

Call for Submissions: “The Early-Stage Ideas Forum”

The Early-Stage Ideas Forum welcomes submissions from researchers at all career stages who are looking to stress test a developing research idea or project. This session is intended for work that has not yet matured into a full paper, such as projects where the core research question, theoretical framing, or methodological approach is still being refined. Selected participants (6-10) will deliver a concise pitch (5-7 minutes) summarizing the key aspects of their project. A panel of senior scholars will then provide rapid, direct, and high-impact feedback, challenging assumptions and identifying strengths, weaknesses, and potential blind spots

The Early-Stage Ideas Forum uses a structured pitch format inspired by [Robert Faff’s Pitching Research Framework \(2024, SSRN\)](#). As pointed out by [Bui \(2021\)](#), research templates offer value across career stages, assisting early-career scholars in developing their initial ideas into viable research projects, and supporting more experienced researchers in translating abstract concepts into clearer, more actionable research directions.

To be considered for participation in the Early-Stage Ideas Forum, please follow the format below, which contains 7 items. **A total of words should be around 1,000 words. It should be concise and to the point.** See Table 1 for more information.

Table 1. Sections, Focus, and Guidance

Section	Content Focus	Guidance/Word Limits
A. Working Title	Capture the project's core idea clearly.	Aim for 10-12 words.
B. Basic Research Question	State the central question identifying the dependent and key explanatory variables.	Around 20-30 words.
C. Key papers	Cite three foundational works (ideally by well-established scholars) that motivate or anchor the idea.	Brief, targeted list with short context.
D. Motivation/Puzzle	Explain what is missing in current knowledge and why your idea fills an important gap.	400 words.
E. Idea and Data	Clarify the core concept, hypothesis, and any theoretical tension. Describe the data source, sample (size), representativeness, availability, proxies, and feasibility (including external validity considerations).	100-150 words (3-6 dot points each).
F. Tools	Specify the analytical methods, models, and software you expect to use. This section should explain the methodological approach used to address the research question, hypotheses, or predictions.	100-150 words (3-6 dot points each).
G. What's New/Contribution	Articulate the novelty of your idea and what new insight it delivers and how it advances the literature. It should be clear, significant, well-defined, specific and achievable with the mentioned resources. Describe why the idea matters and to whom (scholars, policymakers, practitioners, theory, methods).	300 words (2-4 sentences).