

Development Studies Association of Ireland

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Ireland has a long and proud history of commitment to international development. Research is the key to our effectiveness in reducing poverty and vulnerability worldwide.

Development studies in Ireland is an active community spread across academic institutions, NGOs and the public and private sector. Yet there is little opportunity to connect with those working in similar areas. DSA Ireland fills this gap by providing a platform to bring together researchers, policy-makers and practitioners from across the development sector.

For higher education institutions and academics this means:

- an enabling platform for strategic alliances and partnerships towards funding opportunities
- an extensive network of peer to peer contacts to create new communities of practice
- being able to engage productively with policy makers and practitioners in the field of international development to showcase recent research and influence policy agendas

For NGOs this means:

- access to sources of professional research which supports evidence-based policy and practice
- partnering in research with higher education institutions in pursuit of a progressive international development agenda in Ireland
- access to up-and-coming researchers who can make linkages to relevant funding sources for joint research

And for students:

- benefit from cross disciplinary and inter-institutional dialogue and capacity building with student peers, top academics in the field, and development practitioners
- opportunities for papers to be reviewed by top academics and valuable experience in relation to publishing
- promotes employment possibilities for International Development graduates and opportunities to disseminate research findings, increase research impact, and feed into evidence-based policy and practice

'The work of the DSAI is vital in bringing together development policy, practice and research in a coherent manner and ensures that Irish NGOs benefit fully from the knowledge and expertise of our academic community in the field of development studies.'

David Dalton
CEO, Plan International Ireland



Who we are

DSA Ireland is a virtual one-stop-shop for Irish development studies and provides a space for research dissemination and high quality debate on the key issues of the day in development studies and practice. We do this by:

- supporting cohesion and capacity-building in the development studies sector
- promoting strategic alliances and partnerships to grow the development studies sector
- harnessing research which supports and promotes coherent evidence-based development policy and practice aimed at the reduction of global poverty, the enhancement of all forms of equality and respect for human rights



'In our view DSAI is a unique platform in Ireland bringing together Irish development practitioners, development researchers and policy makers. There is no other platform that facilitates such links in Ireland. Oxfam is a strong supporter of DSAI and why we are proud of our association and engagement with it. DSAI needs to be supported to continue to play its unique role in our development sector.'

Jim Clarken
CEO, Oxfam Ireland

What we do

DSA Ireland publications, databases, and regular events are a valuable opportunity for disparate researchers and practitioners for exchange, sharing of ideas and learning from each other.

