



2010 Annual Report



COSSA

Consortium of Social Science Associations



Advocating for the Social and Behavioral Sciences for 30 Years

Members

Governing Members

American Association for Public
Opinion Research
American Economic Association
American Educational Research
Association
American Historical Association
American Political Science
Association
American Psychological Association
American Society of Criminology
American Sociological Association
American Statistical Association
Association of American Geographers
Association of American Law Schools
Law and Society Association
Linguistic Society of America
Midwest Political Science Association
National Communication Association
Population Association of America
Rural Sociological Society
Society for Research in Child
Development

Membership Organizations

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences
American Association for Agricultural
Education
American Psychosomatic Society
Association for Asian Studies
Association for Public Policy Analysis
and Management
Association of Academic Survey
Research Organizations
Association of Research Libraries
Council on Social Work Education
Eastern Sociological Society
Economic History Association
International Communication
Association
Justice Research and Statistics
Association
Midwest Sociological Society
National Association of Social
Workers
North American Regional Science
Council
North Central Sociological
Association

Social Science History Association
Society for Behavioral Medicine
Society for Research on Adolescence
Society for Social Work and Research
Society for the Psychological Study
of Social Issues
Southern Political Science
Association
Southern Sociological Society
Southwestern Social Science
Association

Centers & Institutes

American Academy of Political and
Social Sciences
American Council of Learned
Societies
American Institutes for Research
Brookings Institution
Center for Advanced Study in the
Behavioral Sciences
Cornell Institute for Social and
Economic Research
Institute for Social Research,
University of Michigan
Institute for Women's Policy Research
National Bureau of Economic
Research
National Opinion Research Center
Population Reference Bureau
RTI International
Social Science Research Council

Colleges & Universities

Arizona State University
Boston University
Brown University
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, San Diego
University of California, Santa
Barbara
Carnegie-Mellon University
University of Connecticut
University of Chicago
Clark University
Columbia University

Cornell University
Duke University
Georgetown University
George Mason University
George Washington University
Harvard University
Howard University
University of Illinois
Indiana University
University of Iowa
Johns Hopkins University
John Jay College of Criminal Justice,
CUNY
Kansas State University
University of Maryland
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Maxwell School of Citizenship and
Public Affairs, Syracuse
University of Michigan
Michigan State University
University of Missouri, St. Louis
University of Minnesota
Mississippi State University
University of Nebraska, Lincoln
New York University
University of North Carolina,
Chapel Hill
Northwestern University
Ohio State University
University of Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania State University
Princeton University
Rutgers, The State University of New
Jersey
University of South Carolina
Stanford University
State University of New York, Stony
Brook
University of Texas, Austin
Texas A & M University
Tulane University
Vanderbilt University
University of Virginia
University of Washington
Washington University in St. Louis
University of Wisconsin, Madison
University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
Yale University

2010

Annual Report

From the Executive Director



As I write this at the end of February 2011, the politics of federal science policy have become caught up in the frenzy of budget cutting to reduce record setting deficits. The promise of the America COMPETES Act, enacted first in 2007 and again at the end of 2010, to double the budget of the National Science Foundation (NSF) has been swept aside. The Foundation could face a significant budget cut from last year's funding.

The political shifts resulting from the 2010 election put COSSA and the rest of the science community on alert to potential negative consequences. The threats to the social and behavioral sciences rendered in YouTube videos and leadership letters sent COSSA actively pursuing strategies to once again defend our sciences. So far, they have been spared any successful direct attack, although another attempt to single out "silly grants" for derision and defunding was made during the recent House consideration of current fiscal year appropriations. The COSSA-led Coalition to Promote Research organized and coordinated the response that thwarted this effort.

Looking back to 2010, the policy challenges COSSA faced remained considerable. As the national agenda continued to focus on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education pursuing policies to improve American students' performance in these subjects, the social and behavioral sciences remained outside this discussion. Policy makers used our research to explain the deficiencies and to suggest some solutions, but including the social and behavioral sciences as part of the 'S' in STEM was ignored.

COSSA succeeded in convincing the House of Representatives in the report to accompany their version of America COMPETES to include language defining STEM education "as an umbrella term that covers every academic discipline and research area supported across [NSF], including discipline based education research."

However, two reports issued in 2010 reflected the omission: The National Academies' Board on Science Education's (BOSE) *A Framework for Science Education*, and the President's Council of Advisers on Science and Technology's (PCAST) *Prepare and Inspire: K-12 Education in Science Technology*,

Engineering and Math for America's Future. In both cases, COSSA joining with other groups in the social and behavioral science community and with our leadership at NSF and the National Academies' Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, impressed upon both BOSE and PCAST that any attempt to teach science at the K-12 level needs the concepts and methods of the social and behavioral sciences as part of that curriculum.

By the end of the year, although not much ground was given regarding the two reports, the National Academies agreed to examine the role of the social and behavioral sciences in K-12 education and PCAST devoted more time to the role of these sciences and suggested they had an important role to play in America's energy future in their report, *On Accelerating the Pace of Change in Energy Technologies Through an Integrated Federal Energy Policy*.

2010 was also the year of the decennial Census. COSSA was a proud member of the 2010 Census Advisory Committee, one of 256,000 partners for the Census, and gratified that the conduct of the count was successful after much difficulty in the years leading up to 2010. The leadership of Census Director Bob Groves and his team as well as the activities of the Census Stakeholder group, including COSSA, which defended the Bureau and fought for its budget, played a large role in that success. As a member of the Advisory Committee, COSSA also joined in the preliminary discussions regarding plans for Census 2020.

