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## Featured News

### ASA Webinar Corrects the Record on “Race and Sex Stereotyping” Executive Actions

The American Sociological Association (ASA), a COSSA governing member, held a webinar on October 20 to respond to recent White House actions prohibiting trainings and other activities that touch on white privilege, structural inequality, and other supposedly “divisive” concepts (see [previous coverage](#)). The webinar “Sociology Speaks: Experts Explain the Executive Order on Combating Race and Sex Stereotyping” featured three sociologists, Karyn Lacy of the University of Michigan, Bandana Purkayastha of the University of Connecticut, and Shelley Correll of Stanford University, who corrected the misrepresentations of these concepts in the orders and memoranda and explained how they have contributed to a better understanding of power and prejudice. A recording of the webcast is available on [ASA’s website](#).

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## New from COSSA

### CJRA, COSSA Host “Ask a Criminologist” Briefing Addressing Policing and Community Relations

On October 22, COSSA, in partnership with the [Crime & Justice Research Alliance](#) (CJRA), hosted the latest in an ongoing series of “Ask a Criminologist” briefings, which seek to connect leading criminologists to policy makers to address prevalent criminal justice issues. The event, which focused on issues related to policing and community relations in the wake of recent protests, featured Dr. Jennifer Cobbina, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice at Michigan State University; Dr. Rod Brunson, Thomas O’Neill Chair of Criminology at Northeastern University; and Dr. Everette Penn, Professor of Criminal Justice at University of Houston Clear Lake and founder of the Teen and Public Service Center. The panel was moderated by Dr. William V. Pelfrey, Jr., Professor of Criminal Justice in the Wilder School at Virginia Commonwealth University.

The briefing featured unique perspectives from each of the panelists, with each holding a different stance on recent calls for police reform. Topics of discussion included the policy implications and merits of calls to “defund the police,” the systemic factors affecting the Black community’s relationship with police departments, the role of the Black Lives Matter movement in shifting the discourse surrounding police reform, disparities in policing practices between

high-income and low-income communities, and police training and community engagement initiatives such as the Teen and Police Service (TAPS) Academy. The full briefing is available on [YouTube](#) on the Virginia Commonwealth University Wilder School's channel.

## “Why Social Science?” Looks at Women and Political Ambition



The latest Why Social Science? guest post comes from the authors of *Why Don't Women Rule the World? Understanding Women's Civic and Political Choices*, who write about the obstacles facing women with political ambitions and research-backed strategies to overcome them. Read it [here](#) and [subscribe](#).

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## Congressional News

### Supreme Court Ends Census Count Early; Congress Could Still Act to Protect Accuracy

On October 13, the Supreme Court issued a [ruling](#) allowing the Department of Commerce to end its 2020 Census field operations early (see COSSA's [previous coverage](#) for the complete back-and-forth on the end date). However, while the enumeration efforts have ended, the Census Bureau now moves to critical data processing and quality-checking work to ensure that the final counts submitted for redistricting and reapportionment purposes are accurate. The timeline for this essential work is significantly compressed compared to both the Bureau's original 2020 Census operating plan and the Administration's COVID-19-adjusted plan. Congress can act to move statutory deadlines and instruct the Bureau to take adequate time to complete these activities. However, with Congress off on the campaign trail, we would not expect to see action on this until the lame duck session after the election. You can stay tuned to COSSA's coverage of the 2020 Census [here](#).

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## Executive Branch News

### White House to Weaken Protections for Civil Servants through “Schedule F” Classification

On October 21, President Trump issued an [Executive Order on Creating Schedule F in the Excepted Service](#), a move that elicited wide criticisms from federal employee organizations. The executive order would create a new classification of federal employee, Schedule F, and defines this class of employee as those in “positions of a confidential, policy-determining, policy-making, or policy-advocating character that are not normally subject to change as a result of a Presidential transition.” Furthermore, heads of executive agencies would be given the power to determine which Federal positions are covered by Schedule F upon approval by the White House Office of Personnel Management (OPM). These changes would effectively allow a Presidential Administration to more easily hire and fire Schedule F employees as if they were political appointees and prohibits Schedule F employees from participating in practices prohibited for the exempted service such as collective bargaining.

