



NSF SUPPORT OF THE SOCIAL, BEHAVIORAL, AND ECONOMIC SCIENCES (SBE)

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Program Director

Cross-Directorate Activities, SBE

Disclaimer: This presentation is not meant to be a comprehensive description of ALL of the SBE programs; the intention is to provide examples of some of those programs and invite you to explore NSF for more information.



Office of the Director

**Other
Directorates
and Offices**

**Directorate for Social,
Behavioral & Economic
Sciences (SBE)**

**Social and
Economic
Sciences (SES)**

**Behavioral and
Cognitive
Sciences (BCS)**

**(SRS)
National
Center for
Science and
Engineering
Statistics
(NCSES)**

**Multidisciplinary
Activities**

**Science of
Learning Centers
(SLC)**

**Science of
Science and
Innovation Policy
(SciSIP)**

REU Sites

**Minority
Postdoctoral
Research
Fellowships
(MPRF)**



NSF in a Nutshell

- Independent federal agency created by Congress in 1950 "to promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; to secure the national defense..."
- Annual budget \approx \$6.9 billion – funds approximately 20 percent of all federally supported basic research conducted by America's colleges and universities
- Most of the funds go to peer reviewed grants to individuals or small groups of investigators -- currently about 10,000 new awards per year, with an average duration of three years
- NSF also provides funding for research centers, instrumentation, and facilities



NSF Organization

7 Research Directorates

- Biological Sciences (BIO)
- Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE)
- Geosciences (GEO)
- Mathematics and Physical Sciences (MPS)
- Education and Human Resources (EHR)
- Engineering (ENG)

- **Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBE)**

Established in early 1990s –formerly part of Biological & Behavioral Sciences Directorate



NSF Organization

4 Science Offices

- Polar Programs (OPP)
- International Science & Engineering (OISE)
- Integrative Activities (OIA)
- Cyberinfrastructure (OCI)



SBE in a Nutshell

- Assistant Director: Myron Gutmann
- Deputy Assistant Director: Judith Sunley
- Annual budget of \$255 million (FY 2010)
- Funds approximately 58% of federally funded basic research in SBE fields in academic institutions
- Approximately 4800 proposals and 1200 awards in a typical year, including dissertation improvement grants, major surveys and workshops
- Data of science and engineering in the US



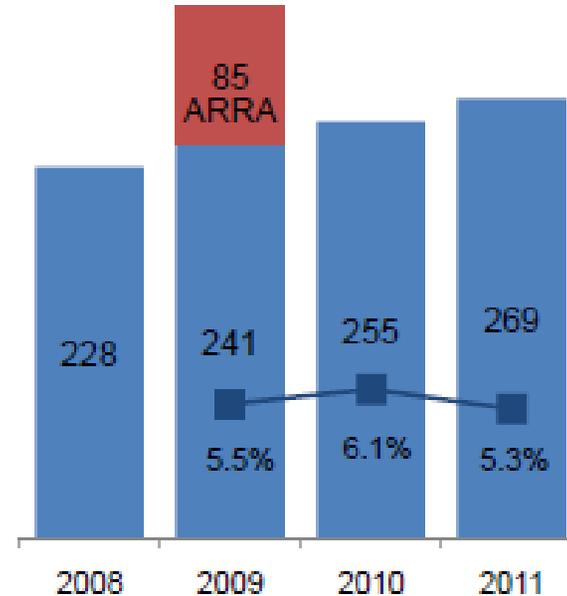
SBE Organization

- Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences (BCS);
Mark Weiss, Director
- Social and Economic Sciences (SES);
Rachel Croson, Director
- Science Resources Statistics (SRS) (*National Center for Science & Engineering Statistics*)
Lynda Carlson, Director
- SBE Office of Multidisciplinary Activities (SMA)
Nobody is Director!!



SBE Budget Overview

- FY SBE 2011 Request is **\$268.79 Million**
- Increase of **5.3%** Over FY 2010





Information on SBE divisions and their programs can be found by clicking here on SBE home page

