

DSA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – DRAFT MINUTES

29 June 2018 – University of Manchester
12.15-13.30

Note: These minutes will be submitted to the 2019 AGM for approval.

[1] Attendance

- 1.1 **Present:** Sarah White (Chair – President - SW), Laura Hammond (Secretary - LH), Dan Brockington (Treasurer - DB) and Rohan Jackson (NomadIT – DSA Administration - RJ), Council members and members of the Association.
- 1.2 President Sarah White welcomed members to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

[2] Apologies from Council Members

- 2.1 Apologies were received from Nandini Goptu, Kathyn Hochstetler Sarah Mistry, Sarah Peck and Helen Yanocopulos.

[3] Approval of Minutes

- 3.1 The minutes of the AGM held at the University of Bradford on 8th September 2017 were approved without amendment. There were no matters arising.

[4] Annual Trustees Report year end January 2018

- 4.1 DB presented the draft Annual Trustees Report, with accounts, for the year ending January 2018. The DSA continues to enjoy a strong financial position and in fact needs to increase its spending in order to keep the surplus to a desirable level. We are planning several activities that will use more of the surplus, while also enabling us to meet our strategic goals. Members are encouraged to discuss with Council members any idea they may have about new Council initiatives. The Trustees Report was approved and once certified by the Association's accountants will be submitted to the Charity regulators in England and Scotland.

[5] President's Report

SW presented her President's reports which included the following items.

5.1 2018 DSA Conference

The shift to June for our annual conference means this has been a short year – but nonetheless action-packed! This conference itself has been a major achievement – at the conference last year we did not know where DSA 2018 would be held – so great thanks are due to the Manchester team, especially Sam Hickey and Rory Horner, and NomadIT, especially James Howard, for bringing it together in such brilliant style. We are also extremely grateful to the journals, Development and Change and Oxford Development Studies for their continued partnership in sponsoring plenary speakers and conference receptions. We are particularly happy

that the Journal of Development Studies has joined us this year in sponsoring a further plenary session. We are also glad to report that DSA funding was used to support an innovation this year of an Early Career Plenary panel. A great change this year is the number of delegates from the global South. For this we are tremendously grateful to GDI Manchester for securing funds to sponsor almost 100 early career and scholars from the south, including using the funds it receives as partner to JDS.

We are happy to announce that plans for the next two conferences are already underway. DSA 2019 will be hosted by the Open University, with the theme 'Opening up Development'. DSA 2020 will be hosted by the University of East Anglia, with the theme 'Decentring Development'.

I wish to record my thanks to outgoing council members, Pia Joliffe and Joe Devine, and in particular to Sarah Peck, who stands down as student representative having successfully completed her PhD.

I am also extremely grateful to NomadIT, and especially Rohan Jackson, for the great support they have given to making the association run smoothly throughout the year.

5.2 Membership and Financial Status

Membership has risen over the past three years from 417 in 2015 to approximately 900 in 2018. Most noticeably, student numbers have roughly doubled, which may be due to the halving of membership fees (to £10), and our distributing paper flyers to each year's new intake of students through our member centres.

Income from subscriptions has also climbed in this period from £44,000 in 2015 to £71,000 in 2018.

We have approximately 100 members from the Global South, who receive free membership. Over the course of the next year we will be contacting them to determine whether they remain interested in keeping their memberships active (at no cost). We hope that they will want to remain active in the association and that we will be able to increase membership from southern academics and practitioners.

5.3 Research and Excellence Framework (REF)

Other major developments of this year have been the establishment of the REF sub-panel 22 for Anthropology and Development Studies, with a sub-group of the DSA council involved in putting forward nominations. In the criteria-setting phase there are 8 members, plus the chair, with 5 from Development Studies (Jo Beall, Peter Evans [DfID], Ravi Kanbur, Uma Kothari, and David Wield). In the Assessment phase they will be joined by 8 more members, including 3 from Development Studies (Dan Brockington, James Fairhead, Paul Jackson). So overall very good representation for Development Studies.

The REF sub panel intend to put the draft GOS (Guidance on Submissions) and the PCWM (Panel Criteria and Working Methods) out into the public domain in **late July** – for further consultation.

Thereafter the sub-panel members will be available to do a 'listening' exercise, hearing what members of the subject communities – and associations – might want to add, debate, or quibble with. The anthropologists will do this during the ASA conference 18-21 September. DSA members' consultation will take place in the

Heads of Centres' meeting, October 8. This will be open to two members from each centre, so that those with particular responsibilities for REF can also attend.

