

NDSU OFFICE OF
RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY

RCA UPDATE

October 11, 2021

NDSU Researcher Receives Award to Study How Countries Control Online Access to Information

Dan Pemstein, associate professor of political science and public policy, has been awarded a National Science Foundation grant of \$737,487 to study the impact of misinformation on social media and how countries seek to control online space. Pemstein is the principal investigator for the project, which is part of a larger collaboration with investigators at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Brandeis University.



Pemstein studies the challenges that digital networks pose to democracies across the globe. A political economist and methodologist, he seeks to understand with the new project how often governments filter or completely shut down social media when it doesn't conform to their specific political needs. He also wants to examine the measures taken and tools utilized by individual citizens in maintaining their own privacy. The project will create an infrastructure to collect data from around the world about cybersecurity, internet freedom, disinformation, coordinated information operations, and the politicization and polarization of social media.

This project aims to learn how countries monitor, alter, and control online space. Pemstein notes how this information will be critically important to many groups including

policy makers, who can use the results of this project to better understand how to curb internet-driven political violence, stop the spread of disinformation, reduce electoral manipulation, and enhance government accountability.

“But it doesn’t stop there,” he adds. “Civil society groups can use the assessments to improve human rights surveillance; firms can use the data to reduce harm caused by their social media platforms; and teachers and students can use this project to better understand politics in a digital world, equipping citizens to safely traverse the modern information landscape. And this information will be housed at NDSU, making our institution the center of a global resource of valuable information.”

[Learn more >>](#)

Future of NSF EPSCoR - Public Comment Form

The National Science Foundation (NSF) Committee on Equal Opportunities in Science and Engineering (CEOSE) has charged a subcommittee with envisioning the future of the NSF Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR). The subcommittee has opened up a public comment site for anyone to provide input and ideas: <https://beta.nsf.gov/envisioning-future-nsf-epscor/epscor-public-comment>. The public comment form allows for open-ended comments around 3 broad questions:

1. What current NSF EPSCoR investment strategies have you found to be successful? What makes them successful? Please give examples of these successes, particularly for how NSF EPSCoR investments have led to sustained improvements to research competitiveness for individuals, teams, institutions, or jurisdictions.
2. What factors influence the effectiveness of NSF EPSCoR investments? How are you measuring their effectiveness and / or success?
3. Are there additional strategies or investment areas that could help NSF EPSCoR and its jurisdictional partners achieve their shared goals? What

competitiveness gaps might such strategies address, and how might they work? Cite evidence where possible to support your ideas.

The deadline for submitting comments is October 29, 2021.

Research Compliance Administrator Josie Hayden Leaving NDSU

Josie Hayden has accepted the role of Clinical Operations Manager at Novum Pharmaceutical Research Services in Fargo where she will be responsible for daily management of clinical conduct for Phase I investigations, creation of standard operating procedures and good clinical practices, and compliance with FDA regulations and other regulatory standards.

As Research Compliance Administrator at NDSU, Josie has led the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). In partnership with NDSU attending veterinarian Neil Dyer, DVM, Josie has also monitored the care and use of animals at NDSU operations through daily observation, semi-annual inspections of all animal facilities, development of protocols and standard operating procedures, and management of an internal quality control program to identify animal adverse events and the plans to correct them.

Josie's last day at NDSU will be October 13.

IACUC protocol information should continue to be submitted in Novolution. Any other questions or requests can be sent to the office email: ndsu.iacuc@ndsu.edu.

National Science Foundation (NSF) Announcements

- **Reminder: the new Proposal and Award Policy and Procedures Guide (PAPPG) [NSF [22-1](#)] took effect October 4, 2021.**

- The new PAPPG incorporates two new "Other Types of Proposals:" [Planning Proposals](#) and [Career-Life Balance \(CLB\) Supplemental Funding Requests](#).
- The **required NSF Biographical Sketch format has been updated** to reflect revisions in the new PAPPG. The current formats are posted on the NSF [biographical sketch](#) website, along with FAQs.
- The **required NSF Current and Pending Support format has been updated** to reflect revisions in the new PAPPG. The current formats are posted on the NSF [current and pending support](#) website, along with FAQs.
- Some enhancements to the Research.gov Proposal Submission System include:
 - GOALI, Planning Proposals, and Letters of Intent submission types are now available in Research.gov.
 - New automated compliance checks were implemented. Error messages prevent submission to NSF; warning messages will still permit proposal submission.
 - New FAQs were added to the Research.gov [About Proposal Preparation and Submission](#) page, and the [Proposal Submission Capabilities](#) page has been updated to reflect the latest development updates.
- NSF plans to fully transition from FastLane to Research.gov by a target date of December 31, 2022.