COSSA also continued its concern with the federal statistical agencies, advocating for increased budgets for the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), Economic Research Service, the National Agricultural Statistics Service, the Bureau of Justice Statistics, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics. COSSA also helped organize and support the World Statistics Day briefing on Capitol Hill, which included presentations from Groves, former Census Director and COSSA's 2011-12 President Ken Prewitt, OMB Statistical Policy head Katherine Wallman, and BEA Director Steve Landefeld, who also spoke at the COSSA Annual Meeting.

At NSF, COSSA welcomed new director Subra Suresh. The Consortium continued to work closely with Myron Gutmann,

Assistant Director for the Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences Directorate (SBE), and the division directors and program officers there. Gutmann spoke at the COSSA Annual Meeting on his project to identify a long-term research and infrastructure agenda for these sciences. One bit of unfinished business from 2010 is the Senate confirmation of sociologist Cora Marrett as NSF's Deputy Director.

At NIH, COSSA advocated for the implementation of OppNET, a major initiative to support Basic Behavioral and Social Research related to health. At the COSSA Annual Meeting, Deborah Olster, Acting Director of the Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research (OBSSR), discussed this and other opportunities for our sciences at NIH. A new director of OBSSR, Robert Kaplan, will come to NIH in early 2011.

As the year closed, the NIH leadership announced two major structural changes. One was to create an Institute for Addiction Disorders that would replace the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the National Institute on Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse. COSSA has closely monitored the discussions at NIH's Scientific Management Review Board regarding this change. The other is to create a National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences and abolish the National Center for Research Resources.

During 2010, COSSA, aside from its usual testimony in support of the budgets of the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), worked with the criminal justice research community to secure the nomination and confirmation of two distinguished social scientists to lead these agencies. Having distinguished social scientists John Laub at NIJ and James Lynch at BJS provide a great opportunity to increase the importance of these agencies and their commitment to enhanced support for research and data in this arena. A previous National Academies' report for BJS helped it gain a significant increase in funding. COSSA is hoping that the July 2010 release of *Strengthening the National Institute of Justice* will help NIJ in the same way.

In 2010, Congress continued to investigate the country's economic collapse in the previous two years. One group they singled out for blame was the nation's economists. The House Science and Technology Committee's Research and Science Education held a hearing in July called "Economics for the Real World." COSSA worked with the Subcommittee to secure witnesses, including COSSA Board Member Sidney Winter. Earlier in the year, COSSA held a congressional briefing, *Better Living Through Economics*, based on a book edited by COSSA Executive Committee member John Siegfried, highlighting how basic economic research has improved people's lives.

COSSA's advocacy activities with the Department of Agriculture continued apace in 2010. Joint appropriations

testimony with the Council on Food and Agricultural Resource Economics, meetings with the leaders of the Research, Education and Economics Mission Area and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, as well as speaking at the meeting of the Social Science Subcommittee of the Experiment Stations' Committee on Policy, all constituted efforts to improve support for social science research in rural America.

This past year also saw the departures from Washington of key supporters for COSSA and its mission. Raynard Kington, who has worked with COSSA since 1994, first as a Congressional Seminar Speaker, then in his numerous positions at NIH, and who generously spoke at COSSA's Annual Meeting more than once, left to assume the Presidency of Grinnell College in Iowa. A joyous farewell reception seemed inadequate to express our gratitude and admiration for all his help during the years.

The retirement of Rep. Brian Baird (D-WA) from the Congress has deprived the social and behavioral sciences of a true champion willing, from his perch as a Subcommittee Chairman as well as on the floor of the House, to promote and defend these sciences. Rep. Vern Ehlers (R-MI), who also retired, often joined Baird in those efforts. Rep. David Obey (D-WI), who also left after the 111th Congress, was a fierce proponent of the National Institutes of Health as well as international education from his Appropriations Committee leadership position. They will all be missed.

Within the COSSA family, the retirement of Arnita Jones as Executive Director of the American Historical Association meant the loss of someone who devoted significant time and energy to make COSSA work. She has been replaced by James Grossman, who came from the Newbury Library in Chicago, and we welcome his commitment. With the official elevation of the Population Association of America as COSSA's 18th Governing Member, Mary Jo Hoeksema has joined the Executive Committee and has brought her dedication and energy to our activities.

Facing challenges from the new political alignment and the continued economic distress, COSSA remains committed to its role as the advocate for the social and behavioral sciences. It remains grateful for the support of its members and their leaders and allies in the scientific and political community. In 2011, COSSA will celebrate its 30th Anniversary as an advocacy group with a new and improved annual meeting. We hope to see you in Washington on November 2 and 3!

Howard J. Silver
Executive Director
February 2011

Highlights

NSF Reauthorization and COMPETES

COSSA worked with the House Science and Technology Committee staff as it reauthorized the America COMPETES legislation which included the reauthorization of the National Science Foundation (NSF). COSSA succeeded in getting the House to accept report language that defines Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education to include all the sciences NSF supports.

Section 211—Definition of STEM

For the purposes of Title II of this Act, the term 'STEM' should be understood to be an umbrella term that covers every academic discipline and research area supported across the entire Foundation, including discipline based education research. Where the term 'STEM' is used elsewhere in this Act, it is likewise meant to cover all disciplines supported by the relevant agency, or in the case of the PCAST and NSTC committees established in Title III, STEM should be understood to encompass the entire breadth of Federally supported research areas.

After some political hiccups in the House and delays in the Senate, the bill considered dead for the 111th Congress was resurrected during the post-election lame-duck congressional session and enacted into law.



House Science and Technology Committee Chairman Bart Gordon argues for passage of America COMPETES on the House floor.

