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## About the Authors

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## NSF Funding Opportunities for Political Science Research

Frank P. Scioli, Jr., *The National Science Foundation*  
James E. Campbell, *The National Science Foundation*

First, this report is to update political scientists on the extent and range of current opportunities for research funding by the National Science Foundation. To the point, things are looking good. Relatedly, we want to encourage submitting carefully constructed proposals for theoretically important and empirically rigorous research. (Read: So no half-baked, trivial, story-telling proposals. Just your best stuff.)

There are two reasons to feel optimistic about funding for political science research and to encourage political scientists to seek NSF support for their research. The first reason for optimism is that the Political Science Program at NSF has done quite well over the last few years. Nowhere is this better reflected than in the program's budget. The budget for the Political Science Program has grown and is continuing to grow. In fiscal year 1985, the program's budget was \$3.3 million. In fiscal year 1992, the current fiscal year, the budget is about \$4.2 million. In the coming fiscal year, the budget for the program is expected to increase again. The Political Science Program's effective budget, if Congress concurs with the

president's budget request, will be something over \$5 million. While not all of these funds are available for new projects (we do have some long-term commitments) about 75% are.

The long-range prospects for the program are as bright as the immediate budget picture. With the reorganization within NSF establishing a directorate of Social,

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*In terms of the budget and in terms of organizational restructuring, political science is doing well in the Foundation.*

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Behavioral and Economic Sciences (disentangling the social sciences from the same directorate that housed biology) and with the reestablishment of the Political Science "rotator" or Associate Program Director's position, we should be even better able to serve the research needs of the discipline.

In terms of the budget and in

terms of organizational restructuring, political science is doing well in the Foundation. One important reason for this success, other than the wisdom of the program's leadership, is the quality of the proposals that we have received. Programs are rewarded for attracting theoretically interesting and methodologically sound proposals. We hope that the recent budget growth and organizational developments encourage more such proposals in the future.

A second reason for optimism is that there are opportunities for funding at NSF that political scientists have yet to exploit fully. Beyond the general call for grant proposals by the Political Science Program, there is a wide variety of specialized programs and initiatives at NSF that seem to be underutilized by political scientists, perhaps because they are not aware of or may need to be reminded of the existence of these opportunities. These programs and initiatives fall into several groups:

(1) Other programs in the Social and Economic Science Division (the Division that houses the Political Science Program). There are six other programs in this division. The largest, as you might guess, is the

Economics Program. Other large programs, of roughly the same size as Political Science, include Sociology and Geography. Multi-discipline programs include Law and Social Science; Decision, Risk and Management Science; and Measurement, Methods and Statistics in the Social Sciences. Many proposals from political scientists to these programs are evaluated jointly. Investigators may suggest joint evaluation, or the program directors may pursue this course independently. While one might suspect that this places a proposal in double jeopardy, it does not appear that these proposals are at any disadvantage. Both programs may chip in or, if one declines, the other may recommend funding. A number of political scientists have pursued joint proposals with the Law and Social Science, Sociology and Economics programs, but have not been as active in the other programs. In particular, more political scientists may want to compete for resources from the Measurement, Methods and Statistics in the Social Sciences Program. Among other things, this program is interested in funding research that develops, applies, or extends methodology for social science research and "research on the evaluation and comparison of existing data bases."

(2) Programs Outside of the Social and Economic Science Division (SES). There are numerous programs and divisions outside the SES division, but two in particular seem possibilities for greater political science activity. One is the Division of International Programs. This is a collection of mostly national or regionally specific programs that, among other things, support cooperative research between scientists in the United States and foreign countries.

A second potential source of additional political science funding is the Directorate of Education and Human Resources, especially the directorate's Undergraduate Science, Engineering and Mathematics Education division. The mission of this division is to promote undergraduate science education, including support for undergraduate course and curriculum development, laboratory (including computer labs) improvement, and the professional development of under-

graduate faculty (through workshops and conferences). Presumably, departments seeking to strengthen the methodological component of their curriculum might receive support from this division. This directorate also includes other divisions and programs that may be of interest, including a program of supporting the development of scientific instructional materials.

(3) Special Initiatives. From time to time, NSF undertakes special cross-disciplinary initiatives, allocating resources for projects on a general subject that may cut across disciplinary and program boundaries. Currently, the initiative that may be of greatest interest to political scientists concerns the "Human Dimen-

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*. . . there are opportunities for funding at NSF that political scientists have yet to exploit fully.*

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sions of Global Change." While the change of particular interest in this initiative pertains to the environment, "global change" is generally construed broadly and may encompass important political changes occurring on a worldwide basis, within or across national borders.

(4) Special Programs. Three sets of special programs may also be of interest. These programs address the research needs of faculty at undergraduate institutions, women and minority faculty members, and graduate students preparing to conduct their dissertation research.

(A) The Research in Undergraduate Institutions Program (RUI) sets aside funds for research by faculty at predominantly undergraduate institutions. The research proposal required for this program is identical to that proposed in the general call for proposals and is reviewed in the standard reviewing process.

(B) Several NSF programs are designed to attract and to retain women and minorities in the sciences. Both women and minorities are eligible for Research Planning

Grants and for Career Advancement Awards. Research Planning Grants are one-time, limited awards for preliminary studies laying the foundation for developing more competitive NSF research proposals. Career Advancement Awards are intended to support experienced investigators to develop new research skills or to undertake a new line of inquiry.