The screenshot shows the NSF Directorate for Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences (SBE) website. The browser window title is "nsf.gov - Directorate for Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences (SBE) - US National Science Foundation - Microsoft Internet Explorer". The address bar shows "http://www.nsf.gov/dir/index.jsp?org=SBE". The website header includes navigation links: HOME | FUNDING | AWARDS | DISCOVERIES | NEWS | PUBLICATIONS | STATISTICS | ABOUT | FastLane. The main content area features the NSF logo and the text "National Science Foundation DIRECTORATE FOR Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences (SBE)". Below this is a search bar and a navigation menu with items: SBE Home, SBE Funding, SBE Awards, SBE Discoveries, SBE News, and About SBE. A large banner image contains the text "Increasing knowledge of people and society" and a graphic of puzzle pieces. A red arrow points from the text above to a red circle around the "SBE Organizations" menu item in the left sidebar. The sidebar lists: Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences (BCS), Social and Economic Sciences (SES), Science Resources Statistics (SRS), About SBE, View SBE Staff Directory, Search SBE Staff Directory, General Information About SBE, Career Opportunities, Advisory Committee, Budget Excerpt, and Proposals and Awards. The main content area has a "Special Announcements" section with a news item: "NSF selects University of Michigan historian to head its Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences". The right sidebar includes "Get SBE Updates by Email", "Featured Programs" (Cross-Directorate Activities, Human and Social Dynamics: Competition for FY 2008, SBE Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grants, SBE Minority Postdoctoral Research Fellowships and Follow-up Research Starter Grants, Science of Learning Centers, Science of Science and Innovation Policy), and "Additional SBE". The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the start button, several application icons, and the system clock at 4:38 PM.



Information on some programs and initiatives can be found under "Featured Programs" on SBE home page

A screenshot of the NSF Directorate for Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences (SBE) website. The browser is Microsoft Internet Explorer. The page has a navigation bar with links: HOME | FUNDING | AWARDS | DISCOVERIES | NEWS | PUBLICATIONS | STATISTICS | ABOUT | FastLane. The main header features the NSF logo and the text "National Science Foundation DIRECTORATE FOR Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences (SBE)". Below this is a search box and a navigation bar with links: SBE Home | SBE Funding | SBE Awards | SBE Discoveries | SBE News | About SBE. The main content area has a banner with the text "Increasing knowledge of people and society" and a graphic of puzzle pieces. Below the banner are two columns of content. The left column has sections for "SBE Organizations" (listing Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences (BCS), Social and Economic Sciences (SES), and Science Resources Statistics (SRS)), "About SBE" (with links for Staff Directory and Search), "General Information About SBE" (with links for Career Opportunities, Advisory Committee, and Budget Excerpt), and "Proposals and Awards". The right column has "Special Announcements" (with a news item about the University of Michigan historian) and "Featured Programs" (with a list of programs including Cross-Directorate Activities, Human and Social Dynamics, etc.). A red circle highlights the "Featured Programs" section, and a red arrow points from the text above to this section. The bottom of the screen shows the Windows taskbar with the start button and several open applications.



Funding Opportunities

- Unsolicited competitions – *NSF does not require that proposals be submitted in response to a particular solicitation, but useful to talk to a program officer first*
- Special solicitations / Dear Colleague Letters
- Rapid response research (RAPID)
- EARly-concept Grants for Exploratory Research (EAGER)
- Faculty Early Career Development program (CAREER)
- Doctoral dissertation improvement grants – *check program solicitation to see if that program offers DDIGs*



NSF SBE: Who We Are

Office of Multidisciplinary Activities operates programs that cut across SBE and connect to other parts of NSF

- Research Experiences for Undergraduates Sites
- Minority Postdoctoral Research Fellowships
- Science of Science and Innovation Policy
- Science of Learning Centers



NSF SBE: Who We Are

Office of Multidisciplinary Activities operates programs that cut across SBE and connect to other parts of NSF (FY10 estimate: \$27.00M)

- Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) Sites
- Minority Postdoctoral Research Fellowships (MPRF)
- Science of Science and Innovation Policy (SciSIP)
- Science of Learning Centers (SLC)
- Seed funding for interdisciplinary activities



Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) Sites

The Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program supports active research participation by undergraduate students in any of the areas of research funded by the National Science Foundation.

The REU is a Foundation-wide program, but each directorate handles its own competition and manages the resulting awards. More details at:

http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5517&from=fund

The SBE REU Sites program is administered by Dr. Fahmida N. Chowdhury (fchowdhu@nsf.gov)



SBE REU Sites

- One competition for the entire SBE Directorate
- Deadline third week of August

REU Sites are based on independent proposals to initiate and conduct projects that engage a number of undergraduate students in research.

REU Sites may be based in a single discipline or academic department, or on interdisciplinary or multi-department research opportunities with a coherent intellectual theme.

Proposals with an international dimension are welcome.



