

DSA AGM 2018 President's Report

1. 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 scholars from the south, as well as using the funds it receives as partner to JDS to support bursaries for early career scholars.

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.

2. Membership and Financial Status

Membership has risen over the past three years from 417 to perhaps 900 come the end of this year. Most noticeably, student numbers have roughly doubled, which may be due to the halving of fees, and our distributing paper flyers to each year's new intake. Subs income has also climbed in this period from £44k to £71k.

3. 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), resulting from all these meetings, out into the public domain in **late July** – for further consultation.

Thereafter the sub-panel members can 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.

4. Heads of Centres meeting

The 2017 meeting was held 6 November 2017. We discussed DSA2018, news from Centres, the cross-disciplinary workshop series and other DSA communications initiatives, 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. New Business Plan

The business plan 2015-2018 is now very out of date and we will be developing a new one, which will lay emphasis more on the strategic vision than our financial position, by February 2019.

6. New DSA initiatives

Following up on 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.

6.1 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

ESRC will contribute **£56,350**, the major part of which is funding for the attendance of 30 scholars from the Global south.

6.2 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 c. £ 0.6: £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, so there is still time to encourage talented applicants to apply!

5.3 Coming up next....

We are also working on how to develop our climate sensitivity; DSA/EADI ethical guidelines, including ethical international partnerships; how DSA can better support PGR/ECR scholars and scholars based in the global South; Support *Journal of International Development* in seeking a new editor and focus.

Timing	Activity
Recruit July, start Sept	Employ a DSA Communications Officer (2 years, 0.6 FTE)
Oct 8 2018	Convene Heads of Centres meeting for consultation on REF criteria and working methods with REF panel chair
Oct 2018-May 2019	Launch and successfully complete Joint DSA/ESRC/Development Centres' Workshop Series
Feb 2019	Agree Communications Strategy
Feb 2019	Produce strategic plan 2019-22
June 2019	Hold a lively three-day conference at the Open University
Through the year	Begin to implement new communications strategy
Through the year	Develop <i>Climate Aware DSA</i> policy paper
Through the year	Develop support for PGR and ECR scholars and DSA members based in global South
Through the year	Develop with EADI <i>Ethical guidelines for research</i>
Through the year	Support <i>Journal of International Development</i> in seeking a new editor and focus
Through the year	Maintain and develop institutional and individual membership and support to Study Groups

Appointment of Independent Financial Examiner

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