



SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ART AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (STAIR) SECTION *2015 ANNUAL REPORT*

FULL REPORT

2015-17 Section Co-Chairs:

Michele Acuto, University College London – m.acuto@ucl.ac.uk

Maximilian Mayer, Tongji University - maximilian_mayer@tongji.edu.cn

(2014-15 Section Chair: J. P. Singh, George Mason University)

2014-16 Section Vice-Chair

Anna Agathangelou, York University - agathang@yorku.ca

2015-17 Program Chairs:

David Hornsby, University of Witwatersrand - david.hornsby@wits.ac.za

Madeline Carr, University of Cardiff - madeline.carr@aber.ac.uk

2014-16 Section Treasurer

Asif Nawaz, Kansas State University - asif@ksu.edu

2015-17 Section Communications Officer

Sarah Logan, Australian National University - sarah.logan@anu.edu.au

(Full list of STAIR officers on the last page)

At its second year of operations, and after its first official appearance on the ISA program, the **Science, Technology, Art and International Relations (STAIR) Section** is growing in numbers and presence in the Association, with burgeoning collaborations with other sections. The Section continues to generate enthusiasm within and outside of ISA, and has reaffirmed at its first governing board its goal to both deepen the study of STAIR issues and also to broaden their scope by attracting members from outside of the ISA.

MEMBERSHIP

By November 2015, the STAIR Section had 174 members from 116 members one year before (an increase of 50% well above any comparable section). The Section had a positive balance of \$1,794 from \$681 in November 2014 (an increase of 163%). The section membership compares well with other sections that started two years ago or other small sections that are more than two years old (see table below).

Many of the STAIR officers have continued reaching out to other interdisciplinary science, technology and arts organizations already. These include the American Association for the Advancement of Science

(AAAS), the Policy Studies Association (PSO), and the Society for Social Studies of Science (4S). A joint roundtable and reception was held at ISA 2015 with PSO (see below) and a similar panel will take place with AAAS at ISA 2016. Plans for a set of joint panels with 4S at the next annual convention, as well as formal accreditation as cooperating organization, are underway. STAIR Section Program co-Chair David Hornsby was also elected as At-Large Representative at the 2017-2018 ISA Governing Council Officer Election.

Section name	Nov. 2014 Members	Nov. 2015 Members	% increase
STAIR	116	174	50.0
Religion and IR (chartered 2012)	216	245	13.4
Global Health (chartered 2012)	117	120	2.6
Historical IR (chartered 2012)	303	342	12.9
Political Demography & Geography (Chartered 2009)	126	125	-0.8
English School (chartered before 2005)	177	184	4.0
International Communication (chartered before 2005)	188	195	3.7
International Education (chartered before 2005)	104	101	-2.9

ISA 2016 PROGRAM

Former STAIR Officers and Section Program Chairs-elect Dr David Hornsby (University of Witwatersrand) and Dr Madeline Carr (University of Cardiff) led the STAIR effort in reviewing a vast variety of submissions and compiling the ISA 2016 program for STAIR.

Overall STAIR received 43 first choice papers submitted, 11 Panels and 5 Roundtables for ISA 2016. Of these and in collaboration with other sections, STAIR was able to sponsor/co-sponsor 38 panels, with a substantial increase from the 27 in 2015. Only one of these panels was solely sponsored by STAIR, which speaks to the continued collegiality and generosity in other ISA sections. As a new section, we are grateful for the support of colleagues in several other sister sections like IPS or Theory. Considering imperatives related to diversity and gender representation we are pleased that STAIR has lined up *no all male panels* for 2016 (prior to any last minute withdrawal), and over 30% of panels directly submitted to STAIR and accepted into the program have a non-western element. STAIR attained its target of placing over 50% of individuals papers into panels constructed by the program chairs. Gender and geographical balance were recognized throughout, from the executive board at ISA 2015 across the process of paper/panel selection, as a critical feature for the section and we aim at enhancing these further with initiatives in 2016 and 2017.

