

NOTE FROM THE SECTION CHAIR (2019 – 2020)

Dear GDS members,

This has certainly been an unprecedented year in the history of our association and our section. I hope that this newsletter finds you all safely. From where I type, 2020 was already shaping up to be a year of enormous transformation and heightened anti-colonial struggle, as Indigenous land defenders and their allies had shut down large parts of the Canadian economy in the early months of the year, followed immediately with the global health pandemic that shut the rest. Global humanity is, as Arundhati Roy reminds us, at the precipice of a [portal](#) and a moment of tremendous change, should we find the courage to embrace change in a good way. It is indeed an exciting time to be a scholar of Global Development and International Studies more generally.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our members for the intellectual labour expended in submitting what would have been an excellent program. Among the many disappointments of not being able to meet this year was not being able to celebrate the accomplishments of the recipient of the 2019-2020 GDS Eminent Scholar Award, Professor Linda Tuhiwai Smith. Our discipline is indebted to Professor Tuhiwai Smith's essential contributions to decolonizing methodologies, truly democratizing social science research ethics, and inspiring a generation of Indigenous and non-Indigenous scholars alike.

The work that went into developing your papers, curating your roundtable conversations, deliberating over book and paper prizes, scheming over email for the huddled conversations, meals that make our meetings so wonderful, was not wasted work. Working closely with our colleagues in other sections, we were slated to sponsor or co-sponsor 100 exciting panels and roundtables, and I do hope that many of you will consider resubmitting your excellent work for the 2021 conference in Las Vegas.

Academia is a long-term project, and I would like to formally recognize the months and months of dedicated organizing and relationship building in service to our Honolulu meeting by our members Sharri Plonski, Mary Tuti Baker, and Michelle Brown in terms of connecting with activists engaged in decolonial struggles in Honolulu, finding ways to open space within the ISA for their political and intellectual projects, and for our members to have opportunities to contribute to this work in a material way. This kind of work builds on the political and normative commitments of our section and I hope that it can be institutionalized in the coming years.

Thanks is also due to our Program Chairs, Soo Yeon Kim and Feliciano de Sá Guimarães, who enthusiastically supported our requests and were quite literally working 24 hours a day in the weeks leading to decision to ultimately cancel the conference in the interest of public health.

Although we cannot meet in person, GDS will be having our annual business meeting via Zoom, on May 29, 2020 at 11:00 am (ADT, UTC - 3). An email is being circulated to you shortly from ISA with all the details needed to join for that meeting and I will circulate an agenda in the days leading up to the meeting. I hope to "see" many of you there. For now, please take some time to check out the great work section members have been doing since our last newsletter! It's been a tremendous honour to be section and program chair of our Global Development Section this year, and I look forward to all our future opportunities to share space again.

Best wishes,

Ajay Parasram

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GDS Program/Section Chair 2019-2020

AWARDS

Global Development Studies Book Award 2020-21 – call for nominations

The International Studies Association (ISA) Global Development Studies (GDS) section is pleased to announce the call for nominations for the GDS Book Prize. Books should meet the goals of the section, including a scholarly concern “with development and global justice working across a number of fields, for example, postcolonial studies, development studies, critical political economy, critical security studies, social and political theory, history, sociology, gender studies, and public policy.”

General Information

Nominations must meet the Following Criteria

- Book must be published in 2019-2020
- Book must be a monograph (cannot be an edited volume)
- Self-nominations are accepted; nominee and nominator must be current ISA members
- Nominations are not accepted from publishers
- The Nominator should write a 300-500 word justification to be sent to the GDS Book Award Committee Chair, [Mary Jane Parmentier](#)
- The committee will, to the best of its ability, consider books written language other than English
- Members currently holding any leadership positions in ISA are ineligible for the award

Prize

- The recipient will receive a certificate and \$500.

