



WASHINGTON UPDATE

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Preview of the COSSA Annual Meeting, March 15-16 -- Still Time to Register!

The COSSA Annual Meeting is just one week away. The [agenda](#) includes a wide range of topics impacting social and behavioral science research, from federal funding and the media's use of social science research, to communicating science and industry interests.

Here's a snapshot of what we have in store:

Peer Review, National Interest & Late Night Television: The Politics of Social Science Research

In the Looking Glass: Social and Behavioral Science Communicates the Value of Social and Behavioral Science

On the Record: Social Science & the Media
Featuring reporters from NPR and Pacific Standard

Trends in Federal Statistics
Featuring Erica Groshen, Commissioner, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Social & Behavioral Science across Federal Agencies

Featuring officials from the National Science Foundation, National Institute of Justice, National Institutes of Health, and Environmental Protection Agency

Why Industry Needs Social Science

Featuring researchers from Google, Intel Corporation, and Facebook

There is still time to register! Remember, if you belong to [COSSA member organization](#), you are eligible for a discount. Contact [Julia Milton](#) for the discount code. More details on the [COSSA Annual Meeting page](#).

COSSA IN ACTION

COSSA and Partners Urge Strong FY 2017 Funding for Science Agencies

Now that appropriations season is underway, COSSA has begun working with its coalition partners to urge strong support for agencies that fund social and behavioral science research in fiscal year (FY) 2017. Some of the most recent requests include:

- 3/3/2016: [FY 2017 Appropriations Request for the Bureau of Economic Analysis](#)
- 3/3/2016: Coalition for International Education FY 2017 Appropriations Request for International Education and Foreign Language Studies, [House/Senate](#)
- 3/1/2016: [CDC Coalition FY 2017 Request for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- 2/25/2016: Friends of IES FY 2017 Appropriations Request for the Institute of Education Sciences, [House/Senate](#)
- 2/22/2016: [FY 2017 302\(b\) Allocation for Labor, HHS, Education and Related Agencies](#)

The most up-to-date list of such letters is available on the [COSSA website](#).

FEDERAL AGENCY & ADMINISTRATION NEWS

OBSSR to Develop "Revised, Contemporary Definition of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research"

As part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) strategic planning process to update its 2007 strategic plan for fiscal years (FY) 2016-2020, the Office plans to reconsider NIH's definition of behavioral and social sciences (BSSR). In his recent [OBSSR Connector](#) blog post, OBSSR Director William Riley explained that the office is Congressionally mandated to "define behavioral and social sciences research to assess and monitor NIH funding." As a consequence, the current definition "resulted in a [high level taxonomy of BSSR](#) and delineates basic versus applied behavioral and social sciences research with a range of examples for each." Riley noted that in order to revise the current definition, NIH must acknowledge "that there is no single discipline of 'Behavioral and Social Sciences Research;' instead the field is a multidisciplinary set of sciences." The definition of these sciences "are evidence that behavioral and social sciences cover a broad expanse of research interests from interpersonal mental processes, through large scale social and cultural constructs." Emphasizing this is "more

than a philosophical exercise," Riley stressed that OBSSR intends to "develop a revised, contemporary definition of BSSR" with stakeholder input. OBSSR convened an expert panel to provide input into its strategic plan in January (see Update, [February 8, 2016](#)).

National Children's Study Archive Available to Investigators

The *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development issued a Notice ([NOT-HD-16-005](#)) to alert investigators of the availability of the National Children's Study (NCS) Vanguard Data and Sample Archive and Access System (NCS Archive). The NCS Vanguard served as a pilot for "a planned cohort study of environmental influences on child health and development." The Vanguard pilot enrolled more than 14,000 participants in more than 5,000 families in 40 locations and followed them until 2014. It includes a collection of more than "14 million records and nearly 19,000 biological and 5,500 primary samples from which a sample repository of over 250,000 items was created." That information is now available through the NCS Archive for "approved research projects by qualified investigators." The initial release consists of study data from 2009 -2010. Additional data and sample availability is expected. For more information, see the [NCS webpage](#).

NIA Requests Input on Alzheimer's Disease Bypass Budget Implementation

The National Institute on Aging (NIA) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is seeking input into the development of the fiscal year (FY) 2018 NIH Alzheimer's Disease Bypass Budget (ADBB). Annual updates to the ADBB are Congressionally mandated (see Update, [November 3, 2015](#)). NIA seeks comments and suggestions from the public "on the current state of the science, the highest priorities for future research, and potential conceptual or technical barriers to overcome." According to the recently released Notice ([NOT-AG-16-017](#)), the FY 2018 ADBB will be consistent with the [National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease](#) and include Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. Topics will include basic, translational, clinical, as well as caregiver research. NIA also seeks comments on "future opportunities or emerging research needs that should be included in the plan." The deadline for input is April 8, 2016. For more information, see the [Notice](#).

