Jim Walsh meeting 9/25/2023

* Frame around great power competition
  + How will it resolve theoretical debates in the field?
* more applied than the NSF would want to fund
  + To get good reviews, focus on theory
* budget questions. Sometimes they will come back and do 75%, but it depends. 500k is okay.
* Broader impacts. Get good reviews, but intellectual merit is the most important. Broader impacts: involving students, supporting institutions, epscor jurisdiction, broadening participation.
* Affecting policy is common, but not sure if that is that influential for higher ups at NSF. More material outcomes.
* Logistical question: could do independent contracts, or subawardees. Independent contracts could save some money by getting out of the 25k overhead from the main institution.
* Make it more clear in the full proposal why this is important.
* Emphasize that we have (successfully) done similar work in the past
  + Bringing together two strains, emphasize why it’s important
  + Watch out for making it seem like we just merged two different research agendas
  + Make it fit together organically
* Pilot data is very good!
  + spend some time about the pilot data and lessons learned/even better.
  + Explain problems we had and how we fixed them (to show that we can adapt on the fly if needed)
* Explain who is going to do what on the project (so that everyone’s role is justified)
* thought about the countries: What are we going to do with the resulting data? One data set with country fixed effects or independent country analysis? If the latter, how do you causally identify the difference across countries?
  + BB note: One way to (partially) square the circle might be to ask questions in the surveys/interviews that allow us to get micro-level evidence that reflects macro-level variation. Some variation at the national level should be observable at the individual level (e.g., more folks in Djibouti have presumably had military contact with the US and China than say the Solomon Islands or even Kenya, and likewise there may be more Chinese civilian contact in places where China has a big economic footprint).
* Variance in countries is caused by relations with US/china versus development other unobservable?