Selection Process

- Nominee/nominator are responsible for getting the publisher to send a copy of the book of the committee members (see list below). In case of a non-English text, work with the Committee Chair and GDS to facilitate the necessary steps (cf. translation) for a fair inclusion of the text in the award process. Copies can be physical or electronic.
- Deadline for nominations: By email to Mary Jane Parmentier mj.parmentier@asu.edu by **May 31, 2020**.
- Deadline for receiving hard/physical copies of books by committee: August 15, 2020.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Race & Climate Change – a special issue of *Politics* edited by Lisa Tilley, Anupama Ranawana, Andrew Baldwin & Tyler Tully

*We are currently looking for a couple of extra articles to fit with a forthcoming special issue of the journal *Politics on Race & Climate Change*. Please send abstracts to L.Tilley@bbk.ac.uk before May 29th. Work grounded in the Global South is particularly encouraged, further details can be found below.*

This special issue advances a comprehensive examination of race and climate change in the context of the critical present conjuncture. Within wealthy polluter countries, climate change is increasingly framed in terms of political ‘emergency’ and impending apocalyptic futures. However, much of the Global South has been living through enduring crises of environmental harm and expropriation for many decades, if not centuries. The action that is being urged in ‘emergency’ terms is informed and delineated by existing global structures, power relations and technologies of governance which defer to militarised and imperialist techniques. In this contemporary moment, meaningful examination of the material and discursive relations of climate change is vital to understanding how climate harms are produced, who bears the burden of climate effects, and how mitigation will impact upon us in differential ways.

This special issue draws together analyses of race and climate change by established and emerging scholars working from diverse disciplinary positions, including law, critical geography, politics, and critical security studies. The articles curated critically examine the temporalities of race and climate change in terms of past and present suffering against apocalyptic futures. They also develop the analytics of race in relation to new and situated experiences, from the clear and stark global colour line, to the complex grades of Caribbean colourism. Overall, this collection speaks to the changing dynamics of the present as new forms of eco-modernism, eco-nationalism and eco-fascism burgeon under ‘emergency’ conditions. Our collective appeal is for a reading of the harms and responses to the present through historically informed and critical optics which illuminate the reproduction and mobilisation of racial orders and technologies in the guise of environmentalism.

Articles should be no more than 8,000 words in length and conform to the [Politics style guide](#).

RECENT PUBLICATIONS BY MEMBERS

BOOKS & SPECIAL ISSUES

- Bjørkhaug, Hilde, McMichael, Philip & Bruce Muirhead (eds.). 2020. *Finance or Food?: The Role of Cultures, Values, and Ethics in Land Use Negotiations*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
- Manchanda, Nivi. 2020. *Imagining Afghanistan: The History and Politics of Imperial Knowledge*. Cambridge University Press.
- Rao, Rahul. 2020. *Out of Time: The Queer Politics of Postcoloniality*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Further information can be found [here](#). The book can be ordered from www.oup.com/academic at a 30% discount with promo code ASFLYQ6.)
- Salem, Sara. 2020. *Anti-Colonial Afterlives in Egypt: The Politics of Hegemony*. Cambridge University Press.

- Touchton, Michael. 2019. *Democracy at Work: Pathways to Well-being in Brazil*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
- Touchton, Michael. 2019. *Salvaging Community: How American Cities Rebuild Closed Military Bases*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press

