



NSF DAY

University of Texas Dallas

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**Division of Social and Economic Sciences**

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



## SBE at NSF

- NSF provides a home for basic SBE research
- NSF's Mission: fund basic research
- Basic research contributes to advancing theoretical understandings or to improving methods



## Two Criteria for Funding

- Intellectual merit (usually the real hurdle for SBE proposal funding)
- Broader impacts (must be addressed)



# Intellectual Merit in SBE Research?

- NSF funds basic research
- NSF funds basic research
- Intellectual merit means increasing knowledge through developing and examining basic theories or methods



## Broader Impacts, Coverage

- Promotes teaching, training, and learning
- Broadens the participation of underrepresented groups
- Enhances infrastructure (international)
- Increases understanding through broad dissemination of results
- Activity benefits society (easy for SBE)



Start with [Http://www.nsf.gov](http://www.nsf.gov)

- Check previous program awards
- Read RFA carefully (if not standard competition)
- Download *Grant Proposal Guide*



# Put Together the Proposal

- Identify intellectual merit (theoretical contribution)
- Describe in as much detail as possible exactly what you want to do
- Make sure your research team has appropriate capabilities
- Describe broader impacts
- Decide where to submit (co-review?)
- E-mail or call appropriate program officer with specific questions



## CAREER's Nature

- Highly competitive (“walk on water”)
- Not the “bar exam” model
- Serious education component
- Not team project
- 5-year, \$400K minima



# Small Grants for Exploratory Research (SGER)

- \$200,000 maximum, 1-year awards
- Must be either
  - Urgent as data are ephemeral, or
  - Highly exploratory (high risk, high payoff)
- Quick turnaround review
- Contact Program Officer before submitting



# **Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences**

## **2 Research Divisions**

**Social and Economic Sciences**

**Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences**



# Cross-Directorate Activities

- Serves both divisions – SES and BCS
- Administers and coordinates programs to increase underrepresented groups in science and engineering
  - Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) Sites
  - Minority Postdoctoral Fellowships
- Supports human resource development and infrastructure improvement
- Provides information on cross-Foundation/cross-cutting programs

**•Program Officer: Jolene Jesse**



# Science and Society

- Ethics and values in science, engineering and technology (SET)
- History and philosophy of SET
- Social studies of SET
- Studies of policy, SET
- Program officers:
  - Ronald Rainger
  - Priscilla Regan



# Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Awards

- **Archaeology**
  - **Cognitive Neuroscience**
  - **Cultural Anthropology**
  - **Decision, Risk & Management Science**
  - **Geography & Regional Science**
  - **Law and Social Science**
  - **Linguistics**
  - **Physical Anthropology**
  - **Political Science**
  - **Science and Technology Studies**
  - **Societal Dimensions of Engineering, Science, and Technology**
  - **Sociology**
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- **Economics**
  - **Human Cognition and Perception**
  - **Methodology, Measurement, & Statistics**



# Human and Social Dynamics (HSD) Priority Area

- First priority area grounded in the Social Sciences
- Invest over 5 Years (2004-2008)
- Focus on dynamic behavior at individual, formal and informal organizational, cultural, and societal level
- Interdisciplinary research
- Next competition: On web fall 2005



**QUESTIONS??**

**Contact Bob O'Connor**

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