
CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

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NAS REPORT ON BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES RELEASED

Claiming it will have the same impact for the social sciences as the Vannevar Bush report had on science, Frank Press, President of the National Academy of Sciences, hailed the release on March 10 of the National Research Council (NRC) report The Behavioral and Social Sciences: Achievements and Opportunities. The report focuses on "scientific frontiers in the behavioral and social sciences--leading research questions and fundamental problems--and on the resources needed to work on them." It was prepared by the Committee on Basic Research in the Behavioral and Social Sciences of the National Research Council, co-chaired by R. Duncan Luce, Professor of Psychology and Social Relations, Harvard University, and Neil J. Smelser, Professor of Sociology at the University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Dean R. Gerstein was the Study Director.

Calling for a new national commitment to the behavioral and social sciences, the committee recommends the government spend an additional \$240 million annually to reverse recent declines in federal funding for such research. The report identifies five fundamental areas in which additional research could yield especially exciting results: 1) research linking behavior, the

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The Consortium represents more than 185,000 American scientists across the full range of the social and behavioral sciences, functioning as a bridge between the research world and the Washington community.

Victor G. Rosenblum, *President*

Howard J. Silver, *Acting Executive Director*

mind, and the brain focusing on seeing and hearing, memory, cognition, decision making, and language acquisition; 2) research on the motivational and social contexts of behavior focusing on affect and motivation, health and behavior, crime and violence and social interaction; 3) research on choice and allocation looking at agenda setting, voting behavior, organizational design and change, markets and economic systems, bargaining and negotiation, and jobs, wages and careers; 4) research on institutions and cultures, investigating the evolution of human society, demographic behavior, family and religion, science, technology and public policy, internationalization, and international conflict; and 5) research to improve the methods of collecting and analyzing data, examining data collection designs, formal models, and statistical inference and analysis.

Also called for is increased behavioral and social science access to modern tools of analysis such as new generations of computers, a strengthened commitment to developing large-scale, multipurpose data sets, and better access to data previously collected by federal agencies, as well as corporations and state and local governments. In addition, the committee recommends increased support for education and training at all levels from developing upgraded curricula at the pre-college level, to giving undergraduates better research and inquiry skills and providing incentives to attract more and better students to graduate programs.

Robert McC. Adams, Chairman of the NRC Commission on Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education (CBASSE), noted that the examples of research in the report are illustrations of significant achievements and opportunities, but do not exhaust all the exciting work being done in these disciplines. This view was echoed by other social and behavioral scientists who have reviewed the report.

Copies of The Behavioral and Social Sciences: Achievements and Opportunities are available for \$29.50 from the National Academy Press, 2101 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20418; 202/334-3313.<<

OMB REQUESTS COMMENTS ON PROPOSED FEDERAL STATISTICS GUIDELINES

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) recently published proposed guidelines for regulating how federal agencies design, conduct, and disseminate statistical surveys. They would replace existing policy directives and standardize federal statistical collection efforts by all agencies covered under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (PRA). Moreover, not only the agencies, but also any organization or institution receiving federal funds for data-collection surveys would be required to follow these guidelines.

Seven distinct aspects of data collection are covered: planning; treatment of respondents; dissemination of results; documentation of methods and procedures; the principal federal

economic indicators; standard classifications, sources, and definitions; and the provision of statistical data to international organizations. By standardizing federal data collection, OMB hopes to increase efficiency while reducing the burden on the public. The proposed guidelines for planning statistical surveys (the first of the seven sections described in the draft circular) specify the documentation to accompany a survey submitted to OMB, including: its analytical purpose; survey feasibility, objectives, and design; the need for the survey; justification for its frequency; performance and quality measures; disclosure-control techniques; quality standards for publishing data; processing and reporting of survey data; and the basis for any pledge of confidentiality. The other six sections are similarly detailed.

Early reactions to the guidelines among agency personnel and others in the federal statistical community suggest the burden on the agencies and those using federal funds for data collection would increase. For example, sponsoring agencies would be required to perform a cost-benefit study to ensure that the proposed survey is the most efficient way of collecting the needed information. For the statistical agencies this would not be overly burdensome, but for agencies which conduct few surveys, such as the National Institute of Mental Health, this requirement could have a chilling effect. Others argue that some of the detailed requirements are unnecessary and unachievable. The OMB has requested comments from all interested parties by April 19, 1988. The guidelines are in the Federal Register of January 20, 1988, pp.1542-1552. Copies are available from COSSA, 1625 I Street, NW, Suite 911, Washington, DC 20006; 202/887-6166.<<

PROPOSED FY 1989 BUDGETS FOR CONGRESSIONAL AGENCIES

In the last issue of Update (March 4, 1988) we detailed the Administration's FY 1989 budget proposals for social and behavioral science research in the federal agencies. The President's FY 1989 budget request also contains proposed funding levels for Congressional agencies, some of which perform research or offer resources of interest to social and behavioral scientists. We examine below the FY 1989 budget requests for three such agencies, the General Accounting Office, the Library of Congress, and the Office of Technology Assessment. The figures are in millions of dollars; the FY 1988 to FY 1989 comparisons are between Current FY 1988 and Proposed FY 1989.

