Research Networking PROPOSAL

Research Networking (open call)

Organisation where the Grant would be held

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>University of Leeds</th>
<th>Research Organisation Reference:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Division or Department</td>
<td>School of Media &amp; Communication</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Project Title [up to 150 chars]

Development Assistance and independent journalism in Africa and Latin America: A cross-national and multidisciplinary research network.

Start Date and Duration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>a. Proposed start date</th>
<th>b. Duration of the grant (months)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01 November 2016</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
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Applicants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Division or Department</th>
<th>How many hours a week will the investigator work on the project?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal Investigator</td>
<td>Dr</td>
<td>University of Leeds</td>
<td>School of Media &amp; Communication</td>
<td>1.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-Investigator</td>
<td>Dr</td>
<td>University of Leeds</td>
<td>School of Media &amp; Communication</td>
<td>1.26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Objectives

List the main objectives of the proposed research in order of priority [up to 4000 chars]

The main objective of the proposed network is to foster discussion and research concerning the use of foreign aid and, more broadly, structures of post-colonial dependency (Easterly 2006), to promote or inhibit specific models of journalism and to assess to what degree this has been achieved.

The network addresses the following key research question: What has been the role of international development assistance in shaping journalistic approaches and practices in Africa and Latin America and what are the consequences?

Subsidiary research questions include:
- What is the existing body of research concerning this issue?
- What has been the role of development assistance in shaping journalism education in Africa and Latin America?
- To what extent has international development assistance fostered or inhibited independent journalism in Africa and Latin America?
- What are the similarities and differences in the direct and indirect impacts of development assistance of journalism from the US, UK and other donors?
- What are the continuities and discontinuities concerning the impact of development assistance on journalism practice and education in the post-Cold War era?
- How has international development assistance either directly or indirectly affecting journalism been perceived by journalists, politicians and the general public in the beneficiary countries?
- What interventions could be developed to counter any negative consequences of these traditions?

Subsidiary objectives to answer these questions include completion of the following project stages:

1. The network will create a multidisciplinary research space that will bring together researchers who have been working in this area but whose work has not previously been linked. This space will be physical, in the form of three core meetings; and virtual, in the form of an online forum.

2. The network will promote this research among scholars who have the potential and capabilities to engage in this area. Over the two year project time frame the network will expand to embrace additional countries and regions beyond the UK and the four developing countries involved from the outset.

3. We will develop a virtual platform in which the members of the network can meet, collaborate and develop individual and group projects concerning the issues presented here. This website will be a one-stop virtual space where researchers can collaborate with each other and find online resources for their research.

4. The network will produce teaching materials so some of the outcomes of this research can be articulated within syllabi and programmes within journalism and media education in both aid receiving nations and in donor nations. We foresee this effort will include a MOOC (massive open online course) if subsequent funding permits. There is ample internal support and expertise at Leeds University to facilitate this.

5. The network will seek to produce specific outputs in terms of journal articles and other publication.

Summary

Describe the proposed research in simple terms in a way that could be publicised to a general audience [up to 4000 chars]. Note that this summary may be published on the AHRC’s website in the event that a grant is awarded.

This project proposes an international and inter-disciplinary research network to explore the relationship between international development aid and local journalistic practice and training in Africa and Latin America. The network will allow researchers to examine the global power relations and geo-politics of foreign aid that since the end of the Second World
War was substantially directed at disseminating a specific model of journalism practice and education aligned with the interests of donor nations. It will consider the extent to which the diffusion of a US/UK based model of journalism practice has been central to the ‘modernisation’ project in international development. This network project is linked to journalism practice, journalism education, and critical journalism studies in the context of the impact that foreign aid/development assistance has had in these regions and how this has affected the ability of these developing regions to foster a critical and independent media sector.

Given massive contemporary change in the global news media landscape, especially in regard to journalistic practice and the limited potential for genuinely independent ‘watchdog’ journalism, researchers and practitioners need to critically reassess the relationship between external influences on journalism and local cultures and practices of journalism. This contribution to a deliberative assessment of the nature of public discourse in developing regions has the potential to open the public sphere to a greater variety of voices and aid the project of democratization.

