

Public Written Comments

Submitted to PCAST
January 2, 2013 to February 28, 2013

As specified in the Federal Register Notice, because PCAST operates under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), all public comments and/or presentations will be treated as public documents and will be made available for public inspection, including being posted on the PCAST Web site.

PCAST: Fresh Thinking, Scientific Method, and Rapid Domestic Progress? Implications of
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eu2SKd8D2hg>

From: "Lloyd Etheredge" [REDACTED]
Date: Fri, December 28, 2012 11:15 am
To: "Dr. John Holdren - Science Adviser to President Obama and Co-Chair, PCAST"
[REDACTED]
Cc: "Dr. Rosina Bierbaum - PCAST" [REDACTED]

Dear Co-Chairs Holdren, Lander, Savitz, Press and PCAST Members:

As a second term agenda for the Obama Administration, you might want to take a fresh look at the potential, bold use of scientific method to improve the national effectiveness and efficiency of government programs at community, city, county, and state levels.

An introduction to evidence concerning this potential is online in a presentation by Dr. Michael Perich (cited above, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eu2SKd8D2hg>). The award presentation reflects sustained research investments by Dr. Jack Grayson and his associates <http://www.apqc.org>: The applications of scientific method, including databases identifying variations and best practices for hundreds of institutional processes, have emerged from the development of the Baldrige Award movement in the public sector. Dr. Perich's presentation concerns national award results that are being obtained for K-12 (including STEM) education. The new high-performing systems also save money.

Two Premature Conclusions from the Great Society Years

During the Great Society years we experimented with many "magic bullet" programs. Scientific methods determined that many of these "magic bullet" ideas did not work (although they also identified public school performance in the K-12 years as a key investment for high-priority improvement). Two premature conclusions from these Great Society years were: 1.) That "we had run out of good ideas" and 2.) That applications of social science are an inherently "liberal" agenda coupled with top-down federal initiatives and spending more money. Informed by these premature conclusions, mistaken restrictions on NSF programs slowed the rate of further investigation.

Fortunately, research and thinking continued elsewhere: The new national databases and frameworks evolved with leadership by a former Nixon Administration official and business school Dean, Dr. Jack Grayson (via www.apqc.org and the Baldrige Awards) and others. It is impressive and exciting work, that also challenges the two premature, "write-off" conclusions about the rapid learning that is possible.

Raising the Mean

One of the discoveries, which merits a high priority for PCAST's attention, is the wide range of national variation across communities, counties, cities, and states. With PCAST's leadership we can build rapid learning, community-based systems that can raise the national mean of performance. And, when budget cuts are necessary, help governments at all levels to achieve them with minimal injury to essential investments.

Evolving Scientific, Evidence-Based Thinking

The "intellectual technology" that has been evolved to achieve these results is broadly consistent with earlier, pioneering scientific frameworks developed by Lasswell, Campbell, and many others: Outstanding results from

any government program are not a matter of "magic bullets" technocratic improvements, or implementing top-down ideas from liberals in Washington: they require hard and sustained work, leadership skills and motivation, measuring results and a sustaining context and commitment to good outcomes for the public, a system-level perspective, attention to human relationships, building teams, etc. Local systems differ, and it can require a decade or more of hard work, with sustained top-level support from elected government officials, to build these system-level processes of collective thinking. Progress also benefits from national databases that decompose organizational and agency behavior into hundreds of distinct processes for which Best Practices can be identified. And from training to apply these evolving frameworks to think about transforming complex, adaptive systems. There also is a political dimension: the motivation that is required for high performance often is a key, missing ingredient. [It is easier, in the American system, to argue that more money will solve the problem. However, one of the exciting messages from scientific methods and evidence-based thinking is that this is unnecessary to achieve a much better future.] <1>

Sustained national progress - if we build rapid learning networks that support scientific, evidence-based thinking - need not wait for economic recovery or new money from Washington, nor winning partisan battles in Washington about the role of the federal government and the size of its budget.

A Second Term, Rapid Learning Agenda?

Could you address the implications of these discoveries? With your leadership a renewed, expanding support for scientific thinking and community-based rapid learning (in all areas of our national life) could be an exciting contribution during President Obama's second term.

with best wishes for the New Year,
Lloyd Etheredge

<1> Concerning the foundation that PCAST already has laid in its analysis of STEM education, you might be interested in the *sympatico* observations in Kwalwasser's **Renewal** (2012) study of 40 top performing school districts, a system-level perspective that has a broad convergence with the public sector evidence from the apqc and Baldrige databases <http://renewingourschools.com/harold-kwalwasser/>

Dr. Lloyd S. Etheredge - Director, Government Learning Project
Policy Sciences Center Inc.



URL: www.policyscience.net



[The Policy Sciences Center, Inc. is a public foundation that develops and integrates knowledge and practice to advance human dignity. It was founded by Harold Lasswell, Myres McDougal, and their associates in 1948 in New Haven, CT. Further information about the Policy Sciences Center and its projects, Society, and journal is available at www.policysciences.org.]

PCAST: Background information re the AAAS Council/NSF Accountability Meeting and the No Confidence resolution

From: "Lloyd Etheredge" [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, January 2, 2013 5:21 pm
To: "Dr. John Holdren - Science Adviser to President Obama and Co-Chair, PCAST" [REDACTED]
([more](#))
Cc: "Dr. Rosina Bierbaum - PCAST" [REDACTED]

Dear Co-Chairs Holdren, Lander, Savitz, Press and PCAST Members:

I enclose information copies of a letter of January 2, 2013 and recent correspondence with background concerning the **No Confidence** resolution and the AAAS Council / NSF Accountability meeting.

Social scientists have been subjected to strong social pressures and implied threats, for more than 30 years, unless they shut-up about their concerns. I have discussed Governor Romney's specific "47%" claim with Dr. Jane Mansbridge, President of APSA and colleagues. The Republican empirical claim is a public challenge to the social sciences and these untested (and, for some Republicans like Governor Romney, sincere) claims have been made for more than 30 years. I appreciate the earlier efforts of AAAS President David Hamburg, but I doubt that the social sciences can retain any respect with undergraduates or on college campuses if they continue to roll over. Nor, I suspect, will the members of PCAST have much respect for the social sciences.

[Several of your members may recall these issues of honest broker testing for disputed claims: They also came before PCAST in the Clinton years (when Dr. Phillip Sharp also was a member of PCAST), apparently with a "kick the can down the road" decision that has delayed the potential for rapid learning. How well do you think the earlier decision has worked out?]

In light of the egregious politicization at NSF - including NSF's successful maneuver to sneak-through a shift of the peer review, Scientific Merit system to "advisory only" status, and the changed control of \$7 billion/year of NSF funds, my expectation is that a public No Confidence resolution will pass by a substantial majority.

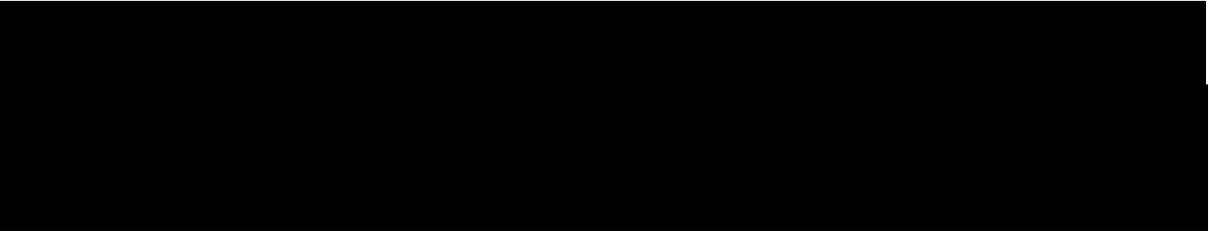
As you will recall, issues of legal accountability and federal standards arising from NSF's mismanagement of its inconsistent and evasive Other Societal Benefits competitive rankings of 55,000 NSF applications/year also were brought to Dr. Holdren's attention and the attention of his legal advisers. I am not aware that these have been addressed satisfactorily.

Lloyd Etheredge

Date: Wed, 02 Jan 2013 14:18:12 -0500

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Dear Dr. Sharp, Dr. Press, and Colleagues:

I enclose a request (an attached *.pdf file and letter), as an AAAS member, with additional discussion concerning Webcasting the AAAS Council/NSF Accountability meeting.

There is a history of unsuccessful behind-closed-doors processes (notably with the remarkable diplomatic skills of former AAAS President Hamburg) to discuss concerns about the erosion of scientific integrity and of the Vannevar Bush design. One lesson, in view of the \$7 billion/year that is involved and the amount of money that is being currently redistributed by artful mechanisms that get around the peer review Scientific Merit system, is that AAAS's next steps need to recognize NSF's politicization.

Control of the NSF budget has shifted and it is unlikely to be regained without sustained AAAS leadership and the informed support of our members, beginning with a Webcast meeting.

The letter also includes a supporting Op Ed piece by the economist Jeffrey Sachs.

Yours truly,

Lloyd Etheredge

Dr. Lloyd S. Etheredge - Director, Government Learning Project
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January 4, 2013 President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology
(PCAST) Webcast Question

From: "Brand Niemann" [REDACTED]
Date: Mon, January 7, 2013 2:12 pm
To: [REDACTED]

Federal Government Going in Different Directions on Data and Information Sharing

http://semanticcommunity.info/AOL_Government/Big_Data_Reveals_Gaps_in_Standards_and_Federal_Human_Capital

The Data Transparency Coalition: Building the Federal Financial Information Network in the Cloud for the 113th Congress

<http://semanticcommunity.info/DataTransparencyCoalition.org>

From the Year of Big Data to the Year of the Data Scientist Working With Big Data

http://semanticcommunity.info/Emerging_Technology_SIG_Big_Data_Committee/Government_Challenges_With_Big_Data

[BIG DATA at the Hill: Demystified and Actionable](#)

http://semanticcommunity.info/AOL_Government/BIG_DATA_at_the_Hill

I have encouraged Todd Park to move to data science team led by a chief data officer for the government.

Dr. Brand Niemann

Director and Senior Data Scientist

Semantic Community

<http://semanticcommunity.info>

<http://gov.aol.com/bloggers/brand-niemann/>

[REDACTED]

PCAST, OSTP and "No Confidence" concerns brought to the AAAS Council;
Fwd: APSA v. NSF Censorship: "No, Political Scientists May Not Study
Hierarchical Psychology in America"

From: "Lloyd Etheredge" [REDACTED]
Date: Fri, January 18, 2013 4:11 pm
To: "Dr. John Holdren - Science Adviser to President Obama and Co-Chair, PCAST" [REDACTED]
Cc: "Dr. Rosina Bierbaum - PCAST" [REDACTED]

Dear Drs. Holdren, Lander, Savitz, Press and PCAST Colleagues and Ms. Leonard:

I bring to your attention the attached correspondence raising, with APSA colleagues, a question about restoring the rule of law at one of the scientific agencies within your purview.

There is *prima facie* evidence [also, a filing of concern by the American Psychological Association] that Dr. Suresh and NSF operate with civically hateful, secret (thus, *de facto*, illegal) policies that over-ride Scientific Merit evaluations and block studies of racism, effects of racism, and related issues (e.g., hierarchical psychology).<1>

A Warning: Dr. Suresh's "Merit Review" is Not "Scientific Merit Review"

If true, this further contradicts the surprising public assurances, discussed in the enclosed letter of January 4, 2013, given by Dr. Holdren that NSF "meticulously" guards against any political agendas and societal bias and allocates the scientific budget by fair and honest "Scientific Merit" peer-review awards.

Dr. Holdren apparently confused the term "Scientific Merit" with NSF's artful "Merit Review" - which assuredly is not a shorthand for the Scientific Merit system that traditionally granted legitimacy to NSF and that all of us honor.

"Scientific Merit review" has a diminished status at NSF, compared with other government scientific agencies. At Dr. Suresh's NSF, all external reviews are shifted to "advisory only" status and all of the new Merit decisions are made (in a confidential multi-level system) at higher levels in Washington by several dozen *additional* criteria, definitions, scoring criteria and weighting systems, often representing disclosed and undisclosed political interests and pressures and - apparently - the controversy-avoiding instincts that grow in an accountable Washington bureaucracy where careers are at stake.<1>

Dr. Holdren has wide, and deserved, trust. It is outrageous that his name would be joined with Dr. Suresh in promoting a public lie to scientists. Dr. Suresh's NSF has not yet published a full list of the criteria that it uses: presumably the "no studies of x" policies that affect studying unjustified hardships of Blacks, Economics, Republican empirical claims about dependency syndromes induced in 47% of Americans, and other topics are somewhere in the

secret lists and the fine print of its footnotes?

Perhaps Ms. Leonard has made this determination by now.

A Meltdown of a Vital National System, Once Based on Trust

An urgent, statesmanlike, and rule-of-law solution is required at your level: At issue is growing alienation and mistrust by the scientific community and the eroding ability of Dr. Suresh and the current NSB leadership to maintain the hundreds of thousands of hours and high levels of volunteer commitment that our national system of scientific excellence relies upon to review 55,000 NSF applications/year.

Lloyd Etheredge

<1> I have first-hand knowledge of one data point: if the NSB's administrative secrecy rule and social pressures can be waived, a Full Disclosure by Alan Leshner to the AAAS Council - a step recommended in the packet of enclosed material - is among the steps that will help to evaluate these concerns.

<2> Even within Dr. Suresh's confidential system, normal legal expectations of operating fair national competitions do not appear to be met: For example, there is no evidence of training materials for NSF judges, nor that they achieve .90+ inter-judge reliability, nor (pending disclosures for the AAAS Council accountability meeting) is there yet evidence that Dr. Suresh and members of the NSB bother to achieve this level of reliability in agreeing what some of their mandated criteria mean. Nor, *de facto*, is there evidence that they care.

The NSB (Bowen and Arvizu generation) and Dr. Suresh's mismanaged NSF justify the new system, which shifts control to themselves and away from the nation's research scientists, by citing urgent needs for "national competitiveness" and many Other Societal Benefits. However the rational use of these new scoring and weightings systems would be to change the behavior of applicants and research universities: Given the *confidential* weighting systems, it is natural to question the good faith of Dr. Suresh's system when NSF and the NSB hide (for example) the extent of extra competitive advantage that will be awarded to applicants who add Partnerships with for-profit companies.

There may be an artful abuse of power: Sceptics naturally question whether "insider information" applicants - interest groups like Texas A&M and other aggressively profiteering universities represented on the National Science Board have been mentioned- are exploiting a politicized, confidential, multi-level system that mysteriously keeps most of the nation's 55,000 applicants incompletely informed.

Date: Thu, 17 Jan 2013 12:45:14 -0500

To: "Dr. Jane Mansbridge - President, APSA" <jane_mansbridge@harvard.edu>, "Dr. John



Subject: APSA v. NSF Censorship: "No, Political Scientists May Not Study Hierarchical Psychology in America"

Dear Dr. Mansbridge and Colleagues:

I write to ask if you and the APSA Council can produce better results to defend the Vannevar Bush standard for politically independent and civically relevant social science? The enclosed correspondence with AAAS summarizes one of the egregious challenges, NSF's rule that prohibits the fields of American politics/political behavior from studying whether a reality of hierarchical psychology affects, and explains behavior in, lower-status segments of American society. The broader justification of the NSF bureaucracy is that such measurements and lines of investigation would permit academic social scientists to study racism and its effects.

Professional Challenges to APSA's Political Wisdom: the Rule of Law

Obviously the presence of hierarchical psychology in American society is a challenge to conventional American politics models and democratic theory. [NSF's behavior also presents another challenge - i.e., to explain how, as the civil rights of Black Americans have progressed, NSF could impose and maintain its restrictions without public disclosure, or due process of law, and - now - in an Administration with a Black President and Black Attorney General.] The skillful and bolder political suppression of the social sciences - for example, blocking evidence to evaluate fairly (and potentially dispute) the central Republican claim [since Reagan, and specified as 47% by Governor Romney] of a clinical-like dependency syndrome creating social pathologies and wrong-headed voting behavior - actually has been achieved without the formal law-passing procedures that undergraduates might expect from American government textbooks portraying the rule of law. . . .

In 2013, APSA faces a basic and urgent conceptual challenge of how to restore the rule of law

at a government agency? It is a professional challenge that we should know how to solve. [It also is an interesting discussion question for students.]

Why Can't Hierarchical Dramas Be a Legitimate Scientific Model?

- One of my original theoretical contributions, 30+ years ago, was to suggest that new models of hierarchical psychodrama be used to explain genuinely passionate ideological agendas in political behavior. [The theoretical and measurement shift, it seemed to me, improved upon the Michigan social psychology tradition of "attitude" measurements alone, by including the objects of perception and - beyond mere cognitive psychology - the emotion-investment and logics of different hierarchical psychodramas with their simple, recurring archetypal diagnoses and the logic of their already-known "obvious" solutions]. Today, the relevance of this class of models can be seen in the evidence of PC-era computer video games of the Enemy archetype drama played endlessly by teenage males and worth billions of dollars/year to Hollywood - and in the Ayn Rand-shaped psychodramas of Paul Ryan and the Tea Party. Yet NSF continues to treat [and find mechanisms to suppress] scientific research concerning a universe of hierarchical drama models [now, expanded to include the connect-the-dots neuroscience theory of a Primate Subordination Syndrome] as if it is an exploding hand grenade.

