



Request for research proposals

# Group-based inequalities: patterns and trends within and across countries

Submission deadline extended to 1 February.

## 1 Background

United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER) has started a project '[Disadvantaged Groups and Social Mobility](#)' that includes a component addressing the measurement of horizontal inequalities in developing countries. Addressing inequality, both vertical and horizontal, is a core topic of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Yet, further work is needed to understand horizontal or group-based inequalities in particular, including how they compare across countries, within countries, and over time. This research initiative, supported under UNU-WIDER's 2014-18 research programme, focuses on inequalities among ethnic, racial, religious, and communal groups. It is an integral part of a larger research effort on the politics of group-based inequalities, which considers causes, correlates, and possibilities for change.

## 2 Offer and expectations

The specific initiative, of which this call for research proposals is part, has two core aims. The first is building a more comprehensive picture of variation in such group-based inequalities sub-nationally and diachronically for a selected set of developing countries. As described in [the attached overview note](#), a core set of countries has been selected on the basis of various criteria. There is ongoing work on several of these countries, and thus the core countries that UNU-WIDER targets in this request for research proposals (RFRP) are: India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Mexico, the Philippines, Iran, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and South Africa. Studies on additional countries will be considered provided researchers justify the importance for this initiative of new analysis of group-based inequalities in these countries.

The second core aim of this initiative is to encourage research by early-career scholars from these countries and regions. Proposals from individuals or groups of individuals are welcome. Applications from suitably qualified early-career, female, and developing country researchers are particularly encouraged.

For proposals which are successful, researchers will be required to sign a formal contract with UNU-WIDER that follows UNU conditions of service for [Consultant Contracts \(CTC\)](#). Based on the qualifications of the lead researcher and an assessment of the research proposal, a total research honorarium<sup>1</sup> in the range of USD 4,000-6,000 will be paid in two installments for a working paper of maximum 10,000 words—to be considered for publication in the [WIDER Working Paper series](#). The deliverables must be deemed satisfactory by the UNU-WIDER project focal points before payment is made. The honorarium is expected to cover all expenses associated with the conduct of the proposed research. Budget submission is not required.

Successful applicants (one author per paper) will be asked to attend a 1-2 day contributors' workshop (date and venue TBD) where work in progress will be presented to other contracted researchers and that will provide opportunities for exchange and collaboration. Costs of attending this workshop will be borne by UNU-WIDER in accordance with United Nations University travel policy.

UNU-WIDER will formally pursue publication options after the selection of accepted proposals as outlined in the overview note. UNU-WIDER will aim for the highest quality outlet for the collection, taking into account the topic and quality of the papers.<sup>2</sup>

While payment of the honorarium will be made upon delivery of the working paper as discussed above, the final version of the journal special issue/book volume will not be complete at that point. After payment has been made, it is expected that researchers will:

- 1 Respond to reasonable requests by the publisher and editors with respect to finalization of the publication.
- 2 Participate in knowledge-sharing events.

### 3 Proposal submission details

- 1 Submission of proposals is done electronically using a form on the [RFRP announcement page](#). Details (such as address, gender, nationality, date of birth) of all researchers involved are required to be entered into the form, and the proposal as well as brief CVs (five pages or less) of researcher/s uploaded. It is recommended to familiarize with the form in advance.
- 2 The proposal ('plan of action') should be no more than five pages of A4 paper in length excluding cover page and references, using 12 point font, 1.5 line spacing, and standard margins. It should speak explicitly to the requirements outlined in the project overview note attached to this RFRP and should summarize the data available, the key variables included in each data source, and the author's proposed plan of action for the analysis. Proposals not relating to India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Mexico, the Philippines, Iran, Democratic Republic of the Congo, or South Africa should also include a brief note (one paragraph) that makes a case for the importance of new analysis on group-based inequalities in the proposed country of study as part of this initiative.

The cover page should contain the complete contact information of researcher(s) and a 200 word proposal abstract which should summarize the research question, main methods, and data.

- 3 Submission of a budget is not required for the proposal.
- 4 Any questions on the proposal process should be sent to [researchproposal8@wider.unu.edu](mailto:researchproposal8@wider.unu.edu) by 8 January 2016. All queries and responses will be published on the [RFRP announcement page](#) after this date.

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<sup>1</sup> In case of co-authorships the honorarium will be divided equally among the contributors.

<sup>2</sup> Researchers will transfer copyright of research produced under the contract to UNU-WIDER. The purpose of this copyright transfer is to allow UNU-WIDER to effectively negotiate with editors of journals in order to seek the most desirable possible publication outlet for a related set of papers. If no (further) publication is to be expected by UNU-WIDER, the copyright can be returned to the author(s).

## 4 Evaluation process and criteria

Proposals will be scored using the following criteria: a) the proposal successfully addresses the core minimal requirements for case studies in this research initiative as outlined in the project overview note; b) the proposal involves suitably qualified early career researchers from the countries or regions of study; c) the proposal demonstrates additional research merit and innovation beyond the core minimal requirements for case studies.

Basically, proposals will be selected to provide comparable information across all countries included in the project. Detailed guidelines and technical notes are thus provided in the overview note attached to this call; submissions that do not take into account these specific minimal requirements will not be considered. Preference will be given to those proposals that go beyond the specific requirements and contribute with new ideas to the study of group-based inequalities in each country.

The core countries that we target in this call are: India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Mexico, the Philippines, Iran, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and South Africa.

Studies on additional countries may be considered provided the researchers justify the importance of new analysis of group-based inequalities in these countries.

Given the aims of the project, preference will be given to applications from early career scholars from the countries or regions of study. Ideal applicants should hold a recent PhD in economics or a related field (or be near PhD completion).

The editorial team will consider additional criteria such as overall coherence of the book volume/ journal special issue, and diversity of topics addressed.

The working language of this project and its related papers is English. Non-native speakers, however, are encouraged to apply; some limited editorial assistance may be provided at the final stage of publication if necessary.

## 5 Dates (EET – Eastern Europe Time)

14 December 2015	Request for research proposals advertised; submissions considered on a rolling basis <sup>3</sup>
8 January 2016	Final opportunity for questions on the request for research proposals
1 February 2016	Proposal submission deadline 23:59 EET has been extended
10 February 2016	Final acceptance notifications sent
20 February 2016	Target date for completion of necessary administrative procedures
1 May 2016	Target date for submission of first draft of papers
May-June 2016	Target window for the work-in-progress workshop (date and venue TBD)
1 August 2016	Target date for submission of final papers

Knowledge-sharing events will be planned subsequently.

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<sup>3</sup> Submissions for papers on core countries (India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Mexico, the Philippines, Iran, Democratic Republic of the Congo, or South Africa) will be considered on a rolling basis; thus those with proposals on these countries are encouraged to submit early. Applicants planning to submit proposals on these countries should send a brief email as soon as possible to [researchproposal8@wider.unu.edu](mailto:researchproposal8@wider.unu.edu) to register their interest in submitting an application, and we can then let you know if we have already finalized commissioning on the country.