Social Science Research Council

President's Report 2004

SSRC

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The Social Science Research Council leads innovation, builds interdisciplinary and international networks, and focuses research on important public issues. Independent and not-for-profit, the SSRC is guided by the belief that justice, prosperity, and democracy all require better understanding of complex social, cultural, economic, and political processes. We work with practitioners, policymakers, and academic researchers in all the social sciences, related professions, and the humanities and natural sciences. With partners around the world, we mobilize existing knowledge for new problems, link research to practice and policy, strengthen individual and institutional capacities for learning, and enhance public access to information. We bring necessary knowledge to public action.

Social Science for the Public Good

The ssrc approaches its work guided by five basic commitments.

FOSTERING INNOVATION

We work on problems that need new approaches; we act as a catalyst for new thinking. We seek to mobilize the most creative and knowledgeable researchers and to help research institutions be more dynamic. Renewing existing expertise, putting knowledge to work on new problems, and generating novel data and theories are all crucial to advancing social science for the public good.

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

We ensure the future of knowledge production through nurturing new generations of researchers, enabling practitioners to act on scientific knowledge, enhancing cross-fertilization among intellectual fields, developing capacity where it is most lacking, and facilitating the internationalization of social science.

WORKING INTERNATIONALLY
AND DEMOCRATICALLY

Better understanding of basic social processes is a resource for improving the lives of all. It should be available to all. Participation in the production of scientific knowledge should also be as broad as possible. We support the internationalization of social science and opportunities for under-represented groups both as matters of equity and as requirements for ensuring that the production of knowledge is informed by different contexts and perspectives.

COMBINING URGENCY AND PATIENCE

We bring researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and broader publics together to focus on topics of pressing public importance from health to human rights. But since even the most urgent problems are seldom solved overnight, we must learn even as we act, and we must continually renew existing knowledge.

KEEPING STANDARDS HIGH

Practical action, policy, and debate on major public issues all need to be informed by the best possible knowledge. This is produced by emphasizing scientific quality, engaging important public questions, and ensuring openness to critical analysis. Theory and research can then command the attention of those who approach practical issues with different values or agendas.

Program Areas

Since its founding in 1923 the SSRC has transformed or created numerous vital fields through a range of networks and groups—from business cycle research in the 1920s and 30s to foreign area studies and comparative politics in the postwar era to life course studies in the 1970s and 80s, human security research in the 1990s, and the transformations of migration in the last decade. SSRC research committees have helped to improve methods from survey research to ethnography. The SSRC's current work is organized into six program areas, each engaging public needs for social science research.

GLOBAL SECURITY AND COOPERATION

Many parts of the world are threatened by war or threats of armed conflict, by internal violence and civil unrest, and by the diffusion of weapons. All parts of the world are threatened by terrorism, which feeds on and into these conflicts. The SSRC organizes and sponsors research into the sources of conflicts, the factors that exacerbate them, and the ways in which international cooperation can minimize or resolve conflict and mitigate its effects.

MIGRATION

International migration is at historically high levels. Enormous movements of people are changing the demographic composition of host and sending societies, with profound implications for economic, cultural and political life. The SSRC organizes and sponsors research on subjects such as the relationship between religion, immigration and civic life, security and migration, forced migration and human rights, and immigration, race and ethnicity.

ECONOMY AND SOCIETY

Poverty and inequality remain among the most basic and enduring global problems. Yet some countries and regions that seemed condemned to poverty a generation ago have experienced dramatic growth. Others seem chronically left out, or recurrently undermined by conflicts and crises. This SSRC program area focuses research and training on subjects such as the financing of technological innovation and the social and political dynamics affecting growth, development, inequality and poverty.

SITUATING GLOBALIZATION: REGIONAL AND INTER-REGIONAL PROGRAMS

Globalization in its economic, political and cultural manifestations must be understood as *situated,* occurring at the intersections of global, regional, national and local processes. To diagnose and discuss issues such as inequality, citizenship and transnational public spheres and the ways in which they have an impact on and are perceived from different places, the SSRC organizes programs that focus on specific regions, localities and geographic inter-connections and comparisons.

KNOWLEDGE INSTITUTIONS AND INNOVATION

An array of technological, socio-political, and economic conditions are transforming the way scientific and societal knowledge is produced and disseminated. The emergence of collaborative technologies and the shifting influence of non-academic versus academic organizations and private versus public investments are challenging traditional institutions of education, training, and research. To understand this new knowledge ecology, the SSRC coordinates research on new models of organizational collaboration, emerging fields of research and changing forms of scholarship, transformations of higher education, transitions

Reuters. Protesting the U.S. in Baghdad, Iraq. A panel at a recent SSRC conference looked at the relationship between resistance and the making of new public spheres in the Middle East.

Photo by Lara J. Nettlefield, SSRC-CSS Fellow researching transitional justice in Srebrenica, Bosnia.

to college, and innovative programs in interdisciplinary and integrative training.

MEDIA, DEMOCRACY AND THE PUBLIC SPHERE

A democratic society is defined not just by its elections but also by its public life—by the institutions and channels of communication that support the formulation of common goals and public accountability. This "publicness" is not a given: it always involves a balance of rights, expectations, and cultural norms, of communications technologies and regulations, and of diverse institutions that mediate state and private interests. Several SSRC programs address these issues in complementary ways, especially around questions of new technologies, intellectual property rights, concepts of openness and control, democratization and participation, and notions of the public good.

INITIATIVES

The SSRC is engaged in exploratory and agenda-setting work in support of program activities on *HIV/AIDS and Social Transformation* and *Emergencies and Humanitarian Action*. Our initiative on HIV/AIDS seeks to better

inform policy interventions having to do with its impacts on social and economic sectors, effective state and local governance, community resilience, and household, gender and inter-generational relations. The Emergencies initiative aims to bring stronger social scientific knowledge to bear on complex emergencies, humanitarian assistance, peacekeeping and other aspects of these events, and seeks to better integrate such knowledge into the work of academics and practitioners.

Reuters. Distributing red ribbons—symbol of HIV/AIDS awareness— in Calcutta, India. The SSRC's initiative on HIV/AIDS stresses the need for comparative analysis.

