Remembering James Jackson (1944-2020)

Dr. James S. Jackson, renowned social psychologist and Daniel Katz Distinguished University Professor of Psychology, Emeritus, at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, passed away on September 1. A pioneer in national and international surveys of Black populations, Dr. Jackson dedicated his career to understanding racial and ethnic influences on life course among African Americans across the lifespan.

He was a recognized leader and advocate for the social and behavioral sciences, evidenced by his appointments to national leadership positions and committees, including several advisory councils of the National Institutes of Health, the Board of the Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education (DBASSE) at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, and countless others. He was appointed to the National Science Board by President Obama in 2014, on which he served for...
Dr. Jackson served as COSSA President in 2013-2014. “Despite his active research and teaching responsibilities and service on countless advisory bodies and committees, James continued to generously give of himself, his time and energy,” said COSSA Executive Director Wendy Naus. “As our President, James did not hesitate to offer his assistance to me as I tried to navigate being a new executive director in 2014. I am eternally grateful for having known James.”

Dr. Jackson left a lasting mark on social and behavioral science research and on COSSA. If you would like to leave a comment or remembrance, you may do so here.

New from COSSA

COSSA Endorses Bipartisan Bill to Extend Census Deadline

COSSA joined over 200 organizations in endorsing a new bipartisan bill that would extend the statutory deadlines for the 2020 Census and require the Census Bureau to continue its enumeration operation through October 31. As previously reported, the Department of Commerce announced plans to end counting activities for the 2020 Census a month ahead of its originally planned schedule, leading to concern that the resulting data will be inaccurate. The 2020 Census Deadline Extensions Act, introduced by Sens. Brian Schatz (D-HI), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), and Dan Sullivan (R-AK) would require the 2020 Census to stick to its originally planned schedule and gives the Bureau additional time to deliver apportionment and redistricting data. Follow COSSA’s coverage of the 2020 Census here.

Congressional News

House Science Committee Holds Hearing on the Impact of COVID-19 on University Research

On September 10, the House Science Committee’s Research and Technology Subcommittee held a hearing on the Impact of the COVID-19 Crisis on University Research. Witnesses included the Vice Presidents for Research from the University of Illinois System, Oakland University in Michigan, and Purdue University, as well as a Carnegie Mellon graduate student in physics. Witnesses and participating Members of Congress praised the Science Committee’s bipartisan proposals to support the university research system through the disruptions caused by COVID-19, including the RISE Act (H.R. 7308) (see previous coverage), which we have discussed before, authorizes $26 billion in emergency relief funding for science agencies to support full-cost extensions of research grant. A newer bipartisan bill was also discussed, the Supporting Early-Career Researchers Act (H.R. 8044), which would create a new $250 million fellowship program at the National Science Foundation that would allow high-performing grad students to take their funding with them if they are forced to change schools.

Executive Branch News

White House Directs Federal Agencies to Defund Race-Related Trainings for Federal Employees

On September 4, the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued a memorandum calling for federal agencies to cease funding training sessions for federal employees addressing critical race theory and white privilege. The memo alleges that “executive branch agencies have spent millions of taxpayer dollars to date ‘training’ government workers to believe divisive, anti-American propaganda,” citing unnamed press reports as evidence that “employees across the executive branch have been required to attend
trainings where they are told that ‘virtually all White people contribute to racism’ or where they are required to say that they ‘benefit from racism.’” The memo directs federal agencies to “identify all contracts or other agency spending related to any training on ‘critical race theory,’ ‘white privilege,’ or any other training or propaganda effort that teaches or suggests either (1) that the United States is an inherently racist or evil country or (2) that any race or ethnicity is inherently racist or evil.”

Many organizations in the scientific community have expressed concern about the OMB memo, including the American Sociological Association (ASA), a COSSA governing member. In a September 7 press release, ASA asserted that the OMB memo “represents a fundamental misunderstanding of both critical race theory and the term white privilege and the extensive body of empirical research underlying them,” and shared a list of sociologists who could comment on their research of the issues.

Other organizations, including COSSA and several of its member associations, are also weighing a response to the OMB memo. We will continue to report on this developing story. The full OMB memo is available on the White House website.

