Welcome to

For audio, select

Join Audio Conference by Computer

or

Call: (773) 231-9226 (U.S. toll)
Meeting ID: 148 064 9201

Having Trouble?
Email Camille at chosman@cossa.org

Cossa HEADLINES
A monthly look at what's new and noteworthy in social science policy

The webinar will begin momentarily.
Your line has been muted.
This Month’s HEADLINES: More detail

This Month’s HOMEWORK: What you can do this month
This Month’s Experts

Wendy Naus
Executive Director
wnaus@cossa.org

Julia Milton
Director of Public Affairs
jmilton@cossa.org

Camille Hosman
Assistant Director of Government Relations
chosman@cossa.org
### Membership Organizations

- Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences
- African Studies Association
- American Association of Geographers
- American Council of Learned Societies
- American Evaluation Association
- American Historical Association
- American Psychosomatic Society
- Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies
- Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
- Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations
- Association of American Law Schools
- Association of Research Libraries
- Council of Colleges of Arts & 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 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

### Colleges & Universities

- Arizona State University
- Boston University
- Brown University
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Columbia University
- Cornell University
- Duke University
- Fielding Graduate University
- George Mason University
- Georgetown University
- Harvard University
- Indiana University
- Johns Hopkins University
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Michigan State University
- North Carolina State University
- Northwestern University
- Pennsylvania State University
- Princeton University
- Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
- Stanford University
- Texas A&M University
- The Ohio State University
- University of Arizona
- 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 Georgia
- University of Illinois
- University of Iowa
- University of Maryland
- University of Michigan
- University of Minnesota
- University of Nebraska, Lincoln
- University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- University of Oklahoma
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of Texas, Austin
- University of Texas, San Antonio
- University of Virginia
- University of Washington
- University of Wisconsin, Madison
- Virginia Tech
- Yale University

### Centers & 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
- RTI International
- Social Science Research Council

### Affiliates

- SAGE Publishing
Use the chat box to ask a question.

More opportunities for Q&A at the end.
This Month’s Headlines

CONGRESS
• FY 2020 Appropriations Bills taking shape
  • More: www.cossa.org/advocacy/funding-updates

EXECUTIVE BRANCH
• Comments Sought on Federal Data Strategy Action Plan (due July 5)
  • More: https://strategy.data.gov/action-plan/
• OBSSR Seeks Examples of Behavioral and Social Science Accomplishments (due July 31)
  • More: https://obssr.ideascale.com
• NSF Seeks Input into 2026 Idea Machine Entries (due June 26)
  • More: www.cossa.org/2019/06/11/nsf-seeks-input-into-2026-idea-machine-entries

COSSA
• COSSA Collecting Social Science Stories
  • More: www.cossa.org/share-your-story
• TAKE ACTION
  • More: www.cossa.org/advocacy/take-action

