



**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS:
2021 Research Development Group
for early-career scholars from African institutions**
Submission deadline is March 21

The American Political Science Association (APSA) is pleased to announce a Call for Applications from early-career scholars based in Africa who are interested in attending the 2021 APSA Annual Meeting as part of a Research Development Group. Organized by the African Politics Conference Group (APCG), the program is an opportunity to advance research towards publication, participate in the APSA annual meeting, and develop scholarly networks. Costs of participation will be covered through a grant from The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

The [2021 APSA Annual Meeting](#) will take place in Seattle, Washington (USA) from September 28 – October 3, 2021. Prior to the start of the annual meeting, selected participants will attend a full-day seminar on Monday, September 27 to discuss and receive critical feedback on an article-length manuscript in progress. Papers will be circulated in advance to allow time for thorough reading. In addition to focused discussions on each paper, the seminar will address strategies and advice for publishing in peer-reviewed international journals and other professional development topics. Over the next several days, participants will be expected to attend panels of interest and take part in the Annual Meeting program. APCG will assist participants in developing personalized schedules to promote linkages with different organized sections, related groups, and other scholars.

Participation in the Research Development Group is open to early-career scholars who are currently based in Africa (those whose primary institutional affiliation is in the US or Europe are not eligible for this program). Up to eight applicants will be selected. APSA will cover most costs of participation for invited scholars (including roundtrip airfare, hotel accommodation, and conference registration fees). *Please note that we are planning for an in-person seminar at this time; however, we may transit to a virtual program due to coronavirus restrictions, if necessary.*

The theme of this year's RDG is “**Globalisation, Natural Resource Conflicts, and Peacebuilding in Africa.**” Applicants are encouraged, but not required, to submit research that relates to the theme.

Theme Statement

Processes and forces of globalization are reconfiguring the trajectories, geographies and nature of conflict and peace in Africa in complex ways. This includes the changing patterns of intra-state and trans-regionalized networked conflicts and the emergence of non-state conflict actors, and the new peace architectures that have been developed for coping with the emerging trajectories of conflict. Despite the opportunities presented by globalization, many parts of Africa, particularly its marginal regions or borderlands, remain underdeveloped, poor and violence ridden. This program seeks to explore the complex dimensions of the growing intensification of resource conflicts across Africa, particularly how these conflicts relate to, and reflect the contradictions and challenges linked to the global extraction and intensified commodification of Africa's natural resources.

We encourage research submissions that critically examine how processes of globalization have intensified existing contractions, scarcities and inequities in resource distribution and governance, and directly or indirectly fueled violent local and transnational conflicts. Beyond this, we call for research that explores the opportunities and spaces for peace that are also embedded in the processes of globalization and local responses. We invite reflections on how local, national, and regional responses to globalization can connect to a project of African peacebuilding based on more inclusive,

participatory, equitable and sustainable management of the continent's natural resources. We call for research papers that explore the roots of natural resource conflicts in Africa, drawing from case studies; explore the impact of globalization of Africa's resources particularly, land, water, minerals, including oil and gas; population movements and how new technologies shape conflict dynamics, and the challenges pose for peacebuilding. We invite research papers that explore intra-state or localized peacebuilding initiatives by communities that have experienced prolonged conflicts, as well as the linkages between the management of resource conflicts at the national and regional levels. We also invite research papers that interrogate neoliberal approaches to resource conflicts in Africa and propose Africa-rooted perspectives that address the complex trajectories of violence and peace in the continent.

Papers are invited on the following, but not exhaustive, topics.

- Natural resource governance and approaches to natural resource conflicts in Africa
- Water and conflicts in Africa
- Globalisation, natural resources and the scramble for Africa
- Large-scale land grabbing and conflict in Africa
- Climate Change and resource conflicts in Africa
- Resource conflicts and local peacebuilding initiatives in Africa

Application Instructions

Applicants must be working on an article-length research project that is at a stage of development which would benefit from intense discussion and critique. The manuscript should be intended for publication in a peer-reviewed academic journal (drafts which are intended for dissertation chapters or white papers will not be accepted). Research should not be an excerpt from an already completed work. Solo-authored papers are preferred. We encourage research submissions that are related to the theme statement described above.

Applications must be in English and include:

1. The completed online Application Form.
2. A detailed, recent Curriculum Vitae/resume.
3. A draft of the 5,000-8,000-word (including abstract, not including references) research manuscript that will be brought to the seminar for discussion.
4. A list of 3-5 scholars you would like to have discuss your paper

The deadline to submit application is Sunday, March 21, 2021. Additional information can be found on the online Application Form at <https://apsa.wufoo.com/forms/2021-africa-research-development-group/>. Selected applicants will be notified of their invitation in mid-April. For more information, contact ljolicoeur@apsanet.org.