**Project Title:** Sport for Development (SfD)  
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**Level:** PhD

**Background to the Project:**
The emergence and acceleration of local, national and international sport-for-development (SfD) movements has given rise to a small but growing social scientific literature that seeks to interrogate the extent to which sport can contribute to ‘development’ (e.g. Bloyce and Smith, 2010; Burnett, 2009; Coalter, 2007; 2010; Darnell, 2010; Jarvie, 2011; Kay, 2009; Meier and Saavedra, 2009). This project seeks to interrogate the value of sport for addressing a range of societal ‘problems’ related to poverty, social exclusion, low educational attainment, juvenile delinquency, and political conflict amongst other issues, through an in-depth case study analysis of a programme(s) in a national or international setting. It will be located in a body of social scientific literature that is critical of untested, uncritical assumptions around the value of sport and more cognisant of the relatively limited impact that follows for ‘development’.

**Methods to be used:**  
The study adopts a case study approach that centres on a specific SfD programme of the applicant’s choosing (to be negotiated with the supervisory team). The proposed methods will be primarily ethnographic in nature and will seek to generate empirically grounded knowledge of SfD. More specifically, this will involve (non)participant observation of SfD programmes as they play out in local/national contexts. Interviews may also be conducted with various personnel involved in the SfD movement, the exact mix of methods and research paradigms being dependent on the research setting.

**Objectives of the research:**  
1. To undertake an in-depth and critically engaged analysis of a specific sport-for-development programme(s) and its efficacy, including monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.  
2. To determine and analyse the (a)theoretical and policy paradigms that underpin sport-for-development programme(s) and related policy making.
Skills Required of Applicant:
The applicant will require a specialism in social science and/or sociology, preferably one focused around sports studies, community/development studies or conflict transformation. The applicant will also be willing to engage in extended fieldwork in a local, national or international setting.

References:


Applicant Instructions:
As part of the application process candidates will need to demonstrate an understanding of the project area and be able to detail how they would take the proposal forward. This will require them to write a proposal. The proposal will be a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 4 pages (excluding bibliography) Arial 11 font, 1.5 spacing. The proposal will detail: Aims and research questions; an overview of the background literature that outlines the rationale for the proposal; methodology; an overview of how the applicants academic and/or vocational experience equips them to undertake the proposed research; bibliography (1 page maximum).