

**SIG ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017**

SIG Name: Higher Education	
Chair Name(s): Meggan Madden & Gerardo Blanco-Ramirez	E-Mail Address(es): meggan_madden@gwu.edu & gerardo.blanco@umb.edu

**1. SIG Officers**

*Chair(s):* Meggan Madden  
*Term Begins/Ends:* March 2016 - March 2019  
*Email(s):* meggan\_madden@gwu.edu

*Vice-Chair:* Gerardo Blanco-Ramirez  
*Term Begins/Ends:* March 2017 - March 2020  
*Email:* gerardo.blanco@umb.edu

*Secretary-Treasurer:* Meseret Hailu  
*Term Begins/Ends:* March 2016 - March 2019  
*Email:* mfhailu@gmail.com

Add additional elected officer information if the SIG has more than the required Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary-Treasurer. Please include an explanatory note if Secretary-Treasurer functions are fulfilled by SIG Chairs.

**Program Co-Chairs:**

Co-Chair Christina Yao  
*Term Begins/Ends:* March 2016 - March 2019  
*Email:* cyao@unl.edu

Co-Chair Gustavo Gregorutti  
*Term Begins/Ends:* March 2017 - March 2020  
*Email:* ggregoru@andrews.edu

**2. SIG Proposal Review for CIES Annual Meeting**

*Unit Planner (All Academic):* Christina Yao and Gus Gregorutti  
*Email:* cyao@unl.edu & ggregoru@andrews.edu

- a. Briefly describe the process for selecting your reviewers, reviewing proposals submitted to your SIG, and creating session panels (including your Highlighted Sessions). The HESIG had over 50 reviewers volunteer for the HESIG proposal review. The co-Program Chairs assigned 2 reviewers for individual sessions and 3 reviewers for group sessions in order to ensure rigor without overtaxing volunteers. If there was a conflict

between the reviewers, a third reviewer was assigned. We were contacted by volunteers when there was a conflict of interest and we changed the reviewer when this happened.

The highlighted panel sessions were selected from among the accepted group sessions submitted to the HESIG. Selecting from the group sessions seemed best because group submissions tend to be more cohesive around topics and often have designated chairs or discussants. The HESIG Board members individually selected 3 of the nine sessions that were thought to benefit the entire HESIG as being designated as "highlighted". They submitted their individual votes to the co-Program Chairs who tallied the votes. The 2 session with the highest number of votes were selected.

- b. Please provide suggestions to improve the proposal review process in future years. Clearer instructions for those logging in to the review system for the first time, and clearer instructions on how to create panels. However the instructions for reviewers and the new criteria for review were very successful and well received among our SIG.

### 3. SIG Program Information for CIES Annual Meeting

- a. Briefly describe the process and outcomes of the SIG Program at the Annual Meeting, including SIG Highlighted Sessions.

The HESIG had very success outcomes from the SIG Program at the Annual Meeting. The two SIG Highlighted Sessions were well attended. In addition, we had a HESIG Business Meeting where 47 members attended, including 5 Board members. At the Business Meeting, we honored our awards recipients, reviewed the website, acknowledged the many volunteers who support the SIG, discussed the program for next year, reviewed the budget, and sought feedback from the membership regarding new SIG initiatives. At the end of the Business Meeting we had a networking event where members could have light snacks.

- b. Briefly describe special speakers or symposia affiliated with the SIG at the Annual Meeting, including how the selection for participation was determined. Please attach any related announcements or printed materials in an appendix.

We didn't have any special speakers or symposia, but we plan to have special speakers in Mexico City

- c. Briefly describe outreach activities to the SIG membership. Check all applicable lines below:

*SIG website*      Web address: <http://higheredsig.org/>

*Email updates*      How frequently? once a month  
Which platform? (MailChimp, personal email, etc)? MailChimp

*Newsletter*      How many issues this year? see below  
Who oversees newsletter?

*Other*      Please describe: Journal. Our newsletter has always been a hybrid between a newsletter and a blind peer-reviewed journal, so we've decided to move towards calling it a journal. We publish it three times a year. This year we added an Editor in Chief and Managing Editor to assist with the process.

