

**Advisory Committee (AC) to the Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and
Economic Sciences (SBE)
National Science Foundation
Thursday, June 4, 2020
Remote Meeting via Zoom
Draft Meeting Summary**

Attendance

SBE AC Members Present: Dr. Karen Cook, AC Chair, Department of Sociology, Stanford University; Dr. Joseph Altonji, Department of Economics, Yale University; Dr. Christopher Bail, Department of Sociology & Sanford School of Public Policy, Duke University; Dr. Ann Bostrom, Daniel J. Evans School of Public Policy & Governance, University of Washington (and Advisory Committee for Environmental Research and Education (AC-ERE) Liaison); Dr. Dominique Brossard, Department of Life Sciences Communication, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Dr. Nilanjana Dasgupta, Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences, University of Massachusetts at Amherst; Dr. Catherine Eckel, Department of Economics, Texas A&M University; Dr. Rayvon Fouché, School of Interdisciplinary Studies, Purdue University; Dr. John Gabrieli, Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, MIT; Dr. Sandra Graham, Department of Education, University of California, Los Angeles; Dr. Christopher Kuzawa, Department of Anthropology, Northwestern University; Dr. Willie Pearson, School of History and Sociology, Georgia Institute of Technology; Dr. William Riley, Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research, National Institutes of Health (NIH; *Ex officio*); Dr. Rocío Titiunik, Department of Politics, Princeton University; Dr. Lydia Villa-Komaroff, Intersections SBD (and Committee on Equal Opportunities in Science and Engineering (CEOSE) liaison); and Dr. Duncan Watts, Department of Computer and Information Science, University of Pennsylvania.

NSF Staff in Attendance: Dr. Arthur Lupia, Assistant Director (AD), SBE; Dr. Kellina Craig-Henderson, Deputy AD, SBE; Dr. Daniel Goroff, Division Director (DD), SBE/Division of Social and Economic Sciences (SES); Dr. Alan Tomkins, Deputy Division Director, (DDD), SES; Ms. Emilda Rivers, DD, SBE/ National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES); Dr. Vipin Arora, DDD, NCSES; Dr. Marc Sebrechts, DD, SBE/Division of Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences (BCS); Dr. Antoinette WinklerPrins, DDD, BCS; Dr. Deborah Olster, Senior Advisor, SBE/Office of the Assistant Director (OAD); Mr. John Garneski, Staff Associate for Budget and Program Analysis, SBE/OAD; Mr. Anthony Teolis, SBE Administrative Coordinator, SBE/OAD; Ms. Clarissa Johnson, IT Specialist, SBE/OAD; Mr. Philip Johnson, IT Specialist, SBE/OAD, and others.

Summary: This was the first meeting of the SBE AC in 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was conducted remotely via Zoom with attendance by NSF staff and interested members of the public. The agenda included the following items: an SBE Directorate update; a presentation on National Institutes of Health (NIH) activities related to COVID-19, a joint session with the Directorate for Computer & Information Science & Engineering (CISE) AC on exploring collaborations between CISE and SBE; research presentations by newer AC members; and reflections from the outgoing AC Chair.

Welcome, Introductions, Review of Draft Summary from Fall 2019 SBE AC meeting, and Preview of Agenda (Dr. Karen Cook, SBE AC Chair)

Dr. Cook welcomed everyone. Following AC member and SBE senior staff introductions, the AC voted to accept the summary of the fall 2019 AC meeting. Dr. Cook also previewed the current meeting agenda.

SBE Update (Dr. Arthur Lupia, AD, SBE)

Dr. Lupia updated the AC on SBE's recent activities, including NSF's and SBE's activities related to COVID-19 research funding and the pandemic's operational impact on NSF; NSF steps to address COVID-19 impacts to academic research community; and the recently released 2020 Science and Engineering Indicators report. Dr. Lupia also discussed upcoming activities or funding opportunities such as the Societal Experts Action Network (SEAN); Build and Broaden; Strengthening American Infrastructure; and joint ventures with other NSF directorates. Finally, Dr. Lupia publicly thanked and expressed gratitude to the SBE staff and community during the ongoing pandemic.

