

British Academy Sustainable Development Programme

Awarded November 2016

The British Academy has supported 16 research projects through the first round of the Sustainable Development Programme which is part of the Government's £1.5 billion Global Challenges Research Fund. These awards begin on the 1st December 2016.

Reference: GF160016

PI: Dr Alex Money, University of Oxford

Title: Making Light Work (MLW)

Abstract: A unique programme from the World Bank is currently being implemented in Lusaka, Zambia. If successful, it will deliver utility-scale solar powered electricity for 6 US cents per kWh, the lowest such tariff yet seen in sub-Saharan Africa. The programme aspires to scale across urban Africa, with the transformative prospects that accessible, reliable, low-cost and clean energy brings to communities. Our research project, Making Light Work (MLW), focuses on three questions. First, what are the conditions necessary for this programme to succeed at scale? Second, can a more reliable electricity supply demonstrably unlock economic, social and cultural capital in urban Africa? Third, to what extent does 'power mean empowerment' for individuals and communities?

Reference: GF160008

PI: Dr Jonathan Ensor, University of York

Title: Equitable Resilience in Local Institutions (ERLI)

Abstract: Development increasingly focuses on resilience as an agenda to address environmental shocks and change. Local institutions are frequently identified as important vehicles for resilience, based on the assumption that they can deliver development and disaster management decisions that are both effective and equitable. However, their ability to do so is far from clear and, worse, the academic literature has consistently highlighted the failure of resilience approaches to engage with issues of equity and power. In this proposal we aim to fill vital knowledge, policy and practice gaps on how equitable resilience can be secured through local institutions. Building on a large body of published experiences of resilience practice, we will investigate how key themes linking equity and resilience play out in different social and environmental settings. Through in-depth and qualitative case studies of nine local institutions in Bangladesh we will develop insights for policy and practice that will strengthen work on the management of environmental shocks and change in developing countries.

Reference: GF160026

PI: Professor Imran Rasul, University College London

Title: The Design of Anti-Poverty Transfers to the Ultra-Poor: Asset Transfers or Cash Transfers?

Abstract: This project studies social protection programmes for the poor: we ask whether in-kind transfers are more effective at tackling household poverty than providing households with the equivalent valued transfer as an unconditional cash transfer (UCT)? We use an RCT to measure the

causal impact on households of the offer of either in-kind asset transfer or unconditional cash transfer. We estimate the impacts of each form of transfer on a rich set of economic, social and psychological outcomes at the individual, household and community levels. We measure impacts both on the actual beneficiary households, and also measure whether there are positive or negative spillover effects of each form of social protection scheme to other households in the same community. We also conduct qualitative work on the dimensions of poverty (e.g. gender, social participation, exclusion), and how these are impacted by each social protection programme. The project provides qualitative and quantitative evidence on both social protection schemes, and makes clear the net benefits of each in reducing poverty.

Reference: GF160024

PI: Ms Joanna Howard, Institute of Development Studies

Title: Building sustainable inclusion: from intersecting inequalities to accountable relationships

Abstract: Inclusive governance is central to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the global call to 'leave no one behind'. Our previous research indicates that SDG 16 on building accountable and inclusive institutions is a gateway to the others. However, it cannot be achieved without addressing discriminatory dynamics, and SDG implementation at national level risks exacerbating marginalisation if it does not consider the effects of intersecting inequalities. This IDS collaboration with 5 partners aims to: 1) Use participatory learning to explore experiences of intersectionality in India, Uganda, South Africa, Ghana and Egypt. 2) Foster on-going dialogue between highly marginalised groups, duty bearers and other stakeholders in order to generate theoretical and practical knowledge on how to develop accountable relationships in reality 3) Provide evidence and insight for policy makers about effective pathways to inclusive and responsive governance, and make a timely input to knowledge on the role of participatory processes in increasing sustainable impact during SDG implementation.

Reference: GF160020

PI: Dr Vanesa Castan Broto, University College London

Title: Sustainable Energy Access in Mozambique: Socio-political factors in conflict-laden urban areas

Abstract: Achieving universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy requires dealing with socio-political constraints, particularly in conflict-laden areas. In Mozambique, where armed conflict is resurgent, achieving energy access can support economic development and the eradication of extreme poverty. Mozambique has abundant fossil fuel and hydropower resources and a nascent renewable energy industry. There are also business models, such as the prepaid electricity system, that enable poorer people to access energy in unprecedented rates. What then explains the persistence of energy poverty? Why do some populations lack reliable sources for basic needs such as lighting, cooking and heating water? We argue that to facilitate energy access we need to understand the socio-political conditions that prevent it, particularly the underlying conflicts related to energy provision. The project uses quantitative and qualitative methods developed through co-production processes to analyse the socio-political roots of energy-related conflicts and how they can be overcome.

