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# WASHINGTON UPDATE

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## **FEATURED NEWS**

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### **Emilio Moran Named to National Science Board**

The White House has [announced](#) the latest appointments to the National Science Board (NSB). Included in the 2016 class is [Dr. Emilio Moran](#) of Michigan State University. Dr. Moran is a respected researcher in the natural and social sciences, looking to better understand the interplay of human and environment interactions.

The [National Science Board](#) is the policy-making body of the National Science Foundation (NSF) and also serves as an independent advisor to the President and Congress on federal science policy. Members of the 25-person Board are appointed by the President of the United States for six year terms. Appointment to the Board is a top honor within the scientific community. Dr. Moran's appointment brings the number of social scientists on the Board to four. He will be sworn in at the [next meeting](#) in November.

## **NSF SBE Directorate Releases Dear Colleague Letter on Robust and Reliable Research, Invites Proposal Submissions**

On September 20, Dr. Fay Lomax Cook, Assistant Director for the Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBE) at the National Science Foundation (NSF), released a [Dear Colleague Letter on "Robust and Reliable Research in the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences"](#). The letter announces the SBE Directorate's interest in stimulating research to enhance the reliability and robustness of research in these areas of science. To accomplish this goal, the SBE Directorate has invited proposals on a variety of topics to its standing programs including:

- "Research to determine the extent of, causes of, or remedies for research in the social, behavioral, and economic sciences that is neither replicable, reproducible, nor generalizable;
- Methodological development to improve the robustness/reliability of research in the social, behavioral, and economic sciences (e.g., improvements in study design, data-sharing techniques, analytic techniques);
- Outreach/training/workshops designed to enhance the robustness and reliability of research in the social, behavioral, and economic sciences, including increasing acceptability of explicit research in this area; and
- Reproductions, replications, or generalizations of seminal or pivotal studies that have served a demonstrably critical role in conceptual or empirical progress in the social, behavioral, and economic sciences, including generalizations that demonstrate validity in atypical or nontraditional populations and samples. Reproduction, replication, or generalization projects require clear justification of the fundamental role of the seminal or pivotal studies in the scientific advance of social, behavioral, or economic sciences."

Proposals are to be submitted to the most relevant SBE program.

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## **CONGRESSIONAL NEWS**

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### **Congress in Recess until November 14**

Congress has been in recess since passing a [stopgap funding bill](#) on September 28, which will keep the government funded until December 9. The House and Senate will both return the week of November 14 for a five-week lame duck session and will be focused funding the government past December 9 and accomplishing other legislative priorities before the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress adjourns on December 31. Of course, much of this action depends on the outcomes of the elections next month and which party will hold the majority in 2017. See COSSA's [appropriations state-of-play analysis](#) for full details of the fiscal year (FY) 2017 spending debate related to social science research.

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## **FEDERAL AGENCY & ADMINISTRATION NEWS**

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### **NSF Seeks Deputy Division Director for Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences**

The Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBE) Directorate of the National Science Foundation (NSF) is seeking a Deputy Division Director for the Division of Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences (BCS). The Deputy Division Director will serve as a member of the BCS leadership team and as the "principal spokesperson in the area of behavioral and cognitive sciences." More information can be found at [USAJOBS](#). The deadline for applications is November 28, 2016.

## **NIH Recognizes Sexual and Gender Minorities as a Health Disparity Population**

On October 6, National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) Director Eliseo Pérez-Stable announced the "formal designation of sexual and gender minorities (SGMs) as a health disparity population" for the purposes of National Institutes of Health (NIH) research. The *Minority Health and Health Disparities Research and Education Act of 2000* ([Public Law 106-525](#)) gives the directors of NIMHD and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) authority to define health disparity populations. The designation follows recommendations of a 2011 Institute of Medicine (IOM) (now the National Academy of Medicine) [Committee](#) tasked with assessing the current state of knowledge about the health of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people, as well as identifying research gaps and formulating a research agenda that could guide NIH in enhancing and focusing its research in this area. In 2015, NIH officially established the [Sexual and Gender Minority Research Office](#) (SGMRO) within its [Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives](#) (DPCPSI). This office "coordinates sexual and gender minority (SGM)-related research and activities by working directly with the NIH Institutes, Centers, and Offices."

## **National Institute of Mental Health Releases Update of Strategic Research Priorities**

On October 12, the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) released updates to its [Strategic Research Priorities](#), which provides guidance to potential grant applicants, NIMH grantees, and NIMH staff "for the design and implementation of future research." The priorities address the four strategic areas outlined in NIMH's [2015 Strategic Plan for Research](#). The recently released Strategic Research Priorities highlight the use of common data elements, the [Research Domain Criteria \(RDoC\) project](#), the [Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies](#) (BRAIN) Initiative, and NIMH's experimental therapeutics approach.

## **NIA Alzheimer's Disease Research: 'A Wealth of New Opportunities'**

In a recent National Institute on Aging (NIA) blog, [Inside NIA: A Blog for Researchers](#), Director Richard Hodes highlighted the latest concept clearances approved by NIA's advisory committee. Hodes also announced that the Institute expects to release a record number of new funding opportunity announcements (FOAs) over the next several months. He emphasized that the FOAs that are developed from the concept proposals will involve "every NIA division" and, in "a number of cases, two or more divisions will co-sponsor an FOA." Hodes encourages researchers to examine the [list of concepts](#) and begin to think about submitting a grant proposal. He expects that the first round of FOAs will be released in the next four to six weeks, followed by the release of additional FOAs over the succeeding two to three months. In addition to disseminating the FOAs broadly, the Institute plans to also highlight them in the blog. Hodes also noted that most of the [10 FOAs for research on Alzheimer's](#) covering the continuum of aging research released by the Institute in 2015 are still open, adding "we continue to welcome applications in the broad field of aging research."

