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CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

# COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

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## ANTHROPOLOGIST TESTIFIES AT INFORMATION AGE SCIENCE HEARING

As part of the House Science and Technology Committee's Task Force on Science Policy, Representative George Brown (D-CA) chaired hearings last week that examined "The Impact of the Information Age on Science." Designed to illustrate the ways computers and information technology have affected the sciences, the hearings afforded the witnesses the opportunity to dazzle the audience with impressive show-and-tell demonstrations.

Among the witnesses was Dr. George Armelagos, Professor of Anthropology at the University of Massachusetts. Testifying after slide shows, videotapes, and movies had provided 'gee whiz' evidence of how computers have transformed astronomy and chemistry, Professor Armelagos demonstrated that the computer age has affected the ways in which social science is done as well. He surveyed the anthropology field and noted that in many of the

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Risa I. Palm, *President*

David Jenness, *Executive Director*

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subfields the computer was now a valuable tool for anthropologists. In linguistic anthropology the application of information technology has facilitated work on unwritten languages. In archaeology portable computers have now made possible the faster transmission of information gathered in the field. In biological anthropology computer simulations have been utilized in work on energy flows and fertility patterns. The computerization of the Human Relations Area Files have aided cultural anthropologists in their work. Using impressive slides of his own, Dr. Armelagos demonstrated how CAT scanners have helped to identify alterations in ancient skull structures.

Other witnesses included: noted futurist John Diebold, Dr. Allen Newell of Carnegie-Mellon University, and Dr. John Seely Brown of the Xerox Palo Alto Research Center.

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Hearings on the social and behavioral sciences are being held this week (September 17-19) by the House Science and Technology Committee's Task Force. The final witness list included: Herbert Simon, Carnegie-Mellon University; R. Duncan Luce, Harvard University; Neil Smelser, University of California, Berkeley; Joseph Newhouse, Rand Corporation; Clark Abt, Abt Associates; Walter Albers, General Motors Corporation; James S. Coleman, University of Chicago; Douglas W. Bray, Development Dimensions International; Francis X. Sutton, Ford Foundation; Albert Rees, Sloan Foundation; Amitai Etzioni, George Washington University; and Richard W. Pew, Bolt, Beranek & Newman.

A report on the hearings will appear in the next issue of Update.

#### COSSA HOLDS SEMINAR ON USES OF SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

On September 13, COSSA sponsored a congressional breakfast seminar entitled "Who Uses Social Science Research? Its 'Uptake' in the Domestic Policy Arena and the Commercial Sector." Over 50 congressional staff, federal officials, journalists, and members of associations concerned with social science research attended the seminar, which was co-sponsored by the House Science and Technology Committee's Task Force on Science Policy.

The seminar was organized as a panel, with informal presentations by Leo Bogart, Executive Vice President and General Manager, Newspaper Advertising Bureau, Inc., New York; William Morrill, President, Mathematica Policy Research, Princeton; and F. Thomas Juster, Director, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. The seminar was organized in part to underscore a concern that the identification of basic

research with the university community, targeted research with government, and applied research with the business world is oversimplified.

Bogart, a sociologist and former president of the American Association for Public Opinion Research, described the scope of commercial research (including public opinion studies, media research, advertising research, and consumer research), pointing out that academic social science provides the trained personnel, the theoretical models, and the technical innovations that sustain commercial research, an enterprise that now amounts to several billion dollars a year. Through professional organizations, journals, and contract research involving consultants, there is a constant infusion of ideas from the universities into the business world, as well as a movement of people.

Morrill, who joined Mathematica in 1977 following an extensive career in government, focussed his remarks on the public sector. He noted that it is rare for an individual study to influence the policy process. More typically, social science research exercises more subtle impact on policies as data from many studies accrue over time into a body of knowledge. Morrill observed that to the extent that research produces a result which is counter-intuitive or runs counter to traditional values, it is less likely to have an impact on policy. Drawing upon his own experience as sponsor, performer, and user of research, Morrill suggested that in the future social science research would contribute more to the policy process if program managers become more successful in asking the right questions.

