**Grant Title: The Reputation Screen of the Luxury Fashion Industry: Interrogating *Made in Italy***

**Reference project: “Luxury, Corruption and Global Ethics: Towards a Critical Cultural Theory of the Moral Economy of Fraud" (LUXCORE), funded by the Norwegian Research Council**

This sub-project will fall under *WP1: Luxury and the Defiance Industry: Corruption and the Moral Economy of Fraud* of the LUXCORE research project. The researcher will investigate luxury fashion manufacturing networks in Prato, Italy, through a combination of ethnographic and historiographic methods, and analyse the ways in which multinational brands both comply with and defy regulations and guidelines on anti-corruption, human rights, modern anti-slavery and anti-trafficking, transparency, ESG reporting, and supply chain due diligence. It will explore the realities on the ground set against corporate reporting and explore the limits as well as possibilities of existing regulation. It will also trace the evolution of both the compliance measures and defiance since the 1990s. Overall, the project will seek to understand the dynamics of compliance and defiance, the neoliberal moral economy of fraud, as well as the role of multiple stakeholders – from corporate actors, NGOs, civil society actors, policymakers, and workers – in shaping corporate policy as well as regulations and legislation.

The researcher will conduct fieldwork in Prato, as well as documentary, policy, and literature analysis, while also relying on historiography – thus combining historiographic and ethnographic methods. The researcher is expected to publish at least 1 academic article with a leading publisher and 1 book chapter in a joint edited volume. The researcher is expected to participate in all LUXCORE online project meetings and conferences, to present work at relevant international venues and disseminate results to the public.

The researcher must have a PhD in a relevant discipline, such as social history; have a solid grasp of various qualitative methodologies; have an established track-record of publishing on the subject of fashion industry, policy, and labour; have experience from previous research at a post-doctoral level.