

DSA Ireland CONFERENCE 2014

BRIDGING THE GAP
TRANSLATING DEVELOPMENT
RESEARCH INTO PRACTICE



Development Studies Association (DSA) Ireland

DSA Ireland provides a national platform, an open and participatory space for dialogue between researchers, policy-makers and practitioners who have an interest in, or are working in, the area of international development. It supports cohesion and capacity-building in the development studies sector and promotes strategic alliances and partnerships to promote and enhance the Irish development studies sector. It harnesses research to support and promote coherent evidence-based development. Its policy and practice aim at the reduction of global poverty, the enhancement of all forms of equality and respect for human rights. DSA Ireland currently supports six study groups: Water; Nutrition; Civil Society; Education; Gender and Humanitarian Action. Each group is run by a Convenor with experience and/or expertise in the given area. Study Groups are involved in different activities such as occasional seminars/workshops focused on new research; collaborative projects on key thematic areas; conducting research and supporting new research initiatives; engaging in dialogue with other researchers and practitioners and participating in thematic sessions as part of the programme of events at the DSA Ireland Annual Conference.

DSA Ireland welcomes you to our Annual Conference 2014.

PROGRAMME OUTLINE	
DAY 1 - 27 November 2014	DAY 2 - 28 November 2014
14.00-15.00 Registration	9.45-10.00 Introduction of Study Groups Chair: Prof. Pdraig Carmody, DSA Ireland
15.00-16.00 DSA Ireland Information and Consultation Meeting	10.00-11.15 Session 1: Parallel Study Group Panels
16.00-17.00 Conference Opening - Bronagh Carr, Irish Aid 'Mind the Gap': Opportunities and Trade-offs in Translating Development Research into Practice' Introduced by Peter McEvoy, Treasurer, DSA Ireland	11.15-11.45 Coffee Break
	11.45-13.00 Session 2: Parallel Study Group Panels
17.00-18.00 Opening Address - Dr. Robert Chambers 'Redefining Professionalism: A Brilliant Time to be Alive' Introduced by - Dr. Vanessa Liston, DSA Ireland	13.00-13.45 Lunch
	13.45-14.45 Session 3: General Development Panel/ Dóchas HIV & AIDS Working Group
18.00- 18.30 Tea/Coffee Break	14.45-15.00 Coffee Break
18.30- 19.30 Keynote Address - Prof. Charles Gore 'The Idea of Global Goals' Introduced by - Prof. Ronaldo Munck, Chair, DSA Ireland	15.00-15.30 Rapporteurs Roundtable Chair: Dr. Su-Ming Khoo, DSA Ireland
	15.30-16.30 Roundtable: The Challenges of Research for Development Chair: Prof. Sean Farren, DSA Ireland
19.30-21.00 Evening Reception	16.30 Conference Closes

Day 1 DSA Ireland Information and Consultation Meeting

27 November; 15.00-16.00; Venue: Main Conference Hall

This session will allow the members of DSA Ireland to hear about the latest developments in the Association and its activities and, at the same time, feed back to the Steering Committee any ideas they might have on new areas of work and/or new ways of doing things. The findings

of DSA Ireland's 'Research Mapping' study will be announced, along with the formation of a new Academic Forum, and also an exciting new initiative 'Research into Action'. A brand new research award initiative will also be announced!

Conference Opening - 'Mind the Gap': Opportunities and Trade-offs in Translating Development Research into Practice' - Bronagh Carr, Irish Aid

27 November; 16.00-17.00; Venue: Main Conference Hall

Bronagh Carr is a Development Specialist in the Policy Coherence and Research Unit of Irish Aid, the official aid programme of the Irish Government. She is responsible for leading the development and roll-out of Irish Aid's Research Strategy with its emphasis on building evidence on Ireland's priorities for poverty reduction, strengthening communication and policy uptake of research,

and improving development research capacity within Irish Aid key partner countries. Bronagh also manages a number of national and international research partnerships, including Irish Aid's flagship Programme of Strategic Cooperation with Irish third level institutions including the partnership with the Development Studies Association, Ireland.

