



Berkeley Initiative for
Transparency in the Social Sciences

Leamer-Rosenthal Prizes for Open Social Science 2016 Prize Guidelines

Quick Reference

Total Prize Money: \$20k for Leaders in Education | \$60k for Emerging Researchers

Individual Prizes: \$10k for Leaders in Education | \$10k-\$15k for Emerging Researchers

Nomination Deadline: 11:59 PM (U.S. Pacific Time) Friday, September 16, 2016

Online Nomination Form: <http://cega.submittable.com/submit/58047>

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 Categories

There are two prize categories: Leaders in Education and Emerging Researchers. 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 2016. Recipients will also be invited to participate in research transparency and reproducibility sessions at disciplinary meetings and conventions, and exchange with policy-makers at a workshop in Washington, DC. Travel expenses will be covered.

Leaders in Education

Total Prize Money: \$20,000 | **Individual Prizes:** \$10,000 each

This category recognizes university faculty who have developed a curriculum on research transparency, or incorporated at least 3 lectures on the topic into a relevant course. The objective of this category is to mainstream the teaching of open and transparent research, equipping the next generation with the most reliable and reproducible methods to advance scientific frontiers. Nominations will be assessed on the curriculum or lecture (i) impact, (ii) subject matter, and (iii) quality of instruction and applicability.¹

Disciplines: There are no disciplinary restrictions; nominees come from any social science.

Eligible nominees include: Faculty who teach at higher education institutions.

¹ **Nomination will be assessed by:**

Impact: How many students have taken their course? Is the course likely to be offered in following years and will additional sections be added? Does the course provide exportable material such as a complete syllabus, slide decks, sample exams, and problem set questions?

Subject Matter: How focused is the course on transparency? How in-depth is the material? Does the class incorporate latest tools and methods 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?

Emerging Researchers

Total Prize Money: \$60,000 | Individual Prizes: \$10,000-\$15,000 each

The objective of this category is to acknowledge and incentivize open, transparent, reproducible research by graduate students and early-career researchers and faculty.

Emerging Researchers may be recognized for any and all of the following:

- **Practice** – 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.²
- **Research** – Advance our understanding of how to practice transparent, reproducible research through research leadership in areas of meta-analysis, meta-research, and study of how to improve the scientific process.
- **Innovation** – Advance the practice of transparent, reproducible research through innovative thinking and development of new tools and methods that improve the scientific process.

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

Eligible nominees include: (i) Doctoral Students, (ii) Postdoctoral Researchers, (iii) Junior Faculty (un-tenured, within 5 years of PhD completion) at higher education institutions.

² More detail on these examples:

Pre-Reg: Has the nominee pre-registered a study? Did 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, was the justification for exploratory research well-documented?

Data, code, and other study materials: Has the nominee made data available on a repository? If so, is it in a non-proprietary, universal file type, or available in various statistical packages? Is the data well-documented – with metadata, a codebook, or readme? Is the code available on a trusted repository? Was it written using version control? Is it “literate programming” (i.e. well-commented and explains the analysis)? If research included original data collection, are accompanying materials (e.g. surveys) publicly available? Does the project have an Open Science Framework page?

Nomination Instructions

- ☐ Go to <http://cega.submittable.com/submit/58047> to submit a nomination.
- ☐ Select prize category: Leaders in Education or Emerging Researchers.
- ☐ Nominate yourself or nominate someone else.
- ☐ Write a brief nomination justification. Provide a maximum 1000 word justification describing the nominee's work in research transparency and reproducibility.
- ☐ Provide up to 3 links for documentation that supports the nomination. At least one link to publicly accessible documentation associated with the nominee's work in transparency must be provided.

Leaders in Education: These may be links to documentation that supports their courses or lectures, such as a course syllabi, PPT, or workshop agenda where they have taught research transparency methods.

Emerging Researchers: These may be links to documentation that supports their research practice (such as links to pre-registration, pre-analysis plans, data repositories), or link to documentation that presents their research topic (such as the research publication or working paper) or innovation.

Prize Selection

Nominations will be assessed by a review committee composed of seven reviewers, out of which a minimum of three reviewers will be external to BITSS, its Board, and Executive Committee. Reviewers 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.