Craig Calhoun Named New President of SSRC

Craig Calhoun, professor of sociology and history and chair of the sociology department at New York University, as the organization’s president. The SSRC was founded more than 75 years ago to improve interdisciplinary research in the social sciences. Working in partnership with national and international funders including the Ford, MacArthur, Mellon and Rockefeller Foundations, it focuses research on key public issues, supports advanced education of younger scientists in areas of high need and organizes networks of leading scholars to develop fields of emerging importance. Current initiatives address transitions to democracy, nationalism and ethnic conflict, technological innovation, the transformation of higher education in the US and new challenges for global peace and security. Building collaborative relations on every continent, the SSRC has been especially influential in the internationalization of social science.

Mr. Calhoun describes the Council as the “world’s leading institutional base for interdisciplinary and international social science.” It is well positioned, he suggests, to play an important role both in improving social science research and in bringing social science to bear on crucial public issues. “Crisis from the Balkans to the Horn of Africa, shifting US relations with East Asia, the globalization of capitalism and the media and the development of new local cultural and political movements around the world,” he explains, “all call for serious and innovative social science that transcends disciplines and national boundaries.”

Paul B. Baltes, chair of the Council’s Board of Directors, pointed out that Mr. Calhoun “continues the long tradition of SSRC presidents who are outstanding leaders” (continued on page 2).

Students Seek Some Reality Amid the Math of Economics

by Michael M. Weinstein

On my first day as a graduate student in economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the professor introduced the discipline by intoning, “All of economics is a subset of the theory of separating hyperplanes.” (You don’t want to know what that mathematical term means.)

I started to giggle. But then I looked around. Everyone else was scribbling notes. So I wiped the smirk off my face and muttered, only to myself, that I had thought economics was about the plight of people living in sub-Saharan Africa or the impact of technological change on living standards. Apparently I thought wrong—and wondered whether I had made a terrible career choice.

Decades later, I find economics graduate students asking themselves the same question: where is the economic substance in graduate economics programs? I recently joined several dozen first- and second-year students at a conference in Airlie, Va., that was convened to help them find their way toward applied economics—analyzing problems that real people face. During the weeklong conference, organized by the Social Science Research Council and paid for by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, eminent scholars presented lectures on applied topics ranging from the plight of low-income mothers under the 1996 welfare law to the long-term determinants of innovation.

To noneconomists, these lectures would no doubt appear heavily theoretical, laced with mathematical and statistical derivations. But at least since the writings of Paul Samuelson, Nobel laureate from MIT, in the 1940s, economists have used large doses of mathematics to create insight and clarity.

The difference at Airlie was that the object of the lectures was to improve understanding of the relationships among people rather than among mathematical symbols. After the lectures students met in small groups to (continued on page 2)
Craig Calhoun Named New President of SSRC
(continued from page 1)

in the American social sciences” Mr. Calhoun succeeds Kenneth Prewitt, who left the Council to direct the United States Bureau of the Census, and Interim President Orville Gilbert Brim, who previously headed the Russell Sage Foundation and the Foundation for Child Development.

An eyewitness to the Tiananmen Square protests of 1989, Mr. Calhoun wrote a prize-winning book about Chinese students and the struggle for democracy, Neither Gods Nor Emperors (California, 1994). He is also a leading expert on nationalism and conflicts of culture and identity, themes that shape two of his other recent books: Nationalism (Minnesota, 1997) and Critical Social Theory: Culture, History and the Challenge of Difference (Blackwell, 1995).

Mr. Calhoun has published several other books and more than 50 scholarly articles and essays on topics from the 19th-century industrial revolution to the impact of computer technology and the impact of tort law on business corporations. As a theorist, he has been especially concerned with bridging gaps between historical and cultural research and social science explanations. Mr. Calhoun is editor-in-chief of the forthcoming Oxford Dictionary of the Social Sciences and is completing a five-year term as editor of the journal Sociological Theory.

Before coming to New York University, Mr. Calhoun received his doctorate from Oxford University and taught at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, from 1977 to 1996. There he also served as dean of the graduate school and was the founding director of the University Center for International Studies. A sociologist with a background in anthropology and history, Mr. Calhoun has taught and conducted research in Europe, Africa and East Asia, particularly China.

Mr. Baltes, who also directs the Center for Lifespan Psychology at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development in Berlin, noted that Mr. Calhoun “possesses a deep knowledge of the diversity of intellectual streams that characterize the social sciences around the world. In this spirit, he embodies the Council’s vision that its future as an institutional force will be intimately connected with its international presence and ability to enlist and nurture the best of social science around the world.”

Students Seek Some Reality Amid the Math Of Economics
(continued from page 1)

pose follow-up questions and design research strategies. The idea was to motivate them to do applied work and give them a head start in developing an applied focus for their Ph.D. theses.

David Weiman, the former director of the Council’s program and now at the Russell Sage Foundation, hopes that the summer conference and research grants that the Council provides can offset what he sees as a lamentable tendency among young graduate students. Too often, he says, they allow mathematical technique to dictate the questions they ask rather than first seizing a pressing social question from which the choice of appropriate technique would then follow. Graduate programs, he says “emphasize teaching students how to prove theorems, misleading them into thinking that economics is a deductive exercise, the mere application of mathematical logic.”

Prof. Alan Blinder of Princeton University considers it damning to some of the country’s most prestigious graduate programs that their students need to flock to summer camp to find an outlet for their interest in applied work. Mr. Blinder, a former member of President Clinton’s Council of Economic Advisers and a driving force behind the Council’s efforts to promote applied economics, said in a recent interview that too much of what young scholars write these days is “theoretical drivel, mathematically elegant but not about anything real.” He attributes the problem in part to the first year of training, or what he calls mathematics boot camp, during which students are handed a steady diet of theory but not
taught to connect it to the real world. They soon forget the issues that attracted them to economics.

Mr. Blinder makes an important distinction. He remains scrupulously agnostic over whether graduate training is overly theoretical. "That's a tough issue." But he is unwavering when he criticizes the training as "increasingly aloof and self-referential."

Indeed, the students at Airlie seemed surprisingly unfamiliar with many current economic issues. Chatting at lunch with a half-dozen of so of the graduate students, a guest lecturer referred to the earned-income tax credit as the E.I.T.C., the country's most successful anti-poverty program next to Social Security. "What's that," one student asked. Nor could many of the students distinguish Medicare from Medicaid or demonstrate familiarity with simple facts about the American economy. They had studied the theory of financial markets, but not its connection to the crisis sweeping through Asia.

Many of these students admitted that they do not read newspapers nor do many see much of a connection between knowledge of economic reality or government policies and their chosen course of study.

Gary Burtless of the Brookings Institution lectured the group about the economic factors that determine when people decide to retire. I joined a half-dozen students in their follow-up session. The students were asked what interesting questions Mr. Burtless's lecture provoked. After a slightly awkward silence, one student launched into the speculation that the group could develop a "two-sector general equilibrium model" that could be tweaked in this or that direction. When the students were asked again to pose questions, not design models, the conversation drifted once more toward mathematical modeling.

So has graduate economics training run off the rails? There is another side. Economics professors and graduates from the very schools—Michigan, MIT, Columbia, Stanford, Wisconsin, Harvard, Colorado, University of Pennsylvania, New York University—

that supplied students for the conference do a great deal of excellent applied work. Compared with 20 or even 10 years ago, there has been an explosion in the number of academics who are consultants to think tanks for policy analysis, corporations and Government agencies.

Franklin Fisher of MIT is the Justice Department's chief economist in the Microsoft antitrust trial; his colleague, Richard Schmalensee, is Microsoft's chief economist. Harvard's Lawrence H. Summers is Secretary of the Treasury; Stanford's Joseph Stiglitz is senior vice president of the World Bank; MIT's Stanley Fischer is deputy managing director of the International Monetary Fund. Harvard's Lawrence F. Katz and Princeton's Alan Krueger designed labor-force policies for the Clinton Administration. Harvard's David Ellwood designed President Clinton's original welfare proposal.

Research economists at the influential think tanks and nonprofit research organizations, like the Brookings Institution and the American Enterprise Institute, were trained at many of the same graduate programs feeding students to the council's summer conference. The National Bureau of Economic Research, led by Prof. Martin Feldstein of Harvard, turns out hundreds of papers each year on applied topics by some of the nation's best academic economists.

Claudia Goldin, an economic historian at Harvard and a prolific author of reports for the bureau, says that "applied economics is perfectly healthy and fine, at least at the better graduate programs." Her point is that students at the major Ph.D. programs do not have to look very far to find faculty heavily involved in applied research to serve as role models and advisers. But Ms. Goldin does echo part of Mr. Blinder's anxiety that the first year of courses can be relentlessly abstract, creating at least a temporary barrier to those who started out thinking they want something applied.

Then perhaps economics has stumbled onto an unwittingly workable lifecycle for many academics. During the first couple of years of training, professors pile on a formidable amount of abstract theory at the only time that students can study uninterrupted at the feet of their masters. But, Mr. Blinder observes, as professors age, they turn increasingly to applied subjects. Though graduate programs make it hard for students to follow applied interests early on, many eventually find their way.

Even so, problems remain. Many of the students at Airlie complained that their Ph.D. programs provided few clues on how to do applied research and even less encouragement. That, Mr. Blinder says, may contribute to a growing anxiety, pinpointed in 1991 by a commission appointed by the American Economic Association, that Ph.D. programs are not attracting their share of the brightest undergraduates.

The increasingly sterile nature of early courses may be driving many undergraduates to other disciplines. Mr. Weiman's and Mr. Blinder's goal is to shorten the time it takes graduate students to tackle the applied problems that captivated them as undergraduates.

Neither Mr. Blinder nor Mr. Weiman are calling for wholesale change in graduate training. Economics is heavily mathematical and usefully so. But early training may have evolved to a dysfunctional extreme. Prof. Lawrence J. White of the Stern School of Business at New York University observes, "It's ironic that economists, who make their living telling everyone else what's efficient, can't figure out whether their own educational process is efficient."