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IN FOCUS

THE SSRC AROUND THE WORLD

Much of the SSRC's work is international, focusing on the intersection of global, regional, national and local issues. Four hundred social scientists, practitioners and policymakers from forty countries on six continents serve on the Council's committees. Some examples of our international work:

• In Africa we have organized a three-year program on *African Youth in a Global Age.* The program includes workshops for junior African scholars and American Ph.D. candidates, as well as research grants to enable them to study youth issues. Over 40 African scholars have conducted and disseminated research with the program's support.

• In East Asia we organize the prestigious *Abe Fellowship Program,* which strives especially to promote a new level of intellectual cooperation between Japanese and American academic and professional communities committed to and trained for advancing global understanding and problem solving.

• In Eurasia we have developed a series of activities focusing on *Central Asia and the Caucasus* including the organization of on-line research and teaching resources, dissertation workshops and a project on *Religion and Higher Education,* which currently involves partnerships with the Islamic University of Kyrgyzstan and key U.S. universities.

• In Europe and the United States we are involved in a project on *Muslims in the West,* which in addition to sponsoring research groups is working with the New York Times Company Foundation and the Western Knight Center for Specialized Journalism to bring knowledge gained through this project to broadcast and print journalists by organizing summer training institutes.

• In Latin America we are bringing to completion a three-year program on *Collective Memory and Repression* that has supported more than 50 junior researchers from Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Peru, the United States and Uruguay. A project on

Translocal Flows in the Americas has convened several conferences to examine the reconfiguration of cultural identities and practices in urban and migratory contexts.

• In the Middle East we are conducting a collaborative grants program for researchers on the important theme of *Reconceptualizing Public Spheres in the Middle East & North Africa* and organizing a timely survey of *The State of Middle East Studies* in several locations, including North America, France, Russia and Japan.

• In South Asia we have created a virtual research resource, SARN or the *South Asia Research Network for Social Sciences and Humanities,* and run the *South Asia Regional Fellowship Program,* which provides college and university teachers based in South Asia time to write up important research results.

• In Southeast Asia we have organized a number of activities and institutes to enhance the capacity for *Social Scientific and Policy Research in Vietnam* as well as workshops on field research for junior Southeast Asian scholars.

PARTNERING WITH POLICYMAKERS AND PRACTITIONERS WHO DEAL WITH CONTEMPORARY CONFLICTS

From our Washington D.C. office, a number of projects related to contemporary conflicts have forged networks of academics, policymakers and practitioners. A project on *Reframing the Challenge of Migration and Security* exemplifies this commitment. Through a series of conferences and workshops that bring together U.S. homeland security officials, academics, attorneys and leaders of Muslim American / Arab American communities, the project examines the tensions between security and civil liberties. From our New York offices, two important programs cooperate with UN agencies to provide expert advice on contemporary conflicts. The *Program on Children and Armed Conflict,* in partnership with Unicef, Save the Children, other key institutions, and the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative on Children and Armed Conflict, coordinates an international research consortium that organizes research and analysis to inform policymaking and practical field interventions. The *Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum* strengthens the knowledge base and analytical capacity of the United Nations system by providing UN staff with systematic channels of access to scholars, experts and practitioners outside the intergovernmental system.

Photos, this page, of a meeting place in a proposed demilitarized zone in Colombia. Taken by Rick Hooper, former SSRC program director. After reassignment to the UN, Hooper was killed in the 2003 bombing of UN headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq. He is deeply missed by his many colleagues around the world.

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Building Capacity for Social Science

The need for social knowledge is both urgent and long-term. Today's "emergencies" like the AIDS pandemic or the role of children in armed conflict are likely to be pressing issues for generations. The same is true for economic development, international migration, and the implications of new information technology. We need social science knowledge now, but we also need to strengthen the individual and institutional capacities that ensure it will be available in the future.

To this end, the SSRC provides fellowships to support young researchers, conducts training programs, and works to strengthen the institutions within which knowledge is produced and communicated. It approaches all of these projects with special emphasis on the growing internationalization of social issues.

FELLOWSHIPS

SSRC fellowship programs engage themes of critical social importance, ranging from global issues facing the U.S. and Japan, to human sexuality, to the social role of information technologies, to African youth and globalization. Since 1997, the International Dissertation Field Research Fellowship has funded some 400 graduate students to conduct research in more than 100 countries on a wide range of problems. The SSRC–Mellon Mays Fellowship Program brings new and diverse students into a wide range of Ph.D programs. Other programs emphasize specific fields of crucial importance. The International Migration Fellowship Program and the Human Sexuality Research Fellowship Program have each sponsored over a hundred young researchers. The program on Global Security and Cooperation supports practitioners as well as researchers.

TRAINING

Young researchers learn state-of-the-art skills in SSRC training programs and as participants in collaborative research projects where they receive systematic mentoring. In nearly all cases participants share their findings through research and training workshops, which provide occasion for them to test their methods and assumptions and build the interpersonal networks that sustain innovative work over time.

STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONS

In all of the SSRC's capacity building efforts we recognize the need to think simultaneously of institutions as well as individuals. In Cuba we have led an effort to assist libraries, archives, and museums to develop and maintain resources that will facilitate the conduct of scholarly research. In Africa, the SSRC has worked with the Association of African Universities, Codesria, and South Africa's National Research Foundation to better understand the long-term capacity needs of higher education. Our Program on Children and Armed Conflict seeks to strengthen research capacity at research institutions within conflict zones.

Whatever the approach taken by SSRC programs and projects, we retain a core commitment to improving the production, and the conditions for production, of social knowledge. This knowledge, now, and the capacity for its generation in the future, form the irreducible bases for responsible and effective action to improve the world.

IN FOCUS

THE SSRC AND INTERDISCIPLINARY EDUCATION

The SSRC is often credited for inventing the concept of "interdisciplinary" and has long been known for its interdisciplinary research committees and fellowships. After years of increasingly widespread efforts to bridge the work of specialized disciplines, a SSRC project funded by the National Science Foundation analyzes the successes and failures of *Interdisciplinary, Integrative Graduate Education* in the United States and the methodological tools and theories by which these determinations can be made.

SSRC FELLOWS

More than 10,000 students have benefitted from SSRC fellowships. The SSRC funded the early work of Nobel laureates like Ralph Bunche, Paul Samuelson, and Simon Kuznets, and long before they achieved acclaim and recognition, social analysts and public leaders such as Margaret Mead, John Hope Franklin, Zbigniew Brzezinski, Vartan Gregorian, Immanuel Wallerstein, and Robert Putnam. Today the SSRC awards fellowships and sustains networks for the world's best young social scientists and practitioners. SSRC Fellowship programs provide a vital opportunity for students not only to complete their dissertation work but to do so with the depth and creativity that really advances social science.