The Remaining "We": Defending Truth-Telling and Reality-Connection

For newer members of the Council, I enclose a copy of Kenneth Prewitt's 2011 editorial claiming that "we" have survived. It is a painfully awkward claim, since the "we" of survivors has been purchased at the price of jettisoning so many careers and lines of investigation. (Today, it is clear that there actually is an increased cumulative risk purchased by COSSA's strategy: The social sciences are perceived, at this time of fierce budget pressures, to have lost their relevance.)

- COSSA's political and survival strategy also has jettisoned data systems for Economics that would allow reality connection and a possible rethinking of the free market ideology that armies of well-paid lobbyists are paid to defend (and who have been beating COSSA). This neutralization of universities - accomplished even more efficiently than the neutralization of economic regulatory agencies - is among the costs that APSA, COSSA, and the leaders of our nation's major institutions should deem unacceptable.

APSA and our other professional societies are supposed to defend us. I hope that in 2013 the APSA Council can draw upon collective political insights and develop a better political strategy, both for our discipline and the better capacity for thinking that our society urgently needs.

- My political analysis differs somewhat from COSSA's: the early attacks of zealots, and the junior staffers in the House who enjoy spooking NSF by introducing amendments and oracular proclamations that "*social scientists are too liberal!*" are only part of the story. Today, with the erosion of Vannevar Bush's "eminent scientist" standards, there is a National Science Board dominated by administrators that is preoccupied with dividing-up the \$7 billion/year of the NSF budget.

David Stockman: Challenging Undergraduates and Zealots as Educators?

For our profession, there are interesting teaching resources about these developments. David Stockman, Ronald Reagan's first OMB Director, was the Paul Ryan of his day: young, hard-working, and with choir-boy good looks, committed in a moral drama to strong and healthy individuals v. an Enemy government. However students should know - and I think that academic social scientists, as professors, should challenge Paul Ryan et al., to know - of Stockman's evolving thinking (enclosed). His passion, idealism (and, in Stockman's case, his remarkable Machievellian gifts) were being exploited.

Lloyd Etheredge

Date: Tue, 15 Jan 2013 15:49:20 -0500

To: "Dr. Bill Press - President, AAAS" [redacted] "Dr. Phillip A Sharp - Institute Professor and AAAS President-elect"

From: Lloyd Etheredge [redacted]

Subject: AAAS Council: A Full Disclosure by Alan Leshner

Cc: "Dr. Bonnie L. Bassler - Member, AAAS Board" [redacted] "Dr. May R. Berenbaum - Member, AAAS Board" [redacted] "Nina Fedoroff - AAAS President-elect and Chair, Committee on Council Affairs" [redacted] "Alan Leshner - AAAS CEO and Member, National Science Board" [redacted] "Stephen Mayo - AAAS Board of Directors" [redacted] "Dr. Raymond Orbach - AAAS Board of Directors" <[redacted]>, "Dr. Julia Phillips - AAAS Board" [redacted] ". Sue Rosser - AAAS Board" [redacted] "Dr. David D. Sabatini - AAAS Board" [redacted] "Dr. David Shaw - AAAS Board" [redacted] "Dr. Inder Verma - AAAS Board of Directors" [redacted] "Craig Calhoun - Chair AAAS Section K" [redacted] "Jane Mansbridge - President, APSA" [redacted] "Dr. Nan Keohane - Harvard Corporation" [redacted] ">, "Dr. Lewis Lipsitt - AAAS Section J Representative " [redacted] ">, "Dr. Richard Davidson" [redacted] "Donald Bersoff - President APA" <[redacted]>, <[redacted]>

Dear Dr. Press, Dr. Sharp, and Colleagues:

I forward, as an AAAS member and as background to assist the AAAS Council meeting, a request for a full disclosure by Alan Leshner.

Legal and ethical issues, raised with by the American Psychological Association with NSF and the National Science Board, also are at issue.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Lloyd Etheredge

Dr. Lloyd S. Etheredge - Director, Government Learning Project
Policy Sciences Center Inc.

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Dr. Lloyd S. Etheredge
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President Obama Inauguration and Cooperation between U.S. and Korea in Science and Technology

From: "KSEA HQ" [REDACTED]

Date: Thu, January 17, 2013 10:56 am

To: ascholz [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Dear Dr. Amber Hartman Scholz,

On behalf of Korean-American Scientists and Engineers Association (KSEA), I have the pleasure of extending my warm congratulations to President Obama on his re-election as the President of the USA.

KSEA was established in Dec 11, 1971 in Washington DC with 69 members and has grown to be the largest international non-profit professional organization for all Korean-American scientists and engineers with over 5,000 active members, 10,000 registered members and 70 local chapters encompassing all areas of science and engineering across the United States. The goal of our organization is to: 1) promote the implementation of science and technology for the general welfare of society; 2) foster an international cooperation between the US and Korea; and 3) help Korean-American scientists and engineers develop their full career potential.

For more information about KSEA, please visit www.ksea.org.

KSEA would like to play a key role in bridging to promote cooperation between U.S. and Korea in the fields of Science and Technology, and hence, I would like to present some constructive suggestions as below.

1. KSEA is seeking for an opportunity to contribute to the advancement of science and technology for both countries.
2. KSEA would like OSTP to provide with a responsible channel to promote cooperation in the fields of Science and Technology between U.S. and Korea.
3. KSEA would like to participate in manufacturing initiative, enforcing collaboration in the field of energy and bio research between two countries.

It would be greatly appreciated if you review my suggestions and provide opportunities to implement those action items successfully.

I look forward to your positive response,

Sincerely,

Hyungmin Michael Chung, Ph.D.,
President, KSEA

Main Office [REDACTED]

California Office



From: Fanny Mazella [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 17, 2013 9:25 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: EC-funded project calls for greater transparency and accountability re use of surveillance systems

EC-funded project calls for greater transparency and accountability re use of surveillance systems

Press release, 17 Jan 2013

The IRISS project, funded by the EC under the 7th Framework Programme, has just published a major 412-page report entitled *Surveillance, Fighting Crime and Violence*. The report analyses the factors underpinning the development and use of surveillance systems and technologies by both public authorities and private actors, their implications in fighting crime and terrorism, social and economic costs, protection and infringement of civil liberties, fundamental rights and ethical aspects.

The IRISS consortium has identified the following trends: (1) a substantial growth of public sector demand for surveillance bolstered by the adoption of identity schemes and terrorist detection technologies and markets, (2) an increase in the demand for civil and commercial surveillance, (3) the development of a global industry in surveillance, (4) an increase in integrated surveillance solutions, and (5) a rise in the government use of cross-border surveillance solutions.

“The role of surveillance in law enforcement is expanding,” says IRISS project co-ordinator Reinhard Kreissl. “There has been a shift in its use in identifying offenders before they have committed a crime. This has affected the presumption of innocence in a way that citizens are now considered suspects (a shift to a presumption of guilt).” With the growth of encompassing preventive surveillance, the presumption of innocence as an important legal safeguard is gradually hollowed out.

“There are numerous open questions about the usefulness and effectiveness of surveillance technologies and their possible rebound effects, specifically in relation to surveillance measures introduced to fight terrorism and organised crime without knowledge of their effectiveness and consideration of their negative side effects.”

Among the report’s other findings and recommendations are these:

Important social costs of surveillance include the social damage caused by false positives of suspects of criminal and terrorist activities, the categorical suspicion and discrimination of members of certain social or ethnic groups, the marginalising effects and social inequalities caused by invasive monitoring of those of lower social status, the inhibitory effects of surveillance which can undermine social and democratic activities, and the erosion of trust in society.

There are gaps and deficiencies in the law and in jurisprudence as they struggle to keep pace with technological development and institutional practice, perhaps especially in an online environment and in a climate of enhanced law enforcement and counter-terrorist policy.

Data protection authorities as external overseers and regulators typically focus upon the privacy-related implications of surveillance and find it difficult to embrace a wider perspective of values in their regulatory exhortations and enforcement practice. The laws within which they operate do not normally give them a licence to roam across the range of values to invoke when they seek to limit surveillance.

The European surveillance industry is developing at a rapid pace and is expected to continue doing so. However, surveillance companies from Europe face stiff competition from companies from outside the European Union.

Europe requires a multi-level strategy to build resilience in society vis-à-vis surveillance. The consortium recommends that industry associations develop surveillance-related guidelines and codes of ethics, and foster greater corporate social responsibility practices.

Greater transparency and accountability for the surveillance industry might come through the adoption of privacy impact assessments (PIAs) or surveillance impact assessments (SIAs) and through the development of standards and certification requirements for surveillance technologies.

This report is the first of several expected from the IRISS project. Other reports will address the key features raised by social, political and legal perspectives of surveillance and democracy; comparative empirical evidence concerning the impact of surveillance on democratic and open societies based on five case studies; citizen attitudes towards surveillance; the exercise of democratic rights under surveillance regimes; and options for enhancing social, economic and institutional resilience in “democratic” surveillance societies.

The report was produced by a consortium of 16 partners from universities, research institutes and companies from Austria, Belgium, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Norway, Slovakia, Spain and the United Kingdom. IRISS is the acronym for “Increasing Resilience in Surveillance Societies”, a three-year project which began in February 2012. The consortium prepared the report for the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Research & Innovation.

For more information, including a copy of the report:

http://irissproject.eu/?page_id=9

Reinhard Kreissl, Project Co-ordinator

[REDACTED]

David Wright, Work Package 1 leader

[REDACTED]

If you would like to be removed from our contact list please let us know.

From: Fanny Mazella [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, February 20, 2013 7:50 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Launch of EU research project on supporting co-operation among data protection authorities

Launch of EU research project on supporting co-operation among data protection authorities

Press release, 20 Feb 2013

A consortium of four partners from Belgium, the UK, Spain and Poland has initiated a new European project aimed at helping data protection authorities (DPAs) around the world to improve the enforcement of privacy laws.

The two-year research project, called PHAEDRA, started in January 2013 and is co-funded by the European Union under its Fundamental Rights and Citizenship programme. PHAEDRA is the acronym for “Improving Practical and Helpful cooperAtion bETween Data PRotection Authorities”. The four partners include Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Belgium), Trilateral Research & Consulting (UK), Universitat Jaume I (Spain) and the Inspector General for Personal Data Protection (GIODO), the Polish data protection authority.

“In the spirit of the ombudsman idea, Member States of the EU have established data protection authorities, who operate de facto privacy help desks that support citizens confronted with privacy and data protection problems, be it spam, identity theft or black lists stored in third countries without data protection. These data protection authorities became a recognisable feature of Europe’s Information Society helping, on a no-cost basis, citizens, companies and state institutions with legal advice or using their administrative and police powers to fight data protection abuses,” says Prof. Paul De Hert, the PHAEDRA project co-ordinator from VUB.

“Every individual today is a battle ground,” says David Wright, Managing Partner of Trilateral Research. “Governments, companies, hackers and other evil-doers are trying to strip away citizens’ privacy. Our principal, poorly-armed defenders are data protection authorities and privacy commissioners.”

Recent rapid development of information and communications technologies have resulted in the increase of cross-border flows of personal data and, in parallel, in elevating privacy and data protection risks. This requires an adequate response to tackle privacy and data protection breaches of a cross-border nature, and hence calls for co-operation amongst DPAs. Such a need was observed as early as the 2000s, and although some efforts have been undertaken, it still remains one of the weakest links in privacy and data protection governance. “In a globalised Internet world, enforcement co-operation among DPAs is vital to ensure the real protection of personal data,” says Artemi Rallo, former director of the Agencia Española de Protección de Datos and professor at Universitat Jaume I.

However, many DPAs, when it comes to international co-operation, face legal and institutional constraints as well as human and budgetary shortages. Looking only at the European context, the Article 29 Working Party, which brings together DPAs from all 27 EU Member States, in one of

its 2011 “advises” has identified a number of obstacles and concluded that there is a need to develop rules on co-operation “in a more detailed and specific way” and to “provide clarity on the extent to which information can be shared between DPAs”, among others.

“Even the best-equipped data protection authorities cannot meet all of the demands on their time,” adds Prof Rallo. “To make matters worse, several DPAs have sometimes investigated the same issue, as was the case with Google Street View.” Recently, however, DPAs have been trying to avoid a duplication of effort, so that one DPA investigates an issue and shares the results with his fellow regulators. Such was the case when CNIL, the French data protection authority, investigated on behalf of the Art. 29 Working Party Google’s combining and integrating its privacy policies across different services.

The European Commission has recognised the need for improved co-operation between DPAs. While the proposal for the General Data Protection Regulation strengthens the mechanisms for co-operation between European DPAs, its Article 45 is specifically focused on international co-operation. It says the Commission and DPAs shall “develop effective co-operation mechanisms to facilitate the enforcement of legislation for the protection of personal data” and to “provide international mutual assistance in the enforcement of legislation”.

“Worldwide flows of personal data and corresponding privacy and data protection risks require an adequate global response in order to effectively protect privacy of European citizens. Therefore, European DPAs should not only focus on EU Member States, but also collaborate with countries outside the EU to improve enforcement of data protection legislation against multinational data controllers and others who violate data protection rights,” says Dr. Wojciech Wiewiórowski, Inspector General for Personal Data Protection.

The first major initiative of the PHAEDRA project has been to send a questionnaire to DPAs and privacy commissioners around the world aimed at understanding their perceived needs for improved co-operation and co-ordination and whether their empowering legislation encourages or constrains co-operation. Second, the consortium will review the legislation establishing DPAs to identify whether there are provisions that act as barriers or that inhibit international co-operation and co-ordination and what measures could be taken to reduce such barriers. Third, the PHAEDRA consortium will contact DPAs to determine how the project could reinforce their efforts. The project will conclude with a set of recommendations. The consortium intends to organise three workshops for discussion of co-ordination efforts.

The PHAEDRA project follows several other international initiatives aimed at improving co-operation and co-ordination between DPAs. In 2007, the OECD adopted a Recommendation on Cross-border Co-operation in the Enforcement of Laws Protecting Privacy. The 29th International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners (ICDPPC) adopted a “Resolution on International Co-operation” at its meeting in Montreal in 2007. In 2010, 11 privacy enforcement authorities launched the Global Privacy Enforcement Network (GPEN) with a mission to “promote and support cooperation in cross-border enforcement of laws protecting privacy”, primarily by exchanging information between DPAs. The 33rd ICDPPC, held in Mexico City in 2011, adopted an even more detailed Resolution, encouraging more effective co-ordination of cross-border investigation and enforcement. The Article 29 Working

Party also has on its agenda enhancing enforcement and promoting international co-operation between privacy authorities.

For more information, contact:

Prof. Paul De Hert (co-ordinator)
Vrije Universiteit Brussel



David Wright (work stream 1 leader)
Trilateral Research & Consulting



Blue Valley School District CAPS program

From: "Rob Manes" [REDACTED]
Date: Mon, January 21, 2013 4:53 pm
To: [REDACTED]

Hello,

- Very impressive program. How are you addressing K-12 .
- Google the subject above. I have found if I attach information no one looks. But if you put some skin in the game it will make you want to see this program.
- On your very impressive board you have no K-12 science teachers? You have no students????

If you want to address the 21st century you better get with it or this very impressive program will be in the national archives while you can still read it. But the 21st century student will be saying another good idea we just knew it before you.

I would be interested in hearing from you and not surprised if I do not. Call me and we can get something done.

This is a good beginning.

Rob R. Manes

Director, Business Development

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
www.edisonawards.com

"A leader in globally recognizing, honoring and fostering innovation and innovators to create a positive impact in the world"

PCAST and NSF's 1/14/2013 Reply. Mismanagement, polarization and war

From: "Lloyd Etheredge" <[REDACTED]>

Date: Thu, January 24, 2013 4:21 pm

To: "Dr. John Holdren - Science Adviser to President Obama and Co-Chair, PCAST" [REDACTED]

Cc: "Dr. Rosina Bierbaum - PCAST" [REDACTED]

Dear Drs. Holdren, Lander, Savitz, Press, and Sharp, and PCAST Members:

NSF has just tabled its reply. We must have voluntary participation in an NSF reviewing system of 55,000 applications/year but Suresh, Arvizu *et al.* have declared war.

I hope that PCAST will facilitate fast regime change, return of the peer review Scientific Merit guarantee to NSF, and new appointees who meet the Vannevar Bush, "eminent scientist" standard.

Lloyd Etheredge

Date: Thu, 24 Jan 2013 15:38:23 -0500

To: "Dr. Phillip A Sharp - Chair, AAAS Committee on Council Affairs and AAAS President-elect" [REDACTED] "Bill Press - President, AAAS" [REDACTED]

From: Lloyd Etheredge <[REDACTED]>

Subject: NSF's 1/14/2013 Reply: The AAAS Council and the No Confidence assessment

Cc: . . .]

Dear Dr. Sharp, Dr. Press, and AAAS Council Members:

NSF has just published, on January 14, 2013, clarifications and revisions to its Merit Review system and I enclose excerpts. The Suresh, Arvizu *et al.*, regime has established the battle line for the AAAS Council meeting. This is a battle about power and the future: Merit Review Facts Question 3 makes clear that NSF's public answer is "No." At NSF, the peer reviews of 55,000 applications/year will not control whether grant applications are funded or rejected.

- **Abandoning Runnymede**, The Vannevar Bush system of "peer review," drawn from the legal system and the historic Runnymede achievement of an independent jury system that preserves human freedom and rights and checks government control, has been substantially neutralized and shifted to a smokescreen. This is unacceptable.

The documents clarify that the AAAS Council, acting on behalf of all of us, must make a finding of No Confidence and change the Suresh, Arvizu *et al.*, regime. Otherwise, at NSF, American scientists will have lost permanently the right of Scientific Merit peer review award competitions. And American society will have lost a vital guarantee of an independent,

evidence-based role for its universities.

