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# WASHINGTON UPDATE

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## **FEATURED NEWS**

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### **HOT TOPIC: HHS Announces Final Changes to Human Subjects Research Regulations**

During the final days of the Obama Administration, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released the [final text](#) for its changes to the Common Rule, the regulations that govern research with human subjects, completing a revision process started in 2011. The Common Rule, which was last updated in 1991, affects research supported by 16 federal departments and agencies, including the Departments of Health and Human Services,

Agriculture, Defense, Education, Commerce, Labor, and Veterans Affairs, as well as the National Science Foundation.

Overall, the changes look to be a positive development for the social and behavioral science research community. According to the executive summary, "The final rule is designed to more thoroughly address the broader types of research conducted or otherwise supported by all of the Common Rule departments and agencies such as behavioral and social science research." The rule maintains several proposals from the earlier Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) that aimed to reduce the oversight burden on researchers conducting studies that pose no or minimal risk to participants (like a lot of social and behavioral science research). It also declines to adopt several provisions that were controversial in the biomedical research community (although supported by some in the social sciences), including consent requirements surrounding work with de-identified biospecimens, which is likely to lead to a less contentious reception overall.

[Read on](#) for COSSA's full analysis of the changes.

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## COSSA IN ACTION

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### INTRODUCING *WHY SOCIAL SCIENCE?*



We are excited to launch a new blog series we are calling [Why Social Science?](#) Through it, we will tell stories showcasing the impact the social sciences have on our lives. We will feature diverse voices, all with important perspectives on why social science is important. You will hear from researchers, government officials, industry, and a variety of stakeholders who depend on reliable

social science research findings. [Check out](#) our first issue, and subscribe [here](#).

### Early Bird Registration Extended for COSSA Science Policy Conference

COSSA has extended early bird registration for the [2017 Science Policy Conference & Social Science Advocacy Day](#) until **January 31!** Take advantage of this discount AND your member discount code (below) to get the lowest available registration rate. Register before rates increase on February 1!

Confirmed speakers include **John Sides** of the Washington Post's popular [Monkey Cage](#) blog, who will speak about how to bring social science findings to the masses. Planned sessions also include panels on advocating for social science from home, tips for communicating with the media, and social science student organizing on campus, among other topics. Stay tuned as additional speakers are confirmed.

[Register now!](#)

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## CONGRESSIONAL NEWS

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### Confirmation Hearings Continue for Trump Cabinet Nominees

The first three weeks of the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress has been busy as the Senate begins the process of

confirming President Trump's cabinet nominees. Hearings this week included South Carolina Congressman and nominee to lead the Office of Management and Budget, [Mick Mulvaney](#) and Georgia Congressman and nominee to lead the Department of Health and Human Services (which includes the National Institutes of Health), [Tom Price](#). The committee vote on Betsy DeVos, billionaire philanthropist and nominee for Secretary of Education has been delayed as Senators continue their vetting process.

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## FEDERAL AGENCY & ADMINISTRATION NEWS

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### NIH Director to Stay with Trump Administration-- For Now

On January 19, the last day of the Obama Administration, [Science](#) and other media outlets reported that National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director Francis Collins will continue as the agency's director for the foreseeable future. As [previously reported](#), in December, the Republican leadership of the committees with jurisdiction over the NIH sent a letter to the Trump transition team endorsing his retention as the NIH's director. Had he not been asked to stay, Collins' resignation would have automatically taken effect on January 20. It remains unclear, however, if Collins is among the [50 Obama Administration officials](#) reportedly asked to continue in their positions as part of the Trump Administration for the time being.

### OBSSR Director Discusses Implications of the New NIH Clinical Trials Policies for Behavioral and Social Sciences Research

In September 2016, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) issued a new [NIH policy](#) that requires the submission of grant applications requesting support for [clinical trials](#) in response to clinical trial-specific funding opportunity announcements (FOAs). According to the NIH, the purpose of the new policy is to improve the NIH's "ability to identify proposed clinical trials, ensure that key pieces of trial-specific information are submitted with each application, and uniformly apply trial-specific review criteria." The new policy goes into effect September 27, 2017. Subsequently, all applications must be submitted in response to a clinical trial-specific FOA. Any applications not directed to a non-clinical trial FOA will be returned without review.

