Hi everyone: an important announcement about SICSS research grants:

We are pleased to announce that we will once again be able to offer funding for research projects created at our event this year. This message provides more information about the funding process and how you can apply and who is eligible to apply. This is not the final version of the funding announcement- a final version will be posted on www.ssrc.org (one of our funding partners) as soon as possible (likely within a few weeks)

Eligibility

Research funding is limited to participants in the 2021 Summer Institutes in Computational Social Science. If your research ideas have evolved to include people who did not participate in our institutes, this is ok, provided that at least two of the people on the research team are SICSS 2021 alumni. Also, funding is only available for projects in which SICSS alumni will take a leadership role (e.g. first author of a project, or lead developer of a new tool).

What Type of Funding is Available?

Funding is available to run surveys, pay for cloud computing, website, or app-hosting costs, purchase data, or support other research cost. Funds will be disbursed via the Social Science Research Council to the Principal Investigator of the Grant.

How Much Funding is Available?

Project budgets for this program typically range between $200-$2,500. In rare cases, we may consider funding at higher levels— particularly if applications involve a large number of applicants from the SICSS community or may create some other type of common good.

How Will Proposals be Evaluated?

Funding decisions will be made on a rapid basis by members of the SICSS leadership team in consultation with other SICSS organizers (current and former). If organizers are part of teams that apply for funding, these organizers will not be consulted for funding recommendations.

Proposals will be evaluated according to several principles (in no particular order): 1) the importance of the project to computational social science; 2) the quality of the research design proposed; 3) the benefit to the broader SICSS community. Successful proposals need not address each of these dimensions. Priority is given to projects that stand to benefit larger groups of people— inside or outside the SICSS community, in the form of open-access tools, data, or other resources. We also strongly encourage you to pre-register your hypotheses, if your project involves answering an empirical research question.

How to Apply for Funding

To submit a proposal and view the required application form, please visit: http://apply.ssrc.org (note: link is not yet up yet!!!!). In order to apply through the SSRC Application Portal, you must create a unique login ID and a secure password. You may begin filling out a proposal, save it, and return to complete it at a later time.

Completed applications must be submitted by 11:59pm ET on August 16, 2021

Applicants should be prepared to provide information in the Applicant Portal, including:

a brief, descriptive title (125 characters) and abstract (no more than 200 words) written for a nonspecialist audience clearly explaining the project’s principal focus, questions, and expected results;

a biographical sketch (200 words or less) of the Principal Investigator (PI);

an itemized budget with budget narrative (no more than 1-2 pages); and

brief details about other sources of funding or support for the project (including pending proposals)

Additionally, applicants should be prepared to provide brief responses about the project’s:

contribution to computational social science (500 words or less);

methodology (500 words or less); and

timeline (200 words or less)

All research projects must receive approval from the Institutional Review Board of the university or universities associated with the lead researchers on each team.

Examples of Projects Emerging from SICSS

Asbury, V., Chang, K., McCabe, K., Munger, K., & Ventura, T. (2020). The Effect of Streaming Chat on Perceptions of Debates. Working paper.

Almaatouq, A., Krafft, P., Dunham, Y., Rand, D.G., & Pentland, A. (2020). Turkers of the World Unite: Multilevel In-Group Bias Amongst Crowdworkers On Amazon Mechanical Turk. Social Psychological and Personality Science 11(2), 151-159.

Becker, J., Porter, E., & Centola, D.. (2019). The Wisdom of Partisan Crowds. Proceedings of the National Academies of Sciences 116(22), 10717-10722.

Filippova, A., Gilroy, C., Kashyap, R., Kirchner, A., Morgan, A.C., Polimis, K., Usmani, A., & Wang, T. (2019). Humans in the Loop: Incorporating Expert and Crowdsourced Knowledge for Predictions using Survey Data. Socius.

Pham, K.H., Rampazzo, F., & Leah R. Rosenzweig. (2019). Online Surveys and Digital Demography in the Developing World: Facebook Users in Kenya. Poster presented at MIT Conference on Digital Experimentation (CODE)

Schwemmer C., Knight C., Bello-Pardo E.D., Oklobdzija S., Schoonvelde M., Lockhart J.W. (2020). Diagnosing Gender Bias in Image Recognition Systems. Socius.

With very best wishes,

The SICSS team