Preview of the COSSA Annual Meeting, March 15-16 -- Still Time to Register!

The COSSA Annual Meeting is just one week away. The agenda includes a wide range of topics impacting social and behavioral science research, from federal funding and the media's use of social science research, to communicating science and industry interests.

Here's a snapshot of what we have in store:

Peer Review, National Interest & Late Night Television: The Politics of Social Science Research

In the Looking Glass: Social and Behavioral Science Communicates the Value of Social and Behavioral Science

On the Record: Social Science & the Media
Featuring reporters from NPR and Pacific Standard

Trends in Federal Statistics
Featuring Erica Groshen, Commissioner, Bureau of Labor Statistics
Social & Behavioral Science across Federal Agencies
Featuring officials from the National Science Foundation, National Institute of Justice, National Institutes of Health, and Environmental Protection Agency

Why Industry Needs Social Science
Featuring researchers from Google, Intel Corporation, and Facebook

There is still time to register! Remember, if you belong to COSSA member organization, you are eligible for a discount. Contact Julia Milton for the discount code. More details on the COSSA Annual Meeting page.

COSSA IN ACTION

COSSA and Partners Urge Strong FY 2017 Funding for Science Agencies

Now that appropriations season is underway, COSSA has begun working with its coalition partners to urge strong support for agencies that fund social and behavioral science research in fiscal year (FY) 2017. Some of the most recent requests include:

- 3/1/2016: CDC Coalition FY 2017 Request for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- 2/25/2016: Friends of IES FY 2017 Appropriations Request for the Institute of Education Sciences, House/Senate
- 2/22/2016: FY 2017 302(b) Allocation for Labor, HHS, Education and Related Agencies

The most up-to-date list of such letters is available on the COSSA website.

FEDERAL AGENCY & ADMINISTRATION NEWS

OBSSR to Develop "Revised, Contemporary Definition of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research"

As part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) strategic planning process to update its 2007 strategic plan for fiscal years (FY) 2016-2020, the Office plans to reconsider NIH's definition of behavioral and social sciences (BSSR). In his recent OBSSR Connector blog post, OBSSR Director William Riley explained that the office is Congressionally mandated to "define behavioral and social sciences research to assess and monitor NIH funding." As a consequence, the current definition "resulted in a high level taxonomy of BSSR and delineates basic versus applied behavioral and social sciences research with a range of examples for each." Riley noted that in order to revise the current definition, NIH must acknowledge "that there is no single discipline of 'Behavioral and Social Sciences Research;' instead the field is a multidisciplinary set of sciences." The definition of these sciences "are evidence that behavioral and social sciences cover a broad expanse of research interests from interpersonal mental processes, through large scale social and cultural constructs." Emphasizing this is "more
than a philosophical exercise," Riley stressed that OBSSR intends to "develop a revised, contemporary definition of BSSR" with stakeholder input. OBSSR convened an expert panel to provide input into its strategic plan in January (see Update, February 8, 2016).

National Children's Study Archive Available to Investigators

The Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development issued a Notice (NOT-HD-16-005) to alert investigators of the availability of the National Children's Study (NCS) Vanguard Data and Sample Archive and Access System (NCS Archive). The NCS Vanguard served as a pilot for "a planned cohort study of environmental influences on child health and development." The Vanguard pilot enrolled more than 14,000 participants in more than 5,000 families in 40 locations and followed them until 2014. It includes a collection of more than "14 million records and nearly 19,000 biological and 5,500 primary samples from which a sample repository of over 250,000 items was created." That information is now available through the NCS Archive for "approved research projects by qualified investigators." The initial release consists of study data from 2009 -2010. Additional data and sample availability is expected. For more information, see the NCS webpage.

NIA Requests Input on Alzheimer's Disease Bypass Budget Implementation

The National Institute on Aging (NIA) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is seeking input into the development of the fiscal year (FY) 2018 NIH Alzheimer's Disease Bypass Budget (ADBB). Annual updates to the ADBB are Congressionally mandated (see Update, November 3, 2015). NIA seeks comments and suggestions from the public "on the current state of the science, the highest priorities for future research, and potential conceptual or technical barriers to overcome." According to the recently released Notice (NOT-AG-16-017), the FY 2018 ADBBB will be consistent with the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease and include Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. Topics will include basic, translational, clinical, as well as caregiver research. NIA also seeks comments on "future opportunities or emerging research needs that should be included in the plan." The deadline for input is April 8, 2016. For more information, see the Notice.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- NIH: Click here for a list of recent NIH funding opportunities.
- RWJF: Culture of Health in America - new Change Leadership programs: Clinical Scholars, Interdisciplinary Research Leaders, Health Policy Research Scholars, Culture of Health Leaders

COSSA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

NCA to Hold Discussion on Citizenship in America

The National Communication Association (NCA), one of COSSA's governing members, will host a Washington, DC event on March 22, addressing the question "What does it mean to be a citizen in contemporary America?" The discussion will feature input from scholars whose work touches on the meaning and power of American "citizenship," including Elisabeth R. Anker (George Washington University), Robert Asen (University of Wisconsin), Elizaeth Markovits (Mount Holyoke
EVENTS CALENDAR

- American Psychosomatic Society Annual Scientific Meeting, Denver, CO, March 9-12, 2016
- What does it mean to be a citizen in contemporary America? Washington, DC, March 22, 2016
- Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, March 29-April 2, 2016
- Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Seattle, WA, March 31-April 3, 2016
- Society for Research on Adolescence Biennial Meeting, Baltimore, MD, March 31-April 2, 2016
- Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, April 7-April 10, 2016
- Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, April 13-17, 2016
- 22nd Annual CNSF Exhibition & Reception, Washington, DC, April 26, 2016
- American Association for Public Opinion Research Annual Conference, Austin, TX, May 12-15, 2016

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@cossa.org.

**COSSA's 2016 Annual Meeting & Advocacy Day** will take place on March 15 & 16. **Register today!**

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
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Association of American Law Schools
Law and Society Association

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Carnegie Mellon University
Clark University
Columbia University
Cornell University
Duke University
Fielding Graduate University
George Mason University
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.