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## Featured News

### Remembering James Jackson (1944-2020)

Dr. James S. Jackson, renowned social psychologist and Daniel Katz Distinguished University Professor of Psychology, Emeritus, at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, passed away on September 1. A pioneer in national and international surveys of Black populations, Dr. Jackson dedicated his career to understanding racial and ethnic influences on life course among African Americans across the lifespan.

He was a recognized leader and advocate for the social and behavioral sciences, evidenced by his appointments to national leadership positions and committees, including several advisory councils of the National Institutes of Health, the Board of the Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education (DBASSE) at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, and countless others. He was appointed to the National Science Board by President Obama in 2014, on which he served for



six years and chaired the Committee on External Engagement until earlier this year.

Dr. Jackson served as COSSA President in 2013-2014. “Despite his active research and teaching responsibilities and service on countless advisory bodies and committees, James continued to generously give of himself, his time and energy,” said COSSA Executive Director Wendy Naus. “As our President, James did not hesitate to offer his assistance to me as I tried to navigate being a new executive director in 2014. I am eternally grateful for having known James.”

Dr. Jackson left a lasting mark on social and behavioral science research and on COSSA. If you would like to leave a comment or remembrance, you may do so [here](#).

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## New from COSSA

### COSSA Endorses Bipartisan Bill to Extend Census Deadline

COSSA joined over 200 organizations in [endorsing](#) a new bipartisan bill that would extend the statutory deadlines for the 2020 Census and require the Census Bureau to continue its enumeration operation through October 31. As [previously reported](#), the Department of Commerce announced plans to end counting activities for the 2020 Census a month ahead of its originally planned schedule, leading to concern that the resulting data will be inaccurate. The [2020 Census Deadline Extensions Act](#), introduced by Sens. Brian Schatz (D-HI), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), and Dan Sullivan (R-AK) would require the 2020 Census to stick to its originally planned schedule and gives the Bureau additional time to deliver apportionment and redistricting data. Follow COSSA’s coverage of the 2020 Census [here](#).

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## Congressional News

### House Science Committee Holds Hearing on the Impact of COVID-19 on University Research

On September 10, the House Science Committee’s Research and Technology Subcommittee held a hearing on the [Impact of the COVID-19 Crisis on University Research](#). Witnesses included the Vice Presidents for Research from the University of Illinois System, Oakland University in Michigan, and Purdue University, as well as a Carnegie Mellon graduate student in physics. Witnesses and participating Members of Congress praised the Science Committee’s bipartisan proposals to support the university research system through the disruptions caused by COVID-19, including the [RISE Act](#) (H.R. 7308) (see [previous coverage](#)), which we have discussed before, authorizes \$26 billion in emergency relief funding for science agencies to support full-cost extensions of research grant. A newer bipartisan bill was also discussed, the [Supporting Early-Career Researchers Act](#) (H.R. 8044), which would create a new \$250 million fellowship program at the National Science Foundation that would allow high-performing grad students to take their funding with them if they are forced to change schools.

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## Executive Branch News

### White House Directs Federal Agencies to Defund Race-Related Trainings for Federal Employees

On September 4, the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued a [memorandum](#) calling for federal agencies to cease funding training sessions for federal employees addressing critical race theory and white privilege. The memo alleges that “executive branch agencies have spent millions of taxpayer dollars to date ‘training’ government workers to believe divisive, anti-American propaganda,” citing unnamed press reports as evidence that “employees across the executive branch have been required to attend

trainings where they are told that ‘virtually all White people contribute to racism’ or where they are required to say that they ‘benefit from racism.’” The memo directs federal agencies to “identify all contracts or other agency spending related to any training on ‘critical race theory,’ ‘white privilege,’ or any other training or propaganda effort that teaches or suggests either (1) that the United States is an inherently racist or evil country or (2) that any race or ethnicity is inherently racist or evil.”

Many organizations in the scientific community have expressed concern about the OMB memo, including the American Sociological Association (ASA), a COSSA governing member. In a September 7 [press release](#), ASA asserted that the OMB memo “represents a fundamental misunderstanding of both critical race theory and the term white privilege and the extensive body of empirical research underlying them,” and shared a list of sociologists who could comment on their research of the issues.

Other organizations, including COSSA and several of its member associations, are also weighing a response to the OMB memo. We will continue to report on this developing story. The full OMB memo is available on the [White House website](#).

## USDA Names New ERS Administrator

Dr. Spiro Stefanou has been [appointed](#) to lead the Economic Research Service (ERS), one of the two principal statistics agencies within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Stefanou is an agricultural economist who previously served as a professor of economics at the University of Florida and at Penn State University. Stefanou will be taking the helm of an agency that has had a rocky several years, after the Administration’s [controversial decision to move the agency to Kansas City](#) led to [significant attrition](#) and loss of expertise at the agency.

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## Science Community News

### Nominations Due Sept 17 for National Academies Committee on Accelerating Behavioral Science Through Ontology Development and Use

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine is launching a consensus study on [Accelerating Behavioral Science Through Ontology Development and Use](#) to inform the development of classification systems and knowledge structures across the behavioral sciences. The study, which is being sponsored by the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, and the American Psychological Association, will “define the scope of ontology development for behavioral science research (BSR), summarize the state of behavioral ontology development and use in BSR, and identify compelling use cases as well as approaches, gaps and challenges that need to be addressed in order to facilitate widespread ontology use in BSR.”

