
CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

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INVISIBLE DISCIPLINES: THE SOCIAL SCIENCES AT NIH

A COSSA survey of the advisory councils of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) reveals that the social and behavioral sciences are seriously underrepresented in the NIH advisory apparatus. Less than 4% of the 182 members of the 12 NIH advisory councils are professional social or behavioral scientists, with advanced research degrees in the social and behavioral science disciplines. These scientists are present on only 4 of the 12 advisory committees, a representation which is, in all but one case, minimal. Although 3 of the 14 members of the National Advisory Child Health and Human Development Council are social scientists, the National Advisory Council on Aging, which has a congressional mandate to support "biomedical, social and behavioral research," has only 2 social or behavioral scientists among its membership of 18, and the advisory councils of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute and the National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke each contain one (see chart).

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Dell H. Hymes, *President*

Roberta Balstad Miller, *Executive Director*

Underrepresentation of the social and behavioral sciences on NIH advisory councils reflects and may indeed contribute to the apparent disinclination on the part of NIH to invest heavily in research on the social, emotional, behavioral, and environmental aspects of health and disease. According to officials in the NIH budget office, between one and two percent of the annual NIH budget goes to support social and behavioral science research. Moreover, because the role of NIH advisory councils is to advise institute directors on matters of national need and to recommend institute policy, council members also have an impact on the areas of research which NIH supports. The absence of social and behavioral scientists on these councils perpetuates NIH's lack of support for research in the these areas.

For example, the dominance of scientists from outside the social and behavioral sciences makes consideration of behavioral aspects of health research unlikely or at best, ill-informed. A recent meeting of the Advisory Committee to the NIH Director exemplifies the effect of underrepresentation. The Committee considered a 1983 Institute of Medicine (IOM) report entitled Personnel Needs and Training for Biomedical and Behavioral Research. After presentations by the chairmen of panels on biomedical sciences, clinical sciences, behavioral sciences, and health services research, the committee discussion centered on the need to train biomedical researchers, and did not even consider the recommendations for behavioral sciences. NIH Public Advisory Groups, a guide to public advisory groups published by NIH in July, 1983, states that in order to "provide the broad perspective on social needs that is essential to balanced and effective programs, . . . [t]he program advisory groups comprise not only biomedical scientists but also leaders in such fields as education, law, social sciences, public health, or public affairs." However, although the advisory councils do contain a proportion of lay members without M.D. or Ph.D. degrees, these are primarily from the fields of public health and public affairs, and the vast majority of advisory committee members are biomedical scientists.

The 1982 IOM report, Health and Behavior: Frontiers of Research in the Biobehavioral Sciences, criticizes NIH's limited commitment to investigating the behavioral aspects of health and disease. Citing the "deep national concern and strong data on the contribution of behavioral factors to the national burden of illness," the report presents several lines of potential scientific inquiry in areas such as aging, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, stress and work, and mental health. It also calls for wider recognition of the effects of behavior on health and proposes increased support for programs that train researchers in these fields of inquiry. "As we learn more about the current burden of illness within our society,"

wrote IOM President Dr. Frederick Robbins in a recent COSSA publication, Health and Human Behavior, "the importance of behavioral factors for health becomes increasingly apparent."

Social and behavioral scientists may be playing a larger role on NIH advisory committees in the future. When the new appointments to approximately 20% of the advisory committee positions are announced this month, it is possible that social scientists may be better represented on advisory councils and the Advisory Committee to the Director. More important to broadening the membership of the councils, however, is legislation passed by the House of Representatives in the last session of Congress (see NIH reauthorization, H.R. 2350, Sec. 403.(b)(1) and Sec. 408.(b)(1)). These provisions, which COSSA urged the House to adopt, would require that at least one-third of the scientific members of the NIH Advisory Board and each NIH advisory council be either social or behavioral scientists or experts from the field of public health. The Senate will consider similar legislation when Congress returns to Washington later this month.

SOCIAL SCIENCE REPRESENTATION ON NIH ADVISORY COUNCILS

	<u>Soc. & Beh.</u> <u>Scientists</u>	<u>Total</u>
Advisory Committee to the Director, NIH	0	16
National Advisory Council on Aging	2	18
National Advisory Allergy & Infectious Diseases Council	0	15
National Arthritis, Diabetes, Digestive & Kidney Diseases Advisory Council	0	18
National Cancer Advisory Board	0	17
National Advisory Child Health & Human Development Council	3	14
National Advisory Dental Research Council	0	12
National Advisory Environmental Health Sciences Council	0	14
National Advisory Eye Council	0	12
National Advisory General Medical Sciences Council	0	12
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Advisory Council	1	18
Nat'l Advisory Neurological & Communi- cative Disorders & Stroke Council	1	16
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TOTAL	7	182

SCIENCE EDUCATION AT NSF NOW INCLUDES SOCIAL SCIENCES

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has reversed the decision made last summer to exclude the social sciences as subjects of research grants on the teaching and learning of science. The most recent program announcement, which was issued by the new Directorate for Science and Engineering Education and published in the Federal Register on December 7, 1983, states that NSF will consider proposals for research on precollege science and technology education in any field of science "including...biological and behavioral sciences...and the social sciences." According to an NSF official, all fields eligible for NSF research support are now eligible for support in science education. COSSA congratulates NSF for expanding its definition of science education.

EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS ABROAD

The role of foreign area studies, foreign language skills, and international exchanges in the development of U.S. economic competitiveness is the topic of a new publication, Education and Economic Competitiveness Abroad. The papers in this collection were first presented at a congressional seminar in July, 1983, sponsored by COSSA, the American Council on Education, the International Educational Exchange Liaison Group, and the Joint National Committee for Languages. The volume includes the following papers:

"The Role of Cultural Understanding in U.S.- European Relations"

Fritz Stern, Columbia University

"U.S. Markets in China: The Importance of Understanding the Chinese"

Michel C. Oksenberg, University of Michigan

"Foreign Language Skills as Factors in Economic Competency and World Trade"

William O. Baker, Retired Chairman of the Board,
Bell Laboratories

Education and Economic Competitiveness Abroad will be distributed to selected Members of Congress and congressional staff. If you would like to obtain copies for distribution to your state legislator or congressional representatives, contact Eileen Chotiner at COSSA (1755 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20036; 202/234-5703).

CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE

Congress is presently enjoying its two-month break between the first and second sessions of the 98th Congress. This is an important time for many Members, especially those running for re-election in 1984, to tour their districts and meet with constituents. For social scientists, this is a good time to meet with your Representative or Senators to discuss the importance of federal support for social and behavioral science research.

Congress will reconvene for the second session on January 23. President Reagan will deliver the constitutionally required State of the Union Address on prime-time television on January 25. On January 29, he is expected to announce his re-election bid. The FY 1985 budget is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, February 1. In the next issue of the Update, we will outline the COSSA legislative agenda for 1984.

COSSA SEMINAR AT WILLIAM AND MARY

On December 2, 1983, the COSSA staff presented a seminar on the status of social science research in the federal government to a group of 35 social science faculty members of the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. The purpose of the meeting was to provide social and behavioral scientists on campus with information about federal funding of social science research. The discussion focused on the congressional budget process and the outcomes of that process for fiscal year 1984, research management problems in the agencies that support social science research, ways that social scientists can influence research policy and research funding in Congress and the agencies, and sources of research support for social and behavioral scientists.

1983 STEIN ROKKAN PRIZE AWARDED

Professor Jens Alber of the Research Institute of Sociology, University of Cologne, was awarded the 1983 Stein Rokkan Prize in Comparative Social Science Research. The prize was presented to Dr. Alber by the International Social Science Council, UNESCO, for his work on the development of the social welfare systems of Western Europe. Specifically mentioned in the award for their skillful linkage of historical developments with social science theories and empirical data analysis were Dr. Alber's book, Vom Armenhaus zum Wohlfahrtsstaat -- Analysen zur Entwicklund der Sozialversicherung in Westeuropa [From Poor-house to Welfare State -- Analyses of the Development of Social Insurance in Western Europe], and an article, "Enige Grundlagen und Begleiterscheinungen der Entwicklung der Sozialausgaben in Westeuropa, 1949-1977" [Some Causes and Consequences of Social Security Expenditure Development in Western Europe, 1949-1977].

CONGRESS ESTABLISHES SOVIET-EAST EUROPEAN RESEARCH PROGRAM

A new program of federal support for graduate training in Soviet and East European studies was authorized by Congress in the final days of its first session. The Soviet-Eastern European Research and Training Act of 1983 will provide funds for graduate training, public dissemination of research data, methods and findings, and, to the extent possible, on-site training and research by U.S. scientists in the Soviet Union and Eastern European countries.

Included in the State Department authorization for FY 1984-1985, the program will be administered by the State Department and the Soviet-East European Studies Advisory Committee. Members of the advisory committee will include the Secretaries of State, Defense and Education, the Librarian of Congress, and the Presidents of the Association of American Universities and the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies.

It is anticipated that \$5 million will be available for the program in FY 1985. The State Department will select an institution interested in operating the program in accordance with the goals set forth by Congress for this initiative. Funds will then be awarded to universities and individuals on a competitive basis.

USIA FACULTY EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Social scientists interested in developing ties with institutions in other countries should obtain a U.S. Information Agency (USIA) announcement which seeks applications for a program to support institutional partnerships between U.S. and non-U.S. colleges and universities. The U.S. partner must submit the application, which is due March 30, 1984. Partner institutions should be prepared to assign faculty for teaching or research in the foreign institution and receive visiting faculty from the partner. Eligible fields are in the social sciences, humanities, communications and education. For further information, contact COSSA, consult the Federal Register of December 20, 1983, p. 56031, or write to University Affiliates Program, U.S. Information Agency, 301 4th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20547. We have been assured that telephone calls of inquiry will not be recorded.

SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (NSF)

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

Program for the Analysis of Science Resources:
Personnel, Funding, Impacts and Outputs

This program is part of the NSF Division of Science Resources Studies (SRS), which is responsible for developing and analyzing data pertaining to scientific and technological endeavors in the U.S. from which several analytic reports are prepared including the National Science Board's biennial report, Science Indicators.

Purpose of Program: Studies funded by the program are expected to focus on: (1) training and employment of scientific and technical personnel; (2) funding of scientific and technical activities; (3) scientific and technical employment forecasting activities; and (4) quantitative studies of the impact and outputs of scientific and technological activities.

FY 1984 Budget: approximately \$500,000

Funding Mechanisms: Mostly grants, some contracts.

Review Process: Peer review.

Disciplines Supported: Largely economics, some psychology, sociology, political science.

Restrictions on Awards: Grants run from six months to two years.

Success Ratio: Approximately 30%.

Contact: Dr. Norman Friedman
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PARDES TO LEAVE NIMH

Dr. Herbert Pardes, Director of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), has resigned to become chairman of the Department of Psychiatry at Columbia University and Director of the New York State Psychiatric Institute and Columbia Presbyterian Hospital Psychiatric Service. Dr. Pardes' resignation will be effective at the end of January. He has been Director of NIMH since 1978.

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Social Science History Association
Society for American Archaeology
Society for the History of Technology
Society for Research in Child Development
Society for the Scientific Study of Religion
Society for Social Studies of Science
Southwestern Social Science Association

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