

1945-1957

Historical and Science Policy Events

Franklin D. Roosevelt / Harry S. Truman (Jan. 1945-Jan. 1949)

Roosevelt dies (April 1945)

WWII ends in Europe (May 1945) and in the Pacific (September 1945)

Employment Act of 1946 creates the Council of Economic Advisors
CIA created (1947)

Harry S. Truman (Jan. 1949-Jan. 1953)

Korean War starts (1950)

Term 'McCarthyism' coined (1950)

Science Advisory Committee (SAC) established (1951)

Dwight D. Eisenhower (Jan. 1953-Jan. 1961)

Korean War ends (1953)

US Senate censures Sen. McCarthy (1954)
Reece Committee hearings (1954)

Soviet Union launches Sputnik (1957)
The Ford Foundation decides to wind down its Behavioral Sciences Program (1957)
SAC becomes the President's Science Advisory Committee (1957)

National Science Foundation Events

1945

Science-The Endless Frontier report (*SEF*) by Vannevar Bush (July 1945)

1946

Senators Magnuson and Kilgore introduce bills to create a new civilian science agency (July 1945); Senate Hearings on Science Legislation follow in the fall, including testimony from SSRC social scientists

1947

House hearings on Science Legislation (Spring 1946); Kilgore-Magnuson bill with Hart Amendment approved (July 1946) but vetoed by Pres. Truman
SSRC commissions Talcott Parsons to produce report on the social sciences (1946)

1948

Science and Public Policy report (Steelman report), alternative to *SEF* (1947)

1949

Louis Wirth leads Chicago seminar on social science and values (1949)

1950

National Science Foundation Act passed (1950)

1951

Alan Waterman NSF Director (April 1951-May 1963)

1952

NSF hires sociologist Harry Alpert to conduct a background study regarding the place of the social sciences (1953)

1953

NSF establishes two convergent research programs, with Alpert placed in charge of both (1954). At this early point, promoting the "hard-core" end of the social research continuum within a unity-of-science perspective becomes central to NSF funding priorities and practices.

1954

1955

Senator Kefauver inquires about NSF funding for research on juvenile delinquency (1956)

1956

Unified social science program with discipline-based units replaces convergent programs, Alpert put in charge (1957)

1957

Basic Research: A National Resource Report (1957)

1958-1969

Historical and Science Policy Events

Dwight D. Eisenhower (Jan. 1953-Jan. 1961)

National Aeronautics and Space Act
establishes NASA (1958)
National Education Defense Act (1958)

John F. Kennedy / Lyndon B. Johnson (Jan. 1961-Jan. 1965)

Kennedy speaks of New Frontier (1961)
Thomas Kuhn, *Structure of Scientific
Revolutions* (1962)
Kennedy is assassinated (1963)
Johnson proposes War on Poverty
legislation (January 1964) and Great
Society programs (May 1964)

Lyndon B. Johnson (Jan. 1965-Jan. 1969)

Project Camelot controversy begins (1965)
National Endowment for the Humanities
established (1965)
US troop level in Vietnam reaches peak
of more than 500,000, as anti-war
protests spread; Martin Luther King, Jr.,
assassinated; urban race riots follow
nationwide (1968)

Richard M. Nixon (Jan. 1969-Jan. 1973)

US moon landing (July 1969)

National Science Foundation Events

Alan Waterman NSF Director (April 1951-May 1963)

1958 Special Committee on Social Sciences (Hesburgh panel) recommends
organizational upgrade of the social sciences based on Alpert's
background paper "The Social Sciences: Problems, Issues, and
Suggested Resolutions" (1958)
1959 Henry Riecken becomes new head of NSF's social science program after
Alpert's departure (August 1958)
1960 NSF's social science program upgraded to office status (December 1959)
NSF's social science office upgraded to division status (December 1960)
1961
1962 PSAC report *Strengthening the Behavioral Sciences* (1962)
1963 Jerome Bruner assumes lead role in development of MACOS (1963)

Leland Haworth NSF Director (June 1963-June 1969)

1964 Special Projects Program established in social science division (1965)
Howard Hines replaces Riecken as head of social science division (1965)
Daddario Amendment to NSF Act introduced in the House (1966)
1966 Political science program included within social science division, after a
long struggle led by Evron Kirkparick (1966)
Senator Harris first introduces proposal for National Social Science
Foundation (1966), followed by congressional hearings (1967)
1967 Daddario Amendment (Daddario-Kennedy bill) approved (1968)

William D. McElroy NSF Director (July 1969-Jan. 1972)

