Identifying Funding Opportunities and Navigating the Proposal Writing Process

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Introductions

Who are you?

Who am I?

Why are we here today?

Part I: Where do YOU want to go? How To Build a CV/Resume/Portfolio

		FUNDING LEVEL		
		SMALL	MEDIUM	LARGE
RISK	LOW			
	MEDIUM			
	HIGH	(avoid)		

How Do You Develop a Research Agenda?

Hint:

While connected to the portfolio, it's not quite the same thing

… And How Do You Showcase It On Your Resume?

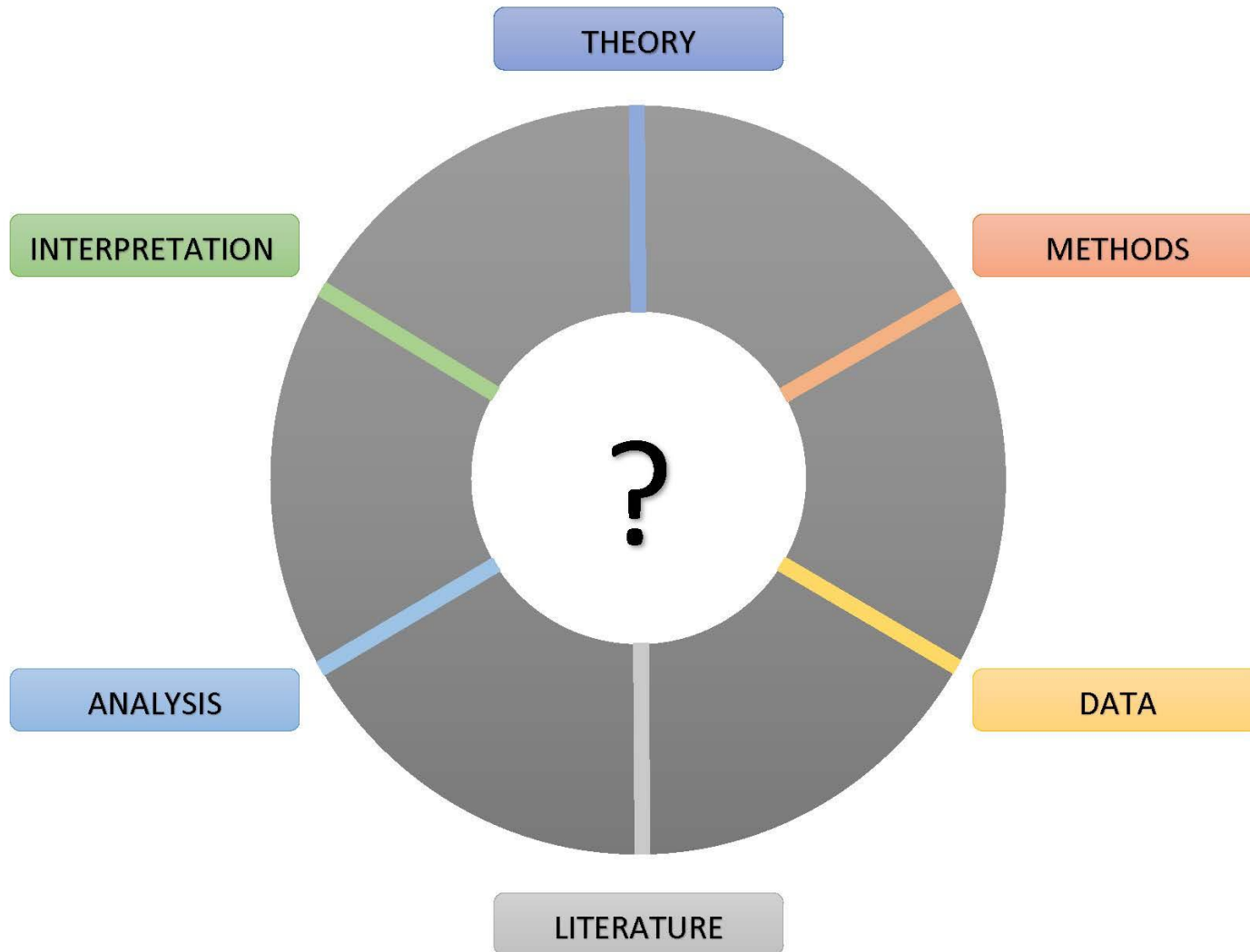# QUESTIONS SO FAR?

Part II – Writing a Grant Proposal

General Proposal Writing Advice

- What do I wish I'd known when I first started writing proposals?

- What are the key elements of/how do you structure a successful proposal?

How Do You Write a Proposal?
The Research (and Writing) Wheel

Planning your Proposal

- **Determine your long-term research & professional goals**

  What do you intend to do & why is your research important?

  What work has already been done & how will your work advance the field?

- **Develop your bright idea/topic into a Research Question**

  Survey the literature

  Contact researchers working on topic

  How will you do your research (data collection and analysis)?

