

DSA Scotland one-day conference – Monday 3rd July – Programme
Venue – Advanced Research Centre – University of Glasgow



Decolonising Research: Challenges and Barriers

Pamela Abbott



The Development Studies Association (DSA) Scotland Study Group's first meeting since the Covid-19 lockdown and other precautionary restrictions, 28 participants assembled at Glasgow University's new Advanced Research Centre (ARC) on Monday 3rd July 2023. The ARC is one of the new buildings which comprise the redevelopment of the site of the former Western Infirmary by the University. We must thank Mary Ryan of the cross-faculty multidisciplinary Glasgow Centre for International Development for suggesting this location and for making the booking for us.

The presentation files for all three sessions are available on the dedicated Google Drive system established especially for the DSA Scotland Study Group. Anybody having the web link for the 2023 folder in the DSA Scotland Google Drive will be able to access the PowerPoint slides made available by the speakers. Thanks to Rowena Harding and James Howard of the DSA administrative team for advising on this issue.

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1bH7Fvar3ScVZuxtFg_yVe9_vYwCExc4s?usp=drive_link

This Google Drive system is running alongside the new Google mail distribution lists which are being used for the circulation of information to those on the list. However, due to the limitations of Google mail, it has been found that each component of the complete distribution list is restricted to twenty email addresses – so we have five 'sub-lists' which make up the total 'signed up members'. Further information about this new communications system is available from Michael Tribe (michael.tribe@glasgow.ac.uk).

Schedule for Presentations and for Refreshments and Lunch Breaks

Assemble – coffee/tea/biscuits – from 9.30 am

Decolonising Aid and Development – 10.00 am to 12.00 noon

Chair – John Struthers – University of the West of Scotland

Pamela Abbott (University of Aberdeen) *Decolonialising Research: Challenges and Barriers* – slide presentation available on Google Drive

Michael Tribe (University of Glasgow) *Decolonising Aid – What Does it Mean and How to Do It?* – slide presentation available on Google Drive

Mozammel Huq – University of Strathclyde – *The Padma Bridge: A Case of Project Construction following the withdrawal of promised World Bank funding*

Discussant – Frances Guy – Scotland's International Development Alliance

Lunch and networking – 12.00 noon – 1.00 pm

Presentations by established researchers – 1.00 pm – 2.30 pm

Chair – Mozammel Huq – University of Strathclyde

Graeme Young (University of Glasgow) *Informality: The New Global Class Politics?*

Nigel Dower (University of Aberdeen) *Global Ethics and Development*

Benjamin Hunter (University of Sussex and University of Glasgow) *States as Investors in Overseas Social Sectors*

Presentations by Doctoral Research Students – 2.45 to 4.15 pm

Chair – Dina Nziku – University of the West of Scotland

Parul Tyagi (Heriot-Watt University) *The impact of female political representation on child malnutrition*

Debasish Roy (University of Glasgow) – *Drought and Food Security: Implications for Zero Hunger Goal in Bangladesh*

Altaf Hossain (University of Glasgow) – *Impact on Mental Health of the affected people following river erosions: A Case Study of Bangladesh*

Mohammed A N Russel (University of Glasgow) – *Achieving SDGs in the Context of the SJOS Framework: The Case of Bangladesh*

The meeting was opened by Mozammel Huq, who welcomed the participants and outlined the main features of the day's proceedings. Before the first session started Michael Tribe, the other long-standing joint-convenor of the group, asked for two former members of the group to be remembered – Eileen Cook (Scotland's Rural College) passed away in October 2021, and Eric Rahim (University of Strathclyde) passed away in May 2023.

The programme for the day's proceedings is shown above. The first session had a focus on decolonising development – a multidimensional issue which has been attracting quite a lot of interest in recent years. The session was chaired by John Struthers (University of the West of Scotland (UWS)). The three presentations progressed from the overall view of Pamela Abbott, to Michael Tribe's narrower focus on the Decolonisation of Aid, and then to Mozammel Huq's specific example of the Bangladesh Government's approach to the World Bank's refusal to finance the building of a high priority infrastructure project. Each of the three presentations was

well-received, with the lively discussion raising important issues which were not highlighted in the presentations due to the time limitations which had been self-imposed by the three speakers.