People with sharp elbows and remarkable arrogance have gained control of \$7 billion/year. The Suresh, Arvizu *et al.* regime increasingly views the nation's research scientists as contract employees of the government. NSF is stonewalling on behalf of a confidential, multi-stage process run by people with top-down, management and bureaucratic sensibilities. [My perception is that the National Science Board safeguard also has declined from the Vannevar Bush "eminent scientist" standard to educational bureaucrats/administrators and interest group representatives.]

NSF v. the AAAS Council

The 1/14/2013 clarification also establishes (Question 2 under Broader Impacts) that Suresh, Arvizu *et al.*, - while presenting their regime as running fair and honest competitions - will not disclose to applicants the full (confidential) list of judging criteria that the NSF higher bureaucracy will use to decide the competitive ranking of applications. And [Question 1 under Broader Impacts] they also acknowledge that they have withdrawn the more detailed public advisory document giving examples of what criteria and features of an application (e.g., Partnership relationships with for-profit companies) different Program Officers and Division heads use. [Presumably, Texas A&M will continue to win?] Rather than become more forthcoming, Suresh, Arvizu *et al.* have decided to become more opaque.

-**NSF's problem of fairness and consistency**. I am not aware of evidence from audited decision records, training manuals for NSF staff, nor other evidence to show that applicants are judged fairly and consistently. [NSF should not be allowed to operate its national competitions - i.e., as *competitions* - unless it can show that the varied criteria and *de facto* weights applied confidentially by different Division Directors and Program Officers for the 55,000 applications/year have met or currently meet this ethical and legal requirement.] Nor is there evidence on the revised Website that Dr. Suresh's Program Officers and Division Directors should be accepted as trusted judges who meet serious standards of the scientific community for evaluating the several dozen Other Societal Benefits and implied theories for which Dr. Suresh claims them to have reliable expertise.

- **Politicization and the Rule of Law**. It is deeply alarming, in their response to concerns, that Suresh, Arvizu *et al.* stonewall a fundamental and legitimate rule-of-law question about their stewardship of a government agency and an apparent abuse of power: They have not disclosed, for independent legal analysis by affected scientists, how missing rules in the ["non-inclusive and non-definitive"] lists or other devices, are used - and probably are misused - to kill independent, honest-broker scientific evaluation of Republican and other ideological truth claims, studies of racism and its effects, and of hierarchical psychology and the potentially transformative Primate Subordination Syndrome theory of human behavior and unsolved societal problems, and other topics. It is criminal to accommodate Republican political agendas and kill strategic plans to update an NSF Economics program whose theories and data systems have been allowed to lose their grip on a changing reality. It is unacceptable for any government agency to wield this kind of power over American universities, in secret, across 30+ years, and hateful that the Suresh, Arvizu *et al.* regime does

so by misleading the press and by the propaganda device of invoking the credibility of the scientific community and the implication that Scientific Merit review has dumbed-down the social sciences and civic role of our universities.

The "Null Hypothesis" Test and Trustworthiness

Suresh and Arvizu *et al.*, have been challenged by scientists and the scientific standard of the null hypothesis. They have not yet disclosed audited data to show that their stewardship merits the confidence of the AAAS Council by the rules of science and the expectations of the scientific community

Restoring the Vannevar Bush Safeguards

We need a better future. Without the Vannevar Bush safeguards, the increasingly top-down and arrogant Suresh, Arvizu *et al.* regime is creating anger and demoralization, undermining voluntary participation in the peer review system that must work, exceeding its authority and outrageously neutralizing the civic role we expect of our universities, misdirecting funds, and making things worse.

Thank you for engaging these issues.

Yours truly,
Lloyd Etheredge

Dr. Lloyd S. Etheredge - Director, Government Learning Project
Policy Sciences Center Inc.


URL: www.policyscience.net

 (email)

[The Policy Sciences Center, Inc. is a public foundation that develops and integrates knowledge and practice to advance human dignity. It was founded by Harold Lasswell, Myres McDougal, and their associates in 1948 in New Haven, CT. Further information about the Policy Sciences Center and its projects, Society, and journal is available at www.policysciences.org.]

Agricultural Preparedness Working Group

From: "Paul J. von Hartmann" [REDACTED]
Date: Sat, February 2, 2013 8:26 am
To: "Bonnie - OSEC" [REDACTED] ([more](#))
Cc: "pcast" [REDACTED]

Dear Secretary Vilsack, Mr. Bonnie, Mr. Eve, and Mr. Schrag,

"A team of specialists from NASA have found that global temperatures have been increasing with 0.6 C during the past 30 years. "Further global warming of 1 C defines a critical threshold. Beyond that we will likely see changes that make Earth

a different planet than the one we know." says Jim Hansen, director of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies in New York."

from "Northern Boreal Forest Is Intensely Affected by Global Warming"

<http://news.softpedia.com/news/Northern-Boreal-Forest-is-Intensely-Affected-by-Global-Warming-37861.shtml>

I am writing to request that development of a protocol for national and regional

"essential civilian demand" for "hemp" (Executive Order 13603) be funded immediately, as part of President Obama's Agricultural Preparedness Working Group

"The Federal Government should launch a coordinated effort to boost American agricultural science by increasing public investments in that economically important domain and rebalancing the U.S. Department of Agriculture's research portfolio, according to a new report by an independent, presidentially appointed advisory group. The report also calls for the creation of a network of public-private agricultural "innovation institutes," to leverage the strengths of government scientists and commercial interests.

"Report to the President on Agricultural Preparedness & the Agriculture Research

Enterprise," by the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology, concludes that the United States is the undisputed world leader in agricultural production today, but also cautions that U.S. agriculture also faces a number of

challenges that are poised to become much more serious in the years ahead. The report prioritizes the top seven scientific challenges facing agriculture: The need

to manage new pests, pathogens, and invasive plants; increase the efficiency of water use; reduce the environmental footprint of agriculture; adapt to a changing

climate; and accommodate demands for bioenergy—all while continuing to produce safe

and nutritious food at home and for those in need abroad.

"Meeting these challenges will require a renewed commitment to research, innovation, and technology development in agriculture," said Daniel Schrag, co-chair of the PCAST Agricultural Preparedness Working Group. "If we act strategically today we will gain invaluable benefits tomorrow, including enhanced food security, better nutrition, greener sources of energy, and healthier lives, while we grow the rural economy."

from "Private Agricultural Institutes to Address Pending Challenges"

http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/pcast_ag_release_20121207.pdf

Thank you all for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Paul von Hartmann

Paul J. von Hartmann

Cannabis scholar

California Cannabis Ministry

"Our freedom to farm "every herb bearing seed" is the first test of religious freedom."

<http://www.californiacannabisministry.blogspot.com>

Between the Dreams Productions : projectpeace channel on You Tube

"Video documentation is the most time efficient and cost effective way of communicating a complex message."

<http://www.youtube.com/user/projectpeace>

"Return to Reason" film trailer

"Drugs don't make seeds, herbs do.

You can make a drug from an herb, but you can't make an herb from a drug.

They are not the same thing."

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o_TpxflblkEundefined

"We have nothing to fear but the atmosphere itself."

July 4th, 2009 BlogTalkRadio Broadcast

<http://www.blogtalkradio.com/projectpeace>

"What Now" KOWS FM radio interview

Extended interviews with accomplished thinkers, writers, artists, farmers and scientists addressing the global crisis, 11-15-10 Paul von Hartmann // On Cannabis the plant

<http://www.pantedmonkey.org/>

"The Fundamental Challenge of Our Time"

Translated into Dutch and adopted as the manifesto for the Cannabis College Amsterdam in 1998

<http://fundamentalcoot.blogspot.com/>

Origins of the ministry: Project P.E.A.C.E. (Planet Ecology Advancing Conscious Economics)

"There is no money on a burned-out planet."

<http://www.webspawner.com/users/projectpeace>

To find out about wheelchair accessible gardening systems, and how you can receive a tax deduction for supporting the work of the California Cannabis Ministry, please contact Paul von Hartmann at (831) 588-5095

PCAST and Journalistic Integrity Issues Affecting Scientific Self-Governance

From: "Lloyd Etheredge" <[REDACTED]>

Date: Mon, February 4, 2013 12:05 am

To: "Dr. John Holdren - Science Adviser to President Obama and Co-Chair, PCAST" [REDACTED]

Cc: "Dr. Rosina Bierbaum - PCAST" [REDACTED]

Dear Drs. Holdren, Lander, Savitz, and Press and PCAST Members:

Concerning issues that I have brought to your attention, I enclose a discussion of another dimension that will require a statesmanlike solution at your level.

PCAST members may wish to provide the new governance structure at NSF for a transition period. It is difficult to imagine any restoration process for NSF that can occur without leadership by eminent scientists who recognize that public integrity, honesty, and (when necessary) political courage are essential to well-run scientific institutions.

Legal Framework Breakdowns: An Urgent Briefing for President Obama?

Many interested parties, including those who believe (probably, rightly) that they have been treated unfairly, do not accept the code of Science Establishment secrecy. My recommendation is that President Obama should be urgently briefed by PCAST before the AAAS Council meeting, and also have a full briefing about legal issues from Dr. Holdren and General Counsel Leonard.

The briefing might include the need for *en masse* regime change, the *prima facie* violations of federal law (e.g., suppressing studies of racism and effects of racism at American universities and other changes without written disclosure or legal authority and otherwise honoring the integrity of the democratic process), the catastrophic damage of uncorrected Republican-induced neutralization of Economics research, the perceived fraud and violation of an expected *quid pro quo* and the potential for catastrophic meltdown of the federal government's national voluntary reviewing system for 55,000 NSF applications/year; and other issues that PCAST recommends for a legal evaluation and briefing.

Yours truly,
Lloyd S. Etheredge

Date: Sun, 03 Feb 2013 16:12:44 -0500

To: "Dr. Phillip A Sharp - Chair, AAAS Committee on Council Affairs and AAAS President-elect" [REDACTED] "Bill Press - President, AAAS" [REDACTED]

"Dr. Kwame Anthony Appiah - Chair, Exec. Committee, American Council of Learned Societies" [REDACTED]

From: Lloyd Etheredge <[REDACTED]>

Subject: AAAS Council: Journalistic Integrity of Science Magazine and Science Establishment Complicity in Neutralizing US Universities

Cc: [. . .]

Dear Dr. Sharp, Dr. Press, Dr. Appiah, and AAAS Council Members:

In addition to governance changes at the National Science Foundation, my recommendation is that the AAAS Officers and Council request an independent professional review of breakdowns of journalistic integrity at **Science**. We are unlikely to sustain the Vannevar Bush standards - or be assured that they have been restored - without restoring a free, independent, and trustworthy press.

Our members, and national and international audiences, must be able to rely upon the ethics and professional journalistic integrity of news about national science policy reported by **Science**. Especially when the decisions of our science Establishment offend the values of our members, may injure their professional interests, and could be deeply mistaken and damaging decisions for the future of the country.

The complicity of powerful members of our national Science Establishment has been central to the remarkable political neutralization of US universities. This complicity includes the ending of the peer-review Scientific Merit guarantee at NSF, a deeply controversial Republican-accommodating termination about which the winners were able to impose silence.

An Urgent Need for Independent Review and Professional Advice

Thus, the AAAS Council and its Officers and Board should move quickly to effect an independent review of the historical record at **Science** by respected specialists in journalistic integrity and ethics and law. We need an independent evaluation, a candid process of interviews with the professional staff and other participants, and the AAAS Council needs independent advice about what has gone wrong and how to fix it. We must have news reporting by Science that we can trust.

Additional Documentation

I enclose additional documentation, that may not have come to the attention of current Council members. Editors-in-Chief of Science, its reporters, and AAAS Board Members have repeatedly been asked to face the question of whether to disclose NSF's accommodations to Republican demands and *de facto* policies to neutralize the civic role of American universities. [Stockman's demands allowed scientist-initiated research concerning physical processes, which is why controversies about climate change or stem cell research have been acceptable for coverage in **Science**.]

For example, the enclosed 2002 appeal to Donald Kennedy, as Editor-in-Chief, was part of a longer historical series of communications urging honest reporting. By 2002 the erosion of the NSF program in Economics was deeply alarming: [Economists use econometric estimation of time series, with a new set of datapoints every three months. The NSF lockdown in response to Republican pressures excluded measurements of needed variables for a

growing number of years and violated statistical requirements for scientific integrity; Also, by 2002, a changing world was not being measured so that - if the public ever needed to rely upon economic theory and data systems - reliable coefficients to guide policy were unlikely to be available unless the lockdown decisions of the science Establishment were reversed. David Stockman and his zealots had, long before 2002, departed. I do not see any responsible basis for our national science Establishment, to have continued the enforced silence of Science, and to continue the neutralized civic role of our universities, without informed disclosure to our members and the public.

The Problem is Inside the Science Establishment

The Vannevar Bush system still seems to work splendidly, and with a strong, effective defense, at NIH, FDA, NASA and other scientific agencies. But at NSF I am aware of only one historical period - the early Reagan years with a remarkably zealous and politically gifted OMB Director - when there was a realistic threat to the NSF budget. Otherwise, the painful historical truth is that the fierce battles have been within our national science Establishment itself - with victories by a Washington-oriented faction - and in the NSF case the Vannevar Bush system did not have the votes because reporting by Science was placed under duress.

I underscore that there always have been divisions within our national science Establishment. In the early years, when I began to raise these issue, battles were fought in Cambridge: I was still teaching at MIT and Frank Press from MIT was heading the National Academy of Sciences and crafting early accommodations and silences. Noam Chomsky gave advice about Cambridge scientists who might support scientific integrity and fight with greater political backbone and courage. David Hamburg (from Harvard and then at the Carnegie Corporation of NY) worked with Joshua Lederberg to help, and to fight for integrity. A former President of MIT, as Chair of the Sloan Foundation, tried to encourage a return to the Vannevar Bush standards. My MIT colleague, Bruce Mazlish, a former Dean of Humanities was on the other side, viewing the American people as "not being ready" for evidence-based public policy and Harvey Brooks (Harvard) shared his view (with Herbert Simon) that the social sciences might not have current potential worth fighting for - and a statesman argument about trusting the Establishment judgment that had supported the remarkable total growth of the US national science budget since WWII.

More broadly, the late Donald Campbell - a strong leader in the Lasswell/Campbell et al. traditions for societal learning being jettisoned - conveyed his concern that Congressional liberals were not willing to fight for the social sciences since the Great Society investments did not support many liberal program agendas. Among university Presidents Jack Peltason, head of the UC system splendidly called the White House Science Office to fight for an independent civic role of universities and evidence-based thinking: [I spoke with the Assistant Science Adviser for Social Science (Joyce Justus) after his call: He said, "We face these issues all of the time in California. Isn't there anything that you can do?"] Subsequently, however, his successor and a former NSF Director, Richard Atkinson (the enclosed letter) withdrew the UC system from defending an independent civic role and Scientific Merit peer review for its faculty grant applications, in a disappointing, undercutting, and widely circulated letter within the UC system. <1>

The Merits of a Free, Independent, and Capable Press

Without credible media attention by **Science** it was more difficult to overcome the orchestrated perception that NSF still operated by a guaranteed peer review, Scientific Merit system.

Honest journalism and accountability improve ethics. A free, independent, and capable press also helps to prevent mistakes, assure wiser decisions and that the interests of all affected parties are respected. It helps to speed self-correction when serious mistakes of judgment have occurred.

Thank you for your attention to these concerns,
Lloyd Etheredge

<1> More of this history is available at www.policyscience.net. I understand that Atkinson has told colleagues that his letter has been misinterpreted.

Dr. Lloyd S. Etheredge - Director, Government Learning Project
Policy Sciences Center Inc.

URL: www.policyscience.net

[The Policy Sciences Center, Inc. is a public foundation that develops and integrates knowledge and practice to advance human dignity. It was founded by Harold Lasswell, Myres McDougal, and their associates in 1948 in New Haven, CT. Further information about the Policy Sciences Center and its projects, Society, and journal is available at www.policysciences.org.]

Dr. Lloyd S. Etheredge
Policy Sciences Center Inc.

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THE POLICY SCIENCES CENTER, INC.

Project Director: DR. LLOYD ETHEREDGE

January 2, 2013

Dr. Philip Sharp, Chair - AAAS Committee on Council Affairs
Dr. William Press, Chair - AAAS Council

Re: The AAAS/NSF Accountability Meeting (followup)

Dear Dr. Sharp, Dr. Press, and Members of the AAAS Council:

Social scientists have been subjected to strong social pressures and implied threats, for more than 30 years, unless they shut-up in public about their concerns. Thus, I hope that the AAAS Council meetings for NSF accountability and a return to the Vannevar Bush standards will be Webcast. Now that President Obama has been reelected and Democrats control the Senate, we should restore NSF to its original honest-broker integrity and political independence. Statements and data by current NSF/NSB officials about their stewardship should be on the public record. This also allows academic scientists (and NSF professionals) who wish to challenge or correct their official statements and accounts of historic events and decisions to do so.

Informed Decisions for Collective Action

AAAS members also need to be fully informed if there is to be a vote of No Confidence and President-elect Phillip Sharp is to be a wartime President. Secretary of State George Shultz, a former labor negotiator, warned his staff about the fate of unions who would not take a strike. My perception - in light of the \$7 billion/year NSF budget and the amount of money that is being currently redistributed to NSF's new (albeit pragmatic) friends - is that an honest peer review, Scientific Merit award system will never be restored, and will continue to erode, unless the AAAS Council draws a line. The scientific community must be firm about the requirement to change personnel and procedures and an immediate return to scientific integrity and the Vannevar Bush design.