Michael M. Weinstein formerly wrote the "Economic Scene" column for the New York Times; he is now a member of the paper's editorial board. He previously taught economics at Haverford College. Copyright©1999 by the New York Times Co. Reprinted by permission.
Mr. Michael M. Weinstein  
Editorial Board  
The New York Times  

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

I commend your article “Students Seek Some Reality Amid the Math of Economics” and want to offer some comments on it. I have an unusual and perhaps unique perspective on this issue as I am one of three co-authors of a leading graduate text in microeconomic theory (Mas-Colell, Whinston and Green, Microeconomic Theory, Oxford University Press, 1995), and teach two first-year graduate courses on this subject at Harvard. In the economics department, where I teach the required first-year theory course with three of my colleagues, we proceed precisely as described in your article. My other course, which is offered to all doctoral students at Harvard except those in the economics Ph.D. program, the same theoretical material is presented along with a series of applied papers, so that the theory can be seen in action. I believe that the latter method of teaching should be adopted by the economics course and by other economics Ph.D. programs, because it is actually a better way of learning theory. There are, however, some barriers to changing the mode of instruction and learning in first-year economic theory courses. I hope to add to the insights in your article by explaining how these barriers arose and what we can do about it as a profession.

Before going forward I should say that I am proud of our book and of the influence it has had on the teaching of economics. Nevertheless, my views on the structure of first-year theory courses changed as a result of my experience as provost of the university, which just preceded our book’s publication. As provost, I had extensive contact with many students and graduate programs beyond economics (public policy, government, business, public health, etc.). I realized that a good, rigorous first-year course in economics is important to all those who would be using economics in their research, even though they are not economists themselves. Such students are not well served by “intermediate theory” courses, nor are courses based on books such as ours quite right. Neither of these approaches prepares them to use economic theory in the way that most of them will require. Knowledge not used is knowledge quickly lost.

As a result of this experience I created a new course in economic theory, at the same level as the economics department’s course but with a different focus. In the new course each topic is presented by means of an application. The idea of the course is to learn the theory by seeing how it is used, and how it has advanced applied economics. A typical lecture goes as follows: Here is a real economics problem, now what concepts and what methods do you need to solve it? How does the theory help you organize your data? Does the theory help you decide what data to collect? How does the theory point out pitfalls in data collection or interpretation?

It is essential to recognize that lecture time, and the students’ studying time, are scarce resources. Because I concentrate more on how the theory is used, I must omit some material that is extensively covered in the pure theory course. I deliberately spend little time on methods of “proving” mathematical results. I insist that students understand the results and be able to use them, but not that they can offer mathematical arguments, however elegant these might be.

Now I want to shed some light on how the economics profession got into the situation you describe and what we can do to get out of it. The problem has three main sources:
Absence of collegial pressure: Economics departments tend to be collegial places. Success in the marketplace and in the halls of government, and emulation by other social sciences in academe, leads to a certain contentment with the status quo. Economics departments have few of the doctrinal or disciplinary disputes that often tear humanities departments apart. Theory is left to the theorists to teach. Applied economists, partially out of respect for their theorist colleagues, do not press hard enough to influence the theoretical training that their own future students receive in the first year.

Absence of student pressure: The “general examination,” a milestone that marks the progress of a student from the introductory phase of training into the specialist stage, also plays an important role in shaping first-year theory courses. As long as the general examination in economic theory is set by the same people who teach the first-year theory courses, students will want to take a course that mirrors, as closely as possible, the material that they can expect on that exam. Students would complain quickly and loudly if they were examined on different material than they were taught, or even on the same material but in a different style. Instead of focusing on the long-run benefits of the theory course they are forced to take, students will accept, and even demand, the course that best prepares them for their general exam.

Absence of market pressure: The job market for new Ph.D.’s does not exert any discipline on the first-year teaching program. Economists might believe that better trained students would do better on the job market, and the urge to have one’s students succeed would push departments to change the way they organize their programs. The fact that this just does not happen is the great irony that your article points out. Perhaps the connection between first-year theory courses and finished dissertations is too remote. Moreover, as long as no major economics department breaks the mold, there is no point of comparison and therefore no competitive pressure for change.

I propose the following remedies:

First, departments should change their general examination policy. The exam should be set by a cross-section of the members of the department and should not be the exclusive province of the theorists. The goal of the exam should be to see whether the students have the preparation in theory required to read articles in the major economics journals, which is what they will have to do as they go on in their studies. Once the exam is structured in this way, student pressure will develop to make the courses an effective preparation for it.

Second, a good textbook and appropriate other teaching materials should be written and designed specifically for a course such as the one I have described. When the leading candidates for a text are rather abstract, proof-oriented books, it is hard for the courses to be very different.

Third, more articles like yours need to be written and more gatherings such as the Airlie conference you report on should take place. How about a follow-up meeting for second- and third-year students? Only they can report to their faculty mentors on the efficacy of their preparations.

I am sending a copy of this letter to some of the people mentioned in your article, in the hope of keeping the conversation going. My department at Harvard will be reviewing its first-year theory courses this year, and I will be trying to push them in the directions indicated above. Perhaps some other leading departments are doing likewise. Once this educational innovation gathers some momentum, economic theory would predict that competitive pressures will increase. The market will then converge to a new and better equilibrium.

Again let me say how much I appreciated your article.

Yours sincerely,
Jerry R. Green
he call to scholarly collaboration in the social sciences is a familiar one these days. For both political and intellectual reasons, foundations, donor agencies and scientific organizations all encourage more collaboration between scholars from different parts of the world. However, in the United States at least, institutional reward systems—tenure, promotion and disciplinary status—focus almost completely on the individual, sometimes even seeing collaborative work as indicative of inadequacy. There is substantial variation within the social sciences, with some fields, e.g., clinical psychology and physical anthropology, having a long tradition of team work (sometimes across national boundaries), and others, like political science and history, far more prone to privilege the image of the individual scholar. With every additional call to collaborate we realize that we still know very little about the basic qualities of collaboration——how it is done, how it is done well and when it can become self-sustaining. In the case of international collaboration, especially between scholars and institutions from North and South, we must also consider how the social elements of interaction are complicated by the political economy of difference.

A year ago the Council established an inter-regional working group on international scholarly collaboration to explore how a fuller understanding of the nature and form of international scholarly collaboration might benefit academia, institutions and individuals in practical ways, and draw attention to examples of unequal and asymmetric international scholarly relations. Following two planning meetings held in August 1998 and April 1999, the working group decided to identify and examine select cases of North-South collaborations, paying special attention to the processes of collaboration. The working group is preparing reports on four cases of international collaboration, ranging from interinstitutional linkages to interpersonal ones.

As a necessary complement to these studies, we outline below a broad quantitative view of the scope of collaborative research in the social sciences. The standard technique is to count jointly authored articles and books, even though it is clear that joint authorship as a index undercounts the universe of collaborative activities gives no indication of the process and mechanisms by which collaboration took place and offers no insight into power dynamics between the researchers.

The most comprehensive database available for the study of bibliometric statistics in the social sciences is the Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI), published by the privately owned and US-based Institute of Scientific Information (ISI). The SSCI provides bibliographic information—including cited references—in a print version for the years 1956-1980 and a CD-ROM version from 1980 onward. This database now covers 1,737 international journals in the social sciences, of which the great majority are drawn from the United States and Western Europe; very few non-European-language journals are included. In addition, the structure of the SSCI database only allows for the selection of certain fields (author name, title name, journal name, cited references, authors' addresses and their Boolean combinations), and is not organized under subject headings, further reducing its utility.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Total Articles 1985</th>
<th>Co-Authorships</th>
<th>Int’l Co-Authorships</th>
<th>Total Articles 1995</th>
<th>Co-Authorships</th>
<th>Int’l Co-Authorships</th>
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<tr>
<td>WOMEN’S STUDIES</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
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<td>24</td>
<td>284</td>
<td>105</td>
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Notes. Total articles based on 50 selected journals and 50 selected countries. All data from the SSCI.
Table 2 International collaborations by world regions:
anthropology and area studies, 1985 and 1995

<table>
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<th>Field and Year</th>
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<th>Anthropology 1995</th>
<th>Area Studies 1985</th>
<th>Area Studies 1995</th>
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<td>Int’l Collaborations</td>
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<td>51</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>North-North</td>
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<td>North-South</td>
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<td>South-South</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Note: All 50 anthropology and 35 area studies journals indexed in the SSCI were included.

Taking anthropology first, we found there was a slight drop in the proportion of jointly published articles to all articles, from 47% to 44%. One-quarter of all articles were the product of international collaboration in both time periods. In other words, 50% of all collaborations involved scholars from two or more countries. Three-fourths of all international collaborations were North-South and the remaining number North-North. South-South collaborations were nonexistent.

In the area studies field, with far fewer articles, we found that the proportion of jointly-authored articles increased over time (from 11% to 20%) while the number of international collaborations as a proportion of all collaborations did not drop below 50% in the time period studied. International collaborations in this area were even more biased toward North-South interactions—over 80% of all international collaborations in the two time periods surveyed. Here too, South-South collaborations were nonexistent.

Breaking down these numbers by journal, the majority of international collaborations in anthropology were concentrated in three journals, American Journal of Human Biology, American Journal of Physical Anthropology and Journal of Human Evolution. All three journals straddle the social and physical sciences, with a clear orientation toward the latter. It should not surprise us to find that patterns of scholarly practice mimic patterns typical of the hard sciences, with an emphasis on team work and joint publications. In the area studies field, nearly all the international joint publications were found in the journals Asian Survey, EuropeAsia Studies and Journal of International Affairs.