In this context, the critical scholarly approaches more commonly associated with arts and humanities research than with the more typically social scientific approaches to the analysis of journalism are particularly valuable. We propose to bring together a network of researchers who can provide critique grounded in critical political economy and postcolonial studies approaches to the historical and present contribution to the local journalism sector of international development aid in Latin America and Africa. The network will foster discussion and research concerning the use of international development aid and, broadly, structures of post-colonial dependency (Easterly 2006), to promote or inhibit specific models of journalism.

We start from the assumption that the dissemination of the US/UK paradigm of journalism was central to international aid efforts since the late 1940s and has become the default model that aid programmes tend to foster and support. Such models have been problematized by the geo-politics of the Cold War and more recently by corporative agendas. Moreover, these models have not come into existence without their own contradictions, given the support that the US and other Western countries gave to dictatorships in developing countries in the context of Cold War efforts to contain the advance of the Soviet Union (this is particularly true of Latin America and Africa, the continental foci of this network). A further interest, therefore, is the question of how the end of the US-USSR confrontation re-shaped (or not) foreign aid towards journalism modernisation, diversification, and independence.

Our network will initially link UK academic researchers with prominent journalism researchers and educators in two African countries and two South America countries, each of which receive UK Official Development Assistance. Each of these countries has diverse and vibrant media and civil society sectors with which our academic participants are well connected. These countries are Ghana, South Africa, Brazil, and Venezuela, but our participants are also leading experts on journalism in the broader regions around their countries and well placed to extend the network in their regions.

 Outputs

The main outputs of the research
Journal article (refereed)
Conference paper
Website
Teaching Material
Other (please specify)

If Other
a) Report
b) MOOC (further funding permitting)

 Ethical Information
Are there ethical implications arising from the proposed research?

Yes

Provide details of what they are and how they would be addressed [up to 1000 characters]

As envisioned, this research network funding will be used primarily to facilitate travel for meetings of academic network participants, meeting costs, and the time of the PI and Co-I for coordination and desk research activities. Therefore, there are no human subject research ethics issues. However, the research is also set within the ESRC Ethics Framework and will ensure that its principles are complied with in full, where applicable. University of Leeds general policies for ethical clearance of research projects may be consulted here: http://ris.leeds.ac.uk/ris/info/70/ethics
Does the institution have a policy on good conduct in research?  Yes

Details of where the policy can be accessed

Additional details: http://ris.leeds.ac.uk/homepage/2/good_practice_and_ethics

Academic Beneficiaries

Describe who will benefit from the research [up to 4000 chars].

We will engage with a variety of scholars from around the world, who will be invited to join the network and who will be offered access to the website and resources produced by the network. A variety of stakeholders in HE and FE education will benefit from this network. We have made initial contact with many such scholars and institutions and they are open to such engagement. We anticipate that many will join in one or more of the core meetings to be funded by the Research Networking Scheme.

Potential academic beneficiaries, beyond the core participants, contacted to date, whom have expressed interest, include the following media and journalism researchers with a critical historical focus (both in the donor and beneficiary countries of development assistance):

Professor [redacted], University of Sheffield, UK
Professor [redacted], Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, USA
Professor [redacted], University of Alabama, USA
Professor [redacted], University of Missouri, USA
Professor [redacted], University of Central Arkansas, USA
Professor [redacted], University of Edinburgh, UK
Dr. [redacted], University of Sheffield, UK
Professor [redacted], University of Birmingham, UK
Dr. [redacted], University of Lincoln, UK
Dr. [redacted], University of Westminster, UK

Media and journalism historians in Africa:
Dr. [redacted], Babcock University, Ibadan, Nigeria
Dr. [redacted], Kenyan Methodist University, Kenya

Media and journalism historians in Latin America:
Professor [redacted], University of Zulia, Venezuela
Professor [redacted], Universidad Javeriana de Bogota, Colombia
Professor [redacted], Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, Peru
Professor [redacted], Universidad de Montevideo, Uruguay

Media and journalism historians in other regions
Professor [redacted], University Carlos III of Madrid, Spain
Professor [redacted], George Washington University, USA
Dr. [redacted], Université libre de Bruxelles, Belgium

We will seek to include and to disseminate the research to further journalism academic networks such as:
American Journalism Historians Association, USA
Centre for the Study of Journalism and History, University of Sheffield, UK
Impact Summary

Impact Summary (please refer to the help for guidance on what to consider when completing this section) [up to 4000 chars]

