RESEARCH SUMMARY

1) RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The proposed research seeks to examine whether, how and in what ways scientific capacity building in the Ugandan parliament and supporting offices and organisations improves political deliberation using health-related, biomedical and scientific knowledge.

The research will be pursued through three lines of enquiry:

a) The first line of enquiry concentrates on the *processes* of scientific capacity building. It will be explored through two sub-questions:
   i) How are deficits in 'research capacity' identified and understood by professionals (parliamentarians, researchers and policy practitioners) and the institutions involved?
   ii) How are capacity-building programmes and initiatives designed and implemented as offering solutions to these deficits?

b) The second line of enquiry focuses on the relationship between *states of knowledge* and *political deliberation*. This line explores the different value systems through which health-related, biomedical and scientific knowledge emerge, and asks what moral economies, classificatory systems and categories take shape to influence and instruct the transfer of knowledge between the different realms of science and politics and how effective is knowledge transfer?

c) The third line of enquiry focuses on *ideals*. It examines the ways in which ideals of democracy, rights and authoritative knowledge, implicit in capacity building programmes, are adopted and practiced in context.

2) RESEARCH RATIONALE AND CONTEXT

In the last two decades, the strengthening of research capacities in low and middle income countries (LMICs) has emerged as a pathway to meeting the post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals (United Nations 2015, Trostle 1992, Nchinda 2002, Ghaffar 2008, Nurse and Wright 2011), the vision of the Ugandan 2040 report (National Planning Authority 2013) and the East African 2063 agenda (Africa Union 2014). Capacity building programmes seek to redress historical and spatial inequalities by increasing in-country research and development, enabling LMICs to use evidence-informed decision making to solve their own health, environmental and social problems, in addition to making significant contributions to the efforts of multi-lateral organizations working on what are recognised as global health problems. Up until recently, the emphasis of capacity building has been on knowledge production, supporting the growth of infrastructure and facilities and encouraging brain circulation among talented researchers. However, effective public health, environmental governance and capacity building depends on robust and consistent science-based policymaking. While investment in science and technology has been promoted as a favourable growth strategy, concerns turn on the capacities of political institutions to govern effectively on increasingly complex and technical sets of issues that occur at different scales – regional, national and international - and span disease, environmental change, poverty, urbanisation, resource management, energy, communications and so on (Cope and Malpede 2006).

This project aims to contribute a timely and original piece of interdisciplinary social science research to academic scholarship, broadly concerned with the historical contingency and socio-political specificities of knowledge production and communication. By working closely with Ugandan political institutions, scientific bodies and civil society organisations the project further aims to embed collaborative relationships focused on strengthening the research skills and training of researchers, parliamentarians and policymakers.

The Parliament of Uganda emerges as a significant political institution because in theory it functions as the seat of democracy. By working with parliaments, scientific capacity building programmes pursue 3 objectives that fuse together science, democracy and development. First, programmes promote the use and communication of scientific and technical knowledge to strengthen democratic processes, for example, by

promoting evidenced-informed decision-making, transparency protocols and more accountable modes of political deliberation. Secondly, by establishing a more robust and sustainable knowledge base in parliament, capacity-building programmes aim to improve the equity of policymaking: for example, by equipping MPs with the skills and knowledge to assess and respond to their own constituency needs. Thirdly, by building up more democratic and knowledgeable parliaments, programmes aim to create a demand for more evidence, and by de facto, strengthen the institutional capacity for research and innovation at the national level, creating more highly skilled jobs, fostering a local evidence base and network of expertise, attracting more investment, and ultimately contributing towards social and economic development.

While, in principle, scientific capacity building appears as an intrinsic good that achieves multiple ends, it does pose many challenges. The most central are: what is 'capacity', who has it and where does it dwell? How is expertise and knowledge in capacity building transferred from one cultural context to another? With what histories do initiatives and programmes intersect and, in that context, what futures do they promise? And most importantly: how do different regimes and scales of knowledge emerge to influence and arrange the people, institutions and practices involved? These challenges emerge from concerns about capacity building moving in one direction, from the global north to south, and thereby perpetuating a history of failed development programmes (Abrahamson 2000, Ferguson 2006), while at the same time attempting to implement political projects that have particular forms of governance, categories of citizenship and political engagements, and models of democracy in mind (Dilger et al. 2012).

The Ugandan parliament represents one of the first examples of scientific capacity building in an African legislative. Furthermore, current capacity building programmes, funded through DFID's BCURE programme and through DRUSSA promise to set a precedent by providing a model for how similar programmes and initiatives can be rolled out across African political institutions. Since the late 1990s, the Ugandan parliament has collaborated with numerous organisations to improve the communication and use of scientific and health-related information. These are varied and include, most prominently, INASP (International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications), AFIDEP, UK Department for International Development (DFID), UK Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST) and ASADI (African Science Academy Development Initiative), International Council for Government Science Advice Africa Chapter (currently in development).

1) METHODS

The methods for undertaking this research involve the triangulation of text-based analysis, observational field-notes and in-depth semi structured interviews. The methodology is staggered beginning in the UK with the text-based analysis and triangulating it with interview data and observational fieldwork that will be collected during a six-month research visit to Kampala, Uganda from July-December 2016 and followed up in a three-month visit from July 2017.

Text-based analysis (beginning in month 6 and continuing to month 18)

The text-based analysis will be applied to policy, parliamentary, scientific and statistical documents that have influenced science and health policy at national, regional and international levels over the last 15 years.

