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INSTITUTE FOR SOCIETY,  
CULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENT  
VIRGINIA TECH.

## ISCE NEWS FLASH

September 29, 2020



**As the first full month of this unusual fall semester comes to a close,**  
we hope your semester is going smoothly and you are staying well.

Please let us know if there are ways ISCE can support your research efforts.

If you have any recent scholarly publications related to COVID-19, be sure to send them to us to include in the ISCE COVID-19 Publication Repository.

Please send any news items to Yancey Crawford  
at [yanceyc3@vt.edu](mailto:yanceyc3@vt.edu) by Friday each week.

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## Funding Opportunities

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### Defending Basic Freedoms

The Herb Block Foundation welcomes applications for its Defending Basic Freedoms program. Grants of up to \$25,000 will be awarded to **projects aimed at safeguarding basic freedoms guaranteed in the Bill of Rights, eliminating any form of prejudice or discrimination, and assisting government agencies in being more accountable to the public.** [Click here](#) for details.

**Deadline: October 6, 2020 (Letter of Intent)**

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The logo for the Sociological Initiatives Foundation features the text "Sociological Initiatives" in a bold, black, sans-serif font, with "Sociological" and "Initiatives" on separate lines. Below it, the word "Foundation" is written in a larger, bold, black, sans-serif font. The background is a colorful geometric pattern of triangles in shades of yellow, orange, red, and blue.

## Sociological Initiatives Foundation

*Linking research to action*

### Sociological Policy Research

The Sociological Initiatives Foundation supports social change by linking research to social action and funds research that investigates laws, policies, institutions, regulations, and normative practices that limit equality in the U.S. Researchers are invited to submit proposals with the potential to improve services and systems and increase positive social and physical conditions through policy-oriented projects. **Priority will be given to projects that explicitly promote racial justice and fairer and more equitable laws, policies and practices.** [Click here](#) for details.

**Deadline: October 15, 2020 (Concept Proposals)**

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**Funding for Storytelling Projects on Tropical Rainforests**

National Geographic Society has issued an RFP seeking Stories of Tropical Rainforests. **Grants of up to \$70,000 will be awarded for storytelling projects that highlight ecosystem-scale stories and solutions-oriented attempts to mitigate or reverse human impacts on these ecosystems.** The opportunity is open to journalists and storytellers (photo, film, text, maps, data visualization), social media influencers, and content creators. Potential topics include Connected Impacts in Cities & Farming Communities; Indigenous Peoples and Traditional Community Voices; and Solutions and Resilience. [Click here](#) for details.

**Deadline: October 21, 2020**

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**Fellowships for Religion, Journalism and International Affairs**

American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) invites applications for fellowships offered by the Luce/ACLS Program in Religion, Journalism & International Affairs. Designed for scholars in all disciplines of the humanities and related social sciences, Luce/ACLS **fellowships support research on any aspect of religion in an international context and encourage scholars to connect their specialist knowledge with journalists and media practitioners.** [Click here](#) for details.

**Deadline: October 28, 2020**

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### Call for Proposals for Education Research

The Spencer Foundation's **Small Research Grants Program** supports **education research projects that will contribute to the improvement of education, broadly conceived, with budgets up to \$50,000 for projects ranging from one to five years.** This program is “field-initiated” in that proposal submissions are not in response to a specific request for a particular research topic, discipline, design, method, or location. [Click here](#) for details. An [applicant webinar](#) will be held on October 14th from 3:00-4:15 p.m.

**Deadline: November 3, 2020**

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### NSF Announces Research on Emerging Technologies for Teaching & Learning Program

"*Research on Emerging Technologies for Teaching and Learning*" (RETTL) is a cross-directorate program, managed by NSF's Education and Human Resources (EHR) and Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE) Directorates, **with participation from** the Engineering (ENG) and **Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBE) Directorates.** Considered an incubator program that provides an opportunity for interdisciplinary teams to try out new ideas that involve an element of risk, it is the new iteration of the former NSF "Cyberlearning" program. Projects are funded for \$850,000. Contact the appropriate directorate to see if your project is a potential fit. [Click here](#) for details.