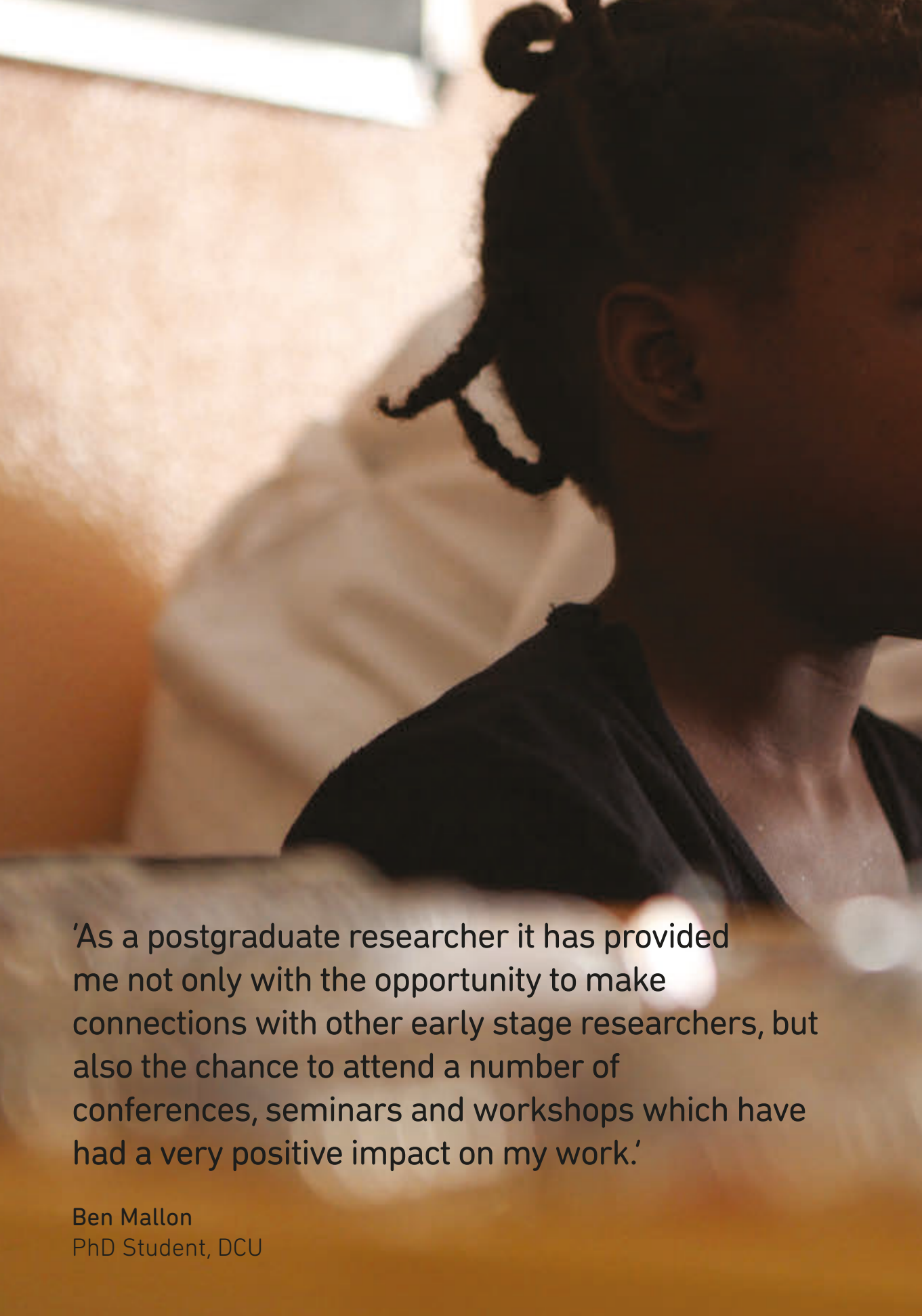
- Our annual conference is unique in Ireland, allowing researchers, practitioners and policy-makers from across the sector to come together and contribute to the Irish international development agenda.
- We host regular high-level workshops on key themes. Recent examples include **research funding**, **civil society engagement** and opportunities to **enhance research skills**.
- Our Postgraduate Working Group actively engages with students to hold events to workshop their capacity and facilitate their networks, as well as guiding their fieldwork with advice and guidelines.
- Our researchers database and courses database provide immediate access to information on ongoing research and teaching for international development in Ireland.
- Our working paper series, policy briefs, and blogs disseminate information to the development sector and key stakeholders.
- Our policy digest in particular, published quarterly, serves as a crucial document for research to feed directly into policy agendas.
- Our newsletter keeps members up-to-date on events as well as funding opportunities.
- Finally, our active and engaged Study Groups coordinate regular panel sessions on their various thematic areas:
 - Water
 - Nutrition
 - Civil society
 - Humanitarian action
 - Education
 - Gender



‘DSAI, through its annual conference, high level workshops, website and other vehicles developed over several years provides a highly respected and recognised locus for exchange of ideas and good practice that ICOS has both availed of itself and has been happy to recommend to the many international students who pass through the organisation’s doors.’

Sheila Power

Director, Irish Council for International Students



'As a postgraduate researcher it has provided me not only with the opportunity to make connections with other early stage researchers, but also the chance to attend a number of conferences, seminars and workshops which have had a very positive impact on my work.'

Ben Mallon
PhD Student, DCU



'Research is of critical importance to international development - we must always learn from both our successes and our failures. As an international NGO we value the opportunity of collaborating with researchers to do the very best that we can for the vulnerable and disadvantaged communities with whom we work. DSAI is an important platform to support the international development community, its objectives and goals are the same as ours.'

Ray Jordan
CEO, Gorta - Self Help Africa





The Vision of DSA Ireland

The creation of a vibrant development studies community, which will focus on innovative and pioneering research, led by Irish research institutions, contributing to the reduction of poverty, inequality and vulnerability in the world.

'The DSAI is the only platform where policy, practice and research come together in Ireland. It is an invaluable forum for policy and practice to guide research and for research to guide policy and practice. Through this exchange, more development will be delivered for a given euro - both because the money is more likely to be spent on the right things in the right ways and because funding for research is likely to be spent on the right things in the right ways.'

Lawrence Haddad

Former President of the UK and Ireland Association for Development Studies and former member of the Irish Hunger Task Force.

Co-Chair of the Global Nutrition Report's Independent Expert Group

For more information on DSAI and to become a member see our website: www.dsaireland.org/

Contact DSA Ireland

Tel: +353 1 896 3668

Email: info@dsaireland.org



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Mozambique Eyecare Project (MEP)

Lars Boland/Water is Life

David Stanley

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