NSF guidelines for budget start and end dates

The proposed duration for which support is requested should be consistent with the nature and complexity of the proposed activity. The National Science Foundation (NSF) encourages proposers to request funding for durations of three to five years when such durations are necessary for completion of the proposed work and are technically and managerially advantageous. The **requested start date should allow at least six months** for NSF review, processing and decision. For more information, see the NSF Proposal and Award Policy and Procedures Guide ([PAPPG](#)).

eRA Commons accounts for NIH grant teams

When an NIH grant is awarded, eRA Commons accounts will need to be made for all researchers working on the project, inclusive of students. Please email ndsu.research@ndsu.edu with the person's name, role (undergraduate, graduate, post-doc, PI) and the associated email address. Once Sponsored Programs has this information, an account will be created for the researcher with a user name. eRA Commons will send a temporary password to the individual. It is important to make the accounts when the person begins on the project as the account is not activated until the profile is completed. With the fluctuation of students on grants, creation of an account before the report period is prudent.



Congratulations to all award recipients from September!

View the complete list online: [PDF](#) | [Excel](#)

The awards listed are externally funded projects. Each month one of the RCA Updates will include prior month awards.

[See Award Reports from previous months >>](#)

Upcoming Workshops and Events

- **NDSU Science Café - October**
October 12, 2021 / [Learn more >>](#)
- **DOE Office of Science Virtual Communications Summit**
October 26, 2021 / [Learn more >>](#)
- **AAAS Virtual Event: New Horizons - Elevating the Arts in American Life**
October 27, 2021 / [Learn more >>](#)
- **NIH Virtual Grants Conference**
November 1-4, 2021 / [Learn more >>](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- [DOE: Basic Research to Advance Frontiers of Science](#)
- [National Endowment for Financial Education](#)
- [NIH: Cancer Health Disparities](#)
- [NIJ: Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Justice System](#)
- [NPS: Historic Preservation Fund - History of Equal Rights - Preservation Grants](#)
- [NSF: Integrative Research in Biology](#)
- [NSF: Research on the Science and Technology Enterprise: Indicators, Statistics, and Methods](#)
- [NSF: Topical Materials Research](#)
- [Spencer Foundation: Large Research Grants on Education](#)

Upcoming Limited Submission Program Deadlines

[Limited submission grant programs](#) are those that indicate a limit on the number of proposals that may be submitted by an institution for a particular deadline. A selection process becomes necessary if more applicants express interest in applying than NDSU is allowed to submit to the grant program. Email notifications of interest to ndsu.researchdev@ndsu.edu.

If you identify a limited submission opportunity that is not on the list below, please notify ndsu.researchdev@ndsu.edu.

- [NIH: Modern Equipment for Shared-use Biomedical Research Facilities](#)
Notification Deadline: 10/12/2021
- [NSF: Partnerships for Innovation](#)
Notification Deadline: 10/20/2021

There are a number of limited submission grant programs with upcoming agency deadlines for which we did not receive any notifications of interest. A full list of those programs is available on the [Limited Submissions page](#). For these programs, marked "First to Notify," approval to move forward with a full proposal submission

to the funder will be given on a first come, first served basis. Email notifications of interest to ndsu.researchdev@ndsu.edu.

Looking for more funding opportunities?



RCA subscribes to SPIN by InfoEd Global, a database of more than 40,000 funding opportunities. Through this subscription, SPIN is free for current NDSU faculty, staff, and students.

For more information and to access this database, visit the [SPIN page](#) on the RCA website. If you have questions, please contact ndsu.researchdev@ndsu.edu.

