Research Seminar Invitation
Hosted by Services & Operations Management Research Cluster

**Title:** ‘How far can we see and does it matter? Examining visibility in socially sustainable supply chains’

**Speaker:** Professor Claire Hannibal, University of Wolverhampton Business School

**Time and location:** Wednesday 14th June, 12-1pm, Room 305

**Summary:** Claire will present recent qualitative research examining visibility in global supply chains that purport to focus on social sustainability. With an increasing focus from consumers on the way in which goods are produced and traded, the mechanisms used to assure the social sustainability credentials of everyday products is under scrutiny. One mechanism is the use of third party assessment. Third party assessment utilises actors outside of a supply chain to collect, analyse and report on performance. As supply chains often engage in this practice on a voluntary basis, it is perceived by some as a new form of transnational governance. Yet there is limited empirical work examining the operations of this form of governance. Claire will share findings from interviews with third party assessors and reflect on the level of visibility currently permitted by this approach to quality assurance. As the market for socially sustainable products opens up new trading channels for producers and raw materials suppliers, often based in the global South, the importance of ensuring robust systems for quality assurance is critical to livelihoods and communities.

**Biography:** Claire is Professor of Operations Management at Wolverhampton Business School and also works with the University’s Centre for International Development and Training. Claire spent three years working in Ethiopia with Voluntary Service Overseas prior to joining academia and her research focuses on sustainability, supply chain management and performance.

Please RSVP to business-school-research@glasgow.ac.uk by Friday 9th June 2017.