Subscribe for more news: www.cossa.org/washington-update
FY 2020 Appropriations

1. Positive numbers for science in House bills
2. Language in support of social science research and agencies
3. NO attacks on SBS
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Enacted FY 2019</th>
<th>President’s Request</th>
<th>COSSA’s Request</th>
<th>House FY 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Research Service</td>
<td>86.8</td>
<td>60.5</td>
<td>87.0</td>
<td>87.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Agricultural Statistics Service</td>
<td>174.5</td>
<td>163.0</td>
<td>180.0</td>
<td>180.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bureau of the Census</td>
<td>3821.4</td>
<td>6149.4</td>
<td>8450.0</td>
<td>8450.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bureau of Economic Analysis</td>
<td>101.0</td>
<td>108.0</td>
<td>108.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institute of Education Sciences</td>
<td>615.5</td>
<td>521.6</td>
<td>670.0</td>
<td>650.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Education and Foreign Language Studies</td>
<td>72.2</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>106.0</td>
<td>89.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Institutes of Health</td>
<td>39084.0</td>
<td>34367.6</td>
<td>41600.0</td>
<td>41084.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality</td>
<td>338.0</td>
<td>256.0</td>
<td>460.0</td>
<td>358.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</td>
<td>7282.4</td>
<td>6531.8</td>
<td>7800.0</td>
<td>8203.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Center for Health Statistics</td>
<td>160.4</td>
<td>155.0</td>
<td>175.0</td>
<td>160.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bureau of Justice Statistics</td>
<td>43.0</td>
<td>48.0</td>
<td>48.0</td>
<td>43.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Institute of Justice</td>
<td>37.0</td>
<td>46.5</td>
<td>46.5</td>
<td>37.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DEPARTMENT OF LABOR</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bureau of Labor Statistics</td>
<td>615.0</td>
<td>655.0</td>
<td>655.0</td>
<td>675.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION</strong></td>
<td>8075.0</td>
<td>7066.0</td>
<td>9000.0</td>
<td>8636.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Social, Behavioral, and Economic (SBE) Sciences.—The Committee supports SBE and recognizes the fundamental importance of its research for advancing our understanding of human behavior and its application to a wide range of human systems, including public health, national defense and security, education and learning, and the integration of human and machine. SBE funds over half of our nation’s university-based social and behavioral science research but remains the smallest of NSF directorates. The Committee believes this research provides an evidence-based understanding of the human condition, resulting in more-informed policymaking and better-informed spending on a full range of national issues. The recommendation includes no less than the fiscal year 2019 level for SBE.
The Committee supports basic research in fundamental science areas and expects that as NSF uses the 10 Big Ideas as a focusing tool, the funding for the fundamental scientific disciplines will be maintained. Within amounts provided, NSF shall allocate no less than fiscal year 2019 levels to support its existing scientific research…
Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research.—The OBSSR was established to coordinate and promote basic, clinical, and translational research in the behavioral and social sciences in support of the NIH mission. The Committee supports OBSSR’s activities aimed at strengthening these sciences by enhancing trans-NIH investments in longitudinal datasets, technology in support of behavior change, innovative research methodologies, and promoting the inclusion of behavioral and social sciences in initiatives at the NIH Institutes and Centers. In partnership with other Institutes and Centers, OBSSR co-funds highly-rated grants that the ICs cannot fund alone. While the NIH budget has grown in recent years, OBSSR funding has remained stagnant. Therefore, the Committee encourages NIH to provide OBSSR funding commensurate with increases given to the ICs.
SEC. 534. None of the funds made available in this Act or any other Act may be used by the Department of Commerce to incorporate into the 2020 Decennial Census any question that was not included in the 2018 End-to-End Census Test in Providence County, Rhode Island.
ERS/NIFA relocation.—On August 8, 2018, the Secretary sent the Committees a letter notifying them that he was planning to move the Economic Research Service (ERS), and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture outside of the greater Washington, D.C., area. Seven days later, without waiting the statutorily-required 30 days after notification, in violation of the reprogramming rules in P.L. 116–6, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019, the Secretary published a Federal Register notice that the Department was seeking expressions of interest from parties interested in housing the two agencies. At no point in this process, however, has USDA solicited public comment on this proposal. Since then, it has moved forward, despite the clearly expressed opposition of many members of the House and Senate.

It failed to comply with the direction of the conferees on the 2019 Act to submit all cost benefits for the move and a detailed analysis of any research benefits of a relocation. It has flatly refused numerous requests from this Committee and other members of Congress to provide the initial cost benefit analysis that preceded the decision to go ahead with the proposal. These agencies’ mission is to achieve the best science through research that advances U.S. agriculture and our understanding of the agricultural economy. The Committee believes that the Department’s proposal puts that mission at risk and the Committee has therefore included bill language to prevent it.
Where are we in the process?

**Regular Order:**
- FEB – President’s Budget Request released
- APR – Congress adopts budget resolution
- MAY – Appropriations Committees set allocations for 12 subcommittees
- MAY-JUN – Subcommittees write and “mark up” bills
- JUN – Full Appropriations Committee considers/amends bills
- JUL – House Floor debate/vote on each bill individually
- SEP – Differences negotiated (conference committee), each chamber votes on compromise
- BY SEP 30 – To the President to sign/veto
- OCT 1 – New fiscal year begins
Federal Data Strategy

- 10-year vision for how the government will accelerate the use of data to support the foundations of democracy, deliver on mission, serve the public, and steward resources while protecting security, privacy and confidentiality.

