



APSA MENA Workshop

Political Science in the Arab Middle East and North Africa

2020 APSA MENA WORKSHOPS CALL FOR LEADERSHIP PROPOSALS

Deadline: Thursday October 31, 2019

The American Political Science Association (APSA) is pleased to announce a call for proposals from political scientists interested in serving as co-leaders for the 7th annual MENA Workshop program. Pending availability of funding, the 2020 program will be conducted as a 7-day workshop held at a university or research institute in the Arab MENA region in the spring or summer of 2020, followed by related programming at the APSA Annual Meeting in September 2020. For a full description of the program and application process, see the project website: <http://web.apsanet.org/mena/>.

Background

Funded by Carnegie Corporation of New York, the MENA Workshops are a multi-year effort to support political science research and networking among early-career scholars across the region. The workshops extend APSA's engagement with the international political science community and strengthen efforts to support research networks with colleagues in the Arab MENA region.

Hosted in cooperation with universities and research institutions across the Arab world, previous workshops have been held in Egypt, Tunisia, Jordan, Lebanon, Kuwait, Qatar, Morocco, and the UAE. Each program is dedicated to a substantive issue in political science, with a unique schedule of lectures, discussions, topical presentations and debates, guest speakers, peer review sessions, professional development seminars, and local field trips. We expect that the mentoring and research feedback provided throughout the workshop will support fellows in submitting their research for publication in international, peer-reviewed journals. The working language of the program is English, though the inclusion of Arabic-language texts is encouraged.

Workshops are led by a team of two scholars based at universities in the Arab world and two scholars based in the U.S. or Europe. Co-leaders serve as academic directors of the program and are responsible for identifying universities or research institutes in the region to host the workshops, preparing a unique syllabus with readings and discussion sessions, and providing detailed feedback on participants' research. Co-leaders will review applications and invite up to twenty PhD candidates and post-doctoral researchers from across the Arab world to participate as fellows. In addition to planning and moderating the 7-day workshop, co-leaders will select a small group of fellows to present their research at the 2020 APSA annual meeting and help moderate related programming at the conference.

Program administration and logistics will be led by APSA staff in conjunction with local host partners. Co-leaders will receive an honorarium and related expenses (transportation and lodging) to both the workshop (held in the Arab MENA region) and to the APSA Annual Meeting (held in the USA) will be covered.

Application Instructions and Criteria

Workshop proposals should be submitted jointly by the four co-leaders (two based in the Arab World and two based in the U.S./Europe). Leadership teams may include a combination of junior (assistant professor) and senior scholars (associate or full professor); however, must include at least one senior scholar with experience advising PhD candidates. Proposals should explain the scope of the professional ties between workshop co-leaders, with preference given to individuals and teams demonstrating previous collaboration.

The proposals should specify, with justification, where the workshop will take place and with which institutions. Strong preference will be given to proposals that include one of the MENA-based co-leaders' institution as host. Local partners must present a welcoming environment for social science research and have the institutional capacity to support a successful workshop, including close linkages to other institutions of higher education and research communities.

The proposals should be divided in three sections:

I. Workshop Theme (1-2 pages)

The workshop theme should provide a coherent intellectual foundation for the overall program. Prospective co-leaders should specify a thematic focus and outline relevant sub-themes from which they will build a reading list and set the schedule of events for the 7-day workshop. Any research topic or substantive theme in political science is welcome. Proposals should address how the theme will incorporate theoretical and methodological training, how it will incorporate new developments in the field and literature, and how it will achieve the program goals of supporting regional networking and publication.

II. Leaders and Partners (3-4 pages)

In this section, co-leaders must provide detailed information on the following:

- Identify the workshop co-leaders and describe the professional ties between them.
- A specific division of labor among the workshop leaders. For example, which workshop co-leader will coordinate among the team? Which co-leaders are leading particular sub-themes; and who can help identify local guest speakers for particular topics?
- Proposed location and institutional partner, including:
 - Specification and justification for workshop locations and host university/research institutes
 - Overview of recommended host institutions and relevant background, including:
 - Description of institutional capacity to host a residential workshop for 25 participants; and experience in hosting social science conferences or events
 - Explanation of existing ties between the proposed partner and local research communities and universities
- Proposed possible dates for the 7-day workshop (Sunday to Saturday). We prefer the program is held in June (after Ramadan), but alternative schedules may be considered. Final dates will be set in consultation with APSA staff, co-leaders, and host institution.
- Commitment to the collective leadership of the workshop, including devoting sufficient time to:
 - reviewing all participant applications
 - finalizing the workshop syllabus and schedule
 - preparing for and attending the workshop in full
 - providing written reviews of participants' research manuscript
 - selecting several fellows to present at the 2020 APSA Annual Meeting
 - Preparing for and attending related programming at the 2020 APSA Annual Meeting
 - consulting regularly with APSA staff throughout the workshop program
 - communicating with fellows over the course of the workshop program as needed

III. Supplementary Information (no page limit)

This section of the proposal should provide:

- Recent CVs for all prospective workshop co-leaders
- A discussion of any relevant experience in organizing workshops
- A draft reading list and/or workshop schedule (optional)
- A letter of support from the proposed institutional partner (optional)

Application Timeline and Information

Proposals should be submitted via the online form – <https://apsa.wufoo.com/forms/2020-mena-workshop-leadership-proposals/> - no later than **Thursday October 31, 2019**. Attachments should be uploaded in a PDF format. Team selection will be announced in December 2019. Prospective leaders interested in discussing their proposal ideas and/or receiving feedback on a draft proposal are encouraged to reach out to APSA well before the deadline.

Contact Us: Send an email to menaworkshops@apsanet.org if you have questions or would like more information about the workshops and/or application process.