How reliable are these findings? Besides the limitations described earlier, the SSCI database also ignores the increasing amount of scholarship that comes out of the nongovernmental sector. Not all NGO publications qualify as academic scholarship, and even less of this work is produced following academic norms of reliability (e.g., peer review), but there is still much that does qualify as social science, is produced by practicing social
scientists and often has far more impact than much that comes out of social science journals. We hope some of these limitations may be addressed in the ongoing discussions at the National Science Foundation to set up a social science database similar to its Science and Technology Indicators.5

All of this goes to say that whatever results we might draw from quantitative studies are likely to undercount the degree of collaboration. But quantitative studies can only give us a broad sketch of the trends. We still need to understand how collaboration takes place, why it fails or succeeds and how successful collaboration can be sustained over time. These are precisely the questions being addressed by the Council's working group on international scholarly collaboration.

The authors are, respectively, program director and program assistant, South Asia and Southeast Asia programs, and act as staff to the Working Group on International Scholarly Collaboration. The authors would like to thank Olle Persson and Diana Hicks for their help in preparing this article.

1 Working group members are Paul Drake, University of California, San Diego; David Ludden, University of Pennsylvania; Georges Nzongola, Howard University; Sujata Patel; University of Pune; Lilia Shevtsova, Carnegie Endowment, Moscow.

2 These cases are the Nordic Africa Institute; the Indo-Dutch program on Alternatives in Development; the NEH regional literatures project, University of Chicago; and the SSR C-ACLS Joint Committee on Latin American Studies.

3 This point is made in Goran Melin and Olle Persson, "Studying research collaboration using co-authorships" Scientometrics 36, 3 (1996): 363-365.

4 Other limitations include inconsistencies in country names (e.g., R ussia listed as USSR and Senegal as Senegambia in 1985), journal entries (e.g., Antipode was not listed until after 1985, Journal of Comparative Psychology was not included in 1995) and multiple listings (e.g., Social Dynamics is included in both the anthropology and area studies lists).

5 Melin and Persson, "Studying research collaboration."

6 For some of the issues being considered see Diana Hicks' presentation to the National Science Foundation, "New bibliometric indicators for the social sciences" February 25, 1999, mimeo.

Council Announces New Working Group on Religion, Immigration and Civic Life

In June 1999 the Council received a grant for $930,000 from the Pew Charitable Trusts to establish a new Working Group on Religion, Immigration and Civil Life. The group, which will develop theoretical understandings and support research on the role of religion in the incorporation of immigrants into U.S. society, is a collaborative project of the International Migration and Culture, Health and Human Development Programs. The grant will support one year of predoctoral and postdoctoral fellowships (see announcement on page 26) and three years of research planning activities linked to those of the parent programs.

Despite a respected tradition of social science research and writing about the relation between immigration and religion (Oscar Handlin's influential chapter on religion in The Uprooted, for example, or Will Herberg's classic Protestant-Catholic-Jew: An Essay in American Religious Sociology, both from the 1950s), consideration of the role of religion in immigrant incorporation has been strikingly limited in contemporary scholarship. Three recently published and otherwise comprehensive textbooks on post-1965 immigration, as well as the volume most widely used as an introduction to the subject in college courses, contain only passing reference to religion. Even the volume that the SSR C Program on International Migration has prepared to serve as a comprehensive review and assessment of the state of theory in U.S. immigration studies (The Handbook of International Migration, eds. Charles Hirschman, Josh DeWind and Philip Kasinitz, just published by Russell Sage, see p. 25) does not take up religious issues.

One result of the omission of religion from immigration scholarship has been incomplete theoretical explanations of immigrant incorporation into U.S. social life. While single and multigroup ethnographies have illustrated the centrality of churches in particular immigrant communities, the contributions that such studies might make to broader theoretical debates about immigrant incorporation (related to labor market entry, gender adjustment within immigrant families, school performance and so on) have not yet been systematically considered.

Likewise, members of the Council's Working Group on Ethnic Customs, Assimilation and American Law—an interdisciplinary group of legal scholars, political theorists, social psychologists and anthropologists, who are investigating and seeking to clarify challenges that multiculturalism (or pluralism) pose within a liberal democracy—have not as yet considered conflicts related to the diverse religious practices of Asian, African, Mexican, Latin American and Caribbean immigrant populations in the U.S. It is apparent, however, that questions prompted by such practices lie at the intersection of legal and constitutional theory, civic life and the plurality of immigrant groups and family practices that characterize contemporary America.
Increasing Support for Third Country Comparative Research

by Richard J. Samuels

It is time for U.S. universities and educational funders to think more broadly about the way they support research in comparative politics. Comparativists in U.S. political science departments usually make a critical decision in the transition from the dissertation project to the second substantive research project: Either we follow our substantive/theoretical interests to a new geographic venue, or we roam across the same real estate examining a different substantive/theoretical issue. David Laitin has observed correctly1 that most comparativists head off to find a second problem to solve on the same soil, remaining more closely identified with the country or region where they undertook their first extensive field research (C1) than with the questions they asked there.

Either implicitly or explicitly, comparativists compare C1 with their home country (C2). Since many practicing comparativists are Americans, the United States becomes a common C2. In this essay I want to follow up some preliminary discussions held recently under the auspices of the Social Science Research Council and the Abe Fellowship Program concerning the special problems faced by that smaller number of specialists who eventually venture further afield and apply their hard-earned C1 expertise and tacit C2 knowledge to a new, third case (C3). This may happen at any time in a comparativist’s career and is as consequential for the scholar and his or her home department as is the choice to follow theory or regional specialization in second projects.

The C3 problem is not everyone’s. The language and cultural skills of Arabists or Latin Americanists are portable in ways that others can only envy. Even Sinologists have multiple venues in which to apply their skills. Many Europeanists, for their part, seem to have little difficulty engaging materials from three or more national cases. Note, for example, the success with which Gregory Luebbert reviewed the transformation of social coalitions across all of interwar Europe.

C3 is a particular problem for those comparativists who specialize in countries like Japan, Korea, Turkey, India or Russia, where the ratio of investment in language and contextual learning to
the opportunities for their application is particularly high. There is a double whammy in these cases. It takes considerably longer to acquire C1 expertise and, with respect to many analytic questions, there are many fewer places to apply it. When starting a new project, these “high ratio” comparativists may have little time or energy left for duplicating the detailed learning they did when they began working on their first country.

Over the course of a career, therefore, many such scholars write single country case studies in seriatim. They might write an initial book on The Politics of Subject X in C1. This positions them to become one of two kinds of niche players. Either they become the “go to” author for a chapter on Subject X in a book on C1 or the author of choice for the chapter on C1 in the edited volume on Subject X. This same process can be repeated after the author’s second book: The Politics of Subject Y in C1. In African studies, as Laitin pointed out, this meant that scholars who started out working on nation-building in the 1960s became specialists on debt in the 1970s, democratization in the 1980s and failed states in the 1990s. The sorts of C1 and (at least tacit) C2 contributions (i.e., books spun off into chapters in edited volumes) that result from such intraregional roaming are certain to be contextually deep. But they may not be conceptually broad, and in a discipline that celebrates breadth and depth as one route to fuller theory, such contributions are apt to be discounted heavily.

Whether because their work finds so consistently limited a niche or because they grow bored with work on the same country, some area specialists have begun to get restless. Some have forsaken their country studies and embarked theoretical pursuits. Others in greater numbers than ever are reaching out to third and fourth cases. But moving from C1 to C3 is fraught with peril—both for the field and the researcher. The field risks losing critical expertise as its deep area specialists migrate to new venues. Researchers risk becoming dilettantes who know more and more about less and less. But to the extent that there is a potential payoff in better theory, the incentive to migrate remains.

The path of professional migration from C1 to C3 varies with the kinds of questions that interest the researcher and with the sorts of analytic skills s/he has acquired. Two extremes frame the issue of how well defined research questions must be before C3 comparisons can properly be made. If a researcher is interested in many case, many variable, “large N” research problems, advanced “quantoidal” training is undoubtedly more important than language or deep cultural understanding. Here the issue is about preparation for “Cn” cases—where n can be in the dozens or more. While the researcher may need the best multivariate statistical training money can buy, this is not the C3 problem I have identified or am trying to solve.

If, on the other hand, the researcher is a “narratoidal” process-tracer, then s/he has to make a tough choice between dependence on English-language sources and investing in learning an additional foreign language. The choice is not always easy or obvious. Some—particularly those armed with specific questions derived from a well-designed concepts wrapped in a coherent theory—will find that English language sources are sufficient to allow an informed rough sketch of the situation in C3. The researcher will hold the sketch up against the more detailed account of C1 and (typically) the United States. This often works quite nicely as long as the researcher then submits drafts to C3 researchers who can read and critique it to prevent fatal misinterpretation. He/she can generate reasonable hypotheses and identify relationships that the standard C1-C2 pairing might miss.

Others (particularly those on a more inductive hunt for parallels and differences, and with a somewhat greater threshold for the frustration of intellectual culs-de-sac) are likely to need direct access to C3 language materials. How they get that access depends in large part upon the problem they are studying. If their process-tracing is particularly fine-grained (e.g., comparative study of decisions to extend suffrage or redistrict electoral systems or of social policy formation), there may not be
secondary sources available in English. If, on the other hand, the research is targeting particularly well-documented cases (e.g., decisions for war and peace), there may be better prospects for the non-speaker of "C3-ese." Researchers with the latter sorts of projects can use secondary material and be relatively independent, while those with projects of the former type will need research assistance, and hence are likely to be more senior scholars.

There are many roads to C3 research. Different scholars follow different trajectories because different questions demand different approaches. Some projects require "thin" area skills, while others require "thick" area skills. That is, in some cases language fluency and cultural intimacy are the sine qua non for success, while in others a few months' visit will suffice to get specific answers to specific questions. For example, John Campbell claims that "for many kinds of research, one would get 75 percent of the value of the third case in three or four weeks of reading and traveling."

On the other hand, there are projects that have "thick" or "thin" theoretical ambitions. Many journalists reside where thin area skills meet thin theoretical ambition. Barrington Moore lived where thick area knowledge meets thick theory. So do Theda Skocpol and Avner Greif. This is the realm of both historical sociology and narrative game theory. Clifford Geertz and the political anthropologists he inspired value detailed description over grandiose theory. So do Michel Crozier, focus intensely upon single bureaucratic institutions. Gary Cox and other students of comparative electoral systems value coherent, deductive theory over excessive description. The range of routes toward C3 can be mapped as follows.

