

ESRC LISS DTP CASE STUDENTSHIP

2018-19 Case for Support Research Proposals

Please complete this form and email to liss-dtp@kcl.ac.uk by the deadline of 17:00 GMT, 19 November 2017. Please read in conjunction with guidance to be provided on the LISS DTP website- www.liss-dtp.ac.uk/studentships



Principal applicant	
Name (Lead supervisor):	Professor Adrian Smith
Email:	a.m.smith@qmul.ac.uk
Department/Research Division:	School of Geography and Centre on Labour and Global Production
Institution:	Queen Mary University of London

Project details	
Most relevant LISS DTP Pathway to associate with the project. See the full list here: www.liss-dtp.ac.uk/thematic-pathways	International Development, Conflict and Human Security
Project Title:	Circuits of Global Labour Governance: Public Procurement and Labour Standards in the Global Electronics Industry
Proposed partner:	Electronics Watch
Proposed partner address & website URL:	Sarphatistraat 30, 1018 GL Amsterdam, Netherlands http://electronicswatch.org/en
In which sector is the partner? (delete as appropriate)	Third
Do you envisage this project as being best suited to a 1+3 (Masters + PhD) or +3 (PhD only) award? (delete as appropriate)	Both +3 and 1+3 are appropriate for this project dependent on the experience and training of the selected application. The appropriate Masters programme for 1+3 route would be MRes Global Development Futures.

Description
<p>(a) Non-technical summary: please provide a summary of the project in non-technical language. The summary might be used by KCL/QMUL/Imperial to publicise the research (<i>maximum of 200 words</i>)</p>
<p>The globalisation of supply chains has created a governance deficit concerning working conditions in the world economy. Private-sector initiatives (corporate social responsibility and codes of conduct) face limits to improving labour standards. Yet, little attention has been paid to public sector attempts to regulate working conditions in global supply chains. An EU Directive on Public Procurement, however, allows state organisations to include clauses on labour standards in procurement contracts. In this context, this project will examine socially responsible public procurement of electronics hardware - an industry mired by serious labour violations – and focuses on the state as a regulator <i>and</i> buyer. The research will be carried out with Electronics Watch, a non-profit, non-governmental initiative which organises public sector buyers, provides tools to create effective market demand for decent working conditions (e.g. contract clauses), and monitors working conditions to ensure compliance in factories. The project will examine: how the EU Directive is being implemented by public-sector buyers in the United Kingdom; how the governance framework impacts lead firm and supplier relationships in the sector; and the experience of public procurement regulation as an emergent new relationship between the state, public sector governance and labour conditions in globalised production networks.</p>

(b) Project description: please attach a full description of the proposed project, outlining its aims, proposed methodology, timescales and plans for dissemination and knowledge exchange, both between the project and external partner and with wider audiences (maximum 2 sides of A4, 11pt Times New Roman, excluding references).

(c) Developmental/training opportunities: please provide details below of how the involvement of the partner institution will add value to the student's training, and how these additional development opportunities will be structured. This contribution could involve funding or in-kind contributions including: relevant research resources (equipment use, research accommodation and office space, expertise and skills, access to data sets and research participants), training provision, end user contacts and facilitation of research dissemination (*maximum of 400 words*)

Electronics Watch was established in 2015 to organise public sector buyers and give them the essential tools to create effective market demand for decent working conditions in their electronics hardware supply chains through the provision of contract clauses, and the provision of intelligence about working conditions through monitoring efforts in factories. Currently, there are 28 individual public sector affiliates to Electronics Watch ranging from public universities, public sector trade unions, and local municipalities across eight EU member countries, and 59 institutions affiliated through their consortia. Through its work, Electronics Watch has conducted research in seven countries, engaged nine lead firms to improve conditions in factories, and impacted conditions in factories that together employ more than 100,000 workers. Electronics Watch produces both regional risk assessments to address risks to workers in specific countries or electronics production regions and factory compliance investigations to address breaches of labour rights and safety standards in particular factories. This set of knowledge by Electronics Watch and its engagements with and connections to public sector officials, firms, trade unions, workers, and nongovernmental organisations will provide the student with a wide range of research resources to gain access to research informants and to conduct the research project. Specifically, collaboration with Electronics Watch will enable the student access to:

- 1) an extensive network of respondents from public procurement agencies, lead firms (and through them to supplier firms as possible), and monitoring organisations in production locations for interviews.
- 2) data sets that include procurement clauses used by public sector buyers and their formal and informal activities vis-à-vis lead firms and contractors, lead firm and supplier responses and activities to social contract clauses, and audit/monitoring data of worker conditions in factories.
- 3) knowledge exchange with Electronics Watch members of staff and advisory board members, which include academic researchers, trade unions, and nongovernmental organisations.

