Global Development Section

2015 Chair’s Report – Mustapha Kamal Pasha

GDS appears to be in a sound financial state. The Section acknowledges the sustained contribution of Third World Quarterly towards our reception for the eminent scholar. This year, TWQ has pledged $2000, which underscores our continued partnership with a world-class journal.

The Section is proud to honor Professor Pal Ahluwalia as its eminent scholar at New Orleans. Professor Ahluwalia is one of the most distinguished postcolonial scholars in International Studies. His work bridges several disciplines and continents. We are very grateful to Professor Ahluwalia for accepting our invitation and to participate in the roundtable devoted to honouring his scholarship and leadership.

Despite a highly competitive environment in the allocation of quotas, GDS has succeeded in assembling an exciting program based on over 80 sponsored or co-sponsor panels at the Annual meeting in New Orleans. The program looks exciting, with most panels exploring news avenues of engagement across disciplines.

Membership figures have increased from 476 to 499 in 2014. We expect to sustain our efforts with more innovative ways to attract new members, especially graduate students and junior scholars. At the Annual meeting in 2014, it was agreed to extend the compass of GDS to absorb new intellectual currents and tendencies.

GDS managed to identify new communication strategies consistent with the demands of the new ISA Website. This has posed new challenges and opportunities. As noted in last year’s report, GDS now operates via YahooGroup and Bi-annual Newsletters. The Section has had some modest success with twitter account and a blog. We will revisit the question of improving our outreach at annual business meeting in New Orleans.

GDS established a Best Ph.D. Student paper award last year to bring to prominence excellence in scholarship. This effort requires wider publicity to generate greater participation. It is expected that more tangible steps will be devised at the meeting in New Orleans to make this important initiative more successful. We also expect greater support in the policy domain, particularly in our endeavors to bring the academic and policy worlds together.