

Final Report

Name of BritInn Fellow: Dr. Martin C. Schleper

Home Department: Business School / Management **Home University:** University of Sussex

Guest Department: Information Systems, Production and Logistics Management

Guest University: University of Innsbruck

From: 14.10.2021 **Until:** 18.10.2021

Title of the Research Project: Between caring and denying - The role of conflict minerals and unfair working conditions for technology use

Report about visit and future plans (max. 200 words, English):

Between October 14th and 18th, we had the privilege to host Dr. Martin C. Schleper (University of Sussex) at the University of Innsbruck. During his stay Martin presented an overview of topics around responsibility transcendence in supply chain management, with a strong focus on the topic of conflict minerals. Following the talk, the audience, consisting of faculty and PhD students, lively discussed different approaches to ethical supply chain management and operational and perspectives on conflict materials. Different faculty members were keen to discuss more detailed questions about potential collaborations.

Additionally, we had the opportunity to move forward our common research project. Inspired by Martin's talk we decided to further study consumers' awareness and denial with regard to the use of conflict minerals, which are important raw materials for the production of IT devices. Although it has been shown that these conflict minerals are mined under inhumane conditions, consumers do not seem to care about this issue. Thus, we will develop an empirical study to investigate the underlying reasons for their attitude and behavior. Based on our study, we will derive implications on how to break this habit and denial on consumer side in order to promote socially sustainable IT use.

Picture Credits: Prof. Dr. Andreas Eckhardt



