Release date: Monday, August 14, 2023

Request for Proposals
Catalyst Grants for Advancing Transparent, Reproducible, and Ethical Research

Quick Reference

Proposed Award Budgets: should be between $1,000 and $10,000 for projects led by *anyone* who meets the eligibility criteria
Average Award Size: Between $2,000 - $5,000
Total Funding available: $23,000
Eligibility: Members of the BITSS Catalyst network and RT2 participants who are interested in becoming Catalysts
Submission requirements: Complete this form by 11:59 pm PT on ***Sunday, December 3, 2023*** (attachments may also be sent via the form).
Expected Performance period: January 2024 - June 2024

Summary

The Berkeley Initiative for Transparency in the Social Sciences (BITSS) invites 2023 RT2 participants and all Catalysts who have participated in a Research Transparency and Reproducibility Training (RT2) to submit proposals for training or organizing projects. These may include developing and delivering new curriculum, workshops, training materials, or hosting convenings to advance transparency, reproducibility, and ethics capacity in social science research.

A total of $23,000 is available for this call. Proposals will be assessed based on quality and expected impact. We will further make an effort to support a diversity of project leads, intended audiences, and approaches. We strongly encourage proposals from early career researchers who have not received a BITSS Catalyst grant in the past, as well as from existing Catalysts who can continue their work using a top-up award. We encourage submissions that leverage teaching topics introduced at RT2 and resources developed by BITSS (e.g., the Social Science Prediction Platform, the Social Science Reproduction Platform), or work to translate these topics for disciplines or sectors underrepresented at RT2.

Scope for Catalyst Projects

Funding will be primarily directed to projects that advance the teaching, conduct, or publishing of transparent, reproducible, and ethical social science research. These projects will be focused on, but not limited to, one or more social science disciplines, including economics, political science, public health, psychology, and sociology. Project deliverables must be completed by **June 30, 2024**.

Proposed projects should fall under one of the following categories:

(1) Curricula and coursework at the university level

Design new undergraduate- or graduate-level academic courses or modules thereof with content that focuses on transparency, reproducibility, and ethics concepts or practices, or integrating these themes into existing courses. Course formats may vary depending on their goals, with content organized as lectures, labs, practicums, seminars, or reading groups for example. Proposals for confirmed courses will be prioritized over those for aspirational courses. Letters of support from partner instructors, department officials, or curriculum coordinators are encouraged.

(2) Workshops, boot-camps, or other trainings

Design and deliver workshops, boot-camps, or other trainings the content of which focus on transparency, reproducibility, and ethics concepts, practices, or tools. These trainings may vary in length or by targeted audiences depending on the theme, content, and available resources. Applicants may elect to use competitive application processes if demand is expected to exceed available space—if this is the case, proposals should include clear plans for fair and equitable selection processes.

(3) Development of training materials, guidance, or protocols for organizations

Develop and share materials for training, guiding, or governing research at organizational levels. Intended audiences for these materials may include, but are not limited to, academic departments, labs, professional associations, and other research organizations. Letters of support from institutional partners are encouraged.

(4) Convenings for consensus building, planning, or organizing

Organize convenings, symposia, working groups, or workshops to discuss, build consensus on, plan the operationalization of, or otherwise advance research transparency, reproducibility, or ethics. Themes might include the causes of limited transparency, reproducibility, or ethics; facilitating the uptake of new methods, practices, or tools in research and publishing; or strategies for advocacy or organizing. If coordinating with an existing convening, please provide confirmation of your event's acceptance by the convening's organizing body.

(5) Other relevant projects

BITSS invites proposals for other training projects, the content or theme of which is relevant to the Catalyst program[1] and the BITSS mission. Some examples include:
- Hosting a Replication Games where all participants must record their replications on the SSRP
- Transparency in policy analysis (i.e. trainings for open science tools in a government institution)
- Transparency for machine learning and AI

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[1] For examples of past Catalyst training projects, see: http://www.bitss.org/project-tag/catalyst-project/

- Implementing the SSRP/SSPP into graduate-level curricula (indicate a clear path to using the platforms)
- Host a training session on how to write a good forecasting survey
- Forecasting in other fields/government organizations
- Other training materials - video clip instructing how to use the SSRP/SSPP
- and so on!

For questions regarding eligibility, please contact Grace Han at grace.han24@berkeley.edu.

In addition to their own materials, applicants are welcome and encouraged to utilize resources such as RT2 materials, the Social Science Prediction Platform, the Social Science Reproduction Platform, the BITSS Resource Library, the BITSS MOOC "Transparent and Open Social Science Research," MetaArXiv, and materials developed by other Catalysts, as long proper attribution is provided.

Budget and Budget Narrative

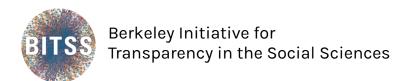Provide an itemized budget in this template, including short justifications for each line.

- **_Eligible spending categories:_** These may include, but are not limited to, compensation for time to develop or implement project plans, virtual event facilitation tools, costs for software or hosting, and other event-related costs. In rare instances, travel costs may be eligible—if travel costs are requested, please explain how travel is critical to the project's success.
- **_Award mechanisms:_** BITSS can make awards to individuals or institutions. If your proposal is accepted, we will work with you to select an appropriate funding mechanism. Please specify in your budget justification if you or your institution have a preferred or required funding mechanism. While we cannot guarantee the use of any specific mechanism, we will take these into consideration. Notes:
   o For US citizens requesting payment via a one-time payment or individual Professional Services Agreement: The Internal Revenue Service will tax your award as "non-employee compensation."
   o Depending on the selected mechanism, awards may take 4-8 weeks to process.
- **_Indirect costs:_** Due to the small size of these grants and prime sponsor requirements, indirect costs are not allowed.
- **_Other sources of funding:_** Please specify if you have financial support from other sources for a similar activity (or set of activities). If so, how much and what is the source?

Assessment Criteria

The BITSS team, with support from previous Catalysts, will evaluate proposals using the following criteria. Not having met all criteria may not disqualify an applicant; proposals will be reviewed holistically.

(1) Impact

Does the proposal demonstrate a clear need within the intended audience, institution, or community? Will the proposed project adequately address this need? Is it likely to reach a sufficient number of students or researchers? Does the project have a realistic and effective plan for communication or promotion?

(2) Feasibility

Can the proposed project be feasibly implemented within existing time, resource, and expertise constraints? Does the budget adequately account for these constraints? Does the proposal identify possible challenges or gaps in information and include a plan to address these? Does support exist at the applicant's (or partner) institution for implementing the project, and if not, is there a clear plan for obtaining buy-in?

(3) Diversity and Innovation

Does the proposed project reach new or underrepresented audiences? Does the applicant represent one or more historically underrepresented group(s)? Will the proposed project develop or test new approaches to training or organizing, or will it contribute new knowledge?

Selection

BITSS will notify all applicants of all proposal decisions via email in early December 2023. Selected projects will be announced on the BITSS website and project abstracts will be posted on the Catalyst projects page.

Reporting Requirements

Awardees will be required to submit a short (1-page) summary of their project outcomes by July 31st, 2024, including attendance, learning and evaluation outcomes, lessons, and next steps. By the same date, teams are expected to make their training materials public on the BITSS website. . Training materials should attribute "the Berkeley Initiative for Transparency in the Social Sciences (BITSS), managed by the Center for Effective Global Action (CEGA), as a funding source." If desired, teams may adapt their internal reports into a short guest post for the BITSS blog.