- Mission: fully leverage the value of federal data for mission, service, and the public good by guiding the Federal Government in practicing ethical governance, conscious design, and a learning culture.

JULY 5: Comment deadline for 2019-2020 Action Plan
Principles

- Ethical Governance
  1. Uphold Ethics
  2. Exercise Responsibility
  3. Promote Transparency
- Conscious Design
  4. Ensure Relevance
  5. Harness Existing Data
  6. Anticipate Future Uses
  7. Demonstrate Responsiveness
- Learning Culture
  8. Invest in Learning
  9. Develop Data Leaders
  10. Practice Accountability

https://strategy.data.gov/principles/

Practices

- Practices 1-10: Building a Culture that Values Data and Promotes Public Use
- Practices 11-26: Governing, Managing, and Protecting Data
- Practices 27-40: Promoting Efficient and Appropriate Data Use

https://strategy.data.gov/practices/
Draft Year 1 Action Plan (2019-2020)

**Shared Actions: Government-wide Data Services**
- Action 1: Create an OMB Data Council
- Action 2: Develop a Curated Data Science Training and Credentialing Catalog
- Action 3: Develop a Data Ethics Framework
- Action 4: Develop a Data Protection Toolkit
- Action 5: Develop a Repository of Federal Data Strategy Resources and Tools
  - **Action 6: Pilot a One-stop Standard Research Application**
- Action 7: Pilot an Automated Inventory Tool for Data.gov
- Action 8: Pilot Standard Data Catalogs for Data.gov

**Community Actions: Cross-Agency Collaboration**
- Action 9: Improve Data Resources for Artificial Intelligence Research and Development
- Action 10: Improve Financial Management Data Standards
- Action 11: Improve Geospatial Data Standards

**Agency-Specific Actions: Agency Activities**
- Action 12: Constitute a Diverse Data Governance Body
- Action 13: Assess Data and Related Infrastructure Maturity
- Action 14: Identify Opportunities to Increase Staff Data Skills
  - **Action 15: Identify Data Needs to Answer Key Agency Questions**
  - **Action 16: Identify Priority Datasets for Agency Open Data Plans**

[https://strategy.data.gov/action-plan/](https://strategy.data.gov/action-plan/)
Draft Year 1 Action Plan: Request for Comments

1. Identify any additional fundamental actions to implement the Federal Data Strategy that are not included in this draft Year-1 Action Plan and explain why.
2. Identify any additional actions that would align with or complement ongoing Federal data initiatives or the implementation of new legislation, such as the Foundations for Evidence-based Policy Making Act and explain why.
3. Identify any actions in this draft Year-1 Action Plan that should be omitted and explain why.
4. For each action, provide any edits and additional detail to ensure that they accurately and effectively describe needed activities, responsible entities, metrics for assessing progress, and timelines for completion.
5. For each action, provide information about the implementation resources necessary to ensure success of these Action Steps.

https://strategy.data.gov/action-plan/

Comments due by JULY 5, 2019

July 8: Data Coalition & OMB Public Forum
Accomplishments in the Social and Behavioral Sciences

• NIH Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) seeks accomplishments important to public health and healthcare

• Not limited to NIH-funded research!

• Submit and vote on accomplishments at obssr.ideascale.com

Comments due by JULY 31, 2019
Setting the agenda for fundamental research in U.S. science and engineering

Idea Machine Process

- Entrants suggest new “Big Ideas” for future investment
- Open to all
- Public comments; blue-ribbon panel
- Best ideas receive public recognition, cash prizes, and other awards

Ideas include:

- A World Without Waste
- Theory of Conscious Experience
- Creating Sustainable Education Pathways
  .... and many more!

Watch & comment on pitches by JUNE 26, 2019

Watch videos and learn more: nsf2026imgallery.skild.com
Share Your Stories!

