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To: "Dr. Baruch Fischhoff - Chair, National Academy Committee on Improving Intelligence" <baruch@cmu.edu>, "Dr. Richard Atkinson - Chair - NRC/DBASSE" <rcatkinson@ucsd.edu>

From: Lloyd Etheredge <[lloyd.etheredge@policyscience.net](mailto:lloyd.etheredge@policyscience.net)>

Subject: 136. Recapitalizing social science: Subra Suresh as the new NSF Director

Dear Dr. Fischhoff, Dr. Atkinson, and colleagues:

There is hopeful news: President Obama has nominated Subra Suresh (Dean of Engineering at MIT) to be the new NSF Director. He is a first-rate research scientist and operates at a level where I think that he would be open to well-planned investments to recapitalize academic social science.

We might be entering a new era: I hope that you will be bold in your advice, and candid about what we need for fast discovery social science and rapid learning re the changing, and in some respects dangerous, world beyond the water's edge.

- During the Cold War, I spoke with a senior researcher at the USSR's Institute for the Study of the US and Canada about Marxist ideological images of American politics and learning. He said that - at the beginning - they had mistrusted all of American social science because the University of Michigan and others were publishing numbers showing 90% trust in government, etc. But as these numbers began to drop in the 1960s, they began to trust American social science to inform their understanding of American political dynamics. I have not focused on American domestic political behavior as a priority for recapitalization (except in the agenda for hierarchical psychodrama models): However I would not want to rule-out American political behavior as an area for recapitalization if NAS/NRC advisory panels believe that breakthroughs are possible and want to develop ideas.

Perhaps comparative electoral/political behavior would be a good way to frame the research program, comparing across the new Group of 20 (memo # 135)?

Lloyd