
CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

Volume II, Number 11
June 3, 1983

This Week . . .

Social and Behavioral Sciences Spotlighted at NIMH
NSF Appropriation Restores Social Science Funding
HHS Pioneers in Making Data Available to Research Community
British SSRC Gets New Name
COSSA Testimony on NSF, HUD
Testifying Before Congress: Why It Is Important
COSSA Announces New Affiliates, Contributors
Social and Behavioral Scientists Elected to Academy
Sources of Research Support: Department of Labor

* * *

SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES SPOTLIGHTED AT NIMH

On May 23, Dr. John A. Clausen presented the initial report of the Behavioral Sciences Cluster Group to the members of the National Advisory Mental Health Council. The Behavioral Sciences Cluster Group was appointed by Dr. Herbert Pardes, Director of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), to delineate and evaluate those areas of the social and behavioral sciences that are relevant to mental health research. The report, which is still in draft form, reviews the many ways in which the social and behavioral sciences contribute to the study of mental health and mental illness and identifies gaps in the NIMH "portfolio" of research support. In addition to this report, the Cluster Group has commissioned 27 papers on selected topics by individual scientists. The final version of the report and the commissioned papers should be available by the end of the summer.

The Cluster Group, which is comprised of 12 social and behavioral scientists, makes the point that there is now "...much evidence that the amount and duration of mental

June 3, 1983

SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES SPOTLIGHTED AT NIMH (cont.)

disorder is influenced by the features of the sociocultural milieu" and that what is needed is "...more research on how such influences come about -- on the ways in which psychological processes are influenced in the interplay between organism and environment." The report calls for NIMH to concentrate on supporting the development of new methodologies in the social and behavioral sciences, noting that although such studies may not appear to have immediate relevance to mental health research, they can provide important research techniques for use in the future. The group also cautions that

"...research in the behavioral sciences deals with problems that are so complex that single studies producing results with the quality of a "breakthrough" are rare, or perhaps nonexistent. Major contributions result from accumulated knowledge. Long-term support for programs of basic research is an essential ingredient in the recipe for progress."

The written response to the Cluster Group report by NIMH staff proclaims the report to be "...as welcome as a breath of spring following a dark, dismal, and smoggy winter" and notes that "...the mental health field owes a tremendous debt to the behavioral and social sciences." It cites several recent developments, among which was the establishment of COSSA, as auguring well for the social and behavioral sciences. They summarize by noting:

One of the principal concerns of investigators in these fields is that there may be a premature retreat into a reductionist frame of mind where biological findings are immediately applied to clinical practice without consideration of the role of psychological and psychosocial factors. To this end we applaud the emphasis that the Cluster Group has placed on the need to study the reciprocal interaction between biological and psychological processes and to focus on the interaction between organisms and the environment.

Although limitations on its publishing budget preclude NIMH publication of the report, COSSA is investigating ways in which the Cluster Group report can be made available both to social and behavioral scientists and to the wider biomedical research community.

June 3, 1983

NSF APPROPRIATION RESTORES SOCIAL SCIENCE FUNDING

The House Appropriations Committee last week added \$5 million to the budget of the Directorate for the Biological, Behavioral, and Social Sciences (BBS) at the National Science Foundation (NSF). Although these funds are to be spent within BBS at the discretion of the Foundation, the Committee report urges that special emphasis be placed on social science research programs because they have suffered the largest reductions over the past 3 years.

The appropriation bill reported out of committee last week breaks with recent practice in that specific changes are made in the budgets of the NSF research directorates. In previous years, the House Appropriations Committee established a total budget for all NSF research and related activities and left determination of specific directorate budgets to the Foundation. This year, however, the Appropriations Subcommittee with jurisdiction over NSF added funds for high technology instrumentation and the social sciences and reduced the administration's budget request for ocean drilling activities. Research support in three directorates was also reduced to increase funds available for science education. In the full Committee, however, an additional \$15 million, to be spent at the discretion of the Foundation, was added to the research directorates.

