Small Grants Competition  
Fall, 2005

THEOP will sponsor a small research grant competition targeted to but not limited to participants in the summer institute. Applications will be judged on their creativity, the coherence of the research design, suitability of proposed methods, and the viability of executing the study in the allotted timeframe. Applicants’ scholarly accomplishments also will weigh in the evaluation, but the research proposal will be most decisive.

Deadline: September 15, 2005  
Notification: November 1, 2005

More details about the application requirements for the small grants competition will be posted on the THEOP website.

Research Symposium  
Austin, TX  
Fall, 2006

Small grant awardees will convene in Austin, Texas in early fall, 2006 to exchange research findings based on interim reports. Members of the review committee, as well as the members of the public advisory committee, will be invited to participate as discussants of the research reports.
Study Overview

The Texas Higher Education Opportunity Project (THEOP) was designed to evaluate the direct and indirect consequences of using a uniform criterion (Top 10%) in college admissions and to address myriad substantive and policy questions about college decision-making and post-high school experiences.

Since 1999, THEOP has assembled (1) longitudinal administrative data from 12 Texas colleges and universities that differ in the selectivity of their admissions; and (2) longitudinal survey data for 19K sophomores and 14K seniors who were enrolled in Texas public high schools as of spring, 2002.

Survey instruments and marginal distributions for the baseline and wave 2 survey are posted on the THEOP website (http://theop.princeton.edu). Public use versions of the baseline survey data (with all high school and sample identifying information removed) are also available for exploratory analyses on the OPR data archive (http://opr.princeton.edu/archive). Public-use versions of the administrative data files are not yet ready for web posting.

THEOP is hosting a summer data workshop and subsequent small grants competition to encourage early career social scientists interested in higher education to use the restricted-access data files. We will cover all travel and research expenses related to the workshop.

Summer Data Workshop
Princeton, NJ
July 11-15, 2005

Specific objectives of the Data Workshop are for early career social scientists to:
(1) learn about the THEOP and its unique, restricted-access data resources;
(2) receive “hands-on” practical training from experienced users; and
(3) develop a research design that can be submitted for external funding, including the small grants competition based on the THEOP data.

Seminars and interactive data workshops will be offered by leading social scientists including:
- Marta Tienda (Ph.D. Sociology), THEOP Principal Investigator, Professor of Sociology and Public Affairs at Princeton University
- Teresa A. Sullivan (Ph.D. Sociology), THEOP Co-Investigator, Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the University of Texas System
- Douglas Laycock (J.D.), Professor of Law at the University of Texas at Austin
- Mark Long (Ph.D. Economics), Assistant Professor of Public Affairs at the University of Washington
- Bonnie Ghosh-Dastidar (Ph.D. Statistics), Statistician, The RAND Corporation
- Kalena Cortes (Ph.D. Economics), Research Associate, Office of Population Research, Princeton University
- Sunny Niu (Ph.D. Economics of Education), Research Associate, Office of Population Research, Princeton University

Summer Data Workshop
Application Process

Eligibility: The Summer Data Workshop and Small Grants Competition are open to early career social scientists interested in pursuing research about higher education.
- Post-General Dissertators
- Post-Doctoral Fellows
- Assistant Professors (less than 5 years post-Ph.D.)

Applicants should submit the following items by regular or electronic mail:
- Resume or CV
- 3-5 page research proposal about higher education
- 2 letters of recommendation (graduate students only)

Deadline: May 20, 2005
Notification: Early June, 2005

Workshop leaders will offer one-on-one guidance about specific project proposals. At the conclusion, participants will have:
(1) signed a confidentiality disclosure form granting access to the restricted use data files;
(2) developed a doable and approved project;
(3) made a data extract to complete the proposed research; and
(4) conducted preliminary descriptive analyses for a concrete research problem.

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