

## DSA Council Election Candidates 2021

### Michael Jennings, SOAS (1st term)

#### Biography

Michael is a Reader in International Development at SOAS University of London. His work focuses on the history and politics of global development, with a particular focus on sub-Saharan Africa. Michael's work explores the work of non-state actors in development (including NGOs, faith-based and local actors), religion and development, and global health and development - with the various strands intertwining as part of his research and teaching. A trained historian, his work takes an historical as well as contemporary approach. Michael sits on the Council of the British Institute in Eastern Africa, which supports and promotes research in and on the wider eastern African region; and is a former editor of its journal, the *Journal of Eastern African Studies*. He writes regularly on development-related issues for a public audience alongside his academic-focused research.

#### Statement

I am interested in supporting the DSA's engagement in public debates on global development; to working with other global development actors in bringing in the DSA voice in public campaigns; and to developing more equitable global partnerships in development and teaching (something I work on in my own institution). The DSA has a pivotal role in all three: able to draw on the vast research and practice expertise of its members and its links with policy-makers and development actors, to create better and more representative understandings of global development. I am passionate about supporting this critical work of the DSA.

### Naila Kabeer, LSE (2nd term)

#### Biography

Born, brought up and schooled in India and Bangladesh, came to the UK for higher studies and stayed on but have retained living links with the two countries through family, friends and, of course, research. Undergraduate and graduate studies in Economics at the London School of Economics but shifted to Population Studies for my PhD. Joined the Institute of Development Studies at Sussex in 1985 where I was able to bring my feminist politics and professional interests together in a fairly seamless way. My time at IDS also set me off on a trajectory that sought to bridge theory, policy and practice and that continues to inform my work. I have always been interested in the intersections of class and gender as viewed through the 'poverty lens' of development studies but have over the years have expanded my interest in this relationship to also explore how other aspects of identity (ethnicity, caste and race) complicate it. I left IDS to join SOAS and then LSE where I have a joint professorship

between the departments of International Development and Gender Studies. I have become more interested in questions of methodology over time, particularly methodologies for studying social change. I work closely with the BRAC Institute of Governance and Development in Bangladesh but also, often and on, with PRADAN in India.

### Statement

I would like to stand for a second term as Council member. I have been associated with, and a member of, the DSA for a number of years. I consider myself a part of the larger development community, with strong links to the research community within the UK and elsewhere in the global South as well as a track record of work with number of UK and South Asia based NGOs (BRAC, PRADAN, Oxfam, ActionAid) and advisory work with donors, philanthropic organizations. My teaching, advisory work and research all deal with issues central to development studies: gender, poverty, livelihoods, social protection and citizenship. I joined the Council just as I went into a sabbatical year and the world went into lockdown but have tried to attend Council meetings and to be active around my role as member responsible for co-ordinating the study groups. We have seen a number of new ones during this period. It takes some time to work out one's role but I would like to stand for a second term to see what I can do to encourage greater activity and visibility of the study groups and more creative use of the website.

## Uma Kambhampati, University of Reading (2nd term)

### Biography

I am a Professor of Economics and Head of the School of Politics Economics and International Relations at the University of Reading. I have been a member of DSA Council since 2018 and Secretary to the DSA since 2019. I am a development economist and am currently working on a range of issues, including women's empowerment and gender related inequalities, intra-household decision making and the political economy of industrial productivity. I have published extensively in all these areas. Details of my publications can be found at <https://www.reading.ac.uk/hedgehogs/about/staff/u-s-kambhampati.aspx>. I am on the Editorial Board of the journal, Feminist Economics, and am a Co-Editor of the European Journal of Development Research.

### Statement

I have been an academic in development studies in the UK since 1988 when I began my Ph.D. in development economics. I was initially involved in the DSA through conferences and being a member of the Trade and Industry study group. In 2018, I was elected onto Council and in 2019, I took on the role of Secretary to DSA. The DSA plays a pivotal role within Development Studies in the UK, both in representing the interests of the development community and in advocating for the interests of developing countries. I am proud to take an active role in the organisation and work to pro-actively shift its agenda forward.

## Ingrid Kvangraven, University of York (1st term)

### Biography

Ingrid Harvold Kvangraven is a Lecturer in International Developments in the Department of Politics and is affiliated with the Interdisciplinary Global Development Centre at the University of York. Her research fields include development finance, African debt markets, heterodox economics, decolonizing economics, and history of economic thought. She holds a PhD in Economics from The New School for Social Research and BA and MSc degrees in Development Studies from the University of Oslo and the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), respectively. She is also founding editor of the blog Developing Economics and co-founder of Diversifying and Decolonising Economics (D-Econ).