In the spirit of collaboration with other sections, STAIR has organized for its annual reception to be held jointly with the International Political Sociology (IPS) section, with further sponsoring from MIT Press and its *Leonardo* journal. As described by MIT Press: "*Leonardo* is the leading international peer-reviewed journal on the use of contemporary science and technology in the arts and music and, increasingly, the application and influence of the arts and humanities on science and technology". Further expression of interests from other publishers and universities have been expressed throughout the year, testifying to the growing interest in STAIR by non-members.

2015 STAIR WORKING GROUP

ISA selected STAIR's proposal for a Working Group at the 2015 Annual Convention, which was held on the day prior to the convention with over 22 participants from universities all over the world. The Working Group was titled "Worldviews in Science, Technology and Art in International Relations" and allowed for a open, colloquial and productive venue where to both exchange ideas on the current state of IR research on science, technology and art, but also where to further shape the direction of STAIR themes and approaches. Former section chair JP Singh organized the effort and led the discussions on the day. STAIR Officers Madeline Carr and Renee Marlin-Bennett served as member of the selection committee for the Working Group, and joined JP Singh in editing the forthcoming volume (by Routledge) gathering contributions at the workshop.

2015 COLLABORATION WITH THE POLICY STUDIES ORGANIZATION

In 2015 the Policy Studies Organisation (PSO) generously allocated several resources to STAIR for the kick off of the section. 2014-15 section Chair JP Singh's has close association with PSO activities and brokered a set of key collaborations during 2014-15:

Panels for PSO's "Du Pont Summit on Science, Technology and Environmental Policy." STAIR co-sponsored two panels at the annual Du Pont Summit on Science, Technology and Environmental Policy.

PSO is sponsoring the Section's first reception at the upcoming annual convention 7:30 PM. February 20, 2015

PSO allocated its one panel, on "science diplomacy" at the ISA Convention to STAIR members.

Journal: *Arts in International Affairs*. The online journal, published through the Policy Studies Organization, whilst not formally affiliated with STAIR because of ISA policy on journals, has been launched in 2015 as peer-reviewed open access academic journal on an online platform, with JP Singh as Editor-in-Chief. See <http://www.ipsonet.org/publications/open-access/aia>

SECTION BACKGROUND

STAIR was chartered at the March 2014 Governing Council Meeting of the International Studies Association. The rationale for the section is summarized in the first paragraph of the Section's Charter:

"Science, technology, and design are at the core of global politics. They now shape much of the everyday reality of international security, statecraft, development, design of cutting-edge military ware, and global governance. Science, technology and design or art (i.e., in the form of cultural industries, computer software and videogames, architecture of spaces and urban flows) permeate international affairs in the form of material elements and networks, technical instruments, systems of knowledge and scientific practices, to the extent that they challenge most existing conceptual approaches. Yet, IR as a discipline and field has sporadically engaged these matters, or only in existing subsections that rarely communicate with each other. Therefore, we are still lacking in systematic theoretical understandings how we go about creating, assessing, and deliberating scientific, technological and artistic design and their impact on the shifts of contemporary world order. To use a methodological metaphor, science, technology and arts are held constant by most IR models."

SECTION AT-LARGE OFFICERS (FULL LIST)

J. P. Singh, Former Section Chair & Member at Large
February 2015 - February 2017
George Mason University

Rocco Bellanova, Member at Large
April 2014 - March 2016
Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO)

Christian Bueger, Member at Large
April 2014 - March 2016
Cardiff University

Jairus Grove, Member at Large
April 2014 - March 2016
University of Hawaii at Manoa

Alison Howell, Member at Large
April 2014 - March 2016
Rutgers University, Newark

Arthur Imperial, Member at Large
April 2014 - March 2016
York University

Alejandra Kern, Member at Large
April 2014 - March 2016
Universidad Nacional de San Martin

Emily Hannah Merson, Member at Large
April 2014 - March 2016
York University

Renee Marlin-Bennett, Member at Large
April 2014 - March 2016
Johns Hopkins University

Peer Schouten, Member at Large
April 2014 - March 2016
University of Copenhagen