**First Deadline: January 25, 2021**

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National Institutes of Health  
*Turning Discovery Into Health*

### New RFA Addresses Cancer Risk in Rural Populations

NIH has announced a new request for applications, *Social and Behavioral Intervention Research to Address Modifiable Risk Factors for Cancer in Rural Populations* (R01 Clinical Trial Required). Selected projects will develop, adapt, and test interventions to address risk factors for cancer in rural populations.

**Proposals should focus on primary prevention and assess and address one or more of the social and behavioral risk factors that contribute to cancer disparities in rural populations:** tobacco use; diet, physical activity and weight; alcohol use; UV exposure; and HPV vaccination. [Click here](#) for details.

**Deadline: February 15, 2021 (Optional Letter of Intent); March 15, 2021 (Proposal)**

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## Previously Posted Opportunities

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- **Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study** - [2021-2022 Faculty Fellowships](#)  
Deadline: October 5, 2020
- **VT Center for Peace Studies & Violence Prevention** - [Peacebuilding & Violence Prevention Program](#)  
Deadline: October 15, 2020
- **American Academy of Political & Social Science** - [2021 Moynihan Prize](#)  
Deadline: October 16, 2020
- **National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine** - [Jefferson Science Fellowships](#)  
Deadline: October 16, 2020
- **The Michael J. Fox Foundation** - [Analysis of Patient-Reported outcomes from Fox Insight Data](#)  
Deadline: October 22, 2020 (Pre-proposal)

- iTHRIV - [Community Organization & Research Institute Partnership Grants](#)  
Deadline: October 30, 2020
- IAS/School of Social Science - [Political Mobilization & Social Movements Fellowships](#)  
Deadline: November 1, 2020
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation - [2021-2022 Health Policy Fellows](#)  
Deadline: November 9, 2020

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## Conferences, Seminars and Events

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### Virtual Film Screening & Discussion on Displacement

The VT community is invited to attend a **virtual film screening and discussion of "Songs that Never End,"** a lyrical and poetic meditation on displacement, on **October 8th from 5:30-8:30 p.m.**

The event is sponsored by the Center for Refugee, Migrant and Displacement Studies. Click [here to register](#) and [here for the event flier](#).

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### Elections in the Trump Era

All are invited to attend a presentation by **Rachel Bitecofer, Senior Fellow at the Niskanen Center**, who will be presenting on "*Elections in the Trump Era*," on **Thursday, October 8th at 7:00 p.m.**

[Click here to register](#) and [here](#) for the event details. VT sponsors include the Center for Rhetoric in Society and Women's and Gender



Studies.

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**Interested in learning about how to confront digital extremism?**

The Consortium of Social Science Association recently posted a blog about the dangers of an "infodemic," the spread of false and misleading claims about COVID-19. **To address these concerns, scholars at UC-Irvine have developed six self-paced teaching modules titled “*Confronting Digital Extremism*”** that are intended to raise awareness of extremists’ “digital toolkits,” and also inspire effective means of confronting extremism online. [Click here](#) for details and to access the modules.

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## Announcements and Faculty News

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Robert Wood Johnson Foundation



**HARVARD  
T.H. CHAN**  
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

**Black, Latinx, Native American Households hit hard by COVID-19**

A report from NPR, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health find **African Americans, Latinx and Native Americans are disproportionately more likely to be experiencing financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.** The report, [The Impact of Coronavirus on Households, by Race/Ethnicity](#), is the second in a series based on a survey of nearly 3,500 adults conducted this summer.

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**Public health surveillance is critical to pandemic response**

**Lisa Lee, a VT public health expert,** testified to a U.S. House Committee on Science, Space and



Technology subcommittee on how the U.S. collects, uses and communicates the meaning of health data during the global COVID-19 pandemic. [Read more...](#)

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Questions? Contact Yancey Crawford at [yanceyc3@vt.edu](mailto:yanceyc3@vt.edu).

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