It is with great pleasure that I bring to ISA members, the fourth issue of the *ISA eSymposium*. This issue features three essays on a range of contemporary issues, from different parts of the world, and which are of interest to social scientists everywhere. The essays segment sees contributions by Hans-Dieter Evers, John Clammer and Srilata Ravi who work in a range of diverse locations and present their research in the fields of ethnicity, religion, modernity and complex emergencies – all dealing with contemporary and current themes and problematics. Also included in this issue is a fascinating photo essay By Zaheer Baber, entitled ‘Occupy Toronto: A Photo Essay’, which offers a visual lens through which this phenomenon can be approached and interpreted. This is the very first photo essay in the new incarnation of the *ISA eSymposium* and thus a landmark piece. I hope this encourages other contributions of this nature. The interview segment carries the text of a conversation between Raymond Lee and Yeoh Seng Guan. As always contributions from ISA members as well as suggestions and critique of the *ISA eSymposium* are most welcome.

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