(C) A program that probably most political scientists know about, but underutilize, is Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Awards. These are typically smaller grants (on the order of \$8,000) that support certain aspects of dissertation research but do not allow for stipends to the student. Some social science programs, like geography, receive 35 to 40 proposals a year, while political science annually receives about 20. This is not to say that more proposals would necessarily obtain funding; that depends on the quality of the proposals. However, it seems likely that there are more than 20 political science graduate students beginning work on rigorous, scientifically oriented dissertation research that could benefit from NSF funding for the materials and travel necessary to complete their research.

The above list of opportunities at NSF is by no means exhaustive, and the brief program descriptions are by no means complete. Space prohibits. If you would like to know more about any of these programs, NSF has documents providing more detailed information. We have provided an abbreviated checklist below for some of this literature. These and other NSF publications may also be obtained from: Forms and Publications, National Science Foundation, Washington, DC 20550, or phone (202) 357-7861.

In closing, some advice to those who are contemplating submitting a proposal: (1) Please read the application guides closely and work with your college or university's office for grants and research. They know the ropes. They can tell you what forms need to be filled out and can generally make grant submission a less painful process. (2) If you are submitting a proposal to another program (e.g., in Education and Human Resources), also send a separate copy and cover letter to the Political Science Pro-

gram. We may be able to help see that your proposal is reviewed by appropriate and knowledgeable reviewers and, thereby, gets a fair shake in the process. (3) Finally, if you have questions that your grants people cannot answer or if your college does not have a unit to support the writing of grant proposals, call or Bitnet the Political Science Program at NSF. Our number is (202) 357-7534, and our Bitnet addresses are FSCIOLI@NSF and JCAMPBEL@NSF. Our next target date for proposals is *August 15, 1992*. In another *PS* article, we hope soon to be able to offer some general advice and suggestions on improving proposals.

Below is a list of political science projects recently funded by NSF:

### National Science Foundation Political Science Program

#### Fall 1991 Awards

Paul A. Beck, Ohio State University; Russell J. Dalton, University of California at Irvine; Robert Huckfeldt, Indiana University. Collaborative Research on the Intermediation Process and Political Decision Making.

Henry W. Chappell, University of South Carolina; Thomas Havrilesky, Duke University. Collaborative Research on Politics and Monetary Policy: Evidence from Individual FOMC Members' Reaction Functions.

John R. Freeman, University of Minnesota. International Finance and Democracy.

John R. Hibbing, University of Nebraska. Public Perceptions of the U.S. Congress.

Ole R. Holsti, Duke University; James N. Rosenau, University of Southern California. Collaborative Research on Persistence and Change in the Belief Systems of American Opinion Leaders: A Test of Competing Theories.

Ronald F. Inglehart, University of Michigan. Building a Data Base for Analysis of Global Sociopolitical Change.

Shanto Iyengar, University of California

at Los Angeles. Television Advertising in Political Campaigns: A Study of the 1992 California Senate Races.

Marion R. Just, Wellesley College; Timothy Cook, Williams College; Darrell West, Brown University; Ann Crigler, University of Southern California; Dean Alger, Morehead State University; Montague Kern, Rutgers University. Research at an Undergraduate Institution: The 1992 Presidential Election in Prime Time.

Cynthia S. Kaplan, University of California at Santa Barbara; Henry E. Brady, University of California at Berkeley. Political Participation in Estonia and Russia.

Lawrence R. Jacobs, University of Minnesota. Democracy and Leadership.

Robert O. Keohane, Harvard University; Elinor Ostrom, Indiana University. Linking Local and Global Commons (conference).

Kenneth R. Mayer, University of Wisconsin at Madison. Electoral Cycles in Federal Government Prime Contract Awards.

Robert Powell, University of California at Berkeley. International Relations Theory: A Formal Approach.

John T. Scholz, State University of New York at Stony Brook. Democratic Control Over Tax Enforcement.

Frank C. Zagare, State University of New York at Buffalo. Uncertainty and the Viability of Limited War Options.

#### Doctoral Dissertation Research Support

Rene Lemarchand, Ph.D. Advisor, University of Florida. Kevin A. Hill, Ph.D. Student.

Walter J. Stone, Ph.D. Advisor, University of Colorado, Boulder. Lonna R. Atkeson, Ph.D. Student.

#### Research Experience for Undergraduates

Charles Franklin, Washington University, St. Louis.

James Gibson, University of Houston.

Milton Lodge, State University of New York at Stony Brook.

Arthur Miller, University of Iowa.

Mark Schneider, State University of New York at Stony Brook.

#### Minority Research Initiative: Planning Grant

Patricia Morris, Purdue University.

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### Request for Program Announcements The Political Science Program, National Science Foundation

- Guide to Programs (comprehensive summary of NSF programs)
- Grants for Research and Education in Science and Engineering (general grant application guide)
- Opportunities for Social Scientists (brief overview)
- Research in Undergraduate Institutions
- Research Experiences for Undergraduates
- Undergraduate Faculty Enhancement Program
- Global Change Research Program
- Research Planning Grants and Career Advancement Awards for Women Scientists and Engineers
- NSF Visiting Professorships for Women
- Minority Research Initiation and Career Advancement Awards
- Grants for Improving Doctoral Dissertation Research

Any of these are available from The Political Science Program, Room 336, The National Science Foundation, 1800 G St., NW, Washington, DC 20550.

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### About the Authors

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