

# CODESRIA's 30th Anniversary Essay Competition

## Call for applications

As part of the activities marking its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) is inviting postgraduate students and other researchers aged 30 years or less to participate in an Africa-wide essay competition. The theme of the competition is: **The Social Sciences: A necessity for the Future of Africa?**

### Background

One of the main objectives informing the establishment of CODESRIA in 1973 is the promotion of social knowledge production in a manner that transcends all barriers to scientific networking among Africans. In attempting to give meaning to this mandate, the Council has developed, over the years, a range of programmes aimed at encouraging multidisciplinary research and an inter-generational dialogue that is also sensitive to questions of gender. Central to the programme development and implementation strategy of the Council is a conscious effort to ensure the reproduction of the African academy through activities designed for younger members of the social science community. In this connection, perhaps the best known of the Council's programmes targeted at younger researchers, from which thousands of postgraduate students registered in universities across the continent have benefited, is the Small Grants for Thesis Writing. It is therefore fitting, in the context of the Council's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, that a special homage be paid to Africa's younger generation of social science researchers through the award of prizes to deserving contributors of essays on **The Social Sciences: A necessity for the future of Africa?**

### Criteria

In order to be considered, the proposed contributions shall:

- i) reflect a thorough knowledge of the theoretical and policy debates on the theme of the competition;
- ii) demonstrate the analytic capacity of the author and reflect a judicious mix of empirical and theoretical materials in a manner that captures and brings out the complexity of the theme of the essay; and
- iii) project an innovative viewpoint and well thought out personal reflections.

Contributions can be submitted in English, French or Portuguese. Essays submitted for consideration should not be longer than 25 pages, including bibliographical references and notes.

### Eligibility

All postgraduate students and younger researchers based in African universities and research centres are

eligible to participate in this competition provided they are not older than 30 years. There is no disciplinary restriction whatsoever on the expected contributions so long as the authors focus on the theme of the competition.

### Application Requirements

Entries for the essay competition should comprise the following:

- i) a covering letter;
- ii) a detailed and up-to-date CV;
- iii) a copy of the candidate's identity card or passport clearly showing the date of birth;
- iv) an official letter attesting to institutional affiliation and signed by the candidate's Head of Department, Dean of Faculty or Director; and
- v) The essay of not more than 25 pages being submitted for consideration for the award of a prize.

### Prizes to be Awarded

The essays received will be evaluated by a pan-African multidisciplinary Panel. The authors of the five outstanding essays selected for the award of prizes will be invited to participate in the grand 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference of the Council that will be held in Dakar from 08 to 11 December 2003. The prizes will be awarded to them during the conference. They will also be offered a plenary forum at the conference to present their essays to an audience of about 200 scholars. Furthermore, the following cash incentives will be offered for the purchase of books and/or equipment:

- i) 1<sup>st</sup> Prize: USD1500;
- ii) 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: USD1250;
- iii) 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: USD1000;
- iv) 4<sup>th</sup> Prize: USD750;
- v) 5<sup>th</sup> Prize: USD500.

The Panel set up to evaluate entries received reserves the right not to make any awards if the essays submitted are considered to be below the minimum acceptable standard or if they do not comply with the requirements set out in this announcement.

### Deadline for Receipt of Entries

To be considered, all entries must be received not later than **31 October, 2003**. Successful candidates will be notified by 25 November, 2003. It should be noted that any entry received after **31 October 2003** will not be considered. Entries should be addressed by post, fax and/or E-mail to:

**The Executive Secretary,**  
(Attention: Ms. Revenor Diouf)  
**BP 3304 - Dakar, SENEGAL**  
**Tel: 824 03 74 / Fax: 824 12 89**  
**E-mail:eleonore.diouf@codesria.sn**