

Dear ISA Human Rights section members:

As chair of the section, I am writing with an update following our business meeting at the annual conference in New York. A detailed set of notes follows below for those interested in all business matters, including sponsors, awards, and election results.

There are really a few key items on which I am seeking input from the membership. As reflected in the extended notes below, we are trying to think strategically about how best to proceed as a section now that we are a few years old and have a robust membership and finances. This may include activities that increase our profile and networks within ISA, or outside ISA, or both (and some activities already underway that do both). To that end, we wanted to discuss the following possibilities:

1. Within ISA: promoting further collaboration with other relevant sections, which might include IL, IO, International Ethics, and Feminist Theory. This could be done through developing panels for the annual conference collaboratively (rather than only horse-trading after panel proposals are in). It could also be done, if there is interest, through developing a workshop proposal in tandem with another section.
2. Within ISA: we could as a section seek to develop a workshop proposal to ISA. For either this or a collaborative workshop we would need active volunteerism on the part of the membership beyond the excomm to make it work.
3. Within ISA: a book award. This is as we discussed a great deal of work, so again we would need active volunteerism on the part of the membership beyond the excomm to make it work. This would include volunteering to be on committees that would actually read the books nominated.
4. Outside ISA: engagement with like sections in other organizations. We have this with APSA, AAAS, and are looking to start it with IPSA. Other possibilities that have been suggested include BISA, Council of European Studies, ASIL, and ILA. Other suggestions welcome, as well as volunteers to help build those bridges.

What I need from you the members is your views as to what you would like to prioritize (or alternately what you see as unnecessary), and if you would like to see us go forward, please also think about what you can contribute.

**Chandra Sriram
Chair, Human Rights-ISA**

ISA-HR Section business meeting agenda and notes New York, NY 17 February 2009

Ordinarily we would end on the high point, giving out the awards that the section has to offer. However, we know that one awardee has an early flight, and will have to leave the meeting early. Therefore I will start with sponsorship and awards.

- **Sponsorship: awards and the reception**
 - We are grateful as always to the *Journal of Human Rights* for its support and sponsorship of two paper awards: the Stephen C Poe best graduate student paper award, and the best faculty/professional paper award; it also offers the possibility of publication to the latter paper. Both awards include \$100 cash and a year's membership in the section, and the winner of the Poe award can claim back up to \$300 for travel costs for the next year's ISA. I should note as well that the journal is available to section members at a discounted rate—just \$35 for members. We have the editor of the journal, Rich Hiskes, here with us today.
 - We are grateful to a new sponsor this year, Oxford University Press Journals, which is sponsoring two items on behalf of two distinct journals. First, in the name of the *International Journal of Transitional Justice*, it provided funds to help support our annual joint reception last night. I should mention that Nahla Valji, editor of that journal, is with us if anyone wants to talk to her. Second, on behalf of its new journal, the *Journal of Human Rights Practice*, it has sponsored a travel grant for a scholar from the developing world presenting a paper in a Human Rights section-sponsored panel.
 - And last but not least, we would like to thank another new sponsor, Johns Hopkins University Press, which also provided funds to our reception, on behalf of *Human Rights Quarterly*.
 - And with regard to the reception, I want to offer particular thanks to my vice chair Sylvia Maier, who on behalf of us and ENMISA handled the thankless task of managing to organize a reception with very good food, notwithstanding the sky-high prices being charged here. So, thanks to Sylvia, who unfortunately isn't here because she is chairing a roundtable on frontiers of humanitarian action which we are sponsoring!

I would like to express my sincere gratitude on behalf of the section to these sponsors.

- **Awards presentations**
 - Stephen C Poe best graduate student paper award, for a paper presented in an HR-sponsored panel at the 2008 annual convention. This was decided by a committee of three: Clair Apodaca (chair), Amy Ross, and Lyn Graybill. The winning paper was: Mark Massoud of UC-Berkeley, entitled "Legal Development and Human rights in a Divided Society". I regret to inform you that he is unable to attend the conference this year. I thank the committee for their hard work.
 - Best faculty/professional paper award, also for a paper presented in an HR-sponsored panel at the 2008 convention. This was also decided by a

committee of three: Daniel Whelan (chair), Bethany Barratt, and Carolyn Shaw. The winning paper was: Thomas W. Smith of the University of South Florida, entitled "Can Human Rights Build a Better War?". Daniel will present the award. I thank the committee for their hard work.

- OUP Journals travel grant award. The committee was Kurt Mills, Tristan Ann Borer, and me. As chair of the committee I am pleased to announce that the winner is Guilherme M. Dias of the LaSalle University in Brazil, and he is presenting a paper in this years conference on "The responsibility to protect: Rethinking the relation between sovereignty and humanitarian intervention".

