



## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

### 2026 JPSA-APSA Working Group on Civically Engaged Research for Critical Issues in Society “Civic Engagement, Cyberspace, and Democracy” September 2-6, 2026 – Boston, Massachusetts (USA)

The American Political Science Association (APSA) and the Japanese Political Science Association (JPSA) are pleased to announce a Call for Applications for early-career scholars from the US and Japan who are interested in conducting civically engaged research on topics related to the social and political impacts of emerging technologies on democratic engagement. The JPSA-APSA Working Group on “Civically Engaged Research for Critical Issues in Society” will be held alongside this year’s [APSA Annual Meeting](#), from September 2-6, in Boston, MA.

Program information and a web link to the Application Form can be found [online](#). **The deadline for application is Monday, June 1.** For more information, contact [asiaworkshops@apsanet.org](mailto:asiaworkshops@apsanet.org).

With generous support from the Japan Foundation, APSA and JPSA are collaborating on a multi-year program of scholarly exchange, professional development, and community engagement. Each year, invited scholars from American and Japanese universities will attend a conference Working Group to share and improve research toward publication, develop new scholarly networks, and explore the use of [civically engaged research](#) (CER) to investigate critical issues facing our societies. The program will include closed sessions for a core group of scholars, interactive meetings with members of local civil society organizations, and public sessions open to community, scholarly, and professional audiences. Organizers will cover participation costs (including airfare and accommodation) for up to 16 qualified applicants. The working language of the program is English.

#### **2026 Working Group Theme: Civic Engagement, Cyberspace, and Democracy**

Our program aims to support research on conditions that make us vulnerable to divisions in our societies, as well as research that explores interventions to overcome these divisions. This year’s working group focuses on how new and emerging technologies are reshaping democratic politics, civic life, and state–society relations. Digital and biotechnological transformations are altering the organization of participation, the production and circulation of political information, and the institutional foundations of governance. At the same time, these technologies are themselves shaped by political contestation, regulatory frameworks, and civic action. Research that is conducted from a community-centered approach and strives to learn from all stakeholders can yield innovative findings that address social challenges. Attendees at this year’s Working Group will discuss best practices and models of excellence for CER. We encourage applications from scholars examining the role of emerging technologies in democratic engagement, especially those working in collaboration with civil society or government partners.

#### **Eligibility and Application Instructions**

We invite applications from early-career political scientists (graduate students, post-docs, and faculty who received their PhD within the last 7 years) based at universities in Japan or the United States. Scholars from other social science disciplines undertaking research related to the workshop theme are also welcome to apply. Japan-based scholars should be current JPSA members or have pending applications; US-based scholars should be APSA members. Presenters/papers that have already been accepted in the APSA program are also eligible.

Applications must be in English and include:

1. The completed online [Application Form](#).
2. A detailed, recent Curriculum Vitae/resume.
3. A research statement (2,000 words) describing the work-in-progress you plan to discuss at the workshop. This should outline your research questions, a brief literature review, the methods used and/or your plans for data-collection, the project’s anticipated contributions to the field, and how it relates to the workshop themes. Prior to the workshop, scholars selected for participation will then share an article-length research paper (6,000-10,000 words) that is at a stage of development which would benefit from intense discussion and critique.