

Call for Proposals to form Scientific Groups

The Asian Population Association (APA) Council is seeking proposals from APA members to form Scientific Groups on key or emerging issues in the population field in the Asian region. Scientific groups will be created for the period 2019-2021.

Scientific groups (SG) play a key role in developing and implementing the work programme of the APA and provide a way to involve members in advancing specific research themes. The groups are expected to organize scientific activities to encourage high-level scientific research and deliberations on critical or emerging issues in the population field. Scientific group activities may include face-to-face workshops or seminars, cyber seminars, training workshops, developing training materials and other tools for population scientists, preparation of journal issues or books, or organising themed sessions at conference organised by other associations. Such activities are expected to stimulate interest among a wide range of stakeholders, including governments, national and international organizations, and the scientific community. A Scientific Group generally has four to five high level experts including the Chair who is responsible for developing a programme of activities for the Group and communicating with the SG Coordinator of the APA.

The present call seeks proposals for Scientific Groups to be submitted by current active members of the APA. The proposal should indicate a proposed chair and at least two or three additional members preferably drawn from different countries to lead the activity. The Scientific Group chair and members should be chosen for their expertise on a topic, with special attention given to geographic and gender diversity of group members in order for the groups to benefit from a variety of cultural and regional perspectives. Given the limited funds of the APA, the Scientific Group chair and group members are responsible for raising funds to support the group's activities. The APA has only very limited funds to be used in population-priming activities in special circumstances.

If proposed members are not currently paid members, their appointments will be conditional upon activation of their membership by paying the annual APA dues before June 2019.

Examples of themes that may be considered include: climate change; internal and international migration; marriage patterns; data quality and accessibility; gender and power differentials; sexual and reproductive health including fertility decline; access to safe abortion services and demographic monitoring of medical abortions; social issues related to sex selection; young people's life course; ageing; family and population transitions, demographic methods and models; and new data sources for population research. Suggestions for other themes are also welcome, though the topics should be relevant to a number of country settings, and promote collaborative activities across Asia.

Interested members should send a proposal (maximum two pages) including the name of the theme, the rationale for the topic, proposed chair for the scientific group, a list of three to five potential members, a tentative programme of activities that the group would like to pursue over the period from May 2019 through December 2021 and outputs anticipated from the group's activities. The proposal should specify what resources would be needed for their activities, and the potential sources for funding and support.

Deadline for submissions of proposals: (30 April 2019)

Interested members should submit their proposal electronically to the SG Coordinators Professor Jean Yeung (ariywj@nus.edu.sg) and Professor Leiwen Jiang (ljiang@shu.edu.cn) with copy to the APA President Professor Aris Ananta (arisananta@gmail.com).

Please note that the APA Council is responsible for the scientific programme of the APA and will select proposals from APA members on the basis of scientific relevance to key population issues of broad interest to the membership, including those which have relevance in terms of application of research to public policy.

The APA Council will review proposals submitted and decide which proposals to approve. In considering the proposals, the APA Council reserves the right to suggest modification of the topics and nominate other individuals to participate in each Scientific Group. The Council will formally announce the final decision on the approved proposals by the end of **May 2019**. The President may assign a Council Member to help the Group in scientific matters and in the preparation and execution of planned activities.