STEM Education

COSSA working with many other groups spent a good part of 2010 responding to plans to improve STEM education in this country. A report from the National Academies' Board on Science Education (BOSE), *A Framework for Science Education*, did not consider the social and behavioral sciences part of K-12 STEM education. After much protest from COSSA and its members, a meeting with the leaders

of BOSE and other National Academies' officials occurred. After much frank discussion, the Academies have offered to embark on a study examining the role of the social and behavioral sciences in K-12 education.

At the same time, the President's Council of Advisers on Science and Technology (PCAST) released a report, *Prepare and Inspire: K-12 Education in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) for America's Future*, again noting the deficiencies in American students' knowledge in these subjects. In the report, PCAST provided a curious bifurcation that indicated the SBE sciences were indeed 'sciences' for purposes of undergraduate and graduate education, but not for K-12 science education activities. COSSA and the community responded to this with letters and meetings. COSSA also met with the leadership of the NSF's Education and Human Resources directorate and the NSF's Acting Director and Deputy Director to press the case for inclusion in the Foundation's programs as noted in the House Committee report.

Census and Economic Statistics

COSSA maintains its membership on the 2010 Census Advisory Committee as it finishes up the 2010 decennial and starts looking ahead to 2020. It continued its many activities supporting funding for the Census Bureau and other key statistical agencies. COSSA testified on the FY 2011 budgets for the Census Bureau and the Bureau of Economic Analysis. It joined other stakeholders in advocacy visits to Capitol Hill on behalf of these agencies and others responsible for data collection, analysis, and dissemination in the federal government. COSSA has also been in the forefront of trying to protect the American Community Survey from those who advocate abolishing it or making it voluntary.

COSSA also helped organize a Capitol Hill briefing celebrating World Statistics Day, where the speakers were U.S. Census Director Robert Groves, former Census Director and new COSSA President Ken Prewitt, chief statistician of the United States Katherine Wallman, and Director of the Bureau of Economic Analysis, Steve Landefeld. COSSA also joined seven former Census Bureau directors and other stakeholders in endorsing legislation, ultimately unsuccessful, to enhance the independence of the Bureau from political interference.



Appreciation plaque presented to COSSA by the U.S. Census Bureau

Other Activities

National Science Foundation (NSF)

- Testified to the House Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Subcommittees regarding FY 2011 funding for the NSF and met with key appropriations staff regarding that funding. The testimony was sent to the counterpart Senate Subcommittee.



Silver and Rep. Jose Serrano, two guys from the Bronx, after testimony to the House CJS Appropriations Subcommittee

- Advocated for the America COMPETES legislation, which contains the reauthorization of the NSF COSSA convinced House Science and Technology Committee staff to include report language defining STEM education to include all the sciences NSF supports. The bill was enacted by Congress and signed into law by the President in December.
- Met regularly with Myron Gutmann, Assistant Director for the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBE) directorate. Gutmann discussed his Directorate's plans at the COSSA Annual Meeting. Participated in the SBE Advisory Committee meeting.

- Organized and led meetings with SBE's Division Directors Mark Weiss, Frank Scioli, Rachel Croson, and Lynda Carlson. Met with SBE's program officers. Participated in a NSF workshop on Genes, Cognition, and Social Behavior sponsored by the political science program.
- Worked with the House Science and Technology Committee to develop an agenda and witnesses for its hearing on NSF's Science of Science and Innovation Policy program, and its hearing on "Economics for the Real World."
- Attended Education and Human Resources (EHR) Directorate Advisory Committee and met with the Assistant Director for EHR. Attended National Science Board meetings and awards dinner.
- Maintained regular contact with NSF's Office of Legislative and Public Affairs.



Robert Solow, Sidney Winter, Scott Page, V.V. Chari, David Colander testify to the House Science and Technology Committee.

National Institutes of Health and Other Health Agencies



Continued to co-chair the Coalition for the Advancement of Health Through Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (CAHT-BSSR). Activities included: submitting testimony to the Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations Committees in support of increased funding for the NIH; monitoring and reporting on the progress of the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR); meeting regularly with Acting Directors, Chris Bachrach and Deborah Olster, to discuss the Office’s activities and how the social and behavioral science community can assist them.



Continued to co-chair the Coalition to Protect Research (CPR). CPR organized and sent a letter to Congress and the Administration supporting continued adherence to NIH’s peer review system and in defense of social and behavioral science research, particularly on drug and alcohol abuse and addiction.

- Attended the meetings of the NIH Scientific Management Review Board’s (SMRB) as well as its Substance Use, Abuse, and Addiction (SUAA) Working Group to monitor discussions of a possible merger of the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.
- Helped develop and disseminate NIH’s Opportunity Network (OppNet), a major initiative for behavioral and social research, which included attendance at the NIH conference on the initiative.
- Monitored development of strategic plans for the National Institute of General Medical Sciences and the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.
- Attended meetings regarding support for Comparative Effectiveness Research part of the provisions of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act and the Health Care Reform Act.
- Monitored the many hearings conducted by the House and Senate Appropriations Committees regarding spending for the NIH Institutes, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- Attended and monitored the many NIH institutes’ and centers’ advisory council meetings. Monitored the progress of the National Children’s Study.