If NSF is restored to the rule of law and to political independence, Republicans will be unable to suppress NSF programs and redirect the NSF budget unless they can, with open democratic scrutiny, follow the rules and win majorities in both houses of Congress and President Obama's signature. [This is unlikely: Today, neither Senator McConnell nor Representative Boehner strikes me as fearsome opponents and Representative Ryan (Chair of the House Budget Committee) occurs for me as an undergraduate who encountered Ayn Rand's Atlas Shrugged, felt a gut-level recognition of personal and civic truth, and - then - never was encouraged by courses in research methods to put his gut-level reactions and adolescent drama into a more sustained and thoughtful inquiry with other forms of evidence. He is a man of ability: Our nation's research scientists also are college professors and they should have the courage to challenge and engage him. And so should an NSF Director.]

The Policy Sciences Center Inc. is a public foundation.

The Center was founded in 1948 by Myres S. McDougal, Harold D. Lasswell, and George Dession in New Haven, CT

URL: <http://www.policyscience.net>

Focusing Research Funds for a Hopeful Future

An upgraded NSF system, run by eminent scientists, can rebalance the NSF budget with new support for basic research, innovation, and graduate students:

1.) **NSF Overhead Rates and the Illegitimate “Profit Center” System.** The NSF grant budget only should pay for the indirect costs that eminent scientists agree to pay. At this point, the National Science Board (typically with a large component of current and former university administrators, rather than eminent scientists), has allowed growing “indirect” payments from the NSF grant budget into a 50% range. NSF’s original design - as a **neutral** and simple repayment of actual costs to nonprofit institutions - has been converted quietly into an engine for cost inflation, subsidized inefficiency, and Profit Center mentalities. [When NSF only reimburses honest indirect costs, the system is neutral, and there is no Profit Center incentive.] Several decades ago, Stanford’s President Donald Kennedy lost his job when an audit discovered that a cedar closet in his Presidential residence was billed as an indirect cost to the federal government. Today, we have subsidized university administrators in scientific areas who can combine academic lifestyles with the expectation of retiring as millionaires (and without doing any of the research work themselves).¹

2.) **Returning NSF to High-Yield Basic Science.** During the Bush years a coalition of former university administrators, corporations, and Washington lobbyists organized a “national competitiveness” campaign to double the NSF budget. Research scientists probably believed that the money would go to support high priority Scientific Merit basic science and graduate students. However the Report made a long list of recommendations to allocate large sums to every member of its Team Science coalition and eminent economists (e.g., despite protests, economists who were members of the National Academy of Sciences, the nominal sponsor) were excluded as authors and reviewers of the **Gathering Storm** report, now in its third edition. The quasi-scientific literature reviews related to economic competitiveness were known to be biased and unreliable. Today substantial NSF grant funds are diverted - using the symbol of an urgent national goal - to new “Partnership Centers” with corporations and symbolic “free money” projects at lower tier universities (like Texas A&M). The process apparently uses ratings, theories, and evaluations that, to judge from the Leshner **Report**, are not Scientific Merit awards but confused and poorly documented, without proven value, and NSF money is awarded by Program Officers and higher NSF officials without any track record.

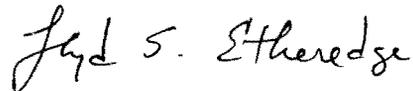
The NSF/NSB leadership has become (expensively) drawn into a Washington world of politics and professional salesmanship, and they probably are being outsmarted. Recent data suggest that American corporations currently have \$1.7+ trillion of unspent cash that could support their own R&D. Also, they have easy access to loans at minimal interest and to abundant venture capital.² America’s most competitive, successful, and innovative industries always have spent their own money for R&D (e.g., consumer electronics, pharmaceuticals) and have built partnerships to support university research. [MIT’s Industrial Liaison Program (started in 1948, without NSF subsidies) has grown to 200 members.] American competitiveness and innovation surely require well-run, science-investing, innovative companies, but this is a problem that should be solved effectively and directly, by better corporate executives and Boards and by people who understand what they are doing.

Additional Steps for Scientific Resources

In conclusion, may I underscore that the best interest of the national science budget is to repair the (quiet and intentional) damage that has been done to the NSF Economics program? The enclosed **Op**

Ed piece in the Financial Times by Dr. Jeffrey Sachs (December 17, 2012) expresses a view about the compelling need for fresh thinking and eclectic economic theories connected to new data and the reality of a changing world. I bring this piece to your attention partly because - without any economists at the senior levels of NSF and the National Science Board - it is unclear if these decision makers read the Financial Times. The NSF system is in urgent need of returning control to eminent scientists, with political courage, who can connect these dots.

Yours truly,



Dr. Lloyd S. Etheredge, Director
Government Learning Project

cc: AAAS Council Members

Attachment: Jeffrey Sachs, "We Must Look Beyond Keynes to Fix Our Problems," Financial Times, December 17, 2012.

Notes

1. I forwarded, earlier, references and documentation about the many years of escalating salaries, beyond the rate of inflation.

The National Science Board's new "No Money Down"/ "No Co-Payment" policies beginning in the Bush years (which I also discussed briefly in an earlier communications) have fueled a huge growth of academic real estate empires and new construction by first-, second-, and third tier universities, growing institutional debt, and anticipated reimbursement and *de facto* profit from the NSF budget. For a partial discussion of the growing academic real estate bubble, see Andrew Martin, "Building a Showcase Campus, Using an IOU," The New York Times, December 13, 2012.

2. Robert Atkinson and Stephen Ezeil, Innovation Economics: The Race for Global Advantage (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2012), p. 1.

December 17, 2012 6:46 pm. Financial Times

We must look beyond Keynes to fix our problems

By Jeffrey Sachs

For more than 30 years, from the mid-1970s to 2008, Keynesian demand management was in intellectual eclipse. Yet it returned with the financial crisis to dominate the thinking of the Obama administration and much of the UK Labour party. It is time to reconsider the revival.

The rebound of Keynesianism, led in the US by Lawrence Summers, the former Treasury

secretary, Paul Krugman, the economist-columnist, and the US Federal Reserve chairman Ben Bernanke, came with the belief that short-term fiscal and monetary expansion was needed to offset the collapse of the housing market.

The US policy choice has been four years of structural (cyclically adjusted) budget deficits of general government of 7 per cent of gross domestic product or more; interest rates near zero; another call by the White House for stimulus in 2013; and the Fed's new policy to keep rates near zero until unemployment returns to 6.5 per cent. Since 2010, no European country has followed the US's fiscal lead. However, the European Central Bank and Bank of England are not far behind the Fed on the monetary front.

We can't know how successful (or otherwise) these policies have been because of the lack of convincing counterfactuals. But we should have serious doubts. The promised jobs recovery has not arrived. Growth has remained sluggish. The US debt-GDP ratio has almost doubled from about 36 per cent in 2007 to 72 per cent this year. The crisis in southern Europe is often claimed by Keynesians to be the consequence of fiscal austerity, yet its primary cause is the countries' and eurozone's unresolved banking crises. And the UK's slowdown has more to do with the eurozone crisis, declining North Sea oil and the inevitable contraction of the banking sector, than multiyear moves towards budget balance.

There are three more reasons to doubt the Keynesian view. First, the fiscal expansion has been mostly in the form of temporary tax cuts and transfer payments. Much of these were probably saved, not spent.

Second, the zero interest rate policy has a risk not acknowledged by the Fed: the creation of another bubble. The Fed has failed to appreciate that the 2008 bubble was partly caused by its own easy liquidity policies in the preceding six years. Friedrich Hayek was prescient: a surge of excessive liquidity can misdirect investments that lead to boom followed by bust.

Third, our real challenge was not a great depression, as the Keynesians argued, but deep structural change. Keynesians persuaded Washington it was stimulus or bust. This was questionable. There was indeed a brief depression risk in late 2008 and early 2009, but it resulted from the panic after the abrupt and maladroit closure of Lehman Brothers.

There is no going back to the pre-crisis economy, with or without stimulus. Unlike the Keynesian model that assumes a stable growth path hit by temporary shocks, our real challenge is that the growth path itself needs to be very different from even the recent past.

The American labour market is not recovering as Keynesians hoped. Indeed, most high-income economies continue to shed low-skilled jobs, either to automation or to offshoring. And while US employment is rising for those with college degrees, it is falling for those with no more than a high school education.

The infrastructure sector is a second case in point. Other than a much-hyped boom in gas fracking, investments in infrastructure are mostly paralysed. Every country needs to move to a low-carbon energy system. What is the US plan? There isn't one. What is the plan for modernised transport? There isn't one. What is the plan for protecting the coastlines from more

frequent and costly flooding? There isn't one.

Trillions of dollars of public and private investments are held up for lack of a strategy. The Keynesian approach is ill-suited to this kind of sustained economic management, which needs to be on a timescale of 10-20 years, involving co-operation between public and private investments, and national and local governments.

Our world is not amenable to mechanistic rules, whether they are Keynesian multipliers, or ratios of budget cuts to tax increases. The UK, for example, needs increased infrastructure and education investments, backed by taxes and public tariffs. Therefore, spending cuts should not form the bulk of deficit reduction as George Osborne, UK chancellor, desires. Economics needs to focus on the government's role not over a year or business cycle, but over an "investment cycle".

When the world is changing rapidly and consequentially, as it is today, it is misguided to expect a "general theory". As Hayek once recommended to Keynes, we instead need a tract for our times; one that responds to the new challenges posed by globalisation, climate change and information technology.

The writer is director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University

THE POLICY SCIENCES CENTER, INC.

Project Director: DR. LLOYD ETHEREDGE

November 20, 2012

Dr. Philip Sharp, Chair - AAAS Committee on Council Affairs
Dr. William Press, Chair - AAAS Council

Re: AAAS Accountability Meeting

Dear Dr. Sharp, Dr. Press, and Council Members:

In the interest of accountability I hope that the AAAS Council will invite the NSF Director and the Chair of the National Science Board to meet and answer questions about their stewardship and plans. Many concerns have risen about mismanagement of the Scientific Merit award competition and the growing Other Societal Benefits re-ranking: the hard data about who is getting what, when, and how need to be disclosed. I hope that the strong objections to NSF political censorship of the social sciences also will be on the table.

Background

Since writing to the Council on May 9, 2012, I have been unable to obtain hard data about NSF's expanded system of Other Societal Benefits rankings. About 55,000 NSF applications/year - competitively ranked for Scientific Merit with several hundred thousand hours of donated time - are at issue. It appears that an increasing fraction of the Scientific Merit awards is being changed at higher NSF levels by these new kinds of rankings. Basic and hard data about the egregious problems identified in the Leshner *et al.* Report have not been disclosed¹: We only know that Leshner *et al.* accept evidence that there are opaque definitions, different and inconsistent scoring criteria, and undisclosed weights - characteristics that do not pass federal legal standards for award competitions. Only incomplete and varying lists of recognized benefits have been released. (Also: the National Science Board has not disclosed an audit of the unfair program solicitations for which the criteria and weights ultimately used to select winners were only partly disclosed or not known equally to all of the applicants.)² It is somewhat surprising that the Leshner *et al.* Report did not use the best scientific research methods: it only reported survey data and did not examine scoring documents (which must, by law, be complete, accurate, and honest and signed by accountable officials), nor did it interview NSF Program Officers and higher management under oath, nor seek written depositions, about what they have been doing.

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The “science is a complex enterprise” and “national competitiveness” slogans of the Bush era National Science Board created opportunities for dissembling and opened doors of NSF largesse to an extraordinary number of new beneficiaries without requiring reliable evidence of competitive superiority or the cost-effectiveness of giving Other Societal Benefits money to them.³ Since billions of dollars are involved, this is puzzling.

How Far Has This Gone?

In Washington, vague and idealistic language (see Note 4, below) often is a mark of superb lobbying: As you may have noticed, the Leshner *et al.*, Report attested that this Other Societal Benefits list that evolved during the Bush era, and that it has provided to the public, the scientific community, and Congress, is incomplete.⁴ Nor did Leshner *et al.* evaluate and report the qualifications of the people who make these new rankings that overrule the national Scientific Merit competition. [Nor are the private censorship rules for Economics and the other social sciences (e.g., “Don’t Wave a Red Flag at Republicans!” of the majority on the current National Science Board and Dr. Suresh) that were queried to the Leshner *et al.* Committee candidly disclosed in the list.]

The Risk of a National Meltdown

For the AAAS Council, a fundamental national concern must be that science is a moral community held together by trust. Unless our nation’s research scientists (and students) believe that, in their turn, they too will be judged fairly by an independent, peer-review of Scientific Merit, our extraordinary national research system of donated time for 55,000 Scientific Merit reviews/year is at risk of a meltdown. The tipping point - which can occur quickly in the new era of communications technology - will not be determined by NSF-assigned lawyers or rhetoric-intoxicated defenses.

Here is a suggestive case that consequential re-rankings now are being made behind the inappropriate public image of the peer-reviewed Scientific Merit competition: Dr. Ray Bowen, former President of Texas A&M, recently completed his second term as Chair of the National Science Board and the Chair of the House Science Committee is a Texas Republican.⁵ It would have been improper and illegal for Dr. Bowen (holding an office of public trust) to effect institutional favoritism or transmit inside knowledge that was not equally available to all competitors. However Texas A&M advertises that it received \$705 million in federal research money in 2011 and is the third largest recipient of federal research money (of universities that do not have a medical school) behind MIT and UC Berkeley. It implies that these numbers are a source of prestige and reflect a competitive Scientific Merit ranking for its applications but the new system evolved by Bowen *et al.*, no longer implies this conclusion.^{6 7}

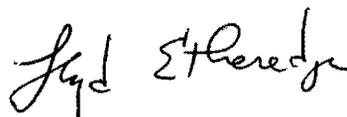
- The new NSF Other Societal Benefits re-distribution system also appears to be exploited by a

new breed of administrator. The newest Chair of the National Science Board, Dr. Dan Arvizu, now receives \$900,000+/year as a “non profit” research administrator under a DOE grant.⁸ The National Science Board now obligates all NSF Program Officers (in the views of some of them, places them under duress) to give a competitive advantage to grant applications that will create such new university-corporation partnerships with NSF funds.⁹ While the scientific community believes that NSF merely reimburses the legitimate cost of doing research, a growing number of universities openly discuss and create “Profit Centers” underwritten by federal science dollars. And the number of administrators at first, second, and third tier research universities has grown and their annual salary increases have exceeded the rate of inflation for many years. A typical science Dean - albeit holding a comfortable and usually routine job - now can be awarded \$100,000+ more than a full professor at a doctorate-granting institution.¹⁰ The new political coalitions being funded by redistributing the NSF science budget attract people who are living very well on NSF funds (and exploiting the public trust in the self-governance of science and the credibility of the traditional peer-review Scientific Merit competition) without doing any research themselves. (It would be interesting for the Council to hear Dr. Suresh’s candid estimate of the fraction of the NSF budget that, today, actually pays for new data.)

Policy Implications

I cannot make a professional recommendation until I see the hard data: Who is getting What, When and How? - nor can I expect the Council to decide whether a vote of No Confidence is justified until it has seen these data. However, my working hypothesis is that the performance of the NSF system can be improved by two changes: I will forward a discussion under separate cover.

Yours truly,



Dr. Lloyd S. Etheredge, Director
Government Learning Project

cc: AAAS Section Chairs and Council Delegates

Notes

1. John Bruer and Alan Leshner (co-chairs): National Science Board, Merit Review Criteria: Review and Revisions (Washington, DC: National Science Foundation, 2011). NSB/MR-11-22.

2. I am unaware of any plans to identify and treat the victims fairly. Even though Dr. Leshner is taken to represent AAAS, the Leshner *et al.* Report did not recommend that these scientists be

treated fairly. I believe that the AAAS Council will want to be firm about this question of principle.

3. NSF's expanded (and mostly obscured) Other Societal Benefits back door system justifies bonus awards for Christmas partying on Waikiki for lobbyists. Normally, earmarked awards would require a legal, public process and a system of open competition in Congress.

4. "These outcomes include (but are not limited to) increased participation of women, persons with disabilities, and under represented minorities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); improved STEM education at all levels; increased public scientific literacy and public engagement with science and technology; improved well-being of individuals in society; development of a globally competitive STEM workforce; increased partnerships between academia, industry, and others; increased national security; increased economic competitiveness of the United States; and enhanced infrastructure for research and education. These examples of societally relevant outcomes should not be considered either comprehensive or prescriptive. Investigators may include *appropriate outcomes* [italics added - LE] not covered by these examples." Excerpt from the Bruer-Leshner Report: National Science Board, Merit Review Criteria: Review and Revisions (Washington, DC: National Science Foundation, 2011). NSB/MR-11-22, p. 11.

5. Texas A&M also houses the Presidential Library of President George W. Bush.

6. Cited in footnote 71 of the Wikipedia entry, "Texas A&M" section on Research.

7. This kind of institutional favoritism by people at the top injures the moral community of American research science: At a time of funding shortages, while graduate students doing leading edge research at first tier universities are unfunded, Dr. Suresh has been distributing funds to the University of North Texas - that in 2011 received two additional NSF grants for new Centers industry-university Centers (for a total of three). See "UNT Faculty Provide Industry Relevant . . ." <http://chronicle.com/campusViewpointArticle/UNT-adds-new-N2/SF-sites/90>.

Re moral community issues: It is distressing that the Leshner *et al.* Report described "confusion" about NSF criteria and behavior as the governing theme of complaints about the NSF **Other Societal Benefits** system. A public official should have used accurate language to respect and address these moral and system-level concerns.

