

In person (CB1.11 Chancellor's Building, University of Bath) and online (Zoom)

1. Welcome and Apologies (UK)

Thanks were given by Uma Kambhampati (UK):

- to NomadIT for the exceptional work done throughout the year, particularly in organising the conference. Winfred Nyokabi and James Howard, it was noted, were particularly integral to the latter and DSA is extremely grateful to them and to the whole NomadIT team, together with conference volunteers, for their hard work.
- to Mihika Chatterjee and Aurelie Charles, the conference convenors, and University of Bath colleagues, for their leadership on the conference programme and on the conference's scientific committee.
- to the conference sponsors – the University of Bath (who provided discounted rates and funding towards attendance of some gS scholars), ODS, JDS, and JID, who sponsored keynote talks, DiP and JDS who provided funding towards global South scholars attendance and to DSA's publishing partner, OUP.
- to the DSA Treasurer, Shailaja Fennell, Secretary, Jonathan Fisher, Mike Jennings (acting secretary while Jonathan was on parental leave) and Communications Officer, Rowena Harding.
- to outgoing Council member Tuesday Gichuki, who has completed his term on Council.

Apologies were received from: Jonathan Fisher, Tuesday Gichuki, Emma Mawdsley, Claire Mcloughlin, Jahangir Chowdhury, Touseef Mir, Annalisa Prizzon, Kamna Patel and Laura Camfield.

2. Approval of Minutes from AGM 2024 (UK)

Minutes of AGM 2024 (hybrid, SOAS, University of London) were approved. These have been available online on the [DSA Governance webpage](#).

3. Treasurer's Report (SF)

Shailaja Fennell presented the budget for the past financial year 2024/25 and offered thanks to NomadIT for their support in managing the Association's accounts.

Overall, DSA accounts and reserves are healthy once again, with a net income (as of FY end 31/01/2025) of £17,498 and total funds carried forward of £153,741. This increase in reserves is ear-marked to spend more on current sectors and initiatives as well as to expand what DSA can provide financial support for. We have a new 3-year business plan to spend down our reserves. With the continued increase in costs to host the annual conference, the extra reserves help cover such increases and allow members to gather each year.

The accounts were approved as presented, along with the appointment of Sterling Partners to prepare accounts for next year.

4. President's Report (UK)

Uma Kambhampati presented her report (see documents on [DSA website](#)).

Objective 1: Advance Connections to Deepen Understanding of Development

DSA2026 conference will be held at University College Dublin, 8-10 July 2026. This avoids a clash with the EADI2026 conference that takes place at end of June 2026.

DSA Study Groups are more active with new SG convenors found for certain SGs that had become inactive recently and we have a new SG convenor on Council who is very pro-active. It was mentioned that any members wishing to start up new SGs, should come forward with their proposals.

DSA-OUP Book series now has 19 titles published and more in the pipeline, and again members were encouraged to get in touch if they have a title in mind or manuscript close to publication.

Two webinars took place in the past year focusing on the recent changes in the aid sector. Both webinars were well attended (>200 people at each) and also high numbers watched the recordings after the event. The President put out a further call for members who are interested in organising joint webinars with the DSA to reach out to our Communications Officer for guidance in what is involved and the time-frames required.

Objective 2: Raise Profile of the UK Development Studies Community and Provide a Platform for its Collective Voice

With the aid of the DSA Communications Officer, there has been growth across the DSA social media channels, and an uptake by members in the publication of blogs and further outreach to stakeholders.

The DSA won funding from AcSS to continue its EDI Audit project, led by Laura Camfield. Currently they are organising three workshops for racially minoritised ECRs. The first one took place already at King's College London and two others are planned around the country. The DSA is also contributing funding towards these workshops to assist with ECR attendance costs at these workshops.

The EDI audit will no longer be carrying out a staff race profile across DSA member institutions as the response to surveys has been very low. There will also be bystander training done with HoCs in a way to get them to engage with the findings of the EDI project that will be done in the autumn.

DSA is in the process now of signing off on a contract with JDS for a special issue to come from future DSA conferences, starting with DSA2026. The logistics are now being worked out among Council and members will be informed on how this will work in the coming months.

Question from audience: How will the theme of each issue be decided?

Uma: It will probably be aligned with the conference theme but of course it will depend on the timings of publication and when conference themes are decided but we will update everyone when we know more and these decisions have been made.

Question from audience: Can hybrid webinars be set up if we propose that?

DSA CO: We might be able to do hybrid webinars but we would have to work out the practicalities of the physical venue to link with the online venue and staffing needs.

Objective 3: Build the Institutional Strength of DSA

The DSA has worked recently to improve our governance procedures among Council: all Council members have been asked to carry out some self-led online training and complete charity trustee forms. We also have established ToRs for the various sub-groups and roles on Council.

Institutional membership remains similar to last year, but we hope other institutions will be interested in joining as institutional members in the coming year.

Objective 4: Nurture the Future of Development Studies Through Support to Students, ECRs, and HE Teachers.

Our Masters and PhD prize competitions continue to run and winners will be congratulated later in the AGM (see Item 6). The DSA encourages all institutional members and Heads of Centres to submit nominations for the prizes as not all our institutional members send in entries.

DSA Council Student Representatives Zechariahs Benapugha Owutuamor and Sheila Ronoh (present in-person) were commended for re-energizing the student group. They have chaired the DSA students meeting at the conference and assisted with a policy engagement workshop just before the conference.