### Statement

I would be interested in joining the DSA Council in order to strengthen the engagement of the association with the field of economics, and heterodox economics in particular. Given the strong relevance of economics, and especially critical approaches to economics, for development studies, I believe this would strengthen the association. I would also be interested in working to create more engagement between the association and heterodox economists and institutions in the Global South.

## Indrajit Roy, University of York (1st term)

### Biography

Indrajit researches and teaches the politics of 'new development futures', where development is understood broadly as an ensemble of practices, processes and possibilities that encompass economic change and social transformation. His work illustrates the profound ways in which agents in the Global South disrupt prevailing understandings of development. By going beyond Eurocentric and elite-centric narratives, this work opens new debates for critical explorations of development. This in turn shapes growing efforts at diversifying and decolonising the field, making development studies a global discipline. His research includes projects comparing urban marginality across the Global North and Global South (supported by the ESRC/ EqUip initiative), politics of citizenship (AHRC-funded), Chinese investments in Europe (supported by the Political Studies Association) and Southern Multilateralisms (World Bank/ Government of New Zealand-supported).

Before returning to academia, Indrajit worked in the development sector for seven years. Since obtaining a doctorate in development studies at the University of Oxford, he has held the ESRC Future Research Leader Fellowship at the Oxford Department of International Development (ODID). Accredited as a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, Indrajit has innovated teaching and curriculum design over the last several years of his academic life. He

won a Teaching Excellence Award at the University of Oxford in 2016.

Indrajit has published in such prestigious journals as World Development, Journal of Development Studies and Oxford Development Studies. His outreach beyond academia includes contributions to the BBC Radio 3 Free Thinking, The Conversation, The Hindustan Times, Global Policy, The Economic Times, and Open Democracy among others.

### Statement

I invite you to consider supporting my election to the DSA Council. I have been a member of the DSA for eight years, serving as one of the co-conveners of the 2016 DSA Annual Conference organised at the University of Oxford. Having joined academia after a career in international development, I value the DSA as a forum for supporting members from diverse backgrounds. If elected to the Council, I will work with colleagues to further develop such support for our members within and beyond the UK. Our discipline faces exciting challenges which I can help meet by strengthening our impressive array of Study Groups, extending our outreach to schools, and supporting knowledge exchange. As incoming co-director of the newly formed Interdisciplinary Global Development Centre, I especially look forward to working with colleagues to meet growing demands from early career colleagues to diversify and decolonise our discipline in a fast-changing world in which new agents and perspectives rapidly displace old certainties.

## Rachel Slater, University of Wolverhampton (2nd term)

### Biography

I have a PhD from the University of Manchester and worked in academic / research roles before moving to ODI in 2002. At ODI I established and led the social protection programme, and was research director of the 6 year 'Secure Livelihoods Research Consortium', a 5 year, £12m research programme funded by DFID, EU and IrishAid. At CIDT, I am research director of the IDS-led Better Assistance in Crisis (BASIC) Research programme, funded by FCDO, and work with WFP on a number of research, developmental evaluation and learning projects in HQ, East Africa and the Caribbean.

### Statement

I work at the Centre for International Development and Training (CIDT) at the University of Wolverhampton delivering development research at the interface with policy and practice. My work takes a transdisciplinary approach to maximise research uptake - working directly with and through donor agencies, NGOs and governments, at all stages of the research cycle. If elected, this will be my second term on DSA Council. During my first term I contributed specifically to supporting the development of DSA communications and influence. I am interested in continuing to support DSA further in strengthening linkages with development practitioners and policy-makers.

## Student Representative on Council

### Ritika Arora, LSE (1st term)

#### Biography

Ritika is an ESRC Scholar and PhD Student in International Development at the London School of Economics and Political Science, where she specialises in politics, education, and democratization. Prior to this, Ritika graduated with an MPhil in Education and International Development from the University of Cambridge where she conducted an ethnographic project in India which sought to understand the political forces governing education and the re-imagining of the national identity. She also holds a BA in International Development from King's College London, during which she directed her research towards analysing grassroots democratic institutions and informal political networks in India's poorest settlements.

#### Statement

Student support is instrumental, and the right kind of engagement has the power to transform and rewrite the discourse. As a student representative, the opportunity to bring together some of the most passionate voices in the field of development and facilitate a space for novel discussions is elating, and I would be honoured to be a part of this process. Moreover, the core objectives and aims of the DSA strongly align with my own, and the effort to truly make development studies 'international' and accessible to scholars from across the world, is something I particularly appreciate and commend. I believe that my enthusiasm, motivation, and zeal to contribute not only to the field, but also to my fellow students are aspects which would make me a supportive and dedicated student representative. Furthermore, I have also served as the student council member for the (International Development) department committees in each of the institutions I attended (KCL, Cambridge, LSE), through which I have gained significant organizational and communication experience. I truly look forward to this opportunity and giving it 100%!