



NSF SUPPORT OF THE SOCIAL, BEHAVIORAL, AND ECONOMIC SCIENCES

Robert E. O'Connor

Program in Decision, Risk and Management
Sciences

Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and
Economic Sciences



Office of the Director

**Directorate for Social,
Behavioral & Economic
Sciences**

**Social and Economic
Sciences**

**Behavioral and Cognitive
Sciences**

Science Resources Statistics

Why go to NSF?

- NSF provide grants (not cooperative agreements or contracts)
- NSF pays full overhead
- NSF supports curiosity-driven research



NSF in a Nutshell

- Independent Agency
- Supports basic research & education
- Uses grant mechanism
- Low overhead; highly automated
- Discipline-based structure
- Cross-disciplinary mechanisms
- Use of Rotators/IPAs
- National Science Board



Sources of Information

- Web: www.nsf.gov
- National Science Foundation Update (formerly MyNSF)
- Grant Proposal Guide
http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=gpgAwards (on web)
- Program Officer(s)
- Colleagues*

Opportunities (Besides Standard Programs)

- Dynamics of Coupled Human and Natural Systems
- Cyber-Enabled Discovery and Innovation
- Social and Behavioral Dimensions of National Security, Conflict, and Cooperation
- Possible initiative in “Energy, Environment, and Human Dynamics”
- Possible initiative in complexity
- Science of Science Policy

Science of Science & Innovation Policy

- First solicitation in FY 2007
- Current FY 2009 solicitation has
December 16, 2008 deadline
 - Analytical Tools
 - Model Building
 - Data Development and Augmentation
 - Increased funding in FY 2009
- Related infrastructure activities

Program Officer: Julia Lane

Social and Behavioral Dimensions of National Security, Conflict, and Cooperation (NSCC)

- National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Department of Defense (DoD) are initiating a university-based social and behavioral science research activity that focus on areas of strategic important to the U.S. national security policy
- NSF and DoD intend to
 - Develop the DoD's social and human science intellectual capital in order to enhance its ability to address future challenges
 - Enhance the DoD's engagement with the social science community
 - Deepen the understanding of the social and behavioral dimensions of national security issues
- NSF and the DoD will bring together universities, research institutions, and individual scholars and will support disciplinary, interdisciplinary and collaborative projects

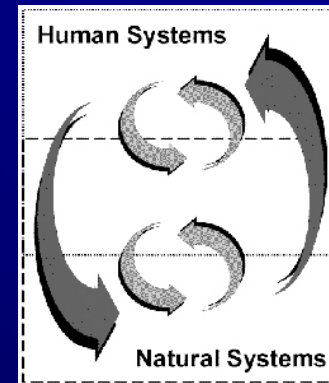
NSCC

- Letter of Intent Due Date (required)
 - September 30, 2008
- Full Proposal Deadline
 - October 20, 2008
- Program Solicitation: 08-594
- Estimated Number of Awards
 - 10 to 15; Awards will be based on the recommendations of NSF/DoD review process
 - 1-5 for Workshops (NSCC/W)
 - Up to an all inclusive total of \$50,000 to \$150,00 each, for a duration of one year
 - 8-10 for Small Awards (NSCC/SA)
 - Up to an all inclusive total of \$500,000 each, over a duration of two to three years
 - 1-3 for Large Awards (NSCC/LA)
 - Up to an all inclusive total of \$2 million per year for a duration of three to five years for each awarded proposal

Program officers: Amber Story and Jonathan Leland

Dynamics of Coupled Natural and Human Systems (CNH)

- CNH promotes quantitative, interdisciplinary analyses of relevant human and natural system processes and complex interactions among human and natural systems at diverse scales.
- Educational Opportunity
 - Undergraduate students
 - Graduate students
 - K-12 Educator
- Program guidelines and due date
 - 07-598 Solicitation
 - Full Proposal Deadline Date: November, 18, 2008



Program Officer: Tom Baerwald

Cyber-Enabled Discovery and Innovation

- November 8 – December 8 window for preliminary proposals
- http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summary.jsp?pims_id=503163&org=SBE&from=home
- Computational thinking

Possible EEHF and Complexity Initiatives

- Energy, Environment, and Human Factors may involve BIO, GEO, and SBE
- National Science Board emphasis
- Complexity less far along

Science of Learning Centers

- Managed by SBE with NSF-wide funding
 - Multidisciplinary
 - Large scale
 - 10 years of funding, if progress warrants
- 6 Centers currently funded
 - Cohort 1: Boston U., Carnegie-Mellon, U. of Washington
 - Cohort 2: Gallaudet, Temple, UCSD
- Developing a network of centers
 - Workshops
 - Student activities
 - International linkages
 - Opportunities for supplements, SGERs