Co-supervision with the Director of Electronics Watch will enable the student to develop a deep understanding of the sector and working conditions operating within it. Dissemination activities include a collaborative output with Electronics Watch through a report on the impact of socially responsible public procurement in the electronics industry on working conditions in the global supply chain. This report will be presented by the student at a conference held by Electronics Watch and made publicly available thereafter through its website and targeted mailings to its wider network. Björn Claeson, Director of Electronics Watch, will provide supervisory input throughout the PhD.

Advanced Quantitative Methods Training

Will the proposed research use quantitative methods that are regarded as advanced within your subject specialism? (Delete as appropriate) AQM research goes beyond applying descriptive statistics and other basic generic (eg simple regression) and subject specific methods. The expectation for an AQM award is that the analysis will use quantitative methods that extend beyond the standard elements of quantitative research. For illustration, AQM may be expected to include any of the following even though this is not an exhaustive list: • multi-variate analysis using advanced regression techniques including for example tobit, multinomial, proportional hazards regression, Heckman selection models etc • multi-leveiling modelling (equivalent to a random effects panel model) • latent variable models, latent trait analysis • structural equation modelling, path analysis • factor analysis, components analysis • longitudinal or panel analysis, including fixed effects and random effects panel models, event history, duration modelling, survival analysis/hazard modelling

NO

(proportional hazards models) • statistical techniques including for example weighting, imputation, complex sampling, bootstrapping, Bayesian MCMC estimation • identification strategies for causal effects such as instrumental variable approaches, propensity score matching, regression discontinuity • experimental approaches • calibration and modelling techniques to do counterfactual analysis and test structural models. • Vector Autoregressive Modelling. • Simulation • Item Response Theory • Meta-analysis • Markov switching models • smooth transition autoregressive (STAR) and threshold autoregressive (TAR) models • DSGE models	
If yes, please identify the methods and their contribution to your project (<i>max 100 words</i>)	

Linguistic proficiency	
Will the proposed research require the student to be proficient in a foreign language? (<i>Delete as appropriate</i>)	NO
If yes, please outline your competency in this language, and identify any training needs (<i>max 100 words</i>)	

Overseas Fieldwork	
Will the proposed research likely involve the student undertaking international travel for fieldwork? (<i>Delete as appropriate</i>)	YES
If yes, please outline where you will likely undertake fieldwork and for how long. We understand at this point this may be only indicative. (<i>max 200 words</i>)	Fieldwork research will take place in Malaysia during the second year of the PhD, which is tentatively scheduled for August to November 2019. The fieldwork component of the research is to assess how public sector demands for specific labour standards travel down to and are implement by suppliers in factories and experienced by workers in a production location. Malaysia is a key production location in the electronics industry and is one of the countries in which public procurement contract clauses for labour standards through a public sector affiliate member of Electronics Watch, is applied. Malaysia is also a location in which one of the co-supervisors, Raj-Reichert, has conducted extensive research and whose contacts and prior research findings will assist the student with access to various organisations.

Interdisciplinarity	
Will the proposed research involve an interdisciplinary approach? (<i>Delete as appropriate</i>) This can be interpreted as the use of more than one discipline across broad categories of knowledge such as:	YES

natural and social sciences, engineering/physical sciences and social science, medical and social sciences, arts & humanities and social sciences, computing science and social sciences etc.	
If yes, how? (<i>max 200 words</i>)	The PhD student will be a member of the inter-disciplinary research centre at QMUL on Labour and Global Production, which Smith is a founder and co-director of and Raj-Reichert is a member. This research will engage with legal scholarship in order to understand and interpret the 2014 EU Directive on Public Procurement, which sets out the possibility for state organisations to include in their procurement contracts clauses on social and labour standards, a mapping of how it translates into national and local laws by a member state, in this case the United Kingdom, will be required. The research will also engage with business to understand how business imperatives of commercial requirements that lead to price reductions to outsourced suppliers and the pursuit of profit interact with corporate social responsibility requirements. This approach builds on the inter-disciplinary research experience of both supervisors; Smith recently as PI on a major ESRC-funded project on labour provisions in EU trade agreements involving work with legal and political science scholars, and Raj-Reichert as part of an inter-disciplinary development studies unit where she conducted her PhD and a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship on labour governance in the electronics industry global production network.