1968 Interdisciplinary Research Relevant to Problems of Our Society
(IRRPOS) program established (1969)
1969 NSF's Special Commission on the Social Sciences' *Knowledge into
Action* report (Brim Report) (1969)

1970-1979

Historical and Science Policy Events		National Science Foundation Events
<p>Richard M. Nixon (Jan. 1969-Jan. 1973)</p> <p>SSRC Center for Coordination of Research on Social Indicators established in Washington, D.C. (1972)</p>	<p>1970</p> <p>1971</p> <p>1972</p>	<p>William D. McElroy NSF Director (July 1969-Jan. 1972)</p> <p>NSF begins funding the National Election Studies (1970)</p> <p>Research Applied to National Needs (RANN) program replaces IRRPOS (1971)</p> <p>Social Indicators Program established in social sciences division (1971)</p>
<p>Richard M. Nixon / Gerald Ford (Jan. 1973-Jan. 1977)</p> <p>Clifford Geertz becomes head of Institute for Advanced Study's new School of Social Science (1973)</p> <p>President Nixon resigns over Watergate scandal (1974)</p> <p>Senator Proxmire issues the first of his monthly Golden Fleece Awards (1975)</p> <p>Fall of Saigon ends Vietnam War (1975)</p>	<p>1973</p> <p>1974</p> <p>1975</p> <p>1976</p>	<p>H. Guyford Stever NSF Director (Feb. 1972-July 1976)</p> <p>Controversy ends NSF funding of MACOS program (1975)</p> <p>Bauman Amendment seeking stronger political oversight of NSF is passed by the House, but fails in House-Senate conference committee (1975)</p> <p>Major NSF reorganization: Social Sciences division closed; new Directorate of Biological, Behavioral and Social Sciences (DBBSS) created, with separate programs for the social sciences and for the behavioral and neural sciences (July 1975)</p>
<p>James E. (Jimmy) Carter (Jan. 1977-Jan 1981)</p> <p>Partial meltdown of Three Mile Island nuclear reactor (1979)</p> <p>Iran hostage crisis begins (1979)</p>	<p>1977</p> <p>1978</p> <p>1979</p>	<p>Richard C. Atkinson Acting NSF Director (Aug. 1976-May 1977)</p> <p>National Academy of Science's <i>Social and Behavioral Science Programs in the National Science Foundation</i> (Simon Report) (1976)</p> <p>Richard C. Atkinson NSF Director (June 1977-June 1980)</p> <p>Controversy, covered in <i>Science</i>, over 'hard-core' emphasis in NSF's Anthropology Program (1977) ; RANN program discontinued (1977)</p> <p>Applied Science & Research Applications (ASRA) program est. (1978)</p> <p>Special Projects and Social Indicators programs merged as Measurement Methods and Data Resources Program (1978)</p>

1980-1989

Historical and Science Policy Events	National Science Foundation Events
<p>James E. (Jimmy) Carter (Jan. 1977-Jan 1981)</p>	<p>Donald N. Langenberg Acting NSF Director (July-Nov. 1980) Suggestion to create separate directorate for social and behavioral sciences considered but rejected; Vannevar Bush Award created (1980)</p>
<p>Ronald W. Reagan (Jan. 1981-Jan. 1989)</p> <p>Reagan wins landslide election (Nov. 1980) Economic Recovery Tax Act excludes social sciences (1981) Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) incorporated (1982) Charles Murray, <i>Losing Ground</i> (1984) Reagan re-elected in another landslide election (Nov. 1984) David Dickson, <i>The New Politics of Science</i> (1984)</p>	<p>John B. Slaughter NSF Director (Dec. 1980-Oct. 1982) <i>America's New Beginning: A Program for Economic Recovery</i> (includes Reagan Administration goals), followed by congressional hearings over proposed deep cuts to NSF funding for social and behavioral sciences (1981). COSSA emerges as major new advocate on their behalf.</p>
1980	<p>Edward A. Knapp NSF Director (Nov. 1982-Aug. 1984) NAS-NRC's <i>Behavioral and Social Science Research: A National Resource</i> report (1982) Sociologist Otto Larsen takes up new NSF position as senior associate of the social and behavioral sciences (1983)</p>
1981	<p>Erich Bloch NSF Director (Sept. 1984-1990) Speaking to COSSA, the president's top science advisor, George A. Keyworth II, says the Reagan administration exercised "great courage and wisdom" by making significant cuts in NSF's social science programs (1984) Otto Larsen leaves NSF; position for senior associate of the social and behavioral sciences disappears (1986)</p>
1982	<p>National Academy of Science's <i>The Behavioral and Social Sciences: Achievements and Opportunities</i> report (1988)</p>
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