8. <http://allianceforsustainableenergy.org> Form 990, 2010, p. 8

9. These new breeds of administrators have persuaded the National Science Board and NSF to compensate them by large salaries, paid up front. Perhaps they will be worth this money. But if they turn out merely to be hustlers, or fail to deliver, the entire risk has been transferred to the NSF budget - which is a tactic of hustlers that emerged during the Bush era in the financial industry.

I am not aware of any evidence that the NSF bureaucracy has the slightest scientific basis or

other competence to judge the cost-effectiveness or theories of the best ways to produce the Other Societal Benefits results. They have not asked qualified social scientists to audit their decisions or evaluate where the approved grants would rank in a rational, open competition with other routes to achieve the results.

10. "This was the 12th straight year that salary increases have outpaced inflation," Marisa Lopez-Rivera, "Pay of Administrators Still Outpaces Inflation, Even in Sluggish Economy," The Chronicle of Higher Education, February 27, 2009. online and College and University Professional Association for Human Resources, 2011-2012 Administration Compensation Survey, passim, <http://www.cupahr.org> online.

Administrators seem to be widening the gap between their own salaries and those of the faculty with (in the sciences) at least a 26% subsidy from NSF and other national science funds.

THE POLICY SCIENCES CENTER, INC.

Project Director: DR. LLOYD ETHEREDGE

December 3, 2012

Dr. Philip Sharp, Chair - AAAS Committee on Council Affairs
Dr. William Press, Chair - AAAS Council

Re: The AAAS Accountability Meeting and Vannevar Bush's Design for NSF

Dear Dr. Sharp, Dr. Press, and Council Members:

I write to follow-up my earlier letter concerning NSF breakdowns and to suggest two changes, restoring NSF to the original design specifications of Vannevar Bush and other architects.

Specifically: NSF was designed in the NSF Act of 1950 and amendments to be (in the terms of Civics 101) an independent agency. It was intended solely to make competitive, politically independent, Scientific Merit awards for basic science, based on peer reviews by the nation's research scientists. Its independence and trustworthiness were to be safeguarded by the oversight of an apolitical National Science Board with 24 members, each serving 6-year terms. By law, the first requirement is that "the members shall be *eminent* [italics added] in the fields of the basic, medical, or social sciences, engineering, agriculture, education, research management or public affairs."^{1 2}

1. Restoring the Eminent Scientist Standard

From my perspective in the social sciences, the NSF/NSB leadership is too often lacking stature, statesmanship, political courage, and competence. Restoring the "eminent scientist" standard should secure these qualities in greater degree.

[My perception is that the NSF/NSB system voluntarily surrendered its original scientific integrity and political independence. Beginning 35+ years ago, it constrained NSF social science programs as an accommodation to partisan Republican agendas and to avoid the nuisance of controversy. It became politically "responsive" and built its Other Societal Benefits system as a political marketing device for increased budgets and praise from the new beneficiaries.^{3 4} Next, sensing weakness, less principled members of Congress, interest groups (and even university-administrator interest groups) became more aggressive to undermine Scientific Merit awards, populate the NSF/National Science Board with (less eminent) members, and quietly carve-up the NSF budget without much serious evidence that the

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diverted funds would accrue to benefits for society.^{5]}

2.) “Other Societal Benefits” - The NIH Model

NIH has retained the original (Vannevar Bush) design and this remains the better model for NSF. NIH guarantees the nation’s scientists the integrity of an R-01 individual applicant Scientific Merit review and award. Strategic investments and other purposes are assigned to a public, separate and accountable award process (the NIH Director’s Fund). Other specialized, applied, and/or marginal programs (e.g., for ties with the pharmaceutical industry) are run by first class people with distinguished advisory committees, with full public accountability and disclosure, to the highest ethical standards.

. - In this decade, as we face many years of budget restrictions for basic research and Scientific Merit funds, I underscore my concern that NSF lacks the expertise to run serious Other Societal Benefits programs. These kinds of goals inherently involve applied social science theories and NSF is not very good at social science.⁶ Also: The for-profit sector and sophisticated lobbyists frequently outsmart and buffalo officials like Director Suresh and government bureaucracies.^{7 8} And Leshner *et al.*’s National Science Board oversight Report illustrates how lax the National Science Board has become: Leshner *et al.*, merely reported perceptions of pervasive mismanagement and “confusion” but were not motivated to audit the (doubtful) scientific credibility of the Other Societal Benefits theories and awards.⁹

Restoring NSF to Vannevar Bush’s original design by these two steps may not, at this point, fully solve NSF’s problems: 1.) Social science research has shown that individuals and in-groups who do not expect to be held personally and publicly accountable for their actions are more likely to compromise moral standards and make lower quality decisions; 2.) The unfairness and damage that have been done to disciplines, programs, and individuals must be addressed honorably.

The AAAS Council: Reversing the Decline of Moral Standards and Stewardship

NSF has hidden its politicization and degree of moral decay by dissembling and misusing the credibility of science and its public image of political independence and peer-review rankings based on Scientific Merit. I will not repeat my civic concerns about the *de facto* secret (and, in this sense, notably dishonest and illegal) censorship of social science in this letter in detail. However, if the topics arise at an Accountability meeting, I enclose further information. It is unacceptable, for example, 1.) that seven leading economists told President Obama more than a year ago that they - given older models and data systems - had run out of good ideas to accelerate economic recovery and Suresh *et al.* continue to restrict fresh thinking and scientific initiatives for rapid learning about economic recoveries and keep their (knowingly) mismatched and conventional historian (without the intellectual self-confidence or

training needed to provide urgent leadership) in charge. I also enclose evidence 2.) that federal policy (at NIH) actually supports Scientific Merit studies of racism - i.e., a fact that calls into question Dr. Suresh's morally flawed policies stated by his Assistant Director. [These policies now have a "neither confirm nor deny in writing" status at NSF: Leshner *et al* decided not to discuss Dr. Suresh's racism rules in their public Report]. Leshner *et al.* also were dissembling and evasive about: 3.) the unacceptable political role that Suresh *et al.* continue to play for Republican political suppression in other areas. Specifically, they were silent about when the transformational **Primate Subordination Syndrome** model and a 35+ year Republican empirical claim [repeated in Governor Romney's specific 47% claim about Democrat-supporting Blacks and others] can be tested or even supported by an honorable Scientific Merit review (rather than be pre-screened and killed by an obedient NSF staff.) 4.) Despite blunt warnings from scientific leaders - e.g., former AAAS President Hamburg and the Chair of the Executive Committee of the Harvard Corporation (the economist Robert Reischauer) - the National Science Board continues its traditional practice of stonewalling any honest discussion of its derailed, censored, and eroding social sciences/Economics programs in its published Reports and strategic plans. NSF and the National Science Board deserve to have new leadership that will tell the truth, especially about the Republican-censored and still-neutralized NSF Economics program.

I perceive *hubris*, moral blindness, and stupidity in this Washington-oriented system. I cannot imagine that Dr. Suresh, given his described policies to forbid studies of the effects of racism in the US and abroad, could return to his former position as Dean of Engineering at MIT nor to any administrative position at any research university. There are Black faculty members on our university faculties and Black students and university communities that would view his secret NSF policies as reprehensible. And I see no legitimate justification for Dr. Leshner, in his national positions of public trust on the NSB and with AAAS, to have remained silent about these policies and the transformational and liberating potential of the neuroscience/hierarchical psychodrama paradigm.

Yours truly,



Dr. Lloyd S. Etheredge, Director
Government Learning Project

cc: AAAS Section Chairs and Council Delegates

Attachments:

- Letter to Dr. William Press, October 25, 2012 with enclosure "Rutgers Researcher

Exploring Effects of Racism on Immune System.”

- Email message to the NSF-SBE Advisory Committee, “Our Nation’s Social Scientists Are Smart Enough, With Your Leadership, to Effect a More Rapid Economic Recovery.” November 28, 2012 with attachments.

Notes

1. The legal language is online at <http://www.nsf.gov/nsb/about/>.

2. Other institutions responded to Vannevar Bush *et al.*, with respect for this commitment to a trustworthy, elite Guardianship. For example, neither *Science* nor *The New York Times* Editorial Board will assign investigative journalists to cover breakdowns in the system (unless, in the case of the Times, leaders of major institutions are willing to make a public complaint). Also, there are strong social pressures against individual scientists or disciplines taking criticisms to the press - i.e., with the expectation that issues are responsibly handled behind closed doors.

When sub-systems of the NSF system depart from their original design parameters (e.g., from the eminent scientist standard), other systemic features such as public secrecy can become dysfunctional and accelerate institutional erosion.

3. Today, many members of Congress, once they detect weakness, will press further: “Moreover, many - if not most -of the members of Congress who actively engage in science policy issues are concerned primarily with furthering the interests of specific institutions in their home states or districts.” - David Goldston, “Science Policy and the Congress,” in Kaye Husbands-Fealing *et al.*, Eds., The Science of Science Policy: A Handbook (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2011), pp. 327-336 at pp. 328-329. Vannevar Bush and other original drafters were wiser about Congress, and systemic behavior, in 1950 and NSF abandoned the higher, eminent scientist and independence standards at its own risk.

4. Without the stature and courage of truly eminent scientists, there can be problems in other areas. For example: the current Chair of the National Science Board, an administrator and salesman (with an earlier doctorate) whose \$900,000/year compensation depends upon a renewable federal contract. It is unlikely that NSB Chairs like Dr. Arvizu have the political courage to allow an NSF rapid test that potentially rejects the Republican perceptions and theory (continuing from President Reagan through Governor Romney) that a clinical dependency syndrome is an induced modal (or near-modal, 47%) feature of American personality structure and motivation underlying many economic and societal problems.

5. For example, our National Science Board in its Investing in the Future: NSF Cost Sharing Policies for a Robust Federal Research Enterprise (Washington, DC: National Science Foundation, 2009) typically abandons data analysis and evidence to give lobbyists and insiders what they want. [The issues included whether institutions like Texas A&M should be expected to put some of their own funds at risk to receive NSF funding for Centers, with industry partners, that allegedly will produce useful innovation; and whether institutions like MIT could voluntarily raise part of the costs for similar projects and have their willingness to put their own

funds at risk count in the competitive evaluation. And whether, once a university had pledged to share costs, it was unreasonably burdensome to require them to keep auditable records so that NSF could know if they had kept their promises.] The National Science Board acknowledged that these issues “always have been controversial,” and then (without data analysis or evidence) sought to be persuasive by stating “We firmly believe . . .”, using adjectives like “robust,” and signing a unanimous document.

The National Science Board’s intellectually and morally flawed work (notably, where money is concerned) is a public embarrassment to the scientific community.

6. When the National Science Board has held-forth about societal processes - e.g., K-12 STEM education - it has defaulted into being a cheerleader and advocate to give billions of dollars to all groups working in this cause. However, a higher scientific advisory body (that has retained the eminent scientist standard), PCAST (the President’s Council of Advisers on Science and Technology) actually did its homework and it has compelling evidence that most of the nation’s STEM manpower needs can be met if universities use known and inexpensive methods to upgrade the quality of undergraduate science and math education in the first two years: “Fewer than 40% of students who enter college intending to major in a STEM field complete a STEM degree.” President’s Council of Advisers on Science and Technology, Engage to Excel: Producing One Million College Graduates with Degrees in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. (2012). Online at http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/pcast-engage-to-excel-final_2-25-12.pdf “ p. i.

7. A recent report in the New York Times shows \$80 billion/year in 150,000 awards of tax incentives by states, counties, and cities. However, when interviewed the government agencies involved admit they “do not know if the money was worth it because they rarely track how many jobs are created.” See Louise Story, “As Governments Seek Tax Deals, Governments Pay High Price., The New York Times, December 1, 2012. Online.

8. The Institute of Medicine (using several estimation techniques) recently reported \$750 million/year of unnecessary services, excessive administrative costs, and fraud and other problems in the American health care system in 2009, including by federal programs. Institute of Medicine, Better Care at Lower Cost: The Path to Continuously Learning Health Care in America. (Washington, DC: National Academies Press, 2012).

9. Leshner *et al* decided what oversight questions *not* to ask - and they decided not to secure data, not to interview NSF officials, and not to hold them publicly accountable for what they actually have been doing and why. Leshner, with his AAAS position, probably had greater standing to challenge the norms of secrecy than most NSF members.

Re: NSF and Racism
[letterhead]
October 25, 2012

Dr. William Press, President and Executive Committee Members
AAAS



Re: Restoring the Eminent Scientist Standard at NSF

Dear Dr. Press and Board Members:

Concerning NSF issues that I have brought to your attention I enclose a press release from the NIH Website, “Rutgers Researcher Exploring Effects of Racism on Immune System.” The New Innovators Award from the NIH Director’s Fund honors the research as “exceptionally creative.”

We are slowly realizing how successful the National Science Foundation (across 30+ years and a range of topics) has been to neutralize the dangerous political Left in American social science Departments. By contrast, NIH’s award is informative because it refutes the claim that credible political threats and pressures in Washington have compelled the National Science Foundation to kill the study of racism.¹ Rather the problem is the human beings at the top of NSF. NIH’s award is from the NIH Director’s Fund of Dr. Francis Collins: In the best interest of the country, AAAS should demand personnel changes and restore governance of NSF and appointment to the National Science Board to the “eminent scientist” standard that is sustained at NIH.

NSF’s unacceptable behavior also may reflect ignorance. The scientific study of prejudice and racism (and anti-Semitism - e.g., The Authoritarian Personality (1950)) has been a defining accomplishment in the field of social psychology. At current issue is the transformative potential of a new theory of a Primate Subordination Syndrome that, when tested, could illuminate an unrecognized brain mechanism that plays a causal role across an extraordinary range of unsolved and puzzling societal problems of economic, social, and political participation and educational attainment affecting lower-status populations (motivational and cognitive inhibitions, endocrine, health status, and other effects). Yes, this new connect-the-dots theory is bold, but the prediction of a brain adjustment syndrome builds on such prominent scientific accomplishments as Kardiner and Ovesey’s The Mark of

Oppression (1951) study of Blacks and induced changes in modal personality (including motivational and cognitive effects). This pioneering and honored research was cited in the Presidential Initiative of our recent President of the American Psychological Association: I read the book as a graduate student at Yale in the early 1970s and it helped to stimulate my own thinking and political psychology contributions to hierarchical psychodrama models and to propose this new theory.

Yours truly,

/s?

Dr. Lloyd S. Etheredge, Director
International Scientific Networks Project

Attachments: Fredda Sacharow, "Rutgers Researcher Exploring Effects of Racism on Immune System," January 20, 2012. Available online at <http://commonfund.nih.gov/news.aspx>.

cc: AAAS Council Members and Section Chairs

Rutgers Researcher Exploring Effects of Racism on Immune System:

Professor studying African-American neighborhoods to gauge link between bigotry and body
January 20, 2012. [Downloaded from <http://commonfund.nih.gov/news.aspx> Science News Around the Nation, 2012, October 5, 2012]

By Fredda Sacharow

Environmental factors in many predominantly African-American communities – neighborhoods fortified with bullet-proof glass and barbed wire, for example, and bus ads aggressively pushing the glories of alcohol -- have long been suspected of playing a role in residents' mental and emotional health.

Now, armed with a \$1.5 million grant from the National Institutes of Health, a Rutgers researcher is exploring the effects of multiple layers of racism on an individual's immune system as well.

Naa Oyo Kwate, associate professor in both the Department of Human Ecology in the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences and in the Department of Africana Studies in the School of Arts and Sciences, is leading a team conducting the Black LIFE (Linking Inequality, Feelings, and the Environment) Study.

The NIH Director's New Innovator Award Program, which underwrites what the agency describes as exceptionally creative new investigations, is funding the project.

Kwate's study aims to address two unanswered questions confronting biomedical and behavioral researchers: What effect does racism have on the body, and what can society do about it?

"Most people don't think of racism as a social construct that affects health," says the trained clinical psychologist, who came to Rutgers last year from Columbia University. "They think of behaviors like diet, doctor visits, and the like, not so much about how the broader processes of inequality affect a person's ability to engage in healthy behaviors."

The summer of 2010 found Kwate and her team biking through central Harlem in Manhattan and Bedford-Stuyvesant in Brooklyn, shooting videos with cameras mounted on the handlebars to document signs of institutional racism. They are now coding the videos to identify such features as the retail environment and the proliferation of vacant lots.

The two predominantly African-American neighborhoods were chosen because they are similar in demographics and land-use characteristics. The researchers are interviewing a random sampling of 450 residents about their experiences with racism.

The study will measure the respondents' immune system and metabolic function over two time points through physical tests.

Participants also will be asked whether they've personally experienced racism: Have store managers followed you around, presumably because of the color of your skin? Do cab drivers refuse to pick you up? Responses are expected to provide a record to help the researchers determine to what extent racial discrimination affects psychological and physical wellbeing.

"We're not talking about race in terms of genes, but in terms of what resources and opportunities people have access to," she says. Social factors such as housing conditions and food availability are among the factors contributing to higher levels of diabetes, heart disease, and asthma in predominantly African-American and lower-income urban areas, she notes.

As a follow-up to the interviews and medical tests, Kwate's study will explore a "counter-marketing" campaign designed to help neighborhood residents combat the dangers of internalizing racism's destructive messages.

Although the details have not yet been ironed out, Kwate envisions using outdoor advertising in minority neighborhoods to deliver unembellished facts about American inequality. In the same way that concerted anti-smoking activities of the 1980s and 1990s turned a generation against Big Tobacco, she hopes the billboards will raise consciousness and counter any stressful – potentially deadly -- effects of prejudice.