ARTICLES & CHAPTERS

- Baron, Ilan, Havercroft, Jonathan, Kamola, Isaac, Koomen, Jonneke & Prichard Alex. 2020. “Flipping the Academic Conference, or How We Wrote a Peer-Reviewed Journal Article in a Day,” *Alternatives: Global, Local, Political* 45(1), 3-19
- Esser, Daniel E., and James H. Mittelman. 2020. “Globalization Narratives and Industrial Policies,” in Arkebe Oqubay, Christopher Cramer, Ha-Joon Chang, and Richard Kozul-Wright, eds., *Oxford Handbook of Industrial Policy*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press
- Gabay, Clive. 2019. “Exploring a European tradition of allyship with sovereign struggles against colonial violence: A critique of Giorgio Agamben and Jacques Derrida through the heretical Jewish Anarchism of Gustav Landauer (1870–1919)” *Contemporary Political Theory*, Online First, <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1057/s41296-019-00358-4>
- Gerlak, Andrea; Mills-Novoa, Megan; Fearnside, Philip M. and Albrecht, Tamee. 2020. “Dams, Chinese Investments, and EIAs: A Race to the Bottom in South America?” *Ambio – A Journal of Human Environment*, 49(1), 156-164
- Kamola, Isaac. 2019. “The Long ‘68: African Universities, Decolonization, and the Emergence of a World University System” *Cultural Politics*, 15(3), 303-314
- Parasram, Ajay. 2019. “Pathological White Fragility and Settler Nationalism.” *Studies in Political Economy*. 100(2), 194 – 207. Doi: 10.1080/07078552.2019.1646457
- Peterson, V. Spike. 2020. “Family Matters in Racial Logics: Tracing Intimacies, Inequalities, Ideologies.” *Review of International Studies* 46(2), 177-196
<https://doi.org/10.1017/S0260210519000433>
- Rutazibwa, Olivia U., 2020. “Hidden in Plain Sight: Coloniality, Capitalism and Race/ism as Far as the Eye Can See.” *Millennium*, 48(2), 221-241
- Saguier, Marcelo and Vila Seoané, Maximiliano. 2020. “Cyberpolitics and IPE: towards a research agenda in the Global South”, *Routledge Handbook of Global Political Economy*, Ernesto Vivares, ed., London: Routledge (<https://www.routledge.com/The-Routledge-Handbook-to-Global-Political-Economy-Conversations-and-Inquiries/Vivares/p/book/9781138479883>)
- Stump, Jacob L. 2020. “Producing zones of neediness in world politics: missionaries, educators, and a cultural political economy of colonialism in Appalachia.” *Review of International Political Economy*, 1-23.

CELEBRATION!! APPOINTMENTS AND AWARDS

2019-2020 GDS Book Prize Committee – Best Development Studies Book (2018-2019)

Winner: Michael Levien. *Dispossession without Development: Land Grabs in Neoliberal India*. Oxford University Press. 2018

The GDS Book Award Committee is pleased to announce the 2020 award for *Dispossession without Development: Land Grabs in Neoliberal India* by Michael Levien, published by Oxford University Press. Levien’s book provides a fresh new look at a practice that goes back as far as Roman times, to land dispossession or what some prefer to call “land grabs” by the political authority in

a region. Using the extended case method of analysis, and relying on field work, the author assesses the current land dispossession in a region of India, Rajpura, that was, at the time of the study, affected by Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and the state's willingness to justify and take land for SEZs, displacing and dispossessing people in the process. The work, further, builds a theoretical framework for analyzing land dispossession that draws on the major theories of capitalism and economic control (e.g., inter alia, Adam Smith, Karl Marx, David Harvey), and state power (e.g., Max Weber). The powerful evidentiary analysis and related individual experience of farmer's land dispossession in Rajpura gives excellent empirical understanding of how the justifications and reasoning behind state possession and control of land contradict the tenets of development ideology associated with development theory and practice. Thus, the research presented in Levien's book challenges development theories of state control and criticizes development tactics that focus on state-led, public interest works (especially SEZs and neoliberal policies that interpret land as capital for national economic growth and expansion).

Honorable Mentions:

Serene J. Khader. *Decolonizing Universalism: A Transnational Feminist Ethic*. Oxford University Press. 2019.