Partner(s) details	
Key contact person at partner organisation:	Björn Claeson, bclaeson@electronicswatch.org
Partner supervisor(s):	<i>Please include name, address (if different from above) and email</i>
Details of collaboration: please provide details of any existing collaboration between the principal applicant, proposed supervisor and/or department and the proposed partner(s) to date, and describe how this studentship will further enhance the collaborative relationship(s) (<i>maximum of 400 words</i>)	
<p>Professor Adrian Smith and Dr Gale Raj-Reichert are members of the Electronics Watch advisory board. Dr Raj-Reichert has participated as a speaker in various Electronics Watch events. In 2017, Dr Raj-Reichert is co-organising the annual Electronics Watch conference which will be hosted by the School of Geography at Queen Mary University of London. The studentship will further enhance the collaborative relationship through research, analysis, and policy relevant outputs. The studentship will be the first PhD research project undertaken by Electronics Watch. The project will enable the deepening of collaborative research links between Electronics Watch, economic geographers at QMUL, and the inter-disciplinary Centre on Labour and Global Production. It will also enable the further co-ordination of research impact work undertaken in the School of Geography on public regulation of working conditions, such as that relating to EU trade policy labour provisions undertaken by Professor Smith as part of a current ESRC-funded research project. This collaboration will also build a foundation for future research activities, which includes collaborating with Electronics Watch as an impact partner, on a major research project funded by the ESRC to be led by Dr Raj-Reichert.</p>	
Annual financial contribution from the non-academic partner:	
Financial and/or in-kind support to LISS DTP (<i>max. possible is 50% of studentship value, which would equal approx. £10,500 p/a, but smaller contributions are welcomed. This contribution supports the wider research environment for the student. As each case will be unique, supervisors should evaluate the need for financial contribution on a case-by-case basis.</i>)	In-kind support of ca £6000 p/a which arises from half of the staff costs provided by Electronics Watch for contributing to meetings and supervision.
Funding and/or in-kind support to the student (<i>this contribution, which is strongly encouraged, is in recognition of the extra responsibilities associated with collaborative studentships, and increases the student's stipend. Basic London studentship stipends are now set at £16,553 p/a.</i>)	In-kind support: £10,000 p/a: - £6000 (half of the Electronics Watch staff costs for contributing to meetings and supervision)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - £1000 (half of the costs for support staff at Electronics Watch workshops and conferences) - £3000 (access to Electronics Watch database and archival collections)
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Any additional contributions: e.g. travel and subsistence expenses anticipated to support the student/supervisors travelling between their institution and the partner organisation(s); or other materials and facilities to be made available to the student.

PLEASE ATTACH A SIGNED LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM THE PARTNER ORGANISATION(S), including appropriate details of the ways in which they anticipate realising mutual benefit as partners in this collaboration as CONFIRMATION OF COMMITMENT TO THIS PROJECT.

Academic supervisor(s)

Name (and department and institution) of first academic supervisor:	Professor Adrian Smith School of Geography and Centre on Labour and Global Production, Queen Mary University of London
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Please provide details of the position held, PhD supervisory experience, total number of students currently supervising, details of relevant research expertise, including the last three relevant publications (maximum of 200 words)

Adrian Smith is Professor of Human Geography in the School of Geography, Queen Mary University of London and is a founding member of the Centre on Labour and Global Production, an inter-disciplinary research centre. He is an international expert on global labour governance, global value chains and trade policy, having conducted research across Europe and in North Africa, and is currently leading a major ESRC research project on this theme. He is currently supervising one ESRC DTC collaborative studentship holder (with the International Transport Workers' Federation and the School of Business and Management at QMUL), and has supervised 8 PhD students to successful completion. Relevant recent publications include:

Smith, A. (2015) 'The state, institutional frameworks and the dynamics of capital in global production networks', *Progress in Human Geography*, 39 (3): 290-315.

Campling, L., Harrison, J., Richardson, B. and Smith, A. (2016) "Can labour provisions work beyond the border? Evaluating the effects of EU trade agreements", *International Labour Review*, 155 (3): 357-382.

Smith, A., Barbu, M., Campling, L., Harrison, J. and Richardson, B. (2017) "Labour regimes, global production networks and European Union trade policy: international labour standards and export production in the Moldovan clothing industry", *Economic Geography*, accepted for publication.