The second session was chaired by Mozammel Huq (University of Strathclyde). There were also three presentations in this session, also by established researchers as in the first session. In his presentation, Graeme Young (School of Social and Political Sciences, Glasgow University) focused on new global class politics, while Nigel Dower (emeritus member of the Philosophy Department in Aberdeen University) viewed in some depth the philosophical aspect of global ethics and development. The third presentation, by Benjamin Hunter (School of International Development, Sussex University but about to join the School of Social and Political Sciences, Glasgow University) was equally lively, focusing on Government investment in overseas social sectors. All the three presentations were well received and each one was followed by some vigorous discussion.

The third session was chaired by Dina Nziku (UWS). This session was devoted specifically to PhD/early career researchers, giving an opportunity to present their PhD progress or findings. Parul Tyagi (Heriot-Watt University) on “The impact of female and political representation on child malnutrition”. This provided an analysis of the impact of female politicians in decision-making roles relating to priorities levels of child malnutrition. Debasish Roy’s (University of Glasgow) presentation on “Drought and food security: implication for zero hunger goal in Bangladesh” focused on the same SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) as Parul Tyagi (SDG Goal 2: Zero Hunger; Goal 5: Gender equality; Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth; and Goal 10: Reduced inequalities) as well as SDG 13: Climate action. Altaf Hossain’s (Glasgow University) presentation focused on the “Impact on the mental health of the affected people following river erosions: A case study of Bangladesh”. His presentation provided a clear view of the statistical analysis and technics used in studying a wide range of variables. A lively discussion about possible further empirical studies and analysis followed the presentation. The last presentation of the day was by Mohammed Russel (Glasgow University) on “Achieving SDGs in the Context of the SJOS Framework: The Case of Bangladesh”. (SJOS = Safe and Just Operating Spaces – see [Complexity - Safe and Just Operating Spaces \(SJOS\) \(soton.ac.uk\)](http://soton.ac.uk)) This provided an assessment of how far Bangladesh has progressed towards achieving the (SDGs). There was a vast amount of data subjected to systematic analysis using the framework adopted internationally for this type of assessment.

The third session ended at about 4.15 pm after which tea/coffee/biscuits were taken, and further networking occurred. During and after this ‘networking’ there was discussion within a smaller group about how the management of the DSA Scotland Study Group will be taken forward. The ‘smaller’ group consisted of Mozammel Huq, Dina Nziku, Graeme Young and Ben Hunter – Michael Tribe had to leave after the tea/coffee and before the smaller group gathered but he had participated in some earlier discussions while enjoying a cup of coffee. It was agreed that the five named people will form a ‘management group’ which will discuss the future of the DSA Scotland Study Group.

Michael Tribe (michael.tribe@glasgow.ac.uk)

Mozammel Huq (m.m.huq@strath.ac.uk)

(This report has been compiled following consultation with the three ‘chairs’ and with other members of the new ‘management team’).

Participants attending the DSA Scotland meeting on 3rd July 2023

Presenter

Pamela Abbott –	University of Aberdeen
Nigel Dower –	University of Aberdeen
Frances Guy –	Scotland's International Development Alliance
Altaf Hossain –	University of Glasgow
Mozammel Huq –	University of Strathclyde
Benjamin Hunter –	University of Glasgow/University of Sussex
Debasish Roy –	University of Glasgow
Mohammed A N Russel –	University of Glasgow
Michael Tribe –	University of Glasgow
Parul Tyagi –	Heriot-Watt University
Graeme Young –	University of Glasgow