USDA Names New ERS Administrator

Dr. Spiro Stefanou has been appointed to lead the Economic Research Service (ERS), one of the two principal statistics agencies within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Stefanou is an agricultural economist who previously served as a professor of economics at the University of Florida and at Penn State University. Stefanou will be taking the helm of an agency that has had a rocky several years, after the Administration’s controversial decision to move the agency to Kansas City led to significant attrition and loss of expertise at the agency.

Science Community News

Nominations Due Sept 17 for National Academies Committee on Accelerating Behavioral Science Through Ontology Development and Use

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine is launching a consensus study on Accelerating Behavioral Science Through Ontology Development and Use to inform the development of classification systems and knowledge structures across the behavioral sciences. The study, which is being sponsored by the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, and the American Psychological Association, will “define the scope of ontology development for behavioral science research (BSR), summarize the state of behavioral ontology development and use in BSR, and identify compelling use cases as well as approaches, gaps and challenges that need to be addressed in order to facilitate widespread ontology use in BSR.”

Nominations are being accepted for study committee members with expertise in psychological processes, behavioral measurement, machine learning, knowledge structures, ontology development (in behavioral science as well as in non-behavioral domains of science), and experience in leadership roles in high-profile journals covering behavioral phenomena applicable to human health and of trans-disease relevance. More information about the consensus study is available on the National Academies website. Nominations may be submitted through September 17.

National Academies Releases Consensus Study on Assessing Morbidity and Mortality After Disasters

The National Academies has published a new consensus study report: A Framework for Assessing Mortality and Morbidity after Large-Scale Disasters. The Congressionally-mandated study was sponsored by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and was intended to identify ways to better understand the scope of death and injury caused by large-scale disasters (both natural and human-caused). Among the report’s recommendations are adopting a uniform framework across federal agencies for data collection and adopting methods that
distinguish direct and indirect deaths resulting from disasters. While the study commenced prior to the pandemic, COVID-19 provided a case study illustrating the needs described in the report and is the focus of an appendix. More information about the study is available on the National Academies website.

Research!America Health Research Forum Features Pandemic Response Leaders

From September 8-11, Research!America virtually hosted the 2020 National Health Research Forum, an annual meeting bringing together leaders in the research community, federal agency officials, and national media to highlight current trends in health research and the effect of those trends on public policy decisions. This year’s theme was Straight Talk: Securing a Science-Strong Future, which was stated to be a focus on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on multiple facets of the U.S. research enterprise. The virtual event featured appearances from several high level government officials including the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar, Director of the National Institutes of Health Francis Collins, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Anthony Fauci, Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Robert Redfield, Congresswoman Diana DeGette (D-CO), Congressman Fred Upton (R-MI), and many others.

The speakers and panel discussions covered a wide swath of research related issues, including issues such as diversity and inclusion in research, equity in healthcare, the sustainability of the research enterprise, public confidence and behavior towards a COVID-19 vaccine, and the timeline for developing a COVID-19 vaccine or vaccines. Social and behavioral science was highlighted in several of the sessions, including those discussing public opinion of science and research, methods to increase compliance in COVID-19 prevention techniques, and in modeling behavior regarding flu vaccinations during a pandemic. In a notable segment, Dr. Fauci asserted during his speaking segment that he was confident for a vaccine to be ready by the end of 2020, but likely not before the November 3rd election. More information about the forum is available on the Research!America website.

Resources & Opportunities

COSSA Letters & Statements

- **9/1/2020:** Multi-Society Letter Endorsing National Academies Study on Systemic Racism in Academia

Nomination Opportunities

- **AAPSS:** 2021 Daniel Patrick Moynihan Prize in Social Science and Public Policy (Closes: October 16, 2020)
- **NSF/NSB:** Vannevar Bush Award (Closes: September 30, 2020)
- **NSF/NSB:** Public Service Award (Closes: September 30, 2020)
- **NEW:** NASEM: Standing Committee on Personal Protective Equipment for Workplace Safety and Health (Closes: September 25, 2020)
- **NEW:** NASEM: A Fairer and More Equitable Cost-Effective and Transparent System of Donor Organ Procurement, Allocation, and Distribution (Closes: September 19, 2020)
- **NEW:** NASEM: Accelerating Behavioral Science Through Ontology Development and Use (Closes: September 17, 2020)

