**GCRF and Newton: Humanities successes to date**

**GCRF ESRC Strategic Networks (January 2017)**

Two academics from the Global Development Institute have been awarded grants from the GCRF ESRC Strategic Networks Fund. The fund aims to bring together novel combinations of perspectives to identify key areas for future research, inform thinking on how these might be addressed, and build the capacities and relationships required to support this. [Prof Richard Heeks is leading a network](http://gtr.rcuk.ac.uk/projects?ref=ES%2FP006329%2F1) on ‘Development Implications of Digital Economies (DIODE)’ which will focus on the growth of digital technologies in the South, how these impact on development, and how various stakeholders can help to create an effective ‘digital ecosystem’ that works for the benefit of all. [Dr Admos Chimhowu’s network](http://gtr.rcuk.ac.uk/projects?ref=ES%2FP007406%2F1) looks at ‘New National Planning for Sustainable Development in the Global South’ and its role in helping national governments work towards meeting the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

We are also partners on several GCRF Network awards led by other institutions. Kunal Sen, GDI, is part of a network on [Global Poverty and Inequality Dynamics](http://gtr.rcuk.ac.uk/projects?ref=ES%2FP006299%2F1), led by Kings College London; James Evans, Geography, is CoI on a network on [Transport and Mobilities: meeting the needs of vulnerable populations in developing cities](http://gtr.rcuk.ac.uk/projects?ref=ES%2FP006221%2F1), led by University of Leeds; and Dr Jaco Renken, GDI, is a CoI on a University of Sheffield-led collaboration [on Digital Development for Development Impact](http://gtr.rcuk.ac.uk/projects?ref=ES%2FP006582%2F1).

**GCRF ESRC Postdoctoral Fellowships (October 2016)**

ESRC GCRF Postdoctoral Fellowships have been awarded to three early career researchers to enable them to further exploit the findings from their PhD research. Mathilde Maitrot’s PhD investigated the social performance of microfinance institutions in rural Bangladesh, Fortunate Machingura researched people living with HIV and AIDS in Zimbabwe, and Nan Zhang considered parental migration, caregiving practices and left-behind children’s nutritional health in rural China. Their one-year awards will allow them to communicate findings, build international networks to develop impact activities and produce publications.

**GCRF ESRC Impact Accelerator Account (August 2016)**

Last Autumn, the University was awarded an additional £40K from the ESRC IAA fund for activities that support the objectives of the GCRF. We have used this fund to mobilise a range of activities to accelerate the impact of GCRF-related research, such as knowledge exchange meetings and capacity building workshops designed to develop collaborative research agendas and work-plans. The projects selected for additional funds were:

* Professor Richard Duncombe, GDI, ‘Reframing Human Centred Design Approaches for Developing Country Contexts’;
* Mr A Duursma and Dr Read (SALC), ‘Making Peacekeeping Data Work for the International Community’;
* Drs Renwick and Brooks (FBMH), ‘Cultivating newly formed collaborative partnerships in Indonesia with leading mental health clinicians and academics’;
* Professor Kunal Sen, ‘Political drivers of local government implementation of public goods delivery in India’;
* Dr Jaco Renken (SEED) ‘Impact Preparation for an ICT4D Champion Development Programme’;
* Professor Calam (FBMH), to support the work of the [Migration Lab](http://www.migrationlab.manchester.ac.uk/);
* Professor Mitlin and Dr Murcia (SEED) Dissemination of the research ‘Losing and Remaking Home: Narratives of Conflict and Displacement in Colombia’.

**Other GCRF Awards**

Professor David Hulme (SEED) is a CoI on a project led by the University of Lancaster investigating the safeguarding of potable water provisioning to urban informal settlements. This was funded by the [British Academy Sustainable Foundation Programme](http://www.britac.ac.uk/sustainable-development-programme). Another call for this scheme is due to be announced imminently.

# Professor Stephen Bottoms in SALC is CoI on a University of Brighton project funded by the NERC-led GCRF programme on Building Resilience to Natural Hazards. This collaboration is investigating ‘[Patterns of resilience among young people in a community affected by drought: Historical and contextual perspectives](http://gtr.rcuk.ac.uk/projects?ref=NE%2FP016057%2F1)’.

GCRF calls are announced regularly via the [RBESS Intranet](http://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/services/rbess/intranet/gcrf/)

**Newton Funding**

The Newton Fund runs alongside the GCRF and aims to develop science and innovation partnerships that promote the economic development and welfare of developing countries and contribute to poverty alleviation. Since the initiative was launched in 2014, we have received several awards from RCUK collaborative programmes. These include a grant to Professor Cecilia Wong (SEED) from the ‘Urban Transformations in China’ programme, on ‘[Eco-Urbanisation: promoting sustainable development in metropolitan-regional planning in China](http://gtr.rcuk.ac.uk/projects?ref=ES%2FN010698%2F1)’, and a RCUK-CONICYT award on ‘[The New Private Educational sector in Chile: Entrepreneurialsim and Competition](http://gtr.rcuk.ac.uk/projects?ref=ES%2FN000676%2F1)’ for Professor Ruth Lupton (SEED) and her partners. Dr Saska Petrova (SEED) is Co-Investigator on an ‘Urban Transformations in South Africa’ project led by UCL, looking at ‘[Urban transformation in South Africa through co-designing energy services provision pathways](http://gtr.rcuk.ac.uk/projects?ref=ES%2FN014138%2F1)’. Colleagues across the Faculty have additionally secured smaller awards for Newton Visiting Fellowships and Institutional Links.

Opportunities for Newton Funding are regularly available. See [here](http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=31566) for an update on the range of schemes and calls.