General Accounting Office

The General Accounting Office (GAO) prepares investigative reports and recommendations on public expenditures and financial management matters for the federal government. GAO would experience a 19% increase in FY 1989; the largest increases would be in the Office of Special Investigations (to \$2.7 million, up 24%) and the Mission Support program (to \$116.4, up 28%).

General Accounting Office (continued)

<u>Actual</u> <u>FY1981</u>	<u>Actual</u> <u>FY1987</u>	<u>%Change</u> <u>FY81-87</u>	<u>Proposed</u> <u>FY1988</u>	<u>Current</u> <u>FY1988</u>	<u>Proposed</u> <u>FY1989</u>	<u>%Change</u> <u>FY88-89</u>
\$220.6	\$311.0	+41%	\$379.5	\$329.9	\$393.9	+19%

Library of Congress

Hit hard by cuts mandated under the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings legislation in FY 1986, the Library of Congress would experience a remarkable comeback if the proposed budget levels prevail. Particular emphasis is placed in this budget on preservation and storage techniques, including \$6.5 million for the deacidification facility created by the 98th Congress, \$8.5 million for preservation (a 25% increase over FY 1988), and \$2.2 million for the optical disk program (261% more than FY 1988). The overall Library budget would increase 15%, although, if previous years are any indication, securing the additional funds is by no means certain.

<u>Actual</u> <u>FY1981</u>	<u>Actual</u> <u>FY1987</u>	<u>%Change</u> <u>FY81-87</u>	<u>Proposed</u> <u>FY1988</u>	<u>Current</u> <u>FY1988</u>	<u>Proposed</u> <u>FY1989</u>	<u>%Change</u> <u>FY88-89</u>
\$106.9	\$134.9	+26%	\$153.2	\$138.9	\$159.2	+15%

These figures do not include the Congressional Research Service (CRS), which provides policy-oriented, nonpartisan analyses and consultative services to Congress. CRS would receive an 11% increase, from \$43 million in FY 1988 to \$47.9 million in FY 1989, representing a 61% increase since FY 1981.

Office of Technology Assessment

Created in 1972, the Office of Technology Assessment provides Congress with information regarding the economic, social, political, physical, and biological impact of the development and use of new technologies.

<u>Actual</u> <u>FY1981</u>	<u>Actual</u> <u>FY1987</u>	<u>%Change</u> <u>FY81-87</u>	<u>Proposed</u> <u>FY1988</u>	<u>Current</u> <u>FY1988</u>	<u>Proposed</u> <u>FY1989</u>	<u>%Change</u> <u>FY88-89</u>
\$ 11.2	\$ 16.6	+48%	\$ 19.3	\$ 16.9	\$ 18.3	+8% <<

JENNESS RESIGNS AS COSSA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR; SILVER 'ACTING'

Dr. David Jenness, COSSA Executive Director since September 1984, resigned on February 4, 1988. The Consortium has released the following statement:

In recent months differences have arisen between David Jenness and the COSSA Board of Directors and Executive Committee. Because both parties agree that these differences cannot be resolved, Dr. Jenness has chosen to leave COSSA rather than permit deterioration of the relationship.

As Executive Director, David Jenness brought to COSSA considerable expertise as a broadly-based social scientist. In this role, he has represented the Consortium to major governmental agencies, Congressional committees, and other organizations of concern to the Consortium's constituencies. He and his staff have been most effective in expanding COSSA's reputation and influence in the social science community.

The Executive Committee has appointed Dr. Howard J. Silver as Acting Executive Director. Dr. Silver was previously COSSA's Associate Director for Government Relations. During his four years with the Consortium he has been a forceful advocate on Capitol Hill and with the federal agencies for social and behavioral science research. He has also served as COSSA's representative to science and educational lobbying coalitions. He has represented COSSA at numerous meetings of science groups and professional associations. Dr. Silver received his Ph.D. in political science from the Ohio State University. He is currently President of the Section on Applied Political Science within the American Political Science Association. Prior to COSSA, Dr. Silver was a consultant for legislative and political research, a political campaign manager, and a legislative analyst in the Department of Education. He has taught political science and public policy courses at a number of colleges and universities. Dr. Silver will serve as Acting Executive Director until mid-October. From now until then the Executive Committee and Dr. Silver will plan and discuss reorganizing and staffing the future operations of COSSA.<<

ADAMHA, NICHD INCREASES DEFENDED IN TESTIMONY

The Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration (ADAMHA) "fared well" in the FY 1989 budget request, ADAMHA Deputy Administrator Robert Trachtenberg told the House Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriation Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. William Natcher (D-KY) on March 2. Referring to the "enormous cost" to society of health problems associated with alcohol and drug abuse and mental illness, Trachtenberg strongly defended the administration's \$1,504 million request, which includes increases in the cost and number of both research project grants and research centers within the ADAMHA agencies.

