The Global Development Studies (GDS) Section is excited to report several significant achievements over this year (2017). We are very pleased to report on the following:

**GDS EMINENT SCHOLAR PANEL:**

The GDS is extremely proud to honour Professor Vijay Prashad as our Eminent Scholar in San Francisco in 2018. Professor Prashad’s contributions to thinking about the Third World project and politics, and development in the Global South are outstanding. He is one of the leading contemporary public intellectuals and his book, *The Darker Nations*, is now a classic in studies of politics of the Third World and the Global South. He has long been an intellectual collaborator and often also mentor to many members of the section and it is our privilege to recognise his important contributions. We are very grateful to Professor Prashad for accepting our invitation and for participating in the roundtable devoted to honouring his scholarship and leadership.

*The GDS Section Reception will follow after the Eminent Scholar Roundtable.*

**THE GDS SECTION GRADUATE PAPER AWARD, SAN FRANCISCO, 2018**

The GDS Section approved the establishment of a Graduate Paper Award in 2014. The second winner of the GDS Graduate Paper Award in 2017 was Ida Danewid for a paper titled, “A Drowned Memory Space: White Innocence and the Politics of Mourning in the Black Mediterranean”.

The winner of this year’s prize will be announced at the Global Development Section reception in San Francisco.

We would like to register our thanks to the members of the Essay Award Committee for all their efforts. We would also like to thank the GDS Graduate Paper Prize Awards Committee (Chair Heloise Weber, Althea-Maria Riva, Clive Gabay, and Samid Suliman).

**THE GDS SECTION BOOK AWARD, SAN FRANCISCO, 2018**

The first winner of the GDS Book Award will be announced at the GDS reception in San Francisco.

We would like to register our thanks to the members of the GDS Book Awards Committee (Chair Roni Kay O’Dell, Isaac Kamola, Olivia Umurerwa Rutazibwa, and Mariam Georgis) for all their efforts.

**THE GDS Roundtable, San Francisco, 2018**
The GDS Section decided to take-up an innovative idea of one of our Graduate Student members to establish the GDS Section Roundtable as an annual event, commencing with the 2016 convention. The purpose of this Roundtable is to bring together senior and early career researchers to discuss a specific theme of interest to the section and its members. The inaugural Roundtable in 2016 focused on the theme of ‘development’. The Roundtable will continue in Baltimore and it will focus on Colonialism, Debt, and Reparations. The third GDS Roundtable in San Francisco is titled, ‘No Justice, No Peace: Development in the Age of Far-Right Resurgence’.

We would like to register our thanks to Lisa Tilley (University of Warwick, UK) for this initiative.

**GDS at the San Francisco Convention**

We are delighted to announce that we are sponsoring or co-sponsoring 100 panels at the upcoming Convention in Baltimore. We have an exciting range of panels, reflected in the breadth of our co-sponsorship.

Ongoing efforts by section members to organise interesting panels has resulted in a very diverse selection for Baltimore. We are also grateful to all the ISA sections that have collaborated with us on co-sponsorship.

**Outreach and Communication Strategies**

At the annual business meeting in New Orleans (2015) we established a sub-committee to work on innovative strategies to encourage participation in the GDS Section as well as to publicize our activities and events.

We are delighted to announce that as part of this process we have now established a GDS Facebook page, which now has 661 members, up from 575 last year. In particular, we would like to register our thanks to Ajay Parasram (Carleton University, Canada) for all his time and efforts with this.

**GDS Newsletter (three per annum)**

We continue to communicate with Section members via the GDS Newsletter (three per annum). This has been fairly well received, with members regularly contributing GDS relevant information for inclusion in the Newsletter.

We would like to thank Ajay Parasram for all his commitment and efforts with this.

**GDS Membership and Finances**

The GDS membership has been consistently increasing since 2005 (except for a small dip in 2014). Our membership as of February 2015 was 499 and our membership was 537 in January 2017. Now (February 2018), the membership stands at 572.

The GDS Section finances are also in a very sound state.

*Registering our thanks to the ISA Support Team, all of our Section members and to all the sub-committee members for their assistance, time and support.*
We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all of the ISA Team: to Jeanne White for assisting with the organization of the Reception; Alexandra Walker for assisting with communication related aspects and administrative help; Melissa Ballard for support with regard to our finances; and to Andrea Gerlak for her assistance.

The section would like to register our thanks to all of our committee members for their time, energy and efforts to make the section so lively and engaging!

Last but not least, the GDS Section would like to register our thanks to all of our members for their continued support!