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# WASHINGTON UPDATE

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## FEATURED NEWS

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### 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

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### 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." More on the award is available [here](#).

### 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.

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## **CONGRESSIONAL NEWS**

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### **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.

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## FEDERAL AGENCY & ADMINISTRATION NEWS

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### 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](#).

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## PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNITY EVENTS

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### 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](#).

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## 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.](#)
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## 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
- [American Association for Public Opinion Research Annual Conference](#), May 18-21, 2017, New Orleans, LA

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](mailto:jmilton@cossa.org).

## 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

### 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

### 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

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

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

### Centers and Institutes

American Academy of Arts and Sciences  
American Academy of Political and Social Science  
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

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*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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