

**Stanford Initiative on Transparency, Accountability, and Citizen Engagement in  
West Africa (TRACE)**

**POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP**

**Country:** USA

**Education:** Doctoral degree in economics or political science

**Language Requirement:** English and French

**Length of Commitment:** Two years

**Start Date:** September 2017 (tentative)

The Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research (SIEPR) is pleased to announce a two-year Postdoctoral Fellowship with their new initiative on Transparency, Accountability, and Citizen Engagement in West Africa (TRACE). The fellow will be based at Stanford University, and work with the principal investigators, Pascaline Dupas (Economics) and Jeremy Weinstein (Political Science), as well as with other Stanford affiliated researchers.

TRACE is a new initiative within SIEPR that aims at furthering our understanding of what interventions can strengthen the ability of citizens to obtain high quality governance and services. The initiative will focus on Francophone West Africa, a region that has to date received much less scholarly attention than other parts of the African continent, but where a number of open government and other transparency and accountability initiatives have been or are being put in place. The initiative will yield concrete suggestions on how existing knowledge can be leveraged to design new interventions and will suggest studies to close existing knowledge gaps. The initiative is funded through a grant from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation's Global Development and Population Program.

This position is expected to lead to one or more co-authored papers. It also opens the possibility for independent research projects. This fellowship is designed to help the selected candidate launch a successful academic or non-academic research career by allowing him or her to gain experience working with government and civil society stakeholders in the field, and by developing a personal research pipeline.

Fellowship responsibilities include:

- To review existing programs and the corresponding literature (including literature published in French) on local governance, accountability, political behavior norms, and citizen participation, with a specific focus on West Africa.
- To identify gaps in the knowledge base and to propose key areas for interventions and future research.
- To make trips to West Africa to conduct interviews and focus group discussions with organizations who have previous experience in implementing such programs, and other important stakeholders, including intended beneficiaries (citizens, including both those with prior experience engaging government/public officials and those without) and facilitators

- To combine the findings from the activities above into a background paper for widespread dissemination
- To organize one or more workshops with stakeholders in West Africa to disseminate the lessons learned in the background paper, understanding partners' needs and priorities, building capacity, securing buy-in for evidence-informed decision-making, and identifying new evaluation opportunities.

## **QUALIFICATIONS**

To be eligible for the postdoctoral position, candidates must have completed or be within 6 months of completing a PhD in Economics or Political Science from a recognized institution, and must commit to a two-year appointment. Coursework and thesis work must have a significant focus on impact evaluation and quantitative research methods, and should reflect some familiarity with Africa. The candidate should have interest and experience in research on governance and service delivery in developing countries, as demonstrated by coursework and/or research activities. Significant applied econometrics skills are expected. Fluency in both French and English is required. International applicants are welcome to apply.

Additional factors that will favorably influence selection include:

- (a) deep field knowledge in Francophone West Africa*
- (b) experience conducting independent field work*
- (c) evidence of independently managing complex projects with multiple stake holders*

## **TERMS AND TENURE**

The two-year position will be based at Stanford University in California, USA, and will require occasional travel to West Africa (2-3 times per year). The anticipated starting date of this position is September 2017, but some flexibility is possible. The fellow will be appointed as postdoctoral scholar at Stanford University, and as such will be eligible for Stanford's comprehensive postdoc benefits package (<https://postdocbenefits.stanford.edu/>). In addition, the fellow will have a workspace in the SIEPR/Gunn building at Stanford University, and full access to Stanford University's libraries and facilities. Successful candidates may be able to renew their contract and continue their work with the initiative.

## **HOW TO APPLY**

To apply, please submit a cover letter, CV and two letters of reference to Elena Cryst at [ecryst@stanford.edu](mailto:ecryst@stanford.edu). Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. A final decision will be made in early June.