

ESRC CASE Studentship

**Centre for Enterprise and Economic Development Research, Middlesex University
in collaboration with the Ethnic Minority Foundation (EMF)**

The Role of Ethnic Minority Related Social Enterprises in the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympic Games Legacy

London's bid for the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics Games (the Games) was conceived around the idea that it would provide the catalyst for a wide-ranging social, economic, and environmental legacy for all, including the capital's highly diverse minority ethnic population. The Olympic Board's vision consequently was to host an inclusive event and leave a sustainable legacy for London and the UK, with the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) encompassing statutory duties to promote race, gender and disability equality.

There has been from the outset considerable debate as to whether the Games will benefit socially marginalised groups, not least East London's large minority ethnic population, given the experiences from previous Games. Organisations with the potential to supply good and services to the ODA (i.e. SMEs and minority ethnic related businesses and social enterprises (SE)), have expressed their concern as to whether, the Olympics' delivery structure can deliver on diversity and inclusion agendas. Furthermore, there are also concerns with regard to the social enterprise movement more generally, which is viewed by some minority groups as a predominantly 'white middle-class' affair which has failed to tap into the considerable dynamism and growth of social entrepreneurialism among minority groups.

This project seeks to address these issues by exploring the role of ethnic minority related social enterprises in the preparations for the 2012 Games. As trading ventures with 'social' and 'environmental' aims, social enterprises potentially offer one route to realise some of the basic objectives of the 2012 Games with regard to inclusion, diversity and a lasting legacy. Yet doubts remain as to whether current policy approaches, governance arrangements and the operation of the social enterprise movement will enable these benefits to be realised.

Aims and objectives

The studentship will critically examine the process of integration/exclusion of minority related social enterprises (MRSEs) within the 2012 Olympics' preparations, the factors generating particular opportunity structures within it, and its wider social and economic impacts. It will identify issues for policy development and delivery regarding the support and development needs of MRSEs and related equality and inclusion agendas.

Research questions

What is the nature and extent of the integration of MRSEs into the 2012 Olympics?

What are the factors generating the opportunity structures for MRSEs within this context?

What are the main constraints?

What policy development is needed to maximise social, economic and community cohesion gains?

Proposed methodology and timetable

2009 Induction; literature review

Development of methodology; preparation of field research: mapping and developing a profile of MRSEs (access to EMF's original data set of MRSEs); pilot research work.

- 2010 Placement with partner; primary data collection through mix of survey of MRSEs and case study research as appropriate. Commence data analysis and preliminary feedback to participants
- 2011 Complete data collection and analysis.
Production of thesis and papers
Dissemination event

Outputs

The research outputs will include a PhD thesis as well associated conference papers and policy reports which will be of interest of academics, policy-makers, social entrepreneurs and minority ethnic groups.

Findings regarding the involvement of MRSEs in the 2012 Olympics regeneration programme will contribute to academic and policy debates on the role of social entrepreneurship as a catalyst for social and economic benefits for local communities, notably for marginalised groups within highly diverse and complex cities.

Funding and Eligibility

CASE studentships provide three years funding with an annual allowance of £16, 940 for PhD students.

Only those with established UK residency are eligible to apply (i.e., having settled status without restrictions on the duration of their stay). For further information on this point (and for other more detailed information about ESRC studentships including what constitutes an acceptable research qualification) see the document:

ESRC POSTGRADUATE STUDENTSHIPS IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

<http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/opportunities/postgraduate/pgtraining/policy/index4.aspx?ComponentId=4667&SourcePageId=5323>

About the Partners

Centre for Enterprise and Economic Development Research (CEEDR). Middlesex University

CEEDR has more than fifteen years' experience of successful collaboration on research with institutions, including government departments and public bodies, universities, voluntary and community-based organisations, consulting companies, and other private organisations, both nationally and internationally, in the areas of small business, enterprise support, and local and regional economic development. In recent years it has developed research expertise in the areas of social enterprise as well as in black and minority ethnic businesses and enterprise activity among refugees and new arrivals. It currently leads the *Social Enterprise Capacity Building Cluster (2008-2012)* funded by ESRC and Office of the Third Sector, in collaboration with London South Bank University and the University of Durham, and is actively involved in the newly create *Third Sector Research Centre (2008-2012)*, funded by ESRC and Office of the Third Sector.

The Ethnic Minority Foundation (EMF)

EMF is a national registered charity created in 1999 to improve the lives of Britain's minority ethnic communities and bring about social change. It has considerable experience of collaborative research with a number of academic and research institutions as well as voluntary and community sector organisations, including the University of London, the University of East London, City University, the University of Glasgow, the University of Reading, NHS UK Transplant, Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG), Help the Aged, the Council of Ethnic Minority Voluntary Sector Organisations (CEMVO), CEMVO Scotland, the British Muslim Research Centre (BMRC), the Hindu Council UK.(HCUK),

the London Chinese Community Network (LCCN) and Community Empowerment Network (CEN).

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