

# LAUNCH

## POLITICAL ECONOMY OF EDUCATION RESEARCH NETWORK - AFRICA HUB

Tuesday 2 March 2021 | 12.30 pm - 2.30 pm CAT

**POLITICAL ECONOMY OF  
EDUCATION RESEARCH (PEER)  
NETWORK AFRICA HUB  
LAUNCH  
TUESDAY 2 MARCH 2021,  
12.30 p.m. – 2.30 p.m. CAT**

We have pleasure in inviting you and your colleagues to the launch of the Political Economy of Education Research (PEER) Network Africa Hub on Tuesday 2 March 2021, at 12.30 p.m. Central African Time.

The launch will introduce the Political Economy of Education Research (PEER) Network, and will provide details for expressions of interest for the development of research proposals for projects (up to £30,000 per project) from research teams based in conflict affected contexts in AFRICA.

These research projects hope to facilitate locally owned knowledge bases and support a new generation of researchers to undertake Political Economy Analysis of

education systems in their own contexts. Short-listed applicants will be invited to specially convened regional workshops where they will be given support to develop their Expressions of Interest into full proposals.

### THE PEER NETWORK

The PEER Network is a three-year initiative led by four universities (Ulster, Cape Town, Nazarbayev and Sussex) aimed at improving the quality of Political Economy Analysis of Education in partnership with academics, policymakers, and practitioners in conflict-affected countries.

### THE CORE OBJECTIVES OF THE PEER NETWORK AFRICA HUB

The core objective of the PEER Network Africa Hub is to develop a critical and locally grounded approach to Political Economy Analysis (PEA) of education that will help national, regional, and global level policymakers and practitioners across Africa make socially just decisions

about investments in education that benefit children in contexts of conflict and crisis. The PEER Network will seek to democratise and redress the North/South imbalances in the current knowledge base and practices of Political Economy Analysis.

### GENERATING RESEARCH ON POLITICAL ECONOMY OF EDUCATION ANALYSIS

Political Economy Analysis (PEA) has become crucial in assisting local, national, and international policy actors, responsible for education delivery that is socially just, to make informed decisions around the political and economic interests that underpin educational policies and interventions.

This form of analysis is crucial informing decisions at local, national, and international level by policy actors who are responsible for delivering education and to support the development of socially just societies.



## RECOGNISING THE BROAD RANGE OF CHALLENGES IN EDUCATION IN CONFLICT-AFFECTED COUNTRIES

The countries in the African regions of focus experience a range of pressures. Some countries face similar demographic, social, economic or political challenges, though these manifest in different ways in individual contexts.

At the same time, some pressures, by their very nature, spill over country boundaries across the regions. They include shrinking space for civil society; management of natural resources; uneven infrastructure development; conflict-related displacement land disputes; large youth demographics; influence of religious radicalism; exclusion of certain groups from peace processes; challenges of social cohesion in highly diverse (in terms of ethnicity, religion, language) populations; shortages in food and water supply; different gender norms and expectations; and social norms related to violence.

## BROAD RANGE OF RESEARCH INTERESTS IN EDUCATION FUNDED BY THE PEER NETWORK

The PEER Network is focused on supporting research projects that:

1. are innovative and/or exploratory in nature and that are able to build creatively on opportunities for positive change;

2. contribute to enhancing capacity for Political Economy Analysis of education in conflict and crisis;
3. include and support the career development of Early Career Researchers (ECR's). Applications including/led by early-career, new and non-career researchers are strongly encouraged;
4. are ethically informed which in the context of PEER means that they consider the political economy of knowledge production and contribute toward overcoming inequalities in education based on socio-economic status, caste, gender, race, religion, ethnicity, language, disability etc;
5. have the potential to positively impact policy, structures and cultures, and social practices in organisations and communities and processes of teaching and learning in classrooms, informal settings, virtual and remote environments;
6. are 'co-created' between academic and non-academic stakeholders, i.e. that bring different academic and non-academic stakeholders together to tackle real-world problems;
7. bring together insights and perspectives that may be derived from different academic disciplines as well as from local and indigenous knowledges;

8. draw creatively on one or more methodological approach in order to answer research questions;
9. are able to communicate in an accessible way the findings of research to relevant audiences.

The Network encourages a wide range of outputs to be developed, including standard written output, but also those outside traditional academia including teaching and learning materials, digital resources, arts-based resources, and other resources such as policy papers.

**THE LAUNCH EVENT WILL PROVIDE DETAILS OF WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR THE RESEARCH FUNDING (UP TO 10 RESEARCH PROJECTS OF UP TO £30 000 PER PROJECT). THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY.**