The Census Bureau and Other Economic Statistics Agencies

- COSSA joined over 256,000 other organizations as an official partner of the 2010 Census.
- Continued service on the 2010 Census Advisory Committee. The Committee received briefings from Director Robert Groves and other census staff on the 2010 count, plans for the 2020 Census, and the importance of the American Community Survey (ACS).
- Testified to the House Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Subcommittee on the FY 2011 budgets for the Census Bureau and the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). The testimony was sent to the counterpart Senate Subcommittee.
- Joined other stakeholders concerned with the federal statistical system in meetings with House and Senate Appropriations staff to advocate on the FY 2011 budgets of the Census, Bureau of Economic Analysis, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.
- Attended the numerous congressional hearings overseeing the Census Bureau’s activities with regard to the 2010 count.
- Joined seven former Census Bureau Directors in supporting legislation to increase the independence of the Census Bureau, which did not get enacted.
- Met with Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) director Steve Landefeld and Congressional Affairs director Lucas Hitt to discuss their agenda and funding needs. Attended the BEA Advisory Committee meeting. Landefeld spoke at the COSSA Annual Meeting.



BEA Director Steve Landefeld and Silver at COSSA Annual Meeting

White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP)

- Met with Daniel Goroff, temporary Assistant Director for the Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBE), to discuss the Administration's activities with these sciences. Arranged for Goroff to meet with the larger SBE Washington community.
- Attended and monitored meetings of the President's Council of Advisers on Science and Technology (PCAST). Joined other groups in the social and behavioral science community in sending letters to PCAST regarding the Obama Administration's perceived neglect of the SBE sciences, particularly with regard to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education.
- Met with Kei Koizumi, OSTP's Assistant Director for Federal R&D to discuss the Office's activities regarding the SBE sciences.
- Attended an OSTP-sponsored reception for the 2010 Nobel Prize winners in Economics.



Daniel Goroff

Education

- Monitored policies, research activities, and appointments at the Institute of Education Sciences (IES). Attended and reported on National Board for Education Sciences' meetings. Participated in briefings regarding IES reauthorization legislation.
- Participated in the Coalition for International Education (CIE), which advocates for increased appropriations for Title VI international education centers, language resource centers, and other programs. During 2010, the CIE organized meetings with Edward Ochoa, Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education, and Andre Lewis, Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Education.
- Advocated for increased funding of Title VI, IES, the Javits Graduate Fellowship program, and the Thurgood Marshall Legal Education Opportunity grants.
- Attended numerous House and Senate Committee Hearings on education issues and also continued to monitor the slow progress of the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Followed the progress by the National Governors Association and Council of Chief State School Officers to develop common core standards.

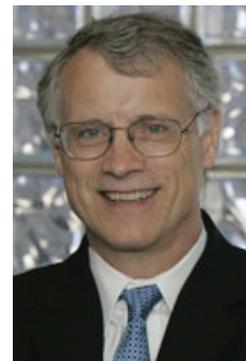
- Attended Secretary of Education Arne Duncan's briefings and followed major developments regarding funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), including the Department's Race to the Top initiative.

Justice

- Met with Assistant Attorney General Laurie Robinson of the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) to discuss the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) and the establishment of a scientific advisory board.
- Advocated for the confirmations of John Laub to head NIJ and James Lynch to direct BJS. Met with both following their approval by the Senate.
- Testified to the House Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Subcommittee advocating for increased funding for NIJ and BJS. The testimony was sent to the counterpart Senate Subcommittee. Met with congressional appropriations' staff to advocate for NIJ's and BJS' budget increases.
- Consulted with the study director and chairman of the National Academies' panel reviewing the NIJ. Discussed the report with the NIJ director and other relevant actors.
- Attended NIJ's annual research and evaluation conference, and the congressional briefings of George Mason University's Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy, led by COSSA Board Member David Weisburd. Executive Director spoke on a panel at the Jerry Lee Symposium on Crime and Criminal Justice



John Laub, NIJ Director



James Lynch, BJS Director

Agriculture and Rural Development

- Joined with the Council on Food and Agricultural Resource Economics (CFARE) to submit testimony to the House and Senate Agriculture and Rural Development Appropriations Subcommittees regarding FY 2011 funding for the Agricultural and Food Research Initiative, the Economic Research Service, and the National Agricultural Statistics Service.
- Attended USDA Stakeholders briefing with National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Director Roger Beachy concerning the Department's research agenda. Also met with Catherine Woteki, Undersecretary for Research, Education, and Economics.
- Met with the Kitty Smith, Administrator of the Economic Research Service, and Cynthia Clark, the Administrator of the National Agricultural Statistics Service.
- Spoke to the Experiment Station's Committee on Organization and Policy's (ESCOP) Social Science Subcommittee to discuss alternative funding sources for research on rural America.



Roger Beachy, NIFA Director

Homeland Security (DHS)

- Maintained advocacy for the budgets of DHS' Human Factors division and University Programs.
- Spoke with the Director and attended briefings related to the DHS Center of Excellence on the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START) housed at the University of Maryland and led by COSSA Board Member Gary LaFree.
- Along with COSSA Board Member Rick Lempert, met with Sherine Elmasry, Outreach Coordinator of the National Counterterrorism Center's of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, to discuss more involvement of social and behavioral scientists in their activities.

Human Research Protection and Other Ethical Issues

- The Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs Inc., (AAHRPP) of which COSSA is a founding member, continues to persuade universities and other research entities to submit to voluntary accreditation of their human participants' research protection plan. There are now 220 accredited organizations representing 1,100 entities. Steven Smith, Dean of the California Western School of Law, is the COSSA Representative to the AAHRPP Board. Brent Miller, a developmental psychologist and Vice President for Research at Utah State, is the current chair of AAHRPP's Board of Directors.
- Continued to monitor the activities concerned with protecting human participants in research, including attending the meetings of the Health and Human Services Secretary's Advisory Committee on Human Research Protections.
- Discussed again with Rep. Diana DeGette's (D-CO) staff, the Congresswoman's proposed legislation on Human Research Protection.