Nominations are being accepted for study committee members with expertise in psychological processes, behavioral measurement, machine learning, knowledge structures, ontology development (in behavioral science as well as in non-behavioral domains of science), and experience in leadership roles in high-profile journals covering behavioral phenomena applicable to human health and of trans-disease relevance. More information about the consensus study is available on the [National Academies website](#). Nominations may be [submitted](#) through September 17.

### National Academies Releases Consensus Study on Assessing Morbidity and Mortality After Disasters

The National Academies has published a new consensus study report: [A Framework for Assessing Mortality and Morbidity after Large-Scale Disasters](#). The Congressionally-mandated study was sponsored by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and was intended to identify ways to better understand the scope of death and injury caused by large-scale disasters (both natural and human-caused). Among the report’s recommendations are adopting a uniform framework across federal agencies for data collection and adopting methods that

distinguish direct and indirect deaths resulting from disasters. While the study commenced prior to the pandemic, COVID-19 provided a case study illustrating the needs described in the report and is the focus of an appendix. More information about the study is available on the [National Academies website](#).

## Research!America Health Research Forum Features Pandemic Response Leaders

From September 8-11, Research!America virtually hosted the [2020 National Health Research Forum](#), an annual meeting bringing together leaders in the research community, federal agency officials, and national media to highlight current trends in health research and the effect of those trends on public policy decisions. This year's theme was *Straight Talk: Securing a Science-Strong Future*, which was stated to be a focus on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on multiple facets of the U.S. research enterprise. The virtual event featured appearances from several high level government officials including the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar, Director of the National Institutes of Health Francis Collins, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Anthony Fauci, Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Robert Redfield, Congresswoman Diana DeGette (D-CO), Congressman Fred Upton (R-MI), and many others.

The speakers and panel discussions covered a wide swath of research related issues, including issues such as diversity and inclusion in research, equity in healthcare, the sustainability of the research enterprise, public confidence and behavior towards a COVID-19 vaccine, and the timeline for developing a COVID-19 vaccine or vaccines. Social and behavioral science was highlighted in several of the sessions, including those discussing public opinion of science and research, methods to increase compliance in COVID-19 prevention techniques, and in modeling behavior regarding flu vaccinations during a pandemic. In a notable segment, Dr. Fauci [asserted](#) during his speaking segment that he was confident for a vaccine to be ready by the end of 2020, but likely not before the November 3<sup>rd</sup> election. More information about the forum is available on the [Research!America website](#).

## Resources & Opportunities

### COSSA Letters & Statements

- 9/1/2020: [Multi-Society Letter Endorsing National Academies Study on Systemic Racism in Academia](#)

### Nomination Opportunities

- AAPSS: [2021 Daniel Patrick Moynihan Prize in Social Science and Public Policy](#) (Closes: October 16, 2020)
- NSF/NSB: [Vannevar Bush Award](#) (Closes: September 30, 2020)
- NSF/NSB: [Public Service Award](#) (Closes: September 30, 2020)
- **NEW:** NASEM: [Standing Committee on Personal Protective Equipment for Workplace Safety and Health](#) (Closes: September 25, 2020)
- **NEW:** NASEM: [A Fairer and More Equitable Cost-Effective and Transparent System of Donor Organ Procurement, Allocation, and Distribution](#) (Closes: September 19, 2020)
- **NEW:** NASEM: [Accelerating Behavioral Science Through Ontology Development and Use](#) (Closes: September 17, 2020)

### New and Expiring Funding Opportunities

- NSF: [Dynamic Languages Infrastructure – Documenting Endangered Languages \(DLI-DEL\) Data, Infrastructure, and Computing Methods](#) (Closes: November 18, 2020)
- NSF: [Harnessing the Data Revolution: Coordination Hub \(HDR Central\)](#) (Closes: November 12, 2020)
- NIH/NHLBI: [Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\): Availability of Administrative Supplements and Revision Supplements on Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#) (Closes: October 6, 2020)

- NIH: [NIH Director's Emergency Transformative Research Awards \(R01 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#) (Closes: September 30, 2020)
- NSF/SBE: [NSF Dynamic Language Infrastructure - NEH Documenting Endangered Languages \(DLI-DEL\)](#) (Closes: September 15, 2020)

[More funding opportunities.](#)

## Notices, Requests for Comment, Calls for Papers

- **NEW:** NIH/NICHHD: [Adolescent Medicine Trials Network for HIV/AIDS Interventions](#) (Closes: October 30, 2020)
- DOJ/BJS: [Proposed Collection Comments Requested: Reinstatement, With Change, of a Previously Approved Collection: National Survey of Prosecutors \(NSP\)](#) (Closes: October 13, 2020)
- **NEW:** GSA: [Comment on Federal Data Strategy's Data Skills Catalog](#) (Closes: September 16, 2020)
- **NEW:** GSA: [Comment on the Federal Government's Data Ethics Framework](#) (Closes: September 16, 2020)

