

Dear STAIR members,

I hope this finds all of you well.

As those of you who attended the section meeting in Baltimore are aware, a new team has been elected to the STAIR executive committee. Our Section Chair is now Claudia Aradau, alongside Aida Hozic as Programme Chair, Rocco Bellanova as Treasurer, and Jonathan Luke Austin as Communications Officer. We are also privileged to have a magnificent group of members at large from around the STAIR community who will support our work going forward.

We are all very excited to work on building-up STAIR, furthering the excellent work of the previous teams, and moving into new ventures that will expand the reach and scope of STAIR in novel directions. Indeed, we consider STAIR to have great and very exciting potential as it continues to grow in membership, interest, and wider relevance for IR. In this newsletter we would like to brief you on the upcoming initiatives of STAIR, as well as other matters of relevance to the section.

1. Website:

STAIR has a new website that will be used for news dissemination, broader communication beyond the mailing list, sharing of materials of relevance to STAIR members (syllabi, open access books, journal lists, etc.) and developing a repository of relevant resources and initiatives.

The address for the website is: <https://stairisa.wordpress.com>.

Thanks to Jonathan Austin, STAIR Communications Officer, for creating and populating the website with content. If you would like to add new content to the website (news, syllabi, texts, etc.), please email it directly to stairisaexec@gmail.com.

2. ISA 2018 San Francisco

As you know, the deadline for panel and paper submissions to ISA 2018 is coming up this June 1st. We would like to take this opportunity to encourage our members to select STAIR as their primary or secondary choice for panel and paper submissions. A call for papers is attached. Our ability to create a panel showcasing the innovative and path-breaking work ongoing by STAIR members rests on the number of submissions that select the section when submitting!

In addition, if you are setting up a panel of relevance to the members of STAIR and would like us to circulate a call for papers, please email to the call to stairisaexec@gmail.com. We will then circulate the call to our membership as soon as possible.

Also with direct regard to ISA 2018 please note:

2.1 Innovative STAIR panels and 'alternative' San Francisco 2018

Given the ethos and mission of STAIR, we are committed to expanding the range of possible presentation, research dissemination, and opportunities to share ideas at ISA. We would thus like to ask our members to please send us ideas for alternative panels and events for San Francisco 2018. These can be panels in collaboration with activists (we will endeavor to convince ISA to waive the fees for activists), professional development panels or other activities around 'non-traditional' outputs.

Please do send any ideas to the programme chair as soon as possible. We will be happy to discuss them and help in any way we can.

2.2 Travel Grant sponsorship

If you plan to apply for a travel grant during ISA 2018, are a STAIR member and hope to present work relevant to the section, please send a message to stairisaexec@gmail.com with the title 'Travel

Grant', and we will endeavor to assist you in receiving a grant.

2.3 Bulletin Board for Sharing ISA Travel Costs

Travel costs to ISA are often an issue, particularly for graduate students, early career scholars, and scholars from the global south. In an effort to assist with this, we will soon be establishing a bulletin board system on the new stair website (stairisa.com/bb) where scholars planning to attend ISA who have booked a form of shared accommodation (double hotel room, rented house, etc.) can search for fellow attendees to share rooms and/or apartments etc. We will remind members of this possibility prior to each main ISA convention, and welcome posts as per the instructions on the website.

3. Newsletter/Emails/Twitter

The STAIR Twitter account is @STAIRISA, please follow us!

We will also now began compiling a regular newsletter for members, including news of relevance to the section (initiatives, calls for papers, etc.). If you would like something to be included in the next mailing list please send a message to stairisaexec@gmail.com. Our goal is to group these news items to avoid flooding your message boxes!

4. Graduate Student Members-at-Large Positions

We propose creating to members-at-large positions to be filled by graduate students on the STAIR committee. These posts would expand the diversity of the board and help us in understanding and engaging more closely with the concerns and challenges faced by young scholars in the field.

Please send nominations and/or self-nominations, with the CV of the candidate and a brief statement of interest, directly to stairisaexec@gmail.com.

5. New STAIR Book award and Graduate Paper Award

To celebrate work that is being published at the intersection of Science and Technology Studies and IR, art practice and aesthetics and IR, we propose to introduce a STAIR book award starting with our meeting in ISA San Francisco. The prize will be awarded by an ad-hoc committee of STAIR members-at-large, who will consider books of relevance to STAIR published in the last three years, and the winner will receive a plaque and a \$250 prize. We encourage nominations via stairisaexec@gmail.com, on a rolling basis.

We would also like to recognize the innovative contributions made by graduate students by awarding a prize for the best graduate paper presented at the annual conventions. Papers can be nominated by panel chairs or discussants, again via stairisaexec@gmail.com, by providing a copy of the paper and statement of support.

We look forward to seeing everyone in San Francisco and with best wishes,

The STAIR Team