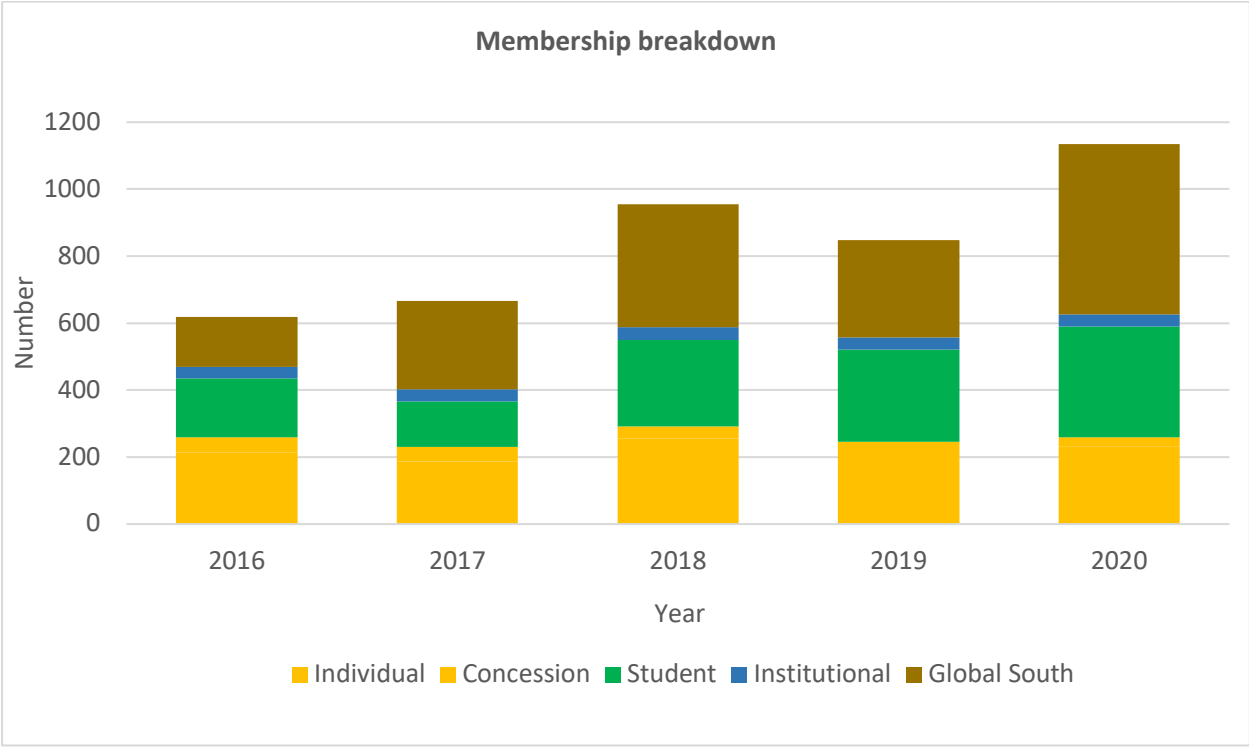


# President's Report 2020

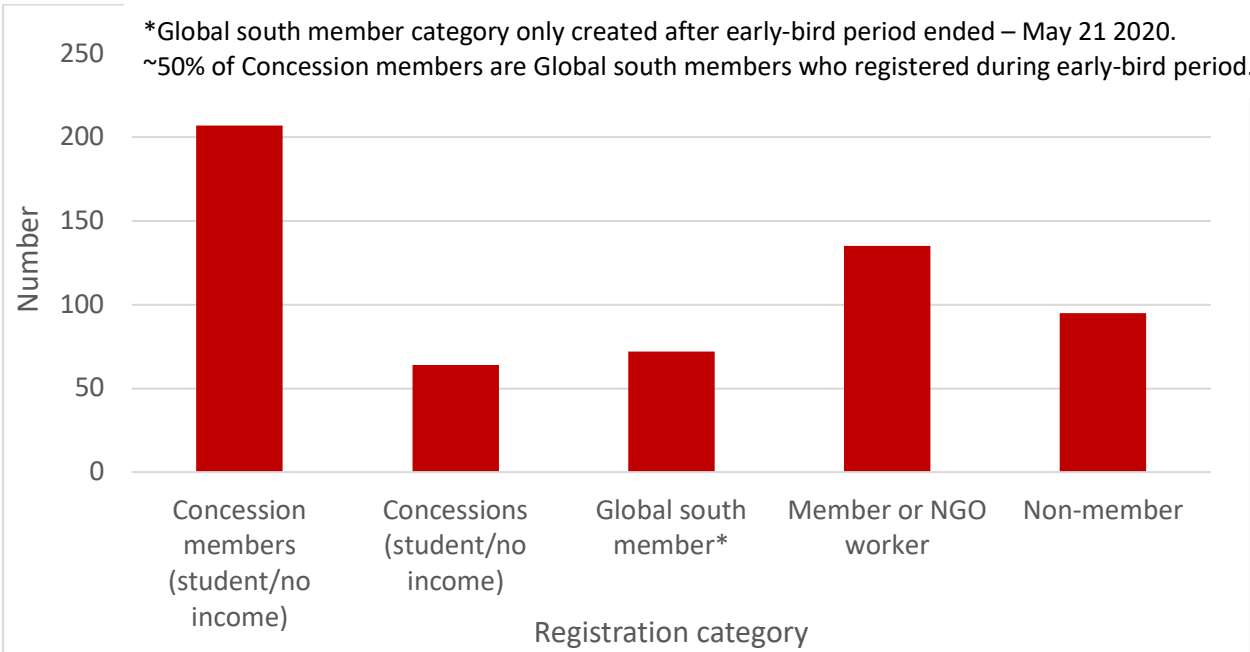
This has again been a busy year for the DSA. Details of our achievements against the business plan are given in the attached excel file. The financial position remains strong and DSA membership is up to 1095 members (increased due to conference) including 21% individual full price, 29% students, 4% institutional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



## Highlights of the year are:

### 1. 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.



## 2. New website launched.

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. You will see 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.

## 3. 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.

## 4. DSA Sustainability Policy

Thanks to the hard work of Kathy Hochstetler, 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.

## 5. DSA/ESRC Interdisciplinary workshops

A final summary report was published in October 2019:

<https://www.devstud.org.uk/media/2020/06/towards-more-equitable-interdisciplinary-development-research-five-key-messages.pdf>

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 through [online first](#).

## 6. 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. I collated centres' views and made a DSA submission accordingly to the REF consultation process.

## 7. 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.

## **8. 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.'

## **9. 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).

## **10. 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.

## **11. 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.

## **12. 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 <https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/letters/boris-johnson-foreign-aid-dfid-coronavirus-test-trace-a9572941.html>. I also produced a short video to be shared via social media: <https://twitter.com/UniofBath/status/1273642516185841666>.

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.

Sarah C. White, DSA President 2017-2020.