



Annual General Meeting 2022-2023
Friday 3 November 2023, via Zoom
1pm -3 pm AEDT (Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne, Hobart,)
12.30 pm – 2.30 pm (Adelaide)
12pm – 2pm (Brisbane)
11.30 am -1.30 pm (Darwin)
10 am- 12 pm AWST (Perth)

AGENDA

- 1. Acknowledgement of Country**
- 2. Apologies**
- 3. Register of Members in Attendance / Confirmation of Quorum / Membership update**
- 4. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting**
- 5. Annual Report**
- 6. Financial Report**
- 7. Development in Practice (DSAA Journal) Report**
- 8. Election of Members of the Committee**
- 9. Annual Membership Fee**
- 10. Any other business (AOB)**



ANNUAL REPORT 2023 (July 2023- November 2023)

I am delighted to report that the DSAA has had an eventful, busy and productive year. We have been working to strengthen what was an already solid foundation and I would like to begin by registering a big “thank you” to all our members for their ongoing support and to all previous and current members of the Executive Committee for their dedication and invaluable contributions.

The DSAA has had some significant achievements over the past year, and I would like to begin by noting an exciting new initiative which we set-up, the DSAA biennial seminar, the aim of which is to focus on a significant theme in our field. The idea behind this was to have an event to bring members together in the years when we do not have a Conference. Our inaugural biennial seminar on 'Indigenous Peoples and Relational ‘Development’: From disavowal to embrace?' was presented by Adjunct Associate Professor Mary Graham and Associate Professor Morgan Brigg in May this year. The event was very well attended with enthusiastic engagement. The seminar was recorded and is available through our Members Area on the DSAA website.

We enthusiastically report on the ongoing success of the DSAA flagship journal *Development in Practice* (DiP). I would like to register a big thank you to Patrick Kilby, Editor-in-Chief, Emily Finlay, Managing Editor, Deputy Editors Rochelle Spencer and Joyce Wu, and the Thematic Editors for their hard work and commitment to publishing high quality research. Importantly, I acknowledge the dedication with which they have been working to support the publication of submissions from authors from the Global South through their peer-review mentorship process. The increasing standing of DiP in the field is reflected in the high volume of submissions received (already over 700 submissions in 2023; this is up from 500 last year) with an acceptance rate of 18%. Of this total, 36% of publications have had lead authors from the Global South.

The awards that DiP has established are a wonderful way to recognise the talent and contributions to the field of early career researchers and practitioners. Congratulations are due to the winner of the 2021 **Early Practitioner and Early Career Researcher Prize** “[The gendered impact of COVID-19 on FGM](#)” by Ottis Mubaiwa et al, and to the 2022 **DSAA & DiP HDR Journal Award** for “Investing emotions at work: an exploratory study of women’s experience in Indian NGOs”, by Pranjali Das (accepted and forthcoming). The on-going success of DiP has been acknowledged by Taylor and Francis who have substantially increased DiP’s grant for 2024. All of these achievements and more are tabled separately in the DiP report to this AGM. Once again, we register our appreciation to the DiP editorial team for all their contributions and achievements.

We strongly encourage DSAA members to consider submitting to DiP, spread the word to colleagues and do encourage HDR and ECR colleagues to consider applying for relevant DiP awards. More information on DiP and the submission process is available [here](#).

In keeping with the theme of research, it has been wonderful to see the results of our colleagues who worked so hard to get up the Field of Research (FoR) code for Development Studies (4404). In 2022 Rochelle Spencer and her team were the successful recipients of the first ever ARC

Discovery Project (DP) under the Development Studies FoR code. We warmly congratulate Rochelle and her team! The ARC received a total of four Discovery Project applications with Development Studies as the primary FoR code (4404) in 2022. We register our gratitude to Anthony Ware who led the bid with the ARC and to colleagues who assisted in this process. Please do consider using this FoR code for submission of grant proposals to the ARC. We wish colleagues who are planning to submit an Expression of Interest to the ARC in 2024 all the very best.

As we know, research funding grants is now a significant measure of research assessment and excellence, which has had implications for equity and recognition of the diversity of research strengths. I enthusiastically welcomed an invitation for the DSAA to participate in a roundtable discussion on “Modernising research assessment in Australia” that was organized by the Australian Council of Learned Academies (ACOLA). ACOLA is an independent, not-for-profit research organisation that has been commissioned by Australia's Chief Scientist, Dr Cathy Foley (AO PSM FAA FTSE), to undertake a review of how research assessment affects research culture and the behaviours and choices of researchers across the research and innovation system. In the words of ACOLA: “The aim of this discussion was to gather in-depth insights, especially focused on understanding the experiences and perspectives of researchers and research organisations in relation to research assessment, identifying systemic issues and exploring alternative models for research assessment.” At the roundtable discussion, I was encouraged to see researchers from across the sector voicing concerns over issues of equity and diversity, as well as over inequities in evaluating research excellence arising from the emphasis on grant or contract funds.