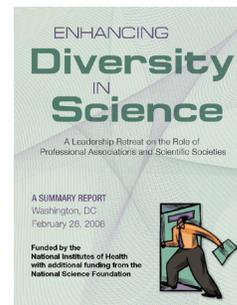
Steven R. Smith, Dean, California Western School of Law, and COSSA Representative to the AAHRPP Board

Enhancing Diversity in Science



The Collaborative for Enhancing Diversity in Science (CEDES) is led by COSSA. Its goal is to foster activities following up the 2008 retreat that produced the report Enhancing Diversity in Science.

- Met with the Office of Research on Women's Health, which has included the need to collaborate with COSSA on minority and underrepresented groups in its report, "NIH Working Group on Women in Biomedical Careers, Subcommittee Interim Reports on Progress and Tangible Actions," issued in October 2008.



Congressional Briefings & Receptions

Better Living Through Economics

Presented in collaboration with the American Economic Association

March 15, 2010

Speakers:

Lawrence Ausubel, *University of Maryland*

Brigitte Madrian, *Harvard Kennedy School of Government*

Alvin Roth, *Harvard University*

John Siegfried, *Vanderbilt University*



Nancy Lutz, Alvin Roth, Lawrence Ausubel, Brigitte Madrian, John Siegfried, and Dan Newton

Investing in Discovery: The Impact of Basic Research and the Role of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences

Co-sponsored with the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research

March 5, 2010

Speaker:

Jeremy Berg, Director, *National Institute of General Medical Sciences*

Recession and Recovery: How are Americans Affected?

Organized by the Population Association of America with

COSSA as a co-sponsor

July 12, 2010

Speakers:

Greg Duncan, *University of California, Irvine*

Kathleen Mullan Harris, *University of North Carolina*

Michael Hurd, *RAND Corporation*

Matthew Stagner, *University of Chicago*, moderator

Farewell to Raynard Kington

COSSA first interacted with Raynard Kington in 1994 when he spoke at a COSSA-sponsored Congressional Briefing on *Aging Well: Health, Wealth and Retirement*, while a Senior Scientist at the RAND Corporation. Within a few years, Kington had become the second director of the National Institute of Health's (NIH) Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research after serving as Director of the Division of Health Examination Statistics and Director of the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey within the National Center for Health Statistics at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He would later become NIH's Deputy Director and then in the transition from Elias Zerhouni to Francis Collins, Kington served as Acting Director. With his M.D., M.B.A., and Ph.D. in Economics, Raynard was certainly the most degreed person COSSA has worked with over the years. He was also one of the most terrific. He gave generously of his time to speak at COSSA Annual Meetings and COSSA briefings and continued to meet with COSSA and the social and behavioral science community throughout his tenure at NIH.

When he announced that he was leaving NIH to become President of Grinnell College in Iowa, COSSA joined with the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Funding, in hosting a farewell reception in his honor.



Silver, Kington, and Gerald Sroufe, American Educational Research Association



Kington receives a plaque of appreciation from Dave Moore, Association of American Medical Colleges and chairman of the Ad Hoc Group.

The COSSA Annual Meeting

On November 1, COSSA held its invitation-only annual meeting with close to 75 attendees. This year's meeting focused on "The Social Sciences and America's Future."

Myron Gutmann on SBE and NSF's Future

Myron Gutmann, Assistant Director for the Social, Behavioral and Economic Science directorate (SBE) at the National Science Foundation (NSF), discussed the diversity of SBE's role at NSF and with other agencies across the government.



Myron Gutmann, and Karen Cook, Stanford and a Member of the COSSA Board

SBE has important connections with all the other sciences at NSF as the other directorate leaders see SBE research as "critical." This has allowed SBE to participate in a whole host of NSF initiatives, particularly in the areas of energy and the environment, and technology and innovation. In the energy and environment area, SBE has been part of the Science Engineering and Education for Sustainability program, the Long Term Ecological Networks, including the urban area centers, climate modeling, and the U.S. Global Change Research Program. In technology and innovation, the SBE-led Science of Science and Innovation Policy (SciSIP) program, the Cyber-enabled Discovery and Innovation program, and the focus on ethical, legal, social, environmental and health in the multi-agency nanotechnology program, are all fostering the participation of SBE researchers in cross-directorate activities.

Gutmann, who prior to coming to NSF led the Interuniversity Consortium on Political and Social Research (ICPSR), indicated a significant interest in instituting explorations on how to archive social media interactions. This is connected to the implementation of a new NSF policy on Data Policy that will require researchers to document data management plans part of their NSF proposals.

Finally, Gutmann described the response to the call for the SBE community to prepare white papers suggesting ideas for research and infrastructure proposals "to frame the next generation of SBE research." The response was significant, with 244 of these papers received by the October 30 deadline. The goal, Gutmann concluded, is to get SBE and its constituents to begin what will become "a continuous process for thinking about the future" that will also, he hopes, bring increased resources to SBE.

Deborah Olster on Behavioral/Social Research Opportunities at NIH

Deborah Olster, Acting Director of the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), spoke about the role of those sciences in NIH's portfolio. She noted that funding for behavioral and social sciences research at NIH amounted to \$3.47 billion in FY 2009.

New director Francis Collins has outlined five major opportunities for NIH. Of these, three encompass behavioral and social science research: putting science to work for the betterment of health care reform; encouraging a greater emphasis on global health; and reinvigorating the biomedical research community.