- d. For the CIES Archives, please attach PDF copies of the following in an appendix:

- SIG website home page
- Newsletters, official emails, or other SIG outreach

#### 4. SIG Activity Beyond CIES Annual Meeting

Please provide a brief list or description of academic or professional events, publications, collaborations, mentoring, or other activities coordinated by the SIG or its members during the past year.

In addition to the Comparative and International Higher Education Journal, which is published three times a year, the HESIG offers opportunities for members to publish in a book series edited by James Jacob. The latest book edited by HESIG members will be published March 2018. We have two chairs for our elected positions so that mentoring of Board members can happen throughout the year.

#### 5. SIG Governance

- a. Did the SIG hold officer elections?  Yes  No

If yes, briefly describe the process and when they were held.

If no, briefly explain why officer elections were not held.

The SIG held online elections in March. A call for nominations for the Program Co-Chair and the SIG Co-Chair was sent in February. We had two candidates for each position. Elections were held online and announced right before the CIES Conference.

- b. Did the SIG hold its Business Meeting at the Annual Meeting?  Yes  No

If yes, attach minutes to this report.

If no, briefly explain why a business meeting was not conducted.

Please see the attached agenda and attendance sheet.

- c. Did the SIG officers hold any other meetings during the year?  Yes  No

If yes, attach minutes to this report.

- d. Please include any reflections about challenges with the governing structure of the SIG, its relationship with the SIG Oversight Committee, or any additional comments.

The larger SIGs, such as ours, should be consulted individually for some of the governing structure changes. The governance structure changes seem to be more relevant for smaller SIGs.

The HESIG has many volunteers as Board members, award nomination reviews, proposal reviewers, regional editors for our Journal and peer reviewers for the Journal. The SIG is healthy and active, and we want to keep it this way. We are concerned that without our direct input into changes, a governance structure could be implemented that would undermine the activity and organizational health of our SIG.

#### 6. SIG Awards

Please complete the following for all awards given by the SIG during the past year:

- Award name: Lifetime Achievement Award
- Award recipient(s): Dr. Ann Austin
- Description of the award (Certificate, monetary prize, etc.)

## Plaque

- a. Award name: Best Dissertation Award
- b. Award recipient(s): Otgonjargal Okhidoi & MICHELLE ELLEN SZABO SUDERMAN
- c. Description of the award (Certificate, monetary prize, etc.)  
Plaque

SIGs are limited to two awards per year, unless approved by the SIG Oversight Committee and CIES Board of Directors. Please describe any additional awards coordinated by the SIG or its members during the past year.

Award name: Best Dissertation Award Honorable Mention

Award recipient: LUCIA BRAJKOVIC

Description of the award: Plaque

Award name: Best Article Award

Award recipient: Gerardo Blanco-Ramirez

Description of the award: Plaque

Award name: Best Book Award

Award recipient: Jung Cheol Shin, Gerry Postiglione, and Futao Huang

Description of the award: Plaque

Award name: Best Book Award Honorable Mention

Award recipients: James Jacob, Stewart Sutin, John Weidman, and John Yeager

Description of the award: Plaque

## 7. SIG Chair Reflections

Please provide any comments, concerns, or suggestions from the SIG to the CIES Board of Directors (attach additional pages if necessary):

We need a better system for understanding our membership's enrollment and how much we have in the budget. Is there any way it could be automated?

## 8. Appendices (Attached in PDF format)

Please provide a list of all appendices included with this annual report—including, but not limited to, SIG business meeting minutes, officer meeting minutes, screenshots of SIG website, newsletters, key email correspondence, and any other official materials produced by the SIG (especially those with SIG or CIES logos).

APPENDIX A: HESIG website home page

APPENDIX B: Comparative and International Higher Education Journal editions

APPENDIX C: Copies of emails to membership

APPENDIX D: Agenda and Attendance Sheet for the HESIG Business Meeting

APPENDIX E: Minutes to select Board member meetings