



Achieving Just Food Systems in an Era of Global ‘Polycrisis’

Development Studies Association (DSA) Ireland

Annual Conference 2024





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Creating Spaces for Dialogue
Research - Policy - Practice

DSAI2024



Venue Information

Nano Nagle Place, Douglas St, Cork, T12 X70A

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Bus transport from the train station, the 205 from Kent Station towards MTU stops on Patrick's Street. The 208 from MacCurtain Street to CUH also stops on Patrick's Street and the 207 from MacCurtain Street to Donnybrook stops on South Mall which is a 6 minute walk from Nano Nagle Place. Walking from the train station takes about 25 minutes.

Driving

Douglas Street is one way in front of Nano Nagle Place. The best way to approach is via from the direction of Barrack Street. You can also drive down Evergreen Road and take a sharp right onto Douglas Street from there.

Parking

There is no parking available at Nano Nagle Place.

On-street parking is available on Douglas Street and there is often parking during daytime hours on Evergreen Street. A parking disc can be purchased for €2.

For directions to Q-Park Grand Parade, please visit www.q-park.ie.

Nano Nagle Place is on Douglas Street, two blocks south of the south channel of the River Lee.

WIFI

WIFI password is access2018 and the network is South Pres.Public.

Achieving Just Food Systems in an Era of Global ‘Polycrisis’

Food is central to all life on the planet, and yet, access to food has never been more contested. Globally, food systems are under pressure now more than ever, and complex challenges arise with great frequency at the intersects between food, climate, and conflict(i). Climate change is affecting some communities’ ability to achieve the same crop yields as previously, and droughts, flood, or soil degradation means that in some places, harvests are lost temporarily, or lands are becoming permanently unsuitable for farming(ii). Increasingly, people’s ability to grow food has been significantly impacted by agribusiness, which dominates seed and fertiliser production and the purchase and processing of crops(iii). In places, this has led to conflict over land and or resulted in a reduction of farmers’ access to sustainable means to grow crops(iv).

Finally, ever larger numbers of countries are currently experiencing conflict, which has led to mass displacement, loss of access to land and increasingly to hunger among the displaced. The ability of communities to adapt to these challenges, as well as the opportunities for local, national and international actors to deliver humanitarian aid where needed, is becoming more difficult and unpredictable. In January 2023, the UN stated that the world was then witnessing more conflicts than ever, since it started tracking conflicts after WWII(v). New conflicts have erupted since, with devastating impacts, notably, the conflict in Gaza. In March 2024, estimates suggest that without immediate ceasefire and granting full access to humanitarian agencies, parts of Gaza will be experiencing ‘full blown famine’(vi), caused by relief goods being held up at the border and not reaching civilians in need. This is happening five years after the landmark UN Security Council Resolution 2417 on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, which explicitly references the use of starvation as a weapon of war(vii).

So far in 2024, the world has already experienced devastating floods in Brazil and Afghanistan and fires in Canada and below-average rainfall in southern Africa. The EAT-Lancet Commission two reports on Report on Food, Planet, Health were published in 2019 and 2023. According to the latest update on the Planetary Boundaries, Earth is now “well outside of the safe operating space” for humanity, having already transgressed six of the nine Planetary Boundaries(viii). Women and children are 14 times more likely to die from climate disasters than men and 80% of those displaced are women(ix).

Mitigating the worst effects of climate change can only be achieved by a transition to sustainable food systems and planetary health that continue to be hindered by global financial injustice. A report by ActionAid has highlighted that fossil fuels and industrial agriculture are the two biggest drivers of the climate crisis(x). As the crisis escalates, these industries continue to expand and thrive. This compounds poverty and inequality and undermines attempts to alleviate poverty. The root causes of the global food system, conflict and climate change and their inter-connection needs to be honestly analysed, in order to find sustainable solutions. This year’s DSAI conference aims to tackle head on the root causes of this polycrisis and re-think models for cooperation that are rooted in human rights and environmental protection.