Olster noted how Comparative Effectiveness Research (CER) is a major part of the implementation of health care reform. NIH supported studies, such as the Diabetes Prevention Program, are one example of this research. There are a number of solicitations using ARRA funds involving decision making, behavioral economics, and workforce development as part of CER.

Continuing to examine the causes and solutions to health disparities, particularly as it relates to AIDS, is another focus of behavioral and social research at NIH. To this end, NIH continues to fund ten Centers for Population Health and Health Disparities.

As part of research on healthcare cost containment, Olster noted that NIH will support research on the "Economics of Prevention." The Common Fund in the Office of the Director will supply the money. In addition, NIH is interested in the efficient delivery of effective healthcare and will support science on organizational structure and practice design. Olster also discussed the initiatives on Science of Behavior Change and the Basic Behavioral and Social Science Opportunity Network (OppNet). She concluded by indicating that OBSSR would be supporting a host of training activities.

Steve Landefeld on Statistics and the Economic Future

Steve Landefeld, director of the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), began his talk by thanking COSSA for all its efforts on behalf of BEA, particularly its FY 2011 budget. He noted that among the key issues confronting the nation in late 2010 are: the widening distribution of income; the financial and housing crisis; sustaining and stimulating growth through innovation and R&D; and the increasing cost of health care.

BEA plays a significant role in examining these issues through its data collection activities. Within the key measure of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) BEA can measure economic progress and sustainability. He noted that some have argued for expanding GDP to include measures of “well-being” and even “happiness,” but so far that has not happened.

What you can do, Landefeld explained, is look at alternative estimates of the current GDP using already available BEA data. For example, if you examine personal income, personal income per capita, or disposable personal income, you get a much clearer picture of the economic difficulties of recent times. Adjusting for regional price differences also helps present more meaningful data on household income, he remarked. Another clarifying factor would measure retirement income in the state where the person now resides, rather than the state where he worked.

A goal for BEA, Landerfeld indicated, is to get more complete data on institutions that played a large role in the crisis such as hedge funds, private equity funds, and structured investment vehicles.

Looking at the contribution of research and development (R&D), BEA’s Satellite Account demonstrated that between 1959–2004 R&D accounted for five percent of growth in real GDP. Between 1995–2004, R&D’s contribution rose to seven percent; in comparison, business investment in commercial and all other types of buildings accounted for just over two percent of real GDP growth. R&D’s stepped-up contribution is almost as large as the contribution of computers in the existing GDP measure, he concluded.

Aletha Huston on Children’s Future

Continuing a new tradition, Aletha Huston, COSSA’s President for 2009–10, gave the luncheon address. She discussed “Children and America’s Future.”

Data clearly demonstrate that child poverty continues to persist in the United States. Poverty includes economic hardship and deprivation and social exclusion. Expand the definition to the OECD notion of child well-being and the U.S. ranks near the bottom of 21 OECD nations. Poverty can be absolute; the U.S. definition demarks a certain amount of income; or relative as in material deprivation related to the rest of society. Social exclusion as defined by the European Union suggests: “the poor



Foreground: Mary Jo Hoeksema, Population Association of America; Dan Newlon, American Economic Association; Background: John Siegfried, American Economic Association; Marietta Baba, Michigan State University; and Ted Eisenberg, Cornell University; at COSSA Annual Meeting.

are those whose resources (material, cultural, and social) are so limited as to exclude them from the minimum acceptable way of life in the Member States in which they live.”

Two different explanations for poverty, according to Huston, are individual deficiencies of the poor and the economic, political and social structures of the society. U.S. policies are more geared toward changing individuals and they have not been effective. For adults, U.S. policies have included: job training; sanctions and time limits under the Welfare Reform Act; work-contingent income programs such as the Earned Income Tax Credit; marriage promotion programs; and child support enforcement. For children, the policies are home visiting programs, early childhood education programs, and parent training programs. To cure the social causation of poverty, the government has tried: job creation; minimum wages; wage supplements; anti-discrimination policies; publicly supported job training centers, quality education, and parks and safety measures.

Early intervention programs have examined and concluded: brain research demonstrates that the neurological architecture of the brain is established in the first few years of life and is built by complex interactions of experience with genes; the effect of income differences in cognitive development appear early in life; family income in the early years is important for intellectual development and academic achievement; and quality early intervention programs can improve children’s life chances. Social behavior problems are affected by a low income childhood leading to poor social skills, behavior problems in middle childhood, psychological distress, arrests, and non-marital child bearing, she said.

Evidence-based early interventions have posited that improving skills and “readiness” of the child will increase the child’s ability to master demands of school and to succeed in adulthood. Thus, home visiting, Early Head Start, Head Start, and other programs have targeted poor children and their parents. Their success has been mixed.

Project New Hope, for which Huston is the Principal Investigator, starts with the premise that if you work, you should not be poor. Contingent on employment, it will provide individuals and families with earnings supplements, child care subsidies, and health care subsidies. These, in turn, produce improved school performance, reduced social behavior problems, and increased positive social behavior.

With regard to social exclusion factors, New Hope parents who are given help to meet basic needs for food, housing, and utilities also can ponder “Extras” such as new clothes, and birthday presents for their kids and even such big ticket items as a home purchase, appliances, or a car. Their children have peer acceptance and status and the “extras” predict better social behavior. Therefore, Huston argues that policies need to go beyond reducing material hardship to increasing child well-being, social participation, and bringing the poor into the mainstream. She recommends framing policy research around social inclusion programs.

