

**CAL Undergraduate Research Scholarships Scheme 2017  
Project Proposal Form**

<b>Project Proposer/s:</b>	<b>Sabine Lee</b>
<b>School/Dept:</b>	<b>History</b>
<b>Project Title:</b>	<b>Peacekeeper-fathered Children in Haiti</b>
<b>Project Summary</b>	
<p>As of April 2016, a total of 103,510 uniformed personnel from 123 countries were serving in 16 peacekeeping operations around the world. Where foreign soldiers - during war, occupation or peacekeeping operations - are on foreign soil, military-civilian relations develop, including those between soldiers and local women. Peacekeepers have increasingly been associated with sexual exploitation and abuse of the vulnerable populations they had been mandated to protect. Many of the intimate relations between peacekeeping personnel and local women, of both voluntary and exploitative nature, have led to pregnancies and to children being born. These so-called 'peace babies' and their mothers face particular challenges in volatile post-conflict communities, reportedly including childhood adversities as well as stigmatization, discrimination and disproportionate economic and social hardships.</p> <p>This project proposes an in-depth-study on the situation of 'peace babies' conceived by personnel from or associated with the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). MINUSTAH is among the missions associated with allegations of misconduct, not least related to sexual and gender-based violence and consequently the unintended legacy of children fathered by UN personnel. The UN has recently acknowledged that 'peacekeeper babies' exist. Yet, an evidence base relating to the welfare of children fathered by UN peacekeepers (globally or in Haiti) is virtually non-existent, and it is clear that the existing UN policies and support programs are inadequate.</p> <p>The multidisciplinary collaboration between scholars from the University of Birmingham, Queen's University, Kingston, the Centre of International and Defence Policy, and Haitian-based Enstiti Travay Sosyal ak Syans Sosyal (ETS), along with civil society organisations, the Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti and Haitian-based Bureau des Avocats Internationaux, will address this knowledge gap and enhance our understanding of the challenges faced by peace babies and their families as well as the obstacles to accessing support</p>	
<b>What the researcher will do</b>	
<p>The researcher will help monitor the data collection done by local research assistants; he/she will liaise with the Principal Investigator (Lee, UoB) and Co-Investigator (Dr Bartels, Queen's University, as well as the Sensemaker Consultant to secure that the tablet-based data collection targets the appropriate groups and where appropriate, under supervision from PI and CoI, implement changes to the in-country research.</p> <p>The monitoring can largely be done remotely from the UK, but there may be an opportunity to participate in Haiti-based research activities.</p>	
<b>Skills required by the Scholarship holder</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Excellent IT skills</li> <li>- Excellent communication skills</li> <li>- Good cross-cultural awareness</li> <li>- Ability to engage with new methodologies and willingness to work across disciplinary and sectoral boundaries</li> <li>- French language skills may be helpful because of affinity with Creole.</li> </ul>	
<b>How will your Project benefit the Scholarship holder?</b>	
<p>The scholar will have the opportunity to take part in cutting-edge research in an exciting research environment. He/she will play a part in this AHRC/SSHRC-funded project within a world-leading interdisciplinary research team, acquiring generic and transferable research and implementation skills.</p> <p>There may be the possibility of subsequent data analysis training within a larger international research group and of taking part in the production of research outputs.</p>	

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**How will the Scholarship benefit your Project?**

The scholar will provide essential administrative and research support during the crucial data collection phase and contribute to the relationship-building between PI, CoI and research assistants. .