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 on large, diverse subject populations. Last August, TESS announced its second Special Competition. Between September 1 and January 31, TESS made an open call for scholars to propose innovative survey-based experiments. Leading scholars from across the country judged the entries. The winning experiments were selected because of their potential to increase the precision with which fundamental social, political and economic dynamics are understood. Consistent with the project’s mission to promote innovation and provide more social scientists with opportunities to collect high-quality, original data, TESS runs these experiments free of charge for the scholars who proposed them.

The winning proposals are:

- Arthur Aron, SUNY Stony Brook (Psychology), Stephen Wright, Simon Fraser University (Psychology) and Tracy McLaughlin Volpe, University of Vermont (Psychology) for “Effects of Outgroup Friendship Salience on Outgroup Attitudes and Moderating Conditions”

- Stephen Benard, Cornell University (Sociology) for “Biased Estimators: Statistical Discrimination, Stereotyping, and Evaluations of Worker Productivity.”

- Deborah Jordan Brooks, Dartmouth College (Government) and John Geer, Vanderbilt University (Political Science) for a study of the dimensions of negativity in political campaigns.

- Hannah Brueckner and Alondra Nelson, Yale University (Sociology) and Ann Morning, Princeton University (Sociology), for “When ‘No’ Means ‘Yes’: Measuring Social Desirability Effects on the Expression of Biological Concepts of Race.”
• John Bullock, Stanford University (Political Science) and Robert Luskin, University of Texas (Government) for “Understanding “Don’t Know” Responses to Knowledge Items.”

• Barry Burden and Casey Klofstad, Harvard University (Government) for a study of cognition, affect and party identification.

• Erin Casesse and Stanley Feldman, SUNY Stony Brook (Political Science) for “Understanding Policy Preferences: Threat, Affect, and the Evaluation of Breast Cancer Policy.”

• Patrick Corrigan and Amy Watson, University of Chicago (Psychiatry) for “Shame, Blame, and Contamination: Mental Illness Stigma and the Family.”

• Catherine Cottrell and Steven Neuberg, Arizona State University (Psychology) for

• Matthew Davis and Kathryn Fant, University of Michigan (Pediatrics) for “Paying More for Prevention? Preferences for Child and Adult Immunization Benefits in Health Plans.”

• Allyson Holbrook, University of Illinois-Chicago (Survey Research Laboratory) and Jon Krosnick, The Ohio State University (Psychology) for “Social Desirability and Voter Turnout Reports.”

• Danette Ifert Johnson, West Virginia Wesleyan College (Communication) for a study of politeness in social refusals.

• Cindy Kam, University of California-Davis (Political Science) for “Gender and Reactions to Political Campaigns.”

• Chu Kim-Prieto and Ed Diener, University of Illinois (Psychology) for “Revisiting the Benefits of Positive Affect.”

• Dominic Lasorsa, University of Texas (Journalism) for “Effects of Survey Question Order on Reports of Political Interest.”

• Howard Lavine and Stanley Feldman, SUNY Stony Brook (Political Science) for “Ideological Asymmetry in American Politics”.

• Monika McDermott, University of Connecticut (Political Science) and David Jones, CUNY Baruch College (Political Science) for “Public Opinion of Congress: A Causal Examination.”

• Christopher Muste, Louisiana State University (Political Science) for a study of how social groups affect desirability biases in surveys.
• Devah Pager, Northwestern University (Sociology) and Jeremy Freese, University of Wisconsin (Sociology) for “Who Deserves a Helping Hand?: Attitudes about Government Assistance for the Unemployed by Race, Incarceration Status, and Worker History.”

• John B. Pryor and Glenn Reeder, Illinois State University (Psychology) and John Ernst Illinois Wesleyan University (Psychology) for “The Roots of Sexual Prejudice.”

• David Redlawsk, University of Iowa (Political Science) and James McCann, Purdue University (Political Science) for “Political Corruption and the Ethical Judgments of American Citizens.”

• Juergen Schupp, DIW Berlin (Socio-Economic Panel); Ernst Fehr, University of Zurich and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Economics) and Gert G. Wagner, DIW Berlin (Economics) for “Representative Experiments on Trust and Trustworthiness in an International Comparative Context.”

• Monnica Terwilliger, University of Virginia (Psychology) for a study of racial differences in the validity of obsessive-compulsive disorder measures.

• Penny Visser, University of Chicago (Psychology) for “Exploring the Social Bases of Attitude Strength.”

• Penny Visser and Ken Rasinski, University of Chicago (Psychology) for “Improving Survey Data Quality through Non-conscious Goal Activation.”

• Vesla Weaver (Government & Social Policy), Jennifer Hochschild and Traci Burch (Government), Harvard University for “The Color of the Campaign: A Quasi-experimental Study of the Influence of Skin Color on Candidate Evaluation.”

The Special Competition winners will be joined by additional experiments accepted through TESS’s regular submission process, which runs on a continuous basis throughout the year.

• David Barker and Susan Hansen, University of Pittsburgh (Political Science) for “I Think, Therefore I Vote (Correctly)? Systematic Cognitive Processing and Vote Intentions.”

• Adam Berinsky, MIT (Political Science) for “Assuming the Costs of War: The Effects of Knowledge of Casualty Rates on Support for Military Intervention.”
Ted Brader (Political Science), Nicholas Valentino (Communication) and Liz Suhay (Political Science), University of Michigan for “Us Versus Them? How Threat Shapes Opinions About Immigration.”

Galen Bodenhausen, Northwestern University (Psychology) for “The Role of Gender in Mental Illness Stigma”

Iris Bohnet and Richard Zeckhauser, Harvard University (Economics) for “Trust, Risk and Betrayal”

Sujoy Chakravarty (Information Science) and Ernan Haruvy (School of Management), University of Texas at Dallas for “Other-Regarding Preferences in Indirect Trust Games.”

Pablo Mitnik, University of Wisconsin (Sociology) for “Public Attitudes towards a Supplementary Income Program for Low-wage Workers: A Study of the Effects of Framing, Distributive Justice Criteria and Material Interests”

Alexander Todorov, Princeton University (Psychology) for “Consequences of Misperceptions of Public Opinion for Prospective and Retrospective Support for Specific Foreign Policies.”

TESS accepts proposals from any graduate student or faculty member affiliated with any social science department anywhere in the world. It is has TESS has also just announced details on its third special competition, which provides even greater resources for data collection to scholars across the social sciences.

For more information on how to submit a proposal, the latest Special Competition, and publicly available data from previous studies, visit our website, ExperimentCentral.org. The Principal Investigators of TESS are Diana Mutz of the University of Pennsylvania and Arthur Lupia of the University of Michigan.