Name (and department and institution) of second academic supervisor:	Dr. Gale Raj-Reichert School of Geography and Centre on Labour and Global Production, Queen Mary University of London
Please provide details of the position held, PhD supervisory experience, total number of students currently supervising, details of relevant research expertise, including the last three relevant publications (maximum of 200 words)	
<p>Gale Raj-Reichert is Lecturer in Economic Geography at the School of Geography, Queen Mary University of London. She began her post in January 2017 and hence has not yet had a PhD student to supervise. She has researched labour governance in the electronics industry global production network since 2006. Her research focus includes production locations of Malaysia, China, and Vietnam, and has also conducted research in North America and Western Europe. She completed a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship on ‘Understanding power relations to improve labour governance in the global production network of the computer industry’ in 2016. She is currently completing a manuscript from her postdoctoral research to be published by Oxford University Press, ‘Improving labour conditions in the global electronics industry: an exploration of governance in a global production network’. Relevant publications include:</p> <p>Raj-Reichert, G (2015) ‘Exercising power over labour governance in the electronics industry’, <i>Geoforum</i>, Vol. 67: 89-92.</p> <p>Nadvi, K, and Raj-Reichert, G (2015) ‘Governing health and safety at lower tiers of the computer industry global value chain’, <i>Regulation & Governance</i>, Vol. 9, no. 3: 243-258.</p> <p>Raj-Reichert, G (2013) ‘Safeguarding labour in relocated factories: Health and safety governance in an electronics global production network’, <i>Geoforum</i>, Vol. 44: 23-31.</p>	

Recruitment of student
<p>Where a student has already been identified, please</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explain the suitability of the candidate (maximum of 200 words), and • indicate research training courses (available through LISS DTP, use LISS DTP handbook as guide, or at one of the LISS DTP partner institutions) that will be relevant to the development of his/her study (maximum of 200 words) <p>In addition,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • please <u>attach</u> the candidate’s CV, which should include details of his/her educational background (including degree classifications & any prior research methods training) and all relevant experience (maximum 2 sides of A4, Times New Roman 11pt)
Empty space for student identification details

Where a student has not already been identified, please give an indication of the recruitment and selection strategy to be used (maximum of 200 words)




An advertisement will be prepared with a link to full information about the studentship and person specifications, and will be circulated to LISS-DTP, QMUL and Electronics Watch networks, posted on websites, and promoted via social media. This information will also be sent to the email lists of the Centre on Labour and Global Production at QMUL. In addition to the academic qualifications required by the LISS-DTP, essential criteria for applicants will also include: knowledge of at least one of the following research areas: economic geography; international development; global supply chains; labour governance; the electronics industry; experience of undertaking qualitative research, ideally with public and private sector agencies; ability to collaborate with Electronics Watch to undertake research and to develop public engagement activities; willingness to take a full part in the LISS-DTP and QMUL postgraduate communities. The interview panel will consist of Adrian Smith and Gale Raj-Reichert (QMUL supervisors) and Bjorn Claesen (Electronics Watch) and will be chaired by the Director of Graduate Studies (human geography) at QMUL.

Confirmation of Ethical Approval / Intellectual Property Rights

Ethical Approval: The ESRC requires that the research and training it supports will be carried out to a high ethical standard as described in its Framework for Research Ethics (FRE). If successful, the project will have to be submitted to a relevant institutional Research Ethics Committee (King's College London, Queen Mary University of London, Imperial College and/or NHS NRES). It is a requirement that the project receives full and formal ethical approval. By submitting this application you agree to meet this requirement if successful.

Intellectual Property Rights (IPR): If successful, full provision for agreement between parties on intellectual property rights (IPR) issues must be specified. It is a requirement that IPR issues are clarified and that a formal agreement is signed by all parties before the start of the studentship. By submitting this application you agree to meet this requirement if successful.

Signatures

Principal applicant:	
Head of Department (or equivalent):	
Partner organisation(s) contact:	

**Please email completed applications to liss-dtp@kcl.ac.uk
Include electronic signatures in the form OR provide an electronic scan (.pdf)
of the signed paper application
Deadline: 17:00, 19 November 2017**

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Circuits of Global Labour Governance: Public Procurement and Labour Standards in the Global Electronics Industry

Global Context

The globalisation of supply chains has created a fundamental governance deficit in the world economy. Firms are able to out-source and off-shore production operations while mechanisms to regulate working conditions in supply chains, particularly in developing countries, have been less of a priority. Significant concerns over working conditions in global supply chains has over the last 20 years contributed to a growth in private-sector led governance mechanisms involving corporate social responsibility, codes of conduct and ethical trade. Research has identified limitations of these private sector initiatives to bring about sustainable improvements (Locke 2013; Anner *et al* 2013).