The GDS Book Award Committee is pleased to honorably mention *Decolonizing Universalism: A Transnational Feminist Ethic*, by Serene J. Khader, published by Oxford University Press. This is a brave and innovative book, which bridges a set of literatures across the fields of philosophy, political economy and development studies. The book is principally written in the language of political philosophy – and especially references concerns over global justice. Nonetheless, the book directly addresses key conundrums in global development concerning agency, faith and “gender roles”. The “decolonial” critique provided ranges from critiques of patriarchy, freedom and feminist solidarity to intra-household inequality and women's labor. While some of this critique has been provided elsewhere, the synthesis is fresh, compelling and a crucial contribution to critical political philosophical engagements with development.

Tara Patricia Cookson. *Unjust Conditions: Women's Work and the Hidden Cost of Cash Transfer Programs*. University of California Press. 2018.

The GDS Book Award Committee is pleased to honorably mention *Unjust Conditions: Women's Work and the Hidden Cost of Cash Transfer Programs*, by Tara Patricia Cookson, published by University of California Press. This book presents new evidence from the field on the lives of women, and poses important questions about one of the newest and most popular ‘development’ strategies worldwide, cash transfers. While many have argued that directly transferring money to those in need is the most efficient method of improving the lives of those living in poverty, the research on beneficial development impacts is mixed. This study in particular examines the effects on the lives of women in rural Peru, finding that the cash transfer programs had certain conditions attached, and that these conditions actually placed more of a burden on the participating women. From this research we gain a new framework and questions to be asked of similar programs in other parts of the world that are intended and presumed to empower and include women. These assumptions might be false, and the results might be mixed, while those that are the targets of cash transfers might in fact face great burdens.

Ilana Feldman. *Life Lived in Relief: Humanitarian Predicaments and Palestinian Refugee Politics*. University of California Press. 2018

The GDS Book Award Committee is pleased to honorably mention *Life Lived in Relief: Humanitarian Predicaments and Palestinian Refugee Politics* by Ilana Feldman, published by University of California Press. Feldman's book is exceptional in its exploration of the history and lived

experience of Palestinian refugees, especially those who live long-term in refugee camps, and in its analysis and critique of the theory and practice of international humanitarianism. Millions of refugees currently live outside of their country of origin, and Feldman's book sheds light on that experience with direct evidence from field work in four Palestinian refugee camps. The book astutely utilizes theories of citizenship (e.g., from Hannah Arendt) and power dynamics (e.g., Michele Foucault) to analyze the historical and lived experience of the Palestinian refugee, and to dissect the humanitarian response (or lack of response) to the incredibly disturbing livelihood options and political situation found in the refugee camps. Not only does Feldman provide a complex and detailed assessment of humanitarianism over the last several decades in the Palestinian situation, but Feldman also shows empathy and heartfelt concern for a political and humanitarian crisis that goes unresolved for decades by giving the reader insights into the challenges and fortitude of Palestinian refugees. This work has vast implications for humanitarian work and refugee status and should be read by everyone concerned with ensuring human rights, dignity, and freedom for all peoples.

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Congratulations to **Matias E. Margulis** who started a new position on January 1, 2020 as Assistant Professor in the School of Public Policy and Global Affairs and Faculty of Land and Food Systems at the University of British Columbia.

GDS MEDIA

Video Project

The GDS Social Media team has been working on developing a series of short videos on pressing topics related to the work of the section. The intent is to provide insightful, stimulating, short videos that can be of considerable use to globalizing our classrooms. The idea is to conduct some short interviews via Skype over the next year that will ultimately be recorded and edited appropriately to produce short clips on critical concepts including, but not limited to:

- Raced Markets
- Postcolonial International Relations
- Black Feminist Thought
- Politics of Translation
- And more!

If you're interested in recording a video, please get in touch with us at GDSmediaISA@gmail.com, we look forward to hearing from you!

Future Newsletters

If members have announcements – including news of published books or calls for papers or proposals, new appointments – would you please email them to Olivia U. Rutazibwa at GDSNewsletter.ISA@gmail.com.

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