Federal employee associations have denounced the executive order as a danger to the independent nature of federal service. The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) released a [statement](#) that the executive order “threatens the centuries-long integrity of nonpartisan professionals by forming a broad exception to the competitive civil service. The new exception demolishes the rule that civil servants are hired and fired based on merit, not political affiliation.”

The executive order gives heads of executive agencies ninety days to compile a list of positions subject to reclassification under Schedule F (a deadline that ends on January 19, the day before Inauguration Day). Members of Congress are reportedly looking into legislative options for reversing the order. In addition, as the rule could potentially be reversed by a change in Presidential administration, COSSA will continue to monitor the implementation of this executive order through the rest of the current presidential term.

### NSF Seeks Input on Future Convergence Accelerator Topics, Midscale STEM Education Infrastructure

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has released a [request for information](#) (RFI) on future topics for the [NSF Convergence Accelerator](#). The Convergence Accelerator is a capability within NSF to accelerate use-inspired convergence research in areas of national importance via partnerships between academic and non-academic stakeholders. The Convergence Accelerator is entering its third funding cycle and has previously featured tracks related to NSF's [Industries of the Future](#) (IoF) initiative and Big Ideas related to [Future of Work at the Human-Technology Frontier](#) (FW-HTF), [Harnessing the Data Revolution](#) (HDR), [Quantum Leap](#) (QL). The RFI is seeking ideas for new topics that build upon use-inspired foundational research aligned to IoF, NSF's Big Ideas, or other research in areas of national importance. However, topics selected for previous Convergence Accelerator program tracks are likely to be

a low priority. NSF is seeking responses to this RFI by November 9, 2020. More information can be found in NSF's [Dear Colleague Letter](#). More information about the Convergence Accelerator can be found on the NSF's [website](#).

Separately, NSF's Education and Human Resources (EHR) Directorate is seeking public input on identifying mid-scale infrastructure needs for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education research and will be holding a virtual listening session on October 30. More details including registration information are available in the [event invitation](#).

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## Science Community News

### AAAS Forum Focuses on COVID Impacts, Systemic Racism in Science

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) held its annual [Science & Technology Policy Forum](#) in a virtual format on October 13-14. The forum featured two days of panels and lectures focused on pressing policy issues facing the sciences. The majority of the first day's sessions focused on how COVID-19 has impacted science and innovation, the essential role science has played in responding to the pandemic, and lessons that can be drawn from this experience to strengthen the science and technology enterprise going forward. The second day featured a number of sessions on confronting the dark history of racism in science as well as present inequities that continue to persist for people of color working in the sciences. Presenters identified ways the scientific community can move forward to earn back lost trust and to make the scientific enterprise a more equitable endeavor. More information on the sessions is available on the [AAAS website](#), where recordings will be posted.

### Research!America Requesting Proposals for 2020-2021 Microgrants

Research!America has [announced](#) that it is accepting proposals from graduate and postdoctoral-led science policy groups for the 2020-2021 round of microgrants funding projects connecting scientists with public policy experts. These grants aim to support early-career scientists with funding for civic science projects including virtual events, podcasts, data visualization projects, and startup funding. One microgrant track, the Science Meets Science track, pairs social scientists with scientists from other fields to fund interdisciplinary civic science projects. All early-career scientists selected for the microgrant program will have access to various science policy resources including webinar trainings, a formal science policy course, and participation in a science advocacy forum. Proposals for microgrants are due November 9. More information is available on the [Research!America website](#).

