**Project title**  
*Giving voice to co-operative agriculture: a political economy and social accounting approach*

**Supervisors**  
Stewart Smyth / Sanjay Lanka

**Research centre**  
CRAFiC

**Project description**  
This project seeks to develop an innovative understanding of the role of co-operative agriculture producers by using concepts from political economy, a dialogical theory of communication and social accounting practices. This project will explore the role played by agricultural co-operatives in improving the value received by their members by developing a *dialogic* (multiple-voiced) form of social accounting. In empirical terms, a framework that looks at four components – cost of cultivation, cost of living, subsidies and support systems from government and the prices that farmers get for their produce – will be utilized.

This project seeks to draw out the links between the labour theory of value and traditional financial (monological) accounting forms on one side and dialogical social accounting forms on the other. The project aims to move from one form to another through a series of iterative interactions with members of agricultural co-operatives in any country or global region. The ultimate aim of this work is to enhance the communicative capacity of these co-operatives by documenting the workings of this innovative organizational structure as well as its role in the process of moving towards democratic interactions with market participants and, therefore, unlocking the emancipatory potential of social accounting.

**PhD candidate profile**  
The PhD candidate should meet the following requirements:
- Be enthusiastic, well-organised and have good inter-personal skills.
- High motivation and a keen interest in the research area.
- A first degree that is equivalent to a UK classification of upper second class honours or above. In addition, a good masters level qualification of merit or above, with a minimum of 60 per cent in the dissertation, research project element or equivalent experience. We also accept an MBA from an accredited school where the candidate can demonstrate that a significant research element has been undertaken. For further information on entry requirements, please see: [http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/management/study/researchdegrees/howtoapply](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/management/study/researchdegrees/howtoapply)

**Duration and start dates**  
Full or part time study for 3 or 6 years is available, and remote location study is also possible. We have two start dates a year for PhD students. Our preferred start date is 1 October, however we do recognise that not everyone will be able to commence studies at that time, so we also offer a second start date of 1 February. If you are unable to start in October or February, it may be also possible to start your PhD at a different time of the year.

**Closing date for applications**  
Applications will be considered until a suitable candidate has been identified. For the 1 October start date, a full application must have been received by 15 July. For 1 February start date, a full application must have been received by 15 November.
How to apply
See http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/management/study/researchdegrees/howtoapply for full details of how to apply

For an informal discussion about this opportunity, please contact:
Stewart Smyth at: s.j.smyth@sheffield.ac.uk