

The aim of this FC-IDII strategic research area workshop is to bring together people across the OU who might be interested in adapting their research so as to participate in collaborative bids targeted at the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) initiative. GCRF was set up in 2015 to address a wide range of issues highlighted in the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, including inequality, social justice and well-being for people and communities across the developing world. The AHRC has been granted an allocation of £26 million from GCRF over the period 2016-20 specifically to develop opportunities for the Arts and Humanities research community. A key gap seems to be that both the AHRC and arts and humanities scholars have not considered themselves 'international development' experts so that both struggle to know what to fund or apply for. We feel the OU is well-placed to lead in this area and the workshop is a first step in that direction.

The format will involve a number of short 10-minute presentations followed by a workshop aimed at generating ideas broadly on the theme of 'cultural capacity building' and at identifying a range of methodologies that speak to the contribution that arts and humanities research can make to challenges relating to international development. We aim for participants to be drawn from across the OU including those working with visual methodologies, historical methods, storytelling and literary approaches, design, art, and curation practices.

Please send your title and an abstract of around 100 words to [Belinda Wu](#) by Friday 22nd September 2017.