

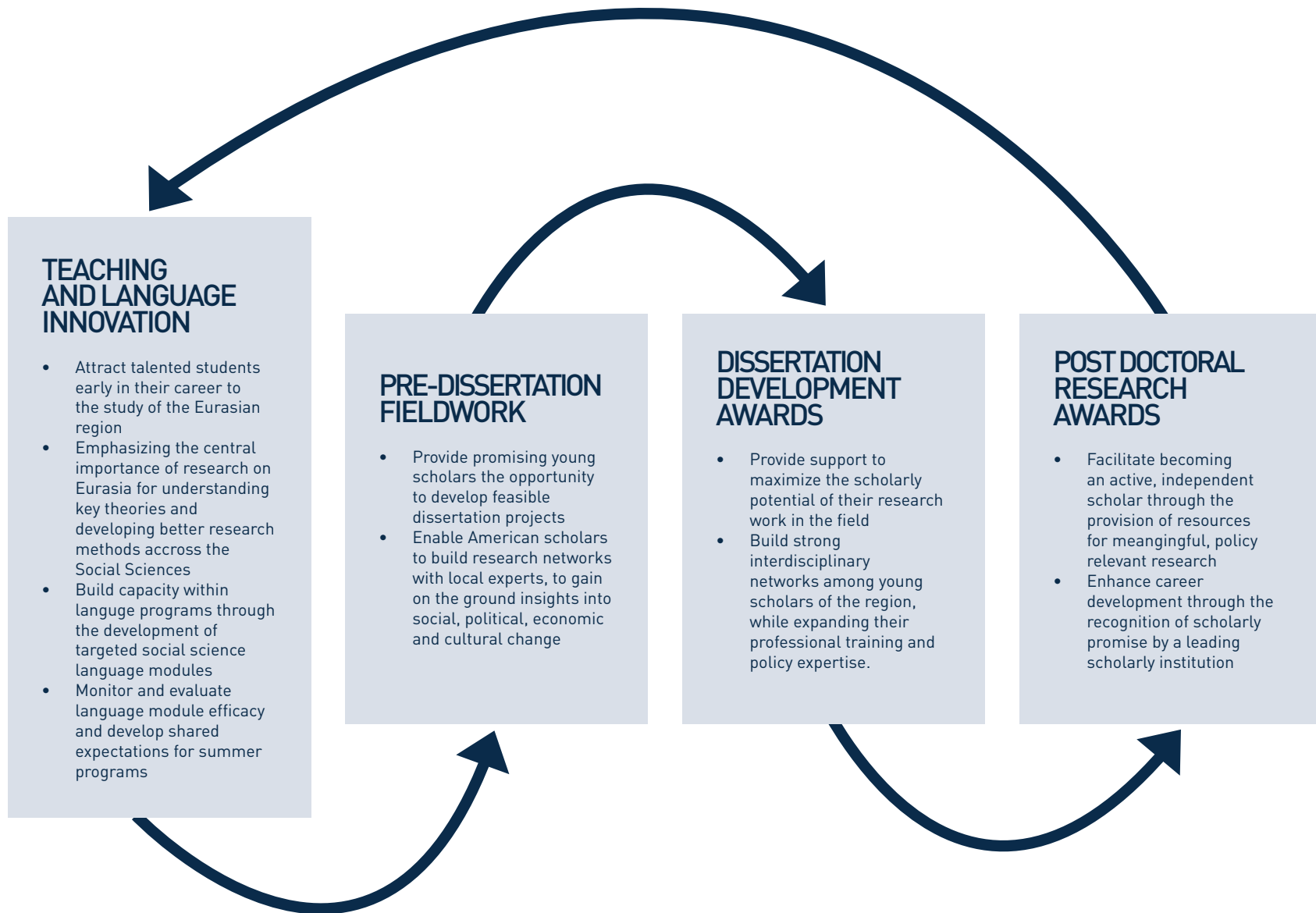
Strengthening America's Strategic Intellectual Infrastructure: The SSRC Eurasia Program