There has been little critical research to date concerning how international development aid in particular and development assistance in general has impacted upon journalism (Golding, 1974), while the evaluation of development aid programmes has been carried out mainly by donor countries and NGOs, which have performed this task in instrumentalist terms. Scholarly engagement has also been limited since, until recently, research in this area was predominantly Westernised (Escobar, 2011; Curran & Park, 2000). That is, the prevalent model of Western journalism and media systems were widely accepted as part of the standard development paradigm and therefore unquestioned. Key values and core practices associated with journalism remained unchallenged in the Global South as they did largely in the Northern powers in which these originated (Chalaby, 1998; Schudson, 1981). The consequence was that alternative models and new practices within the journalism ethos remain marginalised or obstructed in developing countries.

This network will allow re-evaluation of the fundamental basis upon which current models of journalism in developing countries have been articulated. It will do this by examining the impact of development assistance and foreign aid directed towards supporting journalism practice and education. This will provide a basis from which we can reconceptualise journalism practice in developing countries while re-visiting, from a critical perspective, journalism syllabi in these regions and in models proposed by institutions such as UNESCO. The project will also bring public accountability as this network will allow citizens from donor countries, particularly the US and Western Europe, to understand better how public money has been used and continues to be used to articulate a particular model of journalism that has not always served the best interests of the beneficiary nations.

This dialogue and the outputs resulting from the project will permit a more informed civic engagement that can feed into present and future legislative debates and scrutiny around development assistance in this sector, and increase space for more independent journalistic practice and democratic participation in assistance receiving developing countries. The body of research that will emerge from the network will provide empirical evidence and analysis from which public officials, journalism educators, journalism related civil society organisations and media practitioners can draw conclusions to plan and develop different ways of performing journalism.

Finally, since we are proposing to create an inter-disciplinary research network to explore the relationship between international development assistance and local journalistic practice in Africa and Latin America, we anticipate that a variety of specific research-based and practice-based projects will spring from the collective network and the individual researchers who are involved; these would include associated research projects between media historians, media sociologists, political scientists, journalism education experts, practitioners, government officials and NGOs working with journalists and journalism training/education professionals in Africa and Latin America.
### Summary of Resources Required for Project

#### Financial resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary fund heading</th>
<th>Fund heading</th>
<th>Full economic Cost</th>
<th>AHRC contribution</th>
<th>% AHRC contribution</th>
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<td>Staff</td>
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<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Travel &amp; Subsistence</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other Costs</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sub-total</td>
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<tr>
<td>Directly Allocated</td>
<td>Investigators</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Estates Costs</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other Directly Allocated</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sub-total</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indirect Costs</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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#### Summary of staff effort requested

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<td>Investigator</td>
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<td>Researcher</td>
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<td>Technician</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<td>Visiting Researcher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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Pathways to Impact:

This network will have two main pathways towards impact. Firstly, it will allow a re-evaluation of international development policy directed towards supporting journalism practice and education in general. Secondly, it will allow the re-visiting of journalism syllabi in these regions and of models proposed by institutions such as UNESCO from a more critical perspective. These two pathways could have the ultimate impact goal of helping us reconceptualise journalism theory and practice in developing countries. By involving key senior journalism educators as the core researchers in the network from the outset, a portion of each project meeting will be dedicated to planning how to carry through the key lessons from its deliberation into journalism classrooms and professional fora. The PI and Co-I anticipate presenting the network’s findings to the Association of Journalism Education, the National Union of Journalists and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and to gatherings of international journalism educators at the 2017 International Association of Media and Communication Research conference (in Colombia) and other regional and international conferences.

Through media engagement efforts by the core researchers and diffusion of the research through academic publications, this work will increase understanding amongst citizens from donor countries, particularly the US, UK, and the rest of Western Europe, of how their taxes have been historically used and continue to be used to articulate a particular model of journalism that has not always served the interests of aid receiving nations. The research that will emerge from this network can also potentially benefit policy makers in places such as the United Kingdom and the United States of America, who can then evaluate in a more critical manner the type of effects/impact that international development aid has had (and indeed, the research will provide a firmer basis for challenge when policy makers choose not to do so). In the UK, the final report will specifically be directed to appropriate Parliamentary committees, such as the Lords Communication Committee (for which the PI has previously authored a report).