- i) *The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project, Jan 2024, The Sahel: A Deadly New Era in the Decades-Long Conflict*, available: <https://acleddata.com/conflict-watchlist-2024/sahel/>, and, *United Nations Climate Change, July 2022, Conflict and Climate [blog]*, available: <https://unfccc.int/news/conflict-and-climate>
- ii) *Grüter R, Trachsel T, Laube P, Jaisli I. Expected global suitability of coffee, cashew and avocado due to climate change. PloS one. 2022 Jan 26;17(1):e0261976.*
- iii) *Anderson, T, 2024, How to fix the finance flows that are pushing our planet to the brink. Available: <https://www.climatechangenews.com/2024/05/01/how-to-fix-the-finance-flows-that-are-pushing-our-planet-to-the-brink/>*
- iv) *Hall R, Scoones I, Tsikata D. Plantations, outgrowers and commercial farming in Africa: agricultural commercialisation and implications for agrarian change. The Journal of Peasant Studies. 2017 May 4;44(3):515-37.*
- v) *UN 2023, With Highest Number of Violent Conflicts Since Second World War, United Nations Must Rethink Efforts to Achieve, Sustain Peace, Speakers Tell Security Council. Available: <https://press.un.org/en/2023/sc15184.doc.htm>*
- vi) *UN, 2024, Security Council hears Gaza famine ‘almost inevitable’ unless aid is massively scaled up, Available: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/02/1146997>*
- vii) *UN, 2018, Adopting Resolution 2417 (2018), Security Council Strongly Condemns Starving of Civilians, Unlawfully Denying Humanitarian Access as Warfare Tactics. Available: <https://press.un.org/en/2018/sc13354.doc.htm>*
- viii) *EAT Lancet reports and additional information available at: <https://eatforum.org/>*
- ix) *Action Aid (2023) How the Finance Flows. Available: <https://actionaid.ie/climate-crisis-fund-our-future-campaign/>*



Pre-Conference Events

Wednesday 30th October



10.15 - 17.30 | Wed 30 October
Conference Space, Nano Nagle

10:15 - 10:45 Teas/Coffees

10:30 – 12:00 What is the Best that Ireland can be on Food and Nutrition Security

Chaired by Judith Randell and Tony German (Public Good; DSAI Climate & Development)

Coffee conversation - An informal workshop sponsored by DSAI and Concern

Ireland has a depth of knowledge, experience and capacity on food systems, food security and nutrition among academics and activists, NGOs and government. 2025 will see several significant nutrition events – N4G, the Food Systems Summit+4 and Financing for Development. How can Ireland make the most of these for seriously accelerated progress on nutrition?

14:00 - 15:30 Panel: Research, Policy and Practice - Knowledge Partnerships for Development

Chaired by Pieternella Pieterse, Chair DSAI

We welcome speakers from Dóchas, Irish Research Council, Research Ireland, Marine Institute, to this pre-conference panel discussion that will highlight the research funding opportunities that are available to international development researchers and international NGOs.

- *Dr. Conor Linnie, Programme Manager, Irish Research Council*
- *David O'Sullivan, Our Shared Ocean - Programme Manager, Marine Institute*
- *Dr. Laura Quinn, Scientific Project Officer, Research Ireland*
- *Jane-Ann McKenna, Chief Executive Officer, Dóchas*

Pre-Conference Events

Wednesday 30th October



10.15 - 17.30 | Wed 30 October
Conference Space, Nano Nagle

15:30 - 15:50 Climate Mapping Mural

Chaired by Judith Randell and Tony German (Public Good; DSAI Climate & Development)

A comprehensive look at the individuals, agencies and businesses working in the area of Climate in Ireland.

15:50 - 16:20 Refreshments and Networking

16:20 - 17:30 DSAI / Dóchas International Development Research Repository

In collaboration with Dóchas, DSAI is seeking to establish a repository of research material created by academics and NGO's that have an Irish link, which is focused on international development, humanitarian action, peace, conflict, economics and development in or of the Global South. The objective is to make already conducted research more easily visible and available, allowing development practitioners to use research findings to inform their project development, and to create new linkages between researchers and practitioners for future collaborations. This will be an interactive session during which we will ask the audience to engage with the presenters to shape this new resource.

