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INSTITUTE FOR SOCIETY,  
CULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENT  
VIRGINIA TECH.

## ISCE NEWS FLASH

December 8, 2020



### Be sure to check out two ISCE events coming up in 2021:

- A webinar on online survey methodology on January 27th;
- An event co-sponsored with Virginia State University featuring a speaker from the National Science Foundation on February 24th.

Also, learn more about the **COVID-19 Database of Databases**, available through the Policy Destination Area and University Libraries. See below for details.

Please send any news items to Yancey Crawford

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## Funding Opportunities

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### Call for Proposals for 2021-2022 ISCE Scholars Now Open!

The ISCE Scholars Program provides faculty support for grant proposals in the social sciences, broadly defined, and consistent with ISCE's four thematic areas. Six to eight awards of up to \$30,000 will be awarded for a period of one year, beginning in July 2021. **This year's call encourages team proposals aligned with the University's Transdisciplinary Communities or that address disinformation, inequality or structural racism.** [Click here](#) for the full announcement and application forms.

**Deadline: March 1, 2021**

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### ISCE to Host Session for NIH Funding Opportunity on Social Connectedness & Health

ISCE will be hosting a meeting on Thursday, December 10 at 12 noon for faculty interested in learning more about or pursuing the final call for the NIH funding opportunity, [Research on Biopsychosocial Factors of Social Connectedness and Isolation on Health, Wellbeing, Illness, and Recovery](#) (R01) due in March 2021. If interested, please complete this [brief survey](#) by Thursday, December 10 at 9:00 a.m., so we can send you an invited Zoom link.

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Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

### Health Data for Action

RWJF's Health Data for Action (HD4A) program, managed by AcademyHealth, aims to reduce the barriers often faced in accessing rich data by serving as a conduit between data owners and interested researchers. **RWJF will make data from unique 8 data owners available to researchers at no cost.** Most selected projects will not receive a financial award for personnel or other project-related costs; limited funding up to \$100,000 per project, however, is available for a small number of projects from principal investigators who have not previously received external research funding. [Click here](#) for details and to view the sources of available data.

**Deadline: December 17, 2020**

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**NetGain  
Partnership**

### Call for Concept Notes on Disinformation

The NetGain partnership has issued a Request for Proposals for its Small Grants program, which is managed by the Media Democracy Fund. The program will **support projects on digital threats to democracy, mis/disinformation, and public interest research on dominant platforms** or other projects that advance knowledge on societal harms caused by platform companies or that provide policy, legal, public education, or technological interventions as counterweights to growing platform power. Eligible activities include research, collaborative projects and/or campaigns, virtual convenings, and creative interventions. [Click here](#) for details.

**Deadline: January 11, 2021**

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 **William T. Grant**  
FOUNDATION

### Call for Two Research Opportunities Focused on Youth

The W.T. Grant Foundation is seeking proposals for two of its research programs:

- **Research Grants on Reducing Inequality:** This program seeks studies that build, test and increase understanding of responses to inequality and in youth outcomes. [Click here](#) for details.
- **Research Grants on Improving the Use of Research Evidence:** This program seeks studies about how to improve the use of research evidence in ways that benefit youth. [Click here](#) for details.

**Deadline: January 13, 2021 (both)**

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### Call for Large Educational Research Proposals

The Spencer Foundation has issued a call for proposals for **projects with multiple disciplinary and methodological perspectives, both domestically and internationally, and from scholars at various stages in their career.**

Proposals may span a wide range of topics and disciplines, including anthropology, philosophy, psychology, sociology, law, economics, history, and neuroscience, and may use a wide array of research methods and techniques, including quantitative, qualitative, mixed, ethnographic, design-based, participatory, and historical. Projects ranging from \$125,000-\$500,000 for up to 5 years will be considered. [Click here](#) for details.

**Deadline: January 15, 2021 (Letter of Intent); February 5, 2021 (Proposals)**

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### TESS: Special Competition for Young Investigators

Time-sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences (TESS) is an **NSF-funded initiative in which investigators propose survey experiments to be fielded using a nationally representative Internet platform via NORC's AmeriSpeak® Panel**. To enable early-stage scholars to field larger-scale studies than what TESS normally conducts, TESS has announced a Special Competition for Young Investigators. This competition is limited to graduate students and individuals who are no more than 3 years post-Ph.D. [Click here](#) for details.