  Prepare a brief concept paper/white paper/summary page/quad chart

  Discuss with colleagues/mentors

- **Prepare to do the project**

  Determine available resources

  Realistically assess needs

  Develop preliminary data **– *this is key, but what does it mean?***

  Present to colleagues/mentors/students

Imagining your Audience

- How do reviewers/panelists "read" proposals?

- What are reviewers/panelists looking for?

The Review Process

- How does it work?
- What does Ad Hoc Review mean? Who is that?
- What does Panel Review mean? Who is that?
- Who makes the decisions?

Myths about the Review Process

- Myth #1: Fame is the ticket to success. I am doomed.

- Myth #2: Networks are the key to success. I am doomed.

- Myth #3: Federal agencies – heck, even the private foundations -- have a positivist bias. Fuggettaboutit.

- Myth #4: Funders favor quantitative work. I am doomed. The system is rigged. Fuggettaboutit.

- Myth #5: NSF and related funders won't support advocacy. I can't use fill-in-the-blank theories or frameworks it they are politicized. The system is rigged. Fuggettaboutit.

What not to do

- Lack of focus and follow-through

- Lack of attention to details

- "Trust me" proposals

- Ideological proposals

- Rhetorical Questions

- Gravy train proposals

QUESTIONS SO FAR?

Part III –NSF Funding Opportunities

Because most of you are *advanced* graduate students, I will focus on these three programs:

- **Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grants (DRIG)**
http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2014/nsf14604/nsf14604.htm (Sociology example)
https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2014/nsf14574/nsf14574.pdf (MMS example)
- **SBE Postdoctoral Research Fellowships**
http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2016/nsf16590/nsf16590.htm?WT.mc_id=USNSF_25&WT.mc_ev=click
- **Mathematical Sciences Postdoctoral Research Fellowships (MSPRF)** https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2016/nsf16558/nsf16558.pdf

…for details on these and other NSF opportunities, please attend the workshop tomorrow.

Broader NSF Context:
NSF-Wide Focus Areas for FY16/17

- **STEM education/workforce programs ~$1.5 billion, including**
  - ➢ **Graduate Research Fellowship (NGRFP) $332m**
  - ➢ **NSF Research Traineeship (NRT) $59m**
  - ➢ **Approx. $950m in projects funded by Education and Human Resources Directorate**
- **Clean Energy $512m**
- **Cyber-enabled Materials, Manufacturing, and Smart Systems (CEMMSS) $257m**
- **Secure and Trustworthy Cyberspace (SaTC) $150m**
- **Brain Initiative $142m**
- **Cyberinfrastructure Framework for 21st-Century Science, Engineering and Education (CIF21) $100m**
- **Nexus of Food, Energy, and Water Systems $62m**
- **Science, Engineering and Education for Sustainability (SEES) & Advanced Manufacturing $52m**
- **Disaster/Risk and Resilience $43m**
- **BioMaPS $30m**
- **NSF Innovation Corps (I-Corps) $30m[1]**

Pink elephants in the room: Big Data, Interdisciplinarity, Collaboration, predictive modelling

[1]priorities overlap and cannot be added together; $ based on FY17 budget request

Funding Sources -- Beyond NSF (for Advanced Graduate Students)

NIH (R36 Dissertation Grants)
http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-12-103.html (e.g., for mental health researchers)

USDA (National Needs Fellowship Grants)
https://nifa.usda.gov/program/national-needs-graduate-and-postgraduate-fellowship-grants-program-funding-opportunity-nnf

EPA Fellowships *Must be US citizen.*
https://www.epa.gov/research-fellowships

Department of Defense Fellowships *Must be US citizen.*
https://ndseg.asee.org/

Department of Energy Programs *Must be US citizen/PR.*
http://orise.orau.gov/science-education/internships-scholarships-fellowships/default.aspx plus
http://science.energy.gov/wdts/scgsr/ and http://science.energy.gov/wdts/ for undergraduates!

HUD Grants
http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/programdescription/ddrg

Department of State + Dept of Education = Fulbright-Hays Fellowships *Must be US citizen.*
http://eca.state.gov/fulbright/fulbright-programs/program-summaries/fulbright-hays-program

US Census Bureau Fellowships *Must be US citizen.*
http://www.census.gov/srd/www/DissertationFellowshipTopics.pdf

Spencer Foundation Fellowships/AERA Grants and Fellowships
http://www.spencer.org/fellowship-awards and
http://www.aera.net/ProfessionalOpportunitiesFunding/FundingOpportunities/AERAGrantsProgram/DissertationGrants/tabid/12812/Default.aspx and
http://www.aera.net/ProfessionalOpportunitiesFunding/AERAFundingOpportunities/tabid/10241/Default.aspx

Guggenheim Foundation Dissertation and Postdoctoral Grants
http://www.hfg.org/

Q&A

Thank you.
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