Even if we would prefer living in one of the three ideal type corners where one or both of our central pursuits is "thick," most comparatists live in a middle neighborhood where most theorizing neither explains history across centuries for multiple countries nor posts a parsimonious and universal explanation for political behavior. Instead, most of us try to provide theoretically sensitive explanations built upon close examination of empirical cases.

But if it is that "doubly thick" variant of C3 we are pursuing, there may be two ways to get there. The most common route—and likely the one taken by incumbents like Barrington Moore and Peter Gourevitch—requires reliance on C3 research assistants and other English-speaking local interlocutors. This option may be more available to senior scholars than to dissertation students. But career stage ought to be a second order problem. Levels of expertise must first be matched to particular research agendas. Well trained and properly funded junior researchers certainly can complete contextually rich and theoretically informed C3 research. In a recent presidential mis-

sive, the APSA's David Collier saw a "career sequence that moves from a single-country dissertation to multi-country research" as both common and logical, and while this is certainly has been the path many have trod (myself included), I wonder if one size fits all.

It is instructive to look closely at those multicountry comparisons that include a close analysis of the case about which the scholar has the greatest expertise—i.e., C1—that work best and least well. In Japanese studies, for example, there are several studies that exemplify this sort of C3 project. Few are by political scientists, however. Robert Cole's study of auto workers in Japan, Sweden and the United States is a splendid example of clear thinking across sometimes unexplored cases—but Cole is an industrial sociologist.

Gregory Kaza's study of mass organizations under authoritarianism is the best example of such a study by a political scientist. Each regional or area sub-field can take its own C3 census.

As I have already suggested, few comparative studies have been broader or more influential than Barrington Moore's Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy. We know that this was not because Moore mastered five foreign languages—or even because he got every case right. Theda Skocpol made a similarly bold effort in her study of revolutions, without pretending to master each case in the detail expected of an area specialist. French specialist John Zysman included a detailed Japanese case in order to generalize his argument about the importance of financial systems in politics. That none of these scholars' efforts satisfied every area specialist does not detract from their intellectual and analytical impact.

How can we make more of this happen, should we wish to do so? The obvious place to start is the graduate training programs. So-called "broadening grants" are already an important color on the SSRC palette. Collier's letter warns that adding national cases to dissertations has been frustrated by the practical and intellectual limitations of dissertation writers. There are other, less obvious possibilities. Foundations might consider grants to research institutes that encourage the sorts of team-teaching or interdisciplinary research that nurture exploration of new cases. Faculty who reside in functionally defined research institutions (e.g., Social Policy Research Centers, Centers for Security Studies, Research Centers for the Study of Elections, Survey Research Centers) as well as in area centers might be identified and rewarded with seed funding. So might scholars from different regions or subfields who team-teach graduate research seminars. Others scholars could be provided summer grants to visit dissertation students they supervise who are doing field research in third countries. They might be given support to deliver papers and serve as discussants on panels at professional meetings in countries they have not yet studied firsthand.

In short, we should nurture networks that nudge the serendipity of scholarly inquiry across geographic and
Anthropologist Rick Shweder teaches at the University of Chicago, but spends his summers on Martha’s Vineyard. About a year ago, he decided to introduce his fellow members of the Working Group on Ethnic Customs, Assimilation and American Law (a.k.a. the Free Exercise of Culture group) to the autumnal beauty of the Vineyard by holding a meeting there. Because there are no local conference facilities, the planning process was complicated, involving two separate inns, borrowed vehicles to meet the small planes and ferries that would bring the Free Exercisers to the island, and the like. Finally, after months of planning and coordination with Council staff (in particular, Frank Kessel, the program director, and Jolanta Badura in the SSRC travel office), everything was set. The meeting was scheduled to open with a dinner on the evening of Thursday, September 16. As it turned out, the only guest to arrive that day was Hurricane Floyd. Shweder hoped that everyone could make it to the island by Thursday afternoon and safely sit out the storm. But by 10:30, rough seas kicked up by the hurricane’s movement up the East Coast had forced the ferry to close. The only other way to get to the Vineyard was via small planes—9- and 16-seaters—from Boston. By noon on Thursday these too had been cancelled. Meanwhile, Free Exercisers were en route from as far afield as Atlanta and Detroit, California and Norway. By the time the island’s links to the mainland were severed, many of them were already in the air. At that point, the Shweder household—in contact with Council staff—became mission control, as Shweder and his wife and daughter monitored the travelers’ travels via e-mail and telephone. By Thursday afternoon, several of the group were stuck in Boston, others in New York. Two graduate students had flown into Newark Airport from Chicago and, unable to secure a hotel room, rented a car and drove through rain and wind to a parental home in Connecticut. (As it happened, at the same time Kessel and Badura were coping with members of another group, who had convened at the Council to discuss “Bio-Behavioral-Social Perspectives on Health” and found themselves stranded in New York City.) By Friday morning the center of the storm had passed, but it was still extremely windy. Could the Free Exercise crew make it...
to the island? At 10:45, the ferry reopened. Claude Steele and Hazel Markus, both from Stanford, were on the first Cape Air flight out of Boston at noon. The tiny plane took off and immediately hit severe turbulence. “Turn back!” one of the passengers screamed.

Shweder continued to work the phones, telling his travelers where they could find others of the group who might be able to offer a seat in a rented car or share a ferry reservation. The opening dinner, delayed 24 hours, was now scheduled for 8:30 on Friday night. Shweder and his family spent the day meeting ferries and planes, and many of the group showed up. David Chambers drove from Vermont to Logan Airport on Friday to find that his flight to the Vineyard had been cancelled. He got US Air to bus him to the ferry, and called Candy Shweder from Woods Hole. When he walked into the restaurant at 9:15, having carried his suitcase up from the ferry, the dinner he had ordered was waiting on the table.

In the end, 20 out of 25 scheduled participants made it to Martha's Vineyard. Saturday and Sunday dawned crystal clear, and the group tackled its compressed but complete agenda. Sharing storm stories brought them closer and, Shweder felt, lent an unusually candid, mutually respectful and personal quality to the discussions of some intellectually difficult and socially challenging issues. His explanation for the willingness to find a way there? The working group members were able to stand up to Hurricane Floyd because so many of them are anthropologists and other adventurers, used to rugged travel and unexpected changes in plans. Frank Kessel’s multidisciplinary view is that both the nature of the group’s agenda and several prior meetings had laid the foundation for this commitment to the communal effort.

A New Program on the Arts for the Council

T he furor surrounding the Brooklyn Museum’s “Sensations” exhibit—New York City mayor Rudolph Giuliani’s attempt to evict the museum from its city-owned building over its display of what he terms “sick stuff” and people’s reactions to it—raises many questions about the role of the arts in general play in people’s lives. How does having seen a particular painting impact on how one views the world, how one chooses to live one’s life and how one perceives the quality of one’s life as an individual and a member of society? How is the experience of engagement with artistic expression shaped by the multidimensional context of that experience: the psychological, social, historical, cultural and political factors that define the nature and impact of that experience? How do museums, educators, peer groups and the media, as well as level of income or education determine the nature of people’s encounters with art? What do different people come away with when they see a play, watch dance, listen to music or read poetry? What would constitute evidence of the ways in which the transformative power of art can be harnessed in the service of improving the quality of one’s life? What is the conceptual connection between engagement with the arts and a healthy social fabric? These are the kinds of questions the Social Science Research Council believes need to be answered in order to produce data critical to discussions of the value of the arts to society as well as to policy debates.

It was to develop a research agenda on how the arts matter in people’s lives that the SSRC Program on the Arts was established, with funding from the Rockefeller Foundation, in January 1999. Its purpose is to launch an intellectual debate at the intersection of the arts and the social sciences that is not exclusively policy oriented and that goes beyond economic impact and participation studies. Its seeks to legitimate an interdisciplinary field of scholarly inquiry around a social science of the arts. The program will encourage research on the question, “How can we demonstrate an impact of art—be it positive or negative—on the lives of people who engage with it?” It assumes that any reasonable debate over the wisdom of supporting the arts requires the kind of evidence only social science can provide.

A committee of distinguished social scientists has been appointed by the Council to spend the next few years developing a strategy for integrating the arts into social science debates and the social sciences into debates on arts policy. The committee will also design incentives to encourage the pursuit of interdisciplinary research in this area. The committee is chaired by Lynn Liben, Department of Psychology, Pennsylvania State University. Other members include: Nicola Beisel, Department of Sociology, Northwestern University; Judith Blau, Department of Sociology, University of North Carolina; Faye Ginsburg, Center for Media, Culture and History, New York University; David Halle, Leroi Neiman Center for the Study of American Society and Culture, University of California, Los Angeles; Stevan Harrell, Department of Anthropology, University of Washington; Marc Mirinoff, Institute for Social Policy and Innovation, Fordham University; and Walter Mischel, Department of Psychology, Columbia University.
"Items and Issues." Attentive readers will have noticed a change in the longstanding title of this newsletter. I hope it signals that this is a place to engage with the basic issues of social life and social science. The items to be published here are not simply about the Social Science Research Council. As the SSRC has gone through major changes in recent years, it has spent a good deal of energy trying to explain itself. Like many public efforts at identity management, this was also an attempt to achieve self-recognition. My hope is that we can now do less of this, and focus our attention more fully on innovations in social science. The Council's identity should be shaped by its intellectual activities; its organizational structure is simply a support for these.

Moving from a university setting to the Social Science Research Council this past summer, I was of course struck by a variety of differences. The corridors seemed extraordinarily quiet—no undergraduates. Lunch cost more in midtown Manhattan. One of the most striking contrasts, however, was the way colleagues said the word “committees.” In the university, committees are often assignments taken reluctantly. They are commonly perceived as distractions from real intellectual life. The word “committee” has become almost synonymous with the pejorative sense of “bureaucracy.” At the Council, by contrast, committees are where the action is, and the action is intellectual. Indeed, to a very large extent, the Council is an enormous network of social scientists linked through membership on committees and conversations at events these committees sponsor.