Panel on Higher Education’s Future

The meeting concluded with a panel on Higher Education’s Future. Participants were Peter Henderson, Study Director for the National Academies’ Board on Higher Education and the Workforce; Gary Sandefur, Dean of Letters and Science at the University of Wisconsin–Madison and a member of the COSSA Board of Directors; and Jack Crowley, consultant to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Henderson described the origin, charge, and membership of the committee studying research universities. The Committee held its first meeting on September 21 and 22. The panel, chaired by former Dupont CEO Charles Holliday, grew out of a request from Senators and Members of the House.

The Committee has 22 people including current and former university presidents and a number of folks from business and industry. The goal is to look down the road 10–20 years and figure out what the role of the research university will be in the American landscape. Specifically, the charge asks the panel: “What are the top ten actions that Congress, the federal government, state governments, research universities, and others could take to assure the ability of the American research university to maintain the excellence in research and doctoral education needed to help the United States

compete, prosper, and achieve national goals for health, energy, the environment, and security in the global community of the 21st century.”

Sandefur exclaimed that American’s universities were still the “best in the world,” citing world rankings, enrollment from overseas, and the Chinese emulating our research university model.



Gary Sandefur, University of Wisconsin and a member of the COSSA Board.

The challenge is how to maintain the health and growth of public universities in light of state funding difficulties. Therefore, what the federal government does with regard to these universities is important. More advocacy for federal support for research is one strategy. He took the opportunity to praise COSSA’s efforts. Another is to seek greater support from Foundations that have traditionally supported higher education activities such as Ford, Mellon, and Rockefeller. With State support dwindling, some flagship public universities are seeking more autonomy from state control. This only leads to having state universities joining the privates in seeking private philanthropy, acknowledging that as Dean he spends almost 30 percent of his time fund-raising. Another consequence of reduced support is that institutions are losing faculty, many to international universities who entice with fabulous offers of salary, research support, and other amenities.

Crowley, who spent many years serving in federal relations’ roles for both MIT and the Association of American Universities, disagreed with Sandefur. He quoted Charles Vest, former MIT President and now head of the National Academy of Engineering, that the U.S. was falling behind in a number of important indicators of competitiveness and research prowess. Raising a number of provocative questions, Crowley wondered whether it was “time to rethink the model” of higher education so that more productive collaborations across disciplines, schools, institutions and sectors can be created. Acknowledging that “Institutions simply do poorly in unstable financial environments,” he argued against any strategy that advocated doubling budgets, since they are usually followed by flat or declining budgets. Since “Our country’s challenges, and the intense political debates that flow from them, are driven now primarily by economic, scientific and technological challenges and needs,” he challenged the COSSA disciplines to “think more systemically, and combine their expertise in the new ways increasingly seen in the physical and life sciences and engineering, and tackle these deeper shaping forces.”



COSSA & Its Constituents



Graham Wilson, Boston University, Cornelius Kerwin, American University President, Howard Silver, COSSA Executive Silver, and Theda Skocpol, Harvard Dean, at the APSA meeting .

At the end of 2010, COSSA consisted of 18 Governing Members, 22 Member Organizations, 56 Universities, and 14 Centers and Institutes.

COSSA's Executive Director spoke at a workshop with department chairs at the American Political Science Association's annual meeting in Washington, DC in September.

The Executive Director also spoke to the Department Chairs at the National Communication Association's annual meeting in San Francisco in November and was a speaker for the same group's teleconference on the "Role of Communication Scholarship in Public Policy."

The Executive Director and the Deputy Director attended the Association of American Geographers' annual meeting in

Washington, DC. The Executive Director met with the Council of the American Association for Public Opinion Research.

The Executive Director spoke at the American Psychological Association's Science Leadership Conference in November.

The Executive Director attended the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences' awards dinner and the National Bureau of Economic Research's Tax Policy Seminar.

The Executive Director and the Deputy Director met with many representatives of COSSA's Member Organizations, Universities, and Centers and Institutes.



Silver confers with Rep. Brian Baird at the APA Science Leadership Conference

COSSA & The Community



COSSA Washington UPDATE remains the major tool of communication. The electronic-only document has expanded its coverage of events in Washington affecting social and behavioral science research and other aspects of science policy. It is sent to more than 1,800 people at universities, on Capitol Hill, in the Federal Agencies, and social and behavioral scientists in the Washington community and overseas. The annual budget analysis issue examines over 50 agencies supporting social and behavioral science research and remains a key reference for many people.

COSSA staff remains an important source for the science press, both on background and on the record, including a number of conversations this year with *SCIENCE Magazine*, the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, and others regarding the 2010 Census, new leadership at NSF, and NIH peer-reviewed grants.

Attended many meetings at the National Academies. Met with the old, Mike Feuer, and new, Robert Hauser, leadership of the Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education (DBASSE). Met with Jane Ross, new director of the Committee on Law and Justice and participated in its meeting. Monitored the two committees examining higher education, one on developing metrics, chaired by University of Virginia President Teresa Sullivan, and the other on the Future of Research Universities, chaired by Charles Holliday, former CEO of Dupont. Peter Henderson, study director of the latter, spoke at the COSSA Annual Meeting.

Participated in many national coalitions to increase funding for social and behavioral research related to health. The Deputy Director serves on the Steering Committees of the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research Funding and the Friends of NICHD. Other groups COSSA belongs to include: Friends of NIA, Friends of the AHRQ, CDC Coalition, Friends of NCHS, Friends of NIDA, Friends of NIAAAA, Health Research Service Administration Coalition, Genome Action Coalition, and the Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Coalition.

Continued active participation in the Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF). Encouraged COSSA members to participate in the CNSF exhibition.

