

University of York

Centre for Health Economics and Department of Politics/ Interdisciplinary Global Development Centre

PhD Opportunities: **TLOPHD2019**

Topic 5: Building knowledge and cooperation through regionalism

Registered through the **Department of Politics**

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Regionalism above the state has been a major research area in International Relations and International Political Economy for many years, with an emphasis empirically on, above all, the European Union, and to a lesser extent, the complex regional architecture that has emerged in the Americas. Despite questions about the legitimacy and democratic value of all governance institutions above the state, different institutional manifestations of macro-regionalism have continued to diffuse across much of the global South since the 1990s, where they are understood, variously, to be markers of growing collective identity, useful vehicles for encouraging trade and investment, a way of ensuring regional security, a contribution to the management of cross-border issues such as health and development or simply a mimetic response to globalisation that enables more coordinated interactions with other regions of the world. Regional institutions have also emerged in sub-Saharan Africa, including the African Union, the South African Development Community and, in relation to health, the East, Central and Southern Africa Health Community.

Recent debates about ‘post-hegemonic regionalism’ have drawn attention to its significance as a source of knowledge creation and knowledge-sharing especially in relation to welfare and health (Riggirozzi and Tussie 2012; Riggirozzi and Grugel 2015). Here the emphasis is less on the external face of regional institutions in international fora and more on its capacity, or potential, to strengthen governance within member states, support national level policy making, represent the interests of its members in areas such as pharmaceuticals and medicines and establish professional standards.

The Thanzi la Onse programme is a GCRF-funded interdisciplinary research programme aimed designing, implementing and disseminating collaborative research and analysis to inform decision making and policy in the allocation of health care resources to improve population health and reduce health inequalities in eastern and southern Africa. Ultimately, the project will contribute to the implementation of strategies towards meeting the sustainable development goal on universal health coverage. We are now looking for an outstanding PhD candidate to join Theme 3 (Politics and Governance) in order to consider the role of regionalism and regional organisations above the state in East and Southern Africa, with a particular emphasis on the extent to which they act as agents in transferring knowledge for health governance and creating networks of health activists and practitioners.

Candidates will be expected to bring theoretical and empirical insights to bear in exploring the role of regionalism in East and Southern Africa and its potential as a support for health governance, and to conduct in-depth field work to support their work. The successful candidate will work within Theme 3 and will be located in the Interdisciplinary Centre for Global Development (IGDC <https://www.york.ac.uk/igdc/>), although we expect that they will work closely with other PhD students and researchers on the Programme. They should have a background in Politics, International Relations or International Political Economy, or a cognate discipline, a 2.1 at least in their undergraduate studies and a relevant MA/MSc. An understanding of conceptual debates on regionalism and governance and/or the politics/international relations of East and Southern Africa would be advantageous.

References

Ruggirozzi P & D Tussie (2012) *The Rise of Post-Hegemonic Regionalism* (New York: Springer)

Ruggirozzi P and J Grugel (2015) 'Regional Governance and Legitimacy in South America: The Meaning of UNASUR' *International Affairs* 4, 781-797