

## COLLABORATION AGREEMENT

for the project:

**“Connectors: An international study into the development of children’s everyday practices of participation in circuits of social action”**

The parties to this letter agreement (**‘Agreement’**) are:

1. **THE UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX** (**‘Sussex’**) represented by Dr Sevasti-Melissa Nolas (Principal Investigator), Lecturer in Social Work within the School of Social Work and Social Care;
2. **CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL STUDIES (CESS)** (**‘Hyderabad’**) represented by Professor S Galab in partnership with **SRI PADMAVATHI MAHILA VISWAVIDYALAYAM (SPMVV WOMEN’S UNIVERSITY)** (**‘Tirupati’**) represented by Professor Uma Vennam.

The European Research Council (**‘Funding Body’**) has awarded the above titled grant to Dr Sevasti-Melissa Nolas at the University of Sussex. Athens and Hyderabad are referred to as “Collaborators”, or a “Collaborator” as the case may be.

The Collaborators shall perform the tasks envisaged in the Project Proposal (at Annex A), or as may be mutually agreed between Sussex and the Collaborators.

The administration of the funding will be managed by Sussex. Any bench (or other) fees to be paid to Hyderabad must be agreed in advance in writing and set out in detail what is being provided.

The Project start date is March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 for a period of 60 months.

All intellectual property and know how generated in the course of the Project (**‘Arising IP’**) shall belong to Sussex. Sussex hereby grants to the Collaborators a licence to use its Arising IP for the Project. All outputs of the Project shall be available to the Collaborators for internal teaching and research purposes subject to the consent of Sussex (not to be unreasonably withheld).

Any academic publication or presentation of the Project or Arising IP will be undertaken by Sussex. There may be scope to produce joint publications although this will be subject to ethical and regulatory restrictions (set out in Annex A).

The Collaborators acknowledge that certain regulatory and ethical approvals may be required before work can commence. Sussex and the Collaborators shall collaborate to, where applicable, promptly obtain and thereafter maintain all regulatory and ethical licences, consents, authorisations and approvals that are required (whether by law, the internal governance or regulatory requirements of any of the Collaborators, or otherwise) to carry out the Project (the **‘Approvals’**). Sussex and the Collaborators shall comply with both the terms imposed by the Approvals (if any) as well as any laws, regulations and guidelines that are applicable to their work on the Project.

A Party (the **‘Terminating Party’**) may terminate its involvement in this Agreement by giving ninety (90) days prior written notice to Sussex of its intention to terminate if another Party (the **‘Party in Breach’**) commits a material breach of the terms of this Agreement, or is persistently in breach of this Agreement in such a manner that the



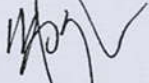
Terminating Party is hindered in its ability to carry out its obligations in the Project. The notice shall include a detailed statement describing the breach. If the breach is capable of being remedied and is remedied within the ninety (90) day notice period, then the termination shall not take effect. If the breach is of a nature such that it can be fully remedied but not within the ninety (90) day notice period, then termination shall also not be effective if the Party involved begins to remedy the breach within that period, and then continues diligently to remedy the breach until it is remedied fully. If the breach is incapable of remedy, or a persistent breach, then the termination shall take effect at the end of the ninety (90) day notice period in any event. In the event that it is agreed by all the Parties that there are no longer valid reasons for continuing with the Project the Parties may decide by unanimous vote to terminate this Agreement.

Please confirm that you are happy to accept the above terms by signing and returning a copy of this letter to:

The University of Sussex, Research and Enterprise Services, Falmer House,  
Falmer, East Sussex BN1 9RH

Accepted on behalf of **THE UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX**

Signature:



Name/position:

HEAD OF CONTRACTS & IP

Date:

19<sup>th</sup> March 2014  
PP

Accepted on behalf of **THE CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL STUDIES (CESS)**

Signature:



Name/position:

S. GALAB, DIRECTOR

Date:

27<sup>th</sup> June 2014

**Director**  
Centre for Economic and Social Studies  
Nizamiah Observatory Campus, Begumpet  
HYDERABAD-500 016. A.P., India  
Phones: 91-40-23402789, 23416780

Accepted on behalf of **THE SRI PADMAVATHI MAHILA VISWAVIDYALAYAM (SPMVV WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY)** Signature:

Name/position:

P. Vayalakkanni  
21/6/14

Date:

**REGISTRAR**  
**SRI PADMAVATHI MAHILA VISWAVIDYALAYAM**  
**(WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY)**  
**TIRUPATI-517 502 (A.P.)**



## Annex A

### **Connectors: An international study into the development of children's everyday practices of participation in circuits of social action- Project Proposal**

#### **PURPOSE/OBJECTIVES/GOALS**

The purpose of this agreement is to establish the initial framework for research collaboration activities between the Centre for Innovation and Research in Childhood and Youth and the Division for Child Studies (CESS) and the Social Work Department (SMPVV) for the purposes of the CONNECTORS STUDY funded under the European Research Councils' Framework Seven Frontier Research Starter Grant scheme. This annex provides background on how the need for such a relationship came about, the agreed roles and responsibilities of the parties involved, the desired processes and outcomes for working together.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The CONNECTORS STUDY is a five-year, cross-national and longitudinal study on children's participation in public life. It involves extensive fieldwork in London, Athens and Hyderabad. The study is led by Dr Sevasti-Melissa Nolas (PI) who is based in the Department of Social Work and Social Care and the Centre for Innovation and Research in Childhood and Youth at the University of Sussex, England. Two Research Fellows (RFs) will be appointed to carry out extensive fieldwork with children over a four-year period in Athens and Hyderabad. To this end, the PI is establishing a research relationship with colleagues in universities in Athens and Hyderabad who, on the basis of their extensive expertise in research with children in the local context, will work closely with the research team as an Expert Advisor (EA) to the team.

