

British Academy Tackling Slavery, Human Trafficking and Child Labour in Modern Business Programme

The British Academy has supported 8 major research projects through its *Tackling Slavery, Human Trafficking and Child Labour in Modern Business Programme*. This Programme is a partnership with the UK's Department for International Development (DFID). The projects will begin in October and November 2017.

Reference: TS170023

Principal Investigator: Dr Alex Balch, Senior Lecturer in Politics, University of Liverpool

Co-Applicant: Professor Helen Stalford, Professor of Law, University of Liverpool

Title: Clothes, Chocolate and Children: Realising the Transparency Dividend

Abstract: How does the new political economy of transparency enhance the well-being of workers and children in the developing world? The project will answer that question by focusing on one commodity (cocoa) and one manufactured good (garments) across four low and middle-income countries (India, Dominican Republic, Bangladesh, Myanmar). This design will enable the researchers to trace the effects of the UK's Modern Slavery Act where there already exist other development initiatives on sustainable, equitable and ethical supply chains. The project aims to demonstrate the development impacts of new requirements on business to report about slavery in the context of multiple types and modes of ethical supply chain governance; deliver the first comparative evidence regarding the role of the UK's transparency agenda in wider challenges over workers' and children's rights; and develop new analysis and instruments (indicators) for addressing SDG 8.7 and helping companies improve working conditions in their supply chains.

Reference: TS170075

Principal Investigator: Professor Andrew Crane, Professor of Business and Society; Director of the Centre for Business, Organisations and Society, University of Bath

Co-Applicant: Professor Laura Jane Spence, Professor of Business Ethics; Director of Research Impact, Associate Dean of Research, Royal Holloway, University of London

Title: Combatting Modern Slavery Through Business Leadership at the Bottom of the Supply Chain

Abstract: Social auditing, the main tool used by global brands to address exploitation in global supply chains, has been proven to have limited effectiveness in combatting modern slavery. This is because modern slavery tends to flourish in informal business activities at the bottom of the supply chain. A potentially more effective way is therefore to incentivise changes at the bottom of these chains among local business leaders. This project will analyse innovative initiatives aimed at tackling modern slavery among local businesses in the garment industry in Tamil Nadu, India, a major export region for products destined for UK high streets. It will determine the drivers and barriers of such initiatives, and evaluate their effectiveness in combatting exploitation.

Reference: TS170058

Principal Investigator: Dr Priya Deshingkar, Senior Research Fellow, University of Sussex

Co-Applicant: Professor Mariama Awumbila, Director, Centre for Migration Studies, University of Ghana

Title: Brokered Migration for Domestic Work and Construction Work in Ghana and Myanmar: Examining the Relevance of the Slavery and Trafficking Discourse

Abstract: Migrants are often portrayed as victims without agency, their migration through brokers is labelled as trafficking and their working conditions as tantamount to slavery. Children, and especially

girls, are constructed by policy makers and development practitioners as incapable of making decisions and assessing migration risks themselves and their migration is almost always described as trafficking if intermediaries are involved. This project will build on extensive research on migration into low-skilled occupations in Ghana and Myanmar to understand the infrastructure of brokerage and how migrants view the process. The study will provide much needed insights into the functioning of brokerage and aid the governments of both countries in identifying points of vulnerability to exploitation so that more effective policies and interventions can be designed in accordance with SDG 8. It will yield critical information on the nexus between policy, culture, brokerage and poverty which is needed to understand why brokerage exists and how it impacts on migrants and their families.

Reference: TS170091

Principal Investigator: Dr Katharine Jones, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations, Coventry University

Co-Applicant: Dr Lisa Marie Rende Taylor, Executive Director, Issara Institute

Title: Learning Lessons in Tackling Slavery and Human Trafficking in Seafood Supply Chains: Applying Solutions for UK and Other Businesses Sourcing from Indonesia

Abstract: Slavery of Indonesian and migrant workers on fishing vessels in South East Asia is well-documented. The Issara Institute recently estimated that 76% of migrant fishermen in the Thai fishing industry were in debt bondage, were paid illegally low wages and 37.9% had been trafficked. While the attention (of the media, of international organisations and of researchers) has focused on Thailand, in recent years Indonesia has emerged as one of the biggest seafood-producing countries in the world. We know that forced labour and human trafficking is an important part of this 'success' and is now as significant an issue in Indonesia as it is in Thailand. However, we still know little about which corporate and/or government remedial interventions work and which make matters worse. The project aims to produce robust evidence-driven recommendations to help the brand-owners, buyers and suppliers which source from the fishing industry in Indonesia to understand where and how they can address similar risks within their Indonesian seafood supply chains.

