

## **Project Girginov (UK)**

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### **Do anti-doping interventions work?**

Protecting the integrity of sport is a central concern of the Olympic Movement, (inter)national sport federations, anti-doping authorities (NADAs; WADA; ITA) and social and legal institutions all over the world. A multitude of organisations have invested significant cultural, educational, and financial resources to designed interventions aimed at promoting the World Anti-Doping Code and associated activities that attempt to limit the use of prohibited substances and methods and sanction non-compliant individuals and institutions. Notwithstanding this global commitment, very little is still known about the effectiveness of these interventions, and the extent to which strong theoretically informed approaches are used in the development, implementation and evaluation of interventions. Moreover, multidimensional studies revealing the interplay between the ethical, educational, policy, governance and management aspects of various programmes that may eventually lead to the delivery of the desired attitudinal and behavioural changes at a multinational level are unavailable. The proposed project addresses this gap in our knowledge. It adopts a “critical realist” evaluation perspective to anti-doping interventions that focuses explanation around key pragmatic questions: ‘what works for whom in what circumstances and why’.

This innovative three-years research project aims to critically explore and evaluate the effectiveness of selected anti-doping interventions across three levels of intervention including (i) individual; (ii) organisational; and (iii) societal - in four different national cultural contexts – Austria, Russia, South Africa and the UK. The specific objectives of this research project are to:

- articulate the multinational political, social, economic and sporting contexts in which different interventions have been designed and implemented;
- critically examine the relationship between anti-doping programmes’ theory, objectives, inputs, throughputs, outputs and outcomes; and
- develop policy recommendations including specifically an adaptable anti-doping intervention monitoring and evaluation tool in English and Russian languages.

Evaluation is an interactive and longitudinal process concerned with environmental and organisational analyses, and inputs, processes and outputs. Using a mixed method approach, the following elements for each programme will be studied: (i) theory (i.e., underpinning values, input-output assumptions); (ii) context (i.e., personal, organisational, social, economic, sport); (iii) governance (i.e., implementation strategy and policy, structural arrangements, organisational culture, accountability, transparency and control); and (iv) impacts (i.e., individual, organisational, cognitive, behavioural). The proposed project will deliver five conceptual and practical outputs including: (i) a thematic and bibliometric annotation of literature; (ii) a typology of anti-doping interventions that will unravel the relationship between programme theories, mechanisms and outcomes. This new knowledge will significantly enhance our understanding of the nature of anti-doping interventions and their practical effectiveness; (iii) an original anti-doping intervention mapping and evaluation tool in English and Russian languages; (iv) an original book on anti-doping interventions mapping and evaluation that will inform research in the field and be used both in under and graduate courses around the world. Finally, an end of project stakeholder engagement conference will be organised, including various academic and sport

organisational participants that will provide a forum for knowledge sharing, dissemination, and policy and practice development.