

Deep Adaptation Groups Network

Where do we go from here?

Survey Results & Suggested Action Points

In October 2020, the Deep Adaptation Forum Core Team sent out [a survey](#) in order to collect anonymous feedback from members of the DA Groups Network, about how things are going in your group, and what kind of support you'd like to receive from the DAGN going forward. We were hoping that responses could inform future plans for DAGN within DAF: how useful is this network? Can we improve it - and if so, how?

We first present a summary of takeaways from the survey, followed by some suggested action points. Pages 4 to 9 show the full survey results.

Some key takeaways

First of all, we want to acknowledge that the response rate to this survey (50%) has been relatively good. Thanks to everyone who took the time to answer our questions!

These takeaways include both results from the survey, as well as private communications that we have had with group admins.

- While most respondents to the survey reported that their **group membership had increased**, either 'strongly' (30%) or 'somewhat' (50%) over the past six months, most of them also said that their **group activity had 'decreased somewhat' (40%), 'remained more or less the same' (20%), or 'strongly decreased' (10%)**. Asked to explain these changes, respondents mentioned some **contextual factors** (e.g. Covid-19 making people disengage), but several also pointed to **internal factors**, noticing that their group tended to grow quiet when they - as key volunteers or group initiators - didn't actively bring up new conversation topics and themes.
- Asked to say how recent changes in their group made them feel personally, three respondents said they felt **encouraged**; four said they felt **indifferent, or not involved emotionally**; and four others mentioned feeling **frustrated, disheartened, or concerned**.
- Respondents were split between those who felt that **the DAGN did meet their aspirations (30%), didn't (30%) or only partly so (40%)**. Most said they had been hoping to **'Access relevant resources for setting up and running a Deep Adaptation community'** and to **'Bring more participants to the group'**, with the wish to **'Receive support from other DAF groups'** also being an important factor.
- Most respondents hadn't created links with non-DA groups concerned with their area, language, or topic of interest, and didn't know of other DA groups that could become part of the DAGN.

- Key ways in which respondents felt the DAGN could be more supportive included:
 - sharing or creating **more useful resources** for them and their groups, especially interesting articles to comment on, but also graphs and videos on DA, manuals and templates, etc.;
 - suggesting **ideas for common discussion themes** across groups;
 - access to or information about online **courses and trainings**;
 - fostering **deeper conversations within the DAGN Facebook group**, helping to bring about a clearer sense of **group identity**, and to instill more **active guidance and stronger leadership** within the various groups.

... So what next?

First, a quick recap on the history and purpose of the DA Groups Network (DAGN). The DAGN was launched in September 2019 to pursue [three main goals](#):

1. Raise awareness of our predicament, while promoting the Deep Adaptation culture, values and principles at a local level in thousands of communities around the world;
2. Foster engagement on Deep Adaptation related topics via local online and offline communities, discussions, gatherings and projects;
3. Create a common frame of guidelines, resources and online spaces to facilitate alignment with Deep Adaptation (DA) values and goals, as well as cross-pollination and co-creation between affiliated DA groups.

One year later, [18 online groups](#) are now part of this network, as well as several other groups convened locally.

So far, the DA Groups Network has been mainly supported by one member of the DAF Core Team. Due to high constraints on her time, this support has been mostly focused on convening monthly gatherings for the volunteer admins of these affiliated groups, in the hope to encourage peer support within the DAGN. A Facebook group dedicated to the same purpose was also created. But given the declining attendance of these gatherings, and the low activity in the DAGN Facebook group, it seems that this kind of support hasn't met the needs of most admins – and this diagnostic is confirmed by the feedback received through this survey.

Therefore, it's time for a change. But what change?

