

CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2008



CODESRIA

COMPARATIVE RESEARCH NETWORKS

Within the framework of its strategy for building comparative knowledge on Africa produced from within the African continent, the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) invites proposals from researchers based in African universities and centres of research for the constitution of Comparative Research Networks (CRNs) to undertake studies on or around any of the following themes:

- Re-thinking (African) Development;
- Re-thinking Democracy (in Africa);
- Engendering Democracy and Development;
- Transitions in African Higher Education;
- Reforming the African Public Sector: Retrospect and Prospect;
- The Changing Political Economy of African Natural Resources;
- African Encounters with the Global System;
- The Popular Arts, Identity and Culture in Contemporary Africa;
- Health, Politics and Society in Contemporary Africa;
- Migration Dynamics and the Making of New Diasporic Communities;
- Changing Rural-Urban Linkages;
- New Regionalist Impulses in Africa;
- New Institutions of Transitional Justice;
- Conflict and Reconstruction in Africa;
- Law, Politics and Society;
- State, Political Identity and Political Violence;
- Political Pluralism and the Management of Diversity;
- Water and Water Resources in the Political Economy of Development and Citizenship;
- Ecology, Climate and Environmental Sustainability in Africa; and
- Transport and Transportation Systems in Africa.

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:

- comparative question which they wish to pursue and its significance;
- methodology that they would employ; and
- 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) and members 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. **Authors of proposals submitted for consideration are urged to pay close attention to the comparative methodology which they will be applying and to demonstrate a proper understanding of the challenges of carrying out comparative studies. The independent Selection Committee that will be reviewing proposals received will be mandated to eliminate all proposals that are either silent on the comparative question that will be researched and the corresponding comparative methodology that will be employed or which show an inadequate understanding of the challenges of comparative research.**

Each CRN will be entitled to organise two meetings during its lifespan, one methodological and the other to evaluate the progress of the work of the members of the group. Although the budget that will be approved for the CRNs to be supported will vary from group to group, prospective applicants may wish to note for indicative purposes only that the grants that have been awarded by CODESRIA in the recent past have ranged from USD10,000 to USD35,000. Similarly, although no specific format is required for the presentation of the budget for the work that is proposed, authors may wish to note that resources will be allocated by the Council to cover the following costs: (i) a methodological workshop for the members of the CRN; (ii) a review workshop at which the progress of the work of the members of the CRN will be assessed; (iii) the field work to be undertaken by the members of the network; (iv) books to be purchased for the work of the CRN; (v) the honorarium to be paid to the members of the CRN for the work undertaken. The size of a CRN will vary from proposal to proposal but on average, most of the groups sponsored by CODESRIA in the past have had an average of five to seven members. It is advantageous to ensure that a proposed CRN is multidisciplinary in composition, sensitive to gender issues, and accommodating of younger scholars.

For the 2008 competition, CODESRIA will be open to receive proposals up to **31 May, 2008**. Notification of the result of the selection exercise will be made by **30 June, 2008**.

Proposals for the constitution of CRNs should be sent to:

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