

Global Research Priorities in International Development, Advisory Board meeting

2 May, 2018: 12 – 2pm

Radcliffe Conference Centre, University of Warwick (Radcliffe Space 26 (M))

PRESENT:

Sarah Cook (SC)
Emily Henderson (EH)
Bishnupriya Gupta (BG)
David Mond (DM)
Ruth Pearson (RP)
Shirin Rai(SR)
Ann Stewart (AS)
Nina Slokar Boc (NSB)
Chris Underhil (CU)
Jonathan Vickery(JV)
Franklyn Lisk (FL)
Shaheen Sardar Ali
(SSA)

APOLOGIES:

Rosemarry Arnott (RA)
Tom Fleming (TF)
Briony Jones (BJ)
Anne Hllum (AH)
Jonathan Vickery(JV)
Andrew Jones (AJ)
Oyinlola Oyeboode (OO)
Nicki Charles (NC)
Silvija Iestrovic (SJ)
Rashmi Varma (RV)

Minutes:

GLOBAL RESEARCH PRIORITIES
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT



1. Minutes from the last meeting and matters arising since last meeting:

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2. Update on this years' activities and future plans

We present the powerpoint presentation of GRP ID activities. GRP ID's main

We need to try and get more Warwick (and possibly external) research staff interested in attending the postgraduate conference. Last year's abstracts were of great quality and it is a shame, that more people weren't able to hear it. It was still a good turnout, and we are hoping to have the same this year. It might be a good idea to connect with Leeds University and collaborate on the conference, or maybe have it alternating (every year).

Last year we had a student committee assessing the abstracts, it is a good idea to establish a student committee to assess all the abstracts and to get more postgraduate students involved with organising the conference in general. We plan to give bursaries for students travelling from other UK and international Universities. There is also an option to livestream the conference. Depending on the costs of bursaries. We received a confirmation to financially support the conference from three departments. It would also be sensible to produce a conference report after. We plan catering and networking after the conference, and agree that students attending need a good chance to socialize during the conference.

We organized a successful event in collaboration with GRP Sustainable Cities on 26 April, which will hopefully lead to new connections and funding collaborations. This meeting explored how social and physical sciences could work together to address challenges in low-income countries and cities. There was also a focus on the partnerships we already have in place in low-income countries and how we could build new partnerships. It was framed around three themes, with a short presentation on each followed by an open discussion about building research teams around each theme and potential future themes. We are proud to have RES from various departments present at the event and are hoping to start new collaborations with scientists and science departments.

We also organized a successful workshop "Mobile and digital money: a pathway to poverty reduction through financial inclusion". Its outcomes will be emailed to the GRP ID co-leads to discuss future collaborations.

We discuss Mathematics institute and its involvements with Warwick in Africa and the collaborations and activities that can result from this.

In terms of external funding we still didn't achieve the stage that we are aiming for, we would like to build on the new connections in order to attract some external funding.

LGD was relaunched last year. It was rebranded and the website was completely renovated. We planned to have 2 special issues. They will be launched in the following weeks. Members will get a notification about this.

External networks are very important for GRP ID. Big part of external networks is our Advisory Board and our connections at other UK and international universities. In the future we would particularly like to focus around connecting with international universities and ID departments.

Members congratulate GRP ID on doing so much with such a limited budget and on raising the visibility of ID research at Warwick University.

We have a contact with an NGO in Pakistan, dealing with women in rural areas called Sister's home. It was started 30 years ago as women environmental NGO. They were introduced to GRP ID at Warwick University and are very keen to collaborate and use GRP ID's skills to put their work in academic format. We identify a student, starting her PhD next year, who would be good to collaborate with them and talk about the possibility of Sister's home boss giving this year annual lecture.

This year's annual lecture was supposed to be by Sir Hilary Beckles of University of West Indies, but due to miscommunication we had to cancel it. He agreed to still come later this year, in the next academic year to give a lecture.

We announce our annual theme for 2018/2019 : Democracy and International Development. Renske Dorenspleet (PAIS) committed to act as our support for the annual theme.

3. Finance and funding

Our budget for this year is 40.000,00£. Almost half of it goes for the administrative support and the rest is spent on seed funding and various activities.

4. Impact

Members suggest that it would be a good idea to track how the money was spent and to track the impact via spending in order to get the feedback. Everyone agrees that Steering committee meetings are important and that they need to be held each term in order to discuss new ideas and developments.

5. Review of the GRP's

After 5 years University undertook a big review of the GRPs. There are also external reviewers. Review committee will review the efficacy of the GRPs (models and individuals). We will share the committee's email to all the colleagues. There is still a bit of confusion as to how GRP ID, department of Global Sustainable Development (GSD) and Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD) are connected and what exactly are their roles and working scopes. Only GSD is involved in teaching.

We have to find a way to meaningfully connect with GSD and IDS.

We have to be proactively engaged in the conversation with IDS and then GRP ID can take the lead role in this conversation.

One of the big questions is how GSD and IDS define itself. The answer can then show us the way how to fit and engage with them. Understanding that would be helpful in determining what to do next. We also have to review the role of other GRPs.

Another question is what is "sustainability" as there is institutional confusion around this term. Does it mean sustainable international development or is it more environmental?

GRP ID needs the support of our steering committee and advisory board members in letting the University know how to clarify the role and focus of IDS.