



# WASHINGTON UPDATE

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## **FEATURED NEWS**

### **COSSA Annual Meeting & Advocacy Day, March 9-10 Register Today!**

Registration remains open for the [2015 COSSA Annual Meeting and Social and Behavioral Science Advocacy Day](#) scheduled for March 9-10, 2015 in Washington, DC. The meeting is open to the public; however, the advocacy day meetings are reserved for representatives of [COSSA member organizations and institutions](#).

The COSSA Annual Meeting brings together representatives from throughout the social and behavioral science community for a day of discussion on federal issues impacting social and behavioral science research. It provides an opportunity for COSSA members and others to engage directly with leaders of federal science agencies, Congressional staff, and colleagues from other associations and institutions.

Confirmed speakers to date include France Córdova, Director of the National Science Foundation; Francis Collins, Director of the National Institutes of Health; Erin Fitzgerald, Director of the Department of Defense Minerva Research Initiative; and David Yoskowitz, Chief Economist, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

NEW THIS YEAR - Coinciding with the Annual Meeting on March 10 will be the first-ever Social and Behavioral Science Advocacy Day. This event offers COSSA members an opportunity to meet with their elected officials to discuss the importance of federal funding for social and behavioral science research.

Visit the [COSSA Annual Meeting page](#) for full details, including hotel information for out-of-town attendees. [Register today](#) (rates increase after February 10)!

## **CONGRESSIONAL NEWS**

### **Congressional Committees Take Shape**

Congressional committees with oversight for funding and policy issues impacting social and behavioral science have continued to take shape over the last few weeks. The 114th Congress was sworn in on January 6, though not all of the committees have officially chosen their chairs and ranking members. A number of committee organizational meetings are occurring this week, at which time the membership rolls and leadership appointments will be approved. You can stay apprised of the most current committee leadership appointments [here](#).

## **FEDERAL AGENCY & ADMINISTRATION NEWS**

### **President's FY 2016 Budget Request Expected February 2**

Reminder: the President's fiscal year (FY) 2016 budget request to Congress will be released on Monday, February 2. The release of the President's budget serves as the unofficial kick-off to the annual appropriations process. Following its release, the next several weeks and months will see a flurry of Congressional hearings featuring Executive Branch officials on the details of the budget. COSSA will release its analysis of the request as it relates to federal agencies and programs of interest to the social and behavioral science community in the coming weeks.

## **PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNITY EVENTS**

### **Rebecca Blank Named 2015 Moynihan Prize Winner**

The American Academy of Political and Social Science (AAPSS), a COSSA member, has named Rebecca Blank, Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, winner of the [2015 Daniel Patrick Moynihan Prize](#). The prize is awarded annually to individuals "who use sound analysis and social science research to inform public policy, while also contributing to the public discourse on society's most pressing issues." Among her many contributions, Blank is being recognized for her work at the U.S. Department of Commerce, as a member of the Council of Economic Advisors during the Clinton Administration, and during her various faculty positions. Blank will give a public lecture in Washington, DC on May 7.

## **NRC Committee on Law and Justice Seeks New Director**

The National Academies' National Research Council (NRC) is conducting a search for a new board director for its [Committee on Law and Justice](#). Established in 1975, the Committee's mission is to "improve research methods and information to inform and support the development of national and state-level criminal justice policy, and to extend and help advance criminological and criminal justice research." The director will work with the Committee Chair, senior staff, and Committee members to "provide intellectual leadership by identifying current and emerging issues in criminal justice; develop workshops, conferences, and studies by separate panels of experts; and seek funds for these activities from Federal Government agencies and public and private foundations." Qualified candidates will have substantial experience working at the intersection of research, policy, and practice. More information about the position is available [here](#).

## **Science and Human Rights Coalition Explores the Risks and Promise of Big Data**

The [AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition](#), of which COSSA is a member, held its biannual meeting on January 15, focusing on the connections between Big Data and Human Rights. The Coalition brings together organizations and individuals who recognized a role for scientists and engineers in human rights.

[Read on](#) for details.

## **Nominations Sought for Science Communication Awards**

The National Academies' Keck *Futures Initiative* has issued a call for nominations for its 2015 Communication Awards. Prizes in the amount of \$20,000 are given to individuals or teams "who have developed creative, original works that address issues and advances in science, engineering and/or medicine for the general public" in four categories: book, film/radio/television, magazine/newspaper, and online. More information, including nomination instructions and eligibility criteria, is available on the [Futures Initiative website](#). The deadline for nominations is February 9, 2015.

