

- 1 ResCoastT 19: Resilience and coastal tourism in South-East Asia, April 2019

This session aims to start the conversation on how we can mitigate these challenges and what Kent and the Heritage Management Organization has done in the field.

The UN Development Programme considers the Capacity Development process to be a five-stage cycle, and Kent, together with the Heritage Management Organization, uses this as a roadmap to deliver Capacity Building in the heritage sector.

- 1 Engaging stakeholders. We talk to people on the ground, finding out what they think is needed and how we can partner with them to work effectively
- 2 Assessing capacity assets and needs. This is Capacity Mapping – we carry out informed surveys to find out how many people are working in heritage, in whatever roles, who they are working for and what their skills needs are
- 3 Planning a capacity development programme. We take the results of the capacity mapping exercise, combined with stakeholders' views and use these to plan out what kind of training could be most effectively delivered
- 4 Implementing a capacity development response. This plan is used to then deliver Capacity Training, which we often aim to have do by having experts deliver face-to-face training, supported by online resources, and always incorporating a 'train-the-trainers' element that allows the outcomes of the training to be sustainably reproduced and multiplied
- 5 Evaluate Capacity Development. And we measure what we have done, in terms of what real changes have been achieved by the action. Following evaluation, we can be in a position to re-engage with stakeholders, and the cycle continues.

## Improving Health and Wellbeing theme

### Social science research in support of a concerted societal effort to fight TB epidemic in post-Soviet countries

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Tuberculosis remains the world's leading cause of death from a single infectious agent. Although mostly affecting developing countries, it has become a global concern due to globalisation, increased population mobility and enormously high rates of latent infection. As the 2018 UN General Assembly high level meeting on ending TB confirmed, tackling TB epidemic requires concerted effort of both national stakeholders – politicians, civil society and researchers – and international players.

We delivered a GCRF workshop in Ukraine with the aim to facilitate social science and health research to support joint efforts of policy makers and civil society to fight TB Epidemic in Belarus, Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova.

At the conference session we will discuss the following three results:

- Research needs in the region to support development of effective policies and interventions in the area of TB control.
- Research agenda for social scientists to support national End TB strategies and the difficulties towards its implementation.
- Ideas on how to put together the efforts of social scientists, civil society activists and policy makers interested in ending TB epidemic.

### Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine acceptability in an African context

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UK Partnership Development Officer, Doctors with Africa CUAMM

Cervical cancer is a serious threat to women's lives, causing one woman's death every two minutes. Nearly 90% of these deaths are of women living in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Yet these deaths are largely preventable through vaccination against Human Papillomavirus (HPV), screening, early diagnosis and timely treatment.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, more than 20% of cancers are caused by HPV, and as much as a third are attributable to viral disease. HPV vaccination – which is very safe and very effective – is an important primary prevention intervention in a comprehensive cervical cancer prevention and control programme.

Although it is recommended by WHO and supported by GAVI (The Vaccine Alliance), relatively few LMICs have successfully implemented a universal vaccination programme. Many lessons have been learned from multiple demonstration projects, and from the wider literature related to vaccination and public health programme implementation and uptake. However, there is an ongoing need to critically engage with challenges related to (for example) communications, delivery strategies and sustainability in a contextually relevant, collaborative way.

Our partnership brings together academics from both life sciences and social sciences, as well as clinicians and operational staff from across Africa, associated with three key partners: AMREF, Doctors with Africa, and the University of Kent.

In this session we will outline our process and outputs from the Partnership Workshop held last week in Nairobi, hosted by AMREF International University. There will be opportunities to discuss the challenges and research gaps identified, and to share our aims and next steps for the network.

### Health reforms in Ukraine, and implications for infant and maternal health: Identifying priority areas for policy-relevant research

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As health affects GDP directly through productivity gains and indirectly through educational gains, the importance of addressing population health crises as a way to improve resilience of any society or economy cannot be underestimated.

The maternal mortality rate in Ukraine is 24, in Moldova 23, in Georgia 26 (compared with 9 in UK and 4 in Belarus) having implications for social justice as well as the economy. The aim of the session is to provide a platform for all the relevant stakeholders from Ukraine, informed by other countries in the region to discuss the priorities for policy and research in relation to maternal and infant health during a period of health reform in Ukraine and the wider region.

