



CONSORTIUM of SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

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January 28, 2020

Ms. Chloe Kontos
Executive Director
National Science and Technology Council
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Sent via email to JCORE@ostp.eop.gov

Re: RFI Response: JCORE

On behalf of the Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA), I respectfully submit this response to the *Request for Information on the American Research Environment* published in the Federal Register on December 17, 2019. Thank you for the opportunity to provide the perspectives of the social and behavioral science research community as they relate to the questions outlined in the JCORE RFI.

COSSA is a nonprofit 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. Our list of members can be found at www.cossa.org.

The social and behavioral sciences encompass a collection of STEM disciplines engaged in the rigorous study of why and how humans behave as they do as individuals, groups, and within institutions, organizations, and society. Given our focus on the human condition across multiple scales, it is not surprising that our sciences have a lot to say about the topics of interest to JCORE. With respect to **Safe and Inclusive Research Environments**, several professional associations in the social and behavioral sciences are using research from their disciplines and fields to inform their own policies and practices around harassment, diversity, and inclusion. For example, the American Sociological Association maintains resources on its website to assist members with responding to and preventing harassment at scientific conferences and equipping university campus leaders to address such concerns (see links below).

In the area of **Research Rigor and Integrity**, the American Statistical Association took on the thorny issue of misuse of “statistical significance” in a 2016 [Statement on p-Values](#). The statement seeks to clarify

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 • 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

“several widely agreed upon principles underlying the proper use and interpretation of the p-value,” which in turn can have far-reaching implications for research across all domains, as well for “journal practices, career advancement, scientific education, public policy, journalism, and law.” Other scientific societies are following suit; journals of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology and the American Psychological Association now mandate that publications report effect sizes and confidence intervals in addition to p-values, as well as discussion of statistical power and how sample sizes are determined. Further, these journals encourage (but do not require) authors to preregister their hypotheses and analysis plans as well as disclose other variables included in their study but not used in the analysis in question.

In lieu of responses to the specific questions listed in the RFI, I respectfully submit the enclosed collection (including links) of resources that address many of the questions posed by the RFI. As you review them, you will find policies and guidelines from professional research associations on topics such as harassment in the workplace, diversity, and research integrity. You will also find links to studies in the social and behavioral sciences that provide an evidence base underpinning specific action in these areas. This is not an exhaustive list; rather, it is meant to provide a sampling of resources available within the social and behavioral sciences to assist you in your work.

We hope you find the enclosed materials helpful and that you will call on the social and behavioral science community in the coming months as you tackle your charge of “maximizing the quality and effectiveness of the American research environment.”

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like additional information. The COSSA community stands ready to assist.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wendy A. Naus".

Wendy A. Naus
Executive Director
Consortium of Social Science Associations

Social and Behavioral Science Resources on Improving the Research Environment

I. Research Rigor and Integrity

Research Quality, Reproducibility and Replicability:

- Recommendations to Funding Agencies for Supporting Reproducible Research (American Statistical Association): <https://www.amstat.org/asa/files/pdfs/POL-ReproducibleResearchRecommendations.pdf>
- Statement on p-Values (American Statistical Association): <https://amstat.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00031305.2016.1154108#.Xi80FGhKiM>
- Moving to a World Beyond “p<0.05”:
https://amstat.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00031305.2019.1583913#.Xi8_J2hKiM9
- Best Practices for Quality and Integrity of Research Findings (Society for Personality and Social Psychology): <https://www.spsp.org/publications/best-practices>
- Journal Article Reporting Standards for Quantitative Research in Psychology (American Psychological Association): <https://www.apa.org/pubs/journals/releases/amp-amp0000191.pdf>
- Improving the Dependability of Research in Personality and Social Psychology: Recommendations for Research and Educational Practice (Personality and Social Psychology Review): <http://spsp.org/sites/default/files/Pers%20Soc%20Psychol%20Rev-2014-Funder-3-12.pdf>

Research and Researcher Ethics:

- Statement on Ethics (American Anthropological Association): <http://ethics.americananthro.org/category/statement/>
- Ethical Guidelines for Statistical Practice (American Statistical Association): <https://www.amstat.org/ASA/Your-Career/Ethical-Guidelines-for-Statistical-Practice.aspx>
- Guidelines on Ethics for LSA Publications and Conferences (Linguistic Society of America): <https://www.linguisticsociety.org/content/guidelines-ethics-lsa-publications-and-conferences>
- Policy on Scientific Integrity, Transparency, and Openness (Society for Research in Child Development): <https://www.srcd.org/policy-scientific-integrity-transparency-and-openness>
- Codes of Ethics:
 - American Association for Public Opinion Research: <https://www.aapor.org/Standards-Ethics/AAPOR-Code-of-Ethics.aspx>
 - American Educational Research Association: <https://www.aera.net/About-AERA/AERA-Rules-Policies/Professional-Ethics>
 - American Society of Criminology: https://www.asc41.com/ASC_Official_Docs/ASC_Code_of_Ethics.pdf
 - American Sociological Association: <https://www.asanet.org/code-ethics>

II. Foreign Influence

- Multi-society Letter on Supplemental Questions for Visa Applicants (DS-5535): https://www.asanet.org/sites/default/files/ds-5535_supplemental_questions_for_visa_applicants_emergency_submission.pdf
- Science and Education Groups Raise Concerns About Proposed Visa and Alien Registration Policies: <https://www.aaas.org/sites/default/files/s3fs-public/Comments%20on%20DS-260%20Application%20for%20Immigrant%20Visa%20and%20DS-160%20Application%20for%20Nonimmigrant%20Visa%205.24.18.pdf>

III. Safe and Inclusive Research Environments:

Professional Codes of Conduct:

- American Economic Association Code of Professional Conduct: <https://www.aeaweb.org/about-aea/code-of-conduct>
- Midwest Political Science Association Committee on Professional Ethics: <https://www.mpsanet.org/Governance/Officers-and-Committees/Committees/Committee-on-Professional-Ethics-COPE>
- American Psychological Association Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct : <https://www.apa.org/ethics/code/ethics-code-2017.pdf>
- American Statistical Association Activities Conduct Policy: <https://www.amstat.org/ASA/Meetings/Meeting-Conduct-Policy.aspx>

Anti-Harassment Policies

- Policy on Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault (American Anthropological Association): https://s3.amazonaws.com/rdcms-aaa/files/production/public/AAA_SH_Policy_2018.pdf
- Policy on Harassment and Discrimination (American Economic Association): <https://www.aeaweb.org/about-aea/aea-policy-harassment-discrimination>
- Anti-Harassment Policy for the APSA Annual Meeting (American Political Science Association): <https://www.apsanet.org/divresources/policyprocedures>
- Anti-Harassment Resources (American Sociological Association): <https://www.asanet.org/asa-anti-harassment-resources>
- Anti-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy (Law and Society Association): <https://umass.app.box.com/s/eu1vtwg9wo7vgdwxqpyfk2sjmojry1ef>
- Sexual Harassment Survey (Society for Personality and Social Psychology): <http://spsp.org/about/sh-survey>

Diversity and Inclusion:

- Statement on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (National Communication Association):
<https://www.natcom.org/about-nca/nca-and-inclusivity>
- Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion (Society for Research in Child Development):
<https://www.srcd.org/about-us/diversity-and-inclusion>
- Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives (Society for Personality and Social Psychology):
<https://www.spsp.org/about/diversity-initiatives> (includes methods and results of SPSP's 2019 climate survey)