WUN briefing session

Friday 30 June 2017

Programme

- Welcome and Introduction
- WUN@Sheffield
- Global Engagement: Other funding opportunities
- Research Development Fund: Professor Sue Yeandle
- Research Development Fund: Dr Kristine Horner
- Research Mobility Programme: Tareq Omairi
- Research Mobility Programme: Sally Jones
- Q&A
- Networking Lunch
Welcome and Introduction

Dr Malcolm Butler  
Director of Global Engagement

WUN@Sheffield

Danielle Bertrand  
International Partnerships Officer  
WUN Coordinator  
Global Engagement
What is WUN?

- A global higher education and research network made up of 21 universities, spanning 11 countries on five continents
- WUN is the most active global higher education and research network with 90 active research initiatives, engaging over 2,000 researchers and students collaborating on a diverse range of projects
- Mission: WUN draws upon the combined intellectual power and resources of its members to create opportunities in international research
- Vision: As a leading international higher education and research network, WUN will be a force in developing innovative solutions to some of the world’s most significant challenges

WUN universities

Australia
- University of Sydney
- University of Western Australia
- Canada
- University of Alberta
- China
- Zhejiang University
- Beijing Normal University
- The University of Hong Kong
- The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Korea
- The University of Ulsan
- The University of Daejeon

New Zealand
- University of Auckland
- University of Otago

Norway
- University of Bergen

South Africa
- University of Cape Town

Switzerland
- University of Bern

United Kingdom
- University of Birmingham
- University of Leeds
- University of Sheffield
- University of Southampton
- University of York

United States of America
- The University of Massachusetts Amherst
- University of Rochester

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WUN Governance @TUOS
Partnerships Board: Professor Sir Keith Burnett, President & Vice-Chancellor
Academic Advisory Group: Professor Gill Valentine, Vice-President & Head of Faculty (Social Sciences)
Coordinators Group: Danielle Bertrand, Global Engagement

WUN Steering Committee
- Professor John Derrick, Deputy PVC Research and Innovation
- Dr Malcolm Butler, Director of Global Engagement
- Professor David Wood, Faculty of Arts and Humanities
- Professor Elena Rodriguez-Falcon, Faculty of Engineering
- Professor Pete Monk, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health
- Professor Simon Jones, Faculty of Science
- Mr Greg Morgan, Faculty of Social Sciences
- Dr Neil Harris, Research and Innovation Services

Opportunities for international collaboration

Research Mobility Programme (RMP)
Offers funding for our academic community, including PhD students, to visit international WUN partners to establish and cultivate research links.

Research Development Fund (RDF)
An annual competitive fund aimed at bringing together researchers to undertake innovative, high-quality, sustainable research that addresses global challenges.
Why WUN?

- Bringing faculty together to share ideas for new research projects
- Developing proposals where the scale of activity requires many groups to work together
- Developing proposals where the international context is an important element in the research process
- Developing opportunities to share facilities costs and enhance access to unique or uncommon facilities
- Enhancing the ability of institutions to access funding for research (e.g. GCRF)
- Enhancing opportunities for cross-cultural working and team building
- Multi-national projects

Research Mobility Programme

RMP 2017: University of Bergen
Research Mobility Programme

- Opportunity for PhD students and research staff to visit partner WUN institutions (outside of the UK)
- Advance research - via access to facilities, unique data sets, resources and skill-sets available at a host institution
- Establish new and deepen existing collaborative research links with WUN counterparts
- Gain experience of working and living in different research and work cultures
- Further your career development by strengthening your international profile
- Visits typically involve short visits of up to 3 months
- The average duration of successful RMP visits is usually around 2-8 weeks

RMP application

- Find a suitable contact in your chosen partner institution, and negotiate the terms of your visit
- Approval from your Head of Department or your supervisor
- Demonstrate a clear benefit to you, the department, the faculty and the University
- Have well-defined and achievable aims and be realistic about what you can deliver
RMP application

Your application should include

- Details of the proposed partner institution and collaborator
- Dates and duration of the proposed visit
- A detailed work plan outlining what you intend to do during your visit (e.g., give a seminar and attend a seminar)
- Your aims, objectives and anticipated outcomes.
- A breakdown of your anticipated costs for the visit

RMP application process

- Internal competition to allocate our outbound RMP awards
- Around 10 awards are available each year
- Funds of up to £2,500 are available for each RMP to cover travel, visa, accommodation and subsistence
- The host WUN partner university waives any fees associated with the RMP
- Deadline for RMP applications: **Friday 27 October 2017**
- Decisions are made by the Sheffield WUN Steering Committee and normally announced before Christmas
- Travel to take place between January to December 2018
Research Development Fund