This text-based analysis will produce two narratives: a big-picture, discursive account of the governance of health, science and technology through global knowledge networks and in the specific context of Uganda over the last decade; and a sketch of how knowledge of Uganda, its people, states of health, environment and social capital, indeed its 'capacities' enter into signification with a view to triangulating this with the qualitative data collection. Studies and reports are available publicly via online journals, information portals and the reporting arms of multilateral and non-governmental organisations, regional and national scientific bodies and government agencies and archives. If not, they can usually be requested by email.

Data collection in Uganda

Data collection in Uganda will take place from June to December 2016, in the 6-months post the 2016 Ugandan general election. A further three-month follow-up fieldwork is scheduled from July 2017. Data collection will involve observational fieldwork and in-depth semi-structured interviews. Access to the research site has been granted by the Clerk to Parliament, Mrs Jane L. Kibirige and the Director of Research Services in Parliament, Mr Mugabi John Bagonza.

The process of recruitment will be supported by initial *stakeholder meetings* with section heads within the Department of Research Services, which will introduce the research programme, its aims and collaborative avenues to research participants. In addition to involving research participants in the research process, these meetings will help to navigate the policy/capacity building terrain and identify *gatekeepers* in difference

spheres, who will be approached to participate in the research and kick-start a *snowball* effect of recruiting interviewees.

Observational fieldwork

The methodology will include observational field-notes of training sessions, team meetings, committee meetings (Health Sessional Committee, HIV and Related Matters Standing Committee and the Science and Technology Standing Committee) and parliamentary debate (open to the public). Additional observational fieldwork will be conducted with the activities of scientific bodies, for example Ugandan National Academy of Sciences science cafes and training programmes.

In-depth semi-structured interviews

The interview sample will involve an estimated 100 interviews, men and women, all adults fulfilling professional positions. The sample has been purposively designed to capture a representative understanding of knowledge brokering, transfer and practice within the specific context of the Ugandan Parliament that is targeted for implementation of capacity building in the use and communication of scientific and technical information. The list of interviewees breaks down as such:

Parliamentary researchers	There are currently 34 members of staff working in the Department of Research Services. Access has been granted and meetings are planned with section heads, gatekeepers to the researchers working under them.
Committee clerks	Three, one for each committee. Access to parliament has been granted and committee clerks will be approached through researchers.
Members of Parliament	At least 20 sitting on one or more of the relevant committees. The gender/political affiliation ratio should reflect the composition of each the committee.
Parliamentary librarians	Between 2 and 4 with the expectation that this will change to offer more specialized support.
Representatives of professional **scientific bodies**, **ministries, policy consortia**, **research institutes** and **civil society organisations operating in Uganda and East Africa***	Ugandan National Academy of Sciences (UNAS) African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP) (based in Nairobi, research visit) African Academy of Sciences (based in Nairobi, research visit) Ugandan National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST) African Network of Biosafety Expertise (ABNE) (based in Kampala) African Union (based in Addis Ababa, research visit) Minister of Science Makerere University College of Health Sciences Makerere Institute for Social Research
Donor agencies, NGOs and multilateral organisations promoting evidence informed policymaking and research capacity building*	UNESCO Regional Bureau (Nairobi, research visit) World Health Organisation (Uganda branch) World Bank (Millenium Science Initiative and the Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) capacity building) International Council for Government Science Advice (InGSA) International Council For Science (ICSU) Overseas Development Institute (ODI) BCURE (DFID funding stream) INASP

*** These lists are not exhaustive and more interviewees may be invited to participate as a result of snowballing.**

Data analysis

Data analysis will be conducted in two main stages:

1) All interviews and observational field-notes will be fully transcribed and uploaded to NVIVO software in word format for analysis.
2) Empirical and thematic coding will be applied to the data. Empirical coding will provide descriptive detail and biographical information. Following grounded theory (Charmaz 2006), thematic coding result in an index of correlative codes that appear across data sets, from which relationships, meta-themes and

discourses will be identified. These will be triangulated with the text-based analysis to address the research questions outlined above.

3) Risk benefits to subjects

The research programme poses minimal to no risk to research participants. In collaborating with the Department for Research Services and UNAS I am able to provide mentorship, peer review and impart research skills including 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. Please see attached information sheet issued to research participants.

4) Compensation and reimbursement

The research programme does not include any form of compensation and reimbursement. Individuals are invited to participate in the research project on a voluntary basis.

5) Informed consent

Ethical approval has been granted by Queen Mary, University of London Research Ethics Committee, please see the attached letter of approval, information sheet and consent form.

6) Confidentiality assurance

All anonymised data will be analysed using NVivo software. Raw data containing the identifying details of research participants will be kept in password-protected files and stored on an encrypted server. Final files will contain anonymised data and will be backed up and stored in password-protected files. Files will be stored according to activity (interview/fieldnote), participant code in accordance with the order of the interview and professional role of interviewee, date of file creation, version, for example: Interview_Researcher01_01092016_v1_final; fieldnote_01_01092013_v1_raw. 'Raw' indicates that the data has not been anonymised; 'Final' indicates that the data has been anonymised and is ready to upload to NVivo for analysis.

7) Conflict of interest

There are no conflicts of interest to report.

8) Collaborative arrangements

The ESRC Future Research Leaders award is designed to support the career development of the principal investigator and does not allocate funding to collaborative partnerships with external researchers and institutions.

Collaborative research relationships have been sought and approved with the Parliament of Uganda, Department of Research Services via the Office of the Clerk of Parliament, Mrs Jane I. Kibirige (please see the attached letter of support).

9) Intended use of results

Results will be written up in a series of outputs that include academic publications and policy-practitioner reports. Where appropriate research participants will be asked to consult and peer review outputs. Copies will be made freely available to them.

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