Reference: GF160007

PI: Dr Heather Marquette, University of Birmingham

Title: Investigating Islands of Integrity: Using a "Positive Outlier" Approach to Understand How Corruption is Controlled

Abstract: This project examines how institutions, like the health sector and courts, have successfully reduced corruption in developing countries that are systemically corrupt. Governance research tends to focus on why these corrupt countries fail to improve and, as such, the field has a difficult time explaining how positive change happens and inspiring new and effective interventions. Using a mixed methods approach, this project makes empirical and policy relevant contributions. It detects several 'positive outlier' cases - organisations that have experienced an unexpected reduction in bribery - and examines in-depth how positive change occurred in two cases. By focusing on success stories, the project will strengthen the existing evidence base on what works to encourage sustainable governance patterns in different developing country contexts. The project's lessons will benefit governments, aid donors, and civil society working to control corruption within and outside of the cases examined. It will particularly benefit governance work in Kenya, for which specific lessons will be articulated.

Reference: GF160017

PI: Dr Christian Bueger, Cardiff University

Title: Safe Seas. A Study of Maritime Security Capacity Building in the Western Indian Ocean

Abstract: Maritime security governance is an area of emerging importance but continues to be one of the least studied fields of development and security studies. This project is groundbreaking since it is the first to engage in a systematic investigation of recent Maritime Security Sector Reform processes (MSSR). The goal is to understand the problems germane to maritime (security) governance, but also to develop a range of best practices for how to support MSSR processes. The study focusses on the Western Indian Ocean, an area where maritime security challenges are on the rise, the blue economy is vital, but state capacities are weak. Yet, considerable efforts have been made to support MSSR. The project compares five MSSR processes (Somaliland, Djibouti, Seychelles, Kenya and the regional Indian Ocean Maritime Crime Forum). International actors have significantly supported these processes mainly as part of the fight against Somali piracy. The outcome will be two articles discussing core problems of MSSR and a best practice toolkit to be used in international policy and planning.

Reference: GF160043

PI: Professor Paul Collier, University of Oxford

Title: Establishing state legitimacy and effectiveness in fragile and conflict-affected societies

Abstract: When a society collapses into disorder it is a tragedy for its citizens and sometimes a global nightmare. This research will combine recent analyses of how states build the capacity to function, and how social networks shape ideas, to rethink international policy towards state-building.

Reference: GF160000

PI: Dr Manoj Roy, Lancaster University

Title: 'The Last 100 Metres': Safeguarding Potable Water Provisioning to Urban Informal Settlements

Abstract: The last two decades have seen much improvement to potable water supply to millions of poor urban people across the developing world. However, potential benefits of improved water supply are severely compromised by sewage contamination at a critical zone around the point of use

- 'the last 100 metres' - where water is taken from the standpipe to the home. In short, urban, national and increasingly global architectures for sustainable development are falling short - just metres before the 'finish line' with severe consequences for public health. The challenge we address is: how to transform infrastructure and practice in this relatively small space, leading to measurable improvements to 'quality of life' for poor urban people. We will undertake observational and action research in eight slums in Dar es Salaam (Dar) and Dhaka. We shall build South-South and North-South partnerships with local, regional and international stakeholders to initiate a research-led 'Safeguarding the last 100 metres' campaign to achieve SDGs targets 6.1 and 6.2 for the urban poor in South Asia and Africa.

Reference: GF160004

PI: Professor Nicholas Phelps, University College London

Title: Creative Kampongs: mobilising informal enterprise and innovation for economic development in Indonesia

Abstract: Away from the world cities that comprise a large part of the stock of economic activity globally, many 'ordinary' cities of the developing countries nevertheless are home to an inventiveness that is informal and as yet uncharted. In this research we propose to map the extent inventiveness across the informal businesses found in the urban villages (kampongs) in three Indonesian cities (Solo, Bandung and Semarang) to gauge: (a) the extent of innovation; (b) the nature of innovation (incremental/radical, new to individual, new to market); (c) the originators (male or female) and the origin (endogenous or adapted, business or household); (d) the impacts; and (e) the aspirations of entrepreneurs. In light of (e) we also propose to explore in outline terms the potential for these informal business ideas to be commercialized, to form part of alternative social or non-market economies, or indeed for them to be protected against such developments.

Reference: GF160031

PI: Professor Jackline Wahba, University of Southampton

Title: Syrian Refugees in Jordan: The Challenge of Sustainable Development

Abstract: Forced displacement is a global challenge. The outbreak of the conflict in Syria in 2011 has displaced 4.7 million people to neighbouring countries. According to the 2015 Population Census of Jordan, Jordan is currently hosting 1.3 million Syrians, of whom 630,000 are registered as refugees with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (DoS 2016). The Syrian influx comes on top of an additional 1.6 million foreigners residing in Jordan. Compared to a total population of 6.6 million Jordanians in 2015, the non-national population of refugees and migrants have potentially increased Jordan's population by about 45%, undoubtedly placing severe pressures on labour markets and public services. Using rigorous methodologies and rich new data sets, this project aims to provide better understanding of the effects of hosting refugees on Jordanian society and, particularly, on the country's labour market and the access and quality of public services.