SBE Deputy AD Dr. Kellina Craig-Henderson presented to the AC on the recently released [Dear Colleague Letter titled "Build and Broaden: Enabling New Social, Behavioral and Economic Science Collaborations with Minority-Serving Institutions."](#) The funding opportunity seeks to encourage partnerships with and among Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) in order to promote fundamental research, perspectives, and ideas in the SBE sciences at MSIs. The goal of Build and Broaden is to expand capacity at MSIs for SBE-related research.

Dr. Marc Sebrechts presented to the AC about a new SBE activity, Strengthening American Infrastructure (SAI). Dr. Sebrechts discussed the importance of a human-centered perspective in the design and development of infrastructure including bridges, power grids, educational systems, transportation, and farming. The SAI activity will promote and foster scientific insights about human behavior and social dynamics to better

develop, design, build, rehabilitate, and maintain strong and effective American infrastructure.

Dr. Daniel Goroff presented to the AC the [Societal Experts Action Network \(SEAN\)](#), a collaboration between NSF/SBE and the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine to connect social and behavioral science researchers with decision-makers who are leading the response to COVID-19. SEAN is a network of leading individuals and institutions in SBE fields that provides actionable responses to urgent policy questions. It consists of experts available to develop evidence-based recommendations to support local, state, and national responses and policies.

Ms. Emilda Rivers, DD, NCSES, briefed the AC on the 2020 [Science and Engineering Indicators \(SEI\)](#). The presentation began with an overview of NCSES; its mission; its role within the federal statistical system; and the data and reports generated through its surveys. Ms. Rivers then provided an overview of the SEI and recent updates to the report, with a focus on the SEI website as a tool for policymakers and the public. Finally, Ms. Rivers solicited feedback from the AC regarding how to best improve NCSES's utility to the AC and reach out to other communities that could utilize NCSES products.

National Institutes of Health (NIH) Activities related to COVID-19 (Dr. William Riley, Director, NIH Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research)

Dr. Riley provided an update on NIH's behavioral and social sciences research (BSSR) activities to address the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Riley briefed the AC on COVID-19 social and behavioral research findings; potential health interventions to address health effects of COVID-19; BSSR aspects of COVID-19 testing; and psycho-social recovery issues pertaining to the pandemic. In addition, Dr. Riley discussed supplemental appropriations provided to NIH for the pandemic as well as the development of a list of [COVID-19 related measurement protocols](#) to assist clinical and population research.

Exploring Collaboration between SBE and the Directorate for Computer & Information Science & Engineering (CISE) (SBE and CISE AC members)

As a follow-on to discussions initiated at the fall 2019 SBE AC meeting, the SBE AC met jointly with the CISE AC to identify and discuss opportunities for collaborative activities between the two directorates. Dr. Duncan Watts (SBE AC member) presented a preliminary summary of discussions held at the recent CISE-SBE Virtual Roundtable, [Harnessing the Computational and](#)

[Social Sciences to Solve Critical Societal Problems.](#) Research areas identified with strong linkages and protentional for new or deeper collaborations are data and networking science, artificial intelligence, cyber-security, and the future of work.

New SBE AC member Research Presentations (Dr. Ravon Fouché, Purdue University; Dr. Willie Pearson, Georgia Institute of Technology)

Dr. Fouché provided an overview of his research career in the SBE field of science and technology studies with an emphasis on the understanding of race and technology. His research specifically focuses understanding the relationships between innovation, invention, racial identification, and culture.

Dr. Pearson provided an overview of his career in sociological research including recent work understanding the international science and mathematics achievement gap across different populations. A key feature of his research is its usage and relationship with data generated by NCSES.

Farewell to and Reflections from Outgoing SBE AC Chair (Dr. Karen Cook)

Dr. Karen Cook reflected on her service on the AC and thanked SBE and the other members for making it a memorable experience.

Wrap-up, Assignments, and Closing Remarks (Dr. Arthur Lupia, AD, SBE, Dr. Karen Cook, SBE AC Chair)

Drs. Cook and Lupia recapped the AC meeting, led a discussion of potential agenda items and topics for future meetings, and collected feedback from the AC regarding the advantages and disadvantages of a virtual meeting. In addition, Dr. Lupia announced the next AC Chair as Dr. Dominique Brossard, Department of Life Sciences Communication, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 PM.
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This meeting summary was approved by the SBE AC at its December 3, 2020 meeting.