

Development Studies Association

President's Report

8 September 2015 to 13 September 2016

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Development Studies Association



connecting and promoting the development research community

DSA Objectives

1. To mobilise collective capacity and knowledge on development to accelerate development ('good change')
2. The nurturing of the next generation of development professionals
3. To invest in the infrastructure necessary for world-leading development studies research and teaching

DSA – Core activities

- Annual Conference
- Heads of Centres meeting
- Study Groups
- Student/Next Generation Activities
- Publications
 - Journals, Bulletin and website, OUP Book Series
- Representation of DSA membership interests

Main activities since September 2015

- Updating of Business Plan (in progress)
- Drive for sustainability (higher income, lower costs)
- External support services provider fully operating
- Heads of Centres – ‘DS in global HE market’
- Study group meetings
- Student activities (and dissertation prize)
- Convening of DSA Conference 2016 and future conference plans
- Initiation of OUP Book Series
- Representation with other bodies
- Redesign of website

Financial position

- Council plan - reduced losses 2014/15 and small surplus 2015/16
- 2013/14 - £35K deficit
- 2014/15 - £17K deficit
- 2015/16 – £8K surplus projected
- Reserves at end FY 2014/15 of £39K
- Increased income – premium fees and subs
- Reduced website and financial system costs
- More good news - Conference viability

External Support Services

- NomadIT providing full services
- NomadIT main activities 2015/16:
 - Data migration to new membership database & a fixed subscription year
 - Deployment of new online payment methods
 - Deployment of new website: responsive design & more easily updated
 - Reduction of all administrative costs
- NomadIT priorities 2016/17:
 - Build the directory of members
 - Build updated website content
 - Strengthen online services to Study groups (email lists, webpages)
 - Help Council build offering to students

Publications Update

- OUP Book Series is now launched and books in press
- Monographs to shape theory, practice, and teaching of international development for a new generation
- Critical scholarship encouraged, within the spirit of DS as an interdisciplinary and applied field.
- ‘Gold’ Open Access option available
- Eds: Andrew Fischer, Uma Kothari and Giles Mohan
- Journals – JID

New partners – D&C and ODS



DSA – Future Plans

- Continue building a sustainable scholarly association with a strong focus on social relevance/impact
- Improvements in all core services to members
- Representation of collective interests of DS members to research and ID bodies
- Creating an energetic membership and Council that contributes time/energy to DSA
- A push for public understanding of development

Key Questions

- How to engage and support non-academic members – NGO researchers, policy wonks etc?
- How to build social science-economics relationships?
- How to respond to GCRF – a great opportunity or robbing ODA budget to bail out UK R&D budget?
- Shifting policy from ‘evidence’ to ‘knowledge’ and/or ‘understanding’?
- How can DSA best contribute to nurturing the next generation of DS scholars and professionals?