Introduced by: Peter Mc Evoy, Dublin City University and Treasurer, DSA Ireland

Conference Opening Address - 'Redefining Professionalism: A Brilliant Time to be Alive' - Dr. Robert Chambers

27 November; 17.00-18.00; Venue: Main Conference Hall

Robert Chambers is one of the most influential scholars and writers in international development studies of the past generation. For the last 40 years he has been a researcher at the Institute of Development Studies, at the University of Sussex in England. He became a leading figure in the field of development management in the 1970s, publishing several books on the management of land settlement schemes and work on rural development management more broadly. This drew on ten or twelve years of experience as an administrator, lecturer and researcher in Africa, to which he later added five or six years of research in India. What has made Robert Chambers famous, however, has been his work from the early 1980s onwards. Looking back on the work

of his mainstream development management period, he came to consider much of it to be misleading and misconceived, sometimes even disastrous. Dr. Chambers has made a major contribution to a paradigm shift in development studies towards more 'people centered' and bottom-up approaches. From being a mainstream development management scholar, he evolved into being a world leader of participatory development research and participatory practice, and a central figure in the corresponding global knowledge networks and communities of practice, not only in universities but especially amongst practitioners in NGOs, government and civil society. He helped to identify, highlight and name many potential biases in the observation

and understanding of poor people's lives; to diagnose the sources of these biases, in methods of observation and analysis, and in the underlying

power-relations and mindsets; and to build new methods, and a system of ideas to sustain them.

Introduced by: Dr. Vanessa Liston, Dublin City University and DSA Ireland

Conference Keynote Address - 'The Idea of Global Goals' - Prof. Charles Gore

27 November; 18.30-19.30; Venue: Main Conference Hall

Charles Gore is former Head of Research of Africa and Least Developed Countries in UNCTAD. He has over thirty years experience in international development with a primary focus on globalization, development strategies and poverty. He worked as an academic and an international consultant, and conducted and managed research within ILO and UNCTAD, including work on social exclusion in a global context, East Asian development success and the development problems of Africa and least developed countries. Between 1999 and 2008, he directed the research for UNCTAD's Least Developed Countries Report and in that

context elaborated a structuralist approach to trade, development and poverty reduction, centred on developing productive capacities. He was a member of the UN Experts Group of the UN Millennium Project on MDGs. He is presently a member of the Academic Council of the Swiss Network for International Studies and a member of the Council of the UK Development Studies Association. He was appointed Honorary Professor of Economics at the University of Glasgow, Scotland, in 2008.

Introduced by: Prof. Ronaldo Munck, Dublin City University and Chair DSA Ireland

Day 2 Introduction of Study Groups

28 November; 09.45-10.00; Venue: Main Conference Hall

This short 15 minute session will introduce the DSA Ireland Study Groups and the work they have been doing over the past year, along with plans for the future.

Chair: Prof. Padraig Carmody, Trinity College Dublin and DSA Ireland

Day 2 Session 1 - Parallel Study Group Panels

28 November; 10.00-11.15

Civil Society Panel 1 - 'Contested Civil Society: Positioning in a Time of Economic and Social Crisis'

The scale of inequalities facing citizens all around the world is reaching a critical point, calling into question the current capitalistic world order. The need to identify social change strategies for civil society actors is more urgent than ever, including the need to establish new civil society alliances. A number of recent conferences have problematized the system stabilizing role many

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) are playing. At the same time, we can find influential civil society alliances, including NGOs, which have developed a sense of urgency to support grass roots movements and build value-based alternatives to what is now an over-financialised globalization. In the name of 'sustainable development strategies' - a term initially

introduced by civil movements, NGOs and critical social scientists - some governments and (foreign) investors are implementing neo-liberal politics at a global scale and facilitate the global land rush which, already studied many times, contributes to increasing social inequalities.

What is the response of civil society to all this? Does the meaning of civil society for key development actors and consequently the strategies for civil society strengthening programmes require a shift in focus? Does the impact on human-nature relations create potential for conflicts which

provoke an organic process of emancipation for civil society and change its role as more and more livelihoods are being threatened?

