NSF
Doctoral Dissertation Research
Improvement Grants
for the Social Sciences

Fall 2017

Nancy Cayton Myers

Research Development Office

Institute for Policy & Social Research

What is IPSR?

- Research center for social sciences & policy
- Home to eight research centers
  - » Center for Science, Tech. & Econ. Policy
  - » Center for the Study of Injustice
  - » Center for Environmental Policy
  - » Center for Indigenous Research, Sci. & Tech.
  - » Surveillance Studies Research Center
  - » Center for Military, War, and Society Studies
  - » Center for Migration Research
  - » Surveillance Studies Research Center
- Pre-award, post-award, data services, graduate research initiatives

Purpose

- for doctoral students

- to improve quality of dissertation research

- not meant to cover tuition or your time

Disciplines

- Archeology
- Bio/Cultural Anthropology
- Decision, Risk & Mgmt. Sciences
- Economics
- Endangered Lang.
- Geography
- Law & Social Sciences

- Linguistics
- Methods, Measurement & Stats
- Political Science
- Science, Tech and Society
- Science of Science/Innovation Policy
- Sociology
- Others

KU
THE UNIVERSITY OF
KANSAS

Eligibility

- enrolled in a U.S. academic institution

- initiating or conducting dissertation research

- do not have to be a U.S. citizen

Timing

- deadlines vary, annual or bi-annual

- begin work on proposal six months ahead

- decision takes six months from submission

- award length varies, usually up to 2 years

What does it cover?

- budget limits vary by program ($10K - $20K)

- covers your <u>research</u> expenses
  - » field research, data collection
  - » payment to subjects
  - » equipment
  - » travel to archives, research locations
  - » living expenses while away conducting research
  - » supplies
  - » money spent prior to award date is not reimbursable

- award is made to the institution, not you

THE UNIVERSITY OF
KANSAS

How does it work?

- your advisor serves as PI, but gets no payment

- all work is to be completed by you

- if awarded, IPSR will help you spend the funds (make purchases, arrange travel, etc.)

- IPSR and KU Research will handle financial reporting

- any substantive progress reports required must be completed by you

What's required?

- Project Summary (one page, addressing merit)
- Project Description (length varies, but 10-15 pages, references are separate)
- Bios and Current Support for you and your PI
- Budget and Justification
- Facilities statement
- Data Management Plan
- Collaborators and Other Affiliations
- Letter from Dept. Chair (sometimes)
- Statement from PI (sometimes)

What makes you competitive?

- Intellectual Merit
  - » the potential to advance and potentially transform the frontiers of knowledge, your field

- Broader Impacts
  - » what is the potential societal benefit, and how does it contribute to desired, societal outcomes

For both criteria, these questions apply:

- Is the research creative, original, and potentially transformative?
- Is the plan sufficiently well-reasoned, well-organized, based on sound rationale? Is there a mechanism to assess success?
- Is the individual, team, and organization qualified to complete the plan?
- Does the individual have access to sufficient resources to carry out the plan?

Example of funded project:

- PhD student in Public Administration
- studying application of law to immigrants by local officials/agencies, through mixed methods (surveys and interviews)
- received funding to conduct interviews and visit archives
- funded through Law and Social Sciences section
- pilot study had been completed
- had a plan for (and experience doing) data analysis

How to get started:

- read solicitation or announcement for your specific program

- read NSF's grant proposal guidelines

- discuss with your advisor, get approval to apply

- contact IPSR (ncmyers@ku.edu)
    (or alternative research center, or
    KU Research)

THANK YOU!