Reference: GF160033

PI: Professor Susan Baker, Cardiff University

Title: Integrating Policies on Land Use Changes and Coastal Zone Management to Deliver Food Security and Environmental Conservation: The Role of Private and Public Governance

Abstract: Is it possible to incorporate sea and land borne impacts in coastal zone management (CZM)? Marine managers scrutinize the impacts of coastal zone activities on marine resources, but often fail to consider the impacts of land-based activities. Land-use change (LUC) leads to nutrient and sediment loading, affecting the quality and productivity of marine environments, often in unpredictable ways. Policies addressing land use, LUC (LU/LUC), coastal zone food security and marine conservation are fragmented and institutionally uncoordinated, unable to address the linkages and interplay between these dynamics. We will address this gap by conducting an assessment of private and public governance operating across land and marine sectors to identify integrated pathways for management actions that address impacts on land based-economic development, fisheries management, livelihoods and conservation. We will develop a conceptual framework for integrating land use policy with CZM to improve the livelihoods of local populations.

Reference: GF160032

PI: Professor Samuel Fankhauser, London School of Economics and Political Science

Title: The governance and implementation of the SDG 13 on climate change

Abstract: The project seeks to analyse and enhance the governance of sustainable development, in particular the implementation of urgent climate action (SDG 13). Drawing on a unique data set of 800 climate laws and policies in 99 countries the project will: (i) develop a typology of national climate governance models and assess their link to the credible implementation of climate action, (ii) use this typology to augment the existing data set with new indicators on governance and institutions (iii), undertake a meta-analysis of the data to assess global trends in climate governance; and (iv) carry out two case studies on governance models and institutions in Tanzania and India. The study will be conducted through interdisciplinary collaboration across geography, political science, economics and law and feature the co-production of knowledge with policy practitioners. It will use established empirical techniques such as semi-structured interviews, network analysis, coding and data analysis through QDA Miner. Quantitative and spatial analysis will be used to analyse global governance trends.

Reference: GF160011

PI: Professor Sonia Bhalotra, University of Essex

Title: Welfare Dependence and Poverty Traps: Evaluating the contribution of health shocks and health policy using administrative data

Abstract: The objective is to investigate the extent to which public health provision enhances the capacity for social protection. The poor are more vulnerable to disease, and poor health can perpetuate poverty and welfare dependency. We will contribute new evidence on synergies between income support and public health, relevant to sustaining cash transfers on a wide scale, especially under austerity. We also contribute to work on sustainable cities insofar as we study epidemics that diffuse more rapidly in dense urban areas. Previous attempts to identify causal effects of health on poverty have been frustrated by the poor being more likely to suffer health shocks, making it hard to isolate cause from effect. We will address this challenge by analysing administrative individual longitudinal data on the entire population of welfare recipients in Brazil, linked to hospital, clinic and vital statistics data, and using exogenous variation in local epidemic infection rates.

Reference: GF160005

PI: Professor Orazio Attanasio, Institute for Fiscal Studies

Title: Improving children's life chances in high-risk, low-income settings: Designing a "new generation" longitudinal cohort study of child development

Abstract: We propose to design a "new generation" longitudinal cohort study, implemented in a LMIC. The aim is to increase significantly our understanding of child development and what can be done at different developmental stages to mitigate adverse environmental factors, many of which are triggered by poverty, including poor nutrition and stimulation and stress. The design will draw on experts from multiple disciplines in the field of child development, longitudinal and evaluation research, and economic development building on experience in data collection and intervention design in low-income settings, and innovations related to both measurement and interventions. The proposed work will i) articulate the features of the new cohort study ii) provide a menu of possible interventions to be embedded iii) develop, pilot and validate measurement tools iv) articulate the research agenda made possible through the new cohort study, allowing to generate fundamental knowledge on the process of child development in low-income, high-risk contexts, key to designing sustainable and effective policies.

Reference: GF160041

PI: Dr Lutgarde Vandepuut, British Institute at Ankara

Title: Living amid the ruins : archaeological sites as hubs of sustainable development for local communities in Southwest Turkey

Abstract: The proposed research adopts an innovative approach to the use of archaeological heritage in Turkey. Concentrating on southwest Turkey, where the cultural heritage management project of the host institution (BIAA) is conducted, the proposed research is tripartite:

- Investigating the relationship that people living by the archaeological sites have with these places ?- Building capacity through creating social and economic benefits and sustainable growth for and in dialogue with the local rural communities
- Intensifying the relationship between the archaeological site and the local communities in their vicinity so as to secure a better future for the cultural heritage itself. ?It aims at tackling the challenging issues of how to protect cultural heritage through multi-layered dialogue with local communities. It offers a model of cultural heritage that can be used as the engine of sustainable development for local communities, by fostering a sense of pride among them for hosting this heritage and empowering them in the interpretation of this heritage and in presenting it to visitors.