U. S. Department of State, March 24 2011

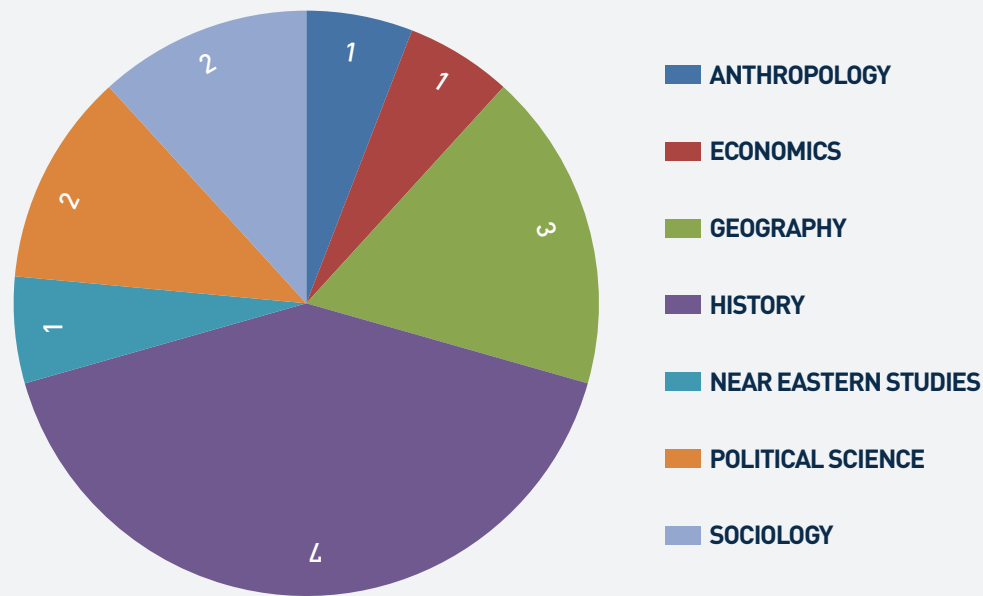
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STRENGTHENING AMERICA'S STRATEGIC INTELLECTUAL INFRASTRUCTURE THROUGH STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS: SSRC EURASIA PROGRAM FELLOWSHIPS



SSRC EURASIA PROGRAM TEACHING GRANTS, BY DISCIPLINE 2002-2007



SUMMARY STATISTICS ON SSRC TEACHING GRANTS, 2002-2007 (N=17)

- 53% Male
- A substantial focus on Central Asia and the southern Caucasus is found in 13 of the 17 new courses
- 82% of grant recipients were Associate Professors
- Yearly application numbers were modest, but of high quality
- 82% of awards were granted for upper division undergraduate courses

SUMMARY EVALUATION FINDINGS

(survey of all recipients with a 60% response rate, semi-structured interviews with five recipients)

- 36 % of the newly developed courses attracted enrollments of 40+ students
- Over 70% of respondents reported cross listing their course with at least one additional department, a high level of interdisciplinarity
- 64% of respondents indicated their new course was now a regularly offered part of their departments offerings
- 80% of respondents rated the grant as a "very important" motivator for teaching innovation

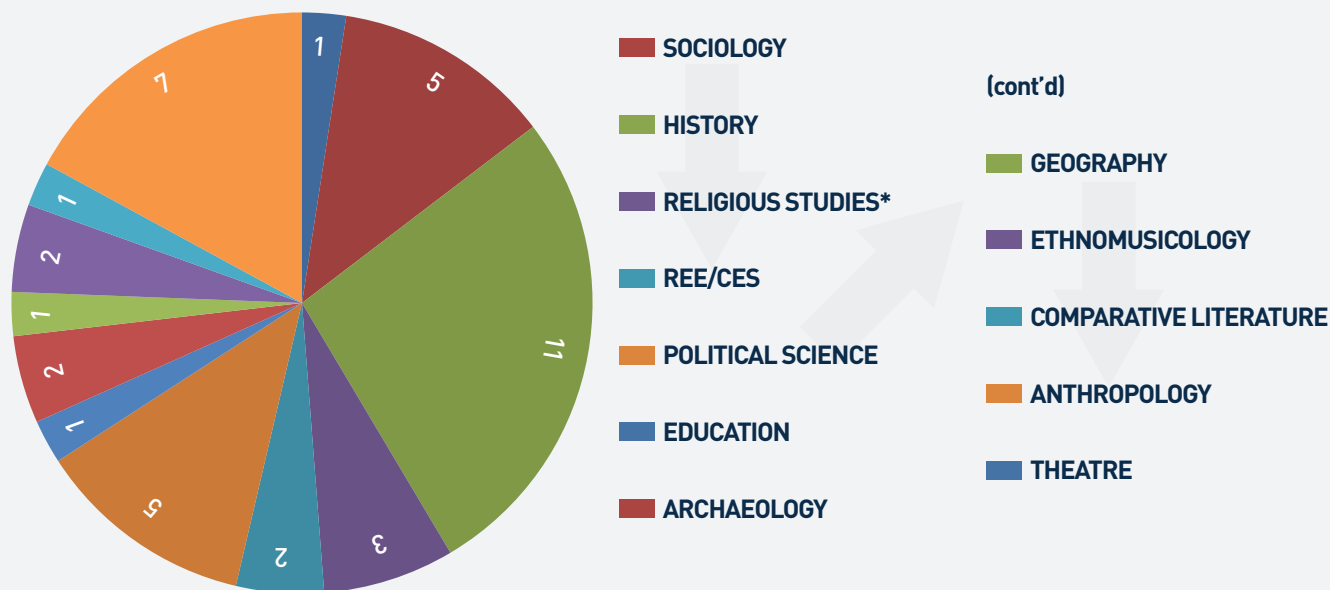
COMMENTS

“ More than the money that it provided, it was a wonderful opportunity to impress upon departmental & college faculty/ administrators the need for such area-content courses”