## **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

### **NIH: Four Opportunities in the Science of Behavior Change**

Human behavior accounts for approximately 40 percent of the risk associated with preventable premature deaths in the U.S. Researchers are beginning to make progress in understanding some of the basic mechanisms that account for less-than-optimal initiation and maintenance of behavior change. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) via its [Common Fund](#) supports a Science of Behavior Change (SOBC) program initiative that "seeks to promote basic research on the initiation, personalization and maintenance of behavior change" (see Update, [February 10, 2014](#)). By integrating work across disciplines, the agency believes that this effort will lead to an improved understanding of the underlying principles of behavior change. Phase I of the SOBC program identified three domains with promising behavior change targets, given strong evidence for their central role in health behaviors relevant to multiple clinical endpoints. The domains include: (1) self-regulation, (2) stress reactivity and stress resilience, and (3) interpersonal and social processes.

The NIH recently released four new SOBC Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOA) with the goal to "implement a mechanisms-focused, experimental medicine approach to behavior change research and to develop the tools required to implement such an approach."

[Read on](#) for details.

## **NSF: Resource Implementations for Data Intensive Research in the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences**

The National Science Foundation's (NSF) Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBE) Directorate is seeking proposals to develop large-scale data resources and analytic techniques to advance fundamental SBE research. Successful proposals will aim to create databases or techniques that will enable SBE research that would not otherwise have been possible and should have impacts across multiple fields or within broad disciplinary areas. Proposals are due February 23, 2015. The full solicitation is available on the [NSF website](#).

## **COSSA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**

### **APA Seeks New Executive Director for Science**

The American Psychological Association (APA), a COSSA Governing Member, is looking for its next Executive Director for Science (see [here](#)). Former COSSA Executive Committee Chair Steven Breckler vacated the position and left APA in late 2014; Howard Kurtzman, current deputy, is serving as the acting executive director until the new head is named. The position oversees the APA [Science Directorate](#). Applications are sought by March 13.

## **EVENTS CALENDAR**

[Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Meeting](#), Long Beach, CA, February 26-28, 2015

[Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting](#), Orlando, FL, March 3-7, 2015

[Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations Annual Meeting](#), New Brunswick, NJ, March 5-7, 2015

[COSSA Annual Meeting & Advocacy Day](#), Washington, DC, March 9-10, 2015

[American Psychosomatic Society Annual Scientific Meeting](#), Savannah, GA, March 18-21, 2015

[Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting](#), Philadelphia, PA, March 19-21, 2015

[Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting](#), New Orleans, LA, March 25-29, 2015

[Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference](#), Chicago, IL, March 26-29, 2015

[Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meeting](#), Kansas City, MO, March 26-29, 2015

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

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).

## Consortium of Social Science Associations Members

### Governing Members

American Anthropological Association  
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  
Society for Personality and Social Psychology  
Society for Research in Child Development

### Membership Organizations

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences  
American Evaluation Association  
American Finance Association  
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  
Economic History Association  
History of Science Society  
Justice Research and Statistics Association  
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

### Colleges and Universities

Arizona State University  
Boston University  
Brown University  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Clark University  
Columbia University  
Cornell University  
Duke University  
George Mason University  
Georgetown University  
Harvard University  
Indiana University  
John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY  
Johns Hopkins University  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Michigan State University  
New York University  
Northwestern University  
Pennsylvania State University  
Princeton University  
Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey  
Stanford University  
Stony Brook University, SUNY  
Texas A&M University  
The George Washington University  
The Ohio State University  
University of California, Berkeley  
University of California, Irvine  
University of California, Los Angeles  
University of California, San Diego  
University of California, Santa Barbara  
University of Chicago  
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  
Washington University in St. Louis  
West Virginia University

American Council of Learned Societies  
American Institutes for Research  
The 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 Social Science Research,  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
Institute for Women's Policy Research  
NORC at the University of Chicago  
Owens Institute for Behavioral Research, University of Georgia  
Population Reference Bureau  
RTI International  
Social Science Research Council  
Vera Institute of Justice

Yale University

**COSSA**

**Executive Director:** Wendy A. Naus

**Deputy Director:** Angela L. Sharpe

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

Address all inquiries to COSSA at [newsletter@cozza.org](mailto:newsletter@cozza.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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