This same body of analysis and research will contribute to a critical reconsideration of journalism curricula in developing nations and allow journalism educators and practitioners to develop training and education in different ways. The project will therefore build local capacity in research and critical analysis capabilities among journalism educators and future professionals by developing an educational programme and associated materials in this area. In the first instance, the main beneficiaries of this project will be the HE institutions that offer journalism education and their students, the future journalists in these regions.

Finally, we anticipate that specific research-based and practice-based projects will spring from the network for both the collective group and for the associated individual researchers. This would involve developing associated research projects between media historians, media sociologists, political scientists, journalism education experts, practitioners, government officials and NGOs working with journalists and journalism training/education professionals in Africa and Latin America.

**How will this be achieved?** Overall, many of the outcomes of this project will be tangible and directly relevant to the stakeholders. The knowledge generated from this research is designed to be ‘useful knowledge’ (Derry, 1990; Lawler, 1985) for those involved in the education and training of journalists, practicing journalists themselves, policy makers responsible for international development assistance and the general public.

Our project includes outcomes directed to specific stakeholders, such as teaching materials and a website with supporting educational materials. Moreover, by working in partnership with universities and the news media in Latin America and Africa, the research will be creating sustainable links for collaboration and mutual support.
We plan to collate the products of the events organised by the network, in the form of a report to be made available to journalism educators, news media, government officials and other potential stakeholders. The report will compile the experiences gathered by the network and offer a guide to best educational and professional practices in light of the historical specificities that the network reveals.

Pedagogical impacts of the project will be reinforced through direct engagement with educators and training in using these resources effectively. If subsequent funding permits, we expect to develop a massive open online course (MOOC), using the network participants. This MOOC will be made available and promoted among universities around the world that teach journalism as a core or optional part of their syllabus. This MOOC would be prepared by the PI and Co-I with the support of the Digital Learning Team at the University of Leeds, which works in partnership with FutureLearn, one of the biggest distributors of MOOCs in the world.

The network researchers will engage non-academic media by offering summaries of the project or parts of the project in media outlets such as newspapers and specialised magazines and offer interviews to local and national broadcasters where possible. This has already been done by the Co-I in relation to similar studies (Flanagan, 2015).

The PI or Co-I will share overall responsibilities in terms of undertaking the impact activities, which include the dissemination of the results and materials generated from the research network.
Case for Support

Highlight Notice: International Development in the Research Networking Scheme

Development assistance and independent journalism in Africa and Latin America: A cross-national and multidisciplinary research network.

PI: [Redacted], Co-I: [Redacted]

(both University of Leeds, School of Media and Communication)

Introduction: This project proposes an international and inter-disciplinary research network to explore the relationship between international development aid and local journalistic practice and training in Africa and Latin America. The network will allow researchers to examine the global power relations and geo-politics of foreign aid that since the end of the Second World War was substantially directed at disseminating a specific model of journalism practice and education aligned with the interests of donor nations. It will therefore consider the extent to which the diffusion of a US/UK based model of journalism practice has been central to the ‘modernisation’ project in international development. This network project is linked to journalism practice, journalism education, and critical journalism studies in the context of the impact that foreign aid/development assistance has had in these regions and how this has affected the ability of these developing regions to foster a critical and independent media sector.

Given massive contemporary change in the global news media landscape, especially in regard to journalistic practice and the limited potential for genuinely independent ‘watchdog’ journalism, researchers and practitioners need to critically re-assess the relationship between external influences on journalism and local cultures and practices of journalism. This contribution to a deliberative assessment of the nature of public discourse in developing regions has the potential to open the public sphere to a greater variety of voices and aid the project of democratization.

In this context, the critical scholarly approaches more commonly associated with arts and humanities research than with the more typically social scientific approaches to the analysis of journalism are particularly valuable. We propose to bring together a network of researchers who can provide critique grounded in critical political economy and postcolonial studies approaches to the historical and present contribution to the local journalism sector of international development aid in Latin America and Africa. The network will foster discussion and research concerning the use of international development aid and, broadly, structures of post-colonial dependency (Easterly 2006), to promote or inhibit specific models of journalism.