Juster, an economist, pointed out that the distinction between 'applied' and 'basic' research is highly artificial in terms of the motivations of researchers themselves. In Juster's view the social science community as a whole -- both in and outside the university -- is aware of and responsive to social agenda, large-scale policy developments, and pressing societal questions. Timing, funding levels, and other external circumstances often make it impossible for researchers to provide strictly relevant research results on demand. Yet there is knowledge, generally gained from a series of related studies over time, that is so reliable that social scientists can warn policy makers of decisions that will almost certainly not produce the intended results. The major contributions of social science research to the public policy process, according to Juster, are: damage control (i.e. forecasting unintended outcomes); institutionalized history; and identification of visible inconsistencies.

Following the three speakers' remarks, there was considerable cross-conversation among the panelists, and questions from the floor.

ANOTHER VIEW OF THE BASIC/APPLIED RELATIONSHIP

Ronald F. Abler is presently President of the Association of American Geographers (AAG); Program Director, geography and regional science, National Science Foundation; and Professor, department of geography, The Pennsylvania State University (on leave). The following remarks are reprinted, condensed from the AAG Newsletter (August 1, 1985).

A serendipitous benefit of my current sojourn in Washington has been the opportunity to meet the local geographical community. The metropolitan area contains one of the largest concentration of geographers in the world. Some few are academics, but most work in government or private industry, where they practice geography in much the same way that a physician practices medicine. Practitioners comprise a fifth of the Association's members. They practice geography in government, in private industry, as self-employed individuals, in non-profit organizations, in research centers, and in the military services.

The work of practitioners is critical to geography's welfare. People outside the academic world learn of geography largely through the work of practitioners or applied geographers. Government officials and business and industry leaders may occasionally encounter a specific item of published geographical research, but any day-to-day awareness of what kind of work geographers do and can do most likely comes from a practicing geographer...

Geography needs the practitioners to advance the discipline in quarters where it is even less well known than within the academic community, and that task is worthy of a share of the best talent we can muster.

...A healthy discipline needs a yeasty balance of theory, methods, and applications. Practice is where theory and methods meet the acid test of applicability to the world's workaday problems. The AAG is primarily a scholarly organization devoted to advancing theory and method, and it is likely to stay that way. The majority of its members are academic geographers, who have more time to devote to AAG affairs and greater incentives to do so. But the AAG is not exclusively an academic organization nor should it be...Geography is too small and too vulnerable to afford factions or factionalism. Advancing the discipline's interests requires our unified talents and energies. A broader appreciation of the invaluable contributions practitioners make to the discipline and greater efforts to involve them in AAG affairs can only strengthen our common cause.

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ED SECRETARY ESTABLISHES PRIORITIES FOR INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND STUDIES PROGRAM

On August 15, Education Secretary William Bennett announced the funding priorities for new awards in the Title VI International Research and Studies Program. The priorities affect awards for FY 1986 for which applications are due by November 4, 1985. The administration did not ask for any funding for this program for FY 1986, but the Secretary is anticipating action by Congress to continue funding for the program.

The funding priorities are: 1) the use of computers for improving foreign language instruction; 2) foreign language acquisition; 3) improved teaching methodologies for foreign languages; 4) foreign language proficiency testing; and 5) instructional materials.

An education department official, when questioned about the absence of non-language related topics among the priorities, noted that the program will still accept applications in other areas, and last year "one or two projects were funded in area studies."

THE FORUM FOR APPLIED RESEARCH AND PUBLIC POLICY

A quarterly journal carrying articles exploring policy issues in energy, environment, and economic development is being launched by the Tennessee Valley Authority. Described as a scholarly journal by TVA, The Forum for Applied Research and Public Policy is seeking articles that address the three broad topics from a wide range of disciplines. James W. Giltmier, TVA's Washington representative, said in a recent interview that the TVA directors' decision to establish the journal grew from a belief that a new initiative is needed if the agency is to effectively play its mandated role as a 'national demonstration area'. Also TVA's directors hope that the journal will provide more visibility for the agency in national policy debates. Giltmier said that TVA was making a special effort to reach social scientists to become both contributors and readers because the agency wants to contribute to public awareness of the social consequences of public policies in such areas as agriculture and energy. Giltmier said that TVA does not want a journal "owned and operated by engineers".

Articles on public planning and policy, economic development, human resources, agriculture, natural resources, environment, and energy are invited. The journal will be distributed free of charge to libraries and interested scholars. The first issue is scheduled for early 1986.