17:30 ENDS

CONFERENCE OPENING PLENARY

Wednesday 30th October

18:00 - 20:30 | Wed 30 October



Conference Space, Nano Nagle

18:00 - 18:45 Panel Discussion - 'Achieving Just Food Systems in an Era of Global 'Polycrisis'

Panellists:

Karol Balfe, CEO Action Aid Ireland.

Dr. Caitriona Dowd, School of Politics and International Relations, University College Dublin.

Dr. Stephen Thornhill, Dept. of Food Business and International Development, University College Cork.

Rebecca Tumwebaze, PhD Researcher, University of Limerick.

Moderator: Dr. Angela Veale, School of Applied Psychology, UCC

18:45 - 19:15 Audience Responses

Reception: Ground Floor Atrium, Cork Centre for Architectural Education (beside Nano Nagle)

19:15 - 20:30 Reception & Canapés

20:30 Close

Conference Keynotes and Parallel Breakout Sessions

Thursday 31st October - Morning

08:45 - 14:00 | Thurs 31st Oct



Conference Space, Nano Nagle Place

08:45 - 09:35 Registration

09:30 - 09:50 Conference Opening

Welcome by Dr. Pieterella Pieterse, Chair DSAI

Short welcome address by Irish Aid and UCC

09:50 - 10:20 Keynote Address: How critical voices on agriculture and development lost interest in production and where can they find it again?

Dr. Helena Pérez Niño, Assistant Professor, ISS Erasmus University Rotterdam

Moderator: Dr. Edward Lahiff, Dept. of Food Business and Development, UCC

10:20 - 10.40 Facilitated Discussion

10:40 - 11:00 Tea, Coffee

11:00 - 12:30 Morning Study Group Parallel Sessions

1. Climate & Development - in the Oak Room

Convenor: Dr. Susan Murphy, Trinity College Dublin

2. Education - in the Birch Room

Convenor: Dr. Eilish Dillon, Maynooth University

3. Gender - in the Holly Room

Convenor: Dr. Supriya Garikipati, University College Dublin

4. Humanitarian Action - in the Ash Room

Convenor: Eka Zuni Lusi Astuti, University of Limerick

12:30 - 13:15 AGM

13:00 - 14:00 Lunch

Conference Keynotes and Parallel Breakout Sessions

Thursday 31st October - Afternoon

14:00 - 17:30 | Thurs 31st Oct

 **Conference Space, Nano Nagle Place**

14:10 - 14:40 Keynote Address: Achieving Just Food Systems in an Era of Global 'Polycrisis'

Tom Arnold

Moderator: *Dr. Pieterella Pieterse*

14:40 Facilitated Discussion

15:00 Tea, Coffee, Refreshments

15:30 - 17:00 Afternoon Study Group Parallel Sessions

1. Business & Development - in the Birch Room

Convenor: Dr. David Nyaluke, UCC

2. Civil Society & ICT4D - in the Holly Room

Convenors: Dr. Paul Keating TUS/ Dr. PJ Wall Trinity College Dublin

3. Climate & Development - in the Oak Room

Convenors: Judith Randell and Tony German

4. Nutrition & Health - in the Ash Room

Convenor: Dr. Margaret Steele, UCC

16:45 Closing Plenary

17:30 Conference Close

Keynote: ' How critical voices on agriculture and development lost interest in production and where can they find it again?'



**DR. HELENA
PÉREZ NIÑO**

Dr. Helena Pérez Niño, Assistant Professor, ISS Erasmus University Rotterdam, conducts research on the political economy of development with special emphasis on the social organisation of production in agriculture and the social impact of globalised agricultural markets. Past research has traced the agrarian reconstruction of the war-ravaged Mozambique-Malawi borderland and state and private-led ideas of post conflict agrarian restructuring (namely, the expansion of contract farming). Her current research examines how agricultural intensification impacts gender power relations and the drivers of underwhelming or frustrated trajectories of productive upgrade. Dr. Niño has worked for UNICEF and UNHCR; has been a visiting fellow at IESE (Maputo) and PLAAS (Cape Town) and her research has been supported by grants from ESRC (UK), the British Academy and the LIDC (UK). Prior to joining the ISS she was a lecturer at SOAS University of London and at the Centre of Development Studies at the University of Cambridge. She serves on the editorial board of the Journal of Agrarian Change and is a co-founder of the Contract Farming Initiative research network (www.contractfarminginitiative.org).