In an October 16 [blog post](#), NIH Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) Director Bill Riley noted that "although these policies and efforts were developed primarily with the traditional biomedical clinical trial in mind, they are applicable to social and behavioral trials as well." Riley's blog post is designed to assist the social and behavioral community in adhering to the policies and "highlight OBSSR's efforts to make these policies and efforts fit better with the typical social or behavioral intervention trial." In addition, NIH Director Francis Collins et al. authored a [Viewpoint Essay](#) describing the new policy in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA).

### 2017 Matilda White Riley Early Stage Investigator Paper Awards: Call for Papers

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) [Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research](#) (OBSSR) has issued a call for papers/articles for its [Matilda White Riley Early Stage Investigator Paper Awards](#). The Paper Awards was launched in 2016. This year's ceremony scheduled for May 5 is the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Matilda White Riley Day*, which commemorates Matilda White Riley's contributions to the NIH and to behavioral and social sciences research. Awards will be presented on the NIH campus in Bethesda, Maryland. The deadline for submission is February 1, 2017. Awardees will be notified March 8, 2017. For more information, including on past recipients, see the OBSSR's [website](#).

### Nancy Rodriguez Leaves National Institute of Justice

After serving as Director of the National Institute of Justice since February 2015, Dr. Nancy Rodriguez announced her departure from the agency on January 13. In her [farewell message](#), Director Rodriguez highlighted a path forward for the agency's research objectives and called for continued multidisciplinary collaboration. The National Institute of Justice is the research, development, and evaluation agency of the U.S. Department of Justice. Former Deputy Director [Howard Spivak](#) will serve as the Acting Director until a presidential appointment has been made.

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## **PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNITY EVENTS**

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### **Community Launches the Alliance for Integrative Approaches to Extreme Environmental Events**

The framework for an informal public-private partnership, involving a wide array of partner-stakeholders focused on reducing societal harm from extreme environmental events, was announced today, Jan. 24, 2017, during the Annual Meeting of the American Meteorological Society in Seattle, Washington.

Known as *The Alliance for Integrative Approaches to Extreme Environmental Events*, this community-initiated and community-governed framework will bring together a broad group of collaborators-- including researchers, operational practitioners, federal agencies including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, non-profit organizations, philanthropists and entrepreneurs-- to improve holistic understanding, prediction of and response to severe and hazardous weather. In addition, the Alliance will facilitate interdisciplinary research, and its associated transition to practice, in ways that advance the community's collective agenda.

[Read on](#) for more details.

### **NAM Releases Report: *Communities in Action: Pathways to Health Equity***

The National Academy of Medicine (NAM) Board on Population Health and Public Health Practice's Committee on Community-Based Solutions to Promote Health Equity in the United States recently released a report, [Communities in Action: Pathways to Health Equity](#), which reviews the "state of health disparities and explores the underlying conditions and root causes that contribute to health inequity." Highlighting the need for additional research, among the report's recommendations is a call on the funders of research (government, foundations, and higher education) to "support research on (a) health disparities that examines the multiple effects of structural racism (e.g., segregation) and implicit and explicit bias across different categories of marginalized status on health and health care delivery; and (b) effective strategies to reduce and mitigate the effects of explicit and implicit bias." The Committee's recommendations also called for the convening of multidisciplinary teams that include non-academics to "(a) understand the cognitive and effective processes of implicit bias and (b) test interventions that disrupt and change those processes towards sustainable solutions."

Key recommendations from the report will be highlighted at a January 25 public meeting as part of NAM's [Culture of Health](#) program. That meeting will also address "health equity across settings, how health equity crosses boundaries, and how structural inequities shape the experience and development of young children." A call to action and next steps will be discussed as well. Additional information is available [here](#).

### **Deadline Extended: Call for White Papers: Social and Behavioral Science for National Security**

The Board on Behavioral, Cognitive and Sensory Sciences at the National Academies of Sciences,

Engineering, and Medicine is leading a [decadal survey](#) to identify opportunities for the social and behavioral sciences to contribute to the analytic responsibilities of the intelligence community. This survey, sponsored by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, includes two separate calls for white papers. The deadline for the [current call](#) has been extended to February 15, 2017. This call is seeking input from academics and researchers in the social and behavioral sciences with experience in intelligence and/or insight into the needs and challenges of the intelligence community with respect to the use of social and behavioral science research. Complete instructions can be found [here](#).

