SUMMER INSTITUTE IN COMPUTATIONAL SOCIAL SCIENCE - JUNE 16-29, 2019
APPLICATION DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2019

The Russell Sage Foundation (RSF) and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation will sponsor the 3rd Summer Institute in Computational Social Science (SICSS), to be held at Princeton University on June 16-29, 2019. The co-organizers and principal faculty are Matthew Salganik (Princeton) and Chris Bail (Duke).

The institute will bring together about 30 graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, and beginning faculty interested in computational social science (CSS). The institute is for both social scientists and data scientists (broadly conceived). The co-organizers and principal faculty are Christopher Bail (Duke) and Matthew Salganik (Princeton). In addition to the event at Princeton, there will also be several partner locations run by alumni of the 2017 and 2018 SICSS, which will be hosted at other universities.

The program will involve lectures, group problem sets, and participant-led research projects. There will also be outside speakers who conduct CSS research in a variety of settings, such as academia, industry, and government. Topics covered include text as data, website scraping, digital field experiments, non-probability sampling, mass collaboration, and ethics. There will be ample opportunities for students to discuss their ideas and research with the organizers, other participants, and visiting speakers. Because we are committed to open and reproducible research, all materials created by faculty and students for the institute will be released open source.

Participants with less experience with social science research will be expected to complete additional readings in advance, and participants with less experience coding will be expected to complete a set of online learning modules on the R programming language. Students doing this preparatory work will be supported by a teaching assistant who will hold online office hours during the two months before the institute.

We welcome applicants from all backgrounds and fields of study, especially applicants from groups currently under-represented in CSS. We evaluate applicants along a number of dimensions: 1) research and teaching in CSS, 2) contributions to public goods, such as creating open source software, curating public datasets, and creating educational opportunities for others, 3) likelihood to benefit from participation, 4) likelihood to contribute to the educational experience of other participants, 5) potential to spread CSS to new intellectual communities and areas of research, and 6) career stage and previous educational opportunities.

More information about the SICSS, including materials from previous years, can be found at: compsocialscience.github.io/summer-institute/2019.

Eligibility
Participation is restricted to Ph.D. students, postdoctoral researchers, and untenured faculty within 7 years of their Ph.D. There are no restrictions based on citizenship, country of study, or country of employment.

How to Apply
Applications must be submitted via the RSF online application portal, Fluxx.

1. Create an account or log in to your existing account. **Allow up to 48 hours for a new account to be approved; please register by February 14, 2019**
2. Start a new “Summer Institute” application and select “Computational Social Science.”
3. Submit the following documents:
   (i) a curriculum vitae
   (ii) a statement (maximum three pages) describing both any current research and your interest in CSS (especially as it relates to RSF research priorities such as behavioral economics, social inequality, future of work, and immigration)
   (iii) one writing sample (maximum 35 pages). Co-authored work is acceptable for the writing sample, but if you submit co-authored work, we recommend that you include a few sentences describing the contributions of each individual author.

For Ph.D. student and postdoctoral researcher applicants only, please also provide:
   (iv) two letters of recommendation from faculty advisors. These should be as informative as possible about your standing in your program, general ability, research potential, and (if applicable) special interest in CSS.

All application materials, including letters of recommendations, must be submitted before February 20, 2019. Organizers will notify applicants solely through e-mail in mid-March and will ask selected applicants to confirm their participation shortly thereafter.

Inquiries can be sent to rsfcompsocsci@gmail.com. Technical questions about the application portal (Fluxx) can be sent to grantsmgt@rsage.org.