Participants

Raheema Chunara –	University of Glasgow
Judy Grace –	Formerly Vine Trust
Irene Graham –	Save the Children
Paul Hare –	Heriot-Watt University
Rose Mary Harley –	University of Strathclyde
Margaret Houston –	Charity Education International
Shariful Islam –	University of Glasgow
David Kenvyn –	University of Glasgow
Kenneth King –	University of Edinburgh
Kate Newens –	The collective
Dina Nziku –	University of the West of Scotland (UWS)
Bernhard Reinsberg –	University of Glasgow
Roger Sapsford-	Retired academic – Pamela Abbott's husband
Imri Schattner-Ornan –	Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine
Gour Sarkar-	Independent
John Struthers –	University of the West of Scotland (UWS)
Peter Wanderi –	Mount Kenya University (MKU)

Unable to attend/apologies

Prabir Bhattacharya –	Heriot-Watt University
Dipankar Datta -	Independent
Md Sarwar Hossain –	University of Glasgow
Fabrice Renaud –	University of Glasgow
Roger Sandilands –	University of Strathclyde
Tanjina Shahjahan –	University of Strathclyde

28 participants in all

Financial Report for the DSA Scotland Study Group meeting – 3rd July 2023

In arranging the refreshments for the meeting, which were the major element of the cost, the advice of Mary Ryan was sought. Following this advice, Michael Tribe and Mozammel Huq looked at the range of refreshments available from the Glasgow University catering service and Regis Banqueting. The Regis Banqueting website quoted significantly lower prices, and greater flexibility of available items, than the University of Glasgow catering services. A formal quotation was sought from Regis Banqueting, and the order was confirmed – budgeting for 35 participants.

The full quotation/invoice is shown on the next page of this report – and approval was received from the DSA administration before the order was confirmed. Previously it had been confirmed by the DSA officers and administration that the standard £500 study group grant would be available for the 3rd July meeting.

At the time of the meeting, Parul Tyagi (doctoral research student at Heriot-Watt University) and Nigel Dower (retired academic staff at Aberdeen University) enquired about whether reimbursement of their travel costs might be possible. Michael Tribe enquired about this with the DSA officers and administration, and it was agreed that reimbursement was possible. This was undertaken based on scanned copies of receipts and return rail tickets from, respectively, Leuchars in Fife and Aberdeen.

Total Costs:

Refreshments – Regis Banqueting	£499-50
Return rail fare – Leuchars/Glasgow (Parul Tyagi)	£ 42-90
Return rail fare – Aberdeen/Glasgow (Nigel Dower)	£ 29-30
Total	£571-70



INVOICE

Development Studies Association
23 Linton Road
Hove
Brighton And Hove
BN3 5HF
GBR

Invoice Date
21 Jun 2023

Invoice Number
INV-11872

P.O. No
Michael Tribe

VAT Number
870797772

Regis Banqueting Ltd
Unit 1, 5 Mid Road
Blairlinn Ind Est
Cumbernauld
Glasgow
G67 2TT

Description	Quantity	Unit Price	VAT	Amount £
Corporate Catering Monday 3rd July 2023				
Arrival Refreshments				
Tea/coffee/tablet	35.00	2.00	20%	70.00
Lunch				
Sandwich Platters	55.00	3.75	20%	206.25
Tea/coffee/tablet	35.00	2.00	20%	70.00
Afternoon Refreshments				
Tea/coffee/tablet	35.00	2.00	20%	70.00
Subtotal				416.25
Total VAT 20%				83.25
Invoice Total				499.50
Total Net Payments				0.00
Amount Due				499.50

Due Date: 28 Jun 2023

Cheques to: Regis Banqueting Ltd
Bank: Royal Bank of Scotland,

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram

Email: accounts@regisbanqueting.co.uk
Telephone: 01236 734 444

Company Registration No: SC261790. Registered Office: Unit 1, 5 Mid Road, Blairlinn Ind Est, Cumbernauld, Glasgow, G67 2TT

Account No: 00774621
Sort Code: 83-17-31

For international payments:
BIC: RBOSGB2L
IBAN: GB66 RBOS 83173100774621

Please use your name and event date or invoice number as reference.