This network of contacts is what makes the Council most distinctive and valuable. It is nurtured by staff who watch and listen for new ideas that need attention, new voices that need to be heard, new skills that need to be imparted, new projects that need support. The Council is valuable to the partners that fund its work largely because of its extraordinarily ability to mobilize outstanding social scientists to guide fellowship programs, plan and carry out research, develop new fields and bring the findings of social science to policymakers and the public. Creating the right mix of expertise and perspectives often means reaching across disciplines and nations in ways that are difficult for universities and established research centers. The Council helps to create “invisible colleges” of scholars who can tackle new themes and shape new agendas for research. In order to do this well, the Council must continually reinvent itself. Its networks—and indeed its core staff and internal organization—must continually be renewed.

It is a pleasure and an honor to be a part of this process of renewal. New presidents bring new perspectives, as do new program directors and committee members. Of course, no individual can or should set the whole agenda for the Council. It is important, though, that the Council have a clear identity and sense of mission, in order to determine its priorities. To this end, it seems appropriate in my first message as president to say something about how I see the Council working.

For nearly 80 years, the Social Science Research Council has played a central role in American—and often international—social science. It was created explicitly to do this, and I am not sure whether the founders ever felt a sense of irony in using such a phrase. Today, I do. There is no “center” of American social science, materially in terms of institutions or metaphorically in terms of intellectual orientations and work. Social science is a sprawling network of theories and research projects, disciplines and interdisciplinary fields, departments and institutes, demonstrated empirical findings and burning new questions. There are prestige hierarchies, disparities in funding and dominant positions in academic job markets. But none of these makes for a singular center.

For the Council to play a central role, as I see it, means above all else making sure that issues of central intellectual importance receive the attention they deserve. Rather than offering a list of specific projects (which might risk reifying a process of development that needs to be more fluid) let me illustrate some directions in which I think we can fruitfully move. In each case, the agenda includes continuing or enhancing efforts the Council has already launched as well as undertaking new ones.

One priority is to focus attention on social institutions of basic importance that are inadequately studied by social scientists. Social science will serve the public better if it can offer more insight into these institutions and their contributions to the larger society; social science knowledge will be better if they are not neglected in formulating theory and empirical generalizations. It is remarkable, for example, how little the study of business institutions has cohered as a field of social science. Economists study markets and strategic action, of course, and sociologists study organizations (some of which happen to be businesses, though that is often treated as incidental). Political scientists focus on the political spending of business but very little on business itself; anthropologists frequently confront the impacts of multinational corporations and financial markets but rarely study these institutions directly. Much the same picture could be paint-
society and expanding existing programs on higher education and philanthropy and nonprofit organizations, will also complement and inform our new program on the arts and cultural policy (described elsewhere in this issue). Similarly, an institutional perspective is important to the new program on Global Cooperation and Security that we have proposed, since a key issue in that field is to understand the range of non-state actors—NGOs, multilateral agencies, social movement organizations—and integrate them better into the production of knowledge on issues of peace and security.

Another important theme for Council attention is information technology. This is really a cluster of at least three concerns. First, there is the study of the social nature and implications of new technology. It is remarkable how little good social science research has been done on the Internet and other developments in or out of information technology. The literature is largely anecdotal and speculative. A key reason is that there is very little solid data available for analysis until stronger data are available as a common resource it will be hard to raise the level of discussion and theorization. A few projects that may change this are underway, but it is hard to raise the level of a weak literature without concerted action linking the best researchers to each other. This is something the Council can help provide. Second, it is important to consider information technology in social science itself. We need to address the ways in which computers and communication technologies are changing how we work and how knowledge is stored and disseminated. We need also to pioneer new approaches to collaboration and scholarly communication. For example, the Internet could facilitate better sharing of data among researchers in different parts of the world, bolstering comparative research and possibly reducing the extent that data on developing countries are only available in the libraries and research centers of developed countries. Third, we need to improve the Council’s own use of information technology. The SSRC seeks to be transnational, both operating programs throughout the world and achieving linkages among them. Information technology already helps to maintain these, but we can do more, including more to enable researchers in different regions to communicate directly with each other.

These two examples hardly exhaust the new initiatives the Council may take on. I hope we will develop more projects bringing social sciences to bear on public health issues. Our program on human sexuality is for the first time taking up issues of reproductive health internationally and we are in the midst of an inquiry into the formation of interdisciplinary fields in the biosocial sciences and health. Bringing together the different lines of research and theory building in the fields of risk and injuries could be very fruitful—and could also forge valuable links to legal research. The Council has recently broken new ground with a project on migration and religion. I hope we will continue to look at the cultural changes globalization is bringing, and the ways in which it confounds the separation of domestic and international concerns.

Globalization also challenges us to return to one of the great areas of the Council’s past achievements and play an important role in reinvigorating comparative research. Case studies and attempts at generalization across contexts both need to be complemented by studies that are able to grasp the specificity of multiple settings. This is important both within and across different regions of the globe. It at once depends on the kind of knowledge nurtured by area studies fields and challenges researchers to reach beyond their traditions. The meaning of “region” is itself contested, with cultural, political, economic and geographic definitions producing different affinities and oppositions. That networks and boundaries are fluid and overlapping, however, doesn’t make area-specific knowledge less important, only more difficult. Likewise, the challenges globalization poses to states (and the aspects of it that escape the purview of states) do not necessarily make states less important and may actually provoke more nationalism. It is increasingly recognized, though, that nation-states are not the “natural” or most helpful units of comparison.
obviously, there is lots for us to do. Equally obviously, we cannot do everything. What should determine which projects the Council should take on? In no case is the answer a matter of obligation to an existing field, whether disciplinary or interdisciplinary. Our obligations are to social science more generally and to the publics which may benefit from social science. In deciding which projects to take on, five tests are basic:

1. Is the intellectual quality of the project high?
2. Will success in the project result in substantial improvement in the quality of social science?
3. Does the project address an issue of public importance?
4. Is the Council the right organizer for the project? This includes subsidiary tests:
   a) Does the project depend on bringing together researchers in ways difficult for an individual university or research center to accomplish (e.g., across national or disciplinary lines)?
   b) Is there enough work going on in the field to make a collective project feasible and not so much that it will happen anyway?
   c) Can an intervention from the Council bear fruit within a reasonable time frame (normally 3-5 years, though a fruitful project may be extended)?
5. Is the project likely to attract funding from an appropriate Council partner?

Note that immediate practical usefulness is not one of the main criteria. The Council is founded partly on the belief that social science can be useful, and indeed that it is good to guide it in the direction of public contributions. But the SSRC is not an applied research organization. It is part of the scholarly community devoted to the pursuit of basic knowledge about social life. It is through supporting this—and supporting public access to the results of this inquiry—that it achieves its usefulness.

There is no great innovation in this list of tests. Two things are worth stressing, however. One is the reliance on the word “project.” The Council takes on projects, not permanent programs. Even long-running programs, like those centered on fellowship support, must be renewed periodically as projects with specific agendas and finite time-spans. Secondly, the stress falls on intellectual quality and potential achievements. The Council does work to build infrastructure and shore up human capital but its primary emphasis is on the intellectual quality of social science.

Back, then, to the issue of identity. It is by our programs that we shall be known. These exist to facilitate collaborative research, to prepare new generations of researchers, to encourage scholarly communication, to promote the internationalization of social science and to foster interdisciplinary linkages. At any one time, the programs will address only a minority of social science concerns and they will never be representative of all of social science. But they will change continually, and they will (we hope) achieve centrality because of the intellectual excitement and connections they generate.

Craig Calhoun

Editor’s Note:

In order to update the Items & Issues mailing list, we are asking US readers to re-subscribe. Please take a minute to write your address on the prepaid postcard that you will find in the center of this issue and drop it in the mail. If you do not resubscribe, your subscription will be terminated and you will no longer receive Items & Issues.

Note, however, that: Readers outside the US and libraries everywhere will continue to receive Items & Issues without resubscribing.

There is still no charge for Items & Issues.

Items & Issues will continue to be available on the Council website, www.ssrc.org.
New Staff Appointments

Seteney Shami was named program director for the Near and Middle East effective July 1. Ms. Shami is an anthropologist from Jordan with degrees from the American University in Beirut (B.A.) and the University of California, Berkeley (M.A., Ph.D.). After teaching for 14 years and establishing the first graduate department of anthropology in Jordan at Yarmouk University, Ms. Shami moved in 1996 to the regional office of the Population Council in Cairo as director of the Middle East Awards in Population and the Social Sciences (ME Awards). She has also been a visiting professor at the University of California, Berkeley; Georgetown University; University of Chicago; Stockholm University and the Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study in the Social Sciences (Uppsala).


Ms. Shami is on the editorial board of several journals including Cultural Anthropology, Ethnos, Population Review, Population and Development Review, and Contemporary Population Review. She is a member of several international research networks including the Interdisciplinary Network on Globalization and the Global Urban Research Initiative. She has also been a consultant for a number of organizations including UNICEF, ESCWA, and the Ford Foundation.

Doug Guthrie was appointed program director for the new initiative on business institutions and society effective July 1. Mr. Guthrie, an assistant professor of sociology at New York University, received his Ph.D. in sociology from the University of California, Berkeley. His main areas of interest are in economic sociology, state-market relations, the study of business organizations and work and the study of economic transition in China. In 1997, his research on economic reform in China was awarded the American Sociological Association’s prize for the best dissertation in the discipline, and he recently published a book on the topic, Dragon in a Three-Piece Suit: The Emergence of Capitalism in China (Princeton University Press, 1999). He has published articles on state-market relations in the American Sociological Review, American Journal of Sociology, China Quarterly and China Business Review.