THE COLLECTIVE MEMORY OF REPRESSION
IN THE SOUTHERN CONE

The SSRC has helped a new generation of Latin American scholars focus on a question of enduring relevance both in the region and across the world: what is the role of memory in the democratization of authoritarian societies? At the same time it has substantially increased social science research capacity in the region. More than 50 former fellows now put their social research skills to work in a range of important positions from Peru's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, to several national governments, and a number of NGOs and universities. Many of the fellows have contributed to a twelve volume series *(see publications)*, and the program has been supported by an SSRC-organized permanent library dedicated to the

topic. Housed in Buenos Aires, the library is used internationally through its searchable bibliographic database, accessible via the Internet.

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE
RESEARCH IN VIETNAM

Since the mid-1980s, the Council has played an important role in strengthening Vietnamese research capacity as the country expanded its international engagements and developed economically. We have partnered with two major Vietnamese social science institutes to increase knowledge on the social disruptions of rapid economic development and how to mitigate them. 300 social scientists representing over sixty different institutions from all regions of Vietnam have participated.

Toward a More Public Social Science

Word from the President

When lawsuits challenged affirmative action policies at the University of Michigan, social scientists contributed to several *amicus curiae* briefs and an active public debate. Social scientists have also figured prominently in American debates over marriage (including both how to support it and whether to ban some forms of it); over productivity growth, the implications of outsourcing, and other economic issues; and over how to reform a costly and inequitable health care system. Internationally, social scientists have contributed to debates over the environment; globalization; combining growth and equity in economic development; and how free from commercialization and government control the Internet can be.

Each of these is an important instance of "public" social science. And indeed a variety of efforts are underway both to call more attention to the public value of social science and to make sure social science is published in ways that reach broader publics. The American Sociological Association annual meeting this August focused on "public sociology." A "public anthropology" section has just formed in the American Anthropological Association. Related concerns were part of the "perestroika" agenda for reform of the American Political Science Association. Several associations have either founded or are considering new journals to bring scholarship to a broader public. These efforts are all important.

However, I want to suggest four crucial ingredients of a more public social science that are not always stressed in such discussions.

1. Engagement with public constituencies must move beyond a dissemination model. It is not enough to say that first scientists will do whatever "pure" research moves them and then, eventually, there will be a process of dissemination, application, and implementation. Writing more clearly is good, but not the whole answer. For one thing, we should be cautious about assuming that social scientists should always write directly for broad publics; this may be more the task of some than others, and raising the standards for how journalists draw on social science may be equally important. As the crises of libraries and university presses reminds us, we have also failed to ask enough questions about what publications deserve public subsidies and which should proceed on market bases. In the process, we have made it hard for both ourselves and especially our nonspecialist readers to identify what is really worthwhile. We also need to bring non-scientific constituencies for scientific knowledge into the conversation earlier. Those who potentially use the results of social science in practical action, and those who mediate between scientists and broader publics, should be engaged as social science agendas are developed. Neither broader dissemination nor better "translation" of social science will be adequate without a range of relationships to other constituencies that build an interest in and readiness to use the products of research.

2. Public social science does not equal applied social science. More "applied" research may be helpful, but the opposition of applied to pure is itself part of the problem. It distracts attention from the fundamental issues of quality and originality and misguides as to how both usefulness and scientific advances are achieved. Sometimes work undertaken mainly out of intellectual curiosity or to solve a theoretical problem may prove practically useful. At least as often, research taking up a practical problem or public issue tests the adequacy of scientific knowledge, challenges commonplace generalizations, and pushes forward the creation of new,

fundamental knowledge. Moreover, work engaging important public issues—democracy and the media, AIDS and other infectious diseases, immigration and ethnicity—is not necessarily short-term or limited to informing immediate policy decisions. While putting social science to work in "real time" practice is vital, it is also crucial to recognize that none of these issues will go away soon. We won't learn how to deal with them better in coming decades if we don't commit ourselves now to both long-term pursuit of deeper knowledge and also systematic efforts to assess and learn from the practical interventions made in the meantime.

3. Problem choice is fundamental. What scientists work on and how they formulate their questions shape the likelihood that they will make significant public—or scientific—contributions. Of course there are and must be research projects driven by intellectual curiosity and by attempts to solve theoretical problems—and these may produce useful, even necessary knowledge for a range of public projects. But it is also true that many academic projects are driven by neither deep intellectual curiosity nor pressing public agendas, but simply by the internal arguments of academic subfields or theoretically aimless attempts at cumulative knowledge that mostly accumulate lines on CVs. To justify these by an ideology of pure science is disingenuous. To let these displace the attention of researchers from major public issues is to act with contempt towards the public that pays the bills. Making the sorts of social science we already produce more accessible is not sufficient; we have to produce better social science. This means more work addressing public issues—and being tested and pushed forward by how well we handle them—and high standards for the originality and importance of projects not tied directly to public issues.

4. A more public social science needs to ask serious questions about the idea of "public" itself. What is "the

public?" How are its needs or wants or interests known? How are they formed, and can the processes by which they are formed be improved, made more democratic, more rational, or more creative? Are there in fact a multitude of publics? How do they relate to each other and what does this plurality mean for ideas of the public good? How is public decision-making saved from "tyranny of the majority?" When are markets the best way to achieve broad public access, and when are governmental or philanthropic alternatives most helpful? Can ideas of the public be reclaimed from trivialization by those who see all social issues in terms of an aggregation of private interests? What are the social conditions of a vital, effective public sphere and thus of an important role for social science in informing public culture, debate, and decision-making? Indeed, science itself must be public—findings published and debated, theories criticized. This is how it corrects and improves itself. And social science informs public debate, not only the making of policies behind closed doors. Good science raises the quality of debate, clarifying its factual bases and theoretical terms; it doesn't just support one side or another.

other than private bases. What "public" means in such a discussion, why it matters, and how public benefits might be demonstrated are all important social science questions. If we have trouble answering them, this has implications not only for affirmative action policies, but for the rationale for public universities themselves (and indeed, for treating "private" universities as providers of a public good worthy of tax exemptions). Why is high quality education a public good, why is it good for the public, and why because of this is it crucial to democracy?