Morning Parallel Sessions

11:00 - 12:30 - Oak Room



Climate and Development Study Group

PRESENTATIONS

Chaired by Dr. Susan Murphy, Development Practice, School Office - Natural Science, Trinity College Dublin (School of Natural Sciences)

- ***'Re-learning resilience to climate change from pastoralist livelihoods in East Africa.'***

Dr. Tom Campbell, Lecturer / MA in International Development Programme Coordinator, Department of International Development, Maynooth University.

- ***'Re-Centering Indigenous Knowledge Systems Agricultural Climate Change Adaptation in Zimbabwe.'***

David A. Chikwaza (Dublin City University).

- ***'Managing two locations: Relocation, resettlement and negotiated immobility of climate-displaced communities in Zimbabwe – Case of Tsholotsho.'***

Tomy Ncube, University of Galway, Centre for International Development and Innovation .

- ***'The Relationship between the Climate Crisis and Child Marriages in Zimbabwe. A case study of the Chimanimani district in Manicaland.'***

Carlotta Barbara Smalen, PhD candidate at Trinity College Dublin.

Morning Parallel Sessions

11:00 - 12:30 - Birch Room



Education Study Group

PRESENTATIONS

Chaired by Dr. Eilish Dillon, Department of International Development, Maynooth University

- **‘Summer Programmes for Mitigating Educational Slide Among Immigrant Children in Ireland.’**
Helen Awhinawhi, Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) Lecturer, Athlone Technological Institution (TUS) Midlands Campus
- **‘Transition, progression, and retention of girls and children with disabilities from primary to secondary education in conflict-affected settings: the case of Burkina Faso. Transition, progression, and retention of girls and children with disabilities from primary to secondary education in conflict-affected settings: the case of Burkina Faso.’**
Margot Delamarre, Master’s Candidate in Development Practice at Trinity College.
- **‘Why Training is Not Enough – Exploring Learning Challenges and Needs for Ethical Global Development Communications and Anti-Racism within NGOs.’**
Dr. Eilish Dillon, Department of International Development, Maynooth University
- **‘Engaging with children and young people in an era of global ‘polycrisis’: Unavoidable protagonists to achieve just and sustainable food systems for one shared planet.’**
Carmel Irandoust, Director and Founder of NETLOVE International Speaker and Consultant. Trinity College Dublin Alumni, M. Phil in International Peace Studies (2014).
- **‘Using co-design to initiate partnerships with universities in the global south’**
Sheila Long, South East Technological University

Morning Parallel Sessions

11:00 - 12:30 - Holly Room



Gender Studies Study Group

PRESENTATIONS

Chaired by Supriya Garikipati, Full Professor in Sustainable Development, University College Dublin

- **‘Embedding Research in Program Design and Creating Knowledge for Innovation: Experimental Evidence on Gender Targeting and a Gender Transformative approach within a Multifaceted Anti-poverty Program in Malawi.’**

Dr. Tara Bedi, Economics Department at Trinity College Dublin.

- **‘Entrepreneurial Ambitions at the Edges: How Collective Dynamics in Microcredit Schemes Empower Marginalised Women in Rural India.’**

Dr. Supriya Garikipati, Full Professor in Sustainable Development, University College Dublin

- **‘Seeds of Change: Institutional Framing and Women Farmers’ Pathways to Digital Inclusion.’**

Sarah O’Malley, Trinity College Dublin, African Women in Agriculture, Research and Development (AWARD).

- **‘Women Economic Empowerment in Uganda: An Assessment of two Not-for-profit projects and their effects on the female beneficiaries.’**

Glory Omomase, undertaking Masters in International Development Practice at the University of Galway.