We start from the assumption that the dissemination of the US/UK paradigm of journalism was central to international aid efforts since the late 1940s and has become the default model that aid programmes tend to foster and support. Such models have been problematized by the geo-politics of the Cold War and more recently by corporative agendas. Moreover, these models have not come into existence without their own contradictions, given the support that the US and other Western countries gave to dictatorships in developing countries in the context of Cold War efforts to contain the advance of the Soviet Union (this is particularly true of Latin America and Africa, the continental foci of this network). A further interest, therefore, is the question of how the end of the US-USSR confrontation re-shaped (or not) foreign aid towards journalism modernisation, diversification, and independence.
This is why we have designed the network to be multidisciplinary. By including media historians, media sociologists, political scientists, journalism education experts, journalists, government officials and NGOs working with journalists and journalism training/education professionals in Africa and Latin America, we will build a far-ranging research agenda enabling a variety of localised and comparative analyses of the relationship between aid and journalism.

Our network will initially link the primary UK academic researchers with prominent journalism researchers and educators in two African countries and two South America countries, each of which receive UK Official Development Assistance (as required by the funding terms). Each of these countries has diverse and vibrant media and civil society sectors with which our academic participants are well connected. These countries are Ghana, South Africa, Brazil, and Venezuela, but our participants are also leading experts on journalism in the broader regions around their countries and well placed to extend the network in their regions. The key international partners for the project are Professor [Name], University of Capetown, South Africa; Professor [Name], University of Ghana (Accra); Dr [Name], Universidade Católica de Brasilia, Brazil; and Dr [Name], Universidad Católica Andrés Bello, Caracas, Venezuela. These key partners will be funded to attend or coordinate network meetings and will share in information gathering, network building, and dissemination/publication activities.

Background: Since the end of the Second World War, the West engaged in far-ranging propaganda efforts to contain the advance of communism under the Soviet model. These included supporting the modernisation of journalism institutions, news media outlets and journalism practices across different countries in the Global South. Millions of US dollars were invested during the Cold War to ensure that developing countries adopted the US model of free press (Buono, 2010; Golding, 1974; Bernstein, 1977; Saunders, 2000), and US government agencies actively lobbied in many countries to influence the nature of media and journalism regulation (Paterson, 1994).

This model was closely linked to the 'free flow' of information paradigm, and was central to UNESCO based debates about the role of journalism globally. The model broadly proposed free speech and objectivity as the cornerstone of good practice in journalism, while substantially neglecting the influence of the commercial priorities of media owners, the potential harms of libertarian approaches to media, and the possibility of more useful models of journalism in non-Western contexts. This was a pivotal approach that, with some variation, continues into recent decades despite the end of the Cold War (Comor, 1997; Golding and Elliot, 1979). Its endurance can be observed explicitly in the latest UNESCO proposal for a universal syllabus for journalism schools across the world (UNESCO, 2013) and by the persistent use of certain terminology and approaches by journalism practitioners and educators.

Little has been documented about the role, influence and impact of international development assistance upon the modernisation of journalistic institutions and practices in developing countries. Some works have already pointed out the use of international development assistance from USAID, FCO and other Western government institutions to support and influence news media outlets, the education of journalists and even the setting of news provision. Moreover, works such as Making Art Panamerican: Cultural Policy and the Cold War by Claire Fox, and The Cultural Cold War: The CIA and the World of Arts and Letters and Who Paid the Piper?: CIA and the Cultural Cold War, both by Frances Stonor Saunders, have concentrated on the broader issue of CIA interventions in national cultural
policies around the world. While this trend is related to our interests, we seek to foster discussion and research concerning the use of international development aid to promote a specific model of journalism which favours the interests of donor nations and to assess to what degree this has been achieved.

The research question that the network will explore is:

What has been the role of international development assistance in shaping journalistic approaches and practices in Africa and Latin America and what are the consequences?

Subsidiary research questions include:

- What is the existing body of research concerning this issue?
- What has been the role of development assistance in shaping journalism education in Africa and Latin America?
- To what extent has international development assistance fostered or inhibited independent journalism in Africa and Latin America?
- What are the similarities and differences in the direct and indirect impacts of development assistance of journalism from the US, UK and other donors?
- What are the continuities and discontinuities concerning the impact of development assistance on journalism practice and education in the post-Cold War era?
- How has international development assistance either directly or indirectly affecting journalism been perceived by journalists, politicians and the general public in the beneficiary countries?
- What interventions could be developed to counter any negative consequences of these traditions?