Speakers:

Dr. Kevin O'Sullivan, National University of Ireland, Galway

Tanja Kleibl, Independent Consultant

Dr. David Nyaluke, Dublin City University

Suzanne Keating, Trocaire

Chair: Prof. Ronaldo Munck, DCU and DSA Ireland

Venue: Classroom 1

Education and Development Panel 1 - 'The Challenges Ahead'

Education remains a fundamental requirement for all development - cultural, economic, and social - yet millions remain excluded, totally or partially from its benefits. While the number of children out of school since 1999 has reduced by 37m, it is believed that 57m remain out of school, the majority of them girls. In many countries completion of primary education remains low; in 22 countries, 30 per cent leave with less than four years of schooling. Access to second level education is improving but it is still beyond the means of many, particularly girls. 796m adults are illiterate and with teacher education being underdeveloped, almost 2 million teachers are required to meet immediate needs. Other levels of education, technical, vocational and academic are all experiencing growth in developing countries, but the pace of development and the quality of the education provided falls short of needs in many situations.

What should be our response, given the pressure on services and resources in our own situation and in the Global North generally? Is it simply a question of 'expansion, expansion, expansion', or are there universal and fundamental issues that must be borne in mind alongside, and as part of that expansion? How might the education related research we promote ensure the attainment of social, cultural, political, economic and, environmental aims?

Speakers

Dr. Su-Ming Khoo, National University of Ireland Galway & DSA Ireland

Elaine Mahon, Irish Development Education Association

Prof. Paul Conway, University of Limerick

Chair: Dr. Sean Farren, DSA Ireland

Venue: Classroom 5

Gender and Development Panel 1- 'Reinvigorating a Gender Agenda and Restoring a Feminist Approach'

Over thirty years after women and gender was introduced into development strategies, there is a need for evidence and practice based critical reflection on the success of the gender and development agenda. The drive to mainstream gender, to make it acceptable to the bureaucracies of the aid industry, can be felt as an advance for women's rights activists. However, it is also necessary to look critically at dominant

approaches to gender equality and women's rights in the current aid environment. Practitioners, activists, students and academics are invited to look critically at dominant approaches to gender equality and women's rights in the current aid environment and to assess progress and losses in women's security, autonomy, and choices in development contexts or globally.

How can a gender agenda be reinvigorated in development studies? How can a feminist approach be restored?

Speakers

'What's wrong with empowerment?' -
Dr. Fenella Porter, Ruskin College Oxford & Birbeck College, University of London

'The case for...really...making women's participation count in development planning' -
Daniel Morchain, Oxfam UK

'Women, religion and development: the case of Morocco' - **Dr. Aura Lousnasma, University of East London**

Chair: Prof. G. Honor Fagan, National University of Ireland, Maynooth

Venue: Classroom 6

Humanitarian Action Panel 1 - 'Contemporary Issues in Humanitarian Action'

Dr. Walt Kilroy, will provide an overview of some contemporary issues related to humanitarian action in 2014. Drawing from the work done by Humanitarian Action Study Group members and collaborators over the last 10 months, he will highlight some of the issues that have come up in study group sessions related to major on-going humanitarian emergencies in West Africa (related to Ebola), South Sudan, CAR and Iraq / Syria (related to conflict), disaster preparedness, as well as the on-going evolution on international law in the area of disasters.

Brian Casey from UCD will provide an overview of Ireland's contribution to the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) and as part of this, a particular focus on the initial findings from the Education and Research Institutions in Ireland. The WHS is a UN initiative by the Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, scheduled to be held in Istanbul in May 2016. In the lead up to this, Ireland is following the UN format and undertaking a review and study process across four thematic areas (humanitarian effectiveness; innovation, risk and vulnerabilities; and people living in conflict environments) across five key sectors: Public, NGO, Diaspora, Education and Research Institutes and the Private Sector. Ireland's major Education and Research Institutes have participated in this study and this presentation will focus on preliminary findings from this stakeholder group.

Réiseal Ní Chéilleachair will provide an overview of current processes related to the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid, on behalf of

both Trócaire and Concern. The Consensus is a strategic framework to guide the actions of the European Union (EU) and its Member States, to improve the effectiveness of humanitarian aid operations.

