CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: MENA METHODS WORKSHOP

Quantitative Methods for the Social Sciences: Regression Analysis
December 7-9, 2023 – Doha, Qatar

The American Political Science Association (APSA) is pleased to announce a Call for Applications from early-career scholars who would like to participate in the inaugural Middle East and North Africa (MENA) methods training workshop. This multi-component program, featuring both virtual and in-person sessions, is designed to provide early-career scholars with intermediate-level training on understanding and applying quantitative methods in social science research. The organizers will cover participation costs (including travel, lodging, and materials) for up to 20 qualified applicants. Following their full participation in the program, fellows will receive three-years membership to APSA. The deadline for applications is Sunday, October 1, 2023.

Organized in partnership with the Doha Institute of Graduate Studies, the program will commence with three introductory virtual sessions (60-90 mins each) held over Zoom in November 2023 followed by a 3-day in-person workshop from December 7-9, 2023 at the Doha Institute. The workshop will include lectures, ‘guided assignments’ in a lab, group exercises/peer-feedback, and access to datasets and other resources, along with social/networking and mentoring opportunities. Participants are encouraged to bring their own research questions and datasets to apply the learned concepts during the workshop.

The workshop is part of a multi-year effort to support political science research among early-career scholars in the MENA region, and to strengthen research networks linking Arab scholars with their colleagues overseas. More information on APSA’s MENA programming can be found online at http://web.apsanet.org/mena/.

Eligible Participants
Applications are open to advanced MA, PhD students, and post-doctoral fellows in political science and other social science disciplines who are citizens of countries in the MENA region. Priority will be given to scholars currently based at universities or research institutes in the region. Applicants must already have some basic training in quantitative data analysis but are not expected to hold advanced skills in specific quantitative techniques. Scholars are encouraged to apply with a research project in progress that they will discuss at the workshop. Professional fluency in English is required.

Program Structure
The program will be led by Drs. Abdelkarim Amengay (Doha Institute), Sarah Mansour (Cairo University), and Ammar Shamaileh (Doha Institute). Co-leaders will guide participants through a series of virtual and in-person engagements to advance attendee’s expertise in quantitative research methods:

I. Virtual Sessions: The program will begin with three virtual sessions (60-90 mins each) held prior to the in-person workshop. Scholars selected to attend the in-person workshop will be required to attend the virtual sessions. Session topics will be finalized by instructors based on selected participants, but may include some of the following:
   - **Review of Quantitative Concepts**: Defining specific quantitative techniques & tools; Discussion of descriptive statistics, statistical inference, assessing causality, etc.
   - **Research Design and Measurement**: Data collection tools and techniques (surveys, interviews, observations, experiments, etc.); Types of research designs (survey, experimental, etc.); Sampling techniques and sample size determination; Measurement techniques and scales

II. In-person workshop: Following the virtual sessions, invited scholars will be expected to review an additional set of readings/resources to prepare for the more advanced and technical in-person sessions. Prerequisites may include an asynchronous (self-paced) virtual training module and a short assignment to demonstrate understanding of the readings and online course materials. These will be accessible
several weeks before the in-person workshop. Session topics at the 3-day workshop will be finalized by instructors based on participation in the virtual sessions and may include some (but not all of) the following:

- Measures of Central Tendency and Distributions
- Probability and Statistical Inference
- Bivariate Analyses
- Statistical Programming Essentials (e.g., Stata, R, SPSS)
- Regression Analysis (Linear, Logistic, Multinomial and Panel Regression)
- Ethical Considerations in Quantitative Research
- Data Visualization

III. **Subsequent Engagements:** Following their participation in the workshop, scholars will be encouraged to apply for the MENA Mentoring Initiative. Scholars from the workshop will be prioritized for being paired with a mentor for a period of 3-6 months to advance a specific scholarly output (journal article, book chapter, book project, dataset, etc.).

**How to Apply**
Interested applicants should review the eligibility requirements and program expectations on the APSA website, then follow the web link to the online Application Form. Completed applications, including all necessary supporting documents (in PDF or Word Format), **must be submitted by Sunday, October 1.** Selected fellows will be contacted by mid October.

Applications must be in English and include:
1. The completed online Application Form
2. A detailed recent Curriculum Vitae/resume and Cover letter describing, in detail, your motivation to attend the program and how this training will benefit your research plans and/or professional development.
3. A one-page cover letter describing, in detail, your motivation to attend the methods program, highlighting which quantitative methods topics you are interested in, and how this training will benefit your research plans and/or professional development. **Please be as specific as possible.**
4. One letter of reference on official letterhead and scanned as an electronic file. If you are a graduate student, the letter should be from your dissertation / academic supervisor. If you are a postdoctoral fellow, the letter can come from a former dissertation supervisor, a colleague at your home institution, a university official, or an employer.

Supporting documents can be uploaded with the application materials or sent directly to menaworkshops@apsanet.org. For more information and questions, check our website or contact us at menaworkshops@apsanet.org; please do not contact the co-leaders directly.