Kwate's work with the NIH reflects her longtime interest in the psychological and social determinants of African-American health. As an assistant professor at Columbia University, for example, she determined that a higher saturation of alcohol ads in black neighborhoods was associated with 16 percent higher odds of black women being problem drinkers.

In addition to the NIH, backing for her work has come from the U.S. Department of Defense and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

To learn more about Naa Oyo Kwate's research, visit her web site: <http://www.rna-lab.com>

Notes

1. The research also is supported by the Department of Defense.

Date: Wed, 28 Nov 2012 00:56:25 -0500

To: "Dr. AnnaLee Saxenian - Chair, SBE Advisory Committee" <[REDACTED]>, "Dr. Chris Achen - NSF SBE Advisory Committee" <[REDACTED]>, "Dr. Kenneth Bollen - NSF SBE Advisory Committee" <[REDACTED]>, John Cacioppo - NSF-SBE Advisory Committee" <[REDACTED]>, "Dr. Susan Cutter - SBE Advisory Committee" <[REDACTED]>, Robert Denham - NSF SBE Advisory Committee" <[REDACTED]>, "Dr. Kaye Fealing - NSF SBE Advisory Committee" <[REDACTED]>, Morton Gernsbacher - NSF SBE Advisory Committee" <[REDACTED]>, "Dr. Hilary Hoynes - NSF SBE Advisory Committee" <[REDACTED]>, "Dr. Nina Jablonski - NSF SBE Advisory Committee" <[REDACTED]>, Robert Kaplan - NSF SBE Advisory Committee" <[REDACTED]>, "Dr. Jon Krosnick" <[REDACTED]>, "Dr. Barbara Landau - NSF SBE Advisory Committee" <[REDACTED]>, "Dr. Emilio Moran - NSF SBE Advisory Committee" <[REDACTED]>, Miaria (Mia) Ong - NSF SBE Advisory Group" <[REDACTED]>, Stanley Presser - NSF SBE Advisory Committee" <[REDACTED]>, "Dr. Steven Ruggles - NSF SBE Advisory Committee" <[REDACTED]>

<[REDACTED]>

From: Lloyd Etheredge <[REDACTED]>

Subject: NSF-SBE strategy - Re: "Our nation's social scientists are smart enough, with your leadership, to effect a more rapid economic recovery"

Cc: [. . .]

Attachments: Goldfarb.EconomistOutofIdeas.pdf; reischauer.pdf; ChristensenonParadigmUpgrades.pdf;

Dear Dr. Saxenian and Committee Members:

I write to suggest a proposition: "Our nation's social scientists are smart enough, with your leadership, to effect a more rapid economic recovery." If you agree that the proposition might be true, I urge you to take bold and creative steps to test it quickly.

Goldfarb: Eminent Economists are Out of Ideas

A context for this message is the recent attached article by Goldfarb. For my purposes, the gist of the news story is that seven eminent economists told President Obama, more than a year ago, that they were out of good ideas about how to speed the recovery. [There were arguments about one variable, an expensive plan about housing-related debt.] This revelation may not surprise you. However the story codifies a message that puts the challenge squarely before your multi-disciplinary national advisory committee.

Interpreting "Out of Ideas"

- You will recognize that the actual message of the economists must be carefully interpreted: They are out of ideas, *given their models and data systems*. . . As you know, the models are based on highly limited (but often useful) caricatures and the models have, in fact, been eroding (as have the data systems) for more than a decade. [You will recall earlier correspondence about this point, supported by an expert letter from Bob Reischauer.] And economists always have been candid that their models don't work well for "turning point" processes and that major economic shocks activate non-standard "psychological" variables that are not analyzed deeply to identify new kinds of policy implications. There is no compelling scientific evidence that the problem, viewed in a larger framework, actually is hopeless.

The NIH Model

Thus an obvious conclusion: *Let's activate thinking and look further!* This is the standard framework at NIH where "we cannot think of anything else" naturally leads to passionate investigations to discover better causal models and treatments quickly. So - if you are being rational, in your position of stewardship - you should quickly activate your best designs for a rapid learning system! Yes?

If it helps - and perhaps it doesn't - I am confident that I could solve this problem. A simple key is the recognition that you only need usable ideas and variables to effect changes at the margin, across a wide range of different actors in a pluralist system. [I forwarded one estimate (together with the suggestion for an R&D database with samples from the 100 million Mastercard dataset) that we need to shift an average of \$50/week/household.] And we have just seen in the election that the Democratic Party itself can mine data and integrate across datasets to effect consequential, new marginal changes in behavior in target groups. Beyond a marginal consumer spending shift, just specify the goal: what percentage shift are you trying to achieve in business investment decisions of companies of different sizes? What marginal shift in expenditures by state and local governments? By investors? By purchasers of what US exports? If you are skeptical about what I could do: Unleash the nation's younger social scientists. Offer prizes - recently, I brought to your attention the \$1 million prize offered by Netflix for a 10% shift in a variable . . . and the problem was solved! Would a \$10,000 prize work? How much, in light of the revelation in the Goldfarb article, are good ideas worth in the estimate of the NSF-SBE Advisory Committee?

The "P" word

It is reasonable for you to activate a range of strategies, and to explore a full range of

disciplines and theories to make the practical connections and marginal changes. As you may have guessed, one model in my mind imagines that the American people have been stunned and scared by a sudden catastrophic failure of trusted institutions - including banks and a federal government that was supposed to be a trusted and knowledgeable regulator and guard against catastrophic events. There has been a deep shock and betrayal made more powerful by the hierarchical psychodrama of a citizen-government relationship. The phenomenon has a powerful added emotional impact that belongs to another realm than the rational calculations that conventional economists believe people should be making based on the value of their houses, alone. Or than is captured by the standard causal theories of consumer confidence measures. Also, the national governing class has not yet restored confidence in its own trustworthy and steady hand - it did not assuredly solve the bank regulation problem and its estimates of a recovery path designed by Larry Summers et al. did not seem fully trustworthy.

Are there predictions and policy implications of these "P" (psychological) variables and theories? Sure: the most useful policy implication is for Republicans and Fox News to shut-up. PBS has a managerial and calm sensibility that has a 2%-3% market penetration, but the perpetual, polarizing, negative election campaign and constant stirring of fear and anger via Fox News (a principal source for news for many more Americans) has - I predict - delayed a faster healing process. [With the campaign over, and the new scare about "fiscal cliffs" possibly being managed to a good outcome, maybe - now - there will be better results]. Let's test the model! We know from the Oklahoma City bombings, and as far back as the Riot Commission panels in the 1960s, that the news media will begin to act more responsibly if there are off-the-record meetings and evidence that they are going too far.

I could give you many plausible ideas and variables to evaluate, and there surely will be many other good ideas that a serious, multi-disciplinary creative process will bring forth. Whatever rapid learning process you design: I suggest that you need to let a creative process develop: if you demand initial plausibility in the economist's paradigm, you can kill a process. If any NSF Assistant Director charges forth to censor research that might reach critical conclusions about Republicans, you can kill the process. Also, if you demand that psychological (or other) insights and ideas come with practical and immediate solutions you can kill the process. Discovery can be a two-stage process: first, for example, you may need to know that the critical problem is a deep and vivid shock related to governing institutes (instead of oddly thinking about the size of household mortgages as the only variable that can shift human behavior at the margin).

Christensen and New "Economic" Variables: Paradigm Refinements

I also enclose a very interesting and promising article by Clay Christensen, a respected and thoughtful researcher and thinker about innovation and business. He distinguishes three types of business investment linked to behavioral decisions of firms and decisions by different types of investors. I think that he is right that you can develop his ideas and shift behavior in useful ways by (in part) using conventional incentives. And if the evidence is good, you might get changes through Congress via the President's State of the Union. Business corporations now have about \$2 trillion+ in cash reserves, which they could be spending for new, disruptive technologies with long-term pay-offs. You can start to shift these decisions at the margin, too. Via NSF: Assign the same budget to the problem, and the same social science brainpower, that Democrats invested to win Ohio . . .

NSF-SBE: Rapid Learning System Design

The critical missing ingredient in rapid learning about economic recovery may be at your level: There must be a mechanism to solicit and follow-up good ideas, assemble resources quickly, and evaluate them as if there is a serious and urgent problem that our nation's social scientists are smart enough to answer.

Lloyd Etheredge

Dr. Lloyd S. Etheredge - Director, Government Learning Project
Policy Sciences Center Inc.


URL: www.policyscience.net


[The Policy Sciences Center, Inc. is a public foundation that develops and integrates knowledge and practice to advance human dignity. It was founded by Harold Lasswell, Myres McDougal, and their associates in 1948 in New Haven, CT. Further information about the Policy Sciences Center and its projects, Society, and journal is available at www.policysciences.org.]

Economists, Obama administration at odds over role of mortgage debt in recovery

By [Zachary A. Goldfarb](#), Published: November 22, 2012. NYTimes

One year and one month before President Obama won reelection, he invited seven of the world's top economists to a private meeting in the Oval Office to hear their advice on what to do to fix the ailing economy. "I'm not asking you to consider the political feasibility of things," he told them in the previously unreported meeting.

There was a [former Federal Reserve vice chairman](#), a [Nobel laureate](#), [one of the world's foremost experts on financial crises](#) and [the chief economist of the International Monetary Fund](#), among others. Nearly all said Obama should introduce a much bigger plan to forgive part of the mortgage debt owed by millions of homeowners who are underwater on their properties.

Obama was reserved in response, but Treasury Secretary Timothy F. Geithner interjected that he didn't think anything of such ambition was possible. "How do we get this done through Congress?" he asked. "What could we actually do that we haven't done?"

The meeting highlighted what today is the biggest disagreement between some of the world's top economists and the Obama administration. The economists say the president could have significantly accelerated the slow economic recovery if he had better addressed the overhang of mortgage debt left when housing prices collapsed. Obama's advisers say that they did all they could on the housing front and that other factors better explain why the recovery has been sluggish.

The question is relevant because although Obama won reelection this month, [the vast majority of voters still say the economy is weak and not getting better](#). Policymakers in Washington are now focused on another type of debt — the public debt all taxpayers owe — but the slow economic recovery, which depresses tax revenue, makes that problem harder to solve.

[Nearly 11 million Americans](#), or more than a fifth of homeowners, are buried in debt, owing more than their properties are worth after piling their life savings into their properties — a persistent and largely unaddressed problem that represents the missing link in what many economists consider the administration's overall strong response to the recession.

"Housing was the neglected piece. They have the kind of attitude that they don't believe this is a good value for the money, this is politically unpopular, and there's not much we can do," said Alan Blinder, a former Federal Reserve vice chairman consulted frequently by the White House. "There were obvious things to do that academics and others started pointing out back in 2008. That could have shortened the recovery time."

Obama's economic advisers dispute that notion. Geithner said the administration chose the best options available to deal with the housing crisis.

"We knew the hit to wealth would be damaging. We knew the level of debt had the potential to restrain the strength of recovery," he said. "The only issue was, what could you do about it? What were the feasible options available? We chose the best of the feasible options."

Obama's advisers believe the ultimate pace of recovery is understandable, if disappointing, given the financial crisis and the collapse in housing prices, as well as surprises such as a drought this year, the European debt crisis, rising oil prices and the trade-disrupting Japanese earthquake. They argue that the course they pursued — spending more than \$1 trillion on tax cuts and employment programs — helped all Americans and sped up the recovery, and that alternatives that dealt with housing debt directly were never viable.

Of the original members of Obama's economic crisis team, Geithner, the one still in office, has pressed this point most strongly. Others have said that if the administration did make a big error in its response to the crisis, it had to do with housing.

Lawrence H. Summers, formerly Obama's top economic adviser, has said he doesn't think the administration made a major mistake. But this month, he [said](#) at a conference in Washington that "if we made a serious mistake, the best arguments would be around questions about housing."

Former budget director Peter Orszag has said that "[a major policy error](#)" was made. And Christina D. Romer, formerly Obama's top economist, has said that the driving ideas "[may have been too limited](#)" and that there needs to be a bigger focus on reducing mortgage debt — a process known as "principal reduction."

"The new evidence on the importance of household debt has convinced me that we are likely going to need to help homeowners who are underwater," [she said](#) last month. "Many of these troubled loans will need to be renegotiated and the principal reduced if we are going to truly stabilize house prices and get a robust recovery going."

Why debt matters

Some of the most authoritative research on the role of mortgage debt in the recession and recovery — research reviewed by Obama — comes in part from an economist from Pakistan who started out studying why poor countries struggle to grow.

[Atif Mian](#), now a Princeton professor, came to focus on how finance can destabilize an economy. He saw how foreign money had flooded Latin America in the 1980s and Southeast Asia in the 1990s, leading to borrowing booms and financial crises.

Not long before the U.S. recession, Mian and another young economist, [Amir Sufi of the University of Chicago's business school](#), saw a similar trend here. "The common link to the emerging market crises," Mian said, "is that it all starts with leverage."

[The two economists compared what happened in U.S. counties where people had amassed huge debts with those where people had borrowed little](#). It had long been thought that when property values declined in value, homeowners would spend less because they would feel less wealthy.

But Mian and Sufi's research showed something more specific and powerful at work: People who owed huge debts when their home values declined cut back dramatically on buying cars, appliances, furniture and groceries. The more they owed, the less they spent. People with little debt hardly slowed spending at all.

This was important because consumer spending makes up the lion's share of economic activity, and even a small increase or decrease can have a big impact on growth and affect millions of jobs.

From 2006 through 2009, overall consumer spending was flat, according to calculations Sufi completed for The Washington Post. But among the quarter of U.S. counties with the highest debt, it fell 5.5 percent. Without that hit, spending nationwide would have increased by 2.4 percent.

In other words, indebted Americans had an outsize effect, pulling down the rest of the nation's economy.

Some people reduced spending because they had lost their homes to foreclosure, damaging their ability to borrow. Others no longer could tap home-equity lines of credit. Still others, facing high monthly payments, used every extra penny to pay off debt.

When the Federal Reserve greatly lowered interest rates, it helped many borrowers but not those underwater, because banks wouldn't refinance their loans. [Federal Reserve data show](#) that the number of Americans paying more than 40 percent of their income toward debt — a high threshold — declined between 2007 and 2010. But among people whose [wealth had disappeared](#), it surged.

Historically, Sufi said, “places that have bigger recessions usually have stronger comebacks.” But his [calculations showed that since the end of the recession, places with high levels of debt have not had robust recoveries](#).

Other economists — from both political parties — were making the same point around the time Obama came to office. [Blinder](#), a Clinton administration official, and Martin [Feldstein](#), a Reagan administration official, developed plans calling on the government to commit hundreds of billions of dollars to restructure millions of mortgages with lower interest rates and principal balances.

Said [John Geanakoplos](#), a Yale economist who proposed a plan to reduce principal: “I think the missed opportunity to forgive principal at the end of 2008 and beginning of the 2009 was the biggest mistake the administration made in trying to deal with the crisis.”

The Obama view

The architects of the Obama administration’s response to the recession — Summers and Geithner — knew all too well the problems of a debt overhang.

The two had begun their public service careers — Geithner at the Treasury Department, Summers at the World Bank — in the shadow of the Latin American debt crisis. A tough-minded rescue plan by Treasury Secretary James A. Baker III had failed and been replaced by a more generous one by Baker’s successor, Nicholas F. Brady, that finally helped Latin America shed its debt.

As Obama took office, Summers would note how the Brady plan had succeeded where the Baker plan failed. But although the new Obama administration had hundreds of billions of dollars in unspent financial bailout money available to use, it decided against any significant program to reduce the debt of underwater homeowners.

“No one was in doubt that debt overhangs were an important problem,” Summers said recently at a conference. But despite exploring many proposals, the administration did not see a plan that did not have the potential to cause “effects worse than the cure,” he said, such as cratering the financial system by forcing banks to absorb huge losses.

At a more basic level, officials simply did not believe that a big program of debt forgiveness was a smart investment, costing hundreds of billions of dollars — money that it preferred to spend on a massive economic stimulus package that could much more quickly lift the economy. The administration also announced [a more modest program](#) designed to avert foreclosures by reducing mortgage payments but not the total debt balance.

In late 2009, the economy started to grow at a pace of 4 percent per year — fast enough that employment would have returned to normal by just about now. But in 2010, growth sputtered to 2 percent. The administration responded with more stimulus. But the pattern repeated itself in 2011 and this year.

Today, administration officials say they do not see the mortgage debt overhang primarily at work. Rather, they say, foreign shocks, cuts in local and state spending, and other factors dragged down the economy.

Still, in the past year, Obama has expanded programs to try to better tackle mortgage debt, announcing more federal funding to write down loans and an expanded program to allow underwater homeowners to refinance.

The efforts seem to have had positive effects. A greater number of underwater borrowers have reduced their principle balances and been able to refinance, and the housing market has had a modest recovery.

Not everyone is impressed, though. “I don’t see the kind of aggressive approach that could make a big difference,” [Romer said in September at Hofstra University](#).

Many people still have a long way to return to normal, pre-boom levels of debt. Although Americans racked up \$5 trillion in new mortgage debt before the crisis, they have erased only about \$1 trillion of it, [according to the Federal](#)

[Reserve](#). Research by Karen Dynan of the Brookings Institution [shows more than 10 percent of families would have to save all of their income for six months to pay down the debt they accumulated in the boom years](#).