As expressed in the [Core Team's response](#) to the Strategy Options Dialogue that took place earlier this year, the Core Team (CT) is intent on revisiting the current strategy regarding local/affiliated DA groups in general, be they online or offline. However, **the CT still has strong limits in terms of capacity**. So while we do want to find better ways to support the DAGN – and respond to the needs expressed in the responses to the survey – we would like to **encourage more self-organisation** from volunteer group initiators, mainly through:

- **Hosting an exploratory call with DAGN volunteers** to discuss survey results and some other suggested follow-up action items, such as the following:
- Convening a small team (3-4 pers.) of **Network Support Volunteers (Pollinators? Harvesters?)**, who will...
 - help to gather and/or co-create the useful resources that would be helpful to group admins;
 - scout the DAF network for inspiring blog posts, articles, websites, courses (etc.) recommended by participants in other groups, which could be shared within the DAGN, and make good conversation topics;
- In January 2021, convene (with experienced volunteers) an **Online Open Space on the topic of 'DAF Community Action'**, with a focus on emerging DA groups and initiatives. This event will be open to participants throughout DAF, and affiliated group admins will be invited to join and share ideas and inspiration with initiators of various DA groups, or aspiring conveners.

Full survey results

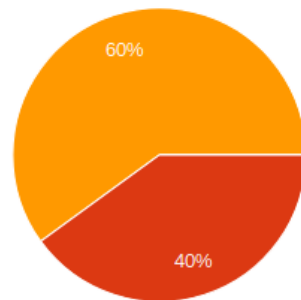
1. About your group

What made you want to create your DA-focused group in the first place - or start administering an existing one?

- To have a Facebook space to serve as meeting point for people already on Facebook wanting to discussion DA
- The subject focus -womxn - appeared to be a needed one, outside of the main DA group on Facebook
- It's been the personal focus of my life and I wanted to share what I know with others.
- I took over an existing group when the initiator felt the need to step back. I wanted to see this important space maintained.
- Requested three times in main DA group, I agreed after that and set it up for them.
- I saw the need to have these conversations in my own language, and the PDA-group started getting so big that it was a bit overwhelming to participate there
- A personal conversation with Jem...
- To create a safe space for women to discuss collapse. The main DA group is mixed gender and this can be off-putting for many women to discuss the more difficult subjects around collapse such as violence against women.
- to provide support for people waking up to the likelihood of collapse

Is your group more geared towards...

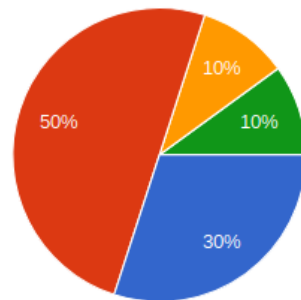
10 responses



- People in a certain local area where you can meet face-to-face
- People in a certain region, language or country (for whom it might not be that easy to meet face-to-face)
- Conversations around certain themes

Over the past 6 months, how has the size of your group evolved?

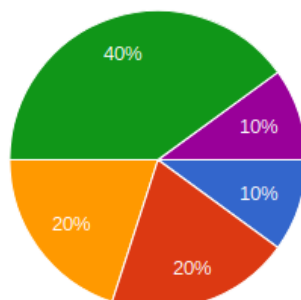
10 responses



- It has strongly increased
- It has increased somewhat
- It has remained more or less the same
- It has decreased somewhat
- It has strongly decreased

Over the past 6 months, how has activity evolved in your group?

10 responses



- It has strongly increased
- It has increased somewhat
- It has remained more or less the same
- It has decreased somewhat
- It has strongly decreased

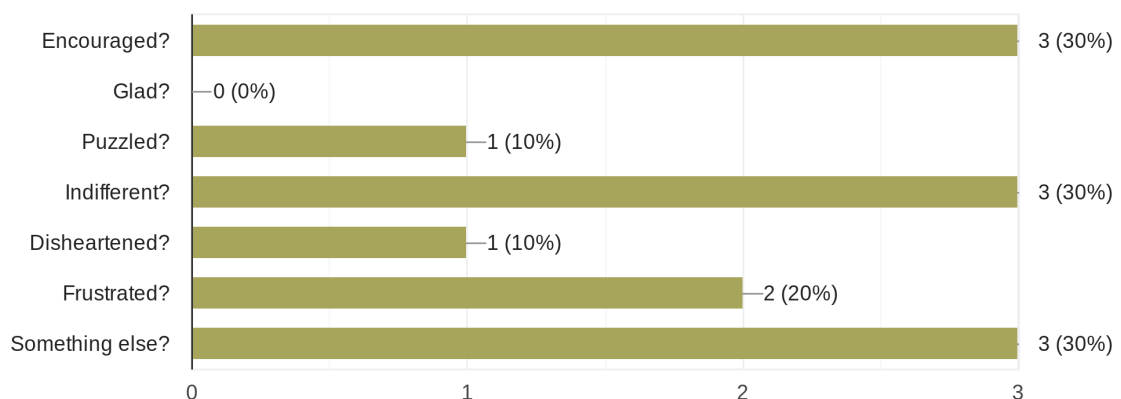
How would you explain these changes?

