Recap of the 2017 COSSA Science Policy Conference

COSSA held its 2017 Science Policy Conference and Social Science Advocacy Day on March 29-30 in Washington, DC. Sessions featured important discussions on social science within the context of the Trump Administration and the new Congress.

The keynote address was delivered by University of California, Berkeley sociologist Arlie R. Hochschild, whose book *Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right* was a finalist for the 2016 National Book Award. The program also included an expert panel addressing the political and policy challenges of the day and strategies for addressing them, and discussions on the benefits of public engagement by social scientists, mobilizing social science students, engaging with national media outlets, the role of social scientists in...
COSSA IN ACTION

Representative Dan Lipinski Answers "Why Social Science?"

This week's Why Social Science? guest post comes from Representative Dan Lipinski, Ranking Member of the Research and Technology Subcommittee of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, who writes how the social and behavioral sciences are advancing knowledge within individual disciplines and through their contributions to interdisciplinary research. Read it here and subscribe.

And on March 29, Representative Lipinski spoke on the floor of the House of Representatives to recognize the participants in COSSA's Annual Social Science Advocacy Day and celebrate the many benefits of social science research. Lipinski highlighted the applications of social science research to strengthening our national security, creating efficient markets, and keep cyber systems secure.

COSSA Presents 2017 Distinguished Service Award to Senators Gardner and Peters

On March 29, as part of the 2017 COSSA Science Policy Conference and Celebration of Social Science Capitol Hill Reception, COSSA presented the 2017 Distinguished Service Award to Senators Cory Gardner (R-CO) and Gary Peters (D-MI). The COSSA Distinguished Service award recognizes leaders who have gone above and beyond to promote, protect, and advance the social and behavioral science research enterprise. Awardees are chosen by the COSSA Board of Directors, which represents COSSA's governing member associations.

Senators Gardner and Peters were recognized for their bipartisan work on the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act (AICA), legislation that reauthorizes activities at the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), STEM education programs, and seeks to reduce the administrative burden associated with federal grants. Senators Gardner and Peters worked to ensure an inclusive and bipartisan process when writing the AICA, engaging the scientific research community along the way. The AICA was one of the last bills signed into law by President Obama in January.

As COSSA Executive Director Wendy Naus stated, "Just as important as what is in the bill is what is not in the bill. Unlike the proposals we have seen over in the House in recent years, the AICA does not pick winners and losers among the sciences. It does not call into question NSF's merit review process and suggest that the agency is making poor funding decisions, namely in the social, behavioral and economic sciences. And while the legislation doesn't include funding levels, I think it is safe to assume that its authors do not believe that it is a wise strategy to decimate federal funding for basic science at a time when our international competitors are doubling down on research investments as part of their overall economic strategies."

70 Social Science Advocates Take to Capitol Hill
On March 30, about 70 social and behavioral science researchers, stakeholders, and advocates met with their Members of Congress and staff to advocate in support of funding for federal agencies and programs that support social and behavioral science research. Advocates from 23 states converged on Capitol Hill, completing 80 individual meetings. Materials used to help articulate the value of social science research are available on the COSSA website, including fact sheets on COSSA's FY 2018 funding requests.

**COSSA to Host *Why Social Science?* Briefing Featuring Nobel Laureate Alvin Roth**

On April 18, COSSA will host a congressional briefing featuring a conversation with Dr. Alvin Roth, winner of the 2012 Nobel Prize in Economics. The briefing, *Why Social Science? Because Understanding Markets Can Save Lives*, will focus on Dr. Roth's fundamental research in market design, which revolutionized kidney exchanges, allowing incompatible patient-donor pairs to find compatible kidneys for transplantation, and demonstrates how social science can have real, significant impacts on our everyday lives, often in unexpected ways. A reception will follow the briefing. The event is made possible with support from Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson and SAGE Publishing. More information and a link to RSVP is available on the COSSA website. RSVPs are requested by April 13.

