



# NORTH-SOUTH RESEARCH COLLABORATION: CHALLENGES AND THE WAY FORWARD

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# Outline

- ▶ About me
- ▶ My research areas
- ▶ Collaborations with the South
- ▶ Positives in the collaboration
- ▶ Negatives in the collaboration
- ▶ The way forward
- ▶ Conclusion





# About me

- ▶ Currently a Post-Doc at AAU
  - ▶ Working with DIGINNO project (EU Interreg)
  - ▶ An e-government project
- ▶ Previous projects as Post-Doc.
  - ▶ VOICE project (CIP/FP7 EU project)
- ▶ Extern lektor (on leave)
  - ▶ Taught Governance in ICT
  - ▶ On-Create (Erasmus + EU project)
- ▶ Ph.D student
  - ▶ Graduated in 2015



# My Research Areas

- ▶ Telecom infrastructure and development
  - ▶ Telecom/internet policy and regulation
- ▶ Digitalization
- ▶ ICT4D
- ▶ Public private partnerships
- ▶ E-government
- ▶ Knowledge management/organizational studies
- ▶ Gender studies
- ▶ Sociology of translation (ANT) etc.



# Collaboration with the South

- ▶ Development of rural telecom infrastructure using PPP
  - Cases - Ghana, Nigeria, India, South Africa, USA, Denmark and Sweden
  - Southern collaborations Airjaldi (India), Johannesburg Wireless User Group, (South Africa), GIFEC & NCA (Ghana), USPF (Nigeria).
  
- ▶ Collaborations with the South
  - Co-editing of the Book “African mobile Story”
    - › South Collaborators (Nigeria, South Africa and Ghana)
  
  - Co-editing of the book “handbook on ICT in developing countries”
    - › Vol 1- South Collaborators (Vietnam, Colombia, Ghana, South Africa, Malawi, Argentina and Ukraine)
    - › Vol 2- Collaborators (India, Brazil, Argentina, Ghana)
  
  - Joint DANIDA application with Koforidua Polytechnic, Ghana.





# Collaboration with the South

- ▶ Upcoming collaborations
  - ▶ Currently building a consortium for a possible project





# Positives in the collaborations

- ▶ There is some degree of willingness for collaboration in the South
- ▶ There are diverse areas where they desire collaborations
  - ▶ Knowledge sharing
  - ▶ Capacity building
  - ▶ Developmental projects
  - ▶ Joint publications
  - ▶ Etc.
- ▶ There is the willingness to collaborate in transnational projects...





# Negatives to N/S collaborations

- ▶ Very few southern national funding mechanisms for HEI projects.
- ▶ Aside IDA funded projects, existing funds are limited and does not have much value.
- ▶ Fewer northern funding mechanisms with Southern agenda.
- ▶ Agenda mismatch between the Northern funding mechanisms and Southern recipients of the funds.
- ▶ Mismatch of ideas.
- ▶ Lack of future evaluation of completed projects
  - ▶ Serengeti Project (Tanzania)







# The way forward

- ▶ There is the need to encourage Southern policy makers on the need to fund research.
  - ▶ This enables co-financing
- ▶ The need for an organizational framework that will identify common needs that require funding or projects.
- ▶ North-South researcher match making mechanism for:
  - ▶ Joint publications
  - ▶ National centric funding opportunities
  - ▶ Capacity building for future collaborations
- ▶ Encourage more transnational educational partnerships
  - ▶ Maybe strengthening the Building Stronger Universities initiative



**Thank you**



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