

Where to... find useful information?

By Jennifer Bansard

You wonder how your fellow academics learned the rules of the game and how everyone is seemingly always aware of obscure conference calls and the latest job openings? Wonder no more, this brief – as part of the ESG early career resources – is here to help!

Let's start with **scholarly associations**: they are communities of researchers sharing a common disciplinary background, research focus, or methodological focus, with some being of global reach while others have a specific geographical focus. The ESG for example is a network of researchers from all around the world that shares a common interest in earth system governance research.

These associations organize regular conferences, workshops, summer schools, and in general bundle a lot of potentially useful information on their websites and spread it through newsletters. Here are a few associations that you might want to look into:

- International Studies Association (<http://www.isanet.org/>)
- European International Studies Association (<http://www.eisa-net.org/eisa-net.org/index.html>)
- European Consortium for Political Research (<https://ecpr.eu/>)
- European Group for Public Administration (<https://egpa.iias-iisa.org/#>)
- European Association for the Study of Science and Technology (<https://easst.net/>)
- Latin American Political Science Association (<http://alacip.org/>)
- Asian Political and International Studies Association (<http://www.apisa.org/>)
- Society for Social Studies of Science (<http://www.4sonline.org/>)
- International Network for Social Network Analysis (<http://www.insna.org/>)

Another important resource are **list servers**. These are mailing lists which you can subscribe to and through which members share information such as conference calls, job openings, latest publications, etc. They too form around a certain topic and some of them are linked to scholarly associations and their subgroups.

[Please note that the number of mails sent through the list servers can be overwhelming, you might need to moderate the influx of information.]

- GEP-ED for Global Environmental Politics, serves the typical list server functions outlined above, and is also used to share useful teaching resources (<https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/gep-ed>)
- SOCNET for social network analysis, also open for members to ask advice when confronted to research related challenges (<http://insna.org/socnet.html>)
- STSGRAD for junior scholars in science and technology studies (<https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/STSGRAD>)

- Climate-L, Biodiversity-L, SDG Knowledge Hub, and other lists maintained by the International Institute for Sustainable Development for policy relevant news in specific issue fields (<http://enb.iisd.org/email/>)

In addition, there are a various other **online resources** that might be useful:

- Twitter to follow updates on academic conferences (see e.g. #ESG2017 or #ISA2018), academic journals (e.g. @GepJournal and @Env_Pol), networks (e.g. @ESG_Project), individual scholars (e.g. @FHBBiermann) or topics (e.g. #AcWri or ECRchat)
- Blogs on topics such as research impact (e.g. LSE Impact Blog) or generally providing advice on how to navigate academia (e.g. <http://www.raulpacheco.org/>; <https://thesiswhisperer.com/>; <http://theprofessorisin.com/>)
- Repositories to access preprints of pay-walled articles: e.g. SSRN (<https://www.ssrn.com/en/>), SocArXiv (<https://socopen.org/>), SSOAR (<https://www.gesis.org/ssoar/home/>), Econstor (<https://www.econstor.eu/>), HAL (<https://hal.archives-ouvertes.fr/>), ResearchGate (<https://www.researchgate.net/>)
- E-learning platforms: to deepen your knowledge about a certain topic or learn a new method (e.g. <https://www.coursera.org/>; <https://www.edx.org/>; <https://iversity.org/>; <https://www.futurelearn.com/>; <https://www.datacamp.com/>)
- Flickr: to search for images under creative commons license that you can use in your presentations (<https://www.flickr.com/>)
- Meetup: to meet scholars and practitioners in your city with similar interests in, e.g. learning how to code in R or Python (<https://www.meetup.com/>)

While the list surely won't ever be exhaustive, we intend to make this a "living document" which we regularly update. If you have useful resources you want to share with the community, please email me at jennifer.bansard@uni-potsdam.de

Your input is much appreciated!