Engaged in numerous interactions with the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). The Executive and Deputy Directors helped prepare the Social and Behavioral Science chapter in the Research and Development funding book. The Executive Director attended the Policy Forum and Science and Human Rights Coalition meeting.

Met with Katherine Wallman, the Chief Statistician of the U.S., Connie Citro, head of the Committee on National Statistics (CNSTAT), and served on the organizing committee for the celebration of the World Statistics Day briefing on Capitol Hill.

Deputy Director participated in an invitation-only workshop of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Meta Network for PhD Diversity and successfully advocated for the inclusion of the social and behavioral sciences in National Lab Day.

Governance & Finance



COSSA President Aletha Huston Receives Plaque of Appreciation from Executive Director Howard Silver

The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) began in the late 1960s as an informal group of social science associations that met to exchange information and discuss common problems. In May 1981, the disciplinary associations, responding to disproportionately large budget cuts proposed by the new Reagan Administration for the social and behavioral sciences at the National Science Foundation (NSF), used the informal COSSA collaboration to establish a Washington-based advocacy effort. Successful in mitigating the budget cuts, COSSA was incorporated in 1982 as a 501(c)(6) organization by ten disciplinary-based social/behavioral science associations.

That same year, COSSA's Founding Members decided to invite other associations to become Affiliates of the organization, and universities and research institutes to become Contributors. In 2003, this nomenclature was changed to Governing Members, Membership Organizations, Universities, and Centers and Institutes.

COSSA's Board of Directors consists of two representatives from each of the Governing Member associations and at-large members selected to represent other segments of the Consortium's constituency. COSSA's Executive Director serves as an ex-officio member of the Board. The Board meets annually, usually in the fall, to approve the COSSA budget and to set policy. In 2010, Aletha Huston, Professor of Child Development at the University of Texas at Austin, completed her two-year term as COSSA President. The Board elected Kenneth Prewitt of Columbia University as COSSA's new President for 2011–2012.

The Executive Committee consists of the executive officers, or their designees, of the Member associations and COSSA's executive director, ex-officio. The Committee meets quarterly to discuss issues of COSSA policy and priorities. In 2010 Sally Hillsman, Executive Officer of the American Sociological Association, completed her two-year term as Chair. The Executive Committee re-elected Hillsman to serve another term from 2011-12. In 2010 two new members joined the Executive Committee: James Grossman, the new Executive Director of the American Historical Association, and Mary Jo Hoeksema, representing COSSA's newest Governing Member, the Population Association of America.

As an advocacy group, COSSA must comply with the new requirements under the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007. COSSA submits its lobbying forms four times a year and each COSSA staff member reports his/her political contributions twice a year. COSSA has determined that it spends about one-third of its funds lobbying. The Consortium's budget for 2010 was approximately \$520,000.

COSSA Staff

Howard J. Silver, Ph.D., Executive Director

Dr. Silver, COSSA's leader since 1988, is responsible for planning and directing all programs and initiatives of the Consortium and serves as its chief lobbyist. From 1983-88 he was COSSA's Associate Director for Government Relations. Elected by his science policy colleagues, from 1994 - 2000 he chaired the Coalition for National Science Funding. He has been President of the National Capital Area Political Science Association and served on the Council of the American Political Science Association. Dr. Silver was previously a consultant for legislative and political research, a political campaign manager, and a legislative analyst in the Department of Education. He received the Ph.D. in political science from the Ohio State University and has a B.A. from the City College of the City University of New York.

Angela L. Sharpe, Deputy Director

Angela Sharpe is responsible for lobbying Members of Congress and their staff on health and behavior research, and representing COSSA to executive branch agencies, particularly the Department of Health and Human Services. She joined the COSSA staff in June 1995. She previously served as a legislative assistant to former Rep. Carrie P. Meek (D-FL) and to the late Rep. R. Lawrence Coughlin (R-PA). Prior to working on Capitol Hill, Ms. Sharpe worked for the Library of Congress' National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. She earned her Masters in Government degree from The Johns Hopkins University. She received a B.S. in Industrial Relations and a B.S. in Psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

La Tosha Plavnik, Assistant Director for Government Relations

La Tosha Plavnik spends part of her time as COSSA's office administrator and part of her time assisting with COSSA's lobbying efforts. She came to COSSA from the National Humanities Alliance where she assisted with their Humanities Advocacy day. She also served as a government relations assistant at the National Cable and Telecommunications Association and has provided administrative support to a number of non-profits, government relations firms, and political organizations in Washington. She began her Washington career as a policy assistant for the U.S. House of Representatives Democratic Caucus. Ms. Plavnik earned a dual B.A. in political science and advertising from Iowa State University.

Pamela L. Pressley, Associate Director of Public Affairs

Pamela Pressley was responsible for producing COSSA's publications. Ms. Pressley also worked with Congress and the Executive branch to assist with COSSA's lobbying efforts. She came to COSSA from Generations United, where she served as the public policy coordinator and newsletter editor. She received her B.A. from Winthrop University and a M.S.W. from Howard University. Ms. Pressley left the COSSA staff in December 2010.

2010 Board of Directors

American Association for Public Opinion Research

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Roger Tourangeau, University of Michigan

American Economic Association

Sidney Winter, University of Pennsylvania
John Siegfried, Executive Secretary

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William Morgan, Executive Director

National Communication Association

Karen Tracy, University of Colorado
Nancy Kidd, Executive Director

Population Association of America

Linda Jacobson, Population Reference Bureau
Mary Jo Hoeksema, Government and Public Affairs Officer

Rural Sociological Society

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Gary Sandefur, University of Wisconsin, Madison

COSSA President

Aletha Huston, University of Texas, Austin

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