Global Challenges

RDF: Annual competitive fund aimed at bringing together researchers to undertake innovative, high quality, sustainable research that addresses global challenges.
Research Development Fund

- Open only to academic staff at WUN member institutions

- Programs must engage at least three WUN member universities and should span at least two countries

- The collaboration can include non-WUN universities and external partners but must have an active core of WUN member universities

- It is a priority for WUN to engage newer members in the RDF
Research Development Fund

- WUN funds around 15 new RDF each year
- Each WUN university can submit a limited number of proposals as Principal Investigator
- The University of Sheffield was granted two RDF funds in 2016
- Universities can be involved in any number of RDF as Co-Investigator

RDF Funding

- One year of seed funding
- WUN will fund up to £10,000
- Applications must commit matching cash support (total sum) by the partner institutions
- Firm expectation that projects will result in academic publications, policy impact and sustainability through securing funding from external sources
What can RDF funds be used for?

- Exploratory research initiatives
- Targeted workshops
- Faculty exchanges
- Formation of collaborative networks

RDF application process

- Discuss your application with the WUN Coordinator and your Faculty International Lead
- Complete an internal Letter Of Intent form
  [https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/internationalpartnerships/wun/rdf](https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/internationalpartnerships/wun/rdf)
- Internal shortlisting process – WUN Steering Committee
- Submit full proposal using the central WUN RDF application form
- Central WUN selection committee
RDF assessment criteria

- **Objectives** – the program is of high academic quality and addresses a novel research problem or takes an existing WUN research program in a significantly new direction. The program is likely to have significant impact, is interdisciplinary and is international in scope.

- **Relevance to WUN Goals** – the program aligns with WUN strategic objectives and addresses a WUN Global Challenge.

- **Teamwork** – the program involves a team of researchers across a range of relevant disciplines and regions. Programs that include early-career researchers and PhD students are particularly encouraged and an outline of how this integration will be achieved should be provided.

- **Outcomes** – the program results in external funding and academic publications and/or policy options.

- **Sustainability** – the program will build long-term international relationships based on genuine commitment by the research partners, and provides a plan for attracting sufficient resources for the continuation of the project beyond the initial grant.

RDF Key Dates

2017 dates to be confirmed soon

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<td>Closing date for LOI proposals</td>
<td>Thursday 1 September 2016</td>
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<td>Invitation for full proposals</td>
<td>Monday 19 September 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Full proposal to Sheffield panel</td>
<td>Monday 17 October 2016</td>
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<td>WUN central deadline</td>
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WUN Conferences and Workshops

WUN hosts conferences, workshops, seminars and events that bring an international community of researchers together to share ideas, spark collaboration and further our ground-breaking research.

Upcoming events: [http://www.wun.ac.uk/wun/events]
Other WUN activities:

- **Mpower**: Empowering women for health - Dr Julie Balen and Dr Robert Akparibo (ScHARR) Co-Investigators with the University of Massachusetts Amherst (RDF 2017)
- Provision of health service and community care for the elderly: intergenerational roles and equity - Dr Praveen Thokala Co-Investigator with The Chinese University of Hong Kong (RDF 2017)
- Climate Change: Understanding Systemic Shocks in Integrated Infrastructures - Dr Nick Taylor Buck, Town and Regional Planning
- Multilingualism and Mobility in the Northern and Southern Hemispheres - Dr Kristine Horner, Germanic Studies
- Stomata: Sensors of Climate Change - Prof Julie Gray, MBB
- Sustainable Care: Connecting People and Systems - Prof Sue Yeandle, Sociological Studies
- Global Africa Group Steering Committee - Dr Julie Balen, ScHARR
Global Engagement
Other funding opportunities

https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/internationalpartnerships/informationforstaff

Erasmus+

Erasmus+ Teaching Mobility
Erasmus+ Teaching Mobility involves delivering a short period of teaching at one of your department’s Erasmus+ partner universities. It enables you to teach in a different environment and gain a more detailed understanding of the teaching practices and assessment methods of other countries.

Erasmus+ Staff Training
Erasmus+ staff training mobility involves spending a short period working at a university in one of the Erasmus+ programme countries. It gives you an insight into the way in which your area of work is administered in other countries and provides an opportunity to share experiences and ideas with your counterparts.