Research plan

The network project encompasses the following research stages:

1. The network will create a multidisciplinary research space that will bring together researchers who have been working in this area but whose work has not previously been linked. This space will be physical, in the form of three core meetings; and virtual, in the form of an online forum.

2. The network will promote this research among scholars who have the potential and capabilities to engage in this area. Over the two year project time frame the network will expand to embrace additional countries and regions beyond the UK and the four developing countries involved from the outset.

3. We will develop a virtual platform in which the members of the network can meet, collaborate and develop individual and group projects concerning the issues presented here. This website will be a one-stop virtual space where researchers can collaborate with each other and find online resources for their research.
4. The network will produce teaching materials so some of the outcomes of this research can be articulated within syllabi and programmes within journalism and media education in both aid receiving nations and in donor nations. We foresee this effort will include a MOOC (*massive open online course*) if subsequent funding permits. There is ample internal support and expertise at Leeds University to facilitate this. Examples of previous MOOCs developed by scholars at the University of Leeds with the support of the Digital Learning Team can be seen at: https://www.futurelearn.com/partners/university-of-leeds

5. The network will seek to produce specific outcomes in terms of journal articles. These may include, after peer review, a special edition of the *Journal of Applied Journalism and Media Studies*, which has agreed in principle to this.

**Technical Summary**

While the primary outputs of the network will be a written report and planned academic publications, digital outputs in the form of a website will form an important – if not essential – part of maximising the impact to the project. We have costed the development of a website using Wordpress. We anticipate using the cloud-based project management tool Basecamp as a project management site, and then publishing via Wordpress. This can be done at minimal cost and with minimal difficulty because the PI/Co-I’s host faculty at the University of Leeds subscribes to the Basecamp tool and has experience of using it for similar projects. Upon commencement of the project, the Leeds team will seek support from the University of Leeds and other key stakeholders in the network for long term website support to ensure the resources developed continue to be accessible and useful well after the project completion date.
Justification of Resources

There will be three core meetings as the main network activities; two of these will be attached to international conferences in order to maximise their impact. Following an initial project meeting in Leeds, UK, the two subsequent meetings will take place in South America and Africa. Most of the funding is requested to facilitate these meetings and the workshops associated with them; some further funding is intended for administrative support, such as promotional mailing and communication costs, secretarial support for note taking and recording at meetings and production of meeting summaries. Funding is also requested for the PI and Co-I’s time, primarily for Leeds based administration of the project and desk research.

On Staff: Both the PI, Dr [Name], and the Co-I, Dr [Name], are specialists in the major fields central to this research project. Both have researched extensively in the areas of journalism, development and international communication. The time they have both assigned to the project is sufficient to commit to the overall coordination and supervision of the network project, while performing the rest of their academic activities.

The key international partners for the project are Professor [Name], University of Capetown, South Africa; Professor [Name], University of Ghana (Accra); Dr [Name], Universidade Católica de Brasilia, Brazil; and Dr [Name], Universidad Católica Andrés Bello, Caracas, Venezuela. These key partners will be funded to attend or coordinate network meetings and will share in information gathering, network building, and dissemination/publication activities. The existing partnership between the University of Leeds and University of Capetown through the World University Network (http://www.wun.ac.uk) provides a potential source of follow-on funding since it specifically supports research collaborations involving staff of member universities.

Travel and Subsistence: Travels and subsistence costs are essential in order to allow face-to-face meetings among the core members of the network. We anticipate three main meetings as the core funded activities of the network, with at least two of these occurring in conjunction with international conferences.

1) Meeting one:
One day network participant meeting and expert seminar, Leeds, School of Media and Communication.

This will be held in conjunction with the MeCCSA (Media, Communication and Cultural Studies Association) conference, hosted by University of Leeds School of Media and Communication, January, 2017; in addition to the initial meeting of participants, we will propose an associated panel at the conference to allow an initial public discussion amongst experts of the issues of concern to the project.

2) Meeting two:
Half day pre-conference and network participant meeting in conjunction with the IAMCR (International Association for Media and Communication Research) annual conference, expected to be held in Cartagena, Columbia, June/July 2017.

3) Meeting three:
One day network participant meeting and expert seminar, University of Capetown (or possibly Accra, Ghana), between November 2017 and January 2018.
Other Directly Incurred Costs: Limited funding is required for administrative support, such as promotional mailing and communication costs. This also includes secretarial support to take notes of the meetings and produce a summary.