

Time-sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences (TESS) is partnering with The Human Factors/Behavioral Sciences Division (HFD) of the Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate to launch a special competition to fund survey experiments that will advance our understanding of questions central to HFD's mission. The deadline for this competition is JANUARY 21, 2011.

ABOUT TESS

TESS is an NSF-supported infrastructure project that enables faculty, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers to conduct original experiments on nationally representative samples at no cost to investigators. Investigators simply submit a five-page proposal, which is peer-reviewed. Successful projects are fielded by Knowledge Networks, a leading internet-based survey firm.

ABOUT HFD

HFD sponsors social and behavioral science research focused on a range of topics including understanding the causes of terrorism, and assessing the efficacy of efforts developed to counter it.

ABOUT THE SPECIAL COMPETITION

A number of surveys have been conducted on issues related to terrorism/extremist violence and governmental countermeasures, but these studies have not allowed for an in-depth, theoretically informed exploration of factors that may contribute to terrorism-related attitudes, beliefs, judgments, and behaviors. To fill this gap, HFD and TESS are partnering to sponsor a set of survey experiments.

We invite researchers from multiple social and behavioral science disciplines to submit brief proposals (5 page maximum) describing an experiment to test theoretically-derived hypotheses about the factors that affect individuals' attitudes, beliefs, judgments and/or behaviors related to (a) terrorism/extremist violence and/or (b) government policies and measures to counter terrorism/extremist violence.

There are many social scientific domains that could be fruitfully brought to bear on these issues, and we seek applications from a broad range of scholars. Although far from exhaustive, potential areas of relevance include:

- Attitudes and attitude change
- Judgment and decision-making
- Risk perception
- Cognitive biases
- Belief formation and change
- Stereotyping and prejudice
- Affect and emotions
- Social and contextual factors (e.g., social networks, social roles)
- Personality and individual differences
- Policy preferences
- Mass communication
- Media effects

Proposals will undergo peer-review and will be assessed in terms of (a) scientific merit, (b) broader impacts, and (c) relevance to HFD's mission.

HOW TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL

Guidelines for proposals for the special competition are the same as for other TESS proposals. These guidelines are provided on the TESS website (<http://tess.experimentcentral.org>). The website also provides contact information for TESS staff and principal investigators for any additional questions.