Mary Byrne McDonnell, a key member of the Council’s professional staff for many years, has been promoted to the newly created position of executive director. In this new role, Ms. McDonnell will work closely with the president in planning and administering the Council’s diverse activities in research, education and scholarly communication. While program directors continue to report directly to the president, Ms. McDonnell will be the senior officer responsible for program administration and the internal coordination of Council activities. In addition to taking on new Council-wide managerial responsibilities, Ms. McDonnell will continue to play an active role in some of the Council’s specific intellectual programs, including especially the Human Capital Program.

Ms. McDonnell received the Ph.D. in history from Columbia University with a focus on Southeast Asia and Arab Middle East. Her dissertation examined the impact of the Hajj on Malaysian society. She has master’s degrees in both international affairs and journalism, also from Columbia, and worked as a journalist covering Asian and Middle Eastern affairs before joining the Council in 1984. For many years, Ms. McDonnell was the program director for East Asia and Indochina programs. In June 1997 she was appointed executive program director, the position being redefined in broader terms as executive director.

In addition to her work directly for the Council, Ms. McDonnell has written widely on East and Southeast Asia. She has also become a prominent resource for universities and colleges as they consider the reorganization of international studies. Ms. McDonnell is a section editor for the International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences. She also served as chair of the Association of Asian Studies’ Vietnam Studies Group and is a member of the Indochina Roundtable and the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific.

Current Activities at the Council
Conferences and Workshops

SSRC-Mellon Minority Fellowship Summer Conference

The eighth annual SSRC-Mellon Minority Fellowship Conference was held at Brown University from June 24-27, 1999. The conference theme, “Mellon Fellows in the New Millennium: Enhancing Academic Diversity” provided the backdrop for keynote presentations by leading academics in the fields of English (Michael Harper, Brown University), mathematics (Richard Tapia, Rice University), physical anthropology (Michael Blakey, Howard University), history (Robin Kelley, New York University), sociology (Juan Flores, Graduate Center, City University of New York) and African politics (Pearl Robinson, Tufts University). In addition, 16 Mellon fellows presented original papers in four theme sessions: “The Social Discourse of Race in Transnational Perspective,” “Memory and Music: The Ambiguous Resistance of Identity,” “The Dynamic Construction of Power, Language and History” and “The Social Structure of Racial Dynamics in the United States.” One hundred twenty-five fellows were joined by 28 faculty members (15 of them from Brown) in a series of workshops, panels and conversations by discipline that addressed such issues as surviving graduate school, balancing family and the academy, preparing for the job market, pedagogy for the teaching assistant and academic publishing. Next year’s conference will be held at Rice University in Houston, Texas, from June 22-25, 2000.

Staff: Beverlee Bruce and Sara Robledo.

CGP-SSRC Seminar Series: Workshop on Comparative Cases

A workshop entitled “Research Strategies for Comparative Study,” held in conjunction with the Abe Fellowship Program as part of the CGP (Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership)-SSRC Seminar Series, took place March 19-21, 1999, at Airlie Center, Airlie, Virginia. The Airlie workshop was viewed as a brainstorming session among scholars from a variety of different research traditions and interests. The goal was to look in a concentrated fashion at issues that arise when the individual scholar seeks to incorporate new countries and/or regions as cases of comparison into his/her work. The group developed the term “C 3,” which stands for adding a “third case” or site to the single researcher’s research repertoire in addition to the home country and the first country of expertise.

This workshop was organized in response to a discussion of the intellectual challenges of “stretching” at the second Abe Fellowship retreat in 1998. Specifically, participants felt that the issues surrounding the research design—single researcher/multicase comparison—that the Abe Fellowship promotes are an important but challenging strain of comparative research. Questions about the individual and infrastructural resources needed to conduct this kind of work successfully anchored the four discussion sessions.

Abe Fellowship Program Committee Chair James White presided over the event. Participants included past and present Abe fellows as well as scholars who have actively engaged in multi-case comparisons of various kinds throughout their careers and those who are just now beginning to do so. With North American, Latin American and European as well as East Asian expertise represented in their number, the group drew from a range of comparative strategies and disciplinary perspectives as well as regional specialties and methodological practices. A second workshop on multicase research is planned for March 2000 in Tokyo.

Participants: John Campbell, University of Michigan; Laura Campbell, Environmental Law International; David Collier, University of California, Berkeley; Heidi Gottfried, Wayne State University; Chieko Kitagawa-Otsuru, Japan Center for Area Studies; Mary Byrne McDonnell, SSRC; TJ Pempel, University of Washington; Rachel Rosenfeld, University of North Carolina; Richard Samuels, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Judith Sedaitis, SSRC; Barbara Stallings, CEPEL; Mark Tilton, Purdue University; James White, University of North Carolina. Participants submitting papers who could not attend included Nobuhiro Hiwatari, Tokyo University and Saskia Sassen, University of Chicago. Staff: Sheri Ranis and Fumika Mori.

International Peace and Security Meetings

The International Peace and Security Program sponsored several research workshops during 1999.

The organizers of a research workshop on “Democracy, Force and Global Social Change” held at the University of Minnesota on May 1-3, 1998 (see Items, December 1998) held a series of public presentations and reviews on the workshop’s outcome. The aim of the project was to draw scholarly attention away from the investigation of a single hypothesis regarding liberal democracy and war and to
redirect it toward the broader universe of relations between democracy, war and liberalism. The presentations were delivered at Columbia University, April 1, 1999; the University of Wales, Aberystwyth on May 17, 1999; and the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, May 19, 1999.

Organizers: Tarak Barkawai, King’s College London; Mark Laffey, Kent State University

A workshop on “The Impact of Ethnic Politics on Democratic Stability” was presented at the University of Chicago on May 22-23, 1999. The workshop attempted to reassess the impact of ethnic politics on democratic stability by explicitly juxtaposing ethnic and nonethnic forms of mobilization in their impact on democratic institutions. The papers identified conditions and processes which might lead ethnic politics to be more or less destabilizing. A second goal of the meeting was to stimulate a collective research agenda and develop possibilities for further collaboration.

Organizer: Kanchan Chandra, Harvard University and SSRC-Mellon Foundation Fellow in International Peace and Security. Participants: James Fearon, Stanford University; Elise Guillian, University of Chicago; Charlie Hale, University of Texas; Stathis Kalyvas, New York University; Mikael Karlstrom, University of Chicago; David Latinin, University of Chicago; Shannon Maitliss, University of Texas; Dan Posner, University of California; Los Angeles; Steven Wilkinson, Columbia University; Deborah Yahr, Princeton University.

Pledges of Aid: A Correction

Due to an editorial error, the names of participants at a meeting on “Investing in Peace: Donor Support for Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Transition” sponsored by the Pledges of Aid project of the Social Science Research Council and the Center on International Cooperation (CIC) at New York University (NYU) and held at NYU on November 13-14, 1998, were omitted from the March 1999 items. They were:

Nicole Ball (Oversaes Development Council), Martin Barber (United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs), Andrea Baldwin (University of California), Rex Brynen (McGill University), Hugh Cholmondeley (private consultant, formerly of the United Nations Staff College Project), Michael Doyle (Princeton University), John Eriksson (World Bank), Michael Foley (Catholic University), Shepard Forman (CIC), Antoinette Handley (South African Institute for International Affairs and Princeton University), Marianne Heiberg (Norwegian Institute for International Affairs), Zlatko Hurtic (World Bank), Jehangir Khan (United Nations Department of Political Affairs), O din Knudsen (World Bank), Chris Landsberg (Centre for Policy Studies, South Africa), Stewart Patrick (CIC), Sorpong Peou (Institute of South-East Asian Studies, Singapore), Herman Rosa (PRISMA, El Salvador), Dirk Salamons (Praxis Group), Amelia Sancanin (Johns Hopkins University), Douglas Stafford (formerly of the United States Agency for International Development), Mark Taylor (FAFO Institute for Applied Social Science, Norway), Thomas Weiss (Brown University), Clare Woodcraft (Middle East Petroleum and Economic Publications), Elizabeth Wood (NYU), Susan Woodward (Brookings Institute), and Kenji Yamada (International Development Centre of Japan).

Research team and advisory panel members unable to attend include Hisham Awaertani (Centre for Palestine Research and Studies), Thomas Bierstecker (Brown University), Michael Bratton (Michigan State University), Sam Brown (private consultant), Shijuro Ogata (former member of the Task Force on United Nations Financing), and Volker R. Rittberger (University of Tubingen, Germany). SSR C staff: Ron Kan, Akihiko Tanaka, former Abe fellows; Muthiah Alagappa, Paul M. Evans, Juichi Inada, Vladimir Ivanov, Satu P. Limaye, Scott Snyder and Tetsujiro Suzuki, Abe fellows; Nobuyasu Abe and Kazuya Ogawa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan; Alan Wong, US Embassy, Japan; Gill Brown, Brookings Institution; H ajime Isumi, Shizuoka University; E tel Solingen, University of California, Irvine; Paul Stares, Japan Center for International Exchange; and Seiichiro Takagi, Saitama University. Staff: Frank Baldwin and Takuya Toda.
International Scholarly Collaboration

The International Working Group on International Scholarly Collaboration held its second planning meeting at the SSR C on April 23-24, 1999. The project seeks to investigate the processes of forming international research collaborations in the social sciences. Several guests were invited to speak to the group about their experience with institutional collaborations. They included Patricia Rosenfield of the Carnegie Corporation, Sara Seims of the Rockefeller Foundation and Steven Wheatley of the American Council of Learned Societies. The presentations helped the group identify certain key features of the process of collaboration such as goal formation, agenda setting and the importance of initiators, personnel, institutional structures and funding. In addition, the group realized the need to expand the scope of international collaboration to observe also the effects on capacity building and retention, to consider the processes involved in the collaborative creation of a new field or discipline and to identify the opportunity costs of collaboration. Along with a brief examination of the quantitative data on international research collaboration, the working group intends to develop four separate case studies that will provide the basis for a lengthier joint report to be issued next year.