“ I used this award to develop two courses from scratch and revise another. These courses constitute the core of my area studies offerings and enabled students to gain a firm foundation in the history, geography, politics, culture and economics of Eurasia.roughly two to four students per year expressed an interest in furthering their study of the region. An addition three to four students made Central Asia their Peace Corps regional choice.”

SSRC EURASIA PROGRAM PRE-DISSERTATION RESEARCH AWARDS*, 1999-2008: PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND KEY EVALUATION RESULTS

*Also known as the Advanced Graduate Training Fellowship



(cont'd)

- GEOGRAPHY
- ETHNOMUSICOLOGY
- COMPARATIVE LITERATURE
- ANTHROPOLOGY
- THEATRE

SUMMARY STATISTICS ON SSRC PRE-DISSERTATION AWARD RECIPIENTS, 1999-2008

- 41.5% Male
- 100% received award in the first three years of graduate study
- 90% used the grants for preliminary field research in Eurasia
- As of 2/2011, 97.5% advanced to candidacy
- Less than half (49%), from Universities with Eurasian Title VI Centers

SUMMARY EVALUATION FINDINGS

(survey of all recipients with a 62% response rate, semi-structured interviews with 8 recipients)

- 65% of evaluation respondents report filing for ethical review at their home institutions prior to award travel
- 80% of evaluation respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the statement that the award, "enabled me to significantly enhance my methodological skills"
- 64% of evaluation respondents reported having advanced to candidacy (defending their dissertation proposal) within one year of the award.
- 87% of all respondents report maintaining strong research engagement in Eurasia

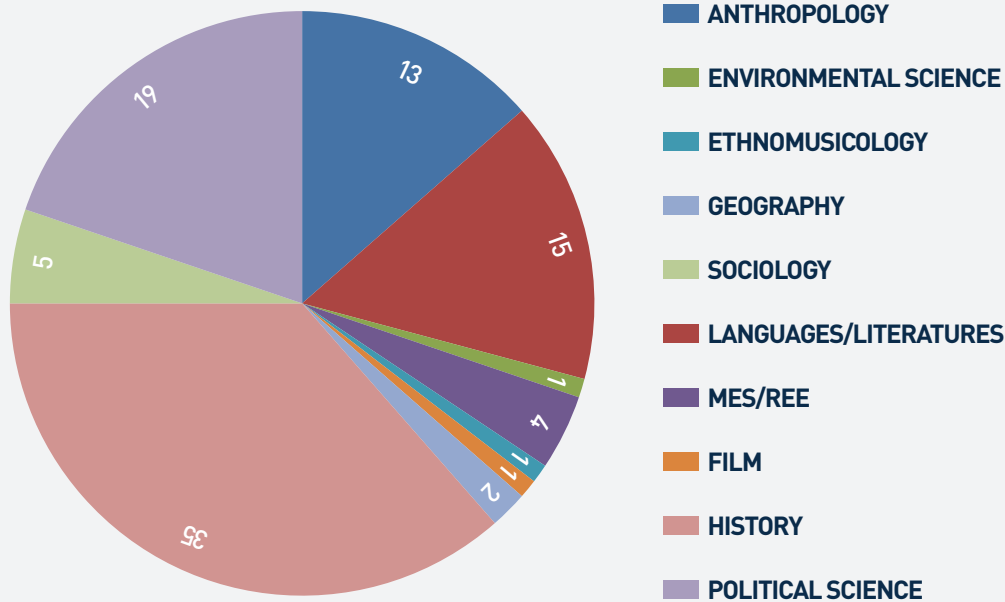
COMMENTS

“ Without it, my dissertation research abroad would have taken longer and have been considerably less effective”

“ I would just add that this fellowship is critical ... The on-site research allows one to do all of the above... The colloquial language exposure, creation of scholarly connections, preliminary fieldwork and methodological experience are all equally important aspects of the training. Offering assistance.... in the early stages of research allows more work to be done in depth and with realistic grounding”

SSRC EURASIA PROGRAM DISSERTATION DEVELOPMENT* AWARDS BY DISCIPLINE, 1997-2010

*Includes Dissertation Write-Up Awards and Dissertation Fellowships. Please note no awards were funded in 2009.