5.4 Heads of Centres meeting

The 2017 Heads of Centres of Development Studies meeting was held on 6 November 2017. We discussed DSA2018, news from Centres, the cross-disciplinary workshop series and other DSA communications initiatives, the TEF and REF.

The 2018 meeting will be held on 8 October 2018. The main business will be consultation with the REF panel, and Deborah James, REF panel chair, will attend.

5.5 New DSA initiatives

Following from the discussion of last years' AGM, that our surplus gave us the scope to develop some new initiatives, we have undertaken two major new projects. The aim of both of these is to increase public awareness of development studies and to raise the profile of the DSA as a source of information on development issues.

5.5.1 Joint DSA/ESRC/Development Centres' Workshop Series 2018/19: Working across disciplines in research for global development: meeting the challenges

This is an exciting new initiative involving 7 workshops on different themes, with participation of 30 scholars from the global south. The series will bring together academics from development studies with those from other disciplines - medicine, engineering, the natural sciences, law and the humanities - and policy makers, practitioners and activists, to capitalise on existing strengths and build future capacity for addressing global challenges. It aims to: identify best practice in cross-disciplinary, international research collaboration; share what works in achieving impact through cross-disciplinary international research; deepen and extend cross-disciplinary, cross-national and scholar-practitioner connections; and grow people-based capacity and capability to undertake interdisciplinary research.

The DSA will cover costs of UK speaker travel, ECR/PGR bursaries, administration and communications. Centres will cover costs of venue and their own academics' time. The ESRC funds will provide catering (tea/coffee and lunch/dinner for participants) and to enable participation from the global South

The workshop series will have two levels of impact. Most immediately, the participants will gain enhanced understanding of the experience of those from other contexts and expertise, and be able to use this knowledge in developing more effective collaborative research in future. They will also serve as networking events. More broadly, the workshops will result in a range of communications outputs, such as short videos and a series of 'best practice' briefing papers, which will be posted on the DSA website and promoted through social media.

DSA have pledged £36,410 (this includes funding for the Communications Officer's role in the series and also some additional admin costs also related to the workshop series). The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) will contribute £56,350, the major part of which is funding for the attendance of 30 scholars from the Global South.

5.5.2 DSA Communications Officer

This is a key role to increase the reach of the DSA and enable it to achieve its key purpose of raising public understanding of development issues. It will involve a thorough revision and update of the DSA website; helping to manage and producing

communications outputs from a joint DSA/ESRC workshop series; helping nurture the next generation of Development scholars; and working with Development Studies centres, council, research funding agencies and DSA study groups to enhance public appreciation of Development Studies.

The cost of this (Grade 6, 0.6) will be 0.6 FTE: £17,362 (salary), £21,721 (full cost) p.a. The post is for 2 years, 0.6 FTE, and based at the University of Bath, though with flexible working. The closing date is 4 July.

5.5.3 Coming up next....

We are also working on the following new initiatives:

- how to develop our climate sensitivity
- DSA/EADI ethical guidelines, including ethical international partnership
- how DSA can better support PGR/ECR scholars and scholars based in the global South
- provide support *Journal of International Development* in seeking a new editor and focus

5.5.4 Next Conferences

The next DSA Conference will be held June 19-21 at Open University.

The 2020 conference will be held at the University of East Anglia.

5.6 Discussion:

The following points were made by members and will be considered by Council at their next meeting:

- Would it be possible to include more opportunities for Skype or other online participation from scholars from Global South?
- Some other Associations have Career days. Would the DSA do this? SW responded that this tends to be something that individual centres have done, but the DSA has not done it yet. We could think about doing this in the future. She responded that the DSA has also thought about a pre-conference day. We could extend that for particular population groups, including ECRs.
- RE: Ethical guidelines: The suggestion was made by Patrick Kilby that there is Research Development Impact Network in Australia that has recently developed ethical guidelines that may be useful to consult in the drafting of DSA guidelines.
- The suggestion was made that it is important to work not only with scholars from the Global South, but with practitioners as well, especially those working in policy/practice related research.

[7] Nominations and Elections

- 7.1 LH (Secretary) reported that three elected members of Council were at the end of their period of office: Laura Hammond, Nandini Gooptu, and Joe Devine. In

addition, Pia Joliffe has resigned as Council Member, and Sarah Peck has finished her PhD and so is resigning from her role as Student Rep. They were thanked for serving on the DSA Council. There were also two seats that had been vacant in recent years, and Council was keen to fill them, so there were in total 7 seats available for election.

7.2 LH also welcomed Sarah Mistry, who has joined Council as a co-opted member from BOND, and welcomed back to Giles Mohan from Open University, who will be a co-opted member for one year as he is heading the DSA 2019 conference committee at Open University.