### CNSF Hosts Congressional Briefing on Undergraduate Learning During COVID-19

On October 22, the [Coalition for National Science Funding](#) (CNSF), of which COSSA is a member, hosted a virtual briefing for Congressional staffers on undergraduate learning during COVID-19 and how funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF) can address gaps in learning. The briefing featured presentations from Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology at North Carolina A&T State University Adrienne Aiken Morgan and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Digital Innovation and Enterprise Learning at Northeastern University Kemi Jona. In addition, brief remarks were offered by Representatives G.K. Butterfield (D-NC) and Katherine Clark (D-CA). The briefing was moderated by Associate Executive Director of the American Mathematical Society Karen Saxe.

The presentations covered a wide range of relevant issues including the transition of education to remote learning, the importance of virtual internships, differences in equity and access for those seeking virtual internships, lessons learned from the current pandemic that can impact future crises, the role of mental health in affecting learning ability, and how remote learning affects historically Black colleges and universities differently than other institutions. In addition, the presenters highlighted social science as especially useful in informing policy changes to improve learning behaviors. A recording of the briefing will be posted by CNSF when available.

## Resources & Opportunities

### New & Expiring Funding Opportunities

- NIH: [Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\): Competitive and Administrative Supplements for Community Interventions to Reduce the Impact of COVID-19 on Health Disparity and Other Vulnerable Populations](#) (Closes: December 30, 2020)
- 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)
- **NEW:** Research!America: [2020-2021 Microgrant Request for Proposals](#) (Closes: November 9, 2020)

[More funding opportunities.](#)

## Requests for Comment & Calls for Papers

- NSF: [Request for Information - Evidence-Building Activities](#) (Closes: December 31, 2020)
- **NEW:** DOJ/BJS: [Proposed Collection Comments Requested: Extension of a Currently Approved Collection: Capital Punishment Report of Inmates Under Sentence of Death](#) (Closes: December 14, 2020)
- **EXTENDED:** NSF: [Notice of Request for Information on STEM Education](#) (Closes: November 20, 2020)
- **NEW:** NSF: [Request for Information on Future Topics for the NSF Convergence Accelerator](#) (Closes: November 9, 2020)
- NIH/NICHD: [Adolescent Medicine Trials Network for HIV/AIDS Interventions](#) (Closes: October 30, 2020)

## Notices, Resources, & Reports

- **NEW:** NASEM: [Decarcerating Correctional Facilities During COVID-19: Advancing Health, Equity, and Safety](#)
- **NEW:** NASEM: [Understanding the Well-Being of LGBTQI+ Populations](#)

## Open Positions, Fellowships, & Professional Development Opportunities

- NASEM: [Program Officer - Division on Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education](#)
- OES: [Annual Fellowships](#) (Closes: December 13, 2020)
- Stanford/CASBS: [2021-2022 Residential Fellowships](#) (Closes: November 9, 2020)

## Upcoming Events

- **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
- **VIRTUAL:** [Working Parents in COVID-19: the Impact and the Policy Response](#), October 29, 2020
- **CANCELLED:** [Southwestern Social Science Association Annual Meeting](#), October 29-31, 2020
- **VIRTUAL:** [NSF Webinar: Identifying Mid-Scale Infrastructure for STEM Education Research](#), October 30, 2020
- **VIRTUAL:** [CCAS Annual Meeting](#), November 4-7, 2020
- **VIRTUAL:** [Government Advances in Statistical Programming \(GASP\) 2020](#), November 6, 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
- **VIRTUAL:** [NSF Grants Conference](#), November 16-20, 2020
- **CANCELLED:** [American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting](#), November 17-22, 2020
- **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
- **VIRTUAL:** [NSF Grants Conference](#), November 30-December 4, 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@coossa.org](mailto:jmilton@coossa.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

### Colleges and Universities

Arizona State University  
Boston University  
Brown University  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Case Western Reserve University

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

### 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  
Social Science History Association  
Society for Personality Assessment  
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

### Affiliates

SAGE Publishing  
Wiley

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  
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  
RTI International  
Social Science Research Council

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### 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.*

### Our Team

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