Call for Applications

Research Transparency and Reproducibility Training (RT2)

The Berkeley Initiative for Transparency in the Social Sciences (BITSS) invites applications for the Research Transparency and Reproducibility Training (RT2) in Los Angeles, CA, September 5-7, 2018.

RT2 provides participants with an overview of tools and best practices for transparent and reproducible social science research. The curriculum is developed and delivered by academic leaders in the open science movement, and there is space for collaborative work and hands-on skill building. Participants are encouraged to bring existing research questions and ideas based on their own interests to seek support and feedback from instructors and other attendees.

Motivation

The scientific community has grown increasingly aware of problems with the reliability and reproducibility of published research after multiple efforts failed to replicate landmark studies across the social sciences. These problems arise from a lack of transparency, including the failure to publicly share research documentation, data, and code, as well as the propensity to report and publish studies based on the direction and the statistical significance of their findings. However, methods, tools, and practices are being continuously developed to improve transparency and reproducibility throughout the research cycle – from design through implementation, dissemination and archiving. Through RT2, we look to welcome more research professionals to the open science movement and build a forum for discussion on the current challenges and potential improvements in the way research is conducted across the social sciences.

Eligibility

RT2 is designed for researchers across the social and health sciences spectrum, with particular emphasis on economics, political science, psychology, and public health. Participants are typically: (*i*) current Masters and PhD students, (*ii*) postdocs, (*iii*) junior faculty, (*iv*) research staff, (*v*) librarians and data stewards, and (*vi*) journal editors, research funders, and research managers curious about the implications of transparency and reproducibility for their work.

RT2 is targeted to participants who primarily use quantitative or mixed methods. Applicants are required to have proficiency in at least one statistical analysis software package. Proficiency with R or Stata is desirable, but not required.

Fees and Financial Support

Tuition for RT2 is $1,500 for three days, including breakfast, lunch, and a networking reception on September 7. This tuition fee does not cover costs for travel and accommodation.

Financial Support: For up to 30 participants, BITSS offers partial or full financial support by waiving the tuition fee and covering travel, accommodation, and per diem. Financial support will be awarded based

on a combination of merit and need, taking into account our commitment to facilitate access to RT2 for diverse and underserved populations.

Application Process

You can submit your application online [here](). The application includes questions regarding (*i*) your motivation to participate in RT2 Los Angeles and (*ii*) how you expect your participation to contribute to scaling-up education and training on research transparency and reproducibility.

Applications should also include a Curriculum Vitae or Resume, and an optional Letter of Reference. Please submit these as attachments in the online application portal.

More information is available our website [here]().

Selection Process

BITSS aims to select no more than 40-45 participants for RT2. With this in mind, the number of applications for RT2 tends to greatly exceed the number of available spaces.

BITSS staff will lead the selection process with oversight from the BITSS Faculty Director. Competitive selection will be based on the (*i*) quality of application materials and expected impact, (*ii*) balance across disciplines, gender, and institutions, and (*iii*) synergies with other Center for Effective Global Action ([CEGA]()) initiatives.

Applications from self-funded participants will be considered on a rolling basis. Self-funded applicants will be assessed based on the same eligibility criteria as those requesting financial support.

Application Timeline

To be considered for financial support, applications must be submitted no later than **11:59pm PT June 4, 2018**. Notifications of acceptance for applicants with financial support will be sent no later than June 8, 2018.

BITSS will consider applications for self-funded participants on a rolling basis through **11:59pm PT August 20, 2018**.