## BREAKOUT SESSION ABSTRACTS (CONT)

The objectives of the session are the following:

- 1 Provide an opportunity for the researchers from Ukraine and the wider region to share current research and experience on maternal health with stakeholders from the UK and University of Kent as a result of the GCRF workshop held in Kyiv 3-4 June 2019.
- 2 Discuss the priorities for health and policy research in relation to maternal and infant health care delivery.
- 3 Share experiences of developing a policy relevant research agenda for the area of maternal and infant health, which could inform successful implementation of the reform process or the development of new approaches, particularly in Primary Health Care.
- 4 Provide an opportunity to network and partner for future GCRF projects in this field.

### Development Through Higher Education theme

#### Towards a resilient research environment in South-East Asia

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Founder, Jaquaranda Tree

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While most UK-based institutions have well established systems in place for finding funding, responding to funder requirements (around ethics and ODA compliance, for example) and in managing any subsequent awards, this is not the case for many of our current and potential international partners. This can prevent their full participation in collaborative research initiatives and can also potentially jeopardise project success. If we are to engage in impactful, in-country, research to address the UN Sustainable Development Goals, working with partners to develop research administration and management (RMA) capacity in Low and Middle Income Countries is clearly a priority. Through GCRF projects led by Professors Scaparra and Robinson, the University of Kent has an established presence in South East Asia.

Our experience of working with these partners to date has shown that they urgently need more research funding but that they can lack knowledge of the international funding landscape and of the specific requirements attached to applying. To begin tackling this, we ran an inaugural 'Research Resilience' conference in Hanoi in May 2019.

Attended by over 70 guests from across South East Asia, the event resulted in the sharing of vital knowledge and the beginning of new partnerships intended to secure more research income for the region. The Kent GCRF conference will provide the opportunity to feedback from this event and identify the next steps in building a resilient research environment for South East Asia.

#### Teaching and learning in conflict and refugee contexts: Supporting Syrian higher education through academic development

##### Dr Tom Parkinson

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##### Nidal Al Ajaj

Master's Degree Candidate, Gaziantep University

Syrian higher education has been decimated since 2011: physical infrastructure is damaged, resources are scarce, populations are displaced, and staff and students suffer from psychological trauma. Thousands of academics have fled Syria, resulting in a considerable deficit of knowledge and educational delivery within the country, and many academics in exile are deskilling due to inactivity and isolation. There is therefore an urgent need to support and sustain Syrian academic communities, both within the country and in exile.

In this breakout session, we will explore themes that emerged from a recent workshop that brought together Syrian academics exiled in Turkey and international counterparts from, or working in other conflict, post-conflict refugee or at-risk contexts (South Africa, Kenya, Belarus, Palestine, Serbia, Northern Ireland). Workshop participants worked together to identify challenges, needs and opportunities associated with teaching and learning in the conflict and refugee contexts, map resources, and formulate strategies. In this session we will consider the how the international academic community should support higher education under threat.

#### Cultural consequences of university reform in Georgia

##### Professor David Ayers

Professor of Modernism and Critical Theory, School of English, University of Kent

##### Professor Giga Zedania

Rector, Ilia State University

##### Professor Bela Tsipuria

Professor of Comparative Literature, Ilia State University

This workshop is examining the effects of the University reforms in Georgia which began to be implemented in 2004. It will bring together scholars

from the humanities and social sciences, administrators and former government ministers. In May 2005, Georgia joined the Bologna process, and was the beneficiary of several well-funded international programmes designed to improve quality and governance (<https://eqe.ge/eng>). In the wake of those quantifiable and documented reforms, this workshop asks how we can evaluate their general societal and cultural effects in creating a resilient and progressive nation, committed to fairness and equality. These general effects go beyond the university structures and are harder to evaluate. This workshop will ask what work, in the disciplines of humanities and social sciences, could be undertaken to assess the nature and durability of the effects of the reforms in the general society, and also asks what the continuing and future role of higher education might be in further advancing Georgia as a progressive and resilient nation.

### Preparing for a Changing Environment theme

#### Co-designing green infrastructure in informal settlements

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##### Professor Samer Bagaeen

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##### Dr Lucia Costa

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This presentation will outline and elaborate on the results of a workshop held in Rio de Janeiro in May 2019. The workshop aimed at co-creating solutions to improve environmental and health conditions by enhancing green infrastructure in Morro de Formiga, one of the informal settlements (ie favelas) in Rio de Janeiro. Participants in the workshop included inhabitants of the settlements, representatives from Rio municipality, and academics and students of urbanism from the Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ).

Typically, the self-built and unplanned nature of informal settlements results in lack of infrastructure and connectivity with adjacent parts of the city. In Rio de Janeiro, the unregulated growth of some favelas results also in the loss of large forest areas at the fringes of the city and generates a built environment, which lacks the vital benefits that urban infrastructure, and in particular green infrastructure, can provide.