The House of Representatives is scheduled to vote on the NSF appropriation late in the day on June 2. Information on the outcome of the vote will be available in the next issue of the COSSA Washington Update or, in the meantime, from the COSSA office (202/234-5703).

HHS PIONEERS IN MAKING DATA AVAILABLE TO RESEARCH COMMUNITY

The Office of Population Affairs in the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is meeting the need to extend the data resources available to the research community in a time of budget stringency by requiring grantees to share their data with other researchers after their work is completed. The vehicle for this new approach to research and data management is a recent HHS request for applications (RFA) published in the Federal Register on May 13.

The RFA describes research programs in the HHS Office of Adolescent Pregnancy Programs and the Office of Family Planning. On completion of the research, recipients of research grants in these programs are required to deposit their data in a public

June 3, 1983

HHS PIONEERS IN MAKING DATA AVAILABLE TO RESEARCH COMMUNITY (cont.)

use data archive. Examples of such archives suggested by HHS are the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) at the University of Michigan or the HHS Data Archive on Adolescent Pregnancy and Pregnancy Prevention.

The purpose of this requirement is to make the data available to other scholars and to policy makers as quickly as possible. However, the data will be circulated only after the privacy of data subjects is protected and after the grantee has had a reasonable period to complete the study and report its results. This "reasonable period" is not to exceed 18 months after the grant period ends. In order to avoid imposing added costs on researchers by this requirement, HHS has requested that the proposal budget include provisions for depositing the data in a publicly accessible archive.

A second innovation in the HHS research announcement is that the grant applications, although they are to be funded through a mission agency, will be evaluated through National Institutes of Health (NIH) peer review processes. Applications are to be submitted to NIH, not the Office of Population Affairs.

BRITISH SSRC GETS NEW NAME

The British Social Science Research Council (SSRC), under pressure from Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education, has tentatively decided to change its name to the Economic and Social Research Council. The name change was requested last year by Sir Keith because he felt that the word "science" in the Social Science Research Council was misleading. He suggested that the name be changed to the Social Studies Research Council. SSRC Chairman Michael Posner is felt by some members of the Council to have finally agreed to the name change as part of a package that would assure the continued existence of the threatened SSRC. Final vote on the name change is expected in July.

Sir Keith's earlier efforts to disband the SSRC were thwarted last year when a report he requested on the social sciences proved to be a strong endorsement rather than the expected condemnation of research in this area. The author of the report, Lord Rothschild, is a respected biophysicist whose strongly worded defense of the social sciences was critical in preserving the SSRC. For further information on the Rothschild Report, see the COSSA newsletter for June 11, 1982. Back issues available on request (202/234-5703).

June 3, 1983

COSSA TESTIMONY ON NSF, HUD

Two researchers testified on behalf of COSSA last week before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on HUD-Independent Agencies, chaired by Senator Jake Garn (R-UT). Dr. James J. Zuiches of the Department of Rural Sociology at the Cornell College of Agriculture and Life Sciences testified on the appropriation for social and behavioral science research at the National Science Foundation (NSF). Dr. David L. Puryear, Director of the Graduate Program in Public Policy Analysis at Johns Hopkins University, testified on the research and evaluation program in the Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R) at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

TESTIFYING BEFORE CONGRESS: WHY IT IS IMPORTANT

Every American citizen has the right to present his or her views to the U.S. Congress. Indeed, the public hearings held by the congressional committees represent the only official opportunities for citizens to participate in the law-making process. Although individual citizens only rarely present testimony, groups like COSSA that represent the interests of numbers of citizens do so quite frequently. In fact, COSSA has presented testimony on twelve different occasions since the 98th Congress convened in January.

Witnesses testifying for the first time are often surprised to find only one Member of Congress in the hearing room, usually the chairman of the committee holding the hearing. What the inexperienced do not realize, however, is that staff members are always present, listening attentively on behalf of their Members. Although committee chairmen do at times listen actively, they are occasionally distracted after being confronted with strings of witnesses for days on end. Nevertheless, the statement presented to the committee always appears in the written record of the hearing, which is published and made available to the public, federal agencies and Members of Congress. This written record is the most important aspect of testifying in Congress.

