

Minutes from DSA AGM 2021: 2 July 2021.

Welcome from DSA President: The President thanked Kristjan Lorentson, James Howard, and the NomadIT team for their work in organizing and running DSA2021. He also thanked 24 conference volunteers and Laura Camfield, Ben Jones (conference convenors) as well as Tuesday Gichuki and Fiona Nunan (part of DSA2021 team) for putting on an excellent conference. The conference was sponsored by *Journal of Development Studies*, *Oxford Development Studies* & *Journal of International Development* and the President thanked them for their support over the years. Thanks also to DSA Treasurer, Dan Brockington and Secretary, Uma Kambhampati and Communications Manager, Laura Roberts. Finally, thanks also to our outgoing DSA Council members Rama Dieng, Nandini Gooptu, Laura Hammond & Bookie Ezeomah.

Minutes of AGM 2020 (Online - University of Birmingham) were approved. They have been online on the DSA Governance site.

Treasurer's Report: DB thanked NomadIT for their help with the accounts. DSA is spending a lot more last year than this year because we had ESRC funding. The conference also made a loss in 2020 but we hope this will not be the case this year. The losses over the last 2 years were planned as we want to use our reserves to good purpose. DB will be stepping down this year and asked for individuals to put themselves forward for the role. DB asked members to accept the accounts as presented. More than 80% voted in favour of both the accounts and also the appointment of Sterling Partners to prepare our Accounts.

Progress and plans against objectives: SH spoke about how DSA have progressed against objectives. The Annual Conference and Study group activities are key to DSA objectives. We have benefited from the online format because of gS participation. However, we are planning for some f2f events next year and are discussing a hybrid model for the conference next year. This is likely to be more expensive and we are also considering the quality of the experience. The OUP book series has been active and is going very well. We do not have a journal for the DSA at the moment and we are speaking with publishers but this is not quite the moment to launch a journal.

How should we raise the profile of the DS community? We have made statements about the FCDO merger and Black Lives Matter. We have also had campaigns on spending of the government on development and on COVID vaccines. LR is putting a new communications strategy in place for the DSA. Our new advocacy strategy will also be put forward soon.

DSA is trying to encourage participation through its ECR scheme, dissertation prize etc. We are also looking to support higher education teaching of DS through the decolonizing agenda. We formed two new groups on Council – the gS group which has had a session during the conference to consider what the remit of the group should be. There is also a group on decolonizing development led by NG and JF on Council. It is creating a network of individuals in both the North and South who can contribute to this agenda and can share resources.

DSA membership has been growing over the years and we now have 1314 members, with the vast majority being from the gS. We are focusing on our institutional membership base as we have had a small drop in this category this year. Council were worried about attendance at conference in 2021 but it has been a very successful conference with 711 registrations. This is an increase from 570 at last year's conference. There were some questions about attendance vs registration and also other engagement in the social events etc.

There were a number of questions and comments on hybrid conferences during the discussion. In particular, there was some discussion of the difficulties of using pre-recorded talks. There are some recorded videos now on this year's conference and there was discussion about whether we could consider whether this recorded material was downloaded or used after the conference.

Nominations & elections: 6 candidates stood for Council - Michael Jennings (SOAS), Naila Kabeer (LSE), Uma Kambhampati (Reading), Ingrid Kvangraven (York), Indrajit Roy (York) and Rachel Slater (Wolverhampton). In addition, Ritika Arora (LSE) stood as student member of Council. All candidates were voted onto Council.

Prizes: This is the DSA dissertation prize. We have two winners this years – Suzie Loader and Adela Syslova. Suzie presented her paper at the conference and had some good discussions. LC said that both dissertations were excellent in engaging across disciplines and this was especially important.

Conference 2022 will be held at UCL between 29 June and 1 July 2022 on '*Just sustainable futures in an urbanising and mobile world*'.