BCS Programs

- Anthropological Sciences
- Geography and Environmental Sciences
- Psychological and Language Sciences

SBE welcomes research in emerging fields that cross traditional disciplinary boundaries.



SES Programs

- Decision, Risk, & Management Sciences
- Economics
- Innovation and Organizational Sciences
- Law and Social Science
- Methodology, Measurement & Statistics
- Political Science
- Science, Technology and Society
- Sociology

SBE welcomes research in emerging fields that cross traditional disciplinary boundaries.



Science of Science & Innovation Policy

- Supports research designed to advance the scientific basis of science and innovation policy
- Develops, improves and expands models, analytical tools, data and metrics that can be applied in the science policy decision making process
- Contributes to interagency efforts to develop a new area of social science research.

Program Officer: Julia Lane



Science of Learning Centers

- Currently have 6 large-scale, long-term centers that create infrastructure needed to advance Science of Learning research
- Program is very broadly conceived, includes learning in humans, animals, and machines

Program Officer: Soo-Siang Lim



Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program

- Untenured faculty (or comparable)
- Single scholar award
- \$400,000, 5-years minimum award
- Three proposals lifetime limit
- July 1 deadline
- Administered by individual disciplinary programs



SBE – Increasing Knowledge of People and Society

A Few SBE Programs – for Example!



Science, Technology and Society

Ethics and Values in Science, Engineering and Technology
(EVS)

History and Philosophy of Science, Engineering and
Technology (HPS)

Social Studies of Science, Engineering and Technology
(SSS)

Studies of Policy, Science, Engineering and Technology
(SPS)

The components overlap, but are distinguished by the different scientific and scholarly orientations they take to the subject matter, as well as by different focuses within the subject area.

Program Officers: Fred Kronz, Kelly Joyce



Archaeology and Archeometry

Archaeological research that contributes to an anthropological understanding of the past
anthropologically significant archaeometric research

Program Officer: John Yellen

Perception, Action and Cognition

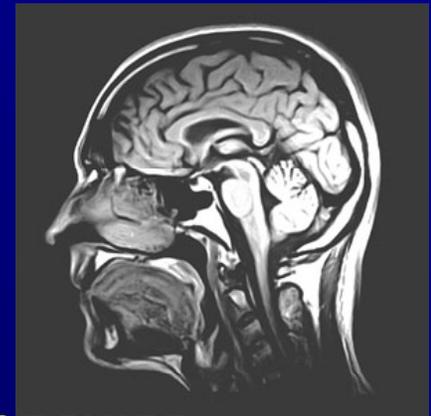
The program encompasses a wide range of theoretical perspectives, such as symbolic computation, connectionism, ecological, nonlinear dynamics, and complex systems, and a variety of methodologies including both experimental studies and modeling.

Program Officers: Betty Tuller and Lawrence Gottlob



Cognitive Neuroscience

- **Supports highly innovative and interdisciplinary proposals**
- **Proposals should aim to advance a rigorous understanding of how the human brain supports:**
 - **thought**
 - **perception**
 - **affect**
 - **action**
 - **social processes**
 - **and other aspects of cognition and behavior, including how such processes develop and change in the brain and through evolutionary time.**



Program Officer: Lynne Bernstein



Geography and Spatial Sciences

- **Scientific research in geography and the spatial sciences that advances theory and basic understanding and that addresses the challenges facing society**
- **Integration of geographers and spatial scientists in interdisciplinary research**
- **Education and training of geographers and spatial scientists in order to enhance the capabilities of current and future generations of researchers**
- **Development and use of scientific methods and tools for geographic research**

Program Officer: Thomas Baerwald





NSF vs. NIH

- NSF grants tend to be smaller
- NSF is more open to risky, exploratory, paradigm-challenging work
- NSF stresses basic research
- NSF has no scoring system or percentile system – peer reviews are considered in a holistic fashion
- NSF maintains strict confidentiality of reviewer names
- NSF program officers make funding recommendations
- NSF uses “revision encouragement” loosely



An Appeal to Sponsored Research Officers

On questions regarding submission procedures, FastLane, budget issues, allowable budget items, deadlines, format for letters of collaboration, reporting issues, calculating percent efforts (for faculty salaries), what can go into "materials and supplies", how to estimate travel costs, etc., encourage (can you force them?) the PIs to ask you BEFORE calling or emailing the NSF Program Director.

CAN you MAKE the PIs read the solicitation (yes, the entire thing) and search the NSF GPG to find out basic NSF policies/regulations?



THANKS!

? Questions ?

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