

Emerging Methodologists Workshop: Qualitative and Multi-Method Explanatory Research
UPDATED Call for Proposals for August 2023 Workshop
Application Due Date: March 6, 2023

Background and Motivation

The community of scholars who engage in qualitative and multi-method explanatory research is large and diverse. By contrast, the group of scholars who develop, write on, and teach these research methods – i.e., who *guide* the endeavors of researchers who carry out such empirical work – is far smaller and more homogeneous. This is the case despite thousands of scholars attending the Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (IQMR) over the last 20 years, the sizable membership of the Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (QMMR) section of the American Political Science Association (APSA), and robust attendance at the section's short courses at the APSA Annual Meeting.

One cause of this disparity is that junior scholars, particularly those from under-represented groups, are not encouraged and actively mentored to become qualitative methodologists. The initiative described here seeks to address that gap by encouraging advanced graduate students, post-docs, and junior faculty who are from under-represented groups, and who are based at U.S. institutions, to develop, publish on, and teach qualitative and multi-method research.

Specifically, we will organize an “Emerging Methodologists Workshop for Qualitative and Multi-Method Explanatory Research” (EMW-QMER) at the APSA meeting in 2023, 2024, and 2025. Workshops will run as invitation-only pre-conference short courses sponsored by APSA's QMMR section. At each workshop, six scholars will present and receive feedback on a paper they wrote and circulated in advance. Presenters will receive intensive support: senior faculty mentors will attend the workshop and work with presenters before and afterwards, helping them to develop and move their work toward peer-reviewed publication. We will introduce presenters into existing networks, foster new networks, and work to build an inclusive community.

Generous funding from the National Science Foundation supports the initiative.

Eligibility and Paper Requirements

Eligibility requirements: **Advanced doctoral students** in political science, and **recent PhDs (2016 or later)** in political science serving as postdocs, junior faculty, or in other kinds of positions in academia whose **home institution is in the U.S.** are welcome to submit proposals.

Paper requirements:

- Mainly or completely empirical work that simply uses a particular method is **not** eligible.
- Papers must focus specifically on **developing, critiquing, challenging, or enhancing a method** for collecting, generating, or analyzing qualitative data, or a technique for multi-method research.
 - Work that focuses on methodological development that includes brief empirical examples is encouraged.

Proposal Process

To be considered for the APSA 2023 workshop, please email the following as one continuous PDF to emw.qmer@gmail.com by **March 6, 2023**. Please title the file “LASTNAME.pdf”

- Cover letter
 - Name, department, position (e.g., xth year graduate student, postdoc, assistant professor)
 - Substantive and methodological research interests
 - Name and contact information of two faculty members or colleagues who could serve as references
- Abstract for the paper you propose to present at the workshop (150 words)
- Essay #1 (300 words): discuss your broad interests in, and use of, qualitative methods and multi-method research and how you became interested in those methods
- Essay #2 (300 words): describe how your participation and research will contribute to the diversity of the workshop and the broader QMMR community
- CV

Selection and Support

The EMW-QMER steering committee will review all eligible proposals and select six papers that contribute to the development of qualitative and multi-method research methodology. Selection will focus on the intellectual and methodological promise of proposals, and the contributions that applicants and their proposed work make to the diversity of the QMMR community. All applicants will be notified of the status of their application by March 31, 2023.

Each workshop presenter will work with a “methods mentor” – a senior scholar in the QMMR community with expertise in the area of their proposed paper – as they develop their papers, circulating well-developed versions in advance of the workshop. Each year, the workshop will cover round-trip airfare, two nights at a conference hotel, meals and refreshments during the workshop, and the \$25 workshop fee for each paper presenter.

Participants will continue to revise their papers after the workshop, with the continued support of their mentors and the broader EMW community, before submitting them to a peer-reviewed journal. Those selected to present at the EMW-QMER in 2023 will also be invited to attend and present at the annual virtual EMW-QMER mini-conference to be held starting in Winter 2024, and to attend (at their own expense) the EMW-QMER workshop at APSA in future years.

This initiative will foster a diverse and vibrant community of emerging methodologists in the qualitative and multi-method tradition, with connections within and across EMW-QMER cohorts. Our hope is that participants continue to publish and teach in the field of qualitative methodology, and that they seek and find a home in the QMMR community as their careers advance.

Contact: Please send all inquiries to emw.qmer@gmail.com.