

Call for Participation:

“Network of Excellence for Qualitative Research in the Social Sciences: Sub-Saharan Africa”

Overview

The "Network of Excellence for Qualitative Research in the Social Sciences: Sub-Saharan Africa" is supported by the EDULINK programme (Managed by the Secretariat of the ACP Group of States and funded by the European Union), and will expose approximately 120 early career scholars in Africa to cutting edge developments in qualitative and multi-method research. The project combines three Actions that will be implemented by institutional hubs in West, East, and Southern Africa:

- (1) A workshop series of intensive training in research design;
- (2) Field application of research designs developed in the workshop series; and
- (3) Building a training and research network amongst the cohort of workshop participants, officials of (Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and other key stakeholders.

Purpose

African-based scholars have initiated many of the debates on African governance and provoked critical inputs into the discussion. However, they commonly face institutional and financial barriers that limit their capacity to conduct innovative empirical research. The Network provides researchers the opportunity to develop their own research interests/projects through in-depth and open-ended research collaboration.

The network will support research related to Governance, from an **interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary** perspective. Working together with partners in the United Kingdom, Denmark, Tanzania, South Africa, the United States, and Germany, it brings participants into transnational research collaboration under the mentorship of leading experts in the field. The Network has hubs in Ghana, South Africa, and Tanzania, and will over the course of a year combine 'in-residence' workshops, on-line learning through a Virtual Research Unit, and a short fieldwork component.

Workshop Information

Ashesi University will host three intensive in-residence workshops in Accra, Ghana. Each workshop is 4½ days long. Funding is available for selected workshop participants to conduct short research projects at the conclusion of the workshop series.

The three-part workshop series will use participants' own research interests to structure discussion of the principal components of research design, beginning with **(a) Research Questions and Concept Formation (July 26th – 30th, 2010)** **(b) Causal Assessment Strategies (October 21st – 27th 2010)**, and **(c) Network Analysis and Field Methods (January 10th – 14th, 2011)**. Online assignments and discussions will complement workshop learning. Parallel workshops will take place in Johannesburg and Dar es Salaam at different times.

Ashesi University and IDS plan to enhance this capacity building process by working with participants and this broader research network to develop longer-term and sustainable collaborations on governance-related research.

Eligibility Requirements:

Applicants must be:

- Junior faculty members of institutions of higher education or early career scholars
- Resident in Ghana. Women are encouraged to apply
- Interested in, or be working on interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary issues related to governance

Interested applicants should submit a detailed **CV** and a brief (1 page) **Statement of Purpose** that explains how participation in the workshop series, the network and its activities will contribute to their research and career development. The Network will provide accommodation for selected participants.

*** Please do not send CV and Statement of Purpose as text in email. Kindly send them in PDF or MS Word formats.

*** NB Successful applicants must attend **all** three workshops to be considered for support.

All applications should be submitted online via the project website (www.qrmafrica.org),

By [Wednesday, July 7th, 2010](#)

Ashesi University College is a leading university in Ghana whose mission is to educate a new generation of ethical, entrepreneurial leaders in Africa equipped to solve Africa's development problems; to cultivate within its students the critical thinking skills, the concern for others and the courage it will take to transform a continent. Ashesi University is an emerging research hub, where both students and faculty are engaged in research that seeks to make intellectual contributions to academe and to find research-oriented solutions to developmental challenges in Africa. For more information about Ashesi University, visit the university web site: <http://www.ashesi.edu.gh>

The **Institute of Development Studies** is a leading global institution for research, teaching and communications on international development. IDS hosts five dynamic research teams, eight popular postgraduate courses, and a family of world-class knowledge services. These three spheres are integrated in a unique combination – as a development knowledge hub, IDS is connected into and is a convenor of networks throughout the world.

Additional information on the project "Network of Excellence for Qualitative Research in the Social Sciences: Sub-Saharan Africa" can be found at: www.qrmafrica.org

All inquiries should be sent to qrmafrica@ashesi.edu.gh or be submitted via the website.



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