DOE: Basic Research to Advance Frontiers of Science

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is soliciting proposals in a range of research opportunities to support DOE's clean energy, economic, and national security goals. The funding will advance the priorities of DOE's Office of Science (SC) and its major programs, including Advanced Scientific Computing Research, Basic Energy Sciences, Biological and Environmental Research, Fusion Energy Sciences, High Energy Physics, Nuclear Physics, Isotope R&D and Production and Accelerator R&D and Production.

The DOE Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA), informally known as the "Open Call," is issued annually at the beginning of each Fiscal Year (FY). It provides a vehicle for the Office of Science to solicit applications for research support in areas not covered by more specific, topical FOAs that are issued by the office over the course of the Fiscal Year. The FOA, titled "FY 2022 Continuation of Solicitation for the Office of Science Financial Assistance Program," can be found on the Office of Science [funding opportunities page](#).

This opportunity will remain open through September 30, 2022.

National Endowment for Financial Education

The National Endowment for Financial Education (NEFE) provides funding for rigorous, innovative and actionable research that seeks to improve the public's financial well-being and has the potential to make a profound contribution to the field of financial education. NEFE welcomes original research questions and replication studies that align with their funding priorities. Research projects must use rigorous empirical and / or theoretical analysis. Original data is welcome but not required.

The NEFE grant cycle is open to all eligible concepts, but preference is given to well-designed projects that align with the following four topic areas:

- **Measurement:** Studies that re-evaluate current financial literacy metrics and how financial literacy, behavior, perception, knowledge and skill can be measured more effectively.
- **Systemic Inequality:** Studies that investigate knowledge, skill and wealth disparities, especially among populations that are statistically more likely to experience systemic barriers to improving their financial well-being.
- **Data and Methodological Limitations:** Studies that examine bias—specifically as it pertains to personal finance— to help our field identify knowledge gaps and to strengthen research data and design by including traditionally less heard voices.
- **Youth Focus:** Studies that examine inconsistencies in exposure to financial education among youth in the U.S. as well as variations in financial socialization and education within family units.

Find more detailed information about NEFE [funding priorities](#).

Letter of Inquiry deadline: November 15, 2021



NIH: Basic Research in Cancer Health Disparities

These Funding Opportunity Announcements encourage grant applications from investigators interested in conducting basic, mechanistic research into the biological / genetic causes of cancer health disparities, in areas such as (1) mechanistic studies of biological factors associated with cancer health disparities, including those related to basic research in cancer biology or cancer prevention strategies, (2) the development and testing of new methodologies and models, and (3) secondary data analyses. These

opportunities are also designed to aid and facilitate the growth of a nationwide cohort of scientists with a high level of basic research expertise in cancer health disparities research who can expand available resources and tools, such as biospecimens, patient derived models, and methods that are necessary to conduct basic research in cancer health disparities.

- R01 [[PAR-21-322](#)]
- R21 [[PAR-21-323](#)]
- R03 [[PAR-21-234](#)]

Standard deadlines apply

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NIJ: W.E.B. Du Bois Program of Research on Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Justice System

The W.E.B. Du Bois Program supports research that furthers the Department of Justice's mission by advancing knowledge regarding the intersections of race, crime, violence, and the administration of justice within the United States. In FY 2021 under the W.E.B. Program, the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) seeks applications for funding of investigator-initiated research examining how observed racial and ethnic disparities in the justice system might be reduced through public policy interventions at any point during the administration of justice. NIJ seeks applications for funding from two categories of researchers:

1. W.E.B. Du Bois Scholars – Researchers who are advanced in their careers (awarded a terminal degree at least seven years prior to December 31, 2021) may apply for grants for research, evaluation, and mentoring less-experienced researchers.
2. W.E.B. Du Bois Fellows – Researchers who are early in their careers (awarded a terminal degree within seven years of December 31, 2021) may apply for grants for research and evaluation.

Under this solicitation [[O-NIJ-2021-171008](#)], NIJ will only consider applications for research on public policy interventions that may reduce racial and ethnic disparities in the justice system.

Deadline: December 30, 2021

NPS: Historic Preservation Fund - History of Equal Rights - Preservation Grants

The National Park Service's (NPS) History of Equal Rights (HER) Grant Program [[P21AS00430](#)] will preserve sites related to the struggle of all Americans to achieve equal rights. HER grants are funded by the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF), administered by the NPS, and will fund a broad range of preservation projects for historic sites including: architectural services, historic structure reports, preservation plans, and physical preservation to structures. Grants are awarded through a competitive process and do not require non-Federal match.