**Deadline: January 15, 2021**

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### Diane J. Willis Early Career Award

The American Psychological Foundation is inviting applications for its Div. 37 Diane J. Willis Early Career Award. **A single grant of \$2,000 will be awarded in support of a talented young psychologist** who is making contributions toward informing, advocating for, and improving the mental health and well-being of children and families, especially through policy. [Click here](#) for details.

**Deadline: January 31, 2020**

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### Humanities Summer Stipend

The Virginia Tech Center for Humanities invites all full-time faculty members (including non-tenure-track and tenure-line faculty) to submit a proposal for a Center for Humanities summer grant of \$4,000 for summer 2021. All faculty members are eligible. **Competitive proposals will identify a humanistic, human-centered topic of research to be supported by the grant.** [Click here](#)

for details and the application form.

**Deadline: February 1, 2021**

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### Updated Solicitations with SBE Connections

The National Science Foundation has recently updated/re-issued two solicitations that include significant social, behavioral and economic (SBE) components:

- **Funding for Smart Health/Biomedical Research in Era of AI:** The joint National Science Foundation and National Institutes of Health solicitation, *Smart Health and Biomedical Research in the Era of AI and Advanced Data Science*, has recently been updated. This solicitation supports innovative, high-risk/high-reward biomedical research which can only be achieved with convergent, inter-disciplinary approaches that draw from multiple domains of computer and information science, engineering, mathematics and biomedical, social, behavioral, and economic sciences. **Projects must make fundamental contributions to two or more disciplines** to improve understanding of biomedical and health-related processes and address a key health problem. [Click here](#) for details. An informational webinar will be held on Monday, December 21st from 3:00-4:30 p.m. Join via [Zoom](#); Webinar ID: 161 901 9184; Passcode: nCLU1d. **Deadline: February 16, 2021 (first deadline)**
- **Smart and Connected Communities:** The Smart and Connected Communities (S&CC) program solicitation has been revised for the FY 2021 competition with some significant changes. This program **supports integrative research that addresses fundamental technological and social science dimensions of smart and connected communities and pilots solutions together with communities**. The solicitation will support research projects in three categories: Integrative Research Grants, Planning Grants and proposals to support a Virtual Organization. [Click here](#) for details. **Deadline: February 24, 2021**



## HEALTH AND AGING POLICY FELLOWS

### Information Sessions for Health and Aging Policy Fellows

The [Health and Aging Policy Fellows Program](#) is recruiting for its 2020-2021 cycle. The program provides a unique opportunity for professionals in health and aging to gain the experience and skills necessary to make a positive contribution to the development and implementation of health policies that affect older Americans. The Fellowship is open to professionals in all disciplines and at all career stages. [Information sessions](#), including one on December 16th from 12:00-1:00 p.m., will be held over the next few months.

**Deadline: April 15, 2021**

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### Aligning Systems for Health: Health Care + Public Health + Social Services

### Aligning Systems for Health: Call for Rapid-Cycle Research Proposals

Aligning Systems for Health, led by the Georgia Health Policy Center and supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, released its third call for proposals for rapid-cycle research studies. The call seeks to strengthen the evidence base around approaches and conditions that foster cross-sector alignment of health care, public health, and social services to better address the goals and needs of the people and communities they serve, with a particular focus on how to measure cross-sector alignment. **Proposals will be considered on a rolling basis and should be achievable in nine months or less with up to \$75,000 of support.** For more information, [click here](#).

**Deadline: Rolling**

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## Previously Posted Opportunities

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- **American Council of Learned Societies** - [Digital Extension Grants](#)  
Deadline: December 15, 2020
  - **Spencer Foundation** - [Racial Equity Special Research Grants](#)  
Deadline: December 15, 2020 (Intent to apply); January 12, 2021 (proposal)
  - **Office of Evaluation Services** - [2021 Fellowships](#)  
Deadline: December 13, 2020
  - **NASEM/Ford Foundation** - [Fellowships to Increase Faculty Diversity](#)  
Deadline: December 17, 2020
  - **Administration for Community Living** - [Switzer Research Fellows/Disability Research](#)  
Deadline: December 21, 2020
  - **Center for Retirement Research at Boston College** - [Steven H. Sandell Grant Program](#)  
Deadline: January 31, 2021
  - **Society for Research in Child Development** - Two Opportunities
    - [Policy Fellowships in Child Development](#); Deadline: January 4, 2021
    - [Small Grants Program for Early Career Scholars](#); Deadline: February 10, 2021
  - **Klingenstein Third Generation Foundation** - [Research on Mental Health Access for Youth](#)  
Deadline: January 10, 2021
  - **National Science Foundation** - Two Opportunities
    - [Mid-Career Advancement](#); Deadline: February 1, 2021
    - [Human Networks & Data Science](#); Deadline: February 4, 2021

