



## Did you know that the *Development Southern Africa* journal is now housed in GTAC?



*Development Southern Africa* was launched in 1984 as the mouthpiece of the Development Society of South Africa, a professional body of academics and practitioners in the multidisciplinary development field. When the Development Society closed down, the Development Bank of Southern Africa

(DBSA) took responsibility for resourcing and publishing the journal, recognising the need to keep a forum open for exchanges on development theory and practice. In 2000, Taylor & Francis took over the printing of the journal while DBSA remained the publisher. In 2008, Marié Kirsten, who was in charge of publications at the DBSA, became the 11th editor of DSA. In 2013, the DBSA decided to discontinue publication of the journal. Stellenbosch University stepped in and supported *Development Southern Africa* temporarily, and Taylor & Francis offered to buy publication rights from the DBSA. GTAC learnt that this esteemed publication – which creates an important platform in the development discourse space—needed a home, and opened negotiations with the DBSA and Taylor & Francis to retain copyright of DSA. GTAC now supports DSA with the institutional, human and financial resources the journal needs to keep going—and to keep going strong.

DSA has never skipped publishing an issue in 32 years, despite having several editors and weathering significant institutional uncertainty and changes.

## Dedicated to the development idea

*Nick Vink was editor from 1988 to 1997. Since then he has served on the editorial advisory board. He shares his memories and reflections with us.*

*“Development Southern Africa was launched by the Development Bank of Southern Africa in May 1984—almost 10 years before the first democratic elections in South Africa. The CEO of DBSA at the time, Dr Simon Brand, gave the institution’s assurance at the outset that the journal was interested in new theoretical approaches to development and new ways to stimulate development, and that ‘the brief of the editors ... is to consider all contributions serving this aim ...’. As editor for more than 10 years, I can attest to zero interference from the management of the DBSA in the affairs of the journal. It is most gratifying to know that this is still the case, and this is no doubt the reason why DSA has been such a successful journal.*



Prof Nick Vink

The first five issues of DSA saw the publication of 166 articles, but these made up only 70% of the content: the rest comprised 59 book reviews, 46 conference reviews, 22 shorter viewpoints and research notes, and 24 rejoinder and reply sessions. This is testimony to a time when we wrote for publication because we thought it was the right thing to do—as opposed to the current “publish or perish” approach, where publishing is regarded as a waste of time unless there is a subsidy attached to it. For the same reason, fully a fifth of the articles were written by people not associated with a university.”

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# WHAT GOES INTO CREATING A PLATFORM FOR HIGH LEVEL INTELLECTUAL EXCHANGES?



*GTAC News asked Marié Kirsten from our Communication and Publications unit, and DSA's editor since 2008, to tell us about what goes into publishing DSA. How does she make sure that what DSA publishes is of the highest quality and of the best use to the large, international community of academics and practitioners who write for it, read it, and cite it?*

"As editor, I get about seven articles submitted to DSA every week. By now, I have a developed instinct for what we can publish, but there is a strict process that each article must go through. Obviously the very first decision is to see if the article "fits" the DSA mandate. If it does, I check to see if the authors read and applied the *Instructions for Authors*. If yes, three basic checks are done: **1. For plagiarism.** We use software called CrossCheck to do this. It usually takes about 8 minutes per article to get a comprehensive plagiarism report. **2. For total anonymity.** To maintain the integrity of the review process, there can be no indication of who the author is. **3. For making sure that all the tables and graphs are attached and eligible.**

If I can tick these boxes, the next phase is the double blind review by peers. Over the years, I've developed a list of about 4,000 reviewers I can call on. And Taylor & Francis recommends reviewers using an algorithm based on keywords. The quality of DSA, and hence its reputation, is all about these reviews. And it's the most arduous part of the publishing process. Reviewers don't get paid or acknowledged for their work. They do it as committed members of their intellectual communities. But a thorough, blind, peer review is the key distinction between a credible, scientific publication and other media. We're not publishing news—which has its own, but different, set of standards. And we're not publishing opinion pieces. We, and our readers, need to know that what's in DSA meets international standards for scholarship and has the quality approval of other scholars and practitioners. This is not to say—at all—that we don't publish the new or the controversial. We just make sure that what you're reading is accurate, has depth, is analysed according to methodologies that foster objectively supported conclusions, and will thus contribute positively to thinking and practice.