This is not simply an abstract theoretical question. Public universities are suffering serious fiscal pressures, and sometimes responding in ways that fundamentally transform their social roles. Since they draw in varying degree on state budgets, it is important to ask what public interests they serve. Are they merely mechanisms for the (more or less fair) distribution of state subsidies to "deserving" students (who turn out to be mainly middle class)? Or are the subsidies also intended to support industry by virtue of research and training? Or do they have a more identifiably public mission?

The answer is fundamental to whether key social institutions that support the production of scientific

Too often, we act as though making sure that knowledge is shared and even used can be left to afterthoughts…

Consider the recent debates over affirmative action, including the University of Michigan court case. The idea that diversity of participation in higher education could be understood as a public good was in sharp tension with questions about the allocation of access as a private good. For many, the entire argument was over appropriate criteria for fair distribution of admission understood as a private, individually appropriated benefit. But others held that for the public good of the state or the country it was important to make higher education available on

knowledge—and the education of citizens to understand it—will remain vibrant. Whether those who make decisions about public expenditures will think public research universities worth the cost depends in part on how well we scientists build bridges to other constituencies and make sure that science engages problems of pressing public importance.

A more public social science depends not only on the institutions in which knowledge is produced, but those in which it potentially informs public opinion, debate, and

decision-making. Democracy also depends on a vital public sphere, yet current transformations in the media—not just technology, but ownership and economic structure, content and orientation, career structure and professional practice—raise important questions. Advocates and activists tackle these questions, but with too little serious research informing their work and providing for learning from real-time engagements.

A new ssrc project takes up this challenge. Supported by the Ford Foundation, we are looking at the ways in which public communications media underpin democratic public life. A central part of our agenda is to provide a richer basis in theory and evidence for debates over the role of government regulation and facilitation of different media from broadcast to the Internet, over the implications of private ownership and public funding, and over how to ensure both wide public access and diversity and quality of contents. These issues are intensely contested by legal advocates, grassroots activists, and representatives of different interest groups. But academic attention is thin, and dispersed over a range of different fields both in the social science disciplines and in professional schools of communications, law, business, and public affairs. Different kinds of empirical knowledge and intellectual perspectives are needed to develop an adequate account of what is publicly important about the media. And it is at once an intellectual and a practical question what it means for citizens to claim rights in regard to the media that are not simply private property rights.

As we develop this project, we will not only bring together academics from a variety of fields, but also build bridges among advocates, activists, practitioners and academics and between all of these and those making decisions in regulatory agencies, legislatures, and corporations. That is, we will seek ways to have the thinking of those developing theoretical and research agendas directly informed by the kinds of concerns driving practical action and arguments before courts and regulatory bodies. The point is not to determine the results in

advance of scientific work, but to make sure there is a constituency for the results of scientific work.

An important public role of science is to generate theory and evidence that can command the serious attention of those who approach practical questions with different values or agendas. The "research" that informs too many public debates is tailor-made to fit the needs of one or another line of practical argument. This problem is exacerbated by the extent to which such research is produced on a contract basis by firms—like the so-called "Beltway Bandits" around Washington, d.c.—that do not have a commitment to advancing scientific knowledge and to the necessity of open debate over findings and arguments this entails. These firms—whether organized on a for-profit or not-for-profit basis—have grown largely because there was a demand for them from policymakers and advocates. This demand was informed partly by a desire to escape the uncertainties that a true quest for knowledge entails—including the possibility that the results won't support the position one has taken in advance. But it was also shaped by academic social scientists distancing themselves from public debates and practical issues in the name of pure science, orienting their communications almost entirely to each other, and failing to work at least partly on schedules that brought out the results of their work in time to address active issues.

Too often, we act as though making sure that knowledge is shared and even used can be left to afterthoughts—separate actions after the research of which publication is the most important. And publication, we imply, is simply a matter of the eternal record, the accumulation of truths on which policymakers may eventually draw. But publication is also a conversation, central to science not just as a record but as part of the process by which understanding is refined, errors corrected, and possible applications discerned. And the conversation needs to start before publication—and indeed often while research is still in the planning stage. It needs to include not only other scientists—like the interdisciplinary
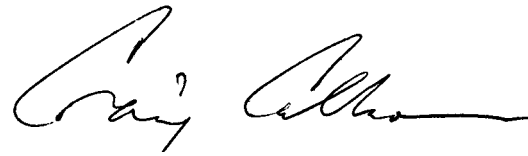
committees for which the s s r c is famous—but broader constituencies. Depending on the nature of the project, these might include policymakers, journalists, advocates, activists, or others. Getting a broader constituency involved in thinking about scientific research agendas as they are developed is an important way to make sure the results of scientific research get into the hands of those who need them. And for each s s r c project, we are trying near the outset to identify the set of core constituents whom we want to see informed by the debates and findings, and trying to map a strategy for reaching them.

None of this means that the scientific research process should be short-circuited, that political or policy considerations should distort findings. Nor does it mean that social science isn't advanced by many kinds of work— such as much of the history and theory close to my own heart—that doesn't have immediate practical uses. It does mean that better relationships between scientists and broader constituencies are vital to making science more useful, and indeed, in many cases intellectually better. Indeed, it may even be the case that better shared discussion of research agendas will sometimes build the basis for more acceptance of unpopular findings.

The s s r c can't work on all the public issues towards which social science has potentially important contributions to make. We focus on a few—chosen partly because they are especially important, but also because they have strategic potential to change the way in which social science research is organized and informs public affairs. How is international migration organized, and how is it changing social life, social solidarities, culture and politics? How can growth and equity be effectively combined in economic development, and how can attention to the political, social, and cultural concomitants of economic change be integrated into development agendas? How does globalization both transform and work through regions and nations, how are these reconfigured, and when do they resist? How can public health be advanced, especially when socially organized

capacities to deliver prevention, care, and treatment lag far behind new developments in biomedical science and in cases like a i d s where epidemics may bring social transformations?

Of course social scientists have long believed that the public ought to pay more attention to their work. The issue now is not simply to promote ourselves better, but to ask better social science questions about what encourages scientific innovation, what makes knowledge useful, and how to pursue both these agendas, with attention to both immediate needs and long term capacities.

