Call for Papers
The Working Group in African Political Economy (WGAPE)
May 29-30, 2015
Providence, Rhode Island
Deadline for Submission: April 19, 2015

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 Daniel Posner (Department of Political Science, UCLA), Edward Miguel (Department of Economics, UC Berkeley), and Brian Dillon (Evans School of Public Affairs, University of Washington).

After many years as an exclusively west coast entity, WGAPE expanded its reach to include scholars from throughout the country. The well-established west coast meeting has continued each fall, supplemented by parallel regional fall meetings. This call for papers is for the fourth WGAPE Annual National Meeting, which will be held on May 29-30 at the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Brown University.

The meeting will begin on Friday morning, May 29, and end mid-day on Saturday, May 30. Sessions are built around in-depth discussions of papers that are circulated and expected to be read in advance (see an archive of papers from past WGAPE meetings). 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.

Paper submissions must 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, and corruption and local governance. Graduate students are particularly encouraged to apply and choice of papers will be based on full paper submissions.

In addition, this year, we are teaming with the Berkeley Initiative for Transparency in the Social Sciences (BITSS) to invite submissions of Pre-Analysis Plans (PAPs)* to be discussed, which we will dedicate one session to. BITSS promotes open and reproducible research practices among social scientists and encourage the adoption of new tools to improve the transparency and integrity of research. To learn more, please visit the BITSS website.

- Papers must be uploaded to https://cega.submittable.com/submit/40649 by 11:59pm PT on April 19th.
- Successful applicants will be notified by May 1st and will be invited to attend the full symposium. WGAPE will cover the cost of economy travel, accommodation and dining (capped).

For further information, please contact Elisa Cascardi (CEGA) at wgapeworkshop@gmail.com. Non-presenters who do not require accommodation or travel funding are welcome to attend the meeting as space permits (travel funding may be extended to Boston attendees). We ask that you please email with your name, institution, and days you would like to attend and we will confirm whether or not we can accommodate.

Partners/donors: Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Brown University; Center for Effective Global Action (CEGA) and Berkeley Initiative for Transparency in the Social Sciences (BITSS).

*A Pre-Analysis Plan (PAP) is a document that details the statistical analyses that will be conducted for a given research project, before the researchers actually start looking at the data. Outcomes, control variables, and regression specifications are all written in as much detail as possible. This serves to make research more confirmatory and transparent in nature. A suggested template is available here.