The Hyderabad team has worked extensively with children and young people in the broader areas of children's poverty, children's rights and qualitative research methods. Professor Uma Vennam, as well as a qualified social worker, is the Lead Qualitative Researcher in India for the Oxford University-based international and longitudinal Young Lives study on children's experiences of poverty in the Global South. She is also a collaborating partner in the NOVELLA project on the Family Lives and the Environment project. Her other research experience on childhood include studies on trafficking of women and children, child labour and Aids Prevention Education Programme (APEP) for school children, and working with international agencies including the World Bank, DFID, and UNICEF. Professor S Galab is the Director of CESS and a founding member of the newly launched and UNICEF backed Division of Child Studies at CESS. DCS is a professionally specialized division to work on child related issues and policies. The post will play a key role in building strong relationships and influencing key actors in the State of Andhra Pradesh across a wide range of programmes and policy issues in addition playing lead role in generating and coordinating policy, data and evidence on policy linked child studies (in line with childhood poverty and child rights).

The aims and objectives of the CONNECTORS STUDY and the background and experience of Professors Galab and Vennam in research with children in Hyderabad are complementary and it is hoped that in bringing these parties together will provide an opportunity for mutual learning that benefits both parties, enriches the CONNECTORS STUDY and cultivates the ground for future research and teaching collaborations and exchanges.

The CONNECTORS STUDY which creates the conditions for initiating this research relationship is bound by certain European Research Council criteria for Starter Grants. Namely that:

- 'Individual research teams led by a single Principle Investigator' (ERC Frontier Research Grants Guide for Applicants for the Starter Grant 2013 Call, p.8); these teams can be of a trans-national character as is being proposed here but the focus of the Starter Grant is on developing the research capacity of the PI and as such, 'the concept of an individual team is fundamentally different from that of a traditional 'network' or 'research consortium'. (ERC Frontier Research Grants Guide for Applicants for the Starter Grant 2013 Call, p. 10)



- Under the 'conditions of independence' the PI is able to publish independently as senior author and include as co-authors only those who have contributed substantially to the reported work

The inclusion of the EAs in the research team is conditional on the ERC requirement for a 'substantial contribution' being met and meeting these requirements opens up the possibility for the desirable outcomes of the collaboration listed below to be actualised. For the CONNECTORS STUDY a substantial contribution from the EA would be considered as follows:

- Providing the local research environment for the CONNECTORS STUDY by engaging with the research team and supporting the researchers in thinking through and carrying out the local implementation of study in Hyderabad.
- Supporting the process of achieving ethical clearance and any other research governance approvals for the study in Hyderabad.
- Supporting the RF in making links with schools and community organisations in Hyderabad through which children can be recruited to participate in the study.
- Participating in research meetings and, subject to ethical clearance, contributing discrete elements of data analysis for the purposes of dissemination and publication.

## DESIRABLE OUTCOMES

Research outputs: Where relevant and appropriate it would be a desirable outcome that some joint research outputs were undertaken between the PI, RF and EAs. These may include, but would not be limited to peer review journal publications and/or conference presentations on findings emerging from in the fieldwork in Hyderabad. It would not be expected that the EAs contribute to any report writing as required by the ERC's reporting periods although they may advise on analysis of the findings to be reported.

Access to data: It is desirable that some data sharing arrangements might develop over the duration of the study. At present, ethics approval for the CONNECTORS STUDY has been granted by the University of Sussex and the European Research Council on the basis that the PI, 2 RFs, 1 PhD student will have access to the primary data of the study, as these researchers are responsible for data collection and working directly with the children. Such restrictions on 'access to data' are made on grounds of protecting participants' identity and privacy, and to ensure the security of data storage and management. However, in order to facilitate research collaboration between the PI, RF and EAs, it may be possible formally to return to the Sussex University and ERC ethics committees seeking approval to modify the ethical protocols in a way that may allow the expert advisors to access primary data for specific purposes (e.g. the co-authoring of an academic paper with the PI and RF). Such a step would need to be preceded by appropriate consultation with the Independent Ethics Advisors to the study, to identify an approach that fulfills the current research relationship, but which, as a matter of priority, maintains highest ethical standards and satisfies the conditions under which informed consent was given by children and their parents/legal guardians for participation in the study.

Mutual learning and capacity development: While the emphasis of ERC Starter Grants are on the development of the PI, it is also an EU Framework Seven ethical requirement that research of a transnational nature builds capacity among local partners as well. To this end it is expected that the PI, RF and EAs will develop and establish a mutual learning strategy that is appropriate to the local context. This might include looking for opportunities in which the PI and RF can contribute to the local institution's research environment through seminar and workshop organization on topics relating to the CONNECTORS STUDY. Funds permitting, this might also involve looking for opportunities to invite the EAs to the University of Sussex for CONNECTORS STUDY related events, and other opportunities to meet counterparts and other colleagues in ESW.

Future collaboration: It is the hope of the PI and the University of Sussex that the relationships that are initiated through the CONNECTORS STUDY will endure over time and



institutional base from which to carry out the research locally, as well as some office space, and access to library services.

Funding: Bench fees will be paid by Sussex to the Hyderabad partner where such are applicable and where these have been agreed at the start of the working relationship to cover the costs of office space and access to library services. In lieu of bench fees, if these are not applicable, a small fund will be available to enable one EA at a time to travel to Sussex to participate in CONNECTOR STUDY activities or for conference travel where a joint paper with the PI and/or RF is being presented. Such costs must be agreed by Sussex in advance in writing.