[“The housing sector is far from being out of the woods,”](#) Federal Reserve Chairman Ben S. Bernanke said last week. “We should not be satisfied with the progress we have seen so far.”

A Capitalist's Dilemma, Whoever Wins on Tuesday

By CLAYTON M. CHRISTENSEN

WHATEVER happens on Election Day, Americans will keep asking the same question: When will this economy get better?

In many ways, the answer won't depend on who wins on Tuesday. Anyone who says otherwise is overstating the power of the American president. But if the president doesn't have the power to fix things, who does?

It's not the Federal Reserve. The Fed has been injecting more and more capital into the economy because — at least in theory — capital fuels capitalism. And yet cash hoards in the billions are sitting unused on the pristine balance sheets of Fortune 500 corporations. Billions in capital is also sitting inert and uninvested at [private equity](#) funds.

Capitalists seem almost uninterested in capitalism, even as entrepreneurs eager to start companies find that they can't get financing. Businesses and investors sound like the Ancient Mariner, who complained of "Water, water everywhere — nor any drop to drink."

It's a paradox, and at its nexus is what I'll call the Doctrine of New Finance, which is taught with increasingly religious zeal by economists, and at times even by business professors like me who have failed to challenge it. This doctrine embraces measures of profitability that guide capitalists away from investments that can create real economic growth.

Executives and investors might finance three types of innovations with their capital. I'll call the first type "empowering" innovations. These transform complicated and costly products available to a few into simpler, cheaper products available to the many.

The Ford Model T was an empowering innovation, as was the Sony transistor radio. So were the personal computers of I.B.M. and Compaq and online trading at Schwab. A more recent example is cloud computing. It transformed information technology that was previously accessible only to big companies into something that even small companies could afford.

Empowering innovations create jobs, because they require more and more people who can build, distribute, sell and service these products. Empowering investments also use capital — to expand capacity and to finance receivables and inventory.

The second type are "sustaining" innovations. These replace old products with new models. For example, the Toyota Prius hybrid is a marvelous product. But it's not as if every time Toyota sells a Prius, the same customer also buys a Camry. There is a zero-sum aspect to sustaining innovations: They replace yesterday's products with today's products and create few jobs. They keep our economy vibrant — and, in dollars, they account for the most innovation. But they have a neutral effect on economic activity and on capital.

The third type are "efficiency" innovations. These reduce the cost of making and distributing existing products and services. Examples are minimills in steel and Geico in online insurance underwriting. Taken together in an industry, such innovations almost always reduce the net number of jobs, because they streamline processes. But they also preserve many of the remaining jobs — because without them entire companies and industries would disappear in competition against companies abroad that have innovated more efficiently.

Efficiency innovations also emancipate capital. Without them, much of an economy's capital is held captive on balance sheets, with no way to redeploy it as fuel for new, empowering innovations. For example, Toyota's just-in-time production system is an efficiency innovation, letting manufacturers operate with much less capital invested in inventory.

INDUSTRIES typically transition through these three types of innovations. By illustration, the early mainframe computers were so expensive and complicated that only big companies could own and use them. But personal computers were simple and affordable, empowering many more people.

Companies like I.B.M. and Hewlett-Packard had to hire hundreds of thousands of people to make and sell PC's. These companies then designed and made better computers — sustaining innovations — that inspired us to keep buying newer and better products. Finally, companies like Dell made the industry much more efficient. This reduced net employment within the industry, but freed capital that had been used in the supply chain.

Ideally, the three innovations operate in a recurring circle. Empowering innovations are essential for growth because they create new consumption. As long as empowering innovations create more jobs than efficiency innovations eliminate, and as long as the capital that efficiency innovations liberate is invested back into empowering innovations, we keep recessions at bay.

The dials on these three innovations are sensitive. But when they are set correctly, the economy is a magnificent machine.

For significant periods in the last 150 years, America's economy has operated this way. In the seven recoveries from recession between 1948 and 1981, according to [the McKinsey Global Institute](#), the economy returned to its prerecession employment peak in about six months, like clockwork — as if a spray of economic WD-40 had reset the balance on the three types of innovation, prompting a recovery.

In the last three recoveries, however, America's economic engine has emitted sounds we'd never heard before. The 1990 recovery took 15 months, not the typical six, to reach the prerecession peaks of economic performance. After the 2001 recession, it took 39 months to get out of the valley. And now our machine has been grinding for 60 months, trying to hit its prerecession levels — and it's not clear whether, when or how we're going to get there. The economic machine is out of balance and losing its horsepower. But why?

The answer is that efficiency innovations are liberating capital, and in the United States this capital is being reinvested into still more efficiency innovations. In contrast, America is generating many fewer empowering innovations than in the past. We need to reset the balance between empowering and efficiency innovations.

The Doctrine of New Finance helped create this situation. The Republican intellectual [George F. Gilder](#) taught us that we should husband resources that are scarce and costly, but can waste resources that are abundant and cheap. When the doctrine emerged in stages between the 1930s and the '50s, capital was relatively scarce in our economy. So we taught our students how to magnify every dollar put into a company, to get the most revenue and profit per dollar of capital deployed. To measure the efficiency of doing this, we redefined profit not as dollars, yen or renminbi, but as ratios like RONA (return on net assets), ROCE (return on capital employed) and I.R.R. (internal rate of return).

Before these new measures, executives and investors used crude concepts like "tons of cash" to describe profitability. The new measures are fractions and give executives more options: They can innovate to add to the numerator of the RONA ratio, but they can also drive down the denominator by driving assets off the balance sheet — through outsourcing. Both routes drive up RONA and ROCE.

Similarly, I.R.R. gives investors more options. It goes up when the time horizon is short. So instead of investing in empowering innovations that pay off in five to eight years, investors can find higher internal rates of return by investing exclusively in quick wins in sustaining and efficiency innovations.

In a way, this mirrors the microeconomic paradox explored in my book “[The Innovator's Dilemma](#),” which shows how successful companies can fail by making the “right” decisions in the wrong situations. America today is in a macroeconomic paradox that we might call the capitalist’s dilemma. Executives, investors and analysts are doing what is right, from their perspective and according to what they’ve been taught. Those doctrines were appropriate to the circumstances when first articulated — when capital was scarce.

But we’ve never taught our apprentices that when capital is abundant and certain new skills are scarce, the same rules are the wrong rules. Continuing to measure the efficiency of capital prevents investment in empowering innovations that would create the new growth we need because it would drive down their RONA, ROCE and I.R.R. It’s as if our leaders in Washington, all highly credentialed, are standing on a beach holding their fire hoses full open, pouring more capital into an ocean of capital. We are trying to solve the wrong problem.

Our approach to higher education is exacerbating our problems. Efficiency innovations often add workers with yesterday’s skills to the ranks of the unemployed. Empowering innovations, in turn, often change the nature of jobs — creating jobs that can’t be filled.

Today, the educational skills necessary to start companies that focus on empowering innovations are scarce. Yet our leaders are wasting education by shoveling out billions in Pell Grants and subsidized loans to students who graduate with skills and majors that employers cannot use.

Is there a solution? It’s complicated, but I offer three ideas to seed a productive discussion:

CHANGE THE METRICS We can use capital with abandon now, because it’s abundant and cheap. But we can no longer waste education, subsidizing it in fields that offer few jobs. Optimizing return on capital will generate less growth than optimizing return on education.

CHANGE CAPITAL-GAINS TAX RATES Today, tax rates on personal income are progressive — they climb as we make more money. In contrast, there are only two tax rates on investment income. Income from investments that we hold for less than a year is taxed like personal income. But if we hold an investment for one day longer than 365, it is generally taxed at no more than 15 percent.

We should instead make capital gains regressive over time, based upon how long the capital is invested in a company. Taxes on short-term investments should continue to be taxed at personal income rates. But the rate should be reduced the longer the investment is held — so that, for example, tax rates on investments held for five years might be zero — and rates on investments held for eight years might be negative.

Federal tax receipts from capital gains comprise only a tiny percentage of all United States tax revenue. So the near-term impact on the budget will be minimal. But over the longer term, this policy change should have a positive impact on the federal deficit, from taxes paid by companies and their employees that make empowering innovations.

CHANGE THE POLITICS The major political parties are both wrong when it comes to taxing and distributing to the middle class the capital of the wealthiest 1 percent. It’s true that some of the richest Americans have been making money with money — investing in efficiency innovations rather than investing to create jobs. They are doing what their professors taught them to do, but times have changed.

If the I.R.S. taxes their wealth away and distributes it to everyone else, it still won’t help the economy. Without empowering products and services in our economy, most of this redistribution will be spent buying sustaining innovations — replacing consumption with consumption. We must give the wealthiest an incentive to invest for the long term. This can create growth.

Granted, mine is a simple model, and we face complicated problems. But I hope it helps us and our leaders understand that policies that were once right are now wrong, and that counterintuitive measures might actually work to turn our economy around.

Clayton M. Christensen is a business professor at Harvard and a co-author of “How Will You Measure Your Life?”

ROBERT D. REISCHAUER
President



December 23, 2002

Dr. Lloyd S. Etheredge, Director
Government Learning Project
The Policy Sciences Center, Inc.



Dear Dr. Etheredge:

Thank you for your letter and thoughtful attachment. I am in complete agreement that the economic data we collect has significant deficiencies that limit our ability to understand the economy's problems and chart future policy.

We don't collect some information that is needed and gather much that we could do without. We collect other data in insufficient detail and almost always take too long to release the data for it to be useful in policy decisions.

As you know better than I, there are many reasons for this situation. What we collect and how we collect it reflects the forces at play in the first half of the last century and those forces do not want to give anything up. Congress has little interest in devoting more scarce budget resources to collect new and better information. Few economists who use the data appreciate its limitations. They have been raised on certain data sets and treat them as if they are part of the underlying environment, not subject to change. They put a premium on continuity and don't want discontinuity in the data sets they know and use.

I don't think I would be as critical as you are about CNSTAT/NCR. I don't think they would have much of an impact even if they had done the studies and made the recommendations you think warranted. Nor do I think universities (Yale or Harvard) or the Fed could make much of a dent in the problem. Rather, I think a presidential or congressional study commission is called for—one with a clear mandate and a promise that added resources will be devoted to strengthening the statistical system based on the commission's report. Unfortunately, the prospects for such an initiative rising to the top of policymakers' lists of things to do is very, very low.

Nevertheless, I wish you well in your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "R. Reischauer", written over a horizontal line.

My response to the PCAST report

From: "Randy Wells" [REDACTED]

Date: Wed, February 13, 2013 2:20 pm

To: "pcast" [REDACTED]

Hello:

There is a dire need to fund agricultural research in the United States. Agricultural research funding has been shrinking in North Carolina at both the federal and state levels. Looming over us are some of the most severe cuts to funding of agricultural research ever seen. We have the most plentiful, varied, and safe food and fiber supply in the world. For example, since 1935 the corn yields in the US have increased an average of 1.6 bushels per acre per year. How so? Through plant breeding and crop management research carried on at our land grant universities and the USDA. Should we cut back now? We may be killing the "goose that laid the golden egg" at a time we need all the gold we can get. The world society's continued existence may depend on a robust, well-funded agricultural research endeavor never seen before in the history of man. If not, the television show "Life After People" may take on more pertinent meaning.

I wholeheartedly support the initiatives set forth in the PCAST report.

Sincerely

Randy Wells, Professor
Associate Head and Ext. Leader
Director of Graduate Programs
Department of Crop Science
North Carolina State University
[REDACTED]

From: ibrahimali2277 [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 18, 2013 4:21 AM
To: [REDACTED] er Hartman; Ford, Knatokie
Subject: Research of world peace,unity,disaster,safety health and wealth solutions.

DEAR FRIENDS,
PEACE BE ON ALL OF US.

It is pertinent to note that there are no world peace and climate changes. It is not known how the noble prize award has been awarded by the Noble Prize Foundation? US governments have spending billions of dollars to other countries towards peace, but no result.

For the purpose of peace, unity, climate changes, disasters, health, wealth, interfaith and also faith in the world. I have sent the following message to the White House, National Board of National Science Foundation, World Churches Council, National Churches Council USA, Jewish Federation, Vatican, American Research Association, National Council of US and Arab Relation, American Muslims Federations, and also Islamic Supreme Council USA requesting to research the following message and take decisions in this regard.

It is not known why the White House and others are not taking immediate steps on the message? And the same will result to destroy population in accordance with the Holy Quranic verses 17:16 and 28:59.

The USA govt and its researchers are having good facilities to research any matters immediately. Non cooperation to research the following message will also result of acts of God. The USA govt, the leaders of all the communities and also researches are requested to research and discuss the following message in the interest of peace etc in the world.

Now 400 millions research papers are available for peace solutions, but there is no result for it, unless the messages posted in the website <http://www.goldenduas.com> are researched by researchers all over the world. Otherwise the world cannot have peace and Unity for some reasons or the other.

Thank you very much for joining me in the interest of public safety and peace. Most of the followers are researchers and good educated persons involving peace,unity and safety amongst all communities in the world and accordingly we sought support from all of you to study and analyze the God's messages posted in the website www.goldenduas.com and it may be advertised all over the world on the reason that every person is suffering due to all kind of natural calamities in the world. God's messages posted in the Website www.goldenduas.com are to be followed, otherwise no government and

scientist can safeguard life and liberty of the public of all communities in the world according to Quranic verses 17:16 and 28:59. Internet services in the world are requested to support us to spread our website messages to each and every corner of the world so that it can be known and discussed by all the internet communities in the world.

Holy Bible says:

1. "Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves".
- Matthew 10:16.

2. "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you". - Isaiah 35:4

Holy Quran says:

28:59. Nor was thy Lord the one
To destroy a population until
He had sent to its Centre
An apostle, rehearsing to them
Our Signs; nor are We
Going to destroy a population
Except when its members
Practice iniquity.

Our website <http://www.goldenduas.com> contains more information not only to avoid all kinds of natural calamities in the world but also by Quranic verse 12:15 to improve growths in economy, business, education,

employment, jobs, health, wealth, security, faith and to be protected from climate changes (heavy snow, rain, heat etc), and to cause unity and peace all over the world. Our service all over the world is a non-profitable service to all mankind and animals.

Please check our homepage of the website <http://www.goldenduas.com> to know our services.

Otherwise, the public of the world will suffer due to all kind of natural calamities till the day of resurrection and also they will fail to improve in economy, businesses, unity, peace, education, health, wealth, security, faith and also Climate changes.

I am a messenger of God in accordance with the holy Quranic verse 28:59. It is my bounden duty to protect all the communities in

the world. Now, a film under the name and style, 'Innocence of Muslims' has been published by Google and Youtube against Prophet Mohamed and Muslims which is creating trouble between Muslim and Christian brotherhoods in the world, which is against the holy Quranic verses 5:82, 20:129 and 130 and as such no Muslim can harm Christians.

The Christians and Jews can go through the Quranic verse 7:157 on the basis of holy Torah and Bible wherein Prophet Mohamed has been mentioned as prophet, after Jesus, but the same fact was not followed by the two communities of Jews and Christians in the world. And accordingly Jews and Christians are divided into various groups till the Day of Resurrection according to the Quranic verses 5:13 and 14. God has also created Palestine to create trouble to Jews till the Day of resurrection in accordance with Quranic verses 7:163 and 167.

We conducted a survey and research that why Christians and Muslims are not cooperating with each other in the world? We found the following answers.

1. Christians are well educated and research scholars to research each and every issue brought to them, but unfortunately Satan occupying not to apply their mind to analyse that how Jesus was killed and crucified when God has given him five favours and one out of it is he brought forth the dead.
2. Jews are not accepting our Prophet Jesus that they tried to kill Jesus, but Christians are following Jews and depending upon their advice.
3. Christians fail to realise Matthew 14:23 and Quranic verse 5:14 and 9:31 that and when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray. If Jesus is God or a part of God then why did he pray?
4. Christians are not interpreting Matthew 27:11-14 to mean that Jesus wanted to die on the cross for the redemption of mankind and for the forgiveness of their sins. If so, then why did he ask to turn away that cup from him? Why did he cry out while on the cross?
5. Muslims are accepting Jesus as prophet and his mother Mary, but Jews disbelieve and utter against Mary, a grave false charge (that she had committed illegal sexual intercourse).
6. Muslims believe that Jesus was not killed and crucified by the Jews as revealed in the holy Quran verse 4:157 and 158.
7. Most of Muslims in the world are not educated and innocent. Some leaders and organisations are misleading young Muslims to fight with other communities as Jihad which is not recognised in the Quranic verses 5:32, 22:40, 45:14 and they are termed as perverts in accordance with Quranic verse 2:99.
8. Christians failed to interpret Quranic verse 4:157 and

158,5:14,5:82,7:158, 57:27 and 28 and 61:6 read with John
14:15-16,15:26-27,16:5-8,read with Matthew 10:16.

I am a follower of Christianity and Islam according to Quranic verse
57:28.God Almighty invites all my Christian brotherhood in the world
to follow Christianity and Islam.Kindly read Quranic verse 57:27and 28
which are available in Quranic English Translation websites.

ISLAM HAS THE SECOND LARGEST POPULATION IN THE WORLD.IF PROPHET
MUHAMMAD[PEACE BE UPON HIM]
CAN INFLUENCE SUCH A LARGE POPULATION FOR OVER 1500 YEARS,HOW
COULD HE
DO IT WITHOUT GOD'S
GRACE AND HOW COULD HE BE A FALSE PROPHET?CHRISTIANS' PROCLAMATION
OF
CALLING PROPHET MUHAMMAD[PEACE BE UPON HIM] AS A FALSE PROPHET IS
THE
MAIN REASON OF VENGEANCE AND HATRED BETWEEN CHRISTIAN AND MUSLIM
BROTHERHOOD.YOU CAN FIND HIS TRUE SELF IF YOU READ HIS BIOGRAPHIES
WRITTEN BY GREAT CHRISTIAN SCHOLARS.THE MOST RECCOMENDED ARE:

- 1.Muhammad, his life based on the earliest sources by Martin Lings.
- 2.Muhammad by Karen Armstrong.