Craig Calhoun
President
s s r c

How the SSRC Works
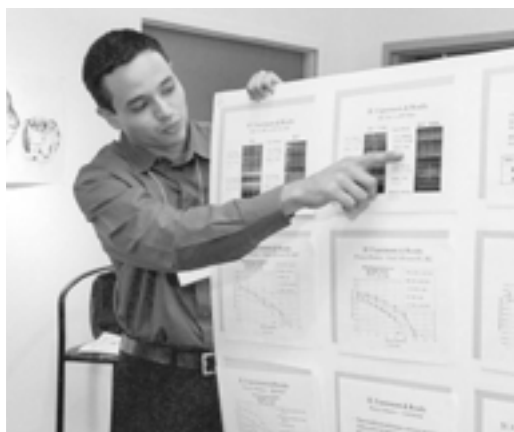
SSRC-Mellon Mays Fellow Eugenio Ortiz explains his research in a poster session at a summer conference, Rice University.

The SSRC responds flexibly to public needs for social science research. Not bound by the specific combinations of faculty at any one university or research center, the SSRC draws researchers from around the country and increasingly around the world to create interdisciplinary teams defined by specific themes and able to expand intellectual frontiers and build partnerships with policymakers and practitioners.

ACTIVITIES

The SSRC organizes research networks, committees on specific themes or fields and advisory panels and consortia. These guide research projects, conferences, workshops, scholarly exchanges, partnerships with policymakers and practitioners, and training activities and publications. They also serve as selection panels for grants and fellowships. More than 2,000 researchers, policymakers, practitioners and students participate in the SSRC's conferences, workshops and training institutes each year. These are held at sites around the world. A small staff of professional social scientists organizes and supports the work of its many committees and projects. Most are based in New York City; some in other locations in the U.S. or internationally.

PARTICIPANTS

Some 400 social scientists and other scholars and practitioner researchers from more than 40 countries serve on SSRC committees, research teams, or panels. Participants are chosen on the basis of their individual distinction. Most are university professors or professional researchers based at nonprofit institutions and serve without payment. In addition, the SSRC awards fellowships each year to more than 100 predoctoral students and postdoctoral researchers.

GOVERNANCE

The SSRC is an autonomous nonprofit organization governed by an international Board of Directors. Its members are mostly social scientists based in universities or research institutions, but they include also business leaders, public officials and journalists with a background and engagement in social science. The Board names an Executive Committee from among its members, and a President, who is the Council's chief executive officer.

FUNDING

Funds for the SSRC's work come mainly from foundation grants. The Laura Spelman Rockefeller Trust (later incorporated into the Rockefeller Foundation) provided founding support. During the 1940s, the Ford Foundation made a commitment to building resources in international studies and became a major funder. Since then, its support expanded to include a wide range of programs; the Ford Foundation is the largest funder of SSRC activities. The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation have also played especially important roles in recent decades.

Today the SSRC receives grants from more than 20 private foundations. The Council's projects are also supported by public foundations and agencies such as the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership, the British Department for International Development and such U.S. agencies as the National Science Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The SSRC has a small endowment of its own, based on gifts from foundations and private donors.

The SSRC does not accept funds from any source that would compromise the independence of its scholars or its status as an open forum of international exchange.

Members of the SSRC Standing Committee on Cuban Libraries and Archives examine materials at the Institute of History in Havana.

Publications 2002–2004

The ssrc publishes *Items & Issues,* a quarterly newsletter featuring essays and other writings by participants in its networks. It has a circulation of 10,000. The ssrc's website (www.ssrc.org) is a forum for timely analysis by leading social scientists. More than one million essays have been downloaded on topics such as September 11, security and threats to intellectual freedom, global security, and information technology and international cooperation. Individual programs also publish newsletters and working papers. A wide variety of books, articles and special issues of journals are published each year based on ssrc research projects

Not long after the September 11, 2001 attacks on New York and Washington, the ssrc launched a website of commissioned essays dealing with the causes, consequences and interpretations of the tragic events. Response to the site was favorable, reminding us that there is strong demand, even in these information-rich days, for careful, reliable and scholarly analysis of contemporary issues. In collaboration with The New Press, the ssrc has subsequently published four volumes of essays in a series entitled "After September 11." They are intended both for classroom use and the general reading public, bringing perspectives from prominent social scientists to timely issues of security and peace.

Understanding September 11, edited by Craig Calhoun, Paul Price and Ashley Timmer.

Critical Views of September 11: Analyses from Around the World, edited by Eric Hershberg and Kevin W. Moore.

Bombs and Bandwidth: The Emerging Relationship Between IT and Security, edited by Robert Latham.
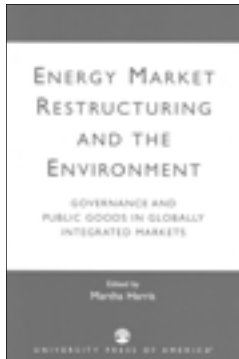
The Maze of Fear: Security and Migration after 9/11, edited by John Tirman.

Dictionary of the Social Sciences. Craig Calhoun ed. Joe Karaganis and Paul Price assoc. eds.. New York: Oxford University Press, 2002.

Models of Capitalism and Latin American Development. Evelyne Huber, ed. University Park, PA: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2002.

Modernity and Culture: From the Mediterranean to the Indian Ocean. Leila Tarazi Fawaz and C.A. Bayly, eds. New York: Columbia University Press, 2002.


Engaging Cultural Differences: The Multicultural Challenge in Liberal Democracies. Richard A. Shweder, Martha Minow, and Hazel Rose Markus, eds. New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2002.

Energy Market Restructuring and the Environment: Governance and Public Goods in Globalized Markets. Martha Harris, ed. Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 2002.

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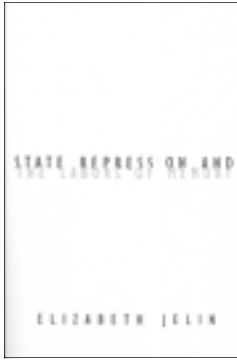
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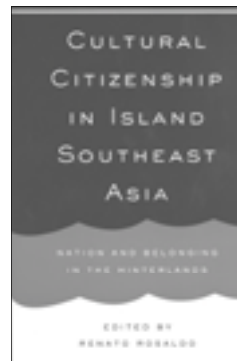
Cultural Citizenship in Island Southeast Asia : Nation and Belonging in the Hinterlands. Rosaldo Renato, ed. Berkeley, ca: University of California Press, 2003.