**CONGRESSIONAL NEWS**

**House Science Committee Holds Second Hearing on Future of NSF; Legislation Likely this Year**

On March 21, the Research and Technology Subcommittee of the House Science, Space and Technology Committee held its second hearing in as many weeks to discuss legislation to be introduced later this year governing the National Science Foundation (NSF). A summary of the first hearing is available here. The theme of the hearing was "Future Opportunities and Challenges for Science." Witnesses included Joan Ferrini-Mundy, Acting NSF Chief Operating Officer, Maria Zuber, Chair of the National Science Board, Jeffrey Spies, Co-Founder and Chief Technology Officer for the Center for Open Science at the University of Virginia, and Keith Yamamoto, Vice Chancellor for Science Policy and Strategy at the University of California, San Francisco.

Read on for more details.

**HHS Secretary Appears Before House Appropriations Subcommittee, Suggests NIH Budget Cuts to Come From "Efficiencies" in Indirect Costs**

On March 29, newly appointed Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) former Rep. Tom Price (R-GA) made his first appearance before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies. Welcoming the Secretary, Subcommittee Chairman Tom Cole (R-OK) began the hearing by pointing out that the proposed cuts in the Budget Blueprint (aka "skinny budget") released by the Administration on March 16 "are extensive and span the reach of [the] agency." Cole asked Price how the Department intends to solve "some of the challenges" the budget poses to HHS, including those related to the Indian Health Services. He emphasized the subcommittee’s need to understand the detail of the cuts proposed, as well as any proposed downgrading or elimination of agency missions.
FEDERAL AGENCY & ADMINISTRATION NEWS

NIFA Releases Evaluation of Capacity Funding Mechanism

The Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) recently released a report that measures the effectiveness of NIFA research, education, and extension investments at land-grant colleges and universities ("capacity grants"). The report, Quantitative and Qualitative Review of NIFA Capacity Funding, was prepared by TEConomy Partners, LLC. The report finds that the capacity funding model is able to produce a high return on investment and leverage matching state and local funding for projects. It concludes, "Capacity Funding carries substantial and significant ongoing advantages as an R&D and extension funding model." The report is available in full on the NIFA website.

PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNITY EVENTS

COPAFS Launches Search for New Executive Director

The Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS) has engaged JDG Associates to conduct a search for a new Executive Director to succeed Katherine Smith Evans, who has led COPAFS for nearly five years. COPAFS advocates for the development and dissemination of high-quality federal statistics. More details on COPAFS and on the search are available on the COPAFS website.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- AHRQ: Health Information Technology (IT) to Improve Health Care Quality and Outcomes (R21) (PA-17-246)
- AHRQ: Implementation and Evaluation of New Health Information Technology (IT) Strategies for Collecting and Using Patient-Reported Outcome (PRO) Measures (U18) (PA-17-247)
- AHRQ: AHRQ Mentored Clinical Scientist Research Career Development Award (K08) (PA-17-232)
- AHRQ: Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems V (CAHPS V) (U18) (RFA-HS-17-010)
- NIFA: Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) - Food Safety Challenge Area (USDA-NIFA-AFRI-006286)
- NIFA: Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) - Water for Food Production Systems Challenge Area (USDA-NIFA-AFRI-006304)
- NIFA: Youth Farm Safety Education and Certification Program (USDA-NIFA-SLBCD-006287)
- NIH: Click here for a list of recent NIH funding opportunities.

EVENTS CALENDAR

- American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, April 5-9, 2017, Boston, MA
- Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, April 6-9, 2017, Chicago, IL
- Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting, April 6-8, 2017, Austin, TX
- AERA Centennial Lecture: Russell Skiba - School Discipline: Issues of Equity and Effectiveness, April 12, 2017, Boston, MA
- Southwestern Social Science Association Annual Meeting, April 12-15, 2017, Austin, TX
- WHY SOCIAL SCIENCE? Because Understanding Markets Can Save Lives: Congressional Briefing and Reception, April 18, 2017, Washington, DC
March for Science, April 22, 2017, Washington, DC

10th Matilda White Riley Behavioral and Social Sciences Honors, April 25, 2017, Bethesda, MD

American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, April 27-May 1, 2017, San Antonio, TX

Population Association of America Annual Meeting, April 27-29, 2017, Chicago, IL


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@cossa.org.

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**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
- 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

### Colleges and Universities

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

### Membership Organizations

- Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences
- American Association of Geographers
- American Council of Learned Societies
- 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
- National Council on Family Relations
- North American Regional Science Council
- Rural Sociological Society
- Social Science History Association
- Society for Research on Adolescence
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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