- **Report from Governing Council meeting**

- Elections: President, David Lake; Vice President, Didier Bigo
- Membership is up, over 5000, with 35% from outside the US
- An additional journal added – *International Interactions*
- Recognition of limitations of venue—space limits meant fewer panels this year than last, so a higher rejection rate, and some costs unacceptably high
- Still convention has listed 4718 participants and 963 panels. 68% pf papers were accepted and 75% of panels. Human rights collaborated well with other sections to co-sponsor, and has 47 panels it sponsored or co-sponsored.
- We owe a big thank you to Amy Ross for the huge amount of work and negotiation this entailed!
- Finances of the organization are healthy, with about a half million surplus, although uncertainty given global economic downturn
- Renewal of contract with University of Arizona to host HQ for another 5 years (2010-15) and Tom Volgy as Executive Director
- Pilot project coordinated by Carolyn Shaw, of Working Groups, in which attendees would follow a number of panels and engage in focused discussions. We are participating and contributed \$200 to the experiment. We will know more about how this worked after its done.
- Future meetings: 2010 New Orleans; 2011, Montreal; 2012 San Diego; 2013 San Francisco; 2014, Toronto; 2015, New Orleans; 2016, Atlanta; 2017, Baltimore; 2018, open; 2019, Toronto.
- ISA takeover of or support to several new journals proposed: [discuss if any approved]

- **Section membership numbers:** we are now at 305 members, a fairly robust number for a new section
- **Section financials.** Our finances are healthy, thanks to a good sized membership, and generous sponsors covering the costs I have already noted. Our current balance is \$3092, following a starting balance for the fiscal year of 2188, although we have yet to be charged for our share of the reception.
- **APSA collaboration**

I am pleased to inform you that we have, with the approval of our executive committee, been in discussions with the APSA Human Rights section about bolstering our collaborations. We are exploring avenues for more sustained collaboration, but in the first instance we discussed having a small collaborative workshop on a targeted human rights topic, with an eye to getting an annual event going. Given the challenges of

starting something like this up anew, we are looking at summer 2010 for the first one, and more details will be coming. However, the topic chosen after much discussion in both sections' executives is human rights after September 11th. And the venue for the first year will be Chicago, with Roosevelt University, and particularly Bethany Barratt, coordinating and providing room facilities. We are looking at an event which would run over 2 days, with about 40 paper presenters (and a small additional set of participants). Topics and venues would change in future years if this should prove a success. There should shortly be a proper early announcement with more detail. We have agreed that the original liaison persons—myself, our vice chair Sylvia Maier, and Bethany Barratt, who is on the executive of both ISA and APSA sections, along with the head of the APSA section Lilian Barria and 1 other APSA member, will liaise in the development of a call for papers, eventual selection of participants, etc. The planned first announcement is:

The Executive Council of the ISA Human Rights Section and the Steering Committee of the APSA Human Rights Section announce their first joint Conference, "Human rights nine years after 9/11," to take place in the summer 2010 at Roosevelt University in Chicago, Illinois, USA. Specific dates as well as a Call for Proposals are forthcoming.

At the meeting, a suggestion was made that we might collaborate with relevant members of IPSA on this as well, and I am following up on this with APSA-HR to gauge their interest first.

- **Scholars at Risk** [Alison Brysk]
 - Thanks to the hard work of Alison, the question of a Scholars at Risk policy for the whole of ISA was on the agenda for the Professional Rights and Responsibilities of the ISA Governing Council. They proposed a policy and the creation of a standing committee to the GC. This was approved, and pending some small revisions to language ISA now has an official policy on this. I have strongly urged that the standing committee include representation from our section, hopefully Alison.
- **Section elections** [Eric Leonard to announce]
 - Chair: Sylvia Maier; At-Large Positions: James O'Higgins-Norman and Carrie Booth Walling
 - Daniel Hendrix and Clair Apodaca are rotating off as at large after two years of great service. Thank you!
 - Also, Clair Apodaca has kindly agreed to be our section's new program chair. Thanks for that!
 - On a non-election but related issue, Julie Mertus has kindly been our representative to the Human Rights committee of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, but needs to step down due to time constraints. I am hoping we can get a new volunteer—the meetings all take place in Washington, so it needs to be someone local, and as I understand it there are meetings every few months. Julie can explain more.
- **Compendium:** The HR sections is coming along—we have confirmed authors for all 21 essays, drafts of the majority, and some have gone through first review and revision. The goal of the compendium project is to do a first paper version of all the fully completed essays which have been processed by the end of March. This will not include all of our essays, but we are in better shape than some other sections, and the online versions and subsequent paper editions will include more

as they come. A reminder to everyone, please, to keep things moving on your own entries, or as a reviewer. Overall the Compendium project is also coming along—about 265 first drafts are in of the 350 assigned.

- Website: reminder that it is: <http://web.mac.com/vicfalls/HR-ISA/HR-ISA.html>. This was started by Kurt Mills for the section, and he has kindly agreed to continue to maintain it for the time being.
- H-Human rights representation on ISA-HR section excomm

ISA-HR members (Kurt etc) initiated and maintain the H-Human Rights listserv, which regularly circulates notifications of CfPs, events, and book reviews. The listserv has been a success, with over 700 subscribers now and a great deal of useful information being circulated. Currently there is overlap between membership of the editorial board and our section Excomm, but that might not be the case in the foreseeable future. We have discussed this amongst the editorial board and the Excomm, and have agreed that there should be a spot on the HR-ISA excomm for the lead editor of H-Human Rights, with voting rights.

We need as a section to vote on whether to amend Article IV of our charter a discussion of Officers to add on the end:

“The Lead Editor of H-Human-Rights shall serve on the Executive Committee for the duration of their term as Lead Editor.” APPROVED.

- Further expansion and engagement, including possibilities of coordinating with other like-minded orgs, and possibility of getting support for an intern to work with H-HR book review editor. Approaches to be made for:
 - Engagement with other ISA sections in preparing panel proposals and possibly a workshop proposal: IL, Feminist Theory, and International Ethics seem likely candidates
 - Approaching our membership about putting together an HR-section workshop proposal
 - Engaging with other professional bodies—ASIL, ESIL, BISA, etc
- AOB?