HOLY QURAN SAYS:
5:18.(Both) the Jews and the Christians
Say: "We are sons
Of God, and His beloved."
Say: "Why then doth He
Punish you for your sins?
Nay, ye are but men,
Of the men He hath created:
He forgiveth whom He pleaseth,
And He punisheth whom He pleaseth:
And to God belongeth
The dominion of the heavens
And the earth, and all
That is between:
And unto Him
Is the final goal (of all)"
40:83. For when their apostles
Came to them
With Clear Signs, they exulted
In such knowledge (and skill)
As they had; but
That very (Wrath) at which

They were wont to scoff
Hemmed them in.
84. But when they saw
Our Punishment, they said:
"We believe in God,—
The One God—and we
Reject the partners we used
To join with Him."
85. But their professing the Faith
When they (actually) saw
Our Punishment was not going
To profit them.
(Such has been) God's way
Of dealing with His servants
(From the most ancient times).
And even thus did
The rejecters of God
Perish (utterly)!

SO,BEING BORN A JEW,CHRISTIAN OR MUSLIM DOES NOT GUARANTEE
SALVATION.BELIEVING THE ONE TRUE
GOD AND ACCEPTING HIS APOSTLES WHEN THEY COME TO US WITH GOD'S
CLEAR
SIGNS ARE THE WAYS TO
ATTAIN SALVATION.SO,RESEARCH WHAT IS SAID IN OUR MESSAGES AND
ACCEPT
AND BELIEVE THE ONE
TRUE GOD AND THE TRUE APOSTLES OF GOD.

HOLY QURAN SAYS:
5:19.O People of the Book!
Now hath come unto you,
Making (things) clear unto you,
Our Apostle, after the break
In (the series of) our apostles,
Lest ye should say:
"There came unto us
No bringer of glad tidings
And no warner (from evil)":
But now hath come
Unto you a bringer
Of glad tidings
And a warner (from evil).
And God hath power
Over all things.

5:82.Strongest among men in enmity
To the Believers wilt thou
Find the Jews and Pagans;
And nearest among them in love
To the Believers wilt thou
Find those who say,
"We are Christians":
Because amongst these are
Men devoted to learning
And men who have renounced
The world, and they
Are not arrogant.

HOLY QURAN SAYS:
3:55. Behold! God said:
"O Jesus! I will take thee
And raise thee to Myself
And clear thee (of the falsehoods)
Of those who blaspheme;
I will make those
Who follow thee superior
To those who reject faith,
To the Day of Resurrection:
Then shall ye all
Return unto me,
And I will judge
Between you of the matters
Wherein ye dispute.

THESE ARE TRUE WORDS OF HOLY QURAN REVEALED THROUGH PROPHET
MOHAMED[PEACE BE UPON HIM] WHICH GIVE GLAD TIDINGS TO CHRISTIANS
AND
REVEALS THAT HE WAS THE "TRUE COMFORTER" FORETOLD AND PROMISED TO
THE
CHRISTIANS BY JESUS[PEACE BE UPON HIM].

HOLY QURAN SAYS:
19:27. At length she brought
The (babe) to her people,
Carrying him (in her arms).
They said: "O Mary!
Truly an amazing thing
Hast thou brought!

28. "O sister of Aaron!

Thy father was not
A man of evil, nor thy
Mother a woman unchaste!"

29. But she pointed to the babe.
They said: "How can we
Talk to one who is
A child in the cradle?"

30. He said: "I am indeed
A servant of God:
He hath given me
Revelation and made me
A prophet;

31. "And He hath made me
Blessed wheresoever I be,
And hath enjoined on me
Prayer and Charity as long
As I live;

32. "(He) hath made me kind
To my mother, and not
Overbearing or miserable;

33. "So Peace is on me
The day I was born,
The day that I die,
And the day that I
Shall be raised up
To life (again)"

34. Such (was) Jesus the son
Of Mary: (it is) a statement
Of truth, about which
They (vainly) dispute.

35. It is not befitting
To (the majesty of) God
That He should beget
A son. Glory be to Him!
When He determines
A matter, He only says
To it, "Be", and it is.

36. Verily God is my Lord

And your Lord: Him
Therefore serve ye: this is
A Way that is straight.

37. But the sects differ
Among themselves: and woe
To the Unbelievers because
Of the (coming) Judgment
Of a momentous Day!

PROPHET MOHAMED[PEACE BE UPON HIM] WAS NOT THERE WHEN MARY[PEACE
BE
UPON HER] BROUGHT JESUS[PEACE BE UPON HIM] TO HER PEOPLE AND
MOREOVER
HE WAS AN UNLETERRED PROPHET AND THERE WAS NO CHANCE OF HIM
READING
THE OLD SCRIPTURES. THIS DETAILED DESCRIPTION ON MARY AND JESUS[PEACE
BE UPON THEM] REVEALS THAT THOSE WERE NOT HIS WORDS BUT WERE THE
WORDS
OF GOD REVEALED THROUGH HIM.

HOLY QURAN SAYS:
4:156. That they rejected Faith;
That they uttered against Mary
A grave false charge;

4:157. That they said (in boast),
"We killed Christ Jesus
The son of Mary,
The Apostle of God";—
But they killed him not,
Nor crucified him,
But so it was made
To appear to them,
And those who differ
Therein are full of doubts,
With no (certain) knowledge,
But only conjecture to follow,
For of a surety
They killed him not:—

4:158. Nay, God raised him up
Unto Himself; and God
Is Exalted in Power, Wise;—

HERE GOD ALMIGHTY STATES CLEARLY THAT HE RAISED JESUS[PEACE BE UPON

HIM] UNTO HIMSELF AND CRUCIFIXION WAS NOTHING BUT A CONJECTURE
PLAYED
BY GOD TO FOOL THE JEWS WHO TRIED TO KILL JESUS[PEACE BE UPON HIM].THE
PERSON WHO THEY REALLY CRUCIFIED WAS NONE OTHER THAN JUDAS,THE
TRAITOR
OF JESUS,WHOSE FACE GOD CHANGED TO RESEMBLE JESUS.BUT PEOPLE
WRONGLY
BELIEVED THAT HE MUST HAVE KILLED HIMSELF BECAUSE HE WAS MISSING
SINCE
HE WAS CRUCIFIED AND BURIED.WHILE ALMIGHTY GOD HID JESUS[PEACE BE
UPON
HIM] FROM PEOPLE AND BROUGHT HIM BACK AFTER 3 DAYS AND THEN RAISED
HIM
TO HEAVEN WITH BODY AND SOUL UNTO HIMSELF.AND THIS MADE PEOPLE
BELIEVE
THAT JESUS[PEACE BE UPON HIM] WAS CRUCIFIED,RESURRECTED AND RAISED
TO
HEAVEN.HOW WOULD ALMIGHTY GOD ALLOW HIS BELOVED PROPHET
JESUS[PEACE BE
UPON HIM] TO BE CRUCIFIED BY HIS ENEMIES WHEN HE HAS GIVEN HIMSELF
THE POWER TO BRING BACK THE DEAD?HOW JESUS[PEACE BE UPON HIM]
COULD
HAVE BEEN RESURRCTED WHEN HE WAS NOT CRUCIFIED AT ALL?OUR
CHRISTIAN
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ARE WORSHIPPING JUDAS[JESUS' TRAITOR] WRONGLY
BELIEVING HIM TO BE JESUS[PEACE BE UPON HIM].THIS MISBELIEF AND FALSE
CLAIM OF CHRISTIANS ON JESUS[PEACE BE UPON HIM] WHO IS ONE OF THE
GREATEST PROPHETS OF GOD HAS RESULTED IN MISUNDERSTANDING AND
VENGEANCE BETWEEN THE CHRISTIAN AND MUSLIM BROTHERHOODS.

HOLY QURAN SAYS:

22:40. (They are) those who have
Been expelled from their homes
In defiance of right,
(For no cause) except
That they say, " Lord
Is God". Did not God
Check one set of people
By means of another,
There would surely have been
Pulled down monasteries, churches,
Synagogues, and mosques, in which
The name of God is commemorated
In abundant measure. God will
Certainly aid those who
Aid His (cause);—for verily

God is Full of Strength,
Exalted in Might,
(Able to enforce His Will).

BY GOD'S GRACE, WE ARE ONE AMONG THEM AND WE ARE SENDING MESSAGES
TO
ALL MISGUIDED ORGANISATIONS TO BRING PEACE AMONGST US.

HOLY QURAN SAYS:
45:14. Tell those who believe,
To forgive those who
Do not look forward
To the Days of God:
It is for Him to recompense
(For good or ill) each People
According to what
They have earned.

THIS ONE VERSE IS ENOUGH OF A PROOF TO MAKE CLEAR THAT ISLAM IS
CLOSELY RELATED TO REASON AND PEACE AND FAR OFF FROM [VIOLENCE.IT](#) IS
THE MISGUIDANCE OF SOME IRRESPONSIBLE LEADERS AND ORGANISATIONS
WHICH
HAS MISLED SOME INNOCENT MUSLIMS WHO ARE NOT MUCH
EDUCATED. ISLAM, HOLY
QURAN AND PROPHET MOHAMED [PEACE BE UPON HIM] ARE IN NO WAY
RESPONSIBLE
FOR IT.

HOLY QURAN SAYS:
7:157. "Those who follow the Apostle,
The unlettered Prophet,
Whom they find mentioned
In their own (Scriptures),—
In the Law and the Gospel;—
For he commands them
What is just and forbids them
What is evil; he allows
Them as lawful what is good
(And pure) and prohibits them
From what is bad (and impure);
He releases them
From their heavy burdens
And from the yokes
That are upon them.
So it is those who believe

In him, honour him,
Help him, and follow the Light
Which is sent down with him,—
It is they who will prosper."

5:33. The punishment of those
Who wage war against God
And His Apostle, and strive
With might and main
For mischief through the land
Is: execution, or crucifixion,
Or the cutting off of hands
And feet from opposite sides,
Or exile from the land:
That is their disgrace
In this world, and
A heavy punishment is theirs
In the Hereafter;

17:33. Nor take life—which God
Has made sacred—except
For just cause. And if
Anyone is slain wrongfully,
We have given his heir
Authority (to demand Qi? a?
Or to forgive): but let him
Not exceed bounds in the matter
Of taking life; for he
Is helped (by the Law).

17:107. Say: "Whether ye believe
In it or not, it is true
That those who were given
Knowledge beforehand, when
It it recited to them,
Fall down on their faces
In humble prostration,

2:99. We have sent down to thee
Manifest Signs (ayat);
And none reject them
But those who are perverse.

SO, IT IS HIGH TIME FOR THE CHRISTIANS TO READ THE HOLY QURAN IN THE
TRUE LIGHT OF GOD AND BELIEVE IN ISLAM, HOLY QURAN AND PROPHET
MOHAMED [PEACE BE UPON HIM] WHO IS THE "TRUE COMFORTER" FORETOLD

AND

PROMISED TO THE CHRISTIANS BY JESUS[PEACE BE UPON HIM].

All are requested to follow me in the interest of world peace solutions and unity in the world among all of you, as I am a messenger of God according to Quranic verse 28:59. I am a messenger of God, who has the duty to make notice the above said facts to United States of America and others in the world in accordance with the Quranic verse 4:83, as I fear that world is not peaceful in these hard days. In the circumstances stated above, I pray for peace and unity in the world and request the United States of America to ask all the researchers in the world to research the Biblical verses and Quranic verses stated above in the light of the messages posted in the website <http://www.goldendus.com> in the interest of public peace and unity among all communities in the world. I request early solutions, as early as possible.

GOD BLESS.PRAISE THE LORD.SUBHANALLAH.

Your Success,
U.Ibrahim Ali

PCAST: An urgent PCAST briefing to President Obama about the dimensions of institutional breakdown. Restoring academic freedom without a firestorm?

From: "Lloyd Etheredge" <[REDACTED]>
Date: Thu, February 21, 2013 12:23 pm
To: "Dr. John Holdren - Science Adviser to President Obama and Co-Chair, PCAST" [REDACTED]
([more](#))
Cc: "Dr. Rosina Bierbaum - PCAST" [REDACTED]

Dear Drs. Holdren, Lander, Savitz, Press, OSTP Counsel Leonard, and PCAST Members:

Concerning restoring academic freedom, and related issues that I have brought to your attention, I believe that President Obama urgently needs your candid briefing about the extent of institutional and rule-of-law breakdowns. A public firestorm and meltdown of NSF's credibility and our national system for voluntary evaluation of 45,000 - 55,000 NSF applications/year can be triggered by one, well-informed, newspaper story. A system of government-determined winners and losers is hateful to our universities and to our national political culture.

I enclose two additional documents concerning dimensions of the problems that the President should know about:

1.) There has been a compromise of journalistic ethics at Science, reflecting interlocking directorates, duress and pressures from the top of a Washington-oriented scientific Establishment. An off-the-record high level meeting organized by former AAAS President David Hamburg (via his Carnegie Commission on Science, Technology, and Government) tried to restore scientific integrity and peer review Scientific Merit awards for NSF programs in the social and economic sciences. David Hamburg's coalition lost and the enclosed correspondence with Donald Kennedy, former President of Stanford, reflects the continuing compromise of journalistic integrity at Science: they remain under duress and do not report these restrictions of academic freedom and controversies to AAAS members, despite several appeals to the Executive Board of AAAS. There is a strong, Mafia-like code of silence traditionally imposed by our Washington-oriented science Establishment and by NSF. The majority decision was to sell-out the academic freedom of social scientists: Professional journalists could not report the decision, or the controversy, even as [i.e., the basis of my appeal to Kennedy] macro-economic models continued to erode.

2.) In the beginning, Jack Peltason (as head of the University of CA system) was an active supporter of academic freedom and called the White House Assistant Science Adviser (Joyce Justus) {"We face these issues all of the time in California. Isn't there something that you can do?") After he retired his successor, Richard Atkinson, withdrew the UC system's leadership and objections. The enclosed letter, widely circulated in the UC system, sent a message that it was okay to sell-out academic freedom of social scientists and that

the UC system would not protest. Atkinson, a former Director of the National Science Foundation, has told intermediaries that his letter was misinterpreted, but it is part of the astonishing history of how academic freedom has been quietly eroded in America.

Until these problems are cleared away, we cannot restore health to the NSF Economics program and use our full scientific capabilities for rapid learning, recovery and sustained prosperity: The current NSF Assistant Director is an obedient historian who has been willing to inhibit initiative and probably lacks the intellectual self-assurance, training, and the confidence of social scientists to solve the inherited problems even if he wanted to do so.

American Universities: A World of Government-Selected Winners and Losers

The National Science Foundation provides about 60%+ of the funds for social science research at American universities. David Stockman's phrase, years ago, was "strangle in the cradle" and a core of our national Science Establishment decided to comply while keeping the accommodation hidden. The compromise of academic freedom, now, has expanded to all NSF programs: government determines all of the winners and losers.

Keeping the Lid On?

Slow-motion corrections, and attempting to keep the lid on any public scandal, may not be effective or wise. And, the President should be told, it may not be a viable option: He is (to repeat a point that I made above) one well-informed newspaper story away from an extraordinary public scandal. And the story also will help to illuminate why rapidly improving macro-economic models and data systems for a faster and more reliable economic recovery still are not available to him or the country.

Rule of Law Violations. The Integrity of the Democratic Process

Also, as holders of a public position, you may want to ask for a briefing by OSTP's counsel about relevant facts that the President should know: There may be major, serious, and continuing violations of law, and violations of the integrity of the democratic process, by scientists who have been serving in public office. [These include original abuses of authority and cover-ups to keep the victims, Congress, and the public from knowing about the policies of a government agency.]

PCAST should give President Obama the option to get out in front, and provide leadership. He should have the full benefit of what current members of PCAST know about these institutional breakdowns, and compromises of integrity, the rule of law, and academic freedom.

Lloyd Etheredge

Dr. Lloyd S. Etheredge - Director, Government Learning Project
Policy Sciences Center Inc.



[The Policy Sciences Center, Inc. is a public foundation that develops and integrates knowledge and practice to advance human dignity. It was founded by Harold Lasswell, Myres McDougal, and their associates in 1948 in New Haven, CT. Further information about the Policy Sciences Center and its projects, Society, and journal is available at www.policysciences.org.]

From: michael_mehrtens [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 21, 2013 7:05 PM
To: [pcast](#) [REDACTED]
Subject: New energy fields

Dear PCAST team,

I don't really know how this works, but I was directed here from an interview with Eric Lander. It seems that all focus of the government in terms of energy is on already established forms of energy production (i.e. cleaner coal, wind, solar, nuclear energy production). I have never seen the mention, let alone discussion of investment in, Thorium as a potential nuclear fuel (wildly more abundant and efficient than Uranium and Plutonium, impossible to weaponize) and piezoelectric generators. All research I have seen point to these being almost utopian forms of energy, supplying nearly infinite ecological energy.

I would love to see the politicians making the decisions with the power to invest in new technologies educated on such forms of potentially world changing energy production. As the Presidential advisors on science and technology, would you please look into these ideas?

Sincerely,
Michael David Mehrtens