



THEME GROUP SUPPORT 2014-2015

Update on the Project

"The role of doctoral education in early career development"

PURPOSE

The SANORD Board makes competitive grants available to theme group leaders towards organising seminars, conferences and other activities that promote North-South multilateral networking and cooperation with a potential to contribute to realising SANORD goals. Grants may be used towards travel, accommodation and logistical expenses.

Approved Project:

In its meeting on 19 August 2014 the SANORD Board approved funding of ZAR 50 000 (Fifty Thousand South African Rand) for the following project:

PROJECT LEADER	INSTITUTIONS	PROJECT NAME
Liezel Frick - (Lead Researcher) Email: blf@sun.ac.za	Stellenbosch University	"The role of doctoral education in early career academic development"
1. Ruth M Albertyn (Partner 1)	Stellenbosch University	
2. Eva M. Brodin (Partner 2)	Lund University	
3. Silwa Claesson (Partner 3)	University of Gothenburg	
4. Sioux McKenna (Partner 4)	Rhodes University	

Report on SANORD funding: Project No. 7 on the list above.

Please find below the feedback on the project entitled, ***"The role of doctoral education in early career academic development"***, which was made possible through the allocation of SANORD funding.



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15 May 2015

Dear Prof Roberts

Report on SANORD funding

Please find included the feedback on the project entitled, *The role of doctoral education in early career academic development*, which was made possible through the allocation of SANORD funding.

We would like to thank SANORD for funding our initiative. We believe that we have been able to achieve the goal of SANORD to facilitate North-South researcher mobility and exchange through our joint initiative, which was based on the collaboration between researchers at four universities, including two South African (Stellenbosch University and Rhodes University) and two Swedish universities (Lund University and University of Gothenburg). The funding was primarily used to create space and time for all the researchers involved to meet and work on tangible outcomes for the project – including a conference paper, future research projects, and further funding proposals – as was outlined in the project proposal.

The project team consisted of Dr Ruth Albertyn (Stellenbosch University), Prof Eva Brodin (Lund University), Prof Silwa Claesson (Gothenburg University), Dr Liezel Frick (Stellenbosch University, project co-ordinator), and Prof Sioux McKenna (Rhodes University). The project team met from 21 to 23 March 2015 at Spier Estate (Stellenbosch). During this meeting a joint conference paper was produced, which was subsequently presented at the fifth International Conference on Postgraduate Supervision hosted by the Centre for Higher and Adult Education at Spier on 24-27 March 2015. In this manner the first aim of the funding proposal was achieved. The conference paper presentation was well attended and well received. A pdf-file of the conference presentation is attached as an addendum to this report.

During the joint meeting it was decided that the dataset construed for this project holds much promise for further exploration from various angles. The researchers involved therefore decided to share the interview transcriptions via a shared *Dropbox* site, together with other relevant documentation and literature. Such sharing would enable each of the participants to individually work on a possible publication, which would then be submitted to the rest of the group for input after which it could be jointly published. Currently we are working individually towards these future publications with the aim of submitting such manuscripts towards the end of 2015/early 2016, which would then meet the second goal of the funding proposal.

The meeting and collaboration has also enabled us to consider possible future collaborative projects. One particular aspect we would like to explore would extend our current work reported on here. In this next phase of our proposed collaborative research, we would like to explore how established academics reflect on the role their doctoral studies played in preparing them for academic practice – thus a retrospective



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ADULT EDUCATION

SENTRUM VIR HOËR &
VOLWASSENE ONDERWYS

Dr Liezel Frick
University of Stellenbosch
Private Bag X1
Matieland 7602

Tel: +27 (0)21 – 8082277
Fax: +27 (0)21 – 8082270
Email: blf@sun.ac.za

perspective. This should also enable us to compare our two data sets. Since there are no current funding calls from either the Swedish Research Council or the National Research Foundation that meets this aim to fulfill the third aim of the initial funding proposal, we will need to look for funding elsewhere – especially since we would like to present our joint work in this regard at the upcoming Quality in Postgraduate Research conference (to be held 20-22 April 2016 in Adelaide Australia under the theme Society, Communities & Economy: 21st Century Responses from Doctoral Education). All four universities involved in the project are research-intensive universities that have long traditions of doctoral education and established research and teaching cultures, and thus form an interesting institutional cohort for investigating the role of doctoral education in both early and established career academic development. The two countries involved have different approaches to doctoral education in terms of funding and programme structures, and therefore create the scope for comparative studies. Such studies are increasingly important given the internationalization of higher education, and the increasing global mobility of academic staff throughout their academic careers. If SANORD would be interested in funding such a follow-up study, we would gladly put forth a more fully conceptualized funding proposal and budget outline.

We also include as an addendum the budgetary expenditure as aligned to the initial funding proposal. The expenditure was administered and will be audited by the Finance Department of Stellenbosch University in line with the university policy and guidelines for funding administration. The remaining R 7387 will be used to cover language editing and page fees of the manuscripts in progress, should SANORD allow us to do so.

We would again like to extend our sincere gratitude to SANORD and its functionaries for the support and encouragement of our joint work. Meeting face-to-face has enabled us build strong collaborative links and share knowledge in a way that is not always possible in virtual spaces. We sincerely hope that we may be able to continue to collaborate and serve our field of interest.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information.

Kind regards



Dr Liezel Frick (on behalf of the collaborative members)
Centre for Higher and Adult Education
Stellenbosch University