Decolonial Academic Network Survey: the results
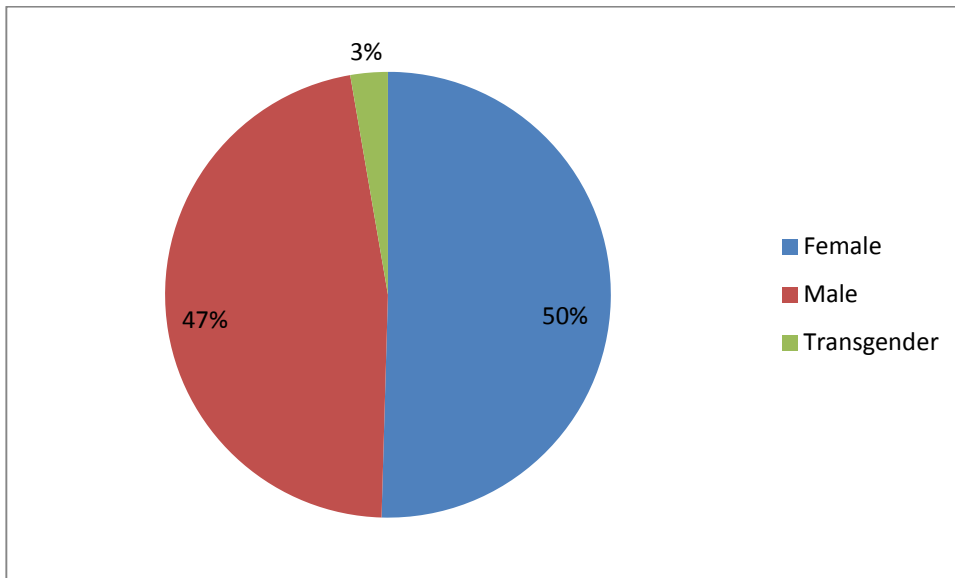
1. Introduction

DIN has conducted an online survey among the reader of its newsletter to get an idea about the viability of a Decolonial Academic Network (DAN). The survey was put online on February 7 2018 and was announced in the newsletter. The response was very low (around 15). A second announcement was made at the end of March in a special mail. This resulted in a response of 111 respondent who filled in the survey. This number is enough for DIN to base a policy for DAN.

2. The background of the respondents

2.1 Gender

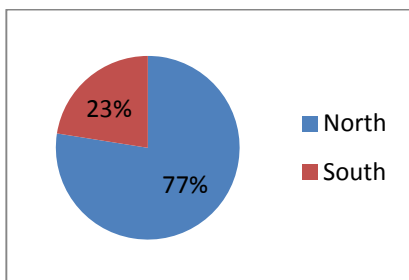The gender distribution among the respondents was more or less even (see fig. 1).

Figure 1: Gender distribution

2.2 Country and region

A quarter of the respondents came from the global South. The majority are from the Global North (see fig. 2).

Figure 2: regional distribution

We have in mind that some respondents may work at universities in the North but they may come from other regions in the world or develop their research and activism engaging with different geopolitical regions. The DAN can engage in conversations about different experiences and challenges for the decolonization of the University, within diverse institutional and political arrangements.

There is a wide range of countries (29 different countries) with respondents, but some 40% are from two countries: the USA and the UK (see table 1). The top five (USA, UK, Spain, South Africa, The Netherlands) is more a reflection of the network of DIN than a representation of the decolonial social movement in the academia. But the diversity in countries shows that there is a potential for decolonial academic work around the globe.

Table 1: distribution by country

Country	Number	%
United Kingdom	27	24%
United States	20	18%
Spain	7	6%
South Africa	7	6%
The Netherlands	6	5%
Australia	5	5%
Sweden	4	4%
Germany	3	3%
India	3	3%
Colombia	3	3%
France	3	3%
Brasil	2	2%
Chile	2	2%
Canada	2	2%
Portugal	2	2%
Belgium	2	2%
Lesotho	1	1%
Denmark	1	1%
Bangladesh	1	1%
Cameroon	1	1%
Hawai	1	1%
Italy	1	1%
Zimbabwe	1	1%
Mexico	1	1%
Peru	1	1%
Scotland	1	1%
Singapore	1	1%
Switzerland	1	1%
Indonesia	1	1%
Total	111	100%

The overwhelming majority of the respondents (86%) work at a university (see table 2). Generally spoken there is a wide arrangement of universities. Mostly per country the

respondents are scattered through different universities in their country. In some cases there are concentrated in one university.

Table 2: Respondents by educational institution

Univ type	Number	%
university	95	86%
college	9	8%
none	4	4%
independent researcher	3	3%
Total	111	100%

3. The services of DAN

A section of the survey was devoted to possible services of DAN.

We asked: What services would you be interested in? The possible answers (see table 3) were:

o Database of current, past and future research
o Academic journal
o Research projects
o Publication of books
o Vacancy alert
o Link with activism

Table 3: Services of DAN

What services would you be interested in?	Number	%
Academic journal	101	91%
Database of current, past and future research	98	88%
Research projects	98	88%
Link with activism	96	86%
Publication of books	94	85%
Vacancy alert	77	69%
Total	111	

In general all services that were mentioned score very high. On top is an academic journal devoted to decolonial theory and research. A database of current, past and future research, possible research projects that DAN could set up, forging links with activism, facilitating the publication of books were on the top of the priority. Vacancies for academic posts scored less, but was still on the list of two-third of the respondents.

The services of DAN will cost money. How much are the respondents willing to pay for these services (US$ per year)? Half of them wanted to pay less than 25 US$ per year and half wanted to pay more with a third wanting to pay more than 50 US$ per year (see table 4).

Table 4: What amount would you be willing to pay for membership of the Decolonial Academic Network (US$)?

Category	Number	%
0-25	39	51%
26-50	9	12%
>50	29	38%
Total	77	100%

4. Involvement with DAN

We asked: Would you like to get involved in the Decolonial Academic Network? Only two respondents answered "No".

Three quarter want to get involved in joint research projects (see table 5). Around half want to work on the editorial board of the journal and in the organization of conferences; 60% want to work a peer reviewer for the journal.

Table 5: Would you like to get involved in the Decolonial Academic Network?

Would you like to get involved in the Decolonial Academic Network?	Number	%
Yes	109	98%
Only as a member	37	33%
In the editorial board of the journal	56	50%
In the steering committee	40	36%
As peer reviewer	67	60%
In the organization of conferences	54	49%
In joint research projects	82	74%
Total	111	

5. Policy implications for DIN

On the basis of this survey the Decolonial International Network has decided to set up the Decolonial Academic Network (DAN). The practical implications of this decision are:

1. DIN is going to invest in a digital infrastructure for DAN. This infrastructure will consist of the following parts:
    a. A digital academic journal.
    b. A database of past, current and future research.
    c. A database of vacancies for academic positions.
    d. Digital meeting rooms for different commissions of DAN.

    In the coming months DIN will draw up proposals for the functionalities of the digital infrastructure and will engage the respondents of the survey who expressed their willingness to get involved, to develop these functionalities.

2. A research program for social movements. DIN will engage with social movements to link DAN with activism by setting up relevant research projects that activists can use in their daily struggle.

6. Priority

The first priority will be to set up a steering committee of DAN who can take the responsibility to develop DAN in close cooperation with DIN. They can be the counterpart for setting up the digital infrastructure and the research projects.