Funds to support travel and subsistence are available
Applications close early November
https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/staff/news/staff-mobility-scheme-apply-2016-1.653896
UK - Mexico Visiting Chair

The UK-Mexico Visiting Chair mobility grant allows travel between 12 UK and 12 Mexican universities, in an effort to increase research collaboration and strengthen relations between HEI’s in Mexico and the UK. The Visiting Chair provides successful applicants with mobility funding for a research visit of up to two weeks to visit a new potential collaborator in Mexico.

- The call is open to researchers who hold a PhD in STEM subjects, social sciences and humanities
- Activities accepted and encouraged under the UK-MX Visiting Chair include: attendance at workshops, research symposia, and conferences as well as meetings to scope collaboration, share best practise or develop new initiatives
- Candidates to submit their application by Friday 18th August 2017
- Period for successful applicants to visit partner Institution: 16th October 2017 to 29th June 2018

RDF: Sustainable Care: Connecting People and Systems

Professor Sue Yeandle
Professor of Sociology
WUN RDF AWARDS:
ONE PROJECT’S EXPERIENCE

PROF SUE YEANDLE
DIRECTOR, CIRCLE
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGICAL STUDIES

OVERVIEW

- The WUN Sustainable Care RDF project
- Our project’s aims and objectives
- Our choice of partners
- Our project activities
- Tips on getting funded
- Outputs
- Why apply to WUN?
- Q&A
Our WUN RDF project

Project Title
**Sustainable Care: connecting people and systems**

WUN Global Challenges:
- Public Health
- Understanding Cultures

Funding requested:
- £15,000

Pledged match funding:
- £20,520 (delivered)

Funding awarded by WUN:
- £13,000

Initial WUN university partners
- **Sheffield** (lead partner)
  - Prof Sue Yeandle, Centre for International Research on Care, Labour & Equalities
- **Alberta** (Canada)
  - Prof Janet Fast, RAPP Group ‘Research on Aging, Policies and Practice’
- **Auckland** (NZ)
  - Prof Matthew Parsons, Institute of Healthy Ageing
- **Sydney** (Australia)
  - A/Prof Kate O’Loughlin, Centre of Excellence in Population Ageing
- **Zhejiang** (China)
  - Prof Ka Lin, College of Public Administration

Our project’s aims and objectives

Key questions:
- How can we make 21st century systems of care sustainable?
- ‘How can citizens be empowered to have more control over how care resources are accessed and care costs distributed?’

Focus of the network:
- Scholarly collaboration on the international input to a major research proposal
  (UK ESRC Research Centres Competition 2016)
  - “The collaboration will marshall team members’ strengths to underpin a strong proposal and identify pathways to lasting international impact.”
- Group work on co-authored comparative papers
  - “…working with early career/PhD scholars within our research groups”
- Collaboration/outreach to establish the International Journal of Care & Caring
  - “team members will help develop its international editorial board, actively liaising with academics in different world regions”
Why these partners?

- Three partners who had already worked together
  - Sheffield, Alberta, Sydney

- One added based on recent direct contact /common interests
  - Auckland

- Our Chinese partner added on advice of UoS WUN advisor
  - Zhejiang

Our RDF project activities

- **Workshops**
  - Zhejiang, April 2016: *establishing network, planning, building foundations*
  - Sheffield, July 2016: *developing research proposal, planning academic papers*
  - Sydney, November 2016: *presenting academic papers, developing the journal*

- **Webinars:** *with wider group of our colleagues and PhD students*

- **Joint conference presentations**
  - Symposium, *Community, Work & Families conference* May 2017

- **Other group and bilateral work:**
  - Close working with co-authors of academic papers
  - Journal development activities: Regional Editorial Group meetings (Sydney, Nairobi); journal launch and inaugural EAB meeting, San Francisco
  - Detailed collaboration on a major research proposal
Tips when applying for WUN funding

- Be ready to apply
  - Connect with your main partners, get to know some of them first and agree a shared focus and approach
  - Build trust, and if relevant and possible, work across continents
- Have specific, ambitious, but realistic goals
  - 3 or 4 four clear aims is sufficient – don’t be vague
- Focus explicitly on at least one Global Challenge
- Be clear how your project can progress after WUN funding
- Be open to opportunities as you go along
  - WUN is a flexible programme which wants its projects to succeed
  - You can add partners as you go along, so create scope to do this

Our outputs

- 4 new journal articles will shortly go into peer review
- Our promotion of the new International Journal of Care & Caring is bearing fruit
- Our ESRC proposal was successfully submitted (October 2016)
  - We thoroughly tested our ideas/plans at workshops in May & July 2016
  - We built a new UK partnership of targeted partners (Birmingham, Kings College London) and involved additional UoS colleagues in other Departments – Politics, the Management School, CATCH
  - All our WUN international partners are on board - and we’ve added many others to extend our opportunities for comparative analysis
- Our newly awarded Sustainable Care Large Grant also includes further capacity building activity – we’re now all set up to go in November 2017
Why apply for WUN funding?

