

INFORMATION SHEET FOR RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS

TITLE OF STUDY	The Promise of Science: Deliberating on biomedicine, health and democracy in the Ugandan parliament
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR	Dr Kerry Holden

I would like to invite you to participate in an original research project. Before you decide whether you want to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done, what your participation will involve and the impacts and benefits of the research for your own work. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask the principal investigator Dr Kerry Holden if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

BACKGROUND OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT

This research project is funded by the UK Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) as part of its Future Research Leaders award scheme (www.esrc.ac.uk). The ESRC is one of the UK government's 7 research councils through which all publicly funded and independent academic research is funded. The project runs from June 2015 to May 2018 and focuses on the relationship between research evidence, scientific and technical knowledge and political deliberation in the context of Uganda.

AIMS OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT

The research programme sets out to explore the relationship between science, evidence and politics through the lens of research capacity building in the Ugandan parliament. While research capacity building is often cast as a common good, its practices and implementation at the level of local institutions are little understood, and yet it broaches concerns about the globalisation of science, the status and value of research-evidence, and proper conduct of political institutions. These concerns are undergirded by urgent calls to secure the social and economic needs of poorer populations, mitigate environmental change, and provide robust regulation of new innovations in sectors as diverse as energy, ICT and agriculture. While there is often unbridled faith in the promise of science and evidence to help strengthen and improve political processes, there is little insight into the challenges and accomplishments of those working at the interface between science and politics in political institutions, such as the Parliament of Uganda.

HOW WILL DATA BE COLLECTED?

Data will be collected through semi-structured interviews and observational field notes with members of the Department of Research Services, parliamentarians sitting on the relevant committees, committee clerks and those working in collaborating organisations such as the Ugandan National Academy of Sciences, INASP, DRUSSA and AFIDEP.

WHAT IS THE FORMAT OF THE INTERVIEW AND OBSERVATIONAL FIELDWORK?

- You will be asked to participate in an interview and if a follow-up interview can be arranged at a later date;
- You will be asked if I can observe you during committee meetings and on field site visits;
- Interviews will be semi-structured and relaxed, allowing you to express your opinions and perspectives freely;
- Interviews will be digitally recorded and transcribed verbatim. A copy of the transcript will be emailed to you upon request.

IS THERE ANY REIMBURSEMENT OR COMPENSATION?

You are invited to participate on a voluntary basis and benefit from a collaborative learning experience that will result in a series of outputs (scholarly and practitioner-focussed) that will help support and strengthen your work. Participation in the research will not incur any costs to you and outputs from the research will be made freely available to you.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF MY PARTICIPATING?

The research programme is designed to be collaborative with us forging critical conversations about the relationship between research evidence, scientific knowledge and political processes and learning from each other. The benefits for your work are:

SKILLS TRAINING AND MENTORSHIP

I am a trained social scientist with a PhD from King's College London. I have many years experience of research design and implementation, with a focus on qualitative research methods. I can impart these skills to you on a one-to-one basis. I have taught at undergraduate and postgraduate levels in research design; theory and methods in the social sciences; compiling literature reviews; searching and sourcing scientific information and research evidence; identifying high quality sources; referencing and creating bibliographic indices; information management, sharing and storage; and writing and dissemination practices.

PEER REVIEW

Peer review is a strength in any research community. Peer review adds rigour and reliability to research evidence. I can help to support peer review services by aiding in the development of peer review criteria and by contributing to a culture of critical and constructive feedback.

WHAT ABOUT CONFIDENTIALITY?

Transcripts and field notes will be anonymised and your identifying details will be removed. Data will be stored and managed securely in password-protected files.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTERWARDS?

Interview and observational field notes will be fully transcribed and uploaded to password protected NVIVO software for analysis. Analysis will involve primary coding from which an index of codes and themes will be developed. The resulting analysis will be written up in academic publications and in policy-related reports. These outputs will be made freely available to you.

WHO DO I CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION?

If you have any questions please do not hesitate the principal investigator, Dr Kerry Holden:

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If you have any questions or concerns about the manner in which the study was conducted please, in the first instance, contact the researcher responsible for the study. If this is unsuccessful, or not appropriate, please contact the Secretary at the Queen Mary Ethics of Research Committee, Room W117, Queen's Building, Mile End Campus, Mile End Road, London or research-ethics@qmul.ac.uk.