

Date: Fri, 30 Oct 2009 14:31:06 -0400

To: "Dr. Baruch Fischhoff - Chair, National Academy study on Improving Intelligence"  
<baruch@cmu.edu>

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

**Subject: 20. Increasing Compassion**

Dear Dr. Fischhoff and colleagues:

Re the new dimension of Political Opportunity analysis in DNI briefings & background reports prepared for President Obama: Since there now is \$75 billion/year to spend, it might be very worthwhile for your advisory committee to contact APA, formally and/or informally, to ask for 1-2 page memos from leading scientists about promising R&D to increase compassion.

**Increasing Compassion**

Increasing compassion would be one of our best investments for a safer and better world for everyone. And probably more cost-effective than arms races. It is accepted as a serious and legitimate strategic idea: There is a direct arc that leads from the Robbers Cave experiment to David Hamburg's Carnegie Commission on the Prevention of Deadly Conflict, to off-the-record meetings with leading news organizations, to the increased global coverage of shared humanitarian concerns and high-visibility responses to humanitarian emergencies.

There are honest and genuine new initiatives that can help to do this. The [www.smartglobalhealth.org](http://www.smartglobalhealth.org) Commission is looking for ideas, reportedly with a promise of \$10 billion in new funding from the Obama Administration, Gates and Kaiser Foundations, etc.

The saying among historians, re the effectiveness rate of Christianity & its theories (e.g., preaching at people) of how to create a better world, was: "Onward and upward, at 2% a century . . ." If you ask for advice from APA, good social science may make it possible to go faster.

The deeper challenge for DNI analysis & a learning component in DNI briefings/reports is to find ways to spend money that, beyond benefits to people who urgently need help, also supports

new and healthy elements in public awareness and global culture.

LE

Dr. Lloyd S. Etheredge - Fellow, World Academy of Art & Science  
Policy Sciences Center Inc.

127 Wall St., Room 322 - Box 208215

New Haven, CT 06520-8215

URL: [www.policyscience.net](http://www.policyscience.net)

301-365-5241 (v); [lloyd.etheredge@policyscience.net](mailto:lloyd.etheredge@policyscience.net) (email)