

Analysis Of Interdisciplinary Research Grants Reveals Key Roles For Research Psychologists

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"Interdisciplinary research is a mode of research by teams or individuals that integrates information, data, techniques, tools, perspectives, concepts, and/or theories from two or more disciplines or bodies of specialized knowledge to advance fundamental understanding or to solve problems whose solutions are beyond the scope of a single discipline or area of research practice." National Academies, *Facilitating Interdisciplinary Research*, 2004

National Science Foundation (NSF)
Directorate for Social, Behavioral &
Economic Sciences (SBE)

Interdisciplinary Behavioral and
Social Science Research Program
(IBSS)

SYNOPSIS: **Initial award FY 2013;**
archived April 2016; 38 grants; 15
States; approx. \$27 million in total
support.

In 2015, the PsySiP Project analyzed 37 grants supported by the National Science Foundation under the aegis of the **Interdisciplinary Behavioral and Social Science Research Competition (IBSS)**. IBSS supported integrated teams of researchers from two or more social, behavioral, and economic (SBE) disciplines in three general topic areas, (1) Population Change; (2) Sources and Consequences of Disparities; and (3) Technology, New Media, and Social Networks.

Using online project descriptions, PsySiP recorded information about the Principal Investigators (PIs) and co-PIs. Three types of analyses were conducted: (1) job title identified by each PI and co-PI; (2) organizational affiliation; and (3) departmental affiliation to examine disciplinary “networks.”

Excerpt NSF Awards (2015)

IBSS: Communication in the Global University: A Longitudinal Study of Language Adaptation at Multiple Timescales in Native and Non-Native Speakers

Award Number:1519908; Principal Investigator:Jiwon Hwang; Co-Principal Investigator:Agnes He, Arthur Samuel, Marie Huffman, Ellen Broselow; Organization:SUNY at Stony Brook;NSF Organization:SMA Start Date:08/15/2015; Award Amount:\$999,817.00; Relevance:48.0;

IBSS-Ex: Integrating Social Science and Systems Methodologies for Sustainability: Promoting Appropriate Waste-Disposal Practices in Low-Income Neighborhoods

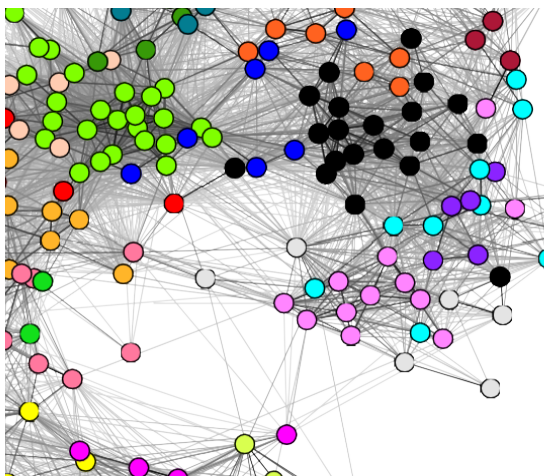
Award Number:1416873; Principal Investigator:Peter Winch; Co-Principal Investigator:Jian Ni, Cindy Parker, Benjamin Hobbs; Organization:Johns Hopkins University;NSF Organization:SMA Start Date:08/01/2014; Award Amount:\$249,998.00; Relevance:48.0;

IBSS-Ex: Exploring Recidivism Through a Tablet-Based Battery to Assess Individual Decision Making

Award Number:1519667; Principal Investigator:David Eagleman; Co-Principal Investigator:; Organization:Baylor College of Medicine;NSF Organization:SMA Start Date:08/15/2015; Award Amount:\$244,639.00; Relevance:48.0;

IBSS:The Evolution of Social Networks and the Robustness of Human Societies to Population Growth and Environmental Change: A Deep Time Perspective

Award Number:1520308; Principal Investigator:Robert Hard; Co-Principal Investigator:John Anderies, Jacob Freeman, Deborah Bolnick, Raymond Mauldin; ...



- Six of the 37 IBSS awards were led by individuals employed by Departments of Psychology, Cognitive Science, or Neuroscience.
- Another 8 of the 37 grantees directed or were otherwise affiliated with institutes or centers, including “behavioral science” research institutes.
- Several psychologists served as co-PIs on grants led by anthropologists or political scientists.

SOURCE: Riopelle, Leydesdorff, and Li Jie, 2014 (Pajek)