## New Resources & Reports

- **NEW:** NASEM: [Best Practices in Assessing Mortality and Significant Morbidity Following Large-Scale Disasters](#)
- **NEW:** NASEM: [Addressing Sickle Cell Disease: A Strategic Framework and Blueprint for Action](#)

## Open Positions, Fellowships, & Professional Development Opportunities

- **NEW:** NASEM: [Program Officer - Division on Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education](#)

## Upcoming Events

- **VIRTUAL:** [Minerva Meeting and the Next National Defense Strategy Sessions I & II](#), October 1, 2020, 1:00pm
- **VIRTUAL:** [Minerva Meeting and the Next National Defense Strategy Session III](#), October 8, 2020, 1:00pm
- **CANCELLED:** [History of Science Society Annual Meeting](#), October 8-11, 2020
- **VIRTUAL:** [COSSA Headlines | October](#), October 8, 2020, 2:00pm
- **VIRTUAL:** [Minerva Meeting and the Next National Defense Strategy Session IV](#), October 15, 2020, 1:00pm
- **VIRTUAL:** [Minerva Meeting and the Next National Defense Strategy Session V](#), October 22, 2020, 1:00pm
- **VIRTUAL:** [Evaluation 2020](#), October 26-31, 2020
- **VIRTUAL:** [NIH Fall Seminar on Program Funding and Grants Administration](#), October 27-30, 2020
- **VIRTUAL:** [Minerva Meeting and the Next National Defense Strategy Sessions VI & VII](#), October 29, 2020, 1:00pm
- **CANCELLED:** [Southwestern Social Science Association Annual Meeting](#), October 29-31, 2020
- **VIRTUAL:** [CCAS Annual Meeting](#), November 4-7, 2020
- **VIRTUAL:** [APPAM Annual Fall Research Conference](#), November 11-13, 2020
- **VIRTUAL:** [National Council on Family Relations Annual Conference](#), November 11-13, 2020
- **VIRTUAL:** [North American Regional Science Council Annual Meeting](#), November 11-15, 2020
- **VIRTUAL:** [Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting](#), November 12-15, 2020
- **VIRTUAL:** [COSSA Headlines | November](#), November 12, 2020, 2:00 pm
- **CANCELLED:** [American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting](#), November 17-22, 2020



- **CANCELLED:** [American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting](#), November 18-21, 2020
- **VIRTUAL:** [National Communication Association Annual Convention](#), November 19-22, 2020
- **VIRTUAL:** [African Studies Association Annual Meeting](#), November 19-21, 2020
- **TBD:** [Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies Annual Convention](#), November 19-22, 2020
- **CANCELLED:** [Social Science History Association Annual Conference](#), November 19-22, 2020

A list of COSSA members' annual meetings and other events can be found on the COSSA [events page](#). 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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## COSSA 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  
 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  
 African Studies Association  
 American Association of Geographers  
 American Council of Learned Societies  
 American Evaluation Association  
 American Historical Association  
 American Psychosomatic Society  
 Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies  
 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management  
 Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations  
 Association of American Law Schools  
 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  
 National Council on Family Relations  
 North American Regional Science Council  
 Rural Sociological Society

### Colleges and Universities

Arizona State University  
 Boston University  
 Brown University  
 Carnegie Mellon University  
 Case Western Reserve University  
 Columbia University  
 Cornell University  
 Duke University  
 George Mason University  
 Georgetown University  
 Harvard University  
 Indiana University  
 Johns Hopkins University  
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
 Michigan State University  
 North Carolina State University  
 Northwestern University  
 Ohio State University, The  
 Pennsylvania State University  
 Princeton University  
 Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey  
 Stanford University  
 Texas A&M University  
 University of Arizona  
 University of Arkansas  
 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 Georgia  
 University of Illinois  
 University of Iowa  
 University of Maryland  
 University of Michigan  
 University of Minnesota  
 University of Nebraska, Lincoln  
 University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill  
 University of Pennsylvania  
 University of Pittsburgh  
 University of Texas, Austin  
 University of Virginia  
 University of Wisconsin, Madison  
 Virginia Tech

Social Science History Association  
Society for Prevention Research  
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

### **Affiliates**

SAGE Publishing  
Wiley

West Virginia University  
Yale University

### **Centers and Institutes**

American Academy of Arts and Sciences  
American Academy of Political and Social  
Science  
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  
NORC at the University of Chicago  
RTI International  
Social Science Research Council

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### **About COSSA**

*The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) is a nonprofit advocacy organization working to promote sustainable federal funding for and widespread use of social and behavioral science research and federal policies that positively impact the conduct of research. COSSA serves as a united voice for a broad, diverse network of organizations, institutions, communities, and stakeholders who care about a successful and vibrant social science research enterprise. The COSSA membership includes professional and disciplinary associations, scientific societies, research centers and institutes, and U.S. colleges and universities.*

### **Our Team**

#### **Executive Director**

Wendy A. Naus

#### **Director of Public Affairs**

Julia Milton

#### **Staff Assistant**

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