- Launch of open online meetings, a book on DA in French and mainly à reporting on DA in Yggdrasil. Strong support from Pablo Servigne

- Its a very new group "Deep Adaptation Womxn's group" only started 19 July 2020 so not that well known (only mentioned once or twice on the DA main group) so a bit of initial enthusiasm but not much more.
- my becoming too busy to coordinate/motivate the group, and also the COVID shelter in place preventing meeting face-to-face
- There's always been a trickle of new people over time and that has not changed.
- a growing awareness of the groups existence
- Activity has been low since it started and has stayed that way.
- I think new members use the groups previous conversations as a means of finding information. And as we have covered many topics earlier, it is possible that people just find what they are looking for. Also, covid.
- When I am active, provide content, "market" the concept and the group in other groups and discussions... then it becomes alive... of not, then it decreases...
- The group needs more members and more interaction, but for the sake of diversity of voices I am hesitant to create too many new threads myself in case it looks as though I created the group from a place of ego. There have been some new threads started but it is generally very quiet. I notice it is a quieter in another group I manage though (ca. 5,000 members) where a lot of the posts are mostly spam and the number of rich discussions has decreased. I expect a lot of people are distracted by Covid.

How have these changes affected you, emotionally? Have you felt...

10 responses



If you answered "Something else" above: please tell us more.

- Concerned. There are definitely womxn's issues that are not being spoken of in the main DA group. Also, there is a problem of speaking to certain issues and some of the participants not having the right "language" and so unwittingly, offending. There is a bit of wariness in what people post and comment on, in the new group.
- Not really attaching any emotion to it as I expect when collapse becomes more obvious to the mainstream the group will grow.
- Acceptance

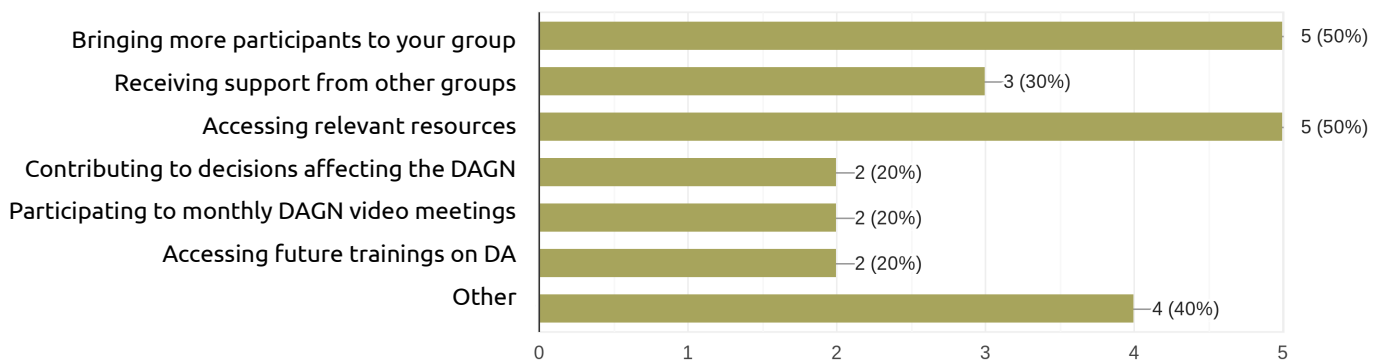
Has your group made an effort to create stronger links with non-DA groups in your area/language/topic? If yes, what worked well and what didn't?

- Not already. We'd want to connect more to XR and work that binds network but we haven't yet begun.