New and Expiring Funding Opportunities

- **NSF:** Dynamic Languages Infrastructure – Documenting Endangered Languages (DLI-DEL) Data, Infrastructure, and Computing Methods (Closes: November 18, 2020)
- **NSF:** Harnessing the Data Revolution: Coordination Hub (HDR Central) (Closes: November 12, 2020)
- **NIH/NHLBI:** Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Availability of Administrative Supplements and Revision Supplements on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) (Closes: October 6, 2020)
NIH: NIH Director's Emergency Transformative Research Awards (R01 Clinical Trial Optional) (Closes: September 30, 2020)
NSF/SBE: NSF Dynamic Language Infrastructure - NEH Documenting Endangered Languages (DLI-DEL) (Closes: September 15, 2020)

More funding opportunities.

Notices, Requests for Comment, Calls for Papers

- DOJ/BJS: Proposed Collection Comments Requested; Reinstatement, With Change, of a Previously Approved Collection: National Survey of Prosecutors (NSP) (Closes: October 13, 2020)
- NEW: GSA: Comment on Federal Data Strategy's Data Skills Catalog (Closes: September 16, 2020)
- NEW: GSA: Comment on the Federal Government's Data Ethics Framework (Closes: September 16, 2020)

New Resources & Reports

- NEW: NASEM: Best Practices in Assessing Mortality and Significant Morbidity Following Large-Scale Disasters
- NEW: NASEM: Addressing Sickle Cell Disease: A Strategic Framework and Blueprint for Action

Open Positions, Fellowships, & Professional Development Opportunities

- NEW: NASEM: Program Officer - Division on Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education

Upcoming Events

- VIRTUAL: Minerva Meeting and the Next National Defense Strategy Sessions I & II, October 1, 2020, 1:00pm
- VIRTUAL: Minerva Meeting and the Next National Defense Strategy Session III, October 8, 2020, 1:00pm
- CANCELLED: History of Science Society Annual Meeting, October 8-11, 2020
- VIRTUAL: COSSA Headlines | October, October 8, 2020, 2:00pm
- VIRTUAL: Minerva Meeting and the Next National Defense Strategy Session IV, October 15, 2020, 1:00pm
- VIRTUAL: Minerva Meeting and the Next National Defense Strategy Session V, October 22, 2020, 1:00pm
- VIRTUAL: Evaluation 2020, October 26-31, 2020
- VIRTUAL: NIH Fall Seminar on Program Funding and Grants Administration, October 27-30, 2020
- VIRTUAL: Minerva Meeting and the Next National Defense Strategy Sessions VI & VII, October 29, 2020, 1:00pm
- CANCELLED: Southwestern Social Science Association Annual Meeting, October 29-31, 2020
- VIRTUAL: CCAS Annual Meeting, November 4-7, 2020
- VIRTUAL: APPAM Annual Fall Research Conference, November 11-13, 2020
- VIRTUAL: National Council on Family Relations Annual Conference, November 11-13, 2020
- VIRTUAL: North American Regional Science Council Annual Meeting, November 11-15, 2020
- VIRTUAL: Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, November 12-15, 2020
- VIRTUAL: COSSA Headlines | November, November 12, 2020, 2:00 pm
- **CANCELLED:** American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, November 18-21, 2020
- **VIRTUAL:** National Communication Association Annual Convention, November 19-22, 2020
- **VIRTUAL:** African Studies Association Annual Meeting, November 19-21, 2020
- **TBD:** Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies Annual Convention, November 19-22, 2020
- **CANCELLED:** Social Science History Association Annual Conference, November 19-22, 2020

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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**COSSA 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
- 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
- Case Western Reserve University
- Columbia University
- Cornell University
- Duke 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
- Ohio State University, The
- Pennsylvania State University
- Princeton University
- Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey
- Stanford University
- Texas A&M University
- University of Arizona
- University of Arkansas
- 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 Pennsylvania
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of Texas, Austin
- University of Virginia
- University of Wisconsin, Madison
- Virginia Tech

**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 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
About COSSA
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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ISSN 0749-4394

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