

## Responsible Business Research Projects 2019-20

*A selection of the responsible business related research projects that are internally funded this year.*

### **The Production of Value in Craft Businesses**

*Dr Scott Taylor (Department of Management), Chris Land (Anglia Ruskin University), Kathleen Kuehn (Victoria University, Wellington)*

The term 'craft' is frequently used to signal high quality, high value products, made with skill from high quality raw materials, in brewing and distilling, food, clothing, perfume, and cycle manufacture. The sector promotes ethical sourcing, reduced consumption, and the idea of good work. This research maps how craft work produces value, and what it means to those producing and consuming craft.

### **Commuting in Sub-Saharan Africa; A gendered analysis of the impact on employment and well-being.**

*Professor Fiona Carmichael, Professor Joanne Duberley, Dr Christian Darko, Dr Marco Ercolani, Dr Dan Wheatley (Department of Management and Department of Economics)*

An initial, interdisciplinary pilot study informed by a review of existing survey and past research. In addition to generating research publications, this pilot study will lead to the development of large scale mixed-methods research funding application to: (1) quantify the financial and non-financial costs and benefits of commuting in the sub-Saharan countries of Ethiopia, Tanzania and Ghana; and (2) assess the impacts of the commuting costs of individuals, particularly women on their employment participation, health and wellbeing.

### **Stability and Sustainability in the Banking Sector: Green Lending and Systemic Risk?**

*Dr Eilnaz Kashefi and Dr Eliana Lauretta (Department of Finance), Dr Cristina Orso (University Ca` Foscari of Venice, Italy)*

Studies suggest that green lending improves banks' risk. However, there is no empirical evidence in a global context. Also, CEOs' power spurs firms toward greener strategies. We analyse the link between CEOs' power and green lending and how this impacts on banks' risk in a global context. This research is relevant to financial markets participants, policy-makers and ensuing policy decisions. It will also shed light on how green lending may positively affect financial stability and market efficiency.

### **The Effects of Financial Constraints during the European Sovereign Debt Crisis**

*Dr Christoph Gortz (Department of Economics)*

An investigation into the implications of large adjustments in European banks' balance sheets with respect to their performance, resilience to financial turmoil, and the effects on the availability of finance for businesses. This work has the potential to shed light into bank's behaviour during the 2007 financial crisis as well as the subsequent European sovereign debt crisis.

## **The Role of HRM and Employer Organisations in Integrating Refugees**

*Dr Shireen Kanji (Department of Management)*

What is the role of employers in integrating refugees into the labour market? Do employers and HRM functions have particular skills they can use to assist refugees in employment? The research with employers and NGOs that are already working to help refugees into employment addresses these questions which are of critical relevance for the UK and beyond.

## **Ports as Novel Sites of Governance**

*Professor Jan Bebbington (Department of Accounting)*

The Seafood Business for Ocean Stewardship project is a practice based project that is supporting seafood companies address social and environmental concerns that Ports are organisational actors that are conduits for seafood products reaching markets as well as places where fishers join/leave vessels and hence are potential sites where social and environmental concerns can be addressed. This project, therefore, seeks to build a database of the organisational characteristics of fishing ports around the globe in order to explore the potential of ports as novel sites for governance.

## **Transnational Migrant Women in Family Businesses**

*Dr Natalia Vershinina (Department of Management)*

Despite a recognition of heterogeneity of the context in which family firms operate, studies that explore spatial influences are particularly rare. This research aims to incorporate transnational spaces into the investigation of migrants and their family businesses with specific focus on women and their roles. Invisibility is synonymous with the narrative relating to women in family business, their roles being typically informal and generally unpaid. Does transnational business activity help women overcome these barriers?

## **The Development of Global Accountability Standards: Competition, Collaboration and Standardisation.**

*Dr Nick Rowbottom (Department of Accounting)*

This research project aims to investigate how global standards are formed that define what issues businesses are accountable for, and to whom businesses are accountable to. The project aims to analyse a specific recent phenomenon where different standardising bodies have sought to develop cooperative engagement platforms as a means to construct a consensus.

## **Linking food waste and energy policy: Creating supply networks for reducing food waste in the UK – A case study of Sainsbury/BIFFA**

*Dr Roshan Boojihawon (Department of Strategy and International Business) and Dr Dan Chicksand (Department of Management)*

In light of the Government failures around meeting renewable energy targets, the aim of this project is to challenge current policy and explore how to reduce food waste in the UK and increase the proportion of food waste that goes to anaerobic digestion – a process used to produce energy from food waste. The study will consider the current and future potential business models, sustainability strategies, supply chain network relationships and technology in the context of the circular economy.