

NEWS – May 22, 2009

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Dear Friends and Colleagues,

We are happy to provide you with a brief update on our current and planned projects. In particular, we are interested in learning who will be attending the ISA annual convention in New Orleans in February 2010 and might be interested in participating in one of our proposed activities there (see below). Since the deadline for submitting proposals is approaching fast (June 1), please let us know as soon as possible.

Please enjoy the reading!

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**UN Studies panel at ACUNS Annual Meeting in Trinidad.** We will seize the unique opportunity to connect with partners from the Caribbean and discuss UN Studies from a regional perspective. In our panel “The need for UN Studies in the Caribbean”, key local experts will address views on the UN, methods and approaches, teaching techniques and tools. The goal is to offer alternative perspectives, beyond the Northern American / European views: What is different, similar, distinctive? For more information, please [click here](#).

*More issues to be discussed in Trinidad:*

### **1. Our working group's mission and relationship with ACUNS**

We have drafted a more concise formulation of our mission as well as of our special relationship with ACUNS, including possible roads for joint action. Henrike will discuss our proposal with ACUNS BoD members in Trinidad.

### **2. Expanding the knowledge on UN Studies**

We have elaborated on a first project proposal to build a larger UN Studies knowledge base, in close cooperation with / under the leadership of ACUNS. Such an interactive online portal could host relevant information on UN Studies, such as syllabi, research papers, reference and reading material, a future master syllabi, etc. New content will be developed by a small content development team. The draft project plan foresees a one-year development phase, with a functioning online knowledge base containing first high-quality content expected by summer 2010.

For a more detailed description of the project's background, please [click here](#). Henrike will present the idea including a first non-functional visualization of the knowledge base (a so called “mock-up”) to ACUNS BoD members in Trinidad. We will report back on the outcome of these discussions and present a refined outline in mid-June.

**ISA 2010 annual convention.** On May 20, we discussed possible activities at the ISA annual convention in New Orleans, February 17 – 20. We agreed to submit the following proposals:

1. roundtable on how to build bridges between academics and practitioners
2. panel on UN Studies, featuring latest research
3. workshop on innovative ideas and approaches about the UN

For abstracts and more information please visit our portal at:  
<http://www.unstudies.org/twiki/bin/view/Main/ISA2010Panel>

**UNSA website.** As we already mentioned in our previous newsletter, we wish to simplify and add structure to our wiki ([www.unstudies.org](http://www.unstudies.org)), which lacks oversight and usability. We will "downsize" our wiki to serve as UNSA's informal working platform, and make it a collaboration tool as easy as possible. This project will take place over summer.

**Ideas for UNSA contributions to 2010 UNESCO Summer School in Vienna.** At our November meeting in Vienna, Gerhard Budin of the Center for Translation Studies at the University of Vienna suggested to piggyback on the UNESCO 2010 Summer School on diversity management and arrange for workshops and seminars, e.g. on UN Studies and global understanding, global learning and ICT. We have been asked to contribute ideas for workshops, roundtables or other activities – please let us know if you have any ideas. If the **ACUNS annual meeting 2010** happens to take place in Vienna, this would be a good opportunity to arrange for such activities in cooperation with ACUNS.

We will provide you with update information and look forward to hearing your ideas at: <http://www.unstudies.org/twiki/bin/view/Main/SummerSchoolVienna>.

We look forward to hearing your comments and thoughts.

Greetings from Berlin,

Henrike and Julia

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