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Cultural factors in the development of international projects: a case study of South Africa and Germany in the engineering/construction industry

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SCHOOL OF MECHANICAL, INDUSTRIAL & AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING

FORM B

School Ethics Clearance No: _____ (office use only)

All submissions and materials must be typed. Handwritten submissions are NOT acceptable.

Surname: Jogessar					Name: Yashmee Bhana						
Title:		Prof		Dr		Mr	x	Ms		Mrs		Other:
School: School of Mechanical, Industrial and Aeronautical Engineering											
Staff/Student number: 0402210M						Full time		Part time	x	Staff	
Your telephone(s): +27842392179											
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Supervisor's tel. number(s):											

1. Specifics about the research project (attach project proposal as an appendix)

Title of research project

Cultural Factors in the Development of International Projects;
A Case Study of South Africa and Germany in the Engineering/Construction Industry

Registered degree		**Undergrad**	x	**Masters (research report)**		**Investigational Project**		**Other, specify** _____

Where will the research be carried out?

In South Africa and Germany; company SA and company GER (see attached research proposal for further details).

What are the aims and objectives of the research? (Please list; be brief)

The following includes the intended aim of the research report:

- To determine a method/model, for leadership of Company SA and Company GER, to incorporate that will allow for the smooth facilitation of opposing and similar cultural factors in the project.

In order to achieve the desired aims of the research report the following objectives will be pursued, in both countries:

- To identify the key cultural factors that emerges during the course of prefabrication and documentation completion of the Medupi/Kusile contract, with reference to Company SA and Company GER.
- To analyse whether participants in projects are able to communicate, learn, network and adapt to one another's cultural differences in actual/physical situations.
- To determine if cultural factors affect the successful completion and outcome of projects; in the construction/engineering industry.
- To identify whether management/leadership are aware that they play a significant role in handling cultural factors in project teams.
- To determine if participants in project teams are aware that management and understanding of cultural differences affect the successful outcome of projects.

2. How will data on human research participants be collected (instruments, methods, procedures)? (Attach instruments as an appendix)

Brief details of instruments to be used (attach instrument or draft to this application)

Semi-structured interviews and participant observations will be utilised to collect data and information for the research. Details are available in the attached research proposal, as well as, the two attached protocols.

3. Who will the research participants be?

Brief description of human participants, including age range and sample size, for each sample:

The following sample will be used:

- From the engineering and construction industry, in the Republic of South Africa (RSA) and Germany.
- Across all employment levels; from managerial (for semi-structured interviews) to the workshop floor (for participant observations).
- Employees between the ages of 25-65 years.
- Employees from different cultural backgrounds, in RSA and Germany.
- Employees from the construction engineering industries.
- Employees who communicate in English and German.
- Where possible, familiar contacts will be utilised for data collection. If this is not feasible, unfamiliar employees will need to be utilised (however, the trust between parties will need to be developed first).
- Both genders; male and female.
- Sample sizes will be similar in Company SA and Company GER.

Does this research expose either the participant or the researcher to any potential risks or harm that they would not otherwise be exposed to?		Yes	x	No

If 'yes', explain:

4. How will informed consent be obtained? (Attach Participant Information Sheets and Consent Forms for each sample group, and/or other related materials)

How will potential participants be identified / selected / recruited?

- Based on the sample size described above.
- Based on whether they sign the consent form and agree to participate in the research.

What will participants be told about the research (including the promises to be made)?

- Prior to interviews and participant observations; all participants will be briefed regarding the content of the research, purpose and aims/objectives.
- They will also be informed as to the process of conducting the research, collecting and (briefly) the analysis of the data.
- They will also be provided with contact details that can be used should questions arise or further information be requested.

How will informed consent be obtained?

x	Formal (Signed form)		Informal (e.g. verbal)		Other

Briefly explain your strategy for ensuring informed consent.

- Prior to commencement of the data collection process the research will first have to be approved by the Ethics Committee at the University of the Witwatersrand.
- A consent form (see attached) will be distributed to all participants which will need to be signed and returned before they may be included in data collection.
- The consent form will include a brief summary of the research; including the purpose, the time allocation, how the interviews/participant observations will be conducted,

5. Protecting participant identities

Can **confidentiality** be guaranteed?	x	Yes		No
Can **anonymity** be guaranteed in resulting reports, theses and/or publications?	x	Yes		No

Explain how this will be done? (What will participants be told in this regard?)

- They will remain anonymous (including the company names).
- All data and information collected will be treated as highly confidential.
- Participation is voluntary and participants may choose to refrain providing information.
- Semi-structured interviews will be recorded and later transcribed for data analysis. (They have the option of viewing the transcribed information.)
- The research was approved by the University of the Witwatersrand and they may contact the university/Head of School should they require further information.

6. Formal permission (Attach letter requesting permission and letter granting permission)

Has appropriate formal permission been obtained, if required (e.g. employer, government department, land owner, etc.)?

	Yes (attached)		Not required	x	Pending (must be supplied before permission is granted)

7. Protection of data during and after the research

How will the data be protected while the research is in progress? (This includes how the identities of participants will be protected.)

All participation information and consent forms will be filed and keep in a place that is only accessible to the researcher. Preferably in a locked cupboard when it is not in use. All information that is saved as soft copies will be stored in files that are password protected. For backup purposes it will be stored on a separate hard drive or USB which is also password protected.

What is to be done with the research data after completion of the project?

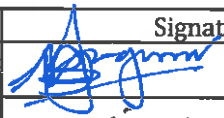
Data will be store in a secure place. It will also be accessible for future reference. It will remain highly confidential and not discussed with any third parties, at all times.

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SIGNATURES (REQUIRED)

In signing this form, the researcher and supervisor (if any) of this project undertake to ensure that any amendments to this project that are required by the School Research Ethics Committee are made before the project commences.

Declaration: ***We, the signatories, declare that all information on this form is correct, that we will strive to maintain the highest ethical standards in this research at all times, according to disciplinary and university expectations, recognising that ethical practice in research is always a continuing process.***

	Date	Name	Signature
Applicant	03.06.2016	Yashmee Bhana Jogessar	
Supervisor	03.06.2016	Bernadette Sunjka	

SCHOOL ETHICS COMMITTEE APPROVAL (OFFICE USE ONLY)

	Date	Name	Signature
Member 1			
Member 2			

Gmail Yashmee Bhana Jogessar <yashmee@gmail.com>

Fwd: Jogessar Yashmee Bhana ethics clearance number

Yashmee Bhana Jogessar <yashmee@gmail.com> 30 March 2017 at 14:50
Draft

——— Forwarded message ———
From: **Bruno Emwanu** <Bruno.Emwanu@wits.ac.za>
Date: 20 July 2016 at 12:19
Subject: Jogessar Yashmee Bhana ethics clearance number
To: "yashmee@gmail.com" <yashmee@gmail.com>, "0402210m@students.wits.ac.za" <0402210m@students.wits.ac.za>
Cc: Bernadette Sunjka <Bernadette.Sunjka@wits.ac.za>

Dear Yashmee,

I am pleased to inform you that the School Ethics Clearance Committee has completed assessing your application and it has been successfully cleared. The ethics clearance number is MIAEC 012/16. Please use this our reference for all future correspondence on this matter.

By copy of this email your supervisor is also informed.

Regards,

Dr. Emwanu

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