



# Demystifying the ISA submission process



A webinar hosted by the ISA-ESS Outreach  
committee

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# Who we are



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The ISA-ESS Outreach committee 2021/22

# The International Studies Association

- One of the oldest interdisciplinary associations dedicated to understanding international, transnational and global affairs
- Origins (1959) & Executive Offices in the United States
- Today > 7000 members from over 100 countries
- Annual Convention + regional conferences
- Organized in 29 thematic sections

# ISA Sections (selected)

- Diplomatic Studies Section
- Environmental Studies Section
- Global Development Studies Section
- International Organization Section
- International Political Economy Section
- Etc. – see full overview at [www.isanet.org/ISA/Sections](http://www.isanet.org/ISA/Sections)

# Environmental Studies Section

- ESS seeks a better understanding of feedbacks between human and natural systems within global, regional, and national contexts
- ESS supports innovative research, theoretical diversity, interdisciplinary perspectives, and the application of a wide array of methodologies for analyzing international environmental issues and global environmental governance
- Section offers newsletters, awards, career resources, ...
  - But most of all: networking 😊
- Website: [environmental-studies.org](http://environmental-studies.org); @ESS\_of\_ISA



# What happens to my ISA submission?

- The program is curated by program chairs and section (program) chairs
- Each submission needs to select a first priority and second priority section (out of the 29 + the conference theme)
- Tiered review process
  - First priority submissions
  - 2 weeks later: Second priority submissions
  - 2 weeks later: Papers go into a pool available to all
- Section chairs “sponsor” panels and submit them; program chairs then merge panels together (bit of back-and-forth)
- Possibility that papers on waitlist will still be accepted if others drop out

# Good to know - panels

- Possibility of proposing panels – same process (sponsoring by sections) applies
  - Benefit because you are making the work of the section program chair easier, increasing your chances of ending up on a panel that is relevant to you, creating networking opportunities, and enhancing your CV .
  - If panel rejected, paper might still get selected for another panel.
  - But: only 50% of all spaces allocated to 1 section can be in proposed panels (aim for inclusivity)
- Possibility of dual sponsorship of panels (by 2 sections = counts 0.5 each)
  - Contact section program chairs in advance (usually chair or vice-chair)
  - But quid-pro-quo deals behind the scenes
- Work with panel descriptions to ensure 100% fit with section

# Good to know - panels

- Clearly follow instructions
  - E.g. need to have 5 papers
- How to find like-minded scholars & fitting abstracts?
  - Mailing lists: e.g. GEP-ED
  - Social media, e.g. Twitter (tag @ESS\_of\_ISA and we will retweet!)
  - Personal contacts/cold-emailing
  - Usually nice to have mix of junior and senior scholars, but need to be quick to snag seniors



# Good to know – single submissions

- Make the section program chairs' lives easier in other ways
  - Chairs \*want\* to create coherent panels – use the title, abstract and tags to signal higher-order themes
- Look into previous programs to check out what types of panels the section sponsored
  - Sponsoring section will be named below the title
- Not sure which section you should choose? Find scholars with similar work, see where they were placed
- As with panels, try to ensure section fit w/ keywords

# Good to know - general

- Volunteer to be a chair or discussant!
  - Not that hard (esp. chairing), great for networking, and your CV.
- Alternative options (roundtables, innovative sessions...)
- Junior Scholar Symposium
  - Write paper, present poster, 4 junior scholars + 1 senior scholar
  - Benefits and drawbacks
- But: participation limits:
  - Author limit: 2 (you can appear as author on 2 submitted papers)
  - Overall limits of 4 appearances (as chair, discussant, paper presenter, etc.)
  - If you are chair and discussant on same panel, it counts as 1 appearance

Other tips and tricks from the panel

# Questions?