Expanding the Boundaries of Health and Social Science: Case Studies in Interdisciplinary Innovation. Frank Kessel, Patricia L. Rosenfield, Norman B. Anderson, eds. New York: Oxford University Press, 2003.

Architectures of Russian Identity: 1500 to the Present. James Cracraft, Daniel Rowland, eds. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 2003.

Immigrant Life in the U.S.: Multi-Disciplinary Perspectives. Donna R. Gabaccia, Colin Wayne Leach, eds. London: Routledge, 2004.
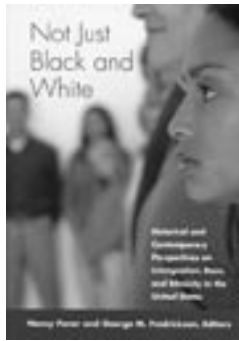
Not Just Black and White: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives on Immigration, Race, and Ethnicity in the United States. Nancy Foner, George M. Frederickson, eds. New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2004.
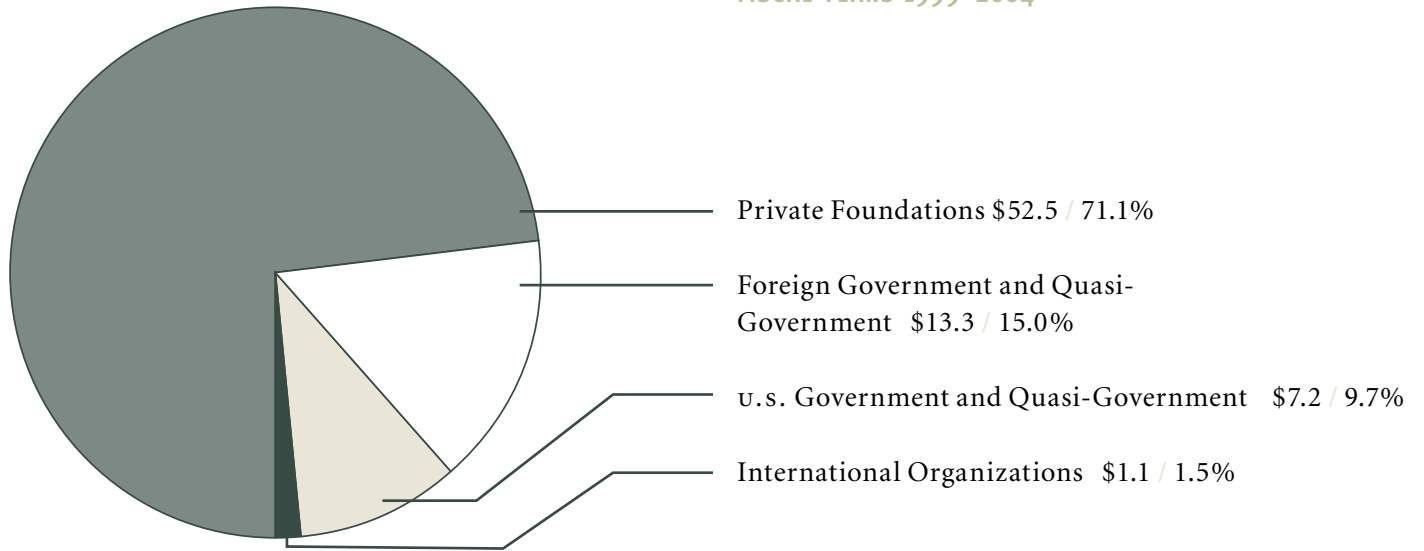
Memorias de la Represión. A 12 volume series on Collective Memory of Repression in the Southern Cone and Peru is being published in Spanish by Siglo xxi Editores. The series consists of work produced by program fellows and faculty participating in the ssrc project and has been released simultaneously in Madrid and Buenos Aires and distributed throughout the world. Six volumes were released in 2002-2003, including the English translation of the first volume by Project Director Elizabeth Jelin. More are being published in 2004-2005.
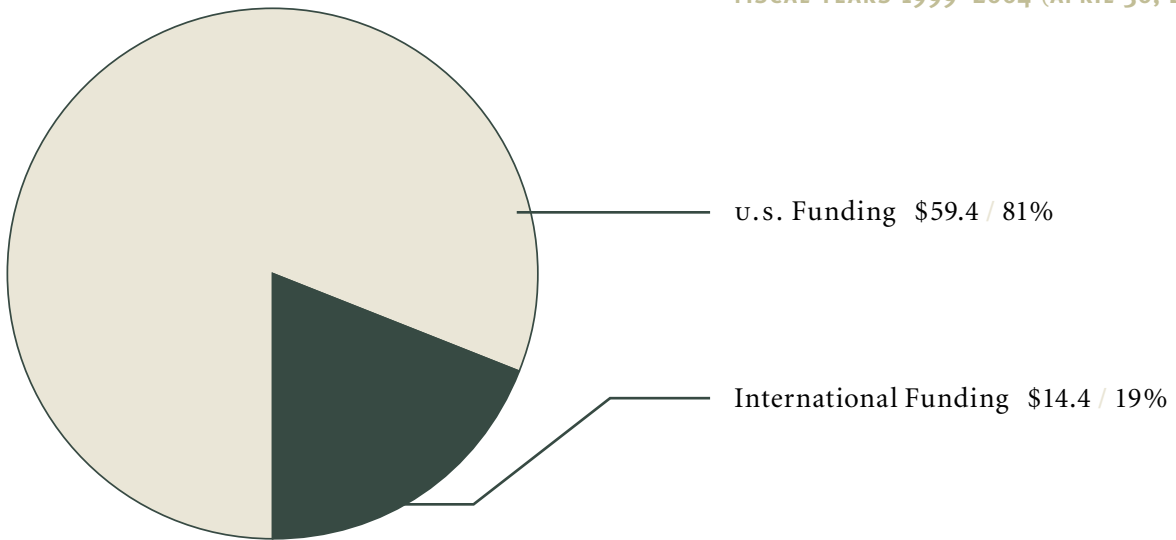
Grants Received