In November 2022, the DSAA received an invitation from the Academy of Social Sciences to attend a seminar on the events the Academy was organizing to promote the social sciences through a wide range of initiatives (from high school initiatives to open days at universities). Patrick Kilby and I attended this, and it was inspiring to see the commitment to enhance the value of knowledge across the social sciences and to reach out to future generation of scholars. To see the DSAA recognised across such national initiatives, from ACOLA to the Academy of Social Sciences is testimony to our increasing visibility.

DFAT's release in August this year of Australia's International Development Policy-For a Peaceful, Stable and Prosperous Indo-Pacific could serve as a springboard for some of us whose work focuses on the region. The DSAA made a submission to DFAT during their consultation-phase on its international development policy. The submission is available on the DSAA website (under the 'statements and submissions' link). Thanks to everyone who contributed, and a big thank you to Patrick Kilby for taking the lead on putting this together.

By way of international engagement, I was invited to be part of a **podcast on development** with outgoing president of the Development Studies Association, UK, Sam Hickey and Winnie Mitullah from IDS Nairobi. For anyone interested, you can access the podcast via the link below: [podcast on different perspectives of development studies](#),

There are some things to report regarding DSAA organisational and house-keeping issues. We have been working on updating the interface of our website as well as on ironing out some technical issues relating to the payment system and the consistency of our membership database. Following a review, we have now moved to a much more intuitive and easier online payment system by shifting to Stripe (from Paypal). We are still in process of ironing out some minor issues, but overall, Stripe has proved to be a much smoother payment system. Apart from some small aesthetic improvements to our front page, we have also recently created a Member Area accessible via membership login. We hope to gradually build this up as a repository of resources for members, and a space for 'members only' to engage. Please watch out for more updates on

this. The website changes may seem small, but they entailed quite a bit of time and was work-intensive for all involved. I register a big thank you especially to Patrick and Franny, and also to our IT-contractors .

In terms of other on-going work, the DSAA Executive has been busy building on the excellent foundation that we inherited since the last AGM. Among other things, we have been sourcing new contributions for the DSAA Pedagogy Blog and we register our thanks to Susan Engel for carrying this forward. Please consider spreading the word about this important resource that the DSAA has been so committed to developing.

Additionally, we have been working to revive and enhance the DSAA Thematic Working Groups with an excellent work-in-progress document prepared by Aiden Craney. We will share more information on this in the coming year. I should note that Matthew Mabefam volunteered to serve as a Thematic Editor of DiP, another important contribution.

Taking the lead on enhancing DSAA international engagement, Deborah Cummins and Francesca Earp have just recently outlined by way of an 'Options Paper' a set of carefully thought through suggestions for this, including ideas to take forward HDR engagement. The Committee has adopted the recommendations from this paper, and Deborah is undertaking the task of reaching out to professional associations internationally to build our networks.

Here, I would register a big thank you to Francesca Earp, DSAA Social Media Administrator for her ongoing outstanding support.

I also thank Francesca for initiating the DSAA HDR Spotlight Series to be showcased on LinkedIn. Our very first spotlight is with Matt Champness an HDR candidate at Deakin University.

We have also made a few important banking related changes, such as separating the DiP finances from the everyday running of the DSAA, with DSAA nevertheless remaining responsible overall for DiP. Separating the accounts was done for administrative, practical and transparency purposes.

All of the above is indicative of the hard work that our committee members have been involved in this past year. Going forward, we will revisit the DSAA Five Year Strategic Plan and collectively take stock of progress made, of what needs further attention and consideration, and of what further goals we may seek to work towards.

The kinds of important questions that the DSAA has been engaged with over these years are more and more relevant as we continue to face many local and global challenges, not least as a consequence of the ongoing legacies of colonialism and deeply felt impact of colonial capitalism. As the DSAA moves towards its fifth anniversary in 2024, there would be a great opportunity to consider big thematic focal points for the near and longer term future at our 2024 biennial conference.

On the latter, we are very pleased to confirm that the DSAA will be celebrating its fifth anniversary on the occasion of our 2024 conference which will be hosted by the University of Melbourne, 10-12 July 2024. We think that our conference theme 'Development Futures' captures a collective concern with the challenges and opportunities locally and globally very well. Please lock-in the dates in your diaries and spread the word about our DSAA 2024 conference on *Development Futures*.

We will be bringing you more detailed information on this shortly, as we roll out the call for submissions and share other logistical information. At this point, I want to extend a huge thank you to the team at the University of Melbourne for hosting this important event and for all the time and efforts thus far. In particular, I would like to thank Jeff Garmany, Bina D'Costa, Vichy Schubert and Nadeem Malik. I would also like to thank the DSAA members on the conference organizing committee (including Franny and Aidan) and extend a very big thank you to Patrick Kilby for leading the DSAA team on this.

