**LSE’s Research Division hosts ESRC’s Global Challenge Research Fund seminar**



On Tuesday 18 October 2016, the Research Division (RD) held its first ever [Funding Information Day](https://apps.lse.ac.uk/training-system/userBooking/course/7971370) (FInD). Guest speakers included representatives from the Academy of Social Sciences ([AcSS](https://www.acss.org.uk/)), Economic and Social Research Council [(ESRC)](http://www.esrc.ac.uk/) and Universities UK International ([UUKi](http://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/International)). There were 5 sessions covering topics such as the future of EU funding for research post-referendum, research funding sources beyond Europe, such as the Global Challenges Research Fund ([GCRF](http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/funding/gcrf/)) and [Newton Fund](http://www.newtonfund.ac.uk/), as well as two case studies on evidencing impact by Dr Ernestina Coast, Dr Emily Freeman and Dr Sandra Sequeira.

A panel discussion looked at the future outlook for UK research and, in particular, social science research post-BREXIT. Lucy Shackleton (UUKi), Dr Ashley Lenihan (CfSS/AcSS), Dr Anne Corbett (LSE Fellow) and Jon Deer (Deputy Director, RD) discussed topics ranging from the UK’s negotiating position and whether science and research policy will be on the list of priorities to how the UK’s reputation in the scientific community as a place to do research will be affected. For the time being UK researchers can continue to participate in all EU programmes. But for the future – through organisations like UUK and the Academy for Social Science/ CfSS - the research community can engage in the discussion to help to press for new global alternatives to the EU programmes. The panel agreed that continued collaborations and participation in European research communities are vital for UK based SSH researchers and that EU programme funding has been the platform on which these research communities have been built.

The Head of International Development research at ESRC, Dr Craig Bardsley, presented the Council’s approach to the GCRF, a £1.5 billion fund announced by the UK Government to support cutting-edge research that addresses the challenges faced by developing countries. According to him, the ESRC’s approach is to think strategically about the value it can bring by playing a larger role in the UK’s development research investment. He referred to the GCRF as an opportunity to fund research *for development*, *research as development* and *research on development*. Ana Alvarez-Serra (Research Development Manager, RD) moderated a live webinar open to the rest of the UK.

Rachael Sara-Kennedy (Head of International Partnerships at UUKi) explained how the UK government will invest, through the Newton Fund, a total of £735 million until 2021 in research that promote the economic development and social welfare of the fund’s 16 partner countries. The main aspect of this Fund is that partner countries provide matched resources. Since its launch in 2014, LSE has won grants in partnership with researchers or research organisations in Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Kazakhstan, Mexico and Turkey.



The School’s Research Impact Manager, Dr Rachel Middlemass, reminded participants of the REF requirement to demonstrate *both* the fact that impacts happened when, where, how and for whom they have been claimed, *and* the ‘material and distinct’ contribution of LSE research to these impacts. Dr Sandra Sequeira (International Development and IGC) described her use of two distinct approaches in work in Mozambique: an *ex ante* approach in which impact monitoring and data collection is built into a project from the start, and a more traditional *ex post* approach in which it is conducted at the end of the research. Dr Ernestina Coast and Dr Emily Freeman (Social Policy) then explained the *linked* approaches that they’ve taken to tracking and maximizing research impact resulting from their research in Zambia.

In a brief session on Research and KEI funding at LSE, Dr Aygen Kurt-Dickson (Research Development Manager, RD) explained the School’s research policy, highlighting the School’s commitments to research excellence and that all research support systems and research funding should contribute to maintaining the research excellence LSE academics produce. Colleagues from RD and other academic units presented the School’s research incentives policies (Kerry Hocken), and various [internal funding opportunities](http://www.lse.ac.uk/intranet/researchAndDevelopment/researchDivision/applyingForFunding/internalFundingOpportunities.aspx).

FInD is a day dedicated to providing LSE staff with latest news in the funding landscape, research funding opportunities, policies and trends. It happens **every term** and it is open to academic and professional services staff.

It is part of RISe (Research Information Sessions), the Research Division’s Research Development programme; organised by the RD’s Research Development Team. For a full calendar of activities visit [RISe](http://www.lse.ac.uk/intranet/researchAndDevelopment/researchDivisionTrainingProgramme.aspx). For more information and feedback contact [Ana Alvarez-Serra](mailto:a.a.alvarez-serra@lse.ac.uk) and [Aygen Kurt-Dickson](mailto:%20a.s.kurt-dickson@lse.ac.uk).

Upcoming FInD dates in Lent Term: Wednesday 18 January 2017; and Summer Term: Wednesday 3 May 2017.