Companion opportunities include:

- Physical Preservation of African American Historic Sites [[P21AS00431](#)]
- African American Historical Research / Documentation Projects [[P21AS00432](#)]

Deadline: December 1, 2021

NSF: Integrative Research in Biology

This solicitation [[NSF 21-622](#)] invites submission of collaborative proposals that tackle bold questions in biology and require an integrated approach to make substantive progress. Integrative biological research spans subdisciplines and incorporates cutting-edge methods, tools, and concepts from each to produce groundbreaking biological discovery. The research should be synergistic and produce novel, holistic understanding of how biological systems function and interact across different scales of organization, e.g., from molecules to cells, tissues to organisms, species to ecosystems and the entire Earth. Such knowledge is critical to inform solutions to societal challenges, including natural resource management, resilience to environmental change, and global food security. Outcomes from integrative research will also inform and guide the development of new technologies that drive the nation's bioeconomy.

Integrative biological research depends on researchers who work in dynamic, diverse, and collaborative interdisciplinary teams. These teams should be fully engaged in the training

and education of the next generation of scientists who will be future leaders in integrative research. A vibrant, inclusive, and integrative training environment will therefore produce a new generation of researchers who can navigate across subdisciplines and engage in integrative thinking.

Deadline: January 25, 2022



NSF: Research on the Science and Technology Enterprise: Indicators, Statistics, and Methods

The National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) of the National Science Foundation (NSF) is one of the thirteen principal federal statistical agencies within the United States. It is responsible for the collection, acquisition, analysis, reporting and dissemination of objective, statistical data related to the science and technology (S&T) enterprise in the United States and other nations that is relevant and useful to practitioners, researchers, policymakers and the public.

The Center would like to enhance its efforts to support analytic and methodological research in support of its surveys as well as promote the education and training of researchers in the use of large-scale nationally representative datasets. NCSES welcomes efforts by the research community to use NCSES or other data to conduct research on the S&T enterprise, develop improved survey methodologies that could benefit NCSES surveys, explore alternate data sources that could supplement NCSES data, create and improve indicators of S&T activities and resources, strengthen methodologies to analyze S&T statistical data, and explore innovative ways to communicate S&T statistics. To that end, NCSES invites proposals [[NSF 21-627](#)] for individual or multi-investigator research projects, doctoral dissertation improvement awards, conferences, experimental research, survey research and data collection, and dissemination projects under its program for Research on the Science and Technology Enterprise: Indicators, Statistics, and Methods (NCSES S&T).

Deadline: January 18, 2022



NSF: Topical Materials Research Programs

Research supported by the Division of Materials Research (DMR) focuses on advancing the fundamental understanding of materials, materials discovery, design, synthesis, characterization, properties, and materials-related phenomena. DMR awards enable understanding of the electronic, atomic, and molecular structures, mechanisms, and processes that govern nanoscale to macroscale morphology and properties; manipulation and control of these properties; discovery of emerging phenomena of matter and materials; and creation of novel design, synthesis, and processing strategies that lead to new materials with unique characteristics. These discoveries and advancements transcend traditional scientific and engineering disciplines. DMR supports research and education activities in the United States through funding of individual investigators, teams, centers, facilities, and instrumentation. Projects supported by DMR are not only essential for the development of future technologies and industries that address societal needs, but also for the preparation of the next generation of materials researchers.

This solicitation [[NSF 21-600](#)] applies to seven DMR Topical Materials Research Programs (TMRPs):

1. Biomaterials (BMAT),
2. Ceramics (CER),
3. Condensed Matter Physics (CMP),
4. Electronic and Photonic Materials (EPM),
5. Metals and Metallic Nanostructures (MMN),
6. Polymers (POL), and
7. Solid State and Materials Chemistry (SSMC).

The Condensed Matter and Materials Theory (CMMT) program has its own solicitation. Applicants to CMMT must apply through solicitation [NSF 20-582](#).

Proposals accepted at any time AFTER October 15, 2021.