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## FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- NIH: [Click here for a list of recent NIH funding opportunities.](#)
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## EVENTS CALENDAR

- [Webinar: Social Science in the Age of Trump: What We'd Like to See](#), February 9, 2017, 12:00 p.m. (EST)
- [AERA Centennial Lecture: Deborah Lowe Vandell-- The Opportunities and Challenges of Early Child Care and Education](#), February 22, 2017, Oklahoma City, OK
- [American Psychosomatic Society Annual Scientific Meeting](#), March 15-18, 2017, Seville, Spain
- [Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference](#), March 16-19, 2017, Toronto, Canada
- [Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting](#), March 21-25, 2017, Kansas City, MO
- [COSSA 2017 Science Policy Conference & Social Science Advocacy Day](#) March 29-30, 2017, Washington, DC
- [Society of Behavioral Medicine Annual Meeting](#), March 29-April 1, 2017, San Diego, CA
- [Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting](#), March 29-April 1, 2017, Greenville, SC
- [Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meeting](#), March 30-April 2, 2017, Milwaukee, WI

A list of COSSA members' annual meetings and other events can be found on the COSSA [events page](#).

COSSA members who have an upcoming event they would like to see listed in the Events Calendar and on our website should send an email to [jmilton@coffa.org](mailto:jmilton@coffa.org).

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### SAVE THE DATE!

COSSA's [2017 Annual Meeting & Social Science Advocacy Day](#) will take place  
March 29-30, 2017 in Washington, DC

## Consortium of Social Science Associations Members

### Governing Associations

American Anthropological Association  
American Association for Public Opinion Research  
American Economic Association  
American Educational Research Association  
American Political Science Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Society of Criminology  
American Sociological Association  
American Statistical Association  
Association of American Law Schools  
Law and Society Association

### Colleges and Universities

Arizona State University  
Boston University  
Brown University  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Clark University  
Columbia University  
Cornell University  
Duke University  
Fielding Graduate University  
George Mason University  
George Washington University, The  
Georgetown University

Linguistic Society of America  
Midwest Political Science Association  
National Communication Association  
Population Association of America  
Society for Personality and Social Psychology  
Society for Research in Child Development

## Membership Organizations

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences  
American Association of Geographers  
American Evaluation Association  
American Historical Association  
American Psychosomatic Society  
Association for Asian Studies  
Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies  
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management  
Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations  
Association of Research Libraries  
Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences  
Council on Social Work Education  
Economic History Association  
History of Science Society  
Midwest Sociological Society  
National Association of Social Workers  
North American Regional Science Council  
Rural Sociological Society  
Social Science History Association  
Society for Research on Adolescence  
Society for Social Work and Research  
Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues  
Society of Behavioral Medicine  
Southern Political Science Association  
Southern Sociological Society  
Southwestern Social Science Association

## Centers and Institutes

American Academy of Arts and Sciences  
American Academy of Political and Social Science  
American Council of Learned Societies  
Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences  
Cornell Institute for Social and Economic Research  
Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan  
Institute for Social Science Research,  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
NORC at the University of Chicago  
Owens Institute for Behavioral Research, University of Georgia  
RTI International  
Social Science Research Council

Harvard University  
Howard University  
Indiana University  
John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY  
Johns Hopkins University  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Michigan State University  
New York University  
North Carolina State University  
Northwestern University  
Ohio State University, The  
Pennsylvania State University  
Princeton University  
Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey  
Stanford University  
Texas A&M University  
University of California, Berkeley  
University of California, Irvine  
University of California, Los Angeles  
University of California, Santa Barbara  
University of Chicago  
University of Colorado, Boulder  
University of Illinois  
University of Iowa  
University of Maryland  
University of Michigan  
University of Minnesota  
University of Missouri  
University of Nebraska, Lincoln  
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill  
University of Oklahoma  
University of Pennsylvania  
University of South Carolina  
University of Texas, Austin  
University of Texas, San Antonio  
University of Virginia  
University of Washington  
University of Wisconsin, Madison  
Virginia Tech  
West Virginia University  
Yale University

## COSSA

**Executive Director:** Wendy A. Naus

**Deputy Director:** Angela L. Sharpe

**Assistant Director for Public Affairs:** Julia Milton

**Government Relations Associate:** Camille Hosman

Address all inquiries to COSSA at [newsletter@cossa.org](mailto:newsletter@cossa.org). Telephone: (202) 842-3525

*The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) is a nonprofit advocacy organization working to promote sustainable federal funding for social and behavioral science research and federal policies that positively impact the conduct of research.*

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