

Working Group in African Political Economy (WGAPE)

Call for Papers and Research Designs

2026 Meeting Institute of Statistical Social and Economic Research University of Ghana

Submission deadline:	Friday, 23 January 2026 at 23:59 GMT
Notification date:	early March 2026
Meeting dates:	April 29-May 1, 2026
Location:	Institute for Statistical Social and Economic Research University of Ghana Accra, Ghana

OVERVIEW

The Working Group in African Political Economy ([WGAPE](#)) invites interested scholars to submit a paper to present at the WGAPE Meeting, held next year in Accra, Ghana from April 29-May 1, 2026. WGAPE 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 has invited guests since 2002. WGAPE is currently co-led by Daniel Posner (Political Science, UCLA), Edward Miguel (Economics, UC Berkeley), Amanda Robinson (Political Science, Ohio State University), and Amma Panin (Economics, University of Louvain), with support from the Center for Effective Global Action (CEGA) at UC Berkeley and the Center for Economic Policy Research (CEPR). In 2026, the Institute for Statistical Social and Economic Research, at the University of Ghana will host WGAPE.

WGAPE MEETING

WGAPE meetings center on research discussion sessions rather than presentations. Papers are circulated and expected to be read in advance by all participants. Presenters provide brief, orienting comments before the floor is opened for an hour-long discussion of each paper or research design. WGAPE accepts working papers and research designs (see an archive of papers from past WGAPE meetings [here](#)). We will accept around 8 papers/research design, and will have training and networking sessions alongside the paper discussions. WGAPE invites interested scholars to [submit a paper or research design](#) to present at a meeting at ISSER, University of Ghana from April 29-May 1, 2026.

PAPER SUBMISSIONS

To submit an application to present a research paper, please follow the instructions below.

Submit your paper online by Friday, 23 January 2026, 23h59 (GMT).

Authors who already have a CEPR HUB profile can upload their submission by:

1. Going to <https://hub.cepr.org/> and logging in
2. After you have logged in, go to <https://hub.cepr.org/event/4859>
3. Click on "Step 1: Apply"
4. Under "Apply to Attend" click "Yes"
5. Tick the boxes that apply to you
6. Tick "Would you like to submit a paper?", upload your paper and supply the requested information
7. Click "Submit form" to make the submission.

Authors who do not have a CEPR HUB profile can upload their submission by:

8. Creating a new profile here <https://hub.cepr.org/user/register>
9. After you have logged in, go to <https://hub.cepr.org/event/4859>
10. Click on "Step 1: Apply"
11. Under "Apply to Attend" click "Yes"
12. Tick the boxes that apply to you
13. Tick "Would you like to submit a paper?", upload your paper and supply the requested information
14. Click "Submit form" to make the submission.

If you have any difficulty in applying, please email Bao Khanh Le, CEPR Senior Events Officer at bkle@cepr.org.

Paper Submission Categories

We invite paper and research design submissions that reflect WGAPE's broad research agenda on the **political economy of African development**, including ethnic politics, civil conflict and violence, decentralization and democratization, corruption, local governance, public economics, and other related topics. Submissions outside of these areas are very unlikely to be selected regardless of their quality. WGAPE commonly, but not exclusively, selects submissions with a strong focus on fieldwork and quantitative analysis. Graduate students and junior faculty are particularly encouraged to apply. **WGAPE particularly encourages submissions from applicants who teach, study or have completed a degree at an African university.**

We invite submissions of papers or research designs. Early-stage papers and research designs will be prioritized for inclusion. Highly polished papers are unlikely to be selected. Research design submissions should describe a fully planned research study on topics relevant to WGAPE, as listed above. A suggested format for these submissions is the Pre-Analysis Plan (please find a template [here](#)). It is not necessary to reformat your Pre-Analysis Plan to fit the linked template, but a strong Pre-Analysis Plan will include the elements listed in the template.

If you are based in Ghana, and would like to participate without submitting a paper, please follow the standard application instructions and click the option to "attend without submitting a paper"

Participant Costs and Travel

With assistance from the Belgian FNRS (National Fund for Scientific Research), WGAPE will provide funding for travel, accommodation, and related expenses for one author of each accepted paper. Applicants whose papers are not accepted to be presented might still be considered for general attendance, if budget permits.

Participants will purchase their own travel tickets and can apply for reimbursement after submitting the appropriate receipts.

Considerations for Submissions

Please see [here](#) for an example of three previously accepted submissions.

Reviewers will consider the following factors when making their decisions about which papers or research designs to accept:

1. **Completeness of the submission:** Submissions will be rejected if they are incomplete or if the necessary details of the research design are not reported clearly and in sufficient detail.
2. **Novelty:** The study should add to or build on the existing literature, as well as advance the knowledge base about the research questions.
3. **Relevance:** The study should explore an area related to the political economy and development economics in sub-Saharan Africa, including civil conflict, decentralization and democratization, public economics, corruption, local governance, and other related topics. Note that quantitative studies will be prioritized (although studies that include some level of qualitative analysis are welcome).
4. **Quality:** We understand that papers/research designs may be in the early stage, but reviewers will still want to ensure the methodology is rigorous and sound. To that end, are the assumptions motivating the analysis reasonable? Is the research design clear and well-articulated? Does the design hold promise of generating valid inferences that speak directly to the project's motivation?

Submissions must include:

- Your paper or research design
- Up-to-date Curriculum Vitae or Resume with contact information, including current location

Successful applicants are expected to attend the full 2.5-day workshop.