All editorial, subscription or other inquiries should be directed to: Alanson Van Fleet, Editor, or Daniel Schaffer, Associate Editor, The Forum for Applied Research and Public Policy, Tennessee Valley Authority, 400 Summit Hill Drive, E3C85, Knoxville, TN 37920. Telephone: (615) 632-8019.

COSSA NEWS

o The new Chair of the COSSA Executive Committee is William V. D'Antonio, Executive Officer of the American Sociological Association. D'Antonio succeeds Millard Ruud, Executive Director of the Association of American Law Schools.

o The Southern Sociological Society recently became an Affiliate of the Consortium. The number of COSSA Affiliates now stands at 29.

o Executive Director David Jenness participated on August 28, 1985 in a session "Sociologists and the Congress" at the annual meetings of the American Sociological Association, in Washington, DC. William R. Freudenberg, Washington State University, organized the six-speaker session, which looked at Congress as a sociological institution with information inputs and policy outputs, and as a distinctive organizational culture.

o On August 30, Howard Silver, Associate Director for Government Relations, chaired a panel on "Selling the Social Sciences: Achieving Public Understanding of the Disciplines," at the American Political Science Association convention in New Orleans. Silver was joined on the panel by Thomas J. Linney, Director of Federal and Association Relations at the Council of Graduate Schools of the U.S., and Grace Ostenso, Science Consultant to the House Science and Technology Committee.

o On September 12, Associate Director Silver represented COSSA before a gathering of 1985-86 Congressional Fellows of the Society for Research in Child Development. Appearing with representatives of other groups interested in research on children and the family, he described COSSA's lobbying and research monitoring efforts.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL SCIENCE COUNCIL HEAD VISITS COSSA

Luis I. Ramallo, Secretary General of the International Social Science Council (ISSC), Paris, visited Washington September 10-11, 1985, as part of a more extended trip to the United States. The ISSC is a federation of international disciplinary associations (e.g. International Sociological Association, International Political Science Association), together with regional and other social science associations or councils (e.g. Social Science Federation of Canada, Pacific Science Association). The Council works in interdisciplinary ways to facilitate international cooperation in the social sciences, to organize scientific meetings on selected topics, and to advance ad hoc international linkages. COSSA staff met with Ramallo and helped arrange other contacts and meetings for him in Washington.

SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

COSSA provides this information as a service, and encourages readers to contact the agency rather than COSSA for more information.

Treatment Research Branch  
(National Institute on Drug Abuse)

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) has a broad mandate to study "the nature and extent of drug abuse in the U.S." In the past, a major portion of the budget of the Treatment Research Branch has gone to studies of heroin and methadone and long-term assessments of traditional treatment models. The Branch would like to expand its focus and move toward developing new integrated, innovative treatment models with attention to social, biological, environmental, and individual behavioral characteristics. Needed are methodologically sound studies with appropriate controls which focus on efficacy of mechanisms of treatment and which include essential short-term follow-up as well as long-term follow-up when appropriate. Studies which assess the effectiveness of a variety of treatment strategies (pharmacological and behavioral) in a broad range of settings (private clinics, family doctors, mental health centers) would be welcome.

Topics of interest to the Branch include: in-patient versus out-patient treatment; interactions between drugs-behavior-environment; interactions between prescribed drugs and illicit drugs, alcohol, and tobacco; antecedents to stimulant use; commonalities across treatments of drug abuse and other bio-behavioral disorders; and treatment models for different socio-economic groups.

FY 1985 Budget: Approximately \$6 million for all extramural research

Funding Mechanisms: A wide range of grants and fellowship awards are available.

Review Process: Peer review panels. Proposals are submitted to the Division of Research Grants at the National Institutes of Health for processing, but reviews are conducted by NIDA review panels.

Deadlines: March 1, July 1, and November 1

Contact: John Grabowski, Chief, Treatment Research Branch  
10A-30 Parklawn Building  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, MD 20857  
301/443-4060

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**CONTRIBUTORS**

University of California, Berkeley  
 University of California, Los Angeles  
 University of California, Santa Barbara  
 Carnegie-Mellon University  
 Center for Advanced Study in the  
 Behavioral Sciences  
 Center for International Studies,  
 Duke University  
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**CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS**

1200 SEVENTEENTH STREET, N.W., SUITE 520, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036

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