Social, Behavioral, & Economic Science (SBE)

Kevin T. Leicht
Sociology Program and RIDIR Program
(Resource Initiative for Data Intensive Research in the Social Sciences)
kleicht@nsf.gov

Research has been funded by NSF, NIH, Spencer Foundation and Ford Foundation.

Former editor of The Sociological Quarterly and Research in Social Stratification and Mobility

Professor, former Chair of Sociology, University of Iowa and former Director of the Iowa Social Science Research Center

Fay Lomax Cook, Assistant Director
Clifford Gabriel, Acting Deputy Assistant Director

Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences (BCS)
Amber Story, Acting Division Director
TBD, Deputy Division Director

Social and Economic Sciences (SES)
Jeryl Mumpow, Division Director
Alan Tomkins, Deputy Division Director

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES)
John Gawalt, Division Director
Jeri Mulrow, Deputy Division Director
17 Standing Programs

2011 Report: REBUILDING THE MOSAIC
nsf11086.pdf

THEMES:

Population Change
Sources of Disparities
Communication, Language, and Linguistics
Technology and New Media
Social Networks

Methodology, Measurement & Statistics
Decision, Risk, & Management Sciences
Developmental & Learning Sciences
Science, Technology and Society
Archaeology and Archaeometry
Perception, Action, & Cognition
Geography & Regional Science
Science of Organizations
Biological Anthropology
Cognitive Neuroscience
Law and Social Science
Cultural Anthropology
Economics
Social Psychology
Political Science
Linguistics
Sociology
SBE Cross-Discipline/Directorate Programs

• Interdisciplinary Behavioral and Social Science Research (IBSS, last deadline, December, 2014- will probably be renewed).

• Resource Implementations for Data Intensive Research in the Social and Economic Sciences (RIDIR, the follow-up to BCC).

SBE Budget Numbers

• 2015 $272 Million (up ~ 7 percent over 2014)

• 2016 budget request $292 million

• AMERICA COMPETES... (would cut SBE by ~50 percent).

• Biggest line-items:
  – U.S. General Social Survey
  – ANES (American National Election Study)
  – PSID (Panel Study of Income Dynamics)
  – ~12 percent of our budget

Funding rates ~ 20-25 percent, depending on program
General tips.....

• Someone has to read this...!!
• The U.S. taxpayer is paying money for this...why should they do it??
• The “Uncle George” test and your project summary.
• A reviewer usually evaluates whether a proposal is any good by sometime around page 2...If they have no idea what you’re doing or why by then, you’re in trouble.

Suggested reading
The Scientific Foundations of Qualitative Research

- Authored by Charles Ragin, Joane Nagel and Patricia White

Common mistakes

- Applying to the **wrong** program.
- **Poor disciplinary linkage** to big questions....
- **Unclear writing** (as they say in Ochletree County...)
- **Quantitative work** – lack of specificity (sampling, data sources, measures, statistical techniques); do the methodological choices answer the question being asked??
- **Qualitative work** – poor problem specification; Poor sampling description (why am I here and not there?!?); Sample selection bias problems (worse in some disciplines than others).