- **‘The 2022 floods in Karachi: gendered bodies and politics of infrastructure violence.’**

Asma Yaqoob, PhD Candidate, Dublin City University

Morning Parallel Sessions

11:00 - 12:30 - Ash Room



Humanitarian Action Study Group

PRESENTATIONS

Chaired by Eka Zuni Lusi Astuti, PhD candidate, University of Limerick and co-convenor, Humanitarian Study Group

- **‘Farmer-herder conflicts in Ghana: Linkages between climate change, resource competition and food security in rural communities..’**
Evans Amoako Amoah a PhD Arts (Geography) student at Mary Immaculate College, Limerick.
- **‘Gendered Violence in the Haitian Food System.’**
Dr. Caitriona Dowd, University College Dublin
- **‘Digital Narratives of Tamil Communities in Post-Conflict Sri Lanka.’**
Jude Dinesh Koduthor, Doctoral student, Mary Immaculate College / University of Limerick
- **‘Child Protection and Food Security: An Evidence Review of the Linkages in Humanitarian Settings.’**
Chiara Ronca, Education Specialist – Technical Unit, Plan International Ireland.

12:30 - 13:15 A.G.M.



Annual General Meeting DSA Ireland

DSAI is an independent all-Ireland association of researchers, scholars, policymakers and practitioners working in the area of international development. It is a membership-based and membership-driven association, including individual members, institutional members, honorary members and subscribing members.

The Annual General Meeting of DSA Ireland is the sovereign body of the Association. It elects a Steering Committee, comprising of up to 10 members, who in turn elect the officers of the Association, namely a Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

AGM Agenda - MC DSAI Secretary, Ciara O'Halloran

1. Welcome (Chair, Dr. Pieternella Pieterse)
2. Minutes of previous AGM (Chair)
3. Annual Report (Chair)
4. New Funding Programme (Chair)
5. Overview of Financial Accounts (Chair)
6. Elections to the DSA Ireland Steering Committee (Secretary, Ciara O'Halloran)
7. Motions (Secretary)
8. AOB (Chair)

*Our Constitution is available on our website at:
<https://www.dsaireland.org/about/background-to-dsai/>*

Keynote: 'Achieving a Just Food System in an Era of Polycrisis'



TOM ARNOLD

Tom Arnold currently serves as Chair, Ireland Africa Rural Development Committee (IARDC); board member of the Global FoodBanking Network (GFN); member, Global Panel for Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition (GLOPAN); board member, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN); member, Malabo Montpellier Panel; board member, Sight and Life Foundation; board member, John and Pat Hume Foundation; board member, Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation. His previous roles include serving as Ireland's Special Envoy for Food Systems (2021-22); Chair, Food Vision 2030 Strategy Committee (2021); for the EU Commission, he chaired the High-level Expert Group for Food Systems Science (2021) and the Task Force Rural Africa (2019); Coordinator, Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement; Director-General, Institute of International and European Affairs (IIEA); Chair, Irish Constitutional Convention; CEO, Concern Worldwide; Chief Economist and Assistant Secretary General, Irish Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM); Chair, OECD Committee of Agriculture; Administrator, EU Commission. Tom has a degree in agricultural economics from University College Dublin (UCD) and master's degrees from the Catholic University of Leuven and Trinity College, Dublin.

Afternoon Parallel Sessions

15:30 - 17:00 - Birch Room



Business and Development Study Group

PRESENTATIONS

Chaired by Dr. David Nyaluke, UCD, Business Development Study Group convenor

- **‘The Interlink Between Smallholder Commercialization and Farming Strategies in Northern Ethiopia: A Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) Approach.’**
Tsegay Balcha, University College Cork
- **‘From Chengdu to Hofsós: A Comparative Analysis of the Opportunities, Challenges, and Practices of Aquaponics under Developed and Developing Contexts’**
Jiayi Chen, Master of Science in Development Practice, Trinity College Dublin.
- **‘Controversy of the genetically modified foods and the National Food and Nutrition policy of South Africa.’**
Dr. Shylet Yvonne Chivanga, University of Fort Hare, South Africa, Dept of Development Studies
- **Farm Viability of Horticulture Enterprises in Ukraine during a time of Major Conflict.’**
Antonina Stankova PhD student University of Limerick.
- **‘Improving Water Quality – the Role of Local Actors and Ecological Factors in Mission-Oriented Agricultural Innovation Systems.’**
Lori-Rae van Laren, University of Galway