This year, as part of national and international activities taking place to mark World AIDS Day on December 1st, Breda Gahan, representing the Dóchas HIV and AIDS Working Group, will make a presentation on issues related to HIV and resilience, with a particular focus on humanitarian emergencies and humanitarian programming. As part of her presentation she will also launch a new HIV checklist recently developed by the Dóchas HIV and AIDS Working Group related to HIV and Resilience that can be applied in all contexts.

'Current Humanitarian Emergencies: An Overview' - **Dr. Walt Kilroy, Dublin City University**

'Irish and World Humanitarian Summits: Preliminary Findings from a consultative process' -
Brian Casey, University College Dublin

'A Summary and Recommendations on the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid' -
Réiseal Ní Chéilleachair, Trócaire & Dominic Crowley, Concern Worldwide

'HIV and Resilience: A New Toolkit of the Dóchas HIV Working Group' - **Breda Gahan, Concern Worldwide**

Chair: Dr. Rob Kevlihan, Kimmage DSC and DSA Ireland

Venue: Main Conference Hall

Day 2 Session 2 - Parallel Study Group Panels

28 November; 11.45-13.00

Civil Society Panel 2

Results frameworks in development NGOs: do they benefit the beneficiaries or they just for the donors? - **Enida Friel (et al.), Oxfam Ireland**

Community mobilization - how local community groups can be supported by external actors? - **Niall O'Keeffe, Trócaire**

Limitations of professional environmentalism: a bottom up perspective - **Orla Quinn, Trócaire**

Not Just a Water Crisis: A Comparative Study of Civil Society Initiatives in Intra-State Transboundary River Conflict Resolution Process in India - **Sulagna Maitra, University College Dublin**

Chair: Tanja Kleibl, Independent Consultant

Venue: Classroom 1

Education and Development Panel 2

'A four-country evaluation of partnership support for student teachers on placement: 'they believed in me' - **Linda Clarke (et al), University of Ulster**

'Education and Conflict: how might organisational education practices be improved for the humanitarian space?' - **Niall Connors, Doctoral Student, University of Nottingham**

'Attitudes to global development in Ireland - challenges for development educators' - **Eilish Dillon, Kimmage Development Studies Centre**

'The significance of interculturalism as a starting point for overcoming barriers to the active engagement of student teachers with development education issues' - **Rosalind Duke, CICE & Aoife Titley, National University of Ireland, Maynooth**

'Is comparative education another form of colonialism?' - **Michael Kenny, National University of Ireland, Maynooth & Michelle Kennedy, National University of Ireland, Maynooth**

'Sharing the fruits of research through education: lessons from the COSYST-MNTH project in Malawi and Ireland' - **Anne Matthews (et al.), Dublin City University**

'A new agenda for higher education and development: integrating scholarships for sustainable human development' - **Dr. Su-Ming Khoo, National University of Ireland, Galway and DSA Ireland**

Chair: Dr. Sean Farren, DSA Ireland

Venue: Classroom 5

Gender and Development Panel 2

'Engaging men on gender equality in Concern Tanzania's women's empowerment programme'

- **Bernadette Crawford, Chris Pain, Maurice Sadlier, Concern Worldwide**

'Woman Waterkeeper? Women's Troubled Participation in Water Resource Management'

- **Richard Asaba and Honor Fagan, Makerere University & National University of Ireland Maynooth**

'Are we nearly there? Gender and Political Participation in Zambia' - **Jack Bwalya, University College Dublin**

Open Conversation: 'Reinvigorating a Gender Agenda'

Chair: Aura Lounasma, University of East London

Venue: Classroom 6

Humanitarian Action Panel 2 - 'GBV in Emergencies: Linking Research, Policy and Practice'

Gender based violence in emergencies has been recognized as an issue within the humanitarian sector since the late 1990s. Increasing awareness of the scale of the problem and the challenge of responding adequately has been accompanied by increased attention globally on research, policy development and policy adoption in this area. In Ireland, the establishment of the Irish Consortium on Gender Based Violence in 2004 signaled renewed efforts by both government and civil society organizations to promote a coherent and coordinated response to GBV.