The DSAA and the work it does relies on the invaluable contribution of its committee members. I register my thanks and gratitude to all our committee members. I would also like to thank members individually. We register our thanks to Brooke Wilmsen for all her contributions. She stepped down in early 2023 as she had other exciting things this year, such as a sabbatical and long service leave. We warmly welcomed Sara C. Motta who stepped in as an Ordinary Member. I want to thank Sajal Roy who resigned as Treasurer for capacity related reasons. A big thank you to Patrick for stepping in as Acting Treasurer twice over the past year. Francesca Earp is stepping down as student representative but will continue as part of the team in her role as DSAA Social Media Administrator. Last but not least, I would like to extend a warm thank you to Nadeem Malik for his contributions as Vice President.

As we thank our outgoing members, I want to very warmly welcome and introduce Maxim Mancino. Max is the new addition as Admin Support Assistant to the DSAA team and has hit the ground running! We are very pleased to have Max on board and register a big thank you to him for all the contributions he has made already.

To our DSAA members, thank you so much for your on-going support. The DSAA is *your* association, and we are grateful for the opportunity to serve you. I hope that the small but important changes we made to the DSAA Newsletter, such as setting up a process to procure information about your achievements, including publications and relevant opportunities in advance has been useful. It has been wonderful to read about our collective achievements.

In peace and solidarity with all our friends and colleagues in Australia and across the world.

Sincerely,
Heloise Weber, DSAA President.

Development Studies Association Australia Inc.
Financial statement for the year ended 30 June 2023

Income \$	2022	2023
Membership	\$9540	\$15,597.48
Conference registration	\$5,270	\$140.00
Conference sponsorship	\$1,800	\$1,000.00
Interest Received		\$128.77
<i>Development in Practice</i> grant ¹	\$40,000	\$44,000.00
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Total income	\$56,610	\$60,866.25
Assets \$		
Bendigo bank account(to 30 June)	\$87,266	\$51,902
Other assets \$	nil	nil
Liabilities (up to 30 June 2022) \$	nil	nil
Expense \$		
Salary (<i>Development in Practice</i>)	\$30,917	\$42,607.37
Salary (Communications/DSAA)	\$4214	\$5,292.15
DSAA Conference		\$2,111.73
Website	\$2117	\$5,459.78
Other Administration		\$268.57
Bank Fees/paypal	\$487	\$104.31
Aon Public Liability Insurance	\$697	\$703.01
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Total expenditure	\$38,432	\$56,546.92
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Surplus for the year	\$18,178	\$4,319.33

Treasurer

¹ The *Development in Practice* grant is for the purpose of operational and administration costs of the journal, such as the Assistant Editor salary, liability insurance, and the annual journal prizes.

Development in Practice

Report to the DSAA AGM, November 2023

Submissions

DiP has had a good year and has seen a dramatic increase in the number of submissions to the journal—we have already received more than 700 submissions in 2023 to date (up from 500 last year). We are told that this increase in submissions is unique to DiP, among the development studies journals held by Taylor & Francis.

Roughly 70% of these submissions have had corresponding authors based in the Global South and of these, around 90% have been for review, are under review, or are receiving pre-review mentorship. Very few receive desk rejections. On average, most manuscripts receive 2–3 rounds of feedback from the Editorial Team before being sent for review.

Acceptances

DiP's acceptance rate is currently at 18%. In 2023 so far, 36% of our publications have had lead authors based in the Global South. We are working to mentor our other submissions from the Global South to bring them to publication. We currently wish to increase acceptances to extend our backlog (without compromising on quality). Our target backlog is six issues and we currently have around three.

Themes

Publications with a gender focus are on the rise. The Editorial Team has recently had a book proposal accepted by Routledge, which is a compilation of classic and more recent articles on the theme of gender and development. We anticipate that this will raise the profile of the journal as gender-focused. Submissions on conflict and peacebuilding are also on the rise, following our recent special issue on this topic.

Special Issues

DiP has published two special issues in 2023: one on Modern Slavery and Exploitative Work Regimes, and the other on Conflict Sensitivity/Do No Harm in Development, Humanitarian, & Peacebuilding Practice (this will also be published as a Routledge book). There are currently another seven special issues underway: five at the review stage and another two at the proposal stage.

Prizes

DiP is offering three prizes for 2023: (1) the **Early Practitioner and Early Career Researcher Prize** (no winner in 2022; the 2021 winner was "[The gendered impact of COVID-19 on FGM](#)" by Ottis Mubaiwa et al.); (2) the **DSAA & DiP HDR Journal Award** (awarded in 2022 for "Investing emotions at work: an exploratory study of women's experience in Indian NGOs", by Pranjali Das; accepted and forthcoming); and (3) the **DiP Reviewer Award**, which has not yet been awarded. The recipients of each of these prizes will receive vouchers to purchase T&F books up to the value of £150.

Metrics

DiP is tracking well in terms of downloads and is accessed by roughly 10,000 institutions. The journal's CiteScore is on the rise (currently 2.6). For the first time, the journal has been formally given an Impact Factor (IF = 1; 5-yr IF = 1.2). Most of our most highly cited articles from the past three years were published in open access. There is a trend toward more open access publications (and, eventually, complete open access).

Funding

Taylor & Francis has just agreed to increase DiP's grant by a further \$8,000. This will mean the grant will rise from \$44,000 to \$52,000.