If I'm not sure about an article in a subject area I'm not a specialist in, I'll first send it to one of our associate editors. Associate editors are friends of the journal, well-established experts in their fields who are willing to look over an article and guide me about whether it meets the standards of their field. They may give the article a simple yes or no. And often they will go the extra mile and make suggestions for how an article with potential can be improved to meet our standards. They may also suggest alternative journals where the article could fit better.

Suggesting alternative journals is something I also do. DSA is part of an intellectual community with different specialisations. We want to see as much good work out there as we can. And while journals compete with each other—for authors, for sales, for citations—we do this with the camaraderie needed to keep our intellectual space excellent and vibrant."

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## A dedicated community

While Michele Ruiters was research manager at the DBSA, from around 2010 to 2012, she was one of the associate editors of DSA. This is how she remembers the journal.

"Development Southern Africa was more than its research content—it was a community. This dedicated community of well-respected professionals spent their energies identifying themes out of the numerous submissions the journal received, fine-tuning the special issues with guest editors who wanted to get their content into the public space, and working closely with individual authors. Comprising both academics and practitioners, they made a team that could successfully ensure that the journal was a blend of theory and praxis. We often received submissions that did not fit easily into the scope of DSA, but every submission was carefully considered and we pointed the authors of articles we couldn't publish to other journals. DSA is not only about development in Southern Africa, and Africa more broadly, but also about the development of authors just starting out. It was a privilege to be associated with the publication, but more so with the people managing it on a daily basis—particularly Dr Marié Kirsten, the late Lyn Sumner, and Rose Ngwenya."

Dr Ruiters is currently a regional specialist in the DBSA's Strategy and Knowledge Management unit.

## Editorial independence

Another element in the quality mix is the editorial policy.

From the outset, the DBSA committed itself to allowing the journal to publish whatever it deemed was likely to be most productive in cultivating intellectual rigour and independence. And rigour and independence remain the watchwords of DSA's editorial policy. What the journal publishes is guided by an independent, proactive editorial board, comprised and run according to the guidelines set and monitored by the international Institute for Scientific Information. These guidelines include that there must be around 20 members, international and local, and with expertise covering all the subject areas that the journal publishes. GTAC is in the process of recruiting DSA's new board, which will be announced in 2017. The board will meet every few years to review the journal's progress and strategise for the coming two years. On the logistics side, there will be a small in-house management committee.

## How do we measure the quality of DSA?

In December 2008, *Development Southern Africa* was accepted for inclusion in the Clarivate Analytics (formerly Thomson Reuters) Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI) and subsequently received its first Impact Factor in the Planning & Development Studies category of the 2010 Journal Citation Reports. Impact factors provide a systematic, objective way to evaluate the world's leading scientific and scholarly journals, with quantifiable, statistical information based on citation data. Only 3,300 journals worldwide are currently indexed in the SSCI, and Clarivate Analytics applies the strictest criteria, with only 10-12% of the approximately 2,000 journals evaluated each year being accepted for coverage in one of the four Web of Science™ journal indexes.

## Recent Impact Factors for DSA and related South African journals

Journal	2013	2014	2015	JCR category
<i>Development Southern Africa</i>	0.407	0.557	0.424	Planning and development
<i>Agrekon: Agricultural Economics Research, Policy and Practice in Southern Africa</i>	0.140	0.183	0.250	Agricultural economics and policy
<i>South African Journal of Economics</i>	0.183	0.286	0.441	Economics
<i>South African Journal of Economic and Management Sciences</i>	0.153	0.051	0.185	Economics; management
<i>Politikon: South African Journal of Political Studies</i>	0.300	0.208	0.302	Political science

# WHAT CAN I FIND IN A TYPICAL EDITION OF DSA?

*Development Southern Africa's aims and scope are expressed on its Taylor & Francis webpage like this: "Development Southern Africa is an internationally accredited, multidisciplinary journal focusing on development policy and practice in the southern Africa region. Founded in 1984, DSA has become an important forum for presenting area-based scholarship in the social sciences and encouraging articles that seek policy solutions to local and regional socioeconomic development challenges. It remains the southern Africa journal of choice for several disciplines (economics, sociology, agricultural economics, development studies, political science, amongst others), and it publishes articles on the key development issues in the region. These include poverty, unemployment, tourism, agriculture, business development, infrastructure development and other related development themes."*

In the early days of DSA, agriculture and rural development articles dominated. From the mid-1990s, DSA purposefully widened its scope and gained recognition as a forum for debate on integrated development. The journal attracted articles from an increasingly diversified range of disciplines, and agriculture made space for anthropology, planning, development studies, tourism and microfinance. A 2004 Editorial Board meeting decided that DSA should strengthen its role in Africa and refine and broaden its content and topics to include initiatives currently underway in the region.