Participants: Marie-Odette Colin (Universidad de las Américas, Mexico City); Scott Haldane (Johns Hopkins University); Stanley N. Katz (Woodrow Wilson School for Public Policy and International Affairs, Princeton University); Marcia Fonseca (Centro de Información, Gestión y Educación Ambiental, Havana); Enna Maritza Hernández (Universidad de Pinar del Río, Viñales); Miguel Machín (Agencia de Ciencia y Tecnología, Dirección de Colaboración Internacional, Havana); Maira Menéndez (Agencia de Información, Havana); Antonio Pozas (Universidad de la Habana, Havana); Rubén Ramos (Ministerio para la Inversión Económica y Cooperación Extranjera, Dirección Países Desarrollados, Havana); María Elena Soler (Universidad de la Habana, Havana); María Isabel Torna (Agencia de Ciencia y Tecnología, Havana); Rosa María Valcárcel (Instituto Superior Politécnico José Antonio Echeverría, Havana); Nestor Valdés (Ministerio de Educación, Havana).

A second seminar, held in October 1999, continued the discussion initiated in April. Fifteen Cuban researchers attended sessions led by experts from throughout the Americas. This first workshop took an analytical, theoretical and historical approach to the topic, with lectures addressing the evolution of US foundations, the history of UN agencies and educational aid programs and the development and state of international cooperation in Latin America. A second seminar, held in October 1999, continued these themes and addressed in greater detail the nuts and bolts of proposal writing.

Presenters: Marie-Odette Colin (Universidad de las Américas, Mexico City); Scott Haldane (Johns Hopkins University); Stanley N. Katz (Woodrow Wilson School for Public Policy and International Affairs, Princeton University); Yara Rivera (University of California, San Diego); David Ludden, University of Pennsylvania; Georges Nazon; Howard University; Sujata Patel; University of Pune. Staff: Itty Abraham, Tina Harris

International Predissertation Fellowship Program Research Training Workshops

Last spring, the International Predissertation Fellowship Program (IPFP) held workshops in Egypt and Bangladesh as part of its continuing series on “Conducting Social Science Research in the Developing World.” These workshops are designed to bring a small, multidisciplinary group of IPFP fellows together with graduate students in the developing world to engage in critical discussions about the design of social science research and to establish contacts with local scholars.

Students spend most of the four- or five-day workshops in discussions of the perceived strengths and weaknesses of each others’ preliminary plans for research. Topics vary, but the discussions converge on the adequacy of methodologies in addressing a given theoretical issue; adequacy of attention to issues of context-sensitivity; problems of data collection, analysis and interpretation. Typically included on workshop agendas are one-on-one meetings
between each of the students and a local scholar with similar research interests and visits to local research institutes and universities.

Cairo, Egypt (February 27 - March 3, 1999)

This workshop was held in cooperation with Center for the Study of Developing Countries at Cairo University. Professor Mustapha K. Al-Sayyid of Cairo University and Professor Soraya Al-Torki of the American University in Cairo were co-moderators. The four IPFP fellows who participated in the workshop were residing in Morocco, Turkey and Egypt with the support of the IPFP at the time of the workshop; the five local participants were all affiliated with Cairo University. Together they considered topics such as Islamist discourse and the modern Arab state, the social history of labor in the Suez Canal Zone and identity and citizenships in a postcolonial context. Participants also visited the Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies, met with the Steering Committee of the Egypt 2020 research project and enjoyed a cruise on the Nile.

Dhaka, Bangladesh, (April 18-22, 1999)

This workshop was held in cooperation with the Centre for Social Studies at Dhaka University and co-moderated by Dr. H.K. Shah of the Department of Anthropology at Dhaka University and Dr. Khaleda Nazneen of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) in Dhaka. Dhaka University students met with IPFP fellows pursuing their training programs in Baltistan, India, Nepal, Thailand and Uzbekistan and discussed topics such as changing labor relations in rural Bangladesh, urban-based religious movements in Thailand and community forestry development and environmental education in Nepal. The workshop agenda also included a visit to several rural villages currently receiving micro-credit grants and human rights training from the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC), and a meeting with scholars from various departments at Dhaka University.

Cross-Regional Research Networks in Africa

On April 9-10, 1999, the Africa Program held a workshop on “Cross-Regional Research Networks in Africa: Toward a Strategic Framework” at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Workshop participants included African and North American researchers, network managers and policymakers from a variety of disciplines and institutions.

The workshop, funded by the Rockefeller Foundation and the International Development Research Center, was organized to follow up issues raised at a conference on Cross-Regional Research Networks in Africa held in July 1997. That conference had a strong focus on donor support and donor-network relations, and included mostly well-funded networks seen as relatively successful. The Addis workshop brought together representatives of a broader range of research networks for mutual learning and building from particular experiences in order to come up with strategies in a range of areas: capacity building, professionalization, multidisciplinary research, leadership and governance and donor relations.

Several participants sought to put the idea of the networking of researchers in an historical perspective, i.e. that such ways of organizing the African research community predated the self-conscious use of the term “networks.” The author of a background paper for the workshop emphasized that the term network itself is a broad rubric under which many types of organizations can fall: professional associations that network to strengthen disciplines, networks formed to provide space for multidisciplinary and often collaborative research, networks of institutions (and not simply individuals). Most research networks in Africa are devoted to capacity building, the production of new knowledge and policy engagement, but they prioritize these goals differently.

Many participants saw the value of mobilizing research networks not only in the products created (publications, etc.) but also in the very process of networking itself, which was seen as a central incentive that brings researchers to networks in the first place. While the types of experiences represented at the workshop were extremely varied, there were several areas around which common purposes emerged: a commitment to identify the keys to network success, an understanding that networks must complement institutions such as universities, a sense that research results should be relevant and available to a range of constituencies and the idea that mutual learning across networks at meetings such as this was useful. Certain questions were seen as needing further attention: how to nurture and provide incentives for network leadership; what is the current and potential role of diasporic African researchers; how can the private sector be engaged as supporters, partners and audiences for research networks; and how can donor funding be better calibrated
to the needs of researchers? One participant asked, “Why do we get the kind of money we get?” and several others felt that the case must be made for more core funding of network activities.

It was also suggested that a handbook on networks, which would include guidelines for good network practice, could be produced. Current and prospective network managers, as well as donors, would be its principal audience. The possibility of producing a handbook will be explored after the next workshop is held in early 2000. This workshop will focus explicitly on the relationship between networks and the institutions at which most researchers are based (including universities, independent centers, government ministries and nongovernmental organizations).


Vietnamese Social Scientists Visit Council

On March 29, 1999, a delegation of senior Vietnamese social scientists paid a visit to the SSRC. Most of them were affiliated with the National Center for Social Sciences and Humanities of Vietnam (NCSSH) in Hanoi, a government-affiliated research institution that provides scientific information for the policy process. The goal of their American sojourn, organized by the American Council of Learned Societies, was to explore research trends and methodologies in the social sciences and humanities in the United States. The visit to the Council was an effort to increase the amount of collaboration between Vietnamese and American scholars and to learn about the history and activities of the SSRC itself. Program Directors Itty Abraham and Eric Hershberg discussed the Council's international program. The visitors then reported on some of the research projects currently underway at NCSSH. A lunch with the full staff followed.

The delegation included Nguen Duy Quy, president, NCSSH; Nguen Duy Thong, director, Department of International Cooperation, NCSSH; Trinh Duy Luan, director, Institute of Sociology, NCSSH; Khong Dien, director, Institute of Ethnology, NCSSH; Ha Minh Duc, director, Institute of Vietnamese Literature, NCSSH; and Nguyen The Nghia, director, Institute of Social Sciences, Ho Chi Minh City.

Sexuality Research Fellowship Program Fellows’ Conference

The Sexuality Research Fellowship Program (SR FP) held its 1999 fellows’ conference on September 23-26, 1999 at the Kinsey Institute, Indiana University. The conference was attended by all 1999 SR FP fellows, selected 1998 and 1997 fellows, members of the SRFP Selection Committee, SRFP staff and guest speakers. The conference consisted of formal presentations on pertinent topics such as policy issues for sexuality research, researcher identity and research dissemination for diverse constituencies. Over the course of the three days, the fellows participated in large and small group discussions and one-on-one “conversations” with each other. During one lunchtime session, the former fellows in attendance provided recommendations and other useful information for those beginning a fellowship tenure.

John Bancroft, director of the Kinsey Institute and the co-host for the conference, provided an update on ongoing research activities of the Institute; and the Institute's staff led an extensive tour of the collection, which allowed for an appreciation of the historical significance of the Institute and for archival techniques of data-collection. In bringing together current and former fellows, invited guest speakers and members of the SRFP Selection Committee, the conference provided an important opportunity for the fellows to meet and form productive alliances, discuss their work in progress and gain a greater understanding of significant research issues.

International Peace and Security Fellows’ Conference and Summer Institute

On August 19-23, 1999, the Program on International Peace and Security sponsored its 13th annual SSR C- MacArthur Foundation Fellows’ Conference at the India Habitat Centre in New Delhi, India. It featured plenary presentations highlighting a number of issues important to India and the region including nuclear policy and understanding, biodiversity, food security and environmental resources; partition; and conflict, ethnicity and diversity. Fellows gave seminar presentations about their own research and training activities and participated in a program-sponsored workshop panel on ethics and methods of research as well as a roundtable luncheon discussion on gender, identity and security. More than 40 people attended the conference, including 1997 and 1998...
SSRC-MacArthur Foundation Fellowship recipients, local scholars and activists, members of the Program on International Peace and Security steering committee, MacArthur Foundation officers and SSR C staff.

The Program also sponsored a Summer Training Institute on Security Issues from August 26-29, 1999 in Hanoi, Vietnam. This institute was co-organized with the Institute for International Relations in Hanoi and Rames Amer from the Department of Peace and Conflict Research of Uppsala University, Sweden. The Institute aimed to explore ways in which collaboration across national borders could enhance the knowledge and skills of the participants, contribute to the exchange of perspectives on security in the region across a wide set of relevant issues and forge longer-term networks for future collaboration and exchange.

