An Introduction to the ASA DDRIG for Students and Advisors

Presenters

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- Carolyn Vasques Scalera, ASA DDRIG Program Officer.
- Davon Norris, PhD Candidate, The Ohio State University.
- Melissa Villarreal, PhD Candidate, University of Colorado Boulder.
- Lori Peek, Professor of Sociology and Director of the Natural Hazards Center, University of Colorado Boulder.
- Rachel E. Dwyer, Professor of Sociology and Faculty Affiliate of the Institute for Population Research, The Ohio State University.
Workshop Agenda

- Introductions.
- Overview of the ASA DDRIG application process.
- Panel discussion with successful scholar-sponsor teams.
- Tips on successful proposal writing
- Q and A.

ASA DDRIG Awards

- Supports theoretically grounded empirical investigations to advance understanding of fundamental social processes.
- 25 grants, up to $16,000 each.
- ASA membership for 1 year.
- ASA Annual Meeting registration.
Eligibility

- Doctoral student at institution accredited and having campus in U.S.
- All substantive areas and methods.
- Funds must be used during grant period and before degree is conferred.
- Research Scholar-Research Sponsor Team (at same institution).
- Unsuccessful applicants may reapply.
- Have not received prior NSF-funded or ASA DDRIG.
- Do not need to be member of ASA.

Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>Application available at <a href="http://www.asanet.org/ASADDRIG">www.asanet.org/ASADDRIG</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>November 1, 11:59pmET</td>
<td>Applications due</td>
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<tr>
<td>November-February</td>
<td>Review process</td>
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<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>Decision notices sent</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>Invited R&amp;Rs due</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 1 to December 1</td>
<td>Range of possible start dates</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-2 years later</td>
<td>End date for grants</td>
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Go to the ASA DDRIG website: https://www.asanet.org/ASADDRIG

ASA Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grants (ASA DDRIG)

- Application link
- Application deadline: November 1, 2021 (11:59 p.m. EST)
- Awards announced: March 2022
- Frequently Asked Questions and Resources
- 2021 ASA DDRIG Recipients

- Read Proposal Submission Guidelines
- Access Templates
- FAQs and Resources

Resources on website

- Proposal writing
  - ASA DDRIG Proposal Checklist
  - NSF PAPPG
  - The Case for Writing Plainly (Article)

- Broader impacts
  - NSF Broader Impacts framework
  - Broader Impacts Improving Society
  - Advancing Research Impact in Society (ARIS) resources

- Data management plans
  - NSF's policy on data management
  - NSF SBE directorate-wide guidance
  - Qualitative Data Sharing: Data Repositories and Academic Libraries as Key Partners in Addressing Challenges
  - ICPSR Guidelines for Effective Data Management Plans
  - Qualitative Data Repository
  - Dataverse
  - Your university may have its own institutional repository or information on how to share data.

- International Standards for Living Expenses
  - U.S. Department of State
  - Fulbright-Hays Program (pp.52ff)
Using the ASA Grant Portal

Create an account or log on when you are ready to start application

You can preview and download Question list
The Research Scholar should be the one to create an account and apply.

Email is your unique ID.
Add administrator@grantinterface.com to safe sender's list.
- Click > to open/close sections
- Enter info into the portal
- Upload pdfs
- Most questions required
- Work will auto save
- Start early!

Log off or edit profile
Edit your application, don’t create a new one!

Research Scholar and Research Sponsor Info

Proposal Details

- Project Title.
- Duration (1 or 2 years)
- Proposed Start Date (between May 1 – Dec 1 next year)
- Proposed End Date (up to 24 months after start date)
- Amount Requested ($16,000 maximum)
- Primary place of performance
- Substantive Area and Methods
- Project Summary (1 page max, 3 required sections)
- Project Description (10 pages max, include IM and BI)
- Survey Instrument or Interview Guide (optional: 5 pages max)
- References Cited (ASA Format)

Biographical Sketches (2 page maximum, Template)

- Research Scholar and Sponsor
## Allowable Budget Expenses

**YES**
- Research expenses.
- Travel to professional meetings.
- Living expenses, including dependent care— in the field or at home institution.

**NO**
- Overhead (IDC) costs.
- Sponsor-related costs.

- 1 Year ASA Membership and Annual Meeting Registration (included in award).

## Budget and Related Forms

- **Budget Spreadsheet** *(Required ASA Template)*
  - Include budget for each year of support.
  - Must be used during grant period and before degree.

- **Budget Justification** *(Max 3 pages)*
  - Explain each category and provide details.
  - Should be appropriate and reasonable.
  - Use real amounts.

- **Current and Pending Support** *(Required ASA Template)*
  - Group by current, pending, planned.
  - Include ASA DDRIG as pending.

- **Facilities, Equipment, and Other Resources** *(Max 2pp)*
  - Access to infrastructure.
  - No $ amount.
Formatting Requirements

- Adhere to all formatting requirements
- Ensures fairness and readability
- We will check for compliance
- Templates are pre-formatted
- See sample document on website
- **Failure to comply with any of formatting requirements may lead to your proposal not being considered!**

Advice from Successful Scholar-Sponsor Teams

[The following 4 slides are a summary of the panel discussion that took place during the workshop.]
### Prepare

- **Start Early**
  - Put DDRIG (and other grants) on your grad school radar even before you are ready to do your dissertation project.
  - Proposals don't happen overnight: give yourself time for both the writing and administrative pieces.
  - Ideally start in the spring or summer before.
  - Check with your institution's Grants/Office of Sponsored Research for any requirements and deadlines on their end.
  - Ask sponsor for certification letter and biosketch early.