SUMMARY STATISTICS ON SSRC WRITE-UP AWARD RECIPIENTS, 1997-2010 (N=96)

- 44% Male
- Over 18% of all awards relate to research in the regions of Central Asia and the southern Caucasus
- Over 95% remain active researchers and scholars with a significant focus on Eurasia
- Supported dissertation research, 1997-2010, has garnered 8 ASEEEES (AAASS) book awards and honorable mentions to date.

SUMMARY EVALUATION FINDINGS

- 89 % completion rate within 24 months of award between 1997 and 2007
- Over 90% of Fellows remain engaged in Eurasian research and teaching
- Several fellows are engaged in various forms of government service, but more needs to be done to raise awareness employment options outside of the academy

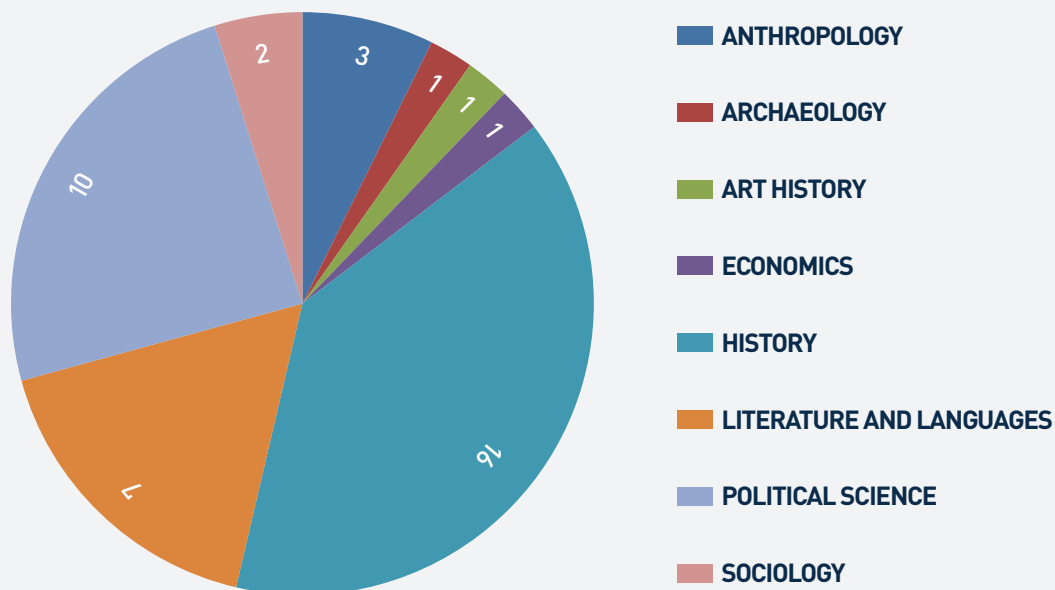
COMMENTS

“While my University has a strong Eurasia program, it was very useful to meet with other students at the same stage of the dissertation writing process. Their comments were more useful than the peer feedback from my home University”

“The new academic reality is that nearly no one is hired until the dissertation is complete...Write-up support is necessary, or we will lose placements”

“Get this program back at all costs. Without uninterrupted time to carefully craft the dissertation, the time and resources spent in the archives and in the field are wasted.....I believe this grant helped significantly speed the publication of my dissertation”

SSRC EURASIA PROGRAM POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCH AWARDS, 1999-2007: PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND KEY EVALUATION RESULTS



SUMMARY STATISTICS ON SSRC POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCH AWARD RECIPIENTS, 1999-2007 (N=41)

- 48.8% Male
- Over 25% of all awards relate to research in the regions of Central Asia and the southern Caucasus
- 100% remain active researchers and scholars with a significant focus on Eurasia
- As of 2/2011, 73% of the 1997-2007 recipients are now tenured faculty members (Assoc. or Full Professors)
- Supported research has garnered 3 ASEEES (AAASS) book awards and 6 honorable mentions in the past 10 years.

SUMMARY EVALUATION FINDINGS

(semi-structured conversations with 5 selection committee members and 20 recipients)

- Selection Committee interviews were unanimous in support of the program, but stressed the importance of raising application numbers, especially in disciplines other than History
- 85% of recipients interviewed noted administrative challenges regarding the award, stressing the need for University involvement to enhance recognition
- Recipients noted that the flexibility of the award significantly increased their ability to use funds efficiently

COMMENTS

“The program is well administered and organized”

“This award is important. It provides a valuable symbol of confidence for young scholars from a highly respected institution”

“With budgets growing tighter at Universities, it is important to reinstitute this program. I do not know how new professors can maintain research without something like this”