

AIPS/HEC Dissertation Workshop: Call for Proposals

AIPS is requesting proposals to lead doctoral dissertation workshops during the calendar year 2012. Based on funding, AIPS seeks to organize three workshops during the time period (Spring, Fall and Winter). These dissertation workshops will be discipline-based. Disciplines of high priority for future dissertation workshops include **Economics, Education and English** (but applications from other disciplines will also be accepted e.g. anthropology/sociology, history, women's studies, comparative literature, and political science).

The next proposed workshop, tentatively scheduled for May of 2012, is being funded in part by support from Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan. This special funding along with support for the December 2011 workshop (Workshop Leader, Professor Yasmin Saikia) was secured on behalf of AIPS by Professor Anita Weiss during her meetings with Dr. Sohail Naqvi, Director HEC in August, 2011.

Eligibility: The workshop leader will be an established senior scholar who is: i) either an **Individual Member**, an **Institutional Trustee** or a **Faculty at an AIPS Member Institutions**; ii) has a robust research portfolio; and iii) has ample experience in supervising graduate students at the MA and/or Doctoral level. The workshop leaders (once selected) will invite, at their discretion, a senior Pakistan-based scholar to assist the workshop leader in conducting the dissertation workshop. Prior to issuing the invitation, the AIPS dissertation workshop selection committee must approve the Pakistani scholar to be included.

Application Process: Interested candidates (workshop leaders) should submit a one page proposal that provides information about their academic background, brief outline about how they propose to run the workshop sessions, name and academic details of the Pakistani colleague who would co-lead the workshop and the preferred dates (whether Spring, Fall or Winter).

A current CV is also required.

Prior to submitting their applications, candidates should feel free to get in touch with either the committee members or those colleagues who have been workshop leaders in the past (see below, **Background**)).

Applications to lead a dissertation workshop must be submitted to AIPS <aips@pakistanstudies-aips.org> by **January 15, 2012**. The applications will be reviewed by the AIPS selection committee (Chaired by Anita Weiss, Carla Petievich and Chris Candland Members) which has been constituted for this task.

Once accepted, mutually agreed upon dates will then be established.

Workshop leaders will receive round-trip economy travel to Islamabad, Pakistan, four nights accommodation during the workshop and a \$750 honorarium. Similarly, the Pakistani counterpart will receive a round trip domestic economy travel allowance to Islamabad (if based outside Islamabad), four days of accommodation during the workshop and \$750 as honorarium.

Further Details on AIPS/HEC Doctoral Dissertation Workshops

Dissertation workshops serve multiple purposes for the long term benefit of higher education. The individual workshops are intended to bring together Pakistani doctoral students (based in Pakistan) in the humanities and social sciences who are: (i) developing dissertation proposals or are in early phases of research or dissertation writing; (ii) seeking to develop new, richer, more accurate, more subtle or robust understandings of their fields; and (iii) aspire to become viable scholars within the global intellectual community. At the individual level, they engage aspiring scholars and assist them in such things as developing and reformulating research questions, placing research within theoretical contexts, facilitating the organization and structure of the dissertation, and sharing global norms of scholarship in research, writing and citation structures. The effects on an institutional level may well be more compelling as they enable the long term thriving of substantive scholarship through the mentoring of a new generation of scholars who will, in turn, be more effective mentors with their own graduate students in the future.

The HEC advertises each dissertation workshop on their website, provides funding for selected doctoral students to travel to Islamabad for the workshop, houses the students in the HEC hostel in Islamabad. (At this time, the U.S. Government has requested all dissertation workshops be held in Islamabad.) For the December 2011 and May 2012 workshops HEC is also providing the funds toward the travel and honorarium of the Dissertation Leaders.

AIPS develops the ad for the workshop, contacts professors and departments of the discipline to advertise the workshop further, provides the venue for the workshop at the AIPS Islamabad Office, and provide meals and supplies to workshop participants.

Each workshop is limited to 12 students, ideally from a broad array of universities within Pakistan. Applicants need not have advanced to candidacy but must have at least drafted a dissertation research proposal. Applications are also welcome from doctoral students in the early phases of writing their dissertations.

Each workshop lasts for three days.

An Example of a Typical Workshop

In previous workshops students were responsible for completing assigned readings (if any) prior to the commencement of the workshop. Each day included a buffet lunch and a relaxed dinner to facilitate further discussion. In most cases the first day focused on discussions of major theoretical or substantive works, ideally which had been previously circulated. These works consisted of 4-5 articles relevant to the disciplinary topic. Participants discussed issues such as developing research questions, methodologies, bibliographies, and review style guides for the discipline. The second and third days constituted discussions of dissertation proposals by each participant (which had previously been submitted and circulated). Participants addressed theory, methods, substance, and structure of each dissertation proposal, and tied them to the discussions held on the first day.

Selection of Students:

Applications from doctoral students will consist of two required items: i) two copies of a current

Curriculum Vitae; and ii) two copies of the dissertation proposal. If the research and writing is well underway, a statement may be included of the specific issues being addressed, the intellectual approach being taken, and the materials being studied. Neither the proposal nor statement should exceed 10 double-spaced pages in length. Application materials will be submitted to AIPS, which will forward them to the dissertation workshop leader(s). They may be submitted to the HEC as well, which will forward applications to AIPS. Each proposal will have a distinct deadline for submissions. **The dissertation workshop leader(s) will have sole discretion in the selection of workshop participants**, prioritizing the basis of the submitted project, the potential for useful exchanges among them, and a concern to include a wide range of perspectives, intellectual rigor, and somewhat related concerns. Applicants will be informed whether or not they have been selected for the workshop by the designated date noted in the call for applications.

Background

In November 2007 Anita Weiss, in her capacity as Treasurer of AIPS, met with Dr. Ishrat Husain, then head of the HEC Committee on Social Science Development, and with Dr. Sohail Naqvi, Director HEC, to get a sense of the level of interest the HEC might have in AIPS becoming involved in this endeavor. They were enthusiastically supportive and quite appreciative of AIPS wanting to assist higher education in Pakistan in this way. They anticipated that the HEC would be able to support this endeavor financially as well, most likely in the form of providing support to Pakistani scholars participating in the workshops. In October 2008, the AIPS Board of Trustees approved holding dissertation workshops in Pakistan. Shortly afterwards, David Gilmartin and Robert Nichols (U.S.-based historians of Pakistan and AIPS Trustees) submitted a proposal to AIPS to hold the first doctoral dissertation workshop in history in early May 2009.

To date four Dissertation Workshop have been held.

2009: Robert Nichols (Stockton College) and David Gilmartin (North Carolina University)

2010 Kamran Asdar Ali (University of Texas) and Humeira Iqtidar (Cambridge University/LUMS)

2010 Antia Weiss (University of Oregon) and Saba Gul Khattak (Member Planning Commission)

2010 Chris Candland (Wellesley College) and Riffat Hussain (Quaid e Azam University).