Program Officer: Soo-Siang Lim and Joan Straumanis

Themes

- New Technologies
- Intertwinements with Natural and Life Sciences
- Centrality of Mind/Brain
 - Adaptive Systems Technology
- Complexity
 - Cyber-Enabled Discovery & Innovation
 - Emergent phenomena
 - Tipping points
 - Links to policy

Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences Programs

Disciplinary

- Cultural Anthropology
- Physical Anthropology
- Archaeology
- Linguistics
- Social Psychology
- Economics
- Sociology
- Political Science

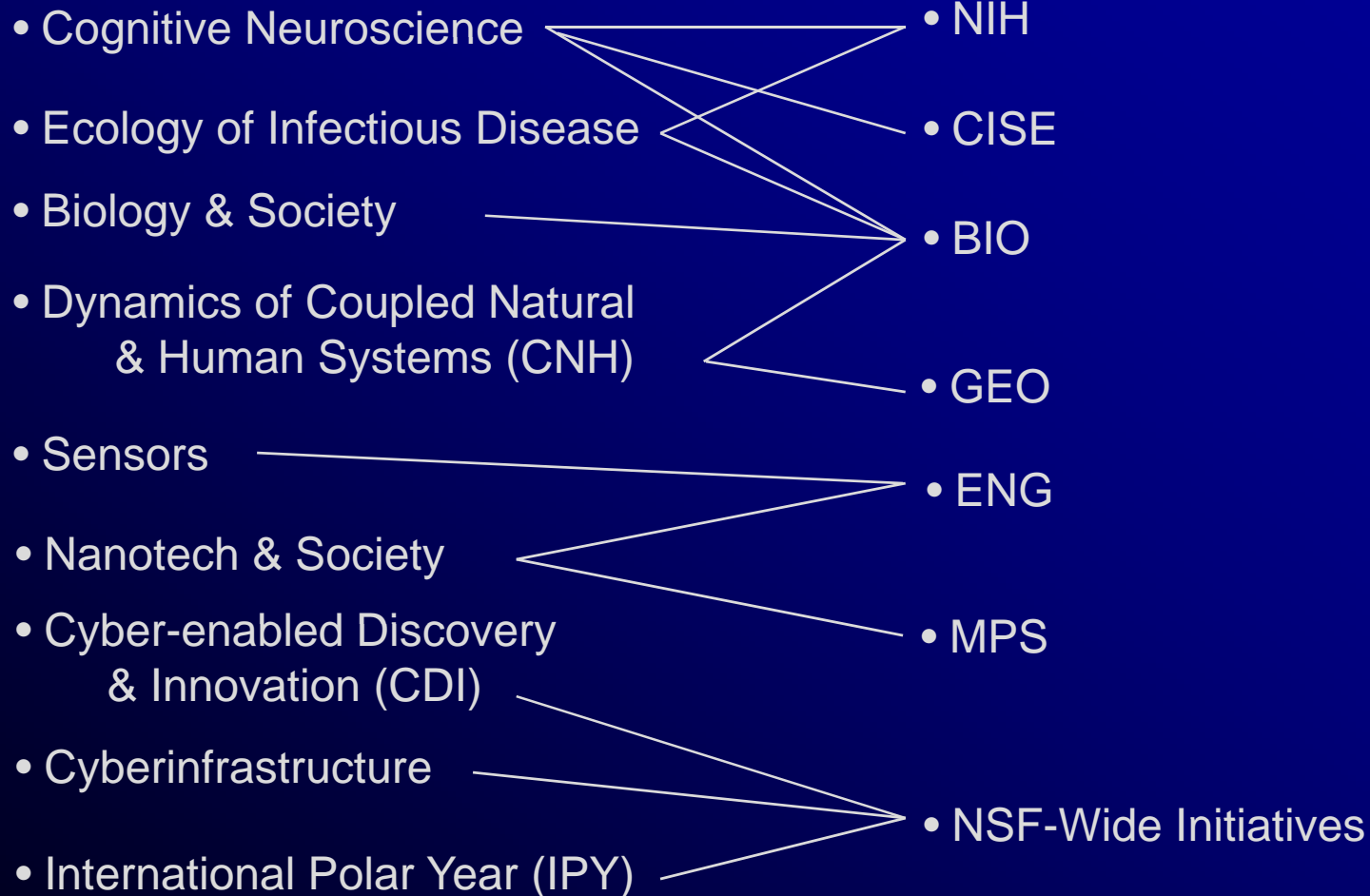
Inter-Disciplinary

- Cognitive Neuroscience
- Developmental & Learning Sciences
- Documenting Endangered Languages
- Perception, Action & Cognition
- HOMINID
- Geography & Regional Science
- Environmental, Social & Behavioral Science
- Decision, Risk & Management Sciences
- Science of Science & Innovation Policy
- Innovation & Organizational Sciences
- Methodology, Measurement & Statistics
- Science & Society
- Law & Social Sciences

Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences Joint Funding

Joint-Funded Programs

Funding Partners



Social and Economic Sciences

FY07 Program Allocations

- Cross-Directorate Activities \$3.8M
- Decision, Risk, & Management Sciences \$6.55M
- Economics \$23.8M
- Innovation and Organizational Sciences \$2.5M
- Law and Social Science \$4.5M
- Methodology, Measurement & Statistics \$3.6M
- Political Science \$8.2M
- Science and Society \$7.6M
- Sociology \$8.1M





SES Target Dates

January 15 & August 15

Economics

Law and Social Science

Methodology, Measurement & Statistics

Political Science

Sociology

January 18 & August 18

Decision, Risk, & Management Sciences

February 1 & August 1

Science and Society

September 3 and February 2

Innovation and Organizational Change

Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences

FY07 Program Allocations

- Archaeology & Archaeometry \$6.5M
- Cultural Anthropology \$3.4M
- Cognitive Neuroscience \$6.3M
- Developmental & Learning Sciences \$7.0M
- Geography & Regional Science \$6.2M
- Linguistics \$7.41M
- Perception, Action, & Cognition \$6.3M
- Physical Anthropology \$3.8M
- Social Psychology \$5.7M





BCS Target Dates

December 1 & July 1

Archaeology & Archaeometry
Physical Anthropology

January 1 & August 1

Cultural Anthropology

January 15 & July 15

Cognitive Neuroscience
Developmental & Learning Sciences
Human Cognition & Perception
Linguistics
Social Psychology

January 15 & August 15

Geography & Regional Science

Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Awards

Small grants to provide funds for items not normally provided through the student's institution

- Archaeology
- Cultural Anthropology
- Decision, Risk, & Management Science
- Economics
- Geography & Regional Science
- Law and Social Science
- Linguistics
- Physical Anthropology
- Political Science
- Science and Society
- Sociology





Human Subjects

- No award for a project involving human subjects can be made without prior Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval of the research activity.
- The PI may request Human Subjects evaluation from the IRB of a nearby institution.
- Not needed in proposal



How to Develop a Proposal

- **Determine possible funding sources**
- **Understand the ground rules**
 - Read carefully announcements and instructions
 - Determine whether your project fits program scope
 - Look over prior award abstracts
 - Ascertain evaluation procedures and criteria
 - **Sometimes talk with NSF Program Officer***
- **Coordinate with your institution and sponsored research office**
- **Ask PIs for copies of proposals**

"Few things are harder to put up with than the annoyance of a good example." Mark Twain



Budget Tips

- **Amounts**
 - Reasonable for work -- Realistic
 - Well Justified -- Need established
 - In-line with program guidelines
- **Eligible costs**
 - Personnel
 - Equipment
 - Travel
 - Other Direct Costs, Subawards
 - Facilities & Administrative Costs



Standard Review Criteria

- 1. What is the intellectual merit of the proposed activity?**
- 2. What are the broader impacts of the proposed activity?**
 - Training
 - Diversity
 - Infrastructure
 - Dissemination/Public Awareness
 - Societal Benefits



NSF Sources of Reviewers

- Program Officer's knowledge
- References listed in the proposal
- Google
- Community of Science and other databases
- Reviewer's recommendations
- Investigator's suggestions



Funding Decisions

- Program Officer decision
- Feedback to PI
- Informal and formal notification
- Scope of work and budget discussions



Myths about NSF

- Only funds scholars at elite graduate institutions
- Only funds "famous" academics
- Once declined, you are likely always to be declined
- Only funds "normal science"
- Advisory committees make funding decisions



Reasons for Declinations

- "Trust-me" proposal
- Not feasible
 - Expertise gaps
 - Insufficient funding
 - Too ambitious
- Incremental contribution
- Bad luck



NSF vs. NIH

- NSF tends to be smaller
- NSF is more open to risky, exploratory, paradigm-challenging work
- NSF stresses basic research
- NSF has no scoring system, percentile system
- NSF program officers make funding decisions
- NSF uses "revision encouragement" loosely



Advice

- Learn to love rejection
- Team up
- E-mail or call Program Officer with specific questions
- Encourage dissertation improvement grant proposals (check program first)



Useful to submit even if declined

- Revise and resubmit
- Discover other funding sources
- Forces thinking
- Build relationships
- Receive reviews from experts



QUESTIONS??

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