

Call for Posters

Boulder-Bergamo Forum on Access to Financial Services: Expanding the Rural Frontier

September 18th-20th, 2008
University of Bergamo – Italy

A joint initiative by Boulder Institute of Microfinance and University of Bergamo
with the support of the Rural Finance Program of the Ohio State University

OVERVIEW

Six hundred million people living in rural areas have annual incomes of less than \$2 per day. A great majority of these people have no access to formal financial services. Could access to finance help improve livelihoods, provide greater economic security and create greater economic opportunities for these people? If so, what types of financial services have the greatest impact? What program and institutions can deliver financial services to these areas? What government policies support the expansion of appropriate financial services to rural areas?

The *Boulder Institute of Microfinance* in partnership with the *University of Bergamo* has designed a forum to bring together leading academic researchers with a group of key policy makers who guide government programs. We want to bring the best current research to the table and have the type of dialogue that shapes the direction of future inquiry in a way that is most relevant to decision makers. The primary purpose of this inaugural conference is to shorten the cycle between ideas, innovations, rigorous research, and its practical applications on policies with the final goal of expanding the delivery and access of financial services to poor people.

POSTER SESSIONS

Participation as a poster presenter offers a unique opportunity for networking with people in the field, sharing perspectives on on-going work, receiving feedback from top academics, policy makers, and practitioners in relation to practical application of research results. Posters will be selected by a committee of academics to be displayed during the conference and presented during 2 poster sessions. The posters will be presented on site, where researchers can offer overviews of research underway, and practitioners and policy makers can present suggestions for useful research.

Posters are being solicited in areas relevant to rural finance including but not limited to:

- Nexus between rural and agricultural finance
- Impact of interest rates and transaction costs on low income clients
- Price sensitivity on the demand for microcredit and micro deposit facilities
- Reach of electronic payments systems into poor areas
- Appropriate regulatory frameworks for rural finance in small distant markets
- Value added of formal finance to the poor – right products, low cost delivery channels
- Impact of increased access to finance on macroeconomic development
- Innovations in risk reduction
- Value chains as a source of financial services

REFEREED POSTER SUBMISSIONS

Posters should be carefully designed to visually convey the details of the research. The posters should attract the attention of people that are attending the conference so that they will be drawn to look at them during the breaks. The goal is to develop a poster that brings people who are interested in your research topic together and generates active discussion of the research.

The posters will be reviewed and selected by the Poster Committee. Twenty posters will be displayed and presented during the 2 poster sessions. Best papers written by selected poster presenters will be given the opportunity to be published in *Savings and Development Journal*, if they comply with the journal standards and after review by referees.

The top five poster authors will receive a scholarship to attend the conference and special recognition at the conference.

A submission must include an abstract not exceeding 400 words and a mock up of the poster (in pdf or power point format). Also, please include the URL of a web site related to the poster if applicable.

Authors of selected submissions must submit a paper to be published on the event website prior to the event. This will allow your work to be shared with a much larger audience. By agreeing to present your poster at the **Boulder-Bergamo Forum on Access to Financial Services**, you are agreeing to publish your work on these websites.

PRACTICAL

- The conference fee will be waived for one author per accepted poster. Poster presenters are responsible for their own travel and lodging expenses.
- The posters will be located in a public area, close to the exhibition, viewable for all conference attendees.
- The size of the board for the poster is about 1 meter wide and 1.5 meter high. SEE GUIDELINES
- The posters are to be set up Wednesday evening, September 17th.
- During coffee breaks someone must be present at the poster to interact with conference attendees. At other times this is also possible, putting a time schedule on the poster is recommended.
- Selected authors must bring with them CDs, leaflets and whatever they regard advisable to be distributed to the conference participants.

IMPORTANT DATES

Submission of abstract and poster mock up due: **July 15th, 2008**

Notification to authors: **July 30th, 2008**

Paper Due: **August 22nd, 2008**

CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS

Poster Information - **Davide Castellani, University of Bergamo - findev@unibg.it**



UNIVERSITY of BERGAMO

Conference Program Information: **Shawn Hernández, Boulder Institute of Microfinance - shawn@bouldermft.org**

Poster Guidelines

Format:

- **Measurement:** The poster should measure approx. 1meter wide by 1.5 meter high.
- **Heading:** The letters in the heading should measure at least 2.5 centimeters high, and should list the *title of the paper, authors, institution* and its *location*.
- **Lettering:** The letters must be easy to read at 1.5 meters distance from the poster. For handwritten posters, the text should be clear and legible.

Organization & Content:

- The poster should follow a logical sequence including:
 - *statement of the problem*
 - *objectives* of the research
 - *methodology* used to solve the problem
 - *major findings* and *outcomes*
 - *significance* and *conclusions*
- Specifically, the poster should:
 - Clearly and concisely state the objectives, questions, and hypothesis of the research
 - Include empirical data
 - Briefly outline methods used and provide references
 - Present results in graphs or tables with clear legends and preferably an interpretation of the results below.
 - State conclusions and major findings in large and clear type for viewers to see.

Helpful Hints for Posters

- Make sure the poster is easy to follow and that any visual can "stand alone" since people will be viewing your poster when you are not there. (ie. graph axes are properly labeled, symbols are explained, etc.)
- Make it obvious to the viewer how to progressively view the poster. The poster generally should read from left to right, and top to bottom. Numbering the individual panels or connecting them with arrows is a standard "guidance system".
- Present numerical data in the form of graphs, rather than tables (graphs make trends in the data much more evident). If data must be presented in table-form, KEEP IT SIMPLE.
- Make sure that the text and the visuals are integrated. Figures should be numbered consecutively according to the order in which they are first mentioned in the text. Each visual should have a *brief* title (for example: Figure 1- Location of study area).
- Concentrate on 2-3 main points. Don't try to cover too many things. Present only enough data to support your conclusions. On the other hand, make sure that you present sufficient data to support your conclusions.
- Simplicity is key! Avoid using too much text. Use bullets as opposed to full sentences. Limit the text to about one-fourth of the poster space, and use "visuals" (graphs, photographs, schematics, maps, etc.) to tell your "story."
- Leave some open space in the design. An open layout is less tiring to the eye and mind. Use color to enhance comprehension, not to decorate the poster.

Additional Resources

<http://www.ncsu.edu/project/posters/NewSite/> - Creating Effective Poster Presentations by George Hess, Kathryn Tosney, Leon Liegel

<http://www.aapg.org/meetings/instructions/prepguide.pdf> - The Poster Session: A Guide for Preparation by Boulder Institute of Microfinance, University of Bergamo
Cardi Waite Connor, US Geological Survey
909 N.E. Boat Street, Suite # 250
Seattle, Washington, USA 98105
www.bouldermicrofinance.org
Via Salvecchio 19
24129 Bergamo - Italy
www.unibg.it

<http://www.owl.net.rice.edu/~cainproj/designing.html> - Poster Design Guide by the Cain Project at Rice University.

<http://www.plu.edu/%7Elibr/workshops/multimedia/posters.html> - Creating Poster Sessions by Pacific Lutheran University

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Poster Application

Deadline: June 15th, 2008

Thank you for your interest in presenting your research. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at findev@unibg.it or Tel. +39-035-2052691.

Please fill out the following information and attach these documents:

- 1) Abstract (less than 400 words)
- 2) Mock up of poster (PDF or power point format)

Presentation Title:	
Author(s) and Affiliation(s):	
Primary Contact:	
Primary Contact Email:	
Brief Description of Project (Please limit to 200 words):	

Please send this form, abstract, and poster mock up and to: findev@unibg.it