7.3 There were five nominations for the position of Student Representative. At its meeting of 26 June 2018, Council agreed to elect two Student Reps in this election, in support of the desire to build its activities for Early Career Researchers and to promote student involvement, as well as to enable coverage of student issues in case student reps were unable to attend during fieldwork periods.

The nominations were:

1. Amal Chammas, York St John University (present), nominated by Laura Hammond and Sherry Basla
2. Bookie Ezeomah, University of Manchester (present), nominated by Alfonso Rivera-illingworth and Lina Khraise
3. Shona MacLeod, SOAS University of London (not present), nominated by Michael Jennings and Karen Iversen
4. Paul Fenton Villar, University of East Anglia (not present), nominated by Laura Camfield and Ben Jones
5. Sane Zuka, University of Edinburgh (not present), nominated by Andrew Bowman and Sarah Peck

7.4 As a result of the election, done by show of hands (with the candidates who were present out of the room), Amal Chammas and Bookie Ezeomah were each elected to three year terms.

7.5 In discussion before the election, the following issues were raised for consideration by the next Council:

- How feasible would electronic voting be, so that those members who were unable to attend the AGM could still vote? Would it be possible to set up such a system for future elections?
- Would it be desirable for Student Reps to be elected for terms that started and ended in different years, to enable greater continuity?

7.6 For the General Council seats, there were five candidates for five seats. All five candidates were approved by acclamation. They are:

- Nandini Goptu, University of Oxford
- Laura Hammond, SOAS University of London
- Naila Kabeer, London School of Economics
- Uma Kambhampati, University of Reading
- Rachel Slater, University of Wolverhampton

7.9 All new and returning candidates were welcomed onto the DSA Council.

[8] Appointment of the Independent Financial Examiner

8.1 RJ proposed that Sterling Partners be re-appointed as the DSA's External Financial Examiners. Their re-appointment was confirmed by acclamation.

[9] Any other business

A suggestion was made that the DSA could contribute to a ranking of Development Studies Journals. SW explained that this was extremely difficult given the interdisciplinary nature of the field, and that there was a significant lobby that opposed such a ranking.

The membership of the DSA Council from September 2017 to June 2018 was as follows:

Post	Incumbent	Elected/ Appointed	Term of Office ends
President	Sarah White, Univ of Bath	2017	2020
Secretary	Laura Hammond, SOAS, University of London	2015	2018
Treasurer	Dan Brockington, Univ of Sheffield	2017	2020
Elected Members			
	Uma Kothari, IDPM, Univ of Manchester (2 nd term)	2017	2020
	Julian Quan, NRI, Univ of Greenwich	2017	2020
	Sam Hickey, Univ Manchester	2017	2020
	Kathryn Hochstetler, London School of Economics	2017	2020
	Joe Devine, University of Bath	2015	2018
	Nandini Goptu, University of Oxford	2015	2018
	Sarah Peck, Univ of Sheffield (Students)	2016	2019
	Pia Joliffe, Univ of Oxford	2016	2019
	Helen Yanacopulos, Open University	2016	2019
	P.B. Anand, Univ of Bradford	2016	2019
Co-opted Members			Date Co-opted
	Laura Camfield, UEA (EADI Representative)		2014

The membership of the DSA Council as at the June 2018 AGM is as follows:

Post	Incumbent	Elected/ Appointed	Term of Office ends
President	Sarah White, Univ of Bath	2017	2020
Secretary	Laura Hammond, SOAS, University of London	2015	2021
Treasurer	Dan Brockington, Univ of Sheffield	2017	2020
Elected Members			
	P.B. Anand, Univ of Bradford	2016	2019
	Amal Chammas, York St John University (Student Rep)	2018	2021
	Bookie Ezeomah, Univ of Manchester	2018	2021
	Nandini Gooptu, University of Oxford	2015	2021
	Sam Hickey, Univ Manchester	2017	2020
	Kathryn Hochstetler, London School of Economics	2017	2020
	Naila Kabbeer, London School of Economics	2018	2021
	Uma Kambhampati, University of Reading	2018	2021
	Uma Kothari, IDPM, Univ of Manchester	2014	2020
	Julian Quan, NRI, Univ of Greenwich	2017	2020
	Rachel Slater, University of Wolverhampton	2018	2021
	Helen Yanacopulos, Open University	2016	2019
Co-opted Members			Date Co-opted
	Laura Camfield, University of East Anglia, EADI Representative		2014
	Sarah Mistry, BOND Representative		2018
	Giles Mohan, Open University, DSA 2019 Conference Representative		2018