

DSA2026

Journal of Development Studies conference special issue

Aim: make the route from conference paper to publishable article clear, supportive and realistic.

Session Purpose

Tone-setting for authors before they submit

Supportive, transparent, rigorous.

The aim is to demystify the process, widen engagement and help authors understand what “ready for JDS review” means.

What we can offer

- Clear timeline and process
- Scope and quality criteria
- Practical guidance on fit

What we cannot offer

- Individual pre-review of abstracts
- Guaranteed feedback to every submission
- A route around normal peer review

From conference paper to special issue article

A transparent pathway, with anticipated timeline



Submission to the special issue is not acceptance into the journal. The guest editors will select papers to proceed. Detailed feedback may not be possible for every submitted paper. Publication still depends on JDS editorial standards and peer review.

SI is anchored in the conference theme

Broad enough for diversity; focused enough for coherence

Reimagining Development: Power, Agency, and Futures in an Uncertain World

We invite papers to show not only what they study, but how they help reimagine development: who holds power, whose agency is recognised, and what futures are being made possible or foreclosed.

Potential thematic threads

- Decolonising development and redistributing power
- AI, digital technologies and inequality
- Climate justice and transformative futures
- Geopolitical shifts and aid futures
- Grassroots agency and alternative visions

Important: panels beyond the central theme may still fit if the paper makes a strong development studies contribution.

Scope: what kinds of submissions fit?

Keep it inclusive, but not vague

Open to diversity

- Qualitative, quantitative, mixed-methods, theoretical and policy-oriented work
- Multiple disciplines within development studies
- Themes across — and beyond — the main conference strands

But the paper must show

- A clear development studies contribution (a link to the conference theme)
- A compelling argument, not only a case description
- Evidence and methods appropriate to the claim
- Readability for a broad JDS audience

The bridge is contribution and it's up to the authors to make the bridge explicit

What do we mean by “finished and high-quality” by August?

A practical interpretation for authors

Not enough

A conference abstract, slide deck, early working paper, literature review without findings, or paper still awaiting core analysis.

Minimum expectation

A complete article with a clear title, abstract, argument, literature positioning, methods or conceptual framework, evidence, conclusion and references.

Stronger submissions

Show originality, analytical clarity, ethical confidence, transparent methods and a clear contribution to the special issue as a whole.

Please submit the best journal-ready version of the paper. We will assess the August submission, not the conference version.

How will submissions be evaluated?

Fit

JDS scope + special issue theme + development studies contribution

Quality

Originality, analytical depth, methodological rigour, evidence and writing

Coherence

Contribution to a balanced, readable and compelling special issue

All submissions are screened by guest editors; only a subset proceeds to journal consideration/peer review. Detailed feedback may not be possible for every submitted paper.

Logistics

Important to check out JDS's webpages

Consult JDS website

- What to submit
- Where to submit
- How to submit
- Manuscript formatting, style, word count

Important Dates

- Full paper deadline 3rd August
- Editorial screening window Aug to September
- (Revised) papers submitted to JDS soon after

<https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/fjds20>

<https://www.tandfonline.com/action/authorSubmission?show=instructions&journalCode=fjds20>

Journal overview

Aims and scope

Editorial board >

Instructions for authors >

The *Journal of Development Studies* (*JDS*) is an international, multi-disciplinary forum dedicated to publishing the finest original research and fostering rigorous theoretical debate in the field of global development. The journal aims to advance understanding of the economic, cultural, social, political, and environmental processes and ideologies that shape the field and inform policy and practice.

JDS welcomes submissions that:

Some Q&A

No EOI ticked?

Likely still eligible, but criteria and competitiveness apply.

Co-authored paper?

One presenting / registered author should be sufficient.

Paper changed after conference?

Assess the August manuscript: submit the strongest version.

Feedback for all?

Decisions only; detailed feedback at the discretion of guest editors and is not guaranteed.

Pre-submission fit query?

Use FAQ and JDS scope; no informal pre-review.

Not selected for SI?

Authors may pursue another suitable route after the decision. You must not submit the paper anywhere else during the screening and peer-review process.

Use of AI?

Disclosure of AI use is mandated when it goes beyond AI assisting with “language, grammar, or structure” and is prohibited for generating content or analysis, generating data and so on.

Open Access?

JDS is happy to make the whole special issue freely available online for 60 days following its publication