See our range of India-UK collaborative activities

Indian-European Research Networking Projects

The ESRC, along with three of its major European partners ANR (France), DFG (Germany), NWO (Netherlands), and ICSSR (India) has co-funded six multilateral social science research collaborations. The projects were announced in 2012 and tackle areas of growing social concern such as cyber bullying, ageing and global accessibility to medicine.

UK-India Initiative on Social Sciences PhD Partnering

This pilot scheme was designed to generate new partnerships and develop existing links between the ESRC’s Doctoral Training Centres (DTCs) and centres of research excellence in India. Examples of successful partnerships include the Wales DTC and the University of Delhi and Karnatak University in India, and the Essex DTC and Jawaharlal Nehru University in India.

ESRC-DFID Joint Scheme for Research

The ESRC and the UK Department for International Development (DFID) have funded high-quality research collaborations under the Growth Research Programme and the Poverty Alleviation Research Scheme. The Growth Research Programme has focused on high-impact areas of economic growth in low-income countries while the Poverty Alleviation scheme aims to address a wide variety of poverty-related issues through a range of social science disciplines.

Research Seminars

Seminar Groups are multi-institutional groups of academic researchers, postgraduate students and non-academic users who meet regularly to exchange information and ideas with the aim of advancing research within their fields. We intend to run the Research Seminars Competition in 2013/2014; the call is due to open in December 2013.

International Co-investigators

We encourage the inclusion of international co-investigators from anywhere in the world on the majority of our research funding schemes. Up to 30 per cent of costs can be used to support the international co-investigator.

Future Research Leaders Scheme

This initiative is currently into the third round of research proposals. The scheme promotes international mobility by encouraging participants to develop links with research institutions in the UK and abroad and enables outstanding early-career social scientists, in partnership with their host organisation, to acquire the skills set to become the future world leaders in their fields. Two successful scheme applicants in 2011 made visits to Indian research institutions. A Research Seminar grant led by Dr Saseendran Pallikadavath is exploring Post-transitional fertility in developing countries – causes and implications. The total fertility rate for developing countries (excluding Sub-Saharan Africa) has declined dramatically over the last decades, and is now down to 2.3 children per woman. How will this trend continue beyond the current demographic transition, and how can individuals, families and governments adapt? The seminar aims to provide a significant contribution to policy in this area.

Overseas International Visits Scheme

Currently all full-time ESRC-funded students can apply for financial support under this scheme to visit overseas universities or research organisations. The benefits of such visits include establishing research networks, disseminating research findings and undertaking specialist research training.

Research Centres of Excellence

A number of ESRC major investments are establishing links with Indian researchers or organisations. The ESRC Centre of Population Change, for example, boasts excellent links with the Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore, the Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum, and the Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai.

Pathfinder Initiative

This £2-million initiative aimed to build and strengthen research networks between social scientists in India, Brazil, China and South Africa and their UK counterparts; by fostering collaboration on the secondary analysis of micro-data resources. Two projects with India and a further four Brazil/India/UK partnerships were funded on the themes of economic restructuring, higher education and social equality.

The ESRC-DFID research project Biomedical and health experimentation in South Asia - a research collaboration between the Universities of Edinburgh, Durham and Colombo, the Anusandhan Trust (India) and Social Science Baha (Nepal) - has analysed the relationships between researchers, the pharmaceutical industry and development programmes during experimental medicine and public health projects, using case studies from India, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

A Pathfinder project led by Professor Geraint Johnes of Lancaster University brought researchers from the UK, India and Brazil together to examine the impact of widening access to education in India and Brazil on educational and occupational outcomes. In both countries, findings show that an expansion of education leads to more take-up of education as well as an increased likelihood of workers to enter non-manual occupations.
Linking world-class social science research

The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) is the UK’s largest organisation for funding high-quality research on economic and social issues. Our total budget for 2012/13 is £205 million, investing in research and supporting over 4,000 researchers and postgraduate students. Through its influence on public policies, businesses and voluntary bodies, ESRC-funded research has an impact on people’s lives in the UK and around the world.

It is a priority for ESRC to build links with selected countries that can provide excellence in social science research, including India and China. We already have an extensive portfolio of UK-India collaborations at all stages of an academic career, which are outlined in this brochure.

Building on these initiatives, we aim to strengthen UK-India research collaboration yet further over the next few years.

For further information visit www.esrc.ac.uk/international or contact us at international@esrc.ac.uk

Collaborating with India’s world-class social science research community has given us invaluable benefits, in terms of sharing knowledge, expertise and research resources. We look forward to building on and expanding the current partnership, so we can continue to reap the rewards of co-operation between our vibrant research communities.

ESRC Chief Executive Paul Boyle