS)
Historical International Relations (HIST)
Human Rights (HR)
Intelligence Studies (ISS)
International Communications (ICOMM)
International Education (IEDUC)
International Ethics (IETHICS)
International Law (ILAW)
International Organization (IO)
International Political Economy (IPE)
International Political Sociology (IPS)
International Security Studies (ISSS)
Peace Studies (PEACE)
Political Demography and Geography (PDG)
Post-Communist Systems in International Relations (POSTCOMM)
Religion and International Relations (REL)
Science, Technology and Art in International Relations (STAIR)
Scientific Study of International Processes (SSIP)
South Asia in World Politics (SAWP)
Theory (THEORY)
Global South Caucus (GSCIS)
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer & Allies Caucus (LGBTQA)
Women’s Caucus (WCIS)
Online Media Caucus (OMC)
LEADERSHIP

PRESIDENT

The President serves a one year term and works during that time to propose programs and policies designed to advance the best interests of the Association. He or she convenes and presides over meetings of the Executive Committee, the Governing Council, and the Annual Business Meeting while overseeing the work of the Executive Office.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Executive Director is the chief executive officer of the Association and responsible for its day-to-day operations. These operations include oversight of ISA publications, the annual programs and other conferences during the year, finance and logistics, staff supervision and much more.

EXCOMM

The Executive Committee consists of: the President, the three Vice Presidents; the President Elect; the immediate Past President; the Treasurer; the Executive Director; and four (4) Members of the Governing Council selected by its Membership. The Annual Convention Program Chair(s) serve as Ex-Officio Member(s) of the Executive Committee.

COMMITTEES

Standing committees & appointees are responsible to the Governing Council & should report to it at least once a year. At the discretion of the GC these annual reports may be given at the Business Meeting of the ISA and/or submitted in writing for publication.

GOVERNING COUNCIL

The Governing Council is the primary governance body of the Association and meets in full once a year, the day prior to the ISA Annual Convention. In addition to the Executive Committee, chairs and presidents of the sections, regions and caucuses, the Governing Council is also made up of the three Vice President-Elects, six Members-at-Large, the Annual Convention Program Chair(s), the Publications Representative and the UN-NGO Representative. Any changes made to the policies and procedures of ISA must be approved by the ISA Governing Council.
Navigating the Program

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 = 8:15am-10:00am
B = 10:30am-12:15pm
C = 1:45pm-3:30pm
D = 4:00pm-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 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. **Flash Talks**: Flash Talks are an overview of a study. Presenters must draw out the most important aspects of their research in a compressed time-frame and field a series of questions immediately thereafter. A Flash Talk session consists of seven research projects discussed using brief PowerPoint presentations, requiring a title (limited to 50 words), an abstract (limited to 200 words), three tags, and at least one author.

Specialty Sessions

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 San Francisco.

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 San Francisco.

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).
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!

THE NIGHT, APRIL 6
8:00PM - 11:00PM
Franciscan C,
Hilton San Francisco Union Square

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!
WE ASKED SOME OF OUR SEASONED ISA ATTENDEES FOR ADVICE...

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO AN EARLY CAREER SCHOLAR ATTENDING ISA FOR THE FIRST TIME?

“Go to the receptions! For many years, I didn’t understand how useful and interesting these events were. Go to the panels for the sapphire talks (or whatever they’re calling them now). Go to some panels that are outside your comfort zone and try to meet at least a couple of people per day who are from institutions and programs that you’re not familiar with. You’re welcome at everything unless it specifically says otherwise -- so go to your section’s business meeting, etc. It’s a great way to end up on a committee or board -- which looks great on your tenure file! Talk to some editors. It’s never too early to start making these contacts and learning about the field of publishing.”

-Mary Manjikian, FTGS and Intelligence. Attending ISA since 2009.

“Prepare well in advance! Get your papers drafted and submitted early, read over any you are discussant on early, and use the online programme search tools to identify the best panels and papers for you to attend (and add them to your “My Schedule) well in advance of the Convention itself. Being prepared is the key to making the most out of a Convention that is simply too big for anyone to be at everything.”

-Gearoid Millar, PEACE Section Chair. Attending ISA for 10 years.

LOOKING AHEAD TO SAN FRANCISCO, WHAT EVENT(S) WOULD YOU MOST RECOMMEND TO A FIRST TIME ISA ATTENDEE?

“Make an agenda for each day before the conference. Identify the panels that look very interesting and go to those. Ask questions at the panels. Do a workshop- they can be very educational and help make connections. Identify two or three key people who you think it would be useful to talk to about their (and your) research and email them beforehand and see if they would like to meet for coffee. Make sure you set aside time to go through the book room and look at new books and talk to publishers. Make time at least one night to go out to a really great restaurant in San Francisco- and eat some of the local chocolate.”

-Victor Asal, ENMISA Section Chair. Attending ISA for 17 years

“I would advise a young scholar to get involved in the mentoring panel-it is a good way to meet others at a similar stage.”