Speakers and panelists at the SSRC-MacArthur Fellows Conference: Surendra Gadkar, Anumuki, Praful Bidwai, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library; Uday Bhaskar, Institute for Defense and Strategic Analysis; Kanti Bajpai, Jawaharlal Nehru University; Yogendra Yadav, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies; Jayadev U. Yangoda, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka; E. Sridharan, University of Pennsylvania Institute for the Advanced Study of India; R.V. Arunadha, Environmental Action Group; Afsar Jafri, Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology; Prakash Ghate, Centre for Ecological Sciences of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore; Sunil Kumar, Delhi University; Gyan Pandey, Johns Hopkins University; Sandaran Krishna, University of Hawaii; M. K. Kasav, Jamia Millia Islamica; N. N. Delhi; Urvash Batalia, Kali for Women; Smitu Kothari, Lokayan (NGO). Staff: Craig Calhoun, Robert Latham and Jessica Olsen.

Participants in the Summer Training Institute: Bui Thanh Son, Do Van Bach, Ha Hong Hai, Hoang Anh Tuan, Huynh Minh Chinh, Le Linh Lan, Ngo Duy Ngo, Nguyen Dinh Luan, Nguyen Phuong Binh, Pham Cao Vinh -- Institute for International Relations, Hanoi; Fiona Adamson, Kanchar Chandra, Kathy McAfee, Srinup Roy, Ettel Solingen; SSRC-MacArthur Fellows: Renu De Neer: de Neer de Neer, Jim Furman; MacArthur Foundation; Yuen Foong Khong, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore; Steve Smith, University of Aberdeen, Wales; Rames Amer, Uppsala University, Sweden; Le The My, Ministry of Defense; Luu Duc Hai, University of Natural Science; Nguyen Duc Thieu, Southeast Asia Institute; Ngoc N. G. Chinh, Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment; Nguyen Xuan Tuy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Pham Ngoc Ho, University of Natural Science; Sharon Sadique, Sreekumar Sadique & Company; Carlyle Thayer; Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies; Ton Shih Thany, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Robert Latham, SSR C.

German-American Young Scholars Summer Institutes

Last summer four German-American Young Scholars Summer Institutes took place at universities in Germany and the United States. Since 1994, 20 outstanding US and German young scholars have been chosen each year to participate in these two-summer-long seminars on interdisciplinary social science themes. The 14-day institutes, held one year at a US and the next at a German university (or vice versa), allow fellows to explore disciplinary and national aspects of the chosen theme. Fellows work closely with each other and with senior scholars, the institute convenors to prepare international collaborative research projects. The German-American Young Scholars Summer Institute program has sponsored 12 institutes and 240 young scholars to date. The program is funded by the German-American Academic Council and coordinated by the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin and the SSR C.

Last summer, the second sessions of the two summer institutes that began in 1998 convened at Stanford University and the University of Bielefeld. The second session of the ninth GAAC institute on “Institutions and Economic Performance in Advanced Economies Since 1945” met at the National Bureau of Economic Research and the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University on July 20-31, 1999. Peter Lange, provost of Duke University, David Sokice of the Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin, Gianni Toniolo of the University of Rome and Lars-Kendrick Roller of the Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin served as convenors. The seminar was organized around the presentation of fellows’ collaborative research papers. Topics covered included the role of the European Central Bank in fiscal policy, economic growth in advanced economies, technology and the economy and the economics of the public sector and the welfare state. Fellows will revise their papers for a volume to be published by the Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin in early 2000.

The second session of the 10th German-American Young Scholars Summer Institute on “The Evolution of
Research on the Impact of the Arts on People and Communities

The Social Science Research Council’s recently-established Program on the Arts (see p.13 for a description of the program and list of committee members) held its first research workshop on October 3-4, 1999, at the Council offices in New York. Members of the committee and several guests heard presentations on research on arts education (Bennett Reimer, Northwestern University and Ellen Winner, Boston College); community arts (Brenda Jo Bright, University of Massachusetts and Mark Stern, University of Pennsylvania); and the arts and social conflict (Paul DiMaggio, Princeton University). The speakers also participated in a panel discussion moderated by Carol Becker of the School of the Arts Institute of Chicago.

Recent Council Publications

Serials

**Abe News**, vol. 8, Spring 1998. Produced by the Abe Fellowship Program Tokyo office.


Miscellaneous


This introductory guide to the more than 440 cubic feet of Council records at the Rockefeller Archive Center is intended to help researchers identify particular parts of the collection that may be relevant to their projects. Prepared with funds donated by the Ford Foundation, the guide includes “An Introduction to the Social Science Research Council” by Council staff member Kenton W. Worcester. [His historical essay, “The Social Science Research Council: Plus Ça Change,” appeared in Items vol. 52, no. 4.]

The guide, which will be distributed to serious researchers looking at Council holdings at RAC, will soon be available on the Center’s website, [www.Rockefeller.edu/archive.ctr](http://www.Rockefeller.edu/archive.ctr).

Treaties and other international accords are a primary means of dealing with environmental problems involving two or more countries, but we know very little about what happens after states become parties to such accords. The culmination of a massive theoretically-based empirical research project, this book shows how and why implementation and compliance vary among countries and treaties and change over time. It also analyzes the factors that affect the extent of compliance with international accords and offers prescriptions for strengthening it.

The book focuses on compliance in eight countries (Brazil, Cameroon, China, Hungary, India, Japan, the Russian Federation and the United States) and the European Union, and on five major accords. An article by Weiss and Jacobson summarizing the book’s principal findings appeared in the July/August 1999 issue of Environment.


This volume brings together original essays by 11 Cuban historians whose research focuses on the War of 1898 and the characteristics of Cuban society during that pivotal period of the island’s history. It was sponsored by the ACLS/SSRC Working Group on Cuba as one of several initiatives designed to commemorate the war’s centennial anniversary. The book’s publication in Costa Rica and its circulation throughout the Americas as well as in Cuba reflects the Working Group’s desire to facilitate scholarly interaction between Cuban historians and their counterparts elsewhere. The quality and sophistication of this work by members of an emerging generation of historians in Cuba testifies to the potential utility of such dialogue.


This book is the long-awaited product of the SSRC International Migration Program committee’s efforts to produce a volume that both reflects and contributes to the emerging coherence of U.S. immigration studies as a subfield within the social sciences. Based on an interdisciplinary conference held on Sanibel Island, Florida, in 1996, the volume is the first attempt to develop an overview of theoretical understandings of the field’s fundamental themes: the origins, processes and outcomes of immigration to the United States.

To establish broad and clear understandings of these themes and theories, the volume’s many authors provide assessments, reconceptualizations and syntheses of perspectives from across the social science disciplines. But, the editors argue, field building results not only from scholars reaching for broad theoretical consensus but also from their engagement with one another in clarifying distinctive disciplinary and theoretical perspectives. Taking both approaches, the volume’s 24 essays are divided into 3 parts focused on international migration theory and research, immigrant adaptation to American society and responses of the native-born Americans to immigration. The authors, all prominent researchers in the field, are drawn from sociology, anthropology, history, political science, demography, economics and geography. With its shared topical foci and diversity of perspectives, the book provides a model that could be used in the development of other interdisciplinary fields.
With funding from The Pew Charitable Trusts, the Social Science Research Council (SSRC) announces a competition for fellowships to support predoctoral and postdoctoral research on the relationship between religion and the incorporation of immigrants into American society.*

**GOALS**

Contemporary immigration is contributing to the religious diversity of the United States. Although the interconnections between religion and immigration have been a focus of past scholarship, more recent research and writing have given such issues relatively little systematic attention. The SSRC seeks to simulate new interest and foster research and analysis that will illuminate how the origins, processes and outcomes of immigration to the United States both influence and are affected by immigrant and native-born religious beliefs, practices, identities, groups and institutions. The SSRC encourages scholars of diverse disciplinary training to adopt innovative perspectives and develop new understandings of religion as it affects immigrants' participation in American civic life and their relations with native-born Americans.

**POSSIBLE RESEARCH TOPICS**

While the SSRC expects that in preparing research proposals applicants will determine their own topics, analytical perspectives and methodologies, the following questions illustrate the wide variety and breadth of issues suitable for funding:

1. How do immigrant and American religious identities, beliefs, practices and organizations affect— at individual, communal and national levels— processes of emigration from the home country and subsequent settlement in the United States?

2. What impact do the religions of immigrants have on their incorporation into ethnic and non-ethnic community life? And how important is religion in immigrants' adjustments in relation to or relative to family, gender, generational, racial or ethnic issues?

3. How are immigrants' economic, political and socio-cultural relations with native-born Americans affected by immigrant and American religious identities, orientations and institutions?

4. How do differences and similarities— actual or perceived— between the religious identities and practices of immigrants and native-born Americans stimulate or ameliorate conflicts and foster divisions or alliances?

5. How do American civic culture, values and laws reflect, accommodate or shape the differences and similarities in the religious lives of immigrants and native-born Americans?

Priority in the awarding of fellowships will be given to those proposals that seem most likely to provide theoretical explanations of significant intersections between religion and immigration in American life. While the program emphasizes contemporary immigration to the United States, applicants are also encouraged to adopt historical and/or transnational perspectives. Comparative international research must explicitly illuminate the American experience.

Applicants who receive fellowships will be invited to meet and compare perspectives prior to undertaking the SSRC-funded research and to report their findings at a conference that will be organized once their research is completed.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE**

January 12, 2000

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION & APPLICATION MATERIALS**

**PLEASE CONTACT**

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The Council was incorporated in the State of Illinois, December 27, 1924, for the purpose of advancing research in the social sciences. Nongovernmental and interdisciplinary in nature, the Council advances the quality and usefulness of research in the social sciences. The activities of the Council are supported primarily by grants from private foundations and government agencies.