The administration proposes a 5% increase in the average cost per grant, from \$166,600 in FY 1988 to \$175,600 in FY 1989, while the number of grants would increase from 1,753 to 1,781. If the administration request is approved, funding would be provided for 1,228 continuing grants (up from 1,169 in FY 1988), 269 competing grants (up from 223), and 284 new grants (down from 361). The most dramatic jump applies to AIDS-related research grants, which would be more numerous but smaller in size.

Trachtenberg testified that research within the ADAMHA agencies, particularly at the National Institute of Mental Health

(NIMH), has profited greatly from enormous advances in the neurosciences, and NIMH Director Lewis Judd voiced his agency's continued support of neuroscience research, mirrored in the FY 1989 request for increases in the cost and number of NIMH research grants.

Subcommittee members were particularly interested in drug-related issues. Trachtenberg testified that the administration proposes a 14% increase (from \$523 million to \$596 million) in the ADAMHA budget for drug activities, though actual funding for research within the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), excluding demonstrations and AIDS-related funding, would experience a 4% decrease. When asked whether the U.S. is succeeding in its war on drugs, NIDA Director Charles Schuster called the picture "mixed," adding that additional research is badly needed on keeping drug users in treatment programs and modalities of treatment for users of the drug PCP.

On March 8, the same House Appropriation subcommittee heard testimony regarding the administration's FY 1989 budget request for the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD). When asked about trends inherent in the FY 1989 request, NICHD Director Duane Alexander testified that as a percentage of the NICHD budget, funding for research grants would increase at the expense of research centers, three of which would be zero-funded in FY 1989.

Under the administration's budget request, NICHD would not fund any new extramural clinical trials in FY 1989, though, according to Alexander, the agency's in-house research program would remain "solid." Excluding AIDS activities, funding for intramural research would increase 8% over FY 1988, while NICHD's two main extramural components (the Center for Population Research and the Center for Mothers and Children) would see a funding increase of roughly half that rate. However, AIDS-related research in both of the main extramural components would receive 50% more funding. Although such research tends to be biomedical, it also includes the study of pediatric behavioral factors, such as how children learn about AIDS. For FY 1989, the administration has requested \$20.4 million for AIDS-related research and activities within NICHD (a 43% increase over FY 1988). The total non-AIDS FY 1989 budget request for NICHD is \$397.9 million, a 4% increase over FY 1988.<<

COSSA GUIDE SOLD OUT

The Guide to Federal Funding for Social Scientists, prepared by COSSA and published by the Russell Sage Foundation in 1986, has sold out. No more copies are available, and although there have been discussions regarding the preparation of a second edition, no decision has been made. COSSA is currently returning unprocessed orders.<<

SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

COSSA provides this information as a service, and encourages readers to contact the agency rather than COSSA for further information or application materials.

National Institute of Justice

Research programs at the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) are divided between three offices: the Center for Crime Control Research (CCCR); the Office of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Research (OCPR); and the Office of Communication and Research Utilization (OCRU). CCCR sponsors basic research on trends in crime and criminal justice, focusing on deterrence effectiveness. OCPR is the applied and developmental research and evaluation activities section of NIJ, funding research on operational practices and innovation in the criminal justice system. OCRU is the evaluation, demonstration, and dissemination program of NIJ. While CCCR and OCPR programs fund (for the most part) grants, OCRU programs tend to fund contracts. NIJ programs emphasize policy-oriented research which further the NIJ goal of merging research and practice in analyses of crime and criminal justice.

Several NIJ research programs of particular interest to social and behavioral scientists have deadlines in the near future. The Center for Crime Control Research has three such programs with April deadlines: Violent Criminal Behavior (April 13); Offender Classification and Prediction of Criminal Behavior (April 20); and Crime Control and Career Criminals (April 22). Two Office of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Research programs have May deadlines, Punishment and Control of Offenders (May 6) and White Collar and Organized Crime (May 27). Complete information about the programs and application materials are contained in the NIJ program announcement, available from the address given below.

Restrictions on Awards: All NIJ research awards are contingent upon the availability of funding.

Review Process: Peer Review.

Budget: Approximately \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 per program (3 to 6 awards).

Contact: National Institute of Justice
633 Indiana Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20531
202/724-7631 (CCCR)
202/724-2965 (OCPJ) <<

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Society for Research on Adolescence
Society for Research in Child Development
Society for the Scientific Study of Religion
Southern Sociological Society
Southwestern Social Science Association
Speech Communication Association
The Institute of Management Sciences

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