- COSSA uses real examples and stories to advocate on your behalf.
- We can use ANY story that makes the case for SBS funding:
  - Notable research finding
  - Example of SBE being applied/used effectively
  - Positive/transformative educational experience
  - Etc.

No deadline!
Share Your Social Science Story

COSSA works to promote the value of our sciences to a variety of audiences, including Congress, the White House, Executive Branch agencies, and the public. We use tangible examples from the social and behavioral sciences whenever possible to make the case that federal investment in these sciences is not only a wise use of taxpayer dollars, but that this research yields results that make the nation and world healthier, safer, and more prosperous. We are asking for the social science community to submit stories of social sciences successes, whether it be advances in research, an example of how social science is being used effectively in your community, an educational experience or teacher who shaped the trajectory of your social science career, or any other experience or activity that showcases the many positive impacts the social and behavioral sciences make to all aspects of life. We want—and can use—any and all stories that make our case. Please fill out the form below to share your story with COSSA. Your submission will only be viewable by the COSSA staff; we will contact you if we are interested in using your story in any of our public materials.

Submit Your Story

* Required

Title of your story *

Your answer

Short description of your social science story (3000 characters max) *
Because It Helps to Address Graduate Unemployment in Sub-Saharan Africa

April 23, 2019

By Joseph K. Asare, PhD, Assistant Professor of International Political Economy of Sustainable Development, Fletcher School for Policy and Management, Bentley University

Social sciences are actively involved in working to understand and develop solutions to address the current challenges of graduate unemployment and under-employment in Sub-Saharan Africa. This is a problem that is close to home for me as an African scholar and a social scientist who understands research that has application to social policies and development. I have been an active researcher and I understand the factors that allow these patterns of unemployment to persist given the enormity of the challenges faced by developed, developing, and emerging economies across the continent.

Understanding Sub-Saharan Africa’s Unemployed Graduate Youth Crisis

Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest growing youth population in the world, with 67% of its population under 30 years of age. Harnessing their potential would require increased focus and increased investment in education to create a healthy labor force that is capable of meeting the demands of our current local and global job markets. The International Labour Organization (ILO) suggests that the youth (15-24 years) unemployment rates for the major economies of the African region remains relatively high, with unemployment rates among youth in Sub-Saharan Africa being around 70% in 2019. According to the same source, the number of poor employed youth has unfortunately risen by as much as 2% over the past 15 years. Many Sub-Saharan African countries are experiencing a youth bulge with figures as high as 80% of the population under age 30. Given the region’s emerging demographic projections, this problem will not go away anytime soon. It is my view that for usacademicians to effectively contribute to the respective national economies, and address the current youth unemployment crisis, we should be employment initiators and promoters to transform them into formal employment.

Understanding the Reality of the Problem

The region’s public sector is shrinking, and the private sector is unable to absorb the number of job-seeking graduates. Encouraging dialogues and innovation in business is an important component of tackling these issues. However, there is a lack of explicit investment in skills for university graduates to be successful in these ventures. Many young people have been rerouted to tertiary (postsecondary) institutions with the hope of overcoming this cycle. Such endeavors have instead created another problem for transitioning university students to job seekers and entrepreneurs.

The report of the Commission on Teaching at the University of British Columbia (2007) noted that the current changes in graduate education cannot be isolated from those in undergraduate education. Core competencies in basic literacy, numeracy, and technological skills are essential for the future labor market. However, the current focus on academic performance and skills may not be enough. Graduate students need to be trained in how to translate their research into practical solutions, engage in social entrepreneurship, and develop new business models. The current system of graduate education is often overly focused on the theoretical and less on the practical.

The report of the Commission on Teaching at the University of British Columbia (2007) noted that the current changes in graduate education cannot be isolated from those in undergraduate education. Core competencies in basic literacy, numeracy, and technological skills are essential for the future labor market. However, the current focus on academic performance and skills may not be enough. Graduate students need to be trained in how to translate their research into practical solutions, engage in social entrepreneurship, and develop new business models. The current system of graduate education is often overly focused on the theoretical and less on the practical.