- It’s an accessible source of ‘seed funding’
  - You can develop an international research group which can go on to bigger things in future years
- The application process is clear and straightforward
- Your partners will also have advisors who ‘know the ropes’
- You’ll get a quick decision and be able to start straight away
- International partnerships with academics in your field can be really stimulating and enjoyable
- International partnerships broaden the mind and open doors!
  - Your interactions with overseas partners will increase your knowledge, test your powers of explanation, and deepen your understanding of your research topic.
- GOOD LUCK!
Multilingualism, Mobility and Access: The Human Face(s) of Global Challenges

Dr Kristine Horner
School of Languages & Cultures
Centre for Luxembourg Studies
k.horner@sheffield.ac.uk

WUN Global Challenges: Scope for Humanities and Social Sciences?
Understanding Cultures

- The WUN Understanding Cultures Global Challenge facilitates interdisciplinary research for understanding some of the principal consequences of globalization for cultural identities. The research agenda of the WUN Understanding Cultures Global Challenge is shaped by a concern with how profound globalisation trends such as a more integrated transnational economic system, the rise of global communications networks, increasing levels of population mobility, the advent of international consumer brands, and widening social inequalities are challenging national, regional and individual cultural practices. Deeper understanding of these challenges for cultural changes is necessary to inform effective policy-making and implementation.

RDF on Multilingualism and Mobility in the Northern and Southern Hemispheres

- Opportunities and challenges of linguistic and cultural diversity in relation to (im)mobility
- Disciplinary approaches: Sociolinguistics, Linguistic Anthropology, Language & Education
Thematic strands

- Language and social networks
- Language and cultural heritage
- Language and education policy
- Language policy, migration and citizenship

WUN universities

- University of Bristol
- University of Leeds
- University of Southampton
- University of York
- University of Alberta
- University of Sydney
- Chinese University of Hong Kong
- University of Auckland
- University of Cape Town
- WUN+
- University of Wisconsin-Madison
- University of Luxembourg
Starting up: Workshop 1 in Sheffield (June 2015)

- Individual presentations
- Shared intersections?
- Network diversity or cohesion as goal?

Global perspectives: Workshop 2 in Cape Town (October 2015)

- Twinned WUN network on Understanding Globalisation: Margins and Peripheries
- Discussing Global North and Global South
Sharing Findings: identity, power, (in)equality and access

- Structure-agency: edited volume with intersecting commentaries by theme
- Language as site of struggle: thematic panel at Sociolinguistics Symposium in June 2016 and journal special issue

RDP main aims

- Addressing (one of) the four global challenges in a novel way
- Bringing together researchers (at different career stages) to undertake preparatory works to develop innovative, high quality, sustainable research (WUN as seed corn)
- Tapping into diverse funding sources
Website as platform: communication with broader public?

Multilingualism & Mobility in the Northern & Southern Hemispheres

Welcome

Multilingualism & Mobility in the Northern & Southern Hemispheres
The relationship between language and culture is central to our understanding of migration, diversity, and experience. We approach the EU’s Global Challenges of Understanding Cultures by exploring the interface between Multilingualism and Mobility as an entry point. It is frequently claimed that linguistic and cultural diversity pose challenges in contemporary societies. This diversity also presents opportunities, including ways that multilingualism can function as a bridge for intercultural encounters and intergenerational relations. Our projects highlight benefits of linguistic and cultural diversity and, when synthesized, have potential to productively shape public education and migration policies.

The role of early career scholars and future leaders in the field
Further funding and activity

- Leverhulme Networks discontinued in late 2015
- Hong Kong Government Research Fund (bid lodged late 2016): The interplay of language-in-education policy, language ideology and linguistic practices within discourse of internationalisation in higher education (pending)
- British Academy Tackling the UK’s Higher Education Challenges (bid lodged late 2016): European Migration, Language Policy and Small States (successful, project now in progress, related conference for spring 2018)
- Panel on Borders, (im)mobilities and spatialised linguistic practices at Sociolinguistics Symposium 22 (summer 2018)

Summing up

- WUN: opportunities and challenges
- Short-term outcomes: publications
- Extending the scope: planning bids
- Sustainability and the long-term network
Any questions?

