

**Charter of the Science, Technology, Art/Creativity and International Relations  
(STAIR) section of the International Studies Association (ISA)**

**(Draft December 17, 2013)**

**Art.I: Name.**

This section is known as the Science, Technology, Art/Creativity and International Relations (abbreviated in “STAIR”) section of the International Studies Association.

**Art.II: Affiliation.**

STAIR is one of the recognized Sections of the International Studies Association (henceforth “ISA”), and as such subscribes to its purposes and activities.

**Art.III: Aims.**

The aim of STAIR is to systematize, enhance and substantiate a cross-disciplinary discourse on the pervasiveness of science, art/creativity, and technology in international affairs. STAIR aims at fostering a conversation between different approaches and empirical fields engaging with issues of science, technology and art across ISA in order to promote theoretical debates and push ISA members towards innovative thematic and methodological avenues to inquire, understand and explain related processes, dynamics, actors, and institutions.

**Art.IV: Relationships.**

STAIR will encourage cooperative relations across the ISA membership and with other professional organizations in order to achieve the aims outlined above. STAIR aims at reinforcing the broader landscape of IR research on science, technology and art, and thus seeks not to centralize these debates and agendas but rather collaborate with other sections and professional organizations. STAIR aims at formalizing interdisciplinary bridges to link ISA with other expert communities both in social and natural sciences or engineering.

**Art.V: Membership.**

1. Any ISA member sharing the purposes of this section may become a member of STAIR upon payment of whatever dues shall be established.
2. Members are entitled to attend the Annual General Meeting, are eligible for nomination to elective office, may nominate and vote for officers, sponsor and vote on amendments to this charter, participate in STAIR activities.
3. STAIR aims at inviting additional members to the ISA (especially from STS, history, anthropology and geography) and bringing leading scholars from other disciplines to panels and workshop at the ISA conventions and other ISA-related events.

**Art.VI: Annual General Meeting.**

The Annual General Meeting of STAIR members is held in conjunction with the ISA Annual Convention. The meeting conducts the business of the section and carries out any other activity consistent with the purposes of the section.

**Art.VII: Executive Committee.**

The Executive Committee of STAIR consists of: a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Programme Chair, Treasurer, Communications Officer, and Members at large. The Treasurer or the Communications Officer may also take on the role of Secretary,

responsible for taking and reporting minutes of the annual general meeting and other Executive Committee meeting conducting the business of the section.

The duties of Executive Committee members are as follows:

- The Chairperson calls meetings and presides at them, coordinates section activities, acts as liaison with the ISA and is the official spokesperson of STAIR unless the Executive Committee determines otherwise. Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson are responsible for preparing and presenting the annual report at the annual general meeting in collaboration with other Executive Committee officers.
- The Vice-Chairperson and the Programme Chair are responsible for organizing STAIR-sponsored panels at the ISA annual convention in agreement with the Chairperson. The Vice-Chairperson is to act as temporary Chairperson should the latter be incapacitated or due to an agreed exemption by the Executive Committee.
- The Treasurer is responsible for raising funds and approving their expenditure in consultation with the Chairperson, keeping accurate financial records, and for drawing up an annual balance sheet to be circulated ahead of, and approved at, the annual general meeting.
- The Communications Officer shall be responsible for outreach, cross-ISA communications and links with other professional bodies in collaboration with other officers.
- The Members at large can include senior and junior (including graduate students) scholars who support the section development by building personal and institutional bridges between ISA and other professional organizations; take over responsibility in the selection process for awards (i.e., annual book award) issued by STAIR.

The Executive Committee sets rules and agenda for STAIR and for the annual general meeting, conduct the business of the section at times between the meetings, and administers the section's programme at the ISA annual convention. Its duties are to review the annual budget, set membership dues, and consider the overall policy of the section, including ideas for panels and other relevant activities. The Executive Committee recognizes that the Section has a responsibility to prepare an annual report for the ISA Governing Council.

#### **Art.VIII: Elections to Office.**

Elections to office at STAIR are conducted in the following manner:

1. Officers are elected by the STAIR members.
2. Nominations for office come from members following the call for nominations by the Executive Committee and can be submitted electronically to the Executive Committee eight weeks in advance of the annual general meeting.
3. The Executive Committee presents to the membership by e-mail the names of one or more nominees for each vacant position at least six weeks prior to the annual general meeting.
4. Additional nominations sponsored by at least ten (10) members may be made at the annual general meeting and shall be eligible for election.
5. Elections will be held electronically over an officially prior announced period of two weeks before the annual general meeting. During this period, members will be able to vote (i) by email, received by the Executive Committee or (ii) using the ISA provided electronic voting system.
6. Officers shall serve for a term of two years in their designated positions.
7. If one of the officers resigns or is indisposed before the end of his or her term of office,

the Executive Committee shall designate a replacement to act until the next annual general meeting, when an election for that office will take place.

**Art.IX: Advisory Board.**

An Advisory Board comprised of fifteen (15) scholars with a recognized expertise in the role of science, technology and art/creativity in international and domestic affairs supports STAIR. The Executive Committee invites members of the advisory board for a 3 years term. The Advisory Board shall be a resource for the Executive Committee seeking support and advice in developing and promoting section activities. Members of the Advisory Board may propose section activities and are invited to participate in workshops organized by the section.

**Art.X: Amendments.**

Amendments to this charter may be proposed by the Executive Committee, or by petition of at least ten (10) members of STAIR. Members are to be informed of proposed amendments electronically and at least two (2) weeks ahead of the annual general meeting. Amendments are considered at the annual general meeting and adopted if approved by two-thirds of the members present and voting.