

## Research Advocacy, Decolonisation and Digital Divides

Development Research Communications Workshop, Thursday, 25 November, 10.00-17.00 CET

### Programme

10.00-11.30: **Are development researchers also advocates?**

This roundtable discussion is a follow-up to the session „[Is There a Moral Imperative for Development Researchers to Act as Advocates](#)” at the recent [EADI/ISS conference](#) where the engaged discussions have shown that the topic of “research advocacy” is of great importance to many researchers. The initial debate (summarised in [this blog post](#)) only scratched the surface of the issues involved, so we are continuing the conversations here. Everybody is welcome to join – so please extend the invitation to others in your organisation.

The overarching questions will be:

1. Is Development Studies/development research objective and neutral?
2. Do development researchers have the obligation to advocate for their findings?
3. What are the implications of either stand for engagement with others?

### Speakers:

**Dr. Lata Narayanaswamy**, [Associate Professor in the Politics of Global Development](#), School of Politics and International Studies, University of Leeds, UK

**Prof. Adriano Nuvunga**, Executive Director, [Center for Democracy and Development, Mozambique](#)

**Dr. Tobias Denskus**, [Associate Professor in Development Studies](#) in the [School of Arts and Communication](#) at [Malmö University](#)

After the panel discussion, the floor will be opened to participants to bring in their perspectives.

Facilitators: Adinda Ceelen and Chris Jordan

11.30-11.45 **Short break**

11.45-12.15: **Welcome to the “workshop” part of the day, introductions & icebreakers**

**12.15-13.15: Working across digital divides: Covid-19, partner and stakeholder engagement**

This session will draw on the research and experience of the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) in engaging with the different stakeholder groups during the pandemic, particularly in the global South.

**Matt Wright**, [communications officer and web planning and content manager](#) at IIED, will provide insights on the challenges of and obstacles to increased digital working in a more online world - from bandwidth and connectivity issues to cost and politics. The session will examine the value and implications of increased remote working, from juggling time zones and pace of work to accessibility needs, human resource implications and security considerations.

The talk will be followed by a group discussion.

**13.15-14.15: Lunch break****14.15-15.15: Decolonising “Development” speak**

The aim of decolonising the ways we work, teach, and produce knowledge has spread far and wide in the development research community. But what does this imply for the language that we use? What are possible unintended implications of our current jargon, which words do we most certainly have to avoid, and how can we find alternative expressions that don't have colonial connotations?

The [network of UK organisations working in international development, Bond](#), has recently published a language guide for [taking colonialism out of our language](#). **Maryam Mohsin**, Head of Media and Communications at Bond, will lead an interactive session, discussing practical examples, do's and don'ts, alongside group discussions.

**15.15-15.45: Coffee Break with an optional virtual Café space****15.45-16.45: Interactive break-out groups**

The break-out group sessions are meant to provide space for peer-to-peer exchange and supporting each other with practical tips and sharing experience. Please come with suggestions, such as:

- Experiences with podcasting
- Monitoring and evaluating communications
- 

**16.45-17.00: Wrap-up**

**Note:** Before the event, we will share an interactive Miro Board with participants for networking and inputs around certain topics, as well as suggesting further topics for the interactive break-out groups.