- Not that I know of
- No, it's not a local/regional group. No reason to find other similar-topic groups.
- no
- Yes, anecdotally
- No, or if it is the case, with xr, but many members from the national xr are also members in our DA group and they probably let IT inform their work.
- nope
- N/a

2. About the DA Groups Network

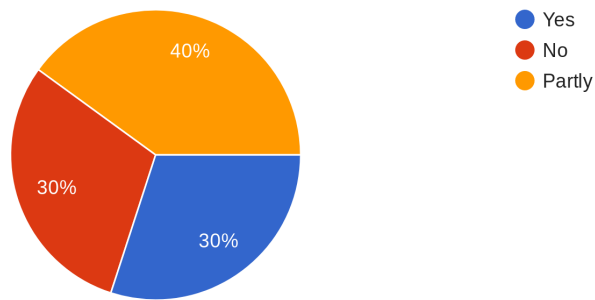
What were you mostly hoping to achieve by applying for your group to become a member of the DAGN? And if you didn't apply, what are you hoping...lease pick the 3 answers that feel most relevant.
10 responses



If you picked "Other" above, please tell us more:

- As a moderator on the main group, at the time of this affiliated group setup, I encouraged the main person Candy Dowson, to get affiliaton. It seemed to be the "right" thing to do to keep the DA conversation within a known circumference - not to limit it in any way but to have it accessible to others who might be interested...
- So that people would know that we existed if they wanted that information and support.
- I personally don't have time to be involved in the wider network so it was very much just to be affiliated so members would know we weren't going off piece. Also to follow well established group rules etc.

Do you feel that the DAGN has satisfied this aspiration?
10 responses



If you answered "No" or "Partly" to the above: can you tell us how DAGN hasn't been satisfactory, and what could be done better?

- I am not the main contact, so I may be wrong. But I am not aware of any initiatives from the main /central DA team that have prompted posts or conversations in the new group. Maybe Jem's change to the main group name - Postive DA to just DA. I think that was not officially shared through the affiliates program though - I just shared it with the other admins.
- I'm pretty new to this but I don't feel like I am part of a network as such - no shared identity (speaking specifically from this aspect of my DA involvement)
- Maybe sending out themes or ideas to us to share specifically would help provide an overall direction to the movement. Certainly would have given me more than just my ideas to go on.
- Was hoping for deeper discussions in the fb group.
- I answer this at the last question...
- the groups decreased in number and because DA has not been resourceful

Do you know about DA groups that are not affiliated with us? If yes, what are they like?

- Many French collapsologists groups who aren't exactly DA but really close. For example "La collapso heureuse"
- one - https://www.facebook.com/xruniverse/about/?ref=page_internal Its a personal project of one DA member from the main group. I don't see many posts there, but its on topic.
- Just my local group which was meeting in person until the pandemic. Providing support, camaraderie, and knowledge.
- Some but only superficially
- No, do not have an overview
- nope

What would be the most important thing DAF should focus on, to better serve local/regional/thematic DA groups, going forward?

- Resources to illustrate clearly what DA is: examples, schematics, practices, artwork, videos
- Regular contact with the admins. Shared resources - send invites to training, to join Slack and Ning groups that may be relevant, encourage each group to make regular (appropriate) posts perhaps around a theme raised through a new post in Heather's new blog if not Jem's writings anymore

- Helping to create more local/regional groups.
- forming a hub through which these groups can connect and learn from each other
- Cohesive messaging, system support for administration and moderation, suggested activities/articles/ideas etc
- Unsure, possibly like a pool of prompts to be used as engagement posts in the groups, online courses to offer the people in the group.
- Every group is either a one man show, or runned by very few volunteers, that are often occupied with several others stuff to accomplish. DAF should create topics, manuals, templates and any other guidelines regularly, that could mean REAL support for the admins and any volunteers. Something that only has to be translated, adjusted, and is ready to provided to the crowd, keeping the focus of people of a very high level, by providing them truly helpful content they value and keeps them interacting... this is what I beailve, has to be done.
- Mitigation and adaptation, maybe creating more resources for "Joe Public" as a lot of the material produced is for professional classes or those who have had the privilege to spend time and resource on enlightenment. DA is a privileged space but that's not to be viewed as a criticism.
- 1) developing a resources purpose and strategy; and, 2) becoming a reliable trusted source for those resources