## **NIH to Develop First NIH-Wide Nutrition Strategic Plan**

On October 11, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Nutrition Research Task Force (NRTF) [announced](#) that the agency will develop a strategic plan for nutrition research for the next decade. . The strategic plan, to be developed over the next two years, is expected to "emphasize cross-cutting, innovative opportunities to accelerate nutrition research across a wide range of areas, from basic science to experimental design to training." In addition to soliciting feedback from the public and the scientific community, NRTF will appoint a senior leadership group to guide the plan's implementation.

## **NCHS Seeks Comments on Redesign of National Health Interview Survey**

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is seeking comments on the redesign of the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) to be fielded in 2018. NHIS, which has been in the field continuously since 1957, is the "principal source of information on the health of the civilian noninstitutionalized population" of the U.S. According to the [Federal Register notice](#), "the redesign process presents an opportunity to (1) ensure the survey is capturing the current health and health care needs of individuals in the United States and producing data of the highest-possible quality; and (2) reduce respondent burden by shortening the overall questionnaire length and harmonizing its content with other federal health surveys." Comments are due November 7, 2016.

## **OMB Seeks Comments on Standards for Maintaining, Collecting, and Presenting Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity**

On September 30, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) released a Federal Register Notice soliciting comments regarding "[Review and Possible Limited Revision of OMB's Statistical Policy Directive on Standards for Maintaining, Collecting, and Presenting Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity](#)." These standards were last revised in 1997. The Notice observes that since the revisions were implemented, "much has been learned about how these standards have improved the quality of Federal information collected and presented on race and ethnicity." Accordingly, the Notice identifies areas that may "benefit from further refinement" (see the Notice for full details).

Specifically, OMB is seeking comments in three areas: "(1) The adequacy of the current standard in the areas identified for focused review; (2) specific suggestions for the identified areas that have been offered; and (3) principles that should govern any proposed revisions to the standards in the identified areas." Comments are due by "no later than [30 days from publication of this notice]" which would be on or around October 31.

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## **PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNITY EVENTS**

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### **National Academies, Director of National Intelligence, Host Summit on Social and Behavioral Sciences for National Security**

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine hosted a [Summit on Social and Behavioral Science for National Security on October 4 and 5](#). The Summit marked the beginning of a decadal survey, sponsored by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence and the Board on Behavioral, Cognitive, and Sensory Sciences, to identify potential contributions by the social and behavioral science to national security. The sponsors are [seeking input](#) on what research is relevant to the topic of the study and suggestions regarding town halls and conferences as the study begins. More information and updates about the decadal study can be found [on its website](#).

### **Committee on National Statistics Releases Report on Reducing**

# Burden in the American Community Survey

The [Committee on National Statistics](#) of the Division of Behavioral and Social Science and Education (DBASSE) at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine has [published a report](#) on their March workshop dedicated to improving the American Community Survey (ACS). The workshop examined different approaches to reducing the burden on respondents, including reducing the number of questions asked to individual respondents through matrix sampling, eliminating the need for some questions by using administrative records, increasing cooperation with the survey, reducing the length of the survey. The full report is available [here](#).

## Nominations open for the 2017 SAGE-CASBS Award

Nominations are open for the [2017 SAGE-CASBS Award](#) to recognize achievement in the social and behavioral sciences that "advance our understanding of pressing social issues." The Award, supported by SAGE Publishing and the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences (CASBS) at Stanford University, a COSSA member, was established in 2013 and seeks nominees who "represent the best in contemporary social science" and whose work has had significant impact in social, political, and economic life. Nominations are due by November 30.

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## FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

NSF: Dear Colleague Letter on Robust and Reliable Research in the Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences ([NSF 16-137](#))

AHRQ: Large Health Services Research Demonstration and Dissemination Projects for Prevention of Healthcare-Associated Infections (R18) ([PA-17-007](#))

AHRQ: Large Research Projects for Prevention of Healthcare-Associated Infections (R01) ([PA-17-008](#))

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## EVENTS CALENDAR

- [Thirteenth Annual Brown Lecture in Education Research](#), American Educational Research Association, Washington, DC, October 20, 2016
- [Evaluation 2016](#), American Evaluation Association, Atlanta, GA, October 22-30, 2016
- [The Middle East and Regional Transition, Terrorism, and Countering Violent Extremism: What the Next President Will Face](#), American Academy of Political and Social Science, Washington, DC, October 24, 2016
- [Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies Annual Convention](#), New York, NY, October 27-30, 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](mailto:jmilton@coffa.org).

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### SAVE THE DATE!

**COSSA's 2017 Annual Meeting & Social Science Advocacy Day will take place  
March 29-30, 2017 in Washington, DC**

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# 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  
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 of Colleges of Arts and Sciences  
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

## 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  
Georgetown University  
Harvard University  
Howard University  
Indiana University  
John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY  
Johns Hopkins University  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Michigan State University  
New York University  
North Carolina State 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  
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University of Virginia  
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University of Wisconsin, Madison  
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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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