



Berkeley Initiative for  
Transparency in the Social Sciences

# Leamer-Rosenthal Prizes for Open Social Science

## Prize Guidelines

### Quick Reference

**Total Prize Money Available:** \$60,000 for Emerging Researchers, \$20,000 for Leaders in Education

**Individual Prizes:** \$10,000-\$15,000 for Emerging Researchers, \$10,000 for Leaders in Education

**Nomination Deadline:** 11:59 PM (US Pacific Time) Wednesday September 30, 2015

**Online Nomination Form:** <https://cega.submittable.com/submit/42677>

### Background

Transparency is integral to the validity of social science research – especially when this research informs policy and affects the lives of millions around the world. Today, researchers are not explicitly rewarded for disclosing their data collection and analysis methods, registering detailed pre-analysis plans, or making data and other research materials available to the public.

In order to promote transparent research, and to offer recognition and visibility to scholars practicing open social science, the John Templeton Foundation is generously supporting the Berkeley Initiative for Transparency in the Social Sciences (BITSS) to launch prizes named for pioneers who helped lay the foundations of research transparency: economist Edward E. Leamer and psychologist Robert Rosenthal.

### Prize Recipients

There are two groups of prize recipients: **Emerging Researchers** and **Leaders in Education**. In addition to receiving the cash award of \$10,000 – \$15,000, selected recipients will be invited to present at the BITSS Annual Meeting in Berkeley, California in December 2015. Recipients may be also invited to participate in transparency sessions at disciplinary meetings and conventions, and exchange with policy-makers at a workshop in Washington, DC. Travel expenses will be covered.

## Prizes for Emerging Researchers

**Total Prize Money Available:** \$60,000

**Individual Prizes:** \$10,000-\$15,000

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### Categories

- (1) **Practice.** This category is for Emerging Researchers who demonstrate exceptionally transparent and reproducible research practices. Examples of this include study registration, use of pre-analysis plans, and making data, code, and other study materials accessible.<sup>1</sup>
- (2) **Research.** This category is for Emerging Researchers who are advancing our understanding of transparency and/or methodological tools through their research. Their research will be assessed on (i) **significance**, (ii) **soundness of methodology**, and (iii) **transparency**.<sup>2</sup>

### Disciplines

One prize award will be made in each of the following disciplines: (i) **Economics**, (ii) **Political Science**, and (iii) **Psychology**. The remaining prize awards will be made contingent on receiving enough eligible nominees. These can be awarded as additional prizes in one of the above disciplines, or in another social science field (e.g. sociology, demography, geography, biostatistics).

### Eligibility

Eligible nominees include: (i) **Doctoral Students**, (ii) **Postdoctoral Researchers**, and (iii) **Junior Faculty** (untenured, within 3 years of PhD completion) at higher education institutions. **We are accepting nominations of both US and non-US citizens, as well as those working at non-US institutions.**

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<sup>1</sup> **More detail on these examples includes:**

**Pre-Registration.** Has the nominee pre-registered a study? Did that registration follow a reporting protocol?

**Pre-Analysis Plans.** Has the nominee developed a pre-analysis plan? If available, did the final analysis follow the pre-analysis plan? If not, how carefully documented was the justification for the exploratory research?

**Data, Code, and Other Study Materials Availability.** Has the nominee made their data available on a repository? If so, is it available in a non-proprietary, universal file type or available for use in various statistical packages? Is the data well documented –with metadata, a codebook, or readme file? Is the code available on a trusted repository? Was the code written using a version control platform? Is the code “iterate programming” (i.e. is it well commented and clearly explains the analysis? If the research included original data collection, is the accompanying material (e.g. surveys) publicly available? Does the project have an Open Science Framework website?

<sup>2</sup> **These assessments will reflect on the following:**

**Significance.** What does the study add to the existing literature on transparency and how important is the contribution? Do the policy or relevant implications of the study have the potential to improve research and publishing norms on a large scale?

**Soundness of methodology.** Is the methodology rigorous? Are the assumptions motivating the analysis reasonable? Is the research design clear and well-articulated?

**Transparency.** Was the study pre-registered? Was data and code made publicly available? Does the study provide a methodology section sufficiently detailed to allow for its replication?

## Prizes for Leaders in Education

**Total Prize Money Available:** \$20,000

**Individual Prizes:** \$10,000

**Nomination Deadline:** 11:59 PM (US Pacific Time) Wednesday September 30, 2015

**Online Nomination Form:** <https://cega.submittable.com/submit/42677>

### Summary

These prizes will reward university faculty who have **developed a curriculum on research transparency, or incorporated at least three lectures on the topic into a relevant course.** The objective of this prize is to mainstream the teaching of open and transparent research practices, equipping the next generation of researchers with the most reliable, reproducible, and valid methods to advance scientific frontiers. Nominations will be assessed on the curriculum or lectures' (i) **impact**, (ii) **subject matter**, and (iii) **quality of instruction and applicability**.<sup>3</sup>

### Disciplines

There are **no disciplinary restrictions**; nominees can come from any social science.

### Eligibility

Eligible nominees include **instructors and/or faculty who teach at higher education institutions. We are accepting nominations of both US and non-US citizens, as well as those working at non-US institutions.**

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<sup>3</sup> **Nomination will be assessed by:**

**Impact.** How many students were enrolled in the course? Is the course likely to be offered in following years and will additional sections be added? Does the class provide exportable course material such as a complete syllabus, PowerPoint presentations and sample exam and problem set questions?

**Subject Matter.** How focused is the course on transparency? How in-depth is the course material? Does the class incorporate the latest tools and methods used to increase transparency? Is the class interdisciplinary?

**Quality of Instruction and Applicability.** How clearly is the material presented? Does the class equip students with practical and novel approaches for conducting transparent research? Does the class make it easy for students to apply what they learn in their dissertation or some other research project?

## Nomination Instructions

- ☐ **Go to <https://cega.submittable.com/submit/42677> to submit a nomination.**
- ☐ **Select prize.**  
There are two groups of prizes: (i) Prizes for Emerging Researchers and (ii) Prizes for Leaders in Education. If you select Prizes for Emerging Researchers, please indicate either the Practice or Research category.
- ☐ **Nominate yourself or nominate someone else.**
- ☐ **Write a brief nomination justification.**  
Provide a maximum 1000 word justification describing the nominee's work in transparency.
- ☐ **Provide up to 3 links to documentation that support the nomination.**  
Include least one link to publicly accessible documentation associated with the nominee's work in transparency.
  - For [Emerging Researchers](#), these may be links to documentation that support their practice in research transparency (such as links to pre-registration, pre-analysis plans, data repositories, etc), or links to documentation that presents their research topic (such as the research publication or working paper).
  - For [Leaders in Education](#), these may be links to documentation that support their teaching practice of research transparency, such as a course syllabi, PPT, or workshop agenda where they have taught research transparency methods.

## Prize Judges

Nominations will be assessed by a review committee composed of seven judges, out of which a minimum of three judges will be external to BITSS, its Board, and Executive Committee. Judges will also represent a minimum of three social science disciplines and be drawn from the editorial board of academic journals, donor organizations, professional society committees, and government agencies.