Ten years on from the establishment of this consortium, and almost 20 years on from early pilot GBV programming efforts internationally, how much closer are we to adequately addressing issues related to GBV in emergencies? To what extent have Irish actors engaged in research and

policy development in this area? How much further do we have to go to ensure that progress made is translated into changes in practice that can improve conditions on the ground for those at risk of or suffering from gender based violence? And finally, what are the gaps that currently exist with respect to linking research, policy and practice?

Speakers

Capt. Gillian Collins, Irish Defense Forces

Cathal Reidy, Irish Aid

Colm Byrne, Oxfam & Irish Consortium on GBV
Siobhán Foran, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Chair: Dr. Rob Kevlihan, Kimmage DSC and DSA Ireland

Venue: Main Conference Hall

Day 2 Session 3 - Parallel Session: General Development Panel/ Special HIV-AIDS Session (Dochas Working Group on HIV)

28 November; 13.45-14.45

General Development Panel

'Everyone's turn to eat: devolution and development in Kenya' - **Michelle D'Arcy, Trinity College Dublin**

'Bringing Stakeholders together to find solutions: a study of a system to address cross-border child trafficking in South Asia' - **John Lannon, University of Limerick**

'It is easy to rule a poor man: the political ecology of land grabbing and environmental change in Uganda' - **Padraig Carmody & David Taylor, Trinity College Dublin**

'Transnational debt campaigning: an examination of advocacy approaches' - **Jean Somers, University College Dublin**

'Does the installation of a water pump affect the quality of life of families and individuals in villages in Northern Malawi?' - **Kerstin Rieger, MSc Development Practice Student, Trinity College Dublin/University College Dublin**

'Seeking a shared vision from research to practice: a case example from the Thailand-Burma border' - **Derina Johnson, PhD Student, Trinity College Dublin**

Chair: Prof. Padraig Carmody, Trinity College Dublin and DSA Ireland

Venue: Main Conference Hall

HIV/AIDS Special Session - Dochas HIV and AIDS Working Group

This session will be used to mark World AIDS Day (which falls on 1 December). It will contain a video address from Fr. Michael Kelly, a lifelong AIDS advocate who has worked and published extensively on HIV and education and in whose honor Irish Aid has set up the Annual World AIDS Day Fr Michael Kelly Lecture. It will be followed by a presentation from a member of the Working Group on the theme of 'HIV research and practice: lessons learnt and challenges for the future' and an HIV related video. There will be time for questions,

thoughts and comments and participants are encouraged to engage with background visuals such as posters with HIV related research conducted by agency members of the Working Group, technical resources and policy positions the Working Group has published. Red ribbons - the symbol of HIV and AIDS movement - will be given to every member of the audience.

Venue: Classrooms 5&6

Rapporteurs Roundtable

28 November; 15.00-15.30; Venue: Main Conference Hall

Rapporteurs from the two parallel sessions on gender, education, civil society and humanitarian action and the session on general development will bring their respective conclusions to the

general table. We will seek to develop a synthesis in terms of lessons learnt that will feed into the final roundtable on the challenges to research for development.

Chair: Dr. Su-Ming Khoo, National University of Ireland Galway and DSA Ireland

Final Roundtable: Challenges to Research for Development

28 November; 15.30-16.30; Venue: Main Conference Hall

This session will sum up many of the challenges currently facing the research-practice-policy paradigm. How can development research become more relevant to development policy and practice? What are the challenges from all sides of this complex research equation? How do we best translate research into effective poverty reduction practice? How do we maintain academic integrity and the independence of research for development?

Speakers:

Dr. Rob Kevlihan, Kimmage DSC and DSA Ireland

Dr. Lorna Gold, Trocaire and DSA Ireland

Elizabeth Colucci, European Universities Association

Dr. Fenella Porter, Ruskin College Oxford & Birbeck College, University of London

Chair: Dr. Sean Farren, DSA Ireland

16.30 - Conference Closes



Website: www.dsaireland.org
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