Objective 5: Promote Greater EDI within the Development Studies Community:

The South South mentoring programme that was led by Tuesday Gichuki was completed and now gS members seek external funds to continue this project further.

Double the usual funds from the DSA have been provided this year to assist with gS delegate attendance at the conference (see the statistics on DSA2025 on page 4).

As mentioned earlier, AcSS funding was received for the EDI Audit, allowing for a student to be paid for their work on this valuable work.

The DSA Decolonising Development Database currently has 64 members and the sub-group responsible on Council are working on making it more interactive and engaging for those

on the directory, and updates concerning this will go out to those on the database in the autumn.

Overall Membership:

Membership numbers are lower overall currently compared to last year due to the non-automatic renewal of fee waiver (global South) category members at the end of last year. This is done to ensure those on the free membership confirm they wish to remain members and stay engaged with the DSA. All other categories are actually higher than recent years and our paying membership categories are even slightly higher than pre-pandemic levels.

DSA2025:

The total delegate number this year is a little down on the previous two hybrid conferences, however the 2023 and 2024 conferences were both in or close to London, which always generates larger attendance numbers. Secondly, this year's DSA did overlap with the ECAS2025 conference, that many of our usual delegates may have gone to instead.

The hybrid mode of delivery still appears to suit our delegate base, as it remains inclusive to attend the DSA conference even if delegates face health, cost, visa, family care or other issues that prevent them attending in-person.

A post-conference survey will be sent to all conference attendees to gain feedback on their views about the hybrid mode and if delegates are pleased with it, the DSA aims to continue with hybrid conferences.

Conference statistics were reported: 650 delegates in total, 232 online and 418 in person. By the time the conference took place, 73 panels were accepted and 425 papers. With the combined funds from DSA, University of Bath, JDS and JiD, 84 delegates were provided with partial funding to attend the conference, with 50% of them attending online and 50% attending in person. Over 90% of those funded were from and based in the low/ middle income countries.

5. DSA2025 Analysis – James Copestake (University of Bath)

Who are we, and what are we writing about and presenting at the conference?

James Copestake presented the research undertaken by him and some UGs at CDS on analysing the accepted papers of the DSA2025 conference. Delegates often only attend a snapshot of what is on at the conference due to so much on in parallel that it was thought this analysis would help understand what the key areas of research are at the conference. DSA Council provided access to data of accepted papers that were made public so no confidentiality issues arose.

At the time of the analysis 568 papers were accepted yet only 425 remained by the time of the conference, so quite a high number ended up withdrawn for various reasons.

The analysis showed that ~60% of panels were convened by researchers in the UK but only ~40% of paper authors in those panels were from the UK. Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia had high percentages of authors with accepted papers but lower percentages of convenors with accepted panels.

A word cloud analysis showed that there was a strong signal of terms associated with climate change and sustainability.

Comment: It is good to see the spread of convenors and authors by geographical region and helps to see if DSA is doing its job of accepting panels and papers that provide a good spread across regions where our members work and reside. Hard to decide what are the 'right' percentages but it forms a baseline to work from and think about.

6. PGT and PGR Prizes (UK)

The Masters' dissertation prize was won by Emeli Hanson from the University of Sheffield for her MA thesis entitled "The Construction of Menstruation as "something you have to hide": Embodied Experiences of Adolescent Girls in Uganda". Yoga Prasetyo (University of Sussex)'s MA dissertation entitled "Integration-Transnationalism Nexus in the Context of Enforced Transience: Managing Racial Harmony and Temporary Labor Migration in Singapore" was Highly Commended by the DSA Prizes Committee. Emeli Hanson presented at conference. Yoga Prasetyo was unfortunately not able to attend the conference in either format.

Emeli was called up to recognise her award and she gave thanks to the DSA and various people for the award and attendance at the conference.

The PhD thesis prize was won by Chiara Chiavaroli from LSE for her PhD entitled "It Rains Miscarriages: A Feminist Investigation of Toxic Risks in the Bajo Cauca Region (Colombia)". Chiara Chiavaroli attended the conference online but unfortunately it was not possible to find a panel for her to present in by the time of the award being made.

Chiara was online and also thanked the DSA for this and being able to attend the conference, she was also applauded for her award.

7. Nominations and Council Elections

None of the UK-based Council members are at the end of their terms this year, and so there are no elections at this year's AGM.

One global South representative on Council, Tuesday Gichuki, is at the end of his 2nd term on Council.

His successor will be nominated and voted in by global South DSA members via an online process in the autumn.

8. Any Other Business

Susannah Pickering-Saqqa (University of East London) gave thanks to the DSA for the great support they have received since the last conference to be able to talk openly about the genocide in Palestine at this conference and in DSA circles. They have found this refreshing and very different to their interactions at other conferences and institutions recently. They also mentioned that they have held several events at DSA2025 and

published blogs on the DSA website and they wanted to thank all who were involved in the efforts to assist them.

9. DSA2025 Conference will be held 8-10 July, 2026 at University College Dublin under the theme “Reimagining Development: Power, Agency, and Futures in an Uncertain World”. Looking forward to seeing everyone there!

One of the NomadIT team was denied their visa to Ireland recently to visit the venue, so DSA Council will work with our host convenors to ensure that delegates will not face visa problems. Do remember nearly everyone will need visas!

A vote of thanks to the DSA President at the end came from the audience.