An organization that wishes to have its views recognized by Congress must make its presence in the debate known and assert its interest by presenting testimony. Bringing witnesses to Washington to testify, sometimes from the same state as the committee chairman, serves to demonstrate that an organization is serious and is working actively on an issue. In addition, written testimony can later be duplicated and disseminated to others it wishes to influence, giving wide exposure to an organization's views.

June 3, 1983

TESTIFYING BEFORE CONGRESS: WHY IT IS IMPORTANT (cont.)

A complete list of testimony presented by COSSA follows; copies of any of the testimony can be obtained from the COSSA office (1755 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20036; 202/234-5703).

March 10, 1983

National Science Foundation authorization for FY 1984, House Subcommittee on Science, Research and Technology, Dr. F. Thomas Juster, Director, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan.

March 18, 1983

National Science Foundation authorization for FY 1984, Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources, Dr. Elinor Ostrom, Chairman, Department of Political Science, Indiana University.

April 7, 1983

Office of Justice Assistance, Research and Statistics, Department of Justice appropriation for FY 1984, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary and Related Agencies, Dr. Herbert Jacob, Professor of Political Science and Urban Affairs, Northwestern University.

April 20, 1983

National Science Foundation appropriation for FY 1984, House Appropriations Subcommittee on HUD-Independent Agencies, Dr. Donald J. White, Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Boston College.

April 20, 1983

National Institute of Justice, Department of Justice appropriation for FY 1984, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies, Prof. Richard D. Schwartz, Syracuse University College of Law.

April 21, 1983

Office of Policy Development and Research, Department of Housing and Urban Development appropriation for FY 1984, House Appropriations Subcommittee on HUD-Independent Agencies, Dr. David L. Puryear, Director, Graduate Program in Public Policy Analysis, Johns Hopkins University.

April 29, 1983

National Institute of Mental Health, Department of Health and Human Services appropriation for FY 1984, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies, Dr. Morris Rosenberg, Professor of Sociology, University of Maryland.

June 3, 1983

TESTIFYING BEFORE CONGRESS: WHY IT IS IMPORTANT (cont.)

May 9, 1983

Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education appropriation for FY 1984, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, Dean Willis D. Hawley, Peabody College, Vanderbilt University.

May 9, 1983

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Department of Health and Human Services appropriation for FY 1984, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, Dr. Roberta Balstad Miller, Executive Director, Consortium of Social Science Associations.

May 10, 1983

National Institute of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Statement on the Justice Assistance Act of 1983, Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Juvenile Justice, Richard D. Schwartz, Syracuse University College of Law; David C. Baldus, University of Iowa College of Law; Alfred Blumstein, Department of Urban and Public Affairs, Carnegie-Mellon University; Herbert Jacob, Department of Political Science, Northwestern University and President, Law and Society Association; Norval Morris, University of Chicago Law School; Peter H. Rossi, Social and Demographic Research Institute, University of Massachusetts, Amherst; James F. Short, Jr., Department of Sociology, Washington State University and President-elect, American Sociological Association; Marvin E. Wolfgang, Department of Sociology, University of Pennsylvania; and Roberta Balstad Miller, Consortium of Social Science Associations.

May 23, 1983

National Science Foundation appropriation for FY 1984, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on HUD-Independent Agencies, Dr. James J. Zuiches, Professor, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cornell University.

May 24, 1983

Office of Policy Development and Research, Department of Housing and Urban Development appropriation for FY 1984, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on HUD-Independent Agencies, Dr. David L. Puryear, Director, Graduate Program in Public Policy Analysis, Johns Hopkins University.

