CALL FOR PROPOSALS TO PRESENT AT
Workshop: An Interdisciplinary Conference on Using Social Science to Improve Health Outcomes

The Center for Political Studies (CPS), part of the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan, is holding a special conference on scientific communication June 16-18, 2016. This is a call for proposals to present a white paper at the conference.

The conference, funded by the National Science Foundation and CPS, will focus on ways to improve communication of critical medical and public health information to non-academic audiences. The event will bring together experts on science communication, scholars working to improve public health messaging, and social scientists who focus on the psychological foundations of how people learn.

The goal is to bring into contact experts from scholarly populations that do not regularly interact but who have potentially important insights to offer one another. Public health researchers who study attempts to communicate critical information to individual patients or large public audiences can convey ongoing challenges and opportunities for improving quality of life through better communication. Social scientists who study whether and how people pay attention to, and process, information in a range of complex and competitive environments can clarify communication strategies that are, and are not, likely to may not have their desired effects. The conference is based on the premise that increased interactions between these two groups of scholars, and with communication professionals who also seek to convey medical and health information more effectively, can produce broad and lasting improvements in individual and public health.

We will accept applications to present white papers of 1000 to 2500 words (all inclusive). Each white paper for the conference should incorporate important or recent advances in one’s area of expertise as a foundation for proposing more effective ways for others to communicate valuable information more effectively. We especially encourage applications from researchers who specialize in public health or health care communication, and researchers from groups underrepresented in the natural sciences and social sciences.

Most of the white papers will be presented by experts specifically invited by the organizers. We expect to invite two to four additional presenters as a result of this call for applications. Those interested in attending the conference and receiving travel expenses reimbursed plus an honorarium should send the following to kkollman@umich.edu by December 1, 2015. Successful applications will be notified by January 20, 2016.

1) A letter of application
2) An abstract of the proposed white paper
3) A CV
4) (If still in graduate training), two letters of recommendation
5) Optional: an unpublished piece of writing.

The Conference Organization Committee:

Ken Kollman
Arthur Lupia
Michael Traugott
Nicholas Valentino