

DSA Annual General Meeting

18 June 2020 – Shindig

11.15 – 12.45

Draft Minutes

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies from Rama Dieng and Bookie Ezeomah. SW thanked NomadIT and the volunteers for all their hard work taking the conference online and making it work through the week. She also thanked Fiona Nunan and David Hudson of Birmingham and Giles Mohan of Open University, for serving as the academic conference team.

She also thanked Dan Brockington and Uma Kambhampati for the work as Treasurer and Secretary, plus outgoing Council members, Dan Brockington, Sam Hickey, Kathy Hochstetler, Uma Kothari, and Julian Quan for all their service to the DSA.

2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of AGM 2019 were approved.

3. Treasurer's Report

Budget was presented. Slight decrease in surplus since last year from £197k to £159k and this was mostly because we had an ESRC grant, which is now done. The surplus still remains slightly large and we need to consider activities that make good use of it.

The accounts were accepted. The AGM agreed that Sterling Partners would remain our accountants.

4. Membership

DSA membership is up to 1095 members (increased due to conference) including 21% individual full price, 29% students, 4% institutional and 43% GS.

5. President's Report 2020

This has again been a busy year for the DSA. Details of our achievements against the business plan are given in the attached excel file. The financial position remains strong and DSA membership is up to 1095 members (increased due to conference) including 21% individual full price, 29% students, 4% institutional and 43% GS.

Highlights of the year are:

a. **Virtual conference**

Covid 19 pushed us to take the bold step of a virtual conference, taking our vague ideas about the geographical inclusion and climate advantages of virtual presentations and workshops to a whole new level. We have had 580 registered delegates.

b. Communications

Having a new website is core to the DSA becoming a more outward looking, externally engaged association. This year has seen the consolidation of the role of the DSA communications officer, with the design and launch of a new website. While details still need tweaking, this has been a considerable achievement both by Amy Lunt, our comms officer, and the website designer, Tom Hole. We hope you like the new look. There are new sections, like 'what is development studies' (always calculated to cause dissent amongst development studies people!) and more easily searchable news and events. Please get in touch to let us know how we can improve it further.

We will be having a much shorter Bulletin in future and most news will now be on the website.

@devcomms currently has 2,437 followers, an increase of approximately 35% over the year.

It will be important to develop a new communications strategy for 2020-21 onwards, to build on this launchpad.

c. New Global South Council members

Felix Danso and Tuesday Gichuki were elected by global South members to serve as their representatives on Council. They joined us in February 2020.

d. DSA Sustainability Policy

Thanks to the hard work of Kathy Hochstetler and Fiona Nunan and the Environment study group, DSA have adopted a new sustainability policy. This is available on our [website](#). It contains recommendations for conference organisers, organisational policies, and DSA members to consider in order to reduce their own climate impact. We recognise that this is just a start, and we will need to both monitor and review this over time.

e. DSA/ESRC Interdisciplinary workshops

A [final summary report](#) was published in October 2019.

This caught the interest of Mark Claydon-Smith the deputy director of international development at the GCRF, and Sarah Plowman of UKRI raising their awareness of the DSA. On 19.12.19 SW, Joe Devine and Dan Brockington (via zoom) met them in Bath to discuss further the findings of the series and its implications for further GCRF rounds.

Thanks to our connection with EADI through Laura Camfield, the *European Journal of Development Research* approached SW to act as editor for an EJDR Commentary Section drawing on the series. 'North-South Partnerships and the Politics of Development Knowledge' was published in June 2020. The papers are available [online](#).

f. Heads of Centres

We held two meetings. In November 2019 we discussed Decolonising Development Studies. In April 2020, we discussed impact of CV-19 and new REF deadlines. SW collated centres' views and made a DSA submission accordingly to the REF consultation process.

g. Grants

The DSA aims to give small grants which advance the field of development studies. This year this were:

Teaching Qualitative Research Methods for Development Studies

Workshop, December 2019, co-funded with and organised by Newnham College Cambridge

Interdisciplinary research

As we had some money left in the ESRC budget for the series, we made a contribution to support participation from the global South in 'Making Interdisciplinarity Work in Environment Change Research' jointly organised by: Centre for Sustainable Forests and Landscapes (CSFL), University of Edinburgh and DSA Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change Study Group, 20-21 Feb 2020.

PGR/ECR Networking Fund

The fund was launched but so far applications have not fitted criteria – we hope to communicate fund more widely and attract suitable applications next year. We wish to fund groups of individuals for networking and we will communicate this more widely next year.

h. Dissertation prize

This was awarded to Euan Crispin, SIID, 'The Dubai of Africa? Exploring the role of aesthetic representation in the construction of Eko Atlantic City, Lagos.'

i. Students

The system of having an institutional student delegate who will liaise with DSA student reps has not yet become established. This needs a renewed push in the coming year.

A PGR/ECR Masterclass took place again before conference this year – thanks to Laura Camfield, Amal Chammas, PB Anand and Paul Gilbert (Sussex).

A recent request brought 11 student delegates from Development Studies Centres, so there are good prospects for strengthening the student side of the DSA community.

j. Journal of Global Development

As discussed at last year's AGM, Sam Hickey led discussions with Wiley to explore the possibility of re-launching JID as Journal of Global Development. Wiley ultimately decided against this, so DSA Council agreed that we could no longer pursue a renewal of the DSA relationship with the JID. It was therefore agreed that we would continue separately to engage with GDI over the potential formation of a new Journal of Global Development.

k. DSA/OUP book series

1 published - *Developmentalism: The Normative and Transformative within Capitalism*
Graham Harrison

3 in production; 10 proposals (6 rejected); 3 full proposals awaited.

l. Public statements

We have also produced three public statements in the past month. A short statement of support for Black Lives Matter. A response to the Covid 19 pandemic. And a response to the planned merger of DFID and the FCO, which [was published as lead letter](#) in The Independent, June 18 2020. I also produced a [short video](#) to be shared via social media.

This is my last report, and I wish to close by thanking you for giving me this chance to serve as your president, and saying how much I have enjoyed the experience. I look forward to seeing the DSA go from strength to strength in the years to come.

6. Decolonising Development

SW presented what was being done by Rama Dieng on this issue: compiling 'Decolonising' initiatives in the UK & beyond (ongoing) and plans to launch new study group in June 2020 (after conference). Members interested in joining the study group were encouraged to get in touch with Rama. SG will aim to provide resources for decolonizing initiatives and hold its first online event in second semester 2020-21.

7. Post-COVID statement

The [DSA statement](#) was presented by DB and adopted by the members.

8. Elections

One nomination had been received for each of: President: Sam Hickey (Manchester); Treasurer: Dan Brockington (Sheffield), so both were elected by acclaim.

Seven nominations had been received for the five vacancies on Council. Before the vote, two candidates indicated their willingness to stand down. The remaining five were elected as new members of Council: Shailaja Fennell, Jonathan Fisher, Annalisa Prizzon, Ben Radley and Peter Taylor.

9. Vote of Thanks

The Secretary thanked SW as the Outgoing President for all her efforts on behalf of the DSA. The Association has gone from strength to strength and much has been accomplished over the last 3 years.

10. AOB

A number of suggestions were received from the audience regarding future themes and directions for the DSA.