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Spencer Foundation: Large Research Grants on Education

The [Large Research Grants on Education Program](#) supports education research projects that will contribute to the improvement of education, broadly conceived, with budgets ranging from \$125,000 to \$500,000 for projects ranging from one to five years. The

Foundation anticipates awarding grants with budgets across each of the following funding tiers -- \$125,000 to 250,000; \$250,001 to \$375,000; and \$375,001 to \$500,000. The Spencer Foundation accepts Intent to Apply forms twice a year.

This program is “field-initiated” in that proposal submissions are not in response to a specific request for a particular research topic, discipline, design, method, or location. The goal of this program is to support rigorous, intellectually ambitious and technically sound research that is relevant to the most pressing questions and compelling opportunities in education.

Intent to apply deadline: January 26, 2022

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NDSU Science Café - October

October 12, 2021 | 7:00pm

Monthly Science Café events are organized by the NDSU College of Science and Mathematics. The topic of the next Science Café is "A Brush with Quantum Computing," presented by Dane Skow, Executive Director, NDSU Center for Computationally Assisted Science and Technology. This session will take place at 7pm on Tuesday, October 12, 2021, at Wild Terra Cider, located at 6 12th Street North in Fargo. [Learn more >>](#)

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DOE Office of Science: Virtual Communications Summit

October 26, 2021 | 10am-4:30pm

The Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Communications and Public Affairs (OCPA) is hosting a communications summit titled “Engaging the Public in Discovery Science.”

The summit will explore:

- What is discovery science, and does the communication of discovery science differ from other science communication?
- What are our goals in communicating about the research portfolio of the Office of Science (SC)? What strategies have we developed to reach those goals? Who are our audiences? How are we measuring our success?

The discussion will include the content mix (narrative, video, multimedia), communication platforms (news releases, Twitter, web, other), branding, and accessibility (both in terms of where our information is disseminated and in how understandable it is). The

discussions are expected to form the basis of recommendations to senior SC program leadership. [Register to attend >>](#)

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AAAS Virtual Event: New Horizons - Elevating the Arts in American Life

October 27, 2021 | 2:00pm

In this celebration of arts, artists, and the work of the American Academy's Commission on the Arts, Stephen Colbert will interview Cochairs John Lithgow, Deborah Rutter, and Natasha Trethewey. The event will include poetry, music, and a discussion of recommendations developed by the Commission to elevate the arts, support artists, and promote arts education in America. The program will introduce *Mixtape*, an online collection of arts experiences featuring members of the Commission and the Academy.

[Register to attend >>](#)

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NIH Virtual Grants Seminar

November 1-4, 2021

The National Institutes of Health Virtual Seminar on Grants Administration and Program Funding will be held November 1-4, 2021.

Registration is now open. The seminar will include opportunities to:

- learn about NIH grant processes, policies, and programs;
- interact with NIH program, grants management, review, and policy staff;
- gather resources to use and share with colleagues;
- engage and network with your peers; and
- meet 1:1 with NIH experts.

For more information and to register, visit <https://nihvirtualseminar2021.vfairs.com/>. If you have questions about this virtual conference, please contact:

NIHRegionalSeminars@nih.gov.

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Have questions, ideas, or suggestions for the RCA Update?

[Contact Us](#)



The Office of Research and Creative Activity (RCA) sends weekly emails to NDSU faculty and staff to provide current information on various topics including funding opportunities, grant program changes, research resources, deadlines, notices, and training.

You are receiving this notification through the NDSU official employee listserv or sub-list. The official listserv refreshes after each pay period.

North Dakota State University does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, gender expression/identity, genetic information, marital status, national origin, public assistance status, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or status as a U.S. veteran. Direct inquiries to: Equal Opportunity Specialist, Old Main 201, 701-231-7708 or Title IX/ADA Coordinator, Old Main 102, 701-231-6409.

We collectively acknowledge that we gather at NDSU, a land grant institution, on the traditional lands of the Oceti Sakowin (Dakota, Lakota, Nakoda) and Anishinaabe Peoples in addition to many diverse Indigenous Peoples still connected to these lands. We honor with gratitude Mother Earth and the Indigenous Peoples who have walked with her throughout generations. We will continue to learn how to live in unity with Mother Earth and build strong, mutually beneficial, trusting relationships with Indigenous Peoples of our region.