

Global Research Priorities in International Development, Advisory Board meeting

14 June 2017, 12-2pm

Scarman Conference Centre, University of Warwick (Scarman Lecture Theatre 7)

Minutes:

PRESENT:

Nicki Charles (NC)
Sarah Cook (SC)
Emily Henderson (EH)
Andrew Jones (AJ)
Oyinlola Oyebode (OO)
Ruth Pearson (RP)
Shirin Rai (SR)
Ann Stewart (AS)
Nina Slokar Boc (NSB)
Chris Underhil (CU)
Jonathan Vickery (JV)

APOLOGIES:

Rosemarry Arnott (RA)
Tom Fleming (TF)
Briony Jones (BJ)
Anne Hellingum (AH)
Franklyn Lisk (FL)
Shaheen Sardar Ali (SSA)

1. Minutes from the last meeting
2. Matters arising since the last meeting
3. Update on this years' activities and future plans
4. Finance
5. Funding
6. Impact
7. LGD
8. Annual report
9. AOB

1. Minutes from the last meeting

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2. Matters arising since last meeting:

A number of issues were discussed. SR suggests higher showcase of development MA programs. JV presents a short history of LGD Journal and introduces the new issue and announces the new branding and a website for the Journal.

SC raises the importance of identifying who is the blog audience. CU comments that it is important to get the message out, but blogs can be problematic because there is so many of them and suggests focusing on the social media instead (especially twitter).

EH presents Mobility Network and its aim to approach international academic mobility from critical and from gender perspective.

3. Update on this years' activities and future plans

SR's bid for The Centre for the Study of Global In- equalities and Social Development was unsuccessful but we intend to try again. RP emphasises, that it is important to have a central theme with such proposals. SR says that methods lab was part of the bid and that this part of the bid was very well received.

CU welcomes the hard work of the past two years. He suggests that we need to see more interdisciplinary approach regarding the Poverty annual theme as poverty is a very "crowded" research field and special attention of STGs, if we want to go for the big applications. SR says that we need to think about what is our added value as Warwick in all poverty research – what is the cut that Warwick brings?

SC agrees with CU's point about STGs and adds that we need to open up a debate around historical approach in STGs and take care to not compete with already existing research. AJ adds that such historical approach represents the theme of colonialism, which we intend to integrate in our annual theme activities. SC asks what it means to have a universal concept and what is universalism in poverty

research. CU asks whether there is a way to mould the boundaries in poverty research and adds that it is a mistake to immediately assume that poverty research is only about NGOs. SR says, that it is important to realise what our little niche might be. Combined with methods lab we could measure poverty research in terms of different statistics.

4. , 5. Funding and finance:

SR presents the general idea of the GRPs and how they intend to support cross departmental work and research and connections between academics and researchers. AS adds, that one of the main aims of the GRPs are also collaborative bids, which usually take longer time (it is 3-5 year strategy). A couple of successful collaborative bids are for example 3 post docs funded by Marie Skodowska Curie Actions (European Commission) and Jo Sartori's project Improving the Health of People who Live in Slums, which we seed funded last academic year (it contributed to this project recently winning a £5.7million NIHR Global Health Research Unit on Improving the Health of People who Live in Slums).

AS mentions that we attracted funds from a private donor (Warwick Alumni), who was keen to invest in gender issues research in India and set up a charity dealing with these issues. He initially came to the GRP in International Development and it eventually led to a successful funding (£460,404) including funding two PhD students (first one is already recruited and starting in October researching issues around girls' access to education in Haryana).

AS presents 2016/2017 budget.

NSB presents our first postgraduate conference and its programme.

AS adds, that we received additional funding from Law department and that we intend to continue with interdisciplinary funding in the following years. RP suggests that it might be a good idea to involve Development Studies Association (DSA) and suggests to organise a postgraduate conference in synergy with DSA.

6. Impact

SR says, that we need to think about the impact and produce evidence about the impact. SR asks AB and SC to advise on how to increase our impact. RP asks what does subjective really mean: a positive impact is often subjective. It is not always about dissemination and different disciplines have different ways of measuring impact. CU emphasises that it is important to make sure that we keep our standards consistent every year. SC adds that we need to prioritise interdisciplinarity and critical approach. The important question remains how to measure impact.

SR adds, that GRPs are not directly linked to REF, only individuals are. CU says, that there is "Warwick approach" to international development and that we need to show that we grew as a GRP throughout the years. SR says, that the idea of GRP is still hard to explain to "outsiders" as it is quite a specific research

network.

RP says that at this stage we need to concentrate around the impact in terms of institutional change impact.

JV adds that GRPs are not entirely defined and that's actually a plus for us, we can use the freedom to define ourselves. SR says that we need to focus on building up the energy in projects we already participated in and on interdisciplinarity.

7.LGD

JV presents the rebranding of the LGD and announces that we plan to have two special issues in 2017, along with the call for papers. LGD website will be independent, because there are certain problems with Warwick University website. We also want to attract more funding from everywhere.

The idea is to rigorously stretch the boundaries of research with different forms such as interviews, podcasts,...etc. It will be indexed and referable.

SR thanks JV and Rajnaara for all the work on the LGD Journal.

8. Annual report

NSB and AS present the main stats from annual report. Everyone okays it.

9.AOB

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