Much less attention has been paid to regulating working conditions in global supply chains via the state and forms of public governance. Indeed, the state is an important regulator *and* buyer in global supply chains (Smith 2015; Campling *et al* 2016). In the European Union (EU) approximately 16% of GDP is generated via public procurement in which the state sources goods ranging from computing, to workwear, to medical instruments from lead firms which control global supply chains (DG Trade 2017). The 2014 EU Directive on Public Procurement creates the possibility for state organisations to include in their procurement contracts clauses on social and labour standards. This has opened up a new public governance avenue for EU member states to regulate working conditions in production locations near and far in global supply chains.

Project Aim

This PhD research project aims to examine the development and implementation of this new form of public governance of labour conditions in the global economy, in collaboration with a leading non-governmental organisation seeking to enhance labour rights in the world economy. It takes as its focus the electronics sector, which has faced significant challenges to working conditions in recent years, ranging from worker suicides to forced labour. The electronics sector is also a major supplier of computing hardware to the EU public sector. For example, Hewlett-Packard (HP) was the largest recipient of United Kingdom government contracts having received more than £1.7b in public sector spending in 2012 and 2013 (Rutter and Gil 2014). Like most electronics brands, HP acts as a lead firm co-ordinating a network of global component suppliers, producing a complex supply network which is often difficult to govern (Raj-Reichert 2011). Since 2013, Electronics Watch (the external collaborative partner for this project) has organised public sector buyers in the EU to create effective market demand for decent working conditions in electronics supply chains through Contract Clauses on labour rights and safety standards in factories and the monitoring of working conditions. The PhD will focus on this governance project.

Research Questions

The project will examine the following research questions and sub questions:

RQ1. How is the new EU Directive on public procurement being implemented in global supply chains in the electronics sector by public-sector buyers?

- a. How does the transposition of the EU Directive on Public Procurement into the legal framework of national and local laws provide a resource for public-sector buyers to pressure lead firms to comply with labour standards provisions?
- b. Are public-sector buyers deploying both formal (i.e. contractual) and informal (i.e. more 'promotional') mechanisms to try to ensure compliance, and how and why are these being developed?

This set of questions are focused on the state and its development of a regulatory framework for labour clauses in public procurement contracts. It will examine the activities and rationales of public-sector buyers, examining the mechanisms they use to ensure compliance by lead firms. It will involve understanding how the state evolves in its role to become a hybrid actor as regulator-buyer and in what ways this new role shapes their relationship with the electronics sector.

RQ2. How does this governance framework impact on supplier factories in the electronics global supply chain?

- a. What effects are the formal and informal mechanisms to ensure compliance in the electronics supply chain having on lead-firms and their suppliers? Which mechanisms are more effective?
- b. How do the different pressures within brand firms, between commercial requirements to reduce contract prices for increased profitability and corporate social responsibility requirements, affect their relationships with suppliers concerning improvements to labour standards in factories?
- c. Are supplier firms experiencing the implementation of the compliance mechanisms in ways that improve working conditions in their factories?

This part of the research builds on the first question and examines whether and how pressures from public sector buyers reach down via lead firms to supplier factories in the global supply chain. Researching lead firms and suppliers is critical for understanding how top-down governance mechanisms are received and implemented on the ground, and whether power relationships between firms change to allow for improvements in working conditions.

RQ3. Conceptually, what does the experience of public procurement regulation tell us about the emergence of a new relationship between the state, public sector governance and labour conditions in a world economy dominated by the globalisation of production across national borders?

The research will contribute to conceptual and theoretical debates over public governance and power relations in global supply chains and labour governance. The innovative feature of this PhD project will be to combine understandings of private and public governance to develop conceptualisations of the dynamics and interests of these different groups of actors in global supply chains.

Methodology

For RQ1, the focus will be on one or more public procurement agencies in the United Kingdom (UK) (a university purchasing consortium, a public-sector union, or a transport authority). A mapping of the legal framework for labour standards in public procurement, the UK Public Contracts Regulations 2015, and its implementation in the contracts will be conducted. This will entail desk based research and key informant interviews with state officials in procurement, at national and local levels.