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- NIH: [Click here for a list of recent NIH funding opportunities.](#)
- RWJF: Culture of Health in America - new Change Leadership programs: [Clinical Scholars](#), [Interdisciplinary Research Leaders](#), [Health Policy Research Scholars](#), [Culture of Health Leaders](#)

COSSA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

NCA to Hold Discussion on Citizenship in America

The National Communication Association (NCA), one of COSSA's governing members, will host a Washington, DC event on March 22, addressing the question "What does it mean to be a citizen in contemporary America?" The discussion will feature input from scholars whose work touches on the meaning and power of American "citizenship," including Elisabeth R. Anker (George Washington University), Robert Asen (University of Wisconsin), Elizaeth Markovits (Mount Holyoke

College), and Eric King Watts (University of North Carolina). More information can be found on NCA's [website](#).

EVENTS CALENDAR

- [American Psychosomatic Society Annual Scientific Meeting](#), Denver, CO, March 9-12, 2016
- [COSSA Annual Meeting & Social and Behavioral Science Advocacy Day, Washington, DC, March 15-16, 2016](#)
- [What does it mean to be a citizen in contemporary America?](#) Washington, DC, March 22, 2016
- [Southwestern Social Science Association Annual Meeting](#), Las Vegas, NV, March 22-27, 2016
- [Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meeting](#), Chicago, IL, March 23-26, 2016
- [Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting](#), San Francisco, CA, March 28-April 2, 2016
- [Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting](#), Denver, CO, March 29-April 2, 2016
- [Society of Behavioral Medicine Annual Meeting](#), Washington, DC, March 20-April 2, 2016
- [Population Association of America Annual Meeting](#), Washington, DC, March 31-April 2, 2016
- [Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference](#), Seattle, WA, March 31-April 3, 2016
- [Society for Research on Adolescence Biennial Meeting](#), Baltimore, MD, March 31-April 2, 2016
- [Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference](#), Chicago, IL, April 7-April 10, 2016
- [American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting](#), Washington, DC, April 8-April 12, 2016
- [Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting](#), Atlanta, GA, April 13-17, 2016
- 22nd Annual CNSF Exhibition & Reception, Washington, DC, April 26, 2016
- [American Association for Public Opinion Research Annual Conference](#), Austin, TX, May 12-15, 2016

A list of COSSA members' annual meetings and other events can be found on the COSSA [webpage](#).

COSSA members who have an upcoming event they would like to see listed in the Events Calendar and on our website should send an email to jmilton@coffa.org.

**COSSA's [2016 Annual Meeting & Advocacy Day](#) will take place on March 15 & 16.
[Register today!](#)**

Consortium of Social Science Associations Members

Governing Associations

American Anthropological Association
American Association for Public Opinion Research
American Economic Association
American Educational Research Association
American Political Science Association
American Psychological Association
American Society of Criminology
American Sociological Association
American Statistical Association
Association of American Law Schools
Law and Society Association

Colleges and Universities

Arizona State University
Boston University
Brown University
Carnegie Mellon University
Clark University
Columbia University
Cornell University
Duke University
Fielding Graduate University
George Mason University

Linguistic Society of America
Midwest Political Science Association
National Communication Association
Population Association of America
Society for Personality and Social Psychology
Society for Research in Child Development

Membership Organizations

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences
American Association of Geographers
American Evaluation Association
American Historical Association
American Psychosomatic Society
Association for Asian Studies
Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations
Association of Research Libraries
Council on Social Work Education
Economic History Association
History of Science Society
Midwest Sociological Society
National Association of Social Workers
North American Regional Science Council
Rural Sociological Society
Social Science History Association
Society for Research on Adolescence
Society for Social Work and Research
Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues
Society of Behavioral Medicine
Southern Political Science Association
Southern Sociological Society
Southwestern Social Science Association

Centers and Institutes

American Academy of Arts and Sciences
American Academy of Political and Social Science
American Council of Learned Societies
American Institutes for Research
Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences
Cornell Institute for Social and Economic Research
Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan
Institute for Social Science Research,
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Institute for Women's Policy Research
NORC at the University of Chicago
Owens Institute for Behavioral Research, University of Georgia
RTI International
Social Science Research Council
Vera Institute of Justice

Georgetown University
Harvard University
Indiana University
John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY
Johns Hopkins University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Michigan State University
New York University
Northwestern University
Pennsylvania State University
Princeton University
Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey
Stanford University
Texas A&M University
The George Washington University
The Ohio State University
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of Chicago
University of Colorado, Boulder
University of Illinois
University of Iowa
University of Maryland
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota
University of Missouri
University of Nebraska, Lincoln
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
University of Oklahoma
University of Pennsylvania
University of South Carolina
University of Texas, Austin
University of Texas, San Antonio
University of Virginia
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin, Madison
Virginia Tech
West Virginia University
Yale University

COSSA

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The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) is a nonprofit advocacy organization working to promote sustainable federal funding for social and behavioral science research and federal policies that positively impact

the conduct of research.

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