TESS ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF ITS FIRST SPECIAL COMPETITION

Time-sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences (TESS) is a National Science Foundation supported project that provides social scientists with new opportunities to conduct innovative experiments. The opportunities come in the form of parallel national telephone and Internet surveys to which individual researchers can add their own questions. The TESS surveys use computer-assisted interviewing, which allows researchers to ask respondents different versions of important questions. These variations become the basis for powerful experiments run on large, diverse subject populations. The experiments, in turn, increase the precision with which fundamental social, political and economic dynamics are understood.

Last August, TESS announced its first Special Competition. Between September 1 and December 1, TESS made an open call for scholars to propose innovative survey-based experiments. Leading scholars judged entries from across the country and TESS announced the winners on February 10. They are:

- Daniel Houser, University of Arizona (Department of Economics,), Jonathan Leland and Jason Shachat, IBM (Thomas J. Watson Research Center) for "Game Responses as Survey Instruments: Measuring the Constituents of Social Capital."
- Steven Graham and Margaret S. Clark, Carnegie Mellon University (Department of Psychology) for a study on self-esteem and feelings towards relationship partners.
- Michael J. Hiscox, Harvard University (Department of Government & Weatherhead Center for International Affairs) for "The Political Backlash Against Globalization? Framing Effects, Information, and Attitudes Towards International Trade."
- Paul Boxer, L. Rowell Huesmann, Eric F. Dubow, University of Michigan (Institute for Social Research, Huesmann also in the Departments of Psychology and Communication) for "An Investigation of Order Effects in the Measurement of Aggression and Aggressive Cognition."
- Devah Pager, Northwestern University (Department of Sociology & Institute for Policy Research) and Jeremy Freese, University of Wisconsin (Department of Sociology) for "How Far Should We Extend the Helping Hand?: Attitudes about Government Assistant for the Unemployed by Race, Incarceration Status and Worker History."
- Adam J. Berinsky and Tali Mendelberg, Princeton University (Department of Politics) for "The Indirect Effects of Discredited Stereotypes: Social and Political Traits in Judgments of Jewish Leaders."

- Michael Tomz and Paul M. Sniderman, Stanford University (Department of Political Science) for "Political Choice Spaces and Political Choice."
- Michael Tomz, Stanford University (Department of Political Science) for "Audience Costs in International Crises."
- Elizabeth Levy Paluck and Donald Green, Yale University (Departments of Psychology and Political Science, respectively) for "Cognitive Representations of Social Groups and Support for Public Policies."

Early in 2003, TESS will run the winning experiments as part of a national survey of 2000 respondents. And, consistent with the project's mission, TESS will run these experiments free of charge for the scholars who proposed them. After the data is collected, the winning scholars will have a nine-month window in which only they can analyze the data. The window closes early in 2004, at which time all of the data will be available to the public on at the TESS website, http://experimentcentral.org.

Indiana University's Survey Research Center will conduct the survey. The Special Competition winners will be joined by the following two experiments that TESS recently accepted through its regular submission process:

- Howard Schuman, University of Michigan (Department of Sociology) for "Experimental Comparison of Open & Closed Questions."
- Todd Donovan, Western Washington University (Department of Political Science, and Shaun Bowler, University of California - Riverside (Department of Political Science) for "Chronic Losers and Democracy"

TESS also gives social scientists opportunities to propose innovative Internet-based experiments. TESS pays the cost of running these experiments and has them administered by the industry-leader in Internet-based experiments, Knowledge Networks. In recent months, TESS has accepted the following innovative proposals and has, or will soon, run them on large randomly selected samples of the U.S. population:

- Allyson L. Holbrook The University of Illinois at Chicago Oak Park (Departments of Public Administration and Psychology) and Jon A. Krosnick, Ohio State University (Department of Psychology) for a study on social desirability and reports of voter turnout.
- Mick P. Couper University of Michigan (Department of Sociology) and Maria Krysan University of Illinois - Chicago (Department of Sociology) for a study on race of interviewer effects using visual cues.
- Melanie C. Green and John Sabini University of Pennsylvania (Department of Psychology) for a study on reactions to infidelity.

Alexander Todorov Princeton University (Department of Psychology) for "The Costs of Misperceiving Public Opinion: Majority Support for Minority Supported policies."

TESS accepts, on a continuing basis, proposals from any graduate student or faculty member affiliated with any social science department anywhere in the world. For more information on how to submit a proposal, visit experimentcentral.org. The Principal Investigators of TESS are Diana Mutz of Ohio State University and Arthur Lupia of the University of Michigan.