

Call for Papers
The Working Group in African Political Economy (WGAPE)
January 3-8, 2017

New York University – Abu Dhabi
Deadline for Submission: **October 6th, 2016**



The Working Group in African Political Economy (WGAPE) brings together faculty and advanced graduate students in Economics and Political Science who combine field research experience in Africa with training in political economy methods. It is co-led by Brian Dillon (Evans School of Public Affairs, University of Washington), Edward Miguel (Department of Economics, UC Berkeley), and Daniel Posner (Department of Political Science, UCLA). We are collaborating with partners at NYU -- Abu Dhabi, J. Andrew Harris, Melina Platas and Peter van der Windt to host a special WGAPE meeting with a research discussions component and training module. We look forward to inviting a larger group of African scholars who can benefit from these meeting objectives. Thanks to support from NYU-AD, the Center for Effective Global Action (CEGA), Evidence in Governance and Politics (EGAP), Berkeley Initiative for Transparency in the Social Sciences (BITSS), and Wageningen University, WGAPE will be able to provide funding for travel, accommodation, and related expenses to accepted participants.

WGAPE meetings are held in four regional sub-groups each fall and in a national meeting each spring. **This call for papers is for a special, supplementary WGAPE meeting, which will be held January 3-8, 2017 at New York University – Abu Dhabi.**

This meeting will expand upon the WGAPE model to include both research discussion sessions on papers in progress, as in previous years (see an [archive of papers](#) from past WGAPE meetings), and a short training workshop to expose African/developing country scholars to the newest tools and approaches to conducting rigorous research on political economy of Africa.

- 1) Our **research discussion sessions** from January 6-8 are built around in-depth discussions of papers that are circulated and expected to be read in advance. Presenters provide little more than a few brief, orienting comments before the floor is opened for discussion. WGAPE is more a forum for presenting work in progress than polished, finished projects and provides an unparalleled opportunity for useful feedback.
- 2) Our **training workshop** from Jan 3-5 will focus on graduate students and junior scholars from low income countries, particularly in Africa. The workshop will cover empirical methods, best research practices, guidance to data sources, research transparency practices, training materials, and networking opportunities. The workshop will be led by Maarten Voors (Wageningen University).

This call is broken into two tracks. Please review the following carefully.

1) Paper Submissions for research discussion sessions (Jan 6-8)

We invite paper submissions which reflect WGAPE's broad research agenda on core issues within the political economy of African development, including ethnic politics, civil conflict and violence, decentralization and democratization, corruption, local governance, and other related topics. Experimental research with field data will be given priority. Graduate students and junior faculty are particularly encouraged to apply. Each submission that is selected will receive one-hour discussion slot at the meeting.

We invite two types of paper submissions:

- a) Full paper submissions. These submissions can be works in progress.
- b) Research design submissions. These submissions should describe a fully planned research study on topics relevant to WGAPE, as listed above. A suggested format for these submissions is the Pre-Analysis Plan, [detail and examples here](#). This document details the statistical analyses that will be conducted for a given research project before the researchers conduct the study and look at the

data. Hypotheses, outcomes, control variables, and regression specifications are all written in as much detail as possible.

During the meeting 6 papers and 7 research designs will be discussed. Anyone submitting to Track 1 must provide the following materials:

- a) Paper submission in PDF / Word format
- b) Most up-to-date Curriculum Vitae or Resume with contact information, including country of current location.

2) Track 2: Application to participate in the training and research workshops (Jan 3-8)

This year, we invite junior scholars to apply to attend the workshop as participants. We invite young professors, post-doctoral fellows, PhD candidates, or policymakers (in charge of the design and/or impact evaluations of public policies) from across Africa that use or seek to use experimental methods in their research to apply. Applicants must have a background in social sciences as well as basic knowledge of statistics and/or econometrics. Finally, please note that the workshop's language is English; applicants should feel comfortable reading and exchanging ideas in English. Funding for the supplementary WGAPE meeting from our sponsors (listed below) will cover all costs of travel, visa, and accommodation for this purpose. We ask that you submit the following materials to apply:

- a) Most up-to-date Curriculum Vitae or Resume with contact information, including country of current location, position title, and degree(s) held
- b) An abstract of the applicant's research that relates, even if only loosely, to the topics relevant to WGAPE, as listed above.
- c) A short paragraph discussing the applicant's methodological approach or evidence used in his or her relevant research.
- d) The name, title, and contact information of one reference (from a current/previous collaborator or advisor) that would be able to comment on your research interests and future research trajectory.

To submit your materials:

- All materials must be uploaded to <https://cega.submittable.com/submit/63634> by 11:59pm PT on **October 6, 2016**.
- Please indicate which of the two tracks your submission is for. **If you would like to apply for both, please indicate this on the form and fill in ALL information for BOTH TRACKS.**
- **Junior scholars and African country/developing country scholars are highly encouraged to submit applications for Track 2 in addition to paper submissions.**
- Successful applicants will be notified by **October 25th, 2016** and will be invited to attend the full symposium.

Participant costs and travel:

WGAPE will be able to provide funding for travel, accommodation, and related expenses to accepted WGAPE participants. Visas and travel will be arranged by NYU-AD.

For further information, please contact Corinne Cooper (CEGA) at wgapeworkshop@gmail.com.

Partners/donors: New York University – Abu Dhabi, Center for Effective Global Action (CEGA), Evidence in Governance and Politics (EGAP), Berkeley Initiative for Transparency in the Social Sciences (BITSS), and Wageningen University.