June 3, 1983

COSSA ANNOUNCES NEW AFFILIATES, CONTRIBUTORS

In the first part of 1983, COSSA welcomed seven new Affiliates and five new university Contributors. Among the new Affiliates are the International Communication Association, International Studies Association, Rural Sociological Society, Association for Asian Studies, Regional Science Association, Society for Social Studies of Science, and National Council on Family Relations. The new Contributors are the University of Southern California, the University of Colorado, the University of Washington, Indiana University, and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

The addition of these organizations brings the number of COSSA Affiliates to 22 and contributing universities to 21. A list of all COSSA Members, Affiliates, and Contributors is enclosed. For information on how an organization or a university can take part in COSSA's activities, please contact Roberta Balstad Miller at COSSA (202/234-5703).

SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENTISTS ELECTED TO ACADEMY

Sixty members were elected to the National Academy of Sciences this year. Eight of these new members are social or behavioral scientists:

Richard F. Fenno, Jr., political science, University of Rochester;
David Gale, mathematics, operations research, and economics, University of California, Berkeley;
John Garcia, psychology and psychiatry, University of California, Los Angeles;
Eugene A. Hammel, anthropology, University of California, Berkeley;
Davis S. Landes, economics, Harvard University;
Thomas J. Sargent, economics, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, Minneapolis;
Stanley Schacter, social psychology, Columbia University;
Sidney Verba, government, Harvard University.

June 3, 1983

SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: DEPARTMENT OF LABOR (DOL)

COSSA provides this information as a service and encourages readers to contact the agency rather than COSSA for more information.

Office of Research and Evaluation
(Office of Strategic Planning and Policy Development)

FY 1983 Budget: \$14 million

Program Goals: The Office of Research and Evaluation supports research, developmental activities, and evaluation in the employment and training area. The program's primary emphasis now is on evaluation.

Disciplines Supported: Most of the research supported is conducted by social scientists -- economists, sociologists, psychologists, and scientists specializing in industrial relations, urban studies and public policy.

Funding Mechanisms: The policy of the Office of Research and Evaluation is to use competitive procurements as much as possible. Apparently, very few universities respond to the RFPs, although the Department welcomes applications from academic scientists. Program announcements are published in Commerce Business Daily or the Federal Register.

Review Processes Employed: Proposals are reviewed by panels comprised of experts from the Employment and Training Administration and other agencies of the Department of Labor (DOL). Professionals from outside of the Department are occasionally, although infrequently, invited to participate.

Success Ratio: At the present time, about 1% of unsolicited proposals are being funded.

Contact Person: Dr. Burt S. Barnow, Director
Office of Research and Evaluation
Employment and Training Administration
U.S. Department of Labor
601 D Street, NW, Room 9100
Washington, DC 20213
202/376-7335

CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

Members

American Anthropological Association
American Economic Association
American Historical Association
American Political Science Association
American Psychological Association
American Sociological Association
American Statistical Association
Association of American Geographers
Association of American Law Schools
Linguistic Society of America

Affiliates

American Association for Public
Opinion Research
American Educational Research
Association
Association for Asian Studies
Eastern Sociological Society
Economic History Association
Evaluation Research Society
History of Science Society
International Communication Association
International Studies Association
Law and Society Association
National Council on Family Relations
North Central Sociological
Association
Northeastern Anthropological
Association
Population Association of America
Regional Science Association
Rural Sociological Society
Social Science History Association
Society for American Archaeology
Society for Psychological Anthropology
Society for the Scientific Study
of Religion
Society for Social Studies of Science
Southwestern Social Science Association

Contributors

University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Los Angeles
Center for Advanced Study in the
Behavioral Sciences
University of Colorado
Columbia University
Cornell Institute for Social and
Economic Research
Georgia Institute of Technology
Harvard University
Indiana University
Institute for Social Research,
University of Michigan
University of Illinois
University of Iowa
University of Michigan
University of Missouri
University of Nebraska
University of Oregon
University of Pittsburgh
Princeton University
Social Science Research Council
University of Southern California
Stanford University
Texas A & M University
Tulane University
University of Washington