Reference: TS170020

Principal Investigator: Professor Julia O'Connell Davidson, Professor of Social Research, University of Bristol

Co-Applicants: Dr Katie Cruz, Lecturer in Law, University of Bristol; Dr Jacqueline Sanchez Taylor, Lecturer in Sociology, University of Leicester

Title: Revisiting Child Sex Tourism, Rethinking Business Responses

Abstract: Though a focus of concern and action for over two decades, a recent global study concludes that the problem of child sex tourism has expanded rather than diminished. This project pilots innovative methods and brings law and sociology into dialogue to consider barriers to achieving SDG 8.7 in the context of developing world tourism. It revisits the 1990s ESRC-funded research in Jamaica to address three sets of questions: 1) Have patterns of sex tourism and attitudes towards child sex tourism changed? 2) Do the legal and policy understandings of the boundaries of tourism, sex tourism, and child sex tourism, that currently inform initiatives to counter child sexual exploitation map onto the sociological realities of the informal tourism economy? If not, how can such initiatives be made more effective? 3) Campaigns against child sex tourism in Jamaica have in the past had unintended, negative consequences for adult sex workers, an already vulnerable and marginalised group. How can this be avoided and sex workers included as participants in the struggle to protect children's rights?

Reference: TS170087

Principal Investigator: Dr Elena Shih, Assistant Professor, Centre for the Study of Slavery and Justice, Brown University

Co-Applicant: Dr Lisa Maria Rende Taylor, Executive Director, Issara Institute

Title: 'Worker Voice' as a Means to Strengthen Remediation and Due Diligence, Identify Labour Risks, and Go Beyond Social Auditing: a Critical Analysis of Existing Models in Asia and Latin America

Abstract: 'Worker voice' has emerged as a recent, often technology-enabled, approach to responsible sourcing with the potential to achieve two critical ends: first, the collection of more and better data for supply chain due diligence and detection of labour risks; and, second, the empowerment of workers, to better hear their feedback and strengthen remediation accordingly. Recent critical reviews of supply chain management strategies have noted their displacement of "traditional" labour organising in finding and addressing labour abuses; thus, new developments in 'worker voice' hold tremendous potential to reintroduce the role of workers and not just business-run due diligence to improve workers' lives and treatment. However, not all 'worker voice' approaches are the same. This research aims to study the effectiveness of different 'worker voice' models around the world, compare their effectiveness with social audits, and make recommendations to businesses and donors for minimum standards for ethical, effective approaches to empowering 'worker voice' to address labour risks and strengthen remediation.

Reference: TS170010

Principal Investigator: Dr Alex Trautrim, Lecturer in Supply Chain and Operations Management, University of Nottingham

Co-Applicant: Dr Silvia Pinheiro, Researcher at The Business and Human Rights Centre, Fundação Getulio Vargas

Title: The Interaction of Law and Supply Chain Management in Cross-Judicial Supply Chains: Supply Chain Effectiveness of Modern Slavery Legislation

Abstract: This project will investigate where and how legal changes affect supply chain designs and practices at a supply chain level and how various legal mechanisms cause change (or not) in the supply chain. It will identify and analyse laws and norms that are challenging modern slavery, their enforcement and their implementation and effect in the supply chain. The research is set in the UK-Brazil beef and timber supply chains. Its results will inform future supply chain decisions and law-making for the eradication of modern slavery. It links the disciplines of law and supply chain management. Although both have streams of research on modern slavery, they have so far researched mainly in isolation and at an economy-level, without considering how law and supply chain design and practices interact. Global supply chains are facing a multitude of legal mechanisms from an increasing number of jurisdictions with the ambition to improve conditions and sustainability across the chain. The research results will be relevant to supply chain practitioners' decisions and inform future anti-slavery legislation.

Reference: TS170074

Principal Investigator: Dr Hinrich Voss, Associate Professor of International Business, University of Leeds

Co-Applicants: Dr Mark Sumner, Lecturer in Sustainability, Fashion and Retail, University of Leeds; Dr Matthew Davis, Lecturer in Socio-Technical Systems, University of Leeds; Dr Louise Waite, Associate Professor in Human Geography, University of Leeds

Title: Pulling a Thread: Unravelling the Trail of Modern Slavery in the Fashion and Textile Industry

Abstract: The UN's Sustainability Development Goal (SDG) 8.7 aims to end forced labour and modern slavery. The ILO estimates that 21mn+ people are in forced labour globally. This project sets

out to identify the barriers to addressing modern slavery in the global clothing value chain, understand the motives of suppliers for having forced labour, and suggest solutions for global firms and policy makers. The researchers will work with UK clothing businesses that source from India and Vietnam. Both countries are vulnerable to modern slavery in the agricultural, garment, and textile industries and are important source countries for UK firms. But these countries are also home to small, fragmented and non-integrated businesses making the identification, monitoring, and addressing of modern slavery challenging. Using an intensive case study methodology, the project will help UK firms to comply with the Modern Slavery Act 2015 which requires them to declare annually that modern slavery does not exist in their business and value chain. The research will inform management practices and policies.