"I still get a lot of agricultural economics articles coming in," says Marié. "But going forward, we're looking for content with a public economics and fiscal focus in addition to our established content areas. In this way, we're now competing with the *South African Journal of Economics* (SAJE), a much older journal (though equally ranked with DSA), and under the auspices of a huge professional society, the Economic Society of South Africa. But DSA has more of a socioeconomic focus than a pure economic one, and we're in comradely competition with the SAJE. We send authors to each other, and see ourselves as both contributing in a complementary way to South Africa's intellectual space for economists. DSA's niche is that it is multidisciplinary."

DSA publishes 6 issues every year, 2 or 3 of which are "special issues", meaning they are on a topic or theme rather than a collection of articles not necessarily related to each other. Often, a special issue is a collection of papers from a conference or the outcome of a large research project.

## Special issues since 2008

2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Living on the Margins (Vol 25.2)</li> <li>• The Scramble for Africa's Natural Resources: Emerging Contestations and Insights (Vol 25.5)</li> </ul>
2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cross-Sectoral Commons Governance (Vol 26.4)</li> </ul>
2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Economic Development in Africa (Vol 27.4)</li> <li>• Tourism Impacts: Lessons for Policy, Programmes and Projects (Vol 27.5)</li> </ul>
2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sport Mega-events and Their Legacies: The 2010 FIFA World Cup (Vol 28.3)</li> <li>• Food Security in Southern Africa: Responses to the Problem of Hunger (Vol 28.4)</li> <li>• Development, Inequality and Social Justice in Southern Africa (Vol 28.5)</li> </ul>
2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable Rural Development in South Africa: Rethinking Theory, Policy and Practice (Vol 29.4)</li> </ul>
2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Protection in Southern Africa: New Opportunities for Social Development (Vol 30.1)</li> </ul>
2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Dynamics in Contemporary South Africa: Evidence from the National Income Dynamics Study (NIDS) (Vol 31.1)</li> <li>• Redistribution for Equitable Development in South Africa (Vol 31.2)</li> <li>• Green Economy Policy, Planning and Strategy in South Africa (Vol 31.5)</li> </ul>
2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• South Africa's Emergent Middle Class (Vol 32.1)</li> <li>• Tourism and Hospitality Development in African Economies: Perspectives and Challenges (Vol 32.2)</li> </ul>
2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Towards Resilient Urban Communities (Vol 33.1)</li> <li>• Labour Market Intelligence Partnership (LMIP): What are the Characteristics and Determinants of the Skills Challenge in South Africa? (Vol 33.3)</li> </ul>



Dr Marié Kirsten

## WHY SHOULD I PUBLISH IN ACADEMIC JOURNALS?

“I was working on DSA just as one part of my job at DBSA—until I did my PhD,” says Marié. “Then I realised the value of academic journals.” As an economist, Marié publishes in journals even though she isn’t based at a university. “Publishing in accredited, academic journals is an excellent way to boost your professional CV,” she says. “Your academic publishing record demonstrates the quality of your thinking and showcases your practice.” Being published in the press, or giving radio or TV interviews, have their own value, but academic publishing shows something very specific about what you can do. The crucial element is that academic publishing is quality controlled to internationally standardised criteria. “Academic publishing can open up your career options—within your department and beyond,” says Marié. “It provides strong support for any bursary or fellowship applications. It’s an international passport of its kind.”



## WHAT IF I'M NEW TO ACADEMIC PUBLISHING?

From the outset, DSA set out to provide a publishing space for emerging authors, by which the journal means authors that haven’t published before. “It’s very difficult to get published in high quality journals, as you can see from the phases of our selection process,” says Marié. “And this is how it should be. But we don’t want to exclude good ideas from the public domain.” To keep up standards, DSA often needs to provide high levels of support to inexperienced authors. “Most students don’t realise that a chapter of a Master’s or PhD thesis is not a journal article. It needs to be reworked into a different form: it’s going to stand alone, and it’s going to be read differently, used differently.”

Marié likes to remind new authors of the advice she got from one of her lecturers: “It’s normal to get rejected at least three times by the journals you submit to before you can expect to have learned what you need to know to be published.”