WHERE YOU COME FROM MAY MAKE YOU HEALTHIER

Built environments can greatly influence health behaviors. Social science has to date not paid enough attention to the health of people from different social classes, and the impact of the built environment. This paper explores the impact of social class on health behaviors and suggests that built environments can have a significant impact on health behaviors and outcomes.

THE NUTRITIONAL TRANSITION IN AFRICA

The nutritional transition in Africa is characterized by a shift from traditional foods to Western-style diets. This shift has been associated with an increase in non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, obesity, and cardiovascular disease. The nutritional transition in Africa is also associated with a decrease in the consumption of traditional foods such as fruits, vegetables, and whole grains.

POLITICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH SUPPORTS COLOR TERRORISM AND CONFLICT PREVENTION

Political science studies political violence and conflict, and it is essential for policymakers to understand the root causes of political violence and conflict. Political science research can provide policymakers with insights into the motivations and tactics of political violence and conflict. This research can help policymakers develop strategies to prevent and respond to political violence and conflict.

SOCIAL NETWORK ANALYSIS FOR THE MILITARY AND NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

Social network analysis is a powerful tool for understanding the relationships among individuals, organizations, and entities. It can be used to identify key characteristics of organizations and networks that are important for national security, and to develop strategies to disrupt these networks.

WHY SOCIETY MATTERS FOR NATIONAL SECURITY

The National Security Foundation (NSF) played an early role in supporting research on terrorism and counterterrorism, beginning in the late 1990s. Recognizing that terrorism’s behavior response to counterterrorism policies in rational terms, this research used game theory to determine how to create a more effective counterterrorism policy. The U.S. Departments of Homeland Security and Defense have sponsored subsequent applications of this research to various governmental organizations. The NSF has funded a comprehensive program to evaluate the implementation of the United States’ (US) Threat Assessment and Management (TAM) research. The goal of this program is to provide policymakers with a comprehensive understanding of the effectiveness of counterterrorism policies and the effectiveness of implementing counterterrorism policies.

FORECASTING POLITICAL INSTABILITY

NSF has funded research exploring the next political constitute a change in government or policy and instability is imminent. This research specifically studied a country’s political and economic context, and its effects on political instability. The research was funded through support from NSF and the U.S. Agency for International Development’s (USAID) Global Health Security Program, which provides policymakers with a comprehensive understanding of the effectiveness of implementing counterterrorism policies and the effectiveness of implementing counterterrorism policies.
TAKE ACTION!

Support SBS Funding!

Raise the Caps!

Take Citizenship Off the 2020 Census!

www.cossa.org/advocacy/take-action
Let’s hear from you!

If using computer microphone: raise your hand!
   Step 1: select “participants”
   Step 2: select “raise hand”
       (may be in sidebar)
   Step 3: after you’re unmuted, ask your question!

If using telephone audio/microphone: put your question in the chat box!
Comment on Federal Data Strategy Action Plan (due July 5)
  • strategy.data.gov/action-plan
Submit your SBS examples to OBSSR (and vote on others’) (due July 31)
  • obssr.ideascale.com
Comment/vote on 2026 Idea Machine Entries (due June 26)
  • nsf2026imgallery.skild.com
Share Your Stories (and tell your friends)
  • www.cossa.org/share-your-story
Visit COSSA’s Action Center
  • www.cossa.org/advocacy/take-action
Tell your colleagues to sign up for COSSA Member Messages and Alerts—MEMBERS ONLY (email Julia at jmilton@cossa.org)

Encourage other organizations and universities to Join COSSA (email Wendy at wnaus@cossa.org)

Send us your ideas for DEEP DIVES (email Camille at chosman@cossa.org)
Next Month:

- July’s HEADLINES
- DEEP DIVE: TBD

Miss last month’s Headlines?
www.cossa.org/resources/headlines
Wendy Naus, Executive Director
Email: wnaus@cossa.org

Visit Us:
www.cossa.org
www.whysocialscience.com

@COSSADC ★ #WhySocialScience
@SocialScienceAssociations