



development studies
association

Nominated candidates' statements for election to DSA Council and Office

Sam Hickey (President)

The UK development community faces significant challenges in the coming years, with Covid-19 emphasizing the need for a deeper appreciation of global interconnectedness and greatly improved forms of global cooperation. Confronting these challenges will require that the DSA continues to open itself up to new and more diverse audiences and allies, plays an even stronger role in shaping public debates around development and seeks new ways to develop and adapt our discipline to new realities. Building on my three years as a Council member, it would be an honour to help lead our vibrant community towards meeting these challenges.

Dan Brockington (Treasurer)

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first three years as treasurer of the DSA. It has been a good learning experience, and is robustly supported by Nomad IT. Our finances have continued to be robust and our activities have grown by virtue of the energy and commitment of the members and being part of this is a privilege. There are no other candidates for the Treasurer role and I am happy to continue to provide support for the new President, Sam Hickey, with whom I really enjoy working. I will be looking to step down before the three years are up in order to stagger the handover of President and Treasurer in future years.

James Copestake (for Council)

I've been a member of DSA for thirty years, was on Council from 1999 to 2003, and have helped to host two conferences at the University of Bath, where I am currently director of the Centre for Development Studies. DSA is the academic body with which I have always identified most. I value development studies as a crucible, clearing house and graveyard for large and small visions of how the world should be, could be, actually is and why. The need for DSA to help build shared understanding of the opportunities and obstacles to sustainable development at multiple levels remains, I believe, greater than ever.

Shailaja Fennell (for Council)

I am Senior Lecturer in Development Studies, Department of Land Economy, University of Cambridge. My research specialisation is rural-urban transformation, focussing on institutions, gender, and poverty. I have been a DSA member for the last fifteen years, and have co-organised panels at DSA annual conferences at York, Manchester and Bradford. My recent publications include *China's Urban-Rural Inequality in the Countryside* (2018) and *New Frontiers of the Capability Approach* (2018). I am PI on a major research project: *ASEAN Development Outlook* (2019–2021) on pathways towards sustainable development in South-East Asia; co-I on a GCRF project (2017-2021) *Transforming India's Green Revolution by Research and Empowerment for Sustainable Food Supplies* (TIGR2ESS) leading on innovative employment and entrepreneurship.

Jonathan Fisher (for Council)

The world of development studies has always been in flux. It is difficult, though, to think of a time when the global character of development has been more apparent, or the inequities and inequalities intrinsic to social, economic and political change more acute. This week's merging of DFID with the FCO – and accompanied political messaging around 'the national interest' – throws into sharp relief, though, the struggle that is before us as a community. I am passionate about becoming more involved in shaping our discipline at this critical time, and in supporting the important work of the Development Studies Association.

Annalisa Prizzon (for Council)

The challenges brought by this uncertain time of our history – including for the future directions of development cooperation policy in the UK and globally – are calling for a far stronger voice and involvement of the academic and research community. Evidence to inform policy making and a constructive challenge function to governments are important now more than ever.

I reckon my professional experience bridges academic rigour with hands-on knowledge of the UK and global development cooperation policy and networks, especially among multilateral development banks and bilateral donors. It would be an honour to deploy these skills and contacts for the DSA members, for the overall mission of the Association and to help respond to the challenges for international cooperation prompted, not only, by the covid-19 pandemic. DSA helped me develop my research profile and expand my network and it inspired me at the early stages of my career in policy research. Being part of the DSA Council would be the opportunity to 'give back', somehow.

I would like to thank the current Council members for reviewing and considering my application on behalf of the Overseas Development Institute.

Julian Quan (for Council)

I served on Council for the last three years, supporting the outgoing president with the interdisciplinary workshops series. I'm now seeking a second term to help provide continuity and assist in setting a forward DSA agenda on a cluster of inter-related issues in the post-2020 REF and FCO-DFID

merger contexts: development researcher and practitioner access to funding and roles in interdisciplinary global challenges research; development policy and practice as a focus for development studies research and training; the independence of development research and how DSA can help it to achieve real impacts.

Ben Radley (for Council)

With both a Masters and a PhD in Development Studies, now that I have recently begun my postdoctoral journey I'd like to also begin giving back to the discipline from which I have taken and gained so much.. I've been an active member of the DSA since beginning my PhD in 2014, and am excited and energised by the prospect of contributing as a Council member to the DSA's overarching aim of working to connect and promote the development research community in the UK. Alongside my academic work and experience, I would bring 8 years of development practitioner and 10 years of Trustee experience to the role.

Peter Taylor (for Council)

2020 brings enormous challenges in the face of global health and environmental threats, growing inequities and inequalities, and ever more constrained spaces for citizens to promote and secure social justice. But there are also opportunities for the international development community to contribute to immediate responses to COVID-19's realities, and to help *build back better* through systemic societal transformations. I would be happy to engage, on behalf of IDS, with DSA's efforts in advocating for, and informing, UK development aid policy and practice. In doing so I would draw on an extensive international development professional network to help DSA forge and strengthen strong connections through global cooperation.