-Kathryn C. Lavelle, IPE Chair. Attending ISA since the 1990s.

[My advice would be tp] Sit up front, ask questions and don’t be shy about meeting people and introducing yourself, even if it feels a little awkward. Everyone knows why you’re doing it. Remember though to take some breaks in the conference. [I most look forward to] seeing my ISA friends. We keep in touch all year but it’s the only time we all get together.

-David McCourt, IPS Section Chair. Attending ISA since 2009.
Professional Development Opportunities & Early Career Scholar Items of Interest

Early Career Scholar Events
- WD10: Early Career Scholar Townhall
- FB30: WCIS Town hall: Mentoring space for Female Early Career Scholars
- The Early Career Scholar Lounge will be open Tuesday-Saturday from 7am to 6pm daily in Tower 1, Room 4078 at the Hilton.

Professional Development
- SC61: And Now for Something Completely Different: Reflections on Scholarly Self-Reinvention
- TC39: When Life Gets in the Way of the Profession and the Profession Gets in the Way of Life
- TB02: Critical Security Studies Methods Cafe
- WC61: Qualitatively Different? Problems and Approaches in Non-Positivist Research Presentation
- WD61: Integrating Global South Scholars into Mainstream International Studies: Strategies, Opportunities, and Obstacles
- FB61: Moving between Research/Teaching and Academic Administration: opportunities, pitfalls, and trade-offs

Junior Scholar Symposium
The JSS is a special opportunity for graduate students and junior scholars. Each JSS panel brings together approximately 16 junior scholar projects with four senior discussants from among ISA’s leading scholars. Following a broad introduction to the session, the symposium divides into four small thematic groups wherein participants will present and discuss their work in this small group setting. Each presenter will spend 20 minutes presenting and discussing their paper together with their small group and discussant. All JSS panels will take place in Imperial B in the Hilton San Francisco Union Square.

- WA06: The Changing Politics of Foreign Policy
- WB06: The Logic of War and Peace
- WC06: Sovereignty in the Age of Globalization
- WD06: Emerging Issues in International Relations
- TA06: Conflict Inside and Outside of States
- TB06: Universal Human Rights: Theory and Practice
- TC06: The Architecture of International Cooperation
- TD06: International Political Economy: The Struggle for Power and Wealth
SPECIALTY PROGRAMS

CHALLENGING OPPRESSION

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 2018. The panels will take place over four days in Plaza A of the San Francisco Hilton Union Square.

• TA04: Welcome to the ISA! Entering the Conversation
• TB04: Knowing through Striking: Shutting Down the University to Create a New World
• TC04: Navigating “Power of Rules and Rule of Power” in the Profession while Queer, Trans, Femme/Women and/or Racialized: On Mentoring and Being Mentored
• TD04: Knowing through Organizing: Remaking the University and the World in Common
• FA04: Challenging Oppressions Through Allyship and Solidarity
• FB04: Transnational Feminist Praxis: Building Alliances to Challenge Oppressions in Palestine and Beyond
• FC04: Safeguarding Academic Freedom within the Imperial University
• FD04: Challenging Oppressions in the Classroom: Pedagogies of Compassion and Resistance
• SA04: Disability, Intersectionality, and Systemic Oppression in the Academy
• SB04: Beyond Talk: Where Do We Go from Here?

IN OTHER WORDS/EN OTRAS PALABRAS/EN AUTRES MOTS

The “In Other Words” Roundtables emerged in response to recommendations made by the first ISA-Global South Caucus Dialogue in 2016 in Atlanta. This pilot project is designed to achieve greater inclusiveness and to reflect the diversity of our association.

• TB38: Colonialidad del Saber y Anglocentrismo: El Racismo Epistémico “Oculto” de las Relaciones Internacionales
• TC38: Circuitos Dependientes de Construcción, Circulación y Utilización de Conocimiento en RRII en América Latina
• TD38: Les études de sécurité et la pensée stratégique. Domination anglophone, émergence francophone?

SAPPHIRE SERIES

The Sapphire Series consists of roundtables and talks designed to highlight key issues in the field of international relations. The Series brings together featured speakers, practitioners, and roundtables to discuss current world events, trends in academic research, and new challenges in teaching and learning.

• FA05: Power and Rules in the Profession of International Studies
• FB05: Diverse Approaches to Understanding Power and Rules in the International System
• FC05: Formal and Informal Rules in International Politics
Specialty Programs

Career Courses

ISA Career Courses provide registered participants an in-depth instruction on topics such as methodology, teaching strategies, software, and more.

The format of Career Courses differs depending on the topic, the preferences of the Instructor(s), the teaching methodology used, and the goal(s) of the course. In all instances, however, Career Courses take place during half-day sessions at the Annual Convention (the first session is between 8:15am–12:15pm and the second is between 1:45pm–5:45pm). For more information on Career Courses please see http://www.isanet.org/Conferences/Special-Convention-Programs/Career-Courses

Committee Panels

Committee Panels are panels coordinated by ISA standing committees to further their work for ISA. Each of the panels has their own abstract. For a complete listing of Committee Panels, please see pg 11 in the program!