Amount

American Sociological Association
Research Support for Edited Volume on the Last 100 Years of American Sociology $ 25,000

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
Renewal of Mellon Mays Fellowship Conferences   1,500,000
Renewal of Mellon Predoctoral Research Grants   1,000,000

Bay Foundation
Collections Care at the Hemingway Museum in Havana, Cuba   18,000

Carnegie Corporation of New York
Project on Cooperative Security in Northeast Asia   200,000

Christopher Reynolds Foundation
Core Support for the ACLS/SSRC Working Group on Cuba   43,000
Social Science Research Council's Cuba Delegation Project   35,739
SSRC-CIPS Partnership   20,000
Work with Cuban Economists in 2003   43,000

Department for International Development (England)
Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum (CPPF)   475,000

Development Agency of the Swedish Government
General Support for CPPF   75,000

Ford Foundation
Collaboration in Research on the Middle East and North Africa, Public Spheres   350,000
Joint Social Science Research, Training, and Exchange on Issues of Poverty & Mobility   222,500
Project to Build and Share Knowledge on the Expanding Role of Policymaking
   on Intellectual Property in the Emerging Global Information Society   100,000
Sexuality Research Publications   50,000
Support for Research on Global Governance and Global Civil Society
   in the Technology Sector   500,000

Freie University
Berlin Program for Advanced German and European Studies   10,000

Government of the Federal Republic of Germany
Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum: Central Asia Program   99,910

International Fellowships Fund, Inc.
Supplemental Support for Database Design Assistance for the International
   Fellowship Program's Website/Extranet and Future Program Evaluation/Research   35,180

Japan Foundation
Japan Studies Dissertation Conference   39,996

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands
Children Affected by Armed Conflict: Capacity Building in the Great Lakes Region, 2003   100,000

National Endowment for the Humanities
Humanities Fellowships in the Berlin Program   106,000

National Institutes of Health
Successes and Failures in the Social and Behavioral Sciences Planning Meeting   6,000

Carried forward   5,054,325

		Amount
(brought forward)	$	5,054,325

Pyewacket Foundation
Supplemental Support for Financing Major Technological Innovations	71,625

Rockefeller Foundation
Program on the Arts: Working Conferences	99,722
General Support for Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum	300,000
Preservation and Conservation of the Papers of Hemingway at Finca Vigia, Cuba	75,000
Translocal Flows: Migration and Contested Urban Spaces	200,000
Working Group Planning Grant on Culture, Creativity and Information Technology	99,500

Russell Sage Foundation
Islam and Muslims in the United States and Europe: Processes of Mutual Accommodation	50,000
Support for Working Group on Law and Culture	272,859

Sesame Workshop
Study of the Sociological Impact of Sesame Street in Bangladesh	5,000

United States Agency for International Development
African Youth and Civil Society: Global Trends, the NGO Sector and Young People	124,101

United States Department of State
Ethnic Conflict in the Balkans: A Young Scholar's Exchange	124,968
Kyrgzstan Educational Partnerships Program in Cultural and Comparative Religious Studies	200,000
Research & Training on Eastern Europe & Independent States of Former Soviet Union	775,000
Research & Training on Eastern Europe & Independent States of Former Soviet Union- Additional Award	60,000

United Nations
Project LINK (Fall Meeting)	89,058
Project LINK (Spring Meeting)	102,216

University Research Corporation International (University of Maryland)
Democratic Governance Research Design	272,000

Various Donors
Preservation and Conservation of the Papers of Hemingway at Finca Vigia, Cuba	27,250

William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
Latin America Fellowship Program	200,000

Total grants received	$	**8,202,624**

Private Foundations $52.5 / 71.1%

Foreign Government and Quasi-
Government $13.3 / 15.0%

U.S. Government and Quasi-Government $7.2 / 9.7%

International Organizations $1.1 / 1.5%

INTERNATIONAL VERSUS U.S. FUNDING

FISCAL YEARS 1999–2004 (APRIL 30, 2004)
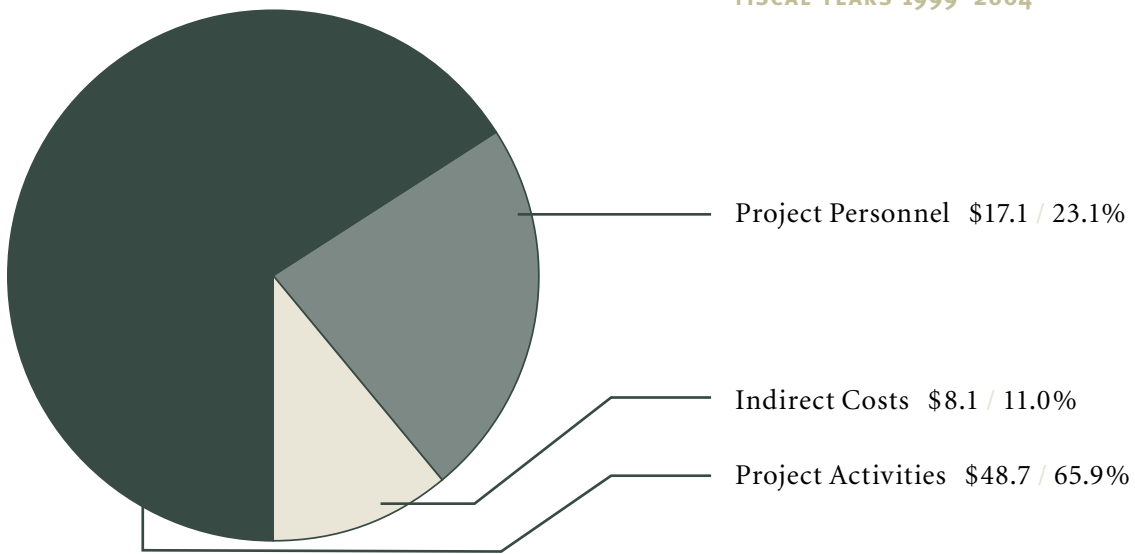
U.S. Funding $59.4 / 81%

