

Call for Applications

Advanced Training for Multi-Method and Policy Oriented Research



September 2019

The Partnership for African Social and Governance Research is currently accepting applications for the **September, 2019 Advanced Training for Multi-Method and Policy Oriented Research.**

COURSE STRUCTURE AND DATES

This is a residential programme that will be offered in two consecutive blocks, including a *mandatory pre- and post-workshop online engagement:*

Block 1: Advanced Research Design (11 training days: September 4-14, 2019)

- Designing Social Inquiry
- Multi-Methods Research Strategies
- Critical Policy Engaged Research
- Ethics for Social Science Research

Block 2: Elective Modules (4 training days: September 16-19, 2019)

- Impact Evaluation
- Engendering Social Science Research Methods

NOTE: Block 2 module electives will run concurrently. You can only apply for one module in this block.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Advanced Research Design (<https://bit.ly/2wKBIGJ>)

Impact Evaluation (<https://bit.ly/2Z1ytRy>)

Engendering Social Science Research Methods (<https://bit.ly/2WsA4Du>)

ELIGIBILITY

These are high level professional development courses for active and committed African researchers and policy actors interested in broadening their knowledge and skills in design and execution of policy oriented research.

Applicants working in think tanks, universities, policy research oriented NGOs, civil society, media or government departments are encouraged to apply.

In past years, faculty who teach research methods have successfully incorporated PASGR's training in their courses. PhD students have found the training invaluable when designing their research proposals.

PARTICIPATION FEE

This is a highly subsidised training programme.

Block	Training fees	Accommodation	Total
1	US\$ 900	US\$ 500	US\$1,400
2	US\$ 600	US\$ 200	US\$ 800

NB: There are limited partial bursaries to be offered on merit.

This training will be held in Ibadan, Nigeria.

Extended to July 7, 2019

FOR QUESTIONS AND/OR CLARIFICATION

please email: nirungu@pasgr.org

Testimonials

“The impact of PASGR trainings has afforded me the opportunity to carrying out high quality studies... the positive response I received from my assessors at my defense was because of the quality of my PhD studies and that I owe to PASGR trainings.” **PhD Student**

“Coming from a country that is devastated by civil war with limited educational facilities, I count my self lucky to have had the opportunity to attend three Advanced research method modules with PASGR . They were instrumental in reshaping my thoughts about research and increased my interest to learn more. In particular, the training increased my analytical abilities in the review of research and policy orientated papers, the use of multi- method approaches in research and survey, formation of clear and focused research questions. The networking experience and opportunity gained is an additional asset”. **Gender Advisor, South Sudan**

“I now know that my research should not just end on the library shelves but that it should reach the people who need it. I know how to identify beneficiaries of my research and strategies to engage them.” **PhD Student**

“I had not at any moment engaged policy agents in my research. Through CPER, I will have a different approach in my research by engaging policy actors from the designing of the research to policy formulation stage.” **Policy Researcher**

COURSE OVERVIEW

The training is unique in using participants’ research and small group work to explore design innovations in multi-method research that engages public policy. The training emphasises the design of mixed methods strategies, and explores some of the different ways and moments throughout the research cycle that researchers could engage with different policy actors. It is applied and participant-centred, and uses innovative alternative pedagogic approaches such as e-cases, simulations, animations and peer-learning.

DETAILED COURSE CONTENT

BLOCK 1: ADVANCED RESEARCH DESIGN

DESIGNING SOCIAL INQUIRY

The module’s first goal is to develop participants’ critical engagement with the existing state of knowledge in their respective disciplines. It equips participants with the competencies to question conventional definitions of the problem, the categories or techniques used for its analysis, and possible interpretations.

It also helps participants to turn ideas or assumptions into researchable questions. This involves making explicit not only one’s own possible explanations or hypothesis, but also rival ones that exist in the literature, or circulated through other media. An important part of this process is to explicitly and carefully define the key concepts in a study. Finally, it introduces participants to advances in concept formation and illustrates how concepts can be modified, redefined, or created to accurately capture the empirical events, actors, or processes being investigated.

MIXED METHODS RESEARCH STRATEGIES

There is a growing interest in mixed methods research among social scientists due to its relevance for policy-oriented research. The practice of mixing methods has emerged as a suitable complement to the dominant quantitative and qualitative paradigms.

This module provides insights into the mixed methods approach and its utility for policy engaged research. It examines the basic assumptions of the mixed methods tradition and its fundamental principles. The module further discusses how to mix and sequence methods within a mixed methods research design.

