

CODESRIA Comparative Research Networks (CRNs)

Call for Proposals, 2004/2005

Within the framework of the new programme initiatives that are being implemented by the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), proposals are hereby invited for the constitution of Comparative Research Networks (CRNs) to undertake comparative studies on or around any of the following themes:

- i) Health, Politics and Society in Contemporary Africa;
- ii) Higher Education in Africa: Crises, Reform and Transformation;
- iii) Reforming the African Public Sector: Retrospect and Prospect;
- iv) The Changing Political Economy of Land in Africa;
- v) Africa and the Challenges of Globalisation;
- vi) The Popular Arts, Identity and Culture in Contemporary Africa;
- vii) Re-thinking (African) Development;
- viii) Migration Dynamics and Changing Rural-Urban Linkages;
- ix) New Regionalist Impulses in Africa;
- x) Conflict and Reconstruction in Africa;
- xi) Colonialism, Customary Law, and Post-Colonial State and Society in Africa;
- xii) State, Political Identity and Political Violence;
- xiii) Political Pluralism and the Management of Diversity.

The primary purpose for which the CRNs are being introduced is to encourage the development and consolidation of a comparative analytic perspective in the work of African social researchers. In so doing, it is hoped to establish a strong corpus of comparative studies produced by African scholars and which could help to advance theoretical knowledge and discussion. In developing proposals, therefore, interested researchers are requested to highlight clearly the:

- i) comparative question which they wish to pursue and its significance;
- ii) methodology that they would employ; and
- iii) Output that is expected from the study.

Furthermore, each proposal should indicate clearly, the membership of the network, including the coordinator(s) of the group; the biodata and institutional affiliation of the network members; a copy of the curriculum vitae of the coordinator(s) of the network; the budget outline for the activity that is proposed; and the time frame for the launching and finalisation of the research activities of the network, it being understood that each network is expected to have a life span of 18 months from the date of its launching. Also, each CRN will be entitled to organise two meetings, one methodological and the other to evaluate the progress of the work of the members of the group. For the period 2004 – 2005, the Council will be open to receive proposals up to **31 July, 2004**. Notification of the result of the selection exercise will be made by **31 August, 2004**.

Proposals for the constitution of CRNs should be sent to:

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