For RQ2, key informant interviews will be conducted with one of the top three electronic brand firms (which has been working with Electronics Watch) at its headquarter location and with two to three of the brand firm’s major suppliers in Malaysia, a major location for supplier firms. Interviews will also be conducted with local monitoring organisations, trade unions, and workers in Malaysia. Secondary data from audit and monitoring reports by Electronics Watch will be analysed to provide contextual data.

Timescales (to be extended by 12 months if 1+3 student is recruited)

9/2018 – 6/2019	PhD commences. Background research and fieldwork preparation. Preparation of PhD progression documentation and exam.
7/2019 – 11/2019	Fieldwork in the UK (1 month) and Malaysia (4 months)
12/2019 – 11/2020	Analysis and regular supervision of chapter writing. Further interviews where necessary to fill gaps.
12/2020 – 8/2021	Write-up of dissertation and report for Electronics Watch

Plans for Dissemination and Knowledge Exchange

- a. Public policy dissemination: One written report to be presented at the Electronics Watch international conference in 2021 and to be made publically available. Briefing of public sector procurement officers and parliamentary interest groups.
- b. Research community dissemination: At least one paper presented at the annual conference of the Association of American Geographers in April 2021 in the United States and Royal Geographical Society/IBG conference in August 2021 in London. Paper will be submitted for journal publication.

References

- Anner M., Bair J. and Blasi J. (2013) Towards joint liability in global supply chains, *Journal of Comparative Labor Review and Policy*, 35 (1): 1-43.
- Campling, L., Harrison, J., Richardson, B. and Smith, A. (2016) “Can labour provisions work beyond the border? Evaluating the effects of EU trade agreements”, *International Labour Review*, 155 (3): 357-382.
- Directorate-General Trade (2017) Public Procurement. European Commission: Brussels. Available at: http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/accessing-markets/public-procurement/index_en.htm. Last accessed 10.11.17.
- Locke R.M. (2013) *The Promise and Limits of Private Power*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Raj-Reichert, G (2011) ‘The Electronic Industry Code of Conduct: Private governance in a competitive and contested global production network’, *Competition & Change*, Vol. 15, no.3: 221-238.
- Rutter, T., and Gil, N. (2014) Which private companies get the most UK government money?, *The Guardian*, 26 June 2014. Available at <https://www.theguardian.com/public-leaders-network/2014/jun/26/top-20-suppliers-central-local-government-data> [accessed 22 November 2016].
- Smith, A. (2015) ‘The state, institutional frameworks and the dynamics of capital in global production networks’, *Progress in Human Geography*, 39 (3): 290-315.

November 17, 2017

To whom it may concern:

Electronics Watch is an independent monitoring organisation that assists public sector buyers to meet their responsibility to protect the labour rights of workers in their global electronics supply chains more effectively and less expensively than any single public sector buyer could accomplish on its own. It was established in 2015 to organise public sector buyers and give them the essential tools to create effective market demand for decent working conditions in their electronics hardware supply chains through the provision of contract clauses, and the provision of intelligence about working conditions through monitoring efforts in factories.

The organisation is very excited to collaborate with Professor Adrian Smith and Dr Gale Raj-Reichert at the School of Geography, Queen Mary University of London on the ESRC LISS DTP CASE PhD studentship on the project 'Circuits of Global Labour Governance: Public Procurement and Labour Standards in the Global Electronics Industry'.

As the partner organisation for this project, we commit to providing the following resources and contributions to the PhD student and overall research project:

- 1) an extensive network of respondents from public procurement agencies, lead firms (and through them to supplier firms as possible), and monitoring organisations in production locations for interviews.
- 2) data sets that include procurement clauses used by public sector buyers and their formal and informal activities vis-à-vis lead firms and contractors, lead firm and supplier responses and activities to social contract clauses, and audit/monitoring data of worker conditions in factories.
- 3) knowledge exchange with Electronics Watch members, staff and advisory board members, which include academic researchers, trade unions, and nongovernmental organisations.

As the Director of Electronics Watch, I will co-supervise the PhD student along with Professor Smith and Dr Raj-Reichert. Electronics Watch will also collaborate on a report by the PhD student which will be presented at an Electronics Watch conference and made publicly available through our website and targeted mailing lists.

I look forward to this collaboration and furthering our relationship with Queen Mary University of London. I also look forward to the start of the project and its contributions to help further our mission to protect labour rights of workers in the global electronics industry.

Best wishes,



Björn Skorpen Claeson