The final sessions of the module provide hands-on opportunity for participants to critique selected mixed-methods studies. In the process participants also build skills that they can apply to their own research.

CRITICAL POLICY ENGAGED RESEARCH

Researchers engaged in policy-related work stand to benefit if they interest policy actors in the work they are doing, involve them in the various stages of their research project, and get their feedback to enrich the research design. This module aims to enhance researchers’ capacity to strengthen their relationship with policy actors in order to improve their research design and the chances that their findings will be used to engage policy.

The module helps participants develop knowledge and skills related to building relationships with various policy actors and decision makers. It refines participants’ ability to communicate research ideas and findings. It equips them with skills to distil the key message (s) they would like to communicate to relevant policy actors.

Testimonials

“As a Public Health Consultant, who is involved in designing interventions and evaluations, the training I have received from PASGR has enabled me design coherent, policy relevant research especially when designing evaluation tools. While applying for my PhD in Global Health Policy, I used the training and experiences from PASGR (the trainings are hands-on and you review actual concept papers to guide the research). I have received offer letters from 3 UK universities” **Programme Evaluator**

“The training and involvement has benefited my postgraduate students at the University of Nairobi, African Women Studies Centre, I have been assigned a module on research methods and I have incorporated gender aware research methods which the students find very enlightening and this knowledge has changed the students approach to research. This has improved the quality and approach of student proposals for end of course research project.” **University Lecturer**

“After undergoing the intensive training, I put what I learned in practice. The results were awesome and amazing. I have successfully written several grant proposals and got funding for one as the principle investigator. I have managed to write 3 book chapters for different books. One has already been published by NAI in a book entitled participation of women in water resource management. My Gender project students were ...rated as the best performed by the external examiner”. **University lecturer**

Certificates of Completion will be issued on successful attendance as well as completion of all required course/peer reading, reviews and assignments.

ETHICS IN SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

What is the most important consideration in social science research? Ethics is. While a lot of emphasis has been laid on the importance of appropriate research methodology for validity and reliability of social science research findings, the ethical aspect of research practice has not been given adequate attention.

This course is designed to (re)introduce both novices and experienced research practitioners to the theory and application of the three universal basic principles of research ethics: Respect for human persons, beneficence/non-maleficence, and justice. Further, participants will demonstrate appreciation of the negative implications of research misconduct (including plagiarism and academic fraud) and demonstrate how to avoid these acts of misconduct.

BLOCK 2: ELECTIVE MODULES

IMPACT EVALUATION

This module teaches elements of impact evaluation methods of welfare programmes in developing countries. It is presented at a low-medium level of technical difficulty. The module focuses on the design of a rigorous impact evaluation rather than on statistical or econometric analysis. The module is not only designed for researchers interested in conducting impact evaluations, but also for those interested in overseeing, commissioning or studying impact evaluations conducted by other researchers.

ENGENDERING SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH METHODS

What would a man do that a woman would not do? What would a woman do that a man would not? This is a question on gender, a fundamental category in human life in society. Gender influences how men and women think, speak and act. Social research investigates human behaviour in a society: how humans behave, when, and why. Studying gender dynamics is therefore imperative to allow a comprehensive understanding of the social world. Therefore, all social research should be gender sensitive.

This module emphasises the need for rigorous mixed research methods and provides a step by step hands-on implementation of gender-sensitive data collection and data analysis. The module also examines issues in social research ethics and policy-engaged research with particular focus on gender analysis.

By the end of this module delivery participants will demonstrate knowledge and skills to interrogate macro and micro power structures from a gender and intersectional perspective.

They will also apply the use of basic tools to critically incorporate the approaches in their own social science research and policy work. It is assumed that participants taking the module will be a mixed audience comprising both novices and experts in gender sensitive policy-engaged social research and practice.

Through the participatory exercises, synergies will be developed for optimal learning and networking across both groups.

ABOUT PASGR

PASGR is an independent, non-partisan pan African not-for-profit organisation established in 2011 and located in Nairobi, Kenya. Currently engaged in more than 26 African countries, PASGR works to enhance research excellence in governance and public policy that contributes to the overall wellbeing of women and men. In partnership with individual academics and researchers, universities, think tanks, civil society organisations, governments and policy communities both in the region and internationally, PASGR supports the production and dissemination of policy relevant research; designs and delivers suites of short professional development courses for researchers and policy actors; and facilitates the development of collaborative higher education programmes.