International Funding $14.4 / 19%

Project Personnel $17.1 / 23.1%

Indirect Costs $8.1 / 11.0%

Project Activities $48.7 / 65.9%

Workshops and Other Educational Activities $19.5 / 35.9%

Fellowships $15.2 / 27.9%

Research Activities $19.7 / 36.2%
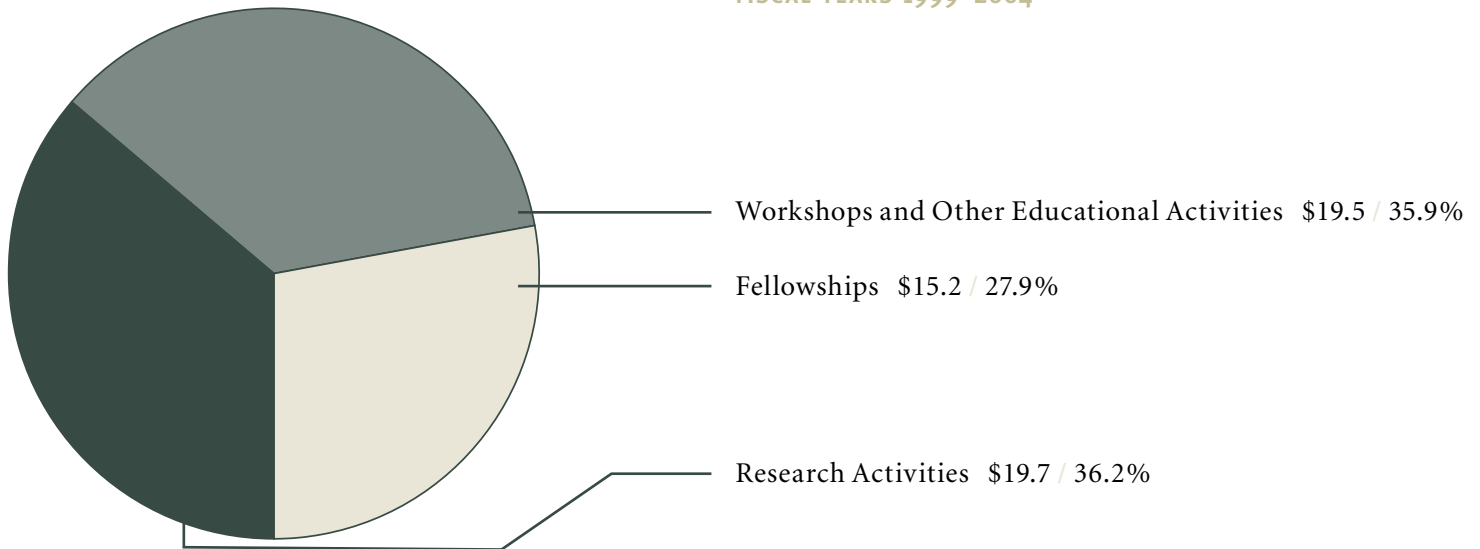
Amount

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
SSRC/ACLS International Dissertation Field Research Program $ 2,658,000

Carnegie Corporation of New York
Reframing the Challenge of Migration and Security   150,000

Christopher Reynolds Foundation
ACLS/SSRC Working Group on Cuba   43,000
SSRC-CIPS Partnership   6,861
Work with Cuban Economists   43,000

FJC, A Foundation of Donor Advised Funds
Exploratory Study of Investor Psychology   10,000

Ford Foundation
Central European University in Budapest Seminar   14,400
Northeast Asia Cooperative Security Project   60,000
Cuban Libraries and Archives Project   250,000
Sexuality Research Fellowship Program   1,000,000
Sexuality Research Fellowship Program   151,000
Forum on Globalization & International Discussion on a
   Variety of Views on Development Strategy   265,000
Project on Communication as a Right and a Public Good   100,000
Political Landscape Surrounding the Development & Adoption of Open Source Software   70,000
Social Role of Intellectual Property   75,000

Government of the Federal Republic of Germany
Central Asia Conferences 2 and 3   49,819

Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation
Project on Youth and Violence   30,000

International Development Research Centre, Canada
Study in HIV/AIDS & the Social Sciences   15,338

Japan Foundation
Japan Studies Dissertation Conference   30,000

Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership
Abe Fellowship Program (2003-2004)   1,607,949
Abe Fellowship Program (2004-2005)   1,740,276
CGP-SSRC Seminar Series (2003-2004)   64,554
CGP-SSRC Seminar Series (2004-2005)   84,942

Japan-United States Friendship Commission
Evaluation of the Grants Program for Advanced Research on Japan   19,000

John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
Responding to Hegemony: The Dynamics of Social Movements   250,000

Lumina Foundation for Education
Transition to Higher Education   375,500

Carried forward   9,163,639

	Amount
(brought forward)	$ 9,163,639
Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Sweden	
General Support for Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum (CPPF)	95,006
National Institutes of Health	
Successes and Failures in the Social and Behavioral Sciences Planning Meeting	7,500
National Science Foundation	
Integrative, Interdisciplinary Graduate Education	1,277,617
New York Times Company Foundation	
Institute on Islam and Muslims in America	25,000
Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI)	
Assessing Political/Military Responses to Political Violence	171,757
Peck Stacpoole Foundation	
Collections Care at the Hemingway Museum in Havana, Cuba	7,000
Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations	
CPPF's Knowledge Project and Africa-Related Activities	174,372
Ploughshares Fund	
Civil Society and Nuclear Development in Iran	40,000
Rockefeller Foundation	
Strengthening the UN's Strategic Analysis Capacities in the Area of Peace and Security	75,000
The Digital Cultural Institutions Project	100,000
Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway	
Children and Armed Conflict: Data for Improving Intervention and Training	76,681
Russell Sage Foundation	
Legitimacy of Philanthropic Foundations: U.S. and European Perspectives	40,527
Soros Foundation (OSI)	
Initiative on HIV/AIDS & Social Transformation	50,000
Initiative on HIV/AIDS & Social Transformation	50,000
U.S. Department of Education	
Internationalization and Interdisciplinarity: An Evaluation of Title VI Middle East Studies Centers	86,622
On-Line Teaching Resource Tool (TRT): Histories of Central Asia	111,901
UNICEF/European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office	
Data for Improving Intervention and Training on Children and Armed Conflict	1,033,802
United Nations	
Project LINK (Spring 2004 Meeting)	90,000
Total grants received	$ 12,676,424

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Cover Photo. Mother and daughter in Sheglet Village, Gash-Barka, Eritrea. Photo by Ezra Simon, SSRC program coordinator, Children and Armed Conflict Program.

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