Innovative Panels

A variety of different formats have been used in past innovative panels and ISA is always on the lookout for unique and different ideas and new uses of technology. Innovative panels may take any form, limited only by the imagination of the participants and organizer(s). Here are a few examples: Town Hall Meeting, Mock Trial, Debate, Demonstration, Simulation, Film Screening, Expert/Practitioner Q & A, Performance Art, Audience Participation. For a complete listing of Innovative Panels, please see pg 11 in the program!

Working Groups

Working Groups serve as a forum for dialogue & interaction around designated issue areas at the Annual Convention. Participants discuss thought-provoking issues surrounding a given theme through an extended and focused dialogue with their Working Group colleagues. For more information, please visit https://www.isanet.org/Conferences/Special-Convention-Programs/Working-Groups

Virtual Engagement

The Ad Hoc Committee on Virtual Engagement is charged with exploring the costs and benefits of undertaking an initiative to provide significant new opportunities for virtual engagement through ISA. For a complete listing of Virtual Engagement Panels, please see pg 11 in the program!
Be sure to check out all that the exhibit hall has to offer!

**Headshot Lounge**

In honor of the 2019 Convention in Toronto, Canada - Tourism Toronto is providing free professional headshots! It is first come, first served so be sure to get there early!

**Exhibitors**

Check out books, network and meet with the over 65 exhibitors that will be located in the hall!

**Cyber Cafe**

Visit the cyber cafe to hang out and use the free wifi in the cyber cafe! Each day the password will be different - but will be located at the back of the exhibit hall in the cafe itself!

**Backyard area**

Academia is rigorous, and Conventions can be tiring. Come hang out in the Back Yard and enjoy outdoor games, puzzles and other activities to unwind!
**Early Career Scholar Reception**

The Early Career Scholar Reception is by far one of the best parties at the annual Convention. This is a great opportunity to connect with scholars from around the world. Bring your drink coupon if you were part of the Junior Scholar Symposium and a big smile! We’ll have some snacks and a cash bar will be available for those without coupons. The ECS Reception will be held on Thursday of the Convention from 8:15-9:00pm in Yosemite A of the Hilton San Francisco Union Square.

You can find a complete list of all receptions in program beginning on pg 30

**Early Career Scholar Lounge**

The Early Career Scholar Lounge is a drop in space for Early Career Scholars to prep, recharge, and meet peers. WiFi will be available in this space. Sponsorship will be marketed through the printed program, digital signage, and on social media at the Convention.

**Tranquility Room**

ISA is providing a small, quiet space for peace and reflection during the convention. The Tranquility room is located in the Executive Board room at the Hilton. Hours are 7am to 6pm daily. Take a break from the hustle and bustle of the convention floor but, please, no cell phones or electronic devices.

**Presidential Address by 2018-2019 ISA President Patrick James**

Please join us for the inaugural address of 2018-2019 ISA President Patrick James, followed by the ISA Presidential Reception. The Presidential Address will take place on the Thursday of the Convention in Continental 5, Hilton SanFrancisco Union Square.
Keep In Touch!

Post-Convention things to check out...

**Free access to our Journals**
ISA publishes seven academic journals and the Oxford Research Encyclopedia 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!
https://www.isanet.org/Programs/Awards

**Research Workshop**
Grants for Toronto 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: https://www.isanet.org/Programs/Grants/Workshop-Grants

**Professional Resource Center**
https://www.isanet.org/Programs/PRC

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

![Instagram](https://www.isanet.org/Programs/Awards)
![Facebook](https://www.isanet.org/Programs/Awards)
![Twitter](https://www.isanet.org/Programs/Awards)
![LinkedIn](https://www.isanet.org/Programs/Awards)

@intlstudiesassociation  @isanet  International Studies Association

*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 seven 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.*
Scavenger Hunt!

This scavenger hunt is brought to you by ISA Headquarters. Complete one or any of the tasks below and enter into a raffle to receive a free registration for the 2019 ISA Annual Convention in Toronto! You are only required to complete one of the tasks, but the more you complete, the more entries you have and the greater likelihood of having your name chosen for the registration!

Take a selfie with the following and post on either Facebook, Twitter or Instagram (handles on previous page) and TAG ISA.

- In front of FIVE exhibitor booths
- In the Early Career Scholar Lounge
- Playing a game at the Backyard spot
- Paying a visit to the Headquarters Staff at the Registration desk
  - ISA logo
- A Blue Coat (an important member of the hotel, wearing a BLUE sport jacket or blazer)
- Staff at the San Francisco Union Square or Parc 55
- An ISA Promotional sign around San Francisco
  - A trolly
  - The Business Meeting
  - An ISA Award winner
- Someone in the ISA leadership
- Attending the Presidential Reception
  - Meeting someone new
- At a panel you are presenting at
- At a panel you are attending
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 https://www.isanet.org/ISA/Governance/ExComm for the list of current members of the Executive Committee.

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