

Development Studies Association

President's Report

14 September 2016 to 08 September 2017

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Development Studies Association



The professional association for development research and knowledge

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

Main activities since September 2016

- Business Plan implementation
- Study group meetings
- Student activities...and dissertation prize (Henna Akram of SOAS and Paul Fenton Villar of UEA)
- Convening of DSA Conference 2017 and future conference plans
- OUP Book Series launched
- Agreements with D&C and ODS
- Representation with other bodies
- Redesign of website completed
- Heads of Centres in preparation for late 2017

Financial position

- Council plan: reduced losses 2014/15 and small surplus 2015/16
- 2013/14: £35K deficit; 2014/15:£17K deficit; 2015/16: £30K surplus; 2016/17: £27k surplus
- Reserves at end FY 2016/17 of £96K
- Increased income – premium fees and subs
- Reduced website and financial system costs
- More good news - Conference viability

Membership position

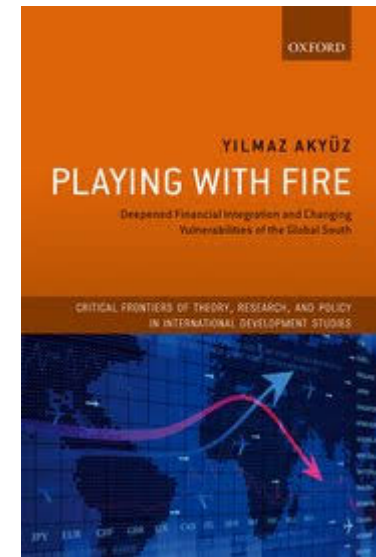
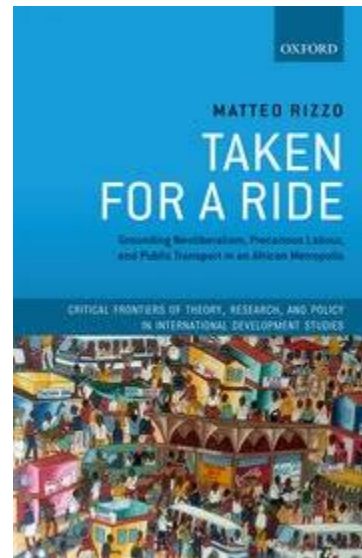
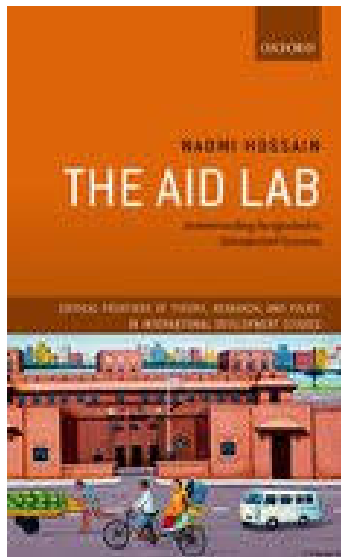
- Despite swell around DSA2016, membership seems steady
- Over 800 members
(of which 235 are LDC free memberships)
- The paying members comprise:
252 individual members; 230 student members;
55 concession members; 48 institutional
members; 13 premium institutional members
- 14 active study groups

External Support Services

- NomadIT providing full services
- NomadIT main activities to-date:
 - 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
 - Enhanced online services to Study groups (email lists, webpages)
 - Reduction of all administrative costs
- NomadIT priorities 2017/18:
 - Encourage strengthening of the directory of members
 - Seek updated website content
 - Help Council build offering to students

Publications Update - OUP

- OUP Book Series – excellent progress with three books published and others in pipeline



Publications Update - OUP

- 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

Publications Update - Journals

- Development and Change (D&C) and Oxford Development Studies (ODS) MoUs for regular DSA Annual Conference Lectures
- Journal of International Development: DSA terminated relationship in 2016. There may be an opportunity for re-negotiation of relationship with DSA in next 12 months.

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 development agencies
 - HEFCE (REF2021 and TEF), RCUK, DFID, AcSS
- Creating an energetic membership and Council that contributes time/energy to DSA
- A push for public understanding of development in the UK

Key Questions

- How to engage and support non-academic members – NGO researchers, policy wonks etc?
- How to build social science-economics relationships?
- Shifting policy from ‘evidence’ to ‘knowledge’ and/or ‘understanding’?
- How can DSA best contribute to nurturing the next generation of DS scholars and professionals?