- **Get organized**
  - Create a system that works for you (list, spreadsheet, google drive, etc).
  - Plan backwards from deadline.

### Culture of Feedback

- **Communicate with your advisor/sponsor**
  - Establish a relationship early on
  - Find system that works for you both, for example:
    - Regularly scheduled meetings
    - Agenda in advance of meetings
    - Action item lists with due dates
    - 1-2 page memos

- **Build a feedback support network**
  - Join/create proposal writing groups or classes
  - Find people you trust
  - Get feedback from outside your area
  - www.facultydiversity.org
Writing

- Develop clear ideas in short amount of spaces
  - (3-5 paragraphs, 1 page summary, etc) that can be expanded.

- Focus your literature review
  - Identify your relevant concepts/theories
  - Communicate what you’re doing that’s new in order to identify the relevant literature to include

- Find 2-4 proposal models

- Explain your methods and connect them back to your research questions.

- Sell yourself and your project.

- Don’t make reviewers work too hard
  - Use fonts and organization that make it easy to read
  - Don’t use jargon or acronyms

Persevere!

- Go for it!
  - Apply for lots of grants, smaller ones will help you work towards larger ones even if you don’t get the grant.
  - DDRIG process is organic with development of your dissertation proposal.
Writing a good proposal

Which of these questions can you answer about your project right now?

- What question/s are you seeking to answer?
- What is the current state of knowledge in the field?
- What knowledge gap will your research fill?
- What are the overall objectives of your project?
- How will you answer the research question?
- How is your project original and creative?
- What qualifications and support do you have to do it?
- Why is your research important to sociology?

→ You should be able to answer all of these.
Intellectual Merit (Scientific Impact)

- Project has the potential to **advance knowledge production in sociology** by expanding on existing theories, filling gaps in knowledge, and/or making methodological contributions.

**How are you advancing sociology?**

- Identify a clear, interesting, and original question/s.
- Explain your contribution to the literature.
- Provide clear implementation plan.
- Demonstrate understanding of strengths and limitations of the design, methods, analyses.
- Convince reviewers of significance and feasibility.
- Make sure it's technically correct.
Participant Poll

Which of the following are good examples of Broader Impacts Activities?

- Recruiting undergraduate research assistants
- Designing workshops and courses integrating findings from the research
- Creating a website for K-12 teachers
- Involving participants in collecting data (citizen-science)
- Creating open-sourced archives for community-based organizations
- Writing Op-Eds or other non-academic publications
- Writing policy briefs for relevant organizations

→ All of the above.

Broader Impacts (Societal Impact)

- Project has the **potential to benefit society** and contribute to the achievement of specific, desired societal outcomes.

- May be accomplished through:
  - the research itself,
  - activities that are directly related to the research project,
  - activities that are supported by but are complementary to the project.

*How are you contributing to society?*

Source: NSF PAPPG II.C.2.D
### Broader Impacts

#### Science as service
- How well does the proposed activity promote:
  - Teaching, training, and learning?
  - Broadening participation of underrepresented groups?
  - Public scientific literacy or engagement with science?
  - Use of science and technology to impact public policy?
  - Partnerships between academia and industry or organizations?
- What is the public value of your work?
- How will people’s lives be improved?
- What actions make these broader impacts more likely?
- How will you communicate with (rather than to) a broader audience?

### Participant Poll

Which of these are good examples of data sharing?
- Results of the research will be disseminated through scholarly publications, conference presentations and invited lectures.
- I will share research tools with any interested researcher by request.
- Meta data related to recruitment protocols will be publicly available on my personal website.
- The interview guide will be included in the index to my dissertation.
- I will share the results of my data through publications and conferences.

⇒ None of the above in and of themselves allow for discoverability.
Data Management Plan

- What data and data products will be produced.
- How data will be managed and maintained during and after the project.
- Where de-identified data, metadata, or data collection tools will be shared/reposited.
- Why it is inappropriate or infeasible to share certain data or data-related products.

→ Connects to both intellectual merit and broader impacts.

Which of the following data could a researcher share?

- Interview guide
- De-identified transcripts
- GIS maps
- Demographic profile of participants
- Recruitment materials
- Consent Protocols
- Coding schema/codebooks
- Data sets
- Database of coded reports
- Metadata

→ All of the above.

→ Evaluate each data source individually to determine shareability.

→ Balance Privacy with Replicability.
### Additional DMP Resources shared by panel

- [https://converge.colorado.edu/data/data-management](https://converge.colorado.edu/data/data-management)
- [https://converge.colorado.edu/data/events/publish-your-data/data-ambassadors](https://converge.colorado.edu/data/events/publish-your-data/data-ambassadors)

### What makes a good proposal?

- **Is it clear?**
  - Can a non-specialist understand?
  - Avoid jargon; always define key terms
  - Easily identifiable research question(s) and objectives
  - Proofread, proofread, proofread
  - Get feedback on proposal narrative and budget

- **Is it original and important?**
  - Intellectual merit.
  - Broader impacts.

- **Is it doable?**
  - Avoid broad, unsubstantiated claims
  - Provide specific activities
  - Reviewers don’t know you
  - Consider these dimensions of feasibility:
    - Money, time, qualifications, connections
- We will respond to Qs in the chat.
- Consult with your office of sponsored research and your sponsor.
- Check out the FAQs and Resources on our website (Proposal Checklist).
- Ask me anything: September 8 @ 2pm EDT (registration link on website)
- Contact ASA DDRIG Staff: ddrig@asanet.org 202-247-9847