Working Group in African Political Economy (WGAPE)

Rapid Research Grants
Request for Proposals

The Working Group in African Political Economy (WGAPE), managed by the Center for Effective Global Action (CEGA), 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. The group has met semi-annually to discuss the in-progress work of its core members and invited guests since 2002. It is co-led by Daniel Posner (UCLA), Edward Miguel (UC Berkeley), Brian Dillon (Cornell), Amanda Robinson (Ohio State University), and Amma Panin (World Bank). WGAPE is now accepting applications for rapid research grant funding.

Submit application [here](#)
Deadline to Submit: 5:00 pm U.S. Pacific Time on Wednesday, June 10, 2020

About this Funding Opportunity

The annual in-person WGAPE meeting, originally scheduled for July in Addis Ababa, was cancelled due to COVID-19 and has moved virtual. We are repurposing those conference funds to support junior researchers. **WGAPE seeks to support junior African researchers with grants for research projects that can be executed rapidly** using secondary data, or that use primary data collected in accordance with restrictions on in-person contact (e.g., phone surveys). We are looking for early stage, shovel ready projects that will lead to a new working paper before the end of 2020.

In addition to the financial support described below, successful applicants will be paired with a senior researcher, most likely among the [WGAPE organizers or executive committee](#), who will provide some feedback and general guidance on the project. The lead investigator of each successful project may be invited to participate and present during the [2020 Virtual WGAPE Meeting](#) in late July or during a future WGAPE meeting.

Grant Size and Eligibility

- WGAPE has approximately $20,000 to grant, and expects to make 3-5 awards.
- Funding can be used to support the investigators' time, research assistance, phone survey costs, data purchase or storage, and other reasonable research expenses.

- Eligibility is restricted to junior African scholars. This refers to individuals who (a) currently study at a university or research institute in Africa, (b) received a degree from an African university and are currently a graduate student or postdoc elsewhere, or (c) currently teach at an African university or research institute and received their PhD no more than five years ago. Please contact wgapeworkshop@gmail.com with any questions regarding eligibility.
- Grant recipients will be required to secure necessary research approvals where appropriate (e.g., IRB approval must be acquired and shared for any primary data collection prior to the start of data collection).

Proposed projects must be related to WGAPE's broad research agenda on the political economy and development economics of Africa. Research that is purely theoretical or qualitative will not be funded under this RFP. Successful proposals will include a quantitative, empirical component.

Timing and Deliverables

- A publishable working paper must be completed by November 1st, 2020, and a final report is due to WGAPE by December 1st, 2020.
- The authors of papers funded by this RFP must write a short blog post for the CEGA blog by December 1, 2020.
- Funded scholars may be invited to participate and prepare a short presentation (10-20 minutes) for the WGAPE 2020 Annual Meeting held virtually on July 22-24, 2020 or during a future WGAPE meeting.

To Apply

The following items are required for application:

- **Scholar details** These will include name, email address, current affiliation(s), and eligibility criteria.
- **Project title**
- **Research proposal** This proposal narrative must not exceed three (3) pages in length and must address all six items discussed in the Proposal Guidelines below. The proposal should be written in Times font, Size 11 and may be single-spaced. The proposal narrative should be saved as a separate file named LastName_WGAPE_Proposal.
- **Proposed start and end dates** Awards will be announced by July 1, and funds will be disbursed by July 31. The bulk of the research should be completed by October 2020, with a drafted working paper prepared by November 1, 2020.
- **Detailed budget** Funding can be used to support the investigators' time, research assistance, phone survey costs, data purchase or storage, and other reasonable research expenses. Please be as detailed as possible. Note that all activities must align with relevant travel restrictions in the study countries. A budget template can be found here. The budget should be saved as a separate file named LastName_WGAPE_Budget.
- **Potential mentors**: All successful applicants will be matched with a project mentor, most likely from among the WGAPE organizers and executive committee (you can see their names here). Please list up to five of these scholars whom you would like to request as a mentor. Note that we cannot guarantee that you will be matched with these potential mentors, but your list will help guide the matching process.

- **References** Provide the name and contact information for two references who know you and your research well. References will be contacted for short-listed proposals. Your references are <u>not</u> required to submit a letter until contacted by the selection committee.
- **Connection to WGAPE themes** Briefly describe how your research project advances the study of political economy in Africa, in line with WGAPE focus areas.

Once you have these materials prepared, please fill out the following Google form to apply: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSegcQNLR7daja_ezWujC1xsKBz8F3SCm2PKTOPGWnBNg9aVrA/viewform?usp=sf_link.

The deadline for submission is **5:00 pm U.S. Pacific Time on Wednesday, June 10, 2020**.

Questions and concerns about the application can be submitted to wgapeworkshop@gmail.com.

Appendix: Proposal Guidelines

To apply for research funding, investigators must submit a research proposal narrative (as part of the Google Form application), not to exceed **three** (3) pages and must address each of the following six sections (please do not leave any section blank).

1. **Research Question:** Clearly state the problem that motivates the proposed research, and your proposed research question.

2. **Scientific Contribution:** What knowledge gap are you addressing, and how will it advance the field of research?

3. **Description of Methodology and Data:** Describe the proposed research study that you will design. Include a detailed discussion of your research methodology, identification strategy, and available quantitative and qualitative data sources.

4. **Fit with WGAPE:** Briefly describe how your research project advances the study of political economy in Africa, in line with WGAPE focus areas.

5. **Proposed Timeline:** Describe the timeline of the project. Note that funded projects are expected to be completed rapidly. A publishable working paper must be completed by November 1st, 2020, and a final report is due to WGAPE by December 1st, 2020.

6. **Other Funding Sources:** If the proposed study is supported with other funds, describe how you will use funds from WGAPE, and explain how these new funds will complement or improve research activities that are already funded.