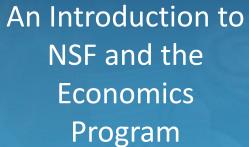# Grant Funding
for Economic Experiments

Panelists: Nancy Lutz, Mary Rigdon, Catherine Eckel, Laura Razzolini
Moderator: Yan Chen

November 11, 2022, North America ESA in Santa Barbara

What is the National Science Foundation?

- Independent Federal Agency

- Funds research in basic science, including economics and other social sciences.

- Must apply through your institution using our official portal and following our official policies (Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide).

- Many opportunities that might fund your project, depending on topic/specifics.

What is the Economics Program?

- NSF's standing program that makes grants in all areas of economics.

- Set budget each year to fund new awards; all proposals compete for funding and we make our decisions to build a balanced award portfolio.

- Three program directors administer the program. Currently that's Nancy Lutz (nlutz@nsf.gov), Kwabena Gyimah-Brempong (kgyimahb@nsf.gov) and Eric Bahel (ebahel@nsf.gov)

- Funding rate for FY22 in our part of NSF

How Do I Find Out More?

- PaPPG and Research.gov help files include the rules and policies.

- NSF By The Numbers for data by Directorate

- Use NSF Advanced Award Search to look at a program's recent awards, or for awards by keyword or researcher.

- Email program directors (one email to all, please).
  - One – two page description of your project, focusing on basic science contribution.
  - Include your questions.
  - Ask if this is a possible fit for their program.

10 Tips From Nancy

- Regular proposals are easier to write than CAREERs.
- Avoid "Trust Me" and "All Done".
- Do have your experimental design.
- How is your work generalizable?
- Don't say "this will be useful for xx policy" if you don't know anything about xx policy.
- Referencing other disciplines? Do unto others as we wish they'd do unto us.
- Suggest lots of reviewers.
- Check your google rank.
- Remember your sponsored programs office may not know social science.
- Don't apply if you can't start the project on time.

Decision, Risk, and Management Sciences

Mary Rigdon
University of Arizona
Center for the Philosophy of Freedom
Department of Political Economy and Moral Science

Mission

The Decision, Risk and Management Sciences program supports scientific research directed at increasing the understanding and effectiveness of **decision making by individuals, groups, organizations, and society.** DRMS funds disciplinary and interdisciplinary research, doctoral dissertation research improvement grants and conferences in the following areas: **judgment and decision making; decision analysis and decision aids; risk analysis, perception and communication; societal and public-policy decision making; management science and organizational design.**

Proposal Evaluation

- Up to 4 peer reviews

- Panel of experts convened for several day meeting

- If reviews are positive, 2 panel members also review

- If reviews are not positive, proposal is triaged

- DRMS panels tend to be extremely diverse group of experts
  - Variety of disciplines: psychology, economics, business, etc.
  - Variety of methods: surveys, field studies, field experiments, lab experiments

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Challenge

- Diversity of the panel

- Having your research question appeal to this wide audience

- Writing with this interdisciplinary group in mind

Successful Proposals

- Clear and interesting hypotheses

- Theoretical guidance helps a lot

- Experimental design is detailed, well thought out, and executable

- Includes a report of results from a pilot study

Some Advice

- Encourage PIs to send a one-page description to Program Officers

    ▶ Bob O'Connor (roconnor@nsf.gov)
    ▶ Tara Behrend (tsbehren@nsf.gov)

- Go to NSF website and look up abstracts of awards; search by keyword, program

- 3 Ps: Project. Person. Place.

- Open Grants for examples (https://www.ogrants.org)

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NSF Other Related Programs

Catherine Eckel

Other programs you might be interested in

- Dissertation Improvement Grant: All the SES programs have them
  - https://www.nsf.gov/sbe/ses/law/lawguide.jsp
- SBE Postdoctoral Research Fellowships (SPRF)
  - https://beta.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/sbe-postdoctoral-research-fellowships-sprf
  - Postdoc submits, US citizens, must identify target host institution
- Build and Broaden: B2
  - https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf22638
  - Supports research and infrastructure at MSIs
- Ethical and Responsible Research:ER2
  - https://beta.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/ethical-responsible-research-er2
  - Doing ethical research, and training ethical researchers
- SBE Research Experiences for Undergraduates Sites (SBE REU Sites)
  - https://beta.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/sbe-research-experiences-undergraduates-sites-sbe
  - For programs, not individual projects; one or several disciplines; theme

Tips On NSF Funding Opportunities

Laura Razzolini

★ What makes a proposal competitive?

Original, focused, realistic, sufficient details about experimental design

★ Tips for writing a competitive proposals

Intellectual merit + Broader impacts (for real), plain English, write for your audience

★ Preparing the proposal

Start early, read the solicitation, review abstracts of funded awards, secure IRB approval

Other Foundations and Industry Funding

Yan Chen
University of Michigan

- Foundations
  - Russell Sage; Templeton; Sloan
- Process
  - White paper
  - Invitation to submit full proposal
  - Formal review process: reports

- Industry
  - Google: Research Scholar Program
  - Facebook: Misinformation & Polarization
  - Amazon: Research Awards
- Pros and Cons (compared to foundations)
  - Shorter proposals (2-8 pages)
  - Good to have an internal contact
  - Opaque/informal review process
  - If rejected, no feedback
  - If funded, unrestricted gift