RMP: Integration of molecular biology techniques into paleontological and astrobiological studies

Tareq Omairi
Phd Student MBB
How to win a RMP and get the most out of it, a PhD student's story

Tareq Omairi - Molecular Biology & Biotechnology, Faculty of Science

My WUN - RMP Award

- Partner Institution: University of Alberta - Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
- Supervisor: Prof. Kurt Konhauser
- Project Theme: Integration of molecular biology techniques into paleontological and astrobiological studies.
- Date of visit: March 2016
Why should you apply?

- Research Excellence
- Build and expand on your professional network
- Recharge to your PhD project!
- An excellent introduction to learning how to write research grants

How to start?

- Recommended for 2nd and 3rd yr. PhD students
- Plan well ahead in advance
- Starting by finding a hosting supervisor, maybe yours for help first?
- Seeking people with similar research interests, but from different departments
- Approaching the supervisor correctly
Tips On Preparing The Application

• Visit WUN page on the University website
• Make use of the sample application available
• Careers Service: Applications, cover letters, and CV advice

Tips On Preparing The Application

• Allowing time to prepare the recommendation letters
• Realistic and sustainable future collaboration
• How will both parties benefit?
• Is it understandable by people outside of your area of study?
• Past visits or joint projects?
• Try to obtain a funding contribution from the department or similar sources
Working with the host:

- Plan your activities before you travel
- Contact the WUN coordinator at the hosting University
- Ask the host about any forms/papers you can finish while away
- Get to know the supervisor’s students!

Working with the host:

- Making use of the facilities and services
- Aiming to present in a group or give a departmental seminar
- Be ready to share your work with others
- Do not rush the collaboration!
- Take some of the work with you work back to the UK
- Encourage them to apply to WUN
Finally...

Have a good time & make new friends!

RMP: Mobilisation of cohesive particles associated with discolouration by hydraulic transients in drinking water distribution systems

Sally Jones
PhD Student, Department of Civil and Structural Engineering
WUN RMP PRESENTATION

Sally Jones

CONTENTS

- Introduction
- University of Alberta, the research group and facilities
- Activities abroad
- Project outputs – short term and long term
- Personal benefits
- Reflection on WUN RMP
INTRODUCTION

- Department of Civil and Structural Engineering
- Undergraduate here and 3rd year PhD student
- PhD focus: using hydraulics to mobilise material associated with discoloration in drinking water distribution systems
- Mainly an experimental PhD
- So far used a pseudo material for testing

sljones1@sheffield.ac.uk

INTRODUCTION

- My research group invited Professor Ashbolt from the University of Alberta in Canada to present his work in 2015
- I saw some links between our work
- Kept in touch via email
- Saw WUN RMP online – both Universities are part of the group = opportunity

sljones1@sheffield.ac.uk
University of Alberta is ranked 90th in the world by QS World University Rankings and a Top 5 University in Canada.

- Research excellence in public health
- Based in Edmonton in Alberta – capital city of 1.23 million people

Professor Ashbolt has over 10,000 citations and a h-index of 53.

- Research group has a great reputation
- In 2015 awarded part of a $1.1 million fund from the federal government to build the first custom premise plumbing facility in Canada to focus on controlling microbial hazards
- Grown (over 6 months) the organic material my PhD focuses on
- Surface Area to Volume ratio is more desirable to see changes due to hydraulics
- Microbiologists expert testing water samples
- Best chance of seeing something happen!
ACTIVITIES ABROAD

- Perform experiments on this unique system

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<th>Week 2 and 3</th>
<th>Week 4</th>
<th>Week 5</th>
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<tr>
<td>PhD Presentation</td>
<td>Adaption to the system to benefit my experiments</td>
<td>Prelim testing and refined experimental programme</td>
<td>Performed experiment and started processing data</td>
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<td>Getting familiar with the system, people and organic material</td>
<td>Continued other PhD work whilst waiting for deliveries</td>
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- Also spoke to a researcher in another group about creating a microgel that works like organic material without growing for months

PROJECT OUTPUTS

Short term
- Chunk of thesis!
- Results-dependent Journal paper

Long term
- Ideas for future work together (individual and group)
- Researcher in the UofA group is looking to visit University of Sheffield via their own funding
- Inspired a PhD student in the UofA group to apply to the WUN RMP this year
- Possible work with microgels
PERSONAL BENEFITS

- New environment and system – good challenge
- Working with different people from a different field (interdisciplinary)
- PhD milestone – refocus my PhD objectives and time scales
- Strengthens CV
- Future collaboration might lead to postdoc funding
- Visit a new part of the world, Canada’s 150th anniversary
- Explored Rocky Mountains

REFLECTION ON WUN RMP

- Thinking about applying… DO IT!
THANK YOU

Q&A
To
Discover
And
Understand.