A Sketch Introduction to Research Grants

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Why should I be looking for grants, fellowships, other funding?

- Support for dissertation work beyond departmental support
  - Frees up resources for other students!
- Support for more complex or expensive research than that funded by university or departmental resources
  - Travel to field sites, archives, conferences
  - Software and, in some cases, hardware
- Development of a professional network
- Prestige and career accomplishment—really!
  - It matters on your CV—but don’t get obsessive
How do I find funding opportunities?

- From your advisor
- From other faculty
- From professional organizations
How do I find funding opportunities?

- **Agency web sites**
  - NSF
    - *Think of programs in the SBE directorate (Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences)*
  - NEH—Mostly the R36 program
    - *Example: Digital Humanities Startup Grants*  
  - NIH
    - *Example: health IT (a stretch, maybe?*  

- **Mission agencies (tougher nut to crack)**
- **Private funders**
How do I find funding opportunities?

- From word of mouth with your colleagues here and at other schools (this is why networking is so important!)
- General web searches on Google
- Community of Science
Challenges

- Some programs will not fund dissertation research
  - Think of grants for *post-disaster research to extend your dissertation research*. *Have funders in mind while on the job market.*
  - Work with a faculty member who will be the “official” PI.
- Balancing dissertation and other needs with grant seeking
  - Focus on the dissertation first
  - Try to write both grant applications and dissertation sections
  - *Do not think that you can just cut and paste parts of the dissertation into a grant proposal!*
Reality check

- Grant funding is very competitive
- Do not dream up a project for a grant—
develop a project, then do the proposal
- Follow *all the rules for the proposal*!
  - Page limits
  - Type face and margins (really!)
  - Ancillary items
- Near perfect writing!
Questions