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## Conferences, Seminars and Events

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- **Register Now! ISCE Webinar: Online Survey Methodology**

ISCE is hosting a virtual webinar on online survey methodology on January 27, 12 – 1 pm, the first of two methods workshops focused on online social science data collection methods. **Three panelists will describe working with Qualtrics, MTurk and AmeriSpeak, including with international respondents and panels.** Join us for moderated discussion with Q&A from experts at Virginia Tech, American Institutes for Research and NORC at University of Chicago. Survey resources at VT will also be presented. [Click here](#) to register. Questions? Contact [Isabel Bradburn](#).

- **Save the Date! ISCE NSF Event: February 24, 2021**

In partnership with Virginia State University, **ISCE is hosting a virtual presentation featuring Dr. Kellina Craig-Henderson**, Deputy Assistant Director of the National Science Foundation's Social, Behavioral and Economic (SBE) Sciences directorate, on Wednesday, February 24th. Dr. Craig-Nelson will discuss future directions for the SBE directorate including new funding opportunities and priorities. Stay tuned for more details after the new year.

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### **Nuclear Energy and COVID-19**

All are invited to a **virtual presentation on December 15th at noon** that highlights an interdisciplinary student team's assessment of the pandemic's impact on the nuclear industry and their policy recommendations. The presentation is the result of a project-based learning course, part of the new Graduate Certificate, "Nuclear Science, Technology and Policy."



[Click here](#) for event flier.

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### **NASEM Culture of Health Workshop**

On December 8-10, 2020, the National Academy of Medicine Culture of Health Program will host a **virtual listening workshop to discuss barriers, models, and opportunities to using community knowledge and strength to drive health equity policy and research**. Three sessions will be held, each from 4:00-6:30 p.m., on Dec. 8, 9 & 10th. [Click here](#) to register and for details including the agenda/speakers for each session. Participants are welcome to join any or all of the free sessions.

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## **Announcements and Faculty News**

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### **New COVID-19 Database of Databases available for your next project!**

Try out the new **COVID-19 Influences and Impacts: A Curated Database of Databases**, a collaboration between the Policy Destination Area and University Libraries.

The aim of the annotated database is to facilitate policy, social, health and environmental sciences research related to the COVID-19 pandemic by providing brief descriptions of relevant, vetted databases and links for accessing data and metadata. Databases can be searched using both open text and keywords as well as by a number of criteria. This tool may especially be of interest to instructors for undergraduate and graduate classes. Members of the VT community may access the database [here](#).

### **SUMMIT to require principal investigator verification**

In mid-December, the Office of Sponsored Programs will implement a **new process in SUMMIT requiring principal investigators to verify information provided in proposals before submission to the sponsor**. Increased compliance and monitoring by federal sponsors require this new step, ensuring that all questions have been answered correctly and mitigating risks for the principal investigator, the research team, and the university. [Read more...](#)

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### **New and modernized RePORT Site to Launch Dec. 13th**

NIH publicly announced preview sites for the new and modernized NIH RePORT and RePORTER web tools earlier this fall. **On December 13, the existing legacy RePORT site will be switched over to the modernized RePORT at the same address, <https://report.nih.gov>**. The modernized RePORTER will be launched early in 2021. [Read more](#) in an NIH Open Mike blog highlighting many of the new features.

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### **Malicious dark web activity unevenly prevalent in free nations, researchers find**

**Eric Jardine**, assistant professor of political science, is an expert in the fields of cybersecurity and the dark web. Jardine and two colleagues explored user activity within the Tor network in a new study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, and found that potentially harmful use within the Tor system is not uniformly spread around the world. [Read more...](#)

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