Afternoon Parallel Sessions

15:30 - 17:00 - Holly Room



Civil Society and ICT4D Study Group

PRESENTATIONS

Chaired by Dr. Paul Keating, TUS, Civil Society Study Group convener and Dr. PJ Wall, TUD, ICT4D Study Group convener

- **'The Struggle of the Coastal Farmer Union (PPLP) Opposing the Neoliberal Policy in the Kulon Progo Coastal Area, Indonesia.'**
Eka Zuni Lusi Astuti, PhD Student, University of Limerick.
- **'HERDTRACK: An Innovative Anti-Banditry Livestock Management System.'**
*Sonia Leshore, MSc Technology and Innovation Management,
BSc Chemical Engineering at TUDublin*
- **'Access to Adequate Housing: Understanding the Challenges and Housing Needs of Migrants in Ireland.'**
Dr. Valesca Lima, Assistant Professor, School of Law & Government, Dublin City University.

Afternoon Parallel Sessions

15:30 - 17:00 - Oak Room



Climate and Development Study Group

PRESENTATIONS

Chaired by Judith Randel and Tony German, Co-Directors of Public Good', co-conveners Climate and Development Study Group.

- **'Edible Urban Green Infrastructure: Reflections on co-creating community garden projects in Mozambique.'**
Dr. Christine Bonnin (UCD School of Geography).
- **'Informing the Design of Livestock Insurance Subsidy Programmes in Ethiopia: A Mixed Method Approach.'**
Xandru Cassar, Trinity College Dublin.
- **Understanding the Needs and Challenges of Smallholder Farmers in Makueni County, Kenya: A Qualitative Study on Food Security.'**
Clara Lerch M.Sc. Student, Global Challenges for Sustainability, CHARM-EU Alliance, University of Barcelona Ms. Eliana Catgiu M.Sc. Student, Global Challenges for Sustainability, CHARM-EU Alliance, University of Barcelona
- **' Designing and implementing green technologies to enable sustainable food production in Zambia.'**
Eleanor Mancusi-Ungaro & Madhu K. Murali Trinity College Dublin
- **'Sustainable Housing Projects for Sustainable Cities and Economic Development in Africa.'**
Ndirangu Ngunjiri, PhD student at the university of Nairobi
- **Macaúba (Acrocomia aculeata) as a localized nature-based solution for family farming climate resilient development in Brazilian Savannah.'**
Luana do Carmo Araujo de Oliveira, Master in Development Practice, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland.
- **'Developing an Evaluation Framework for Gender-responsive Climate Change Adaptation Programme: from Design to Impact.'**
Xinyi Zhao, Master student in Development Practice, Department of Geography, School of Natural Sciences, Trinity College Dublin

Afternoon Parallel Sessions

15:30 - 17:00 - Ash Room



Nutrition & Health Study Group

PRESENTATIONS

Chaired by Dr Margaret Steele, UCC.

- **‘Unlocking the Silent Wombs: Unravelling the Socio-Institutional Drivers Behind the Surge in Hysterectomy in India.’**
Supriya Garikipati, University College Dublin.
- **‘Exploring the determinants of food security through the lens of the food environment: a cross-sectional household study in Ethiopia.’**
Stephen Thornhill, University College Cork.
- **‘A community approach to reducing costs linked to nutritious diets in Kiribati.’**
Rooti Tioti, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources Development.
- **‘What’s happening in the kitchen? The influence of nutritional knowledge, attitudes, practices (KAP), and kitchen characteristics on women’s dietary quality in Ethiopia.’**
Temesgen Awoke Yalew, University College Cork

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Development Studies Association Ireland



WORKING PAPER SERIES

DSAI's working paper series publishes high quality research papers across the broad field of development studies. Authors of working papers accepted for publication may be awarded €150 towards supporting their continued research.

The DSAI invites submissions to the Working Paper Series on a rolling basis. Following an initial screening, manuscripts will be submitted for blind peer-review. Accepted papers will be published on the DSAI website.

**The Development Studies Association Ireland (DSAI)
is Ireland's association for researchers, policymakers and
practitioners working in the field of international development.**

**The DSAI is supported by funding from Irish Aid and of our
institutional members whose annual contributions make
our activities possible.**



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