



WASHINGTON UPDATE

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FEATURED NEWS

Census Bureau Director Resigns, Complicating Outlook for 2020 Decennial

On May 9, John Thompson announced his plans to step down as Director of the Census Bureau effective June 30. Thompson's resignation comes at a critical time for the Bureau as it ramps up its activities ahead of the 2020 Census and continues to face periodic threats to the American Community Survey. So far, no details have emerged about a potential replacement. The Deputy Director position at the Bureau has been vacant since Nancy Potok left to become Chief Statistician of the United States in January.

No reason was given for Thompson's departure in the middle of a year-long extension to his term (which had expired at the end of 2016). The week before this announcement, Thompson [appeared](#) before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies for an oversight hearing on the 2020 Census. Chairman John Culberson (R-TX) had several sharp questions for the Director on projected cost overruns on IT systems for the decennial census, the government's largest non-military undertaking. Culberson also expressed concern about the American Community Survey, calling it "intrusive."

The next director will have to contend with a funding climate in which investment in the Bureau, which typically increases significantly in the years leading up to a decennial census, has fallen well below [similar points in the cycle](#), with a fairly small increase passed for fiscal year (FY) 2017 and nearly flat funding proposed by the Administration for FY 2018. Without adequate investment, the task of conducting a fair and accurate 2020 Census will become increasingly challenging-and more expensive down the line.

COSSA IN ACTION

***Why Social Science?* Highlights Paul Milgrom's Auction Research**



The most recent *Why Social Science?* post highlights a recent opinion piece published in *The Hill* by Paul Milgrom, a Stanford economist whose groundbreaking research in auction design is used by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to auction electromagnetic spectrum to companies, generating billions in revenue for the federal government. Read it [here](#) and [subscribe](#).

COSSA Joins Community in Urging Increased Allocation for Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations Bill

COSSA joined nearly 800 organizational stakeholders of the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) appropriations bill in a [letter](#) to the Appropriations leadership urging it to increase the fiscal year (FY) 2018 302(b) allocation, which is the committee's funding cap on spending for each of the appropriation bills. While the letter acknowledges the Subcommittee's "broad range of constituencies and needs," it also recognizes that the programs funded under the Labor-HHS bill "are continually short-changed in the annual appropriations process." Accordingly, the scientific community emphasizes that "without an increase in the Labor-HHS 302(b) allocation, it will be impossible to meaningfully increase investments in important initiatives."

FEDERAL AGENCY & ADMINISTRATION NEWS

NIH Announces Major Policy Shift: Agency to Impose Cap on R01s Held by Grantees

On May 2, National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director Francis Collins announced that the agency would be initiating a new approach to grant funding designed to "[optimize stewardship of tax payers' dollars](#)." Essentially, the new policy would limit the number of investigator-initiated (R01) grants held by grantees to three. According to NIH, this change would affect approximately 6 percent of current investigators but would free up resources to support nearly 1,600 additional grants. Announcing the policy change, Collins stressed that the new policy

would ensure that the funds given by NIH "are producing the best results from our remarkable scientific workforce."

[Read on](#) for more details.

President's Complete Budget Request Expected May 23

Last week, the Trump Administration notified Congress that it will transmit its complete Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 budget request on May 23. Federal agencies have started to schedule events to review their FY 2018 budget requests but details remain unclear as to the fate of agencies that support the social and behavioral sciences. The Trump Administration released [preliminary details of the FY 18 request on March 16](#), which included proposals for Cabinet-level departments and some other large agencies. Following the release of the complete budget request, COSSA will prepare an in-depth analysis of the budget as it impacts the social and behavioral sciences.

Gopal Khanna Named AHRQ Director

[Gopal Khanna](#) has been appointed to lead the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Khanna was most recently the Director of Illinois' Data Analytics Healthcare and Human Services Innovation Incubator and served as Minnesota's first Chief Information Officer. He also served in senior policy positions during the George W. Bush administration. Khanna succeeds Sharon Arnold, AHRQ's Deputy Director, who served as Acting Director for the agency after the departure of Andrew Bindman during the Presidential transition.

HHS Seeks Nominations for Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Research, Care, and Services

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is currently seeking nominations for seven new non-Federal members to its Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Research, Care, and Services. The Council advises the HHS Secretary on preventing or reducing the burden of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias on those suffering from the disease and their caregivers. The selected members will replace the seven members whose terms expire on September 30, 2017. **Nominations are due June 16, 2017.** For more information and/or to suggest a nominee, see the [announcement](#).

PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNITY EVENTS

National Security Decadal Survey Issues Second Call for White Papers

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine has announced its second call for white papers to inform its [decadal survey on applications of social and behavioral sciences for national security](#), which is sponsored by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. The Academies is seeking white papers that "identify research concepts, methods, tools, techniques, and new ideas that could advance knowledge" across a range national security-relevant areas. More information and submission instructions are available on the [Academies website](#). Responses are requested by June 12, 2017. Submissions from the first call for white papers, which focused on the needs of the intelligence community, can be accessed [here](#).

National Academies Publishes K-12 Behavioral and Social Sciences Education Workshop Proceedings

The Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education of the National Academies of

Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine has published the proceedings of their recent workshop entitled "[The Social and Behavioral Science in K-12 Education: Past, Present, and Future](#)." The brief includes a summary of the seminar held in November 2016, perspectives from different social and behavioral science disciplines, and recommended next steps. The brief can be read [here](#).

Friends of NIMHD Ask for Increased Funding for Institute

COSSA, a founding member of the Friends of the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD), joined in sending letters to the [House](#) and [Senate](#) Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) leadership in support of \$302 million (\$21 million increase) in funding for fiscal year (FY) 2018 for the NIMHD. While acknowledging the "difficult budget environment," the letter also highlights the institute's success in basic research; community-based, participatory research; transdisciplinary and translational research; and training the research workforce.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- NHLBI: ImPlementation REsEarCh to DEvelop Interventions for People Living with HIV (PRECluDE) (U01) ([RFA-HL-18-007](#))
- NIA: Uncovering the Causes, Contexts, and Consequences of Elder Mistreatment (R01) ([RFA-AG-18-010](#))
- NIAAA: Understanding Processes of Recovery in the Treatment of Alcohol Use Disorder (R21) ([PA-17-284](#)) (R01) ([PA-17-285](#))
- NIBIB, NIDDK, NINDS: Administrative Supplements for Participation in the Concept to Clinic: Commercializing Innovation (C3i) Program (Admin Supp) ([PA-17-286](#))
- NIDA: Wearable to Track Recovery and Relapse Factors for People w/ Addiction(R43/R44) ([RFA-DA-18-010](#))
- NIH/FDA: Tobacco Regulatory Science (R01) ([RFA-OD-17-007](#)) [NCI, NHLBI, NIAAA, NIDA, NIEHS, ODP]
- NIH: Tobacco Regulatory Science (R03) ([RFA-OD-17-008](#)), (R21) ([RFA-OD-17-009](#)) [NCI, NHLBI, NIAAA, NIDA, NIEHS, ODP]

COSSA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Alan Krueger to Deliver 2017 Moynihan Lecture

On May 18, the [American Academy of Political and Social Science](#) (AAPSS), a COSSA member, will formally award the [2017 Daniel Patrick Moynihan Prize](#) to Alan B. Krueger, Bendheim Professor of Economics & Public Policy at Princeton University. The award recognizes "social scientists, public officials, and civic leaders who champion the use of informed judgment to advance the public good." Krueger, whose work focuses on analyzing the economic and policy implications of the growing "gig" economy, will deliver a lecture on Capitol Hill entitled "Independent Workers: What Role for Public Policy?" Information on the lecture, including how to attend, is available [here](#). More information on the Moynihan Prize is available on the [AAPSS website](#).

EVENTS CALENDAR

- [Investments in Scientific and Educational Research: Fueling American Innovation - CNSF Exhibition and Reception](#), May 16, 2017, Washington, DC
- [2017 Daniel Patrick Moynihan Lecture on Social Science and Public Policy](#), May 18, 2017, Washington, DC

- [American Association for Public Opinion Research Annual Conference](#), May 18-21, 2017, New Orleans, LA
- [American Evaluation Association Summer Institute: Finding Your Pathway in Evaluation](#), June 4-7, 2017, Atlanta, GA
- [Graduate Training in the Social and Behavioral Sciences: A Public Workshop](#), June 8-9, 2017, Washington, DC
- [Law and Society Association Annual Meeting](#), June 20-23, 2017, Mexico City, Mexico
- [Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues Annual Meeting](#), June 23-25, 2017, Albuquerque, NM
- [Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting](#), July 27-30, 2017, Columbus, OH
- [Joint Statistical Meetings](#), July 28-August 3, 2017, Baltimore, MD

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.

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

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
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 University of California, Irvine
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 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

Social Science History Association
Society for Prevention Research
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

University of Nebraska, Lincoln
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
University of Oklahoma
University of Pennsylvania
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 and widespread use of social and behavioral science research and federal policies that positively impact the conduct of research. COSSA serves as a united voice for a broad, diverse network of organizations, institutions, communities, and stakeholders who care about a successful and vibrant social science research enterprise. The COSSA membership includes professional and disciplinary associations, scientific societies, research centers and institutes, and U.S. colleges and universities.

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