While DSA can’t mentor authors, it does try to make concrete suggestions to them about getting a piece of work into the right form and up to the right standards. “Qualitative, experience-based research is valuable for the development community,” says Marié, “but it must be based in scientific principles and scholarly excellence if it is to be taken up—by researchers and practitioners alike. We need to know that we can rely on what we’re reading, since we’re going to basing our own research, our practice and our policy-making on it.”



### GTAC Seminar: How to Get Published in Academic Journals

Dr Marié Kirsten, at the helm of *Development Southern Africa* since 2008, and spearheading GTAC’s Communication and Publications, will be hosting a seminar on how to get published in academic journals. **27 January 2017** at GTAC. Come with your doubts and fears. Come with your wisdom and experience. This will be a chance to ask questions and share tips with colleagues under the guidance of an expert.



## AN INCREASING ROLE IN STUDENTS’ LEARNING AND RESEARCH

*Derek Yu regularly publishes in DSA.*

“I have recently published more articles in DSA, which has been recognized in recent years as a renowned and leading journal focusing on development issues (including development economics, my own discipline). Most universities subscribe to DSA, so it is accessible to many students and plays an increasing role in their learning and research.”

*Dr Yu is a senior lecturer in the Department of Economics at the University of the Western Cape.*

## What's in it for GTAC?

Apart from earning a standardised editorial fee and 20% royalties from Taylor & Francis, GTAC is now the custodian of an important platform for high level exchanges between authors, researchers and practitioners in the Southern African development space. "The avenues for testing new ideas, disseminating accredited data, sharing high level analysis, and so on, are diminishing in South Africa," says Marié. DSA provides the research community—and policy-makers—with an increasingly scarce, local space focused on regional issues, but drawing on international expertise." And, crucially, with the high quality of the exchanges guaranteed.

Looking at the 47 articles published in 2016 so far, 6 are from international authors not from Africa, and 9 are by authors from Africa not including South Africa. All South Africa's higher education institutions receive DSA as well as universities in Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia, and Ethiopia. Most of the development finance institutions, state-owned enterprises and government departments in South Africa also receive it.

### Development Southern Africa

Top 10 cited articles in 2016 to date

Rank	Issue	Author(s)	Article Title	Citations in 2016 YTD
1	27.5 (2010)	Renaud Lapeyre	Community-based tourism as a sustainable solution to maximise impacts locally? The Tsiseb Conservancy case, Namibia	10
2	25.2 (2008)	Deborah Potts	The urban informal sector in sub-Saharan Africa: from bad to good (and back again?)	5
3	26.2 (2009)	Alison Misselhorn	Is a focus on social capital useful in considering food security interventions? Insights from KwaZulu-Natal	5
4	26.1 (2009)	Robert A Hope, Peter G. H. Frost, Alan Gardiner & Jaboury Ghazoul	Experimental analysis of adoption of domestic mopane worm farming technology in Zimbabwe	5
5	30.2 (2013)	Amina Ebrahim, Ferdi Botha & Jen Snowball	Determinants of life satisfaction among race groups in South Africa	5
6	28.2 (2011)	Sheona Shackleton, David Kirby & James Gambiza	Invasive plants - friends or foes? Contribution of prickly pear ( <i>Opuntia ficus-indica</i> ) to livelihoods in Makana Municipality, Eastern Cape, South Africa	4
7	28.4 (2011)	Wayne Twine & Lori Mae Hunter	Adult mortality and household food security in rural South Africa: Does AIDS represent a unique mortality shock?	4
8	27.4 (2010)	Christian M. Rogerson & Jayne M. Rogerson	Local economic development in Africa: Global context and research directions ✔ Free access	3
9	29.1 (2012)	Murray Leibbrandt, Arden Finn & Ingrid Woolard	Describing and decomposing post-apartheid income inequality in South Africa	3
10	29.3 (2012)	Melville Saayman, Riaan Rossouw & Waldo Krugell	The impact of tourism on poverty in South Africa	3

## Special issues

The next special issue of *Development Southern Africa* is in the pipeline and will draw on cross-country studies done as part of the UNU-WIDER project on regional growth and development in Southern Africa. We are also looking at a 2018 special issue on bio-energy growth opportunities in Southern Africa. Marié Kirsten and Duncan Pieterse, a member of the present management committee, identified both these special issues.

## How can I access Development Southern Africa?

You can access the DSA website at <http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/cds20/current>. DSA is also available via the GTAC website at <https://www.gtac.gov.za/publications/development-southern-africa>. Taylor & Francis, the publishers, open access to at least two or three articles per issue.