SOCIAL SCIENCE SUMMER INSTITUTE FOR JOURNALISTS – JULY 17-19, 2019
APPLICATION DEADLINE: MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2019

The Russell Sage Foundation (RSF) will sponsor and host the 3rd Social Science Summer Institute for Journalists (SSSII) from July 17 to 19, 2019. The co-organizers and principal faculty of the Institute are Nicholas Lemann (Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism) and Talli Woodward (The Trace).

RSF, founded in 1907 "for the improvement of social and living conditions in the United States," is the country's preeminent funder of social science research. In recent years, it has sponsored pioneering research on the growth of economic inequality and its consequences, inequities in educational achievement and attainment, the impacts of immigration, and racial tensions over urban policing. These and similar topics are frequent subjects of work by journalists, but many journalists are not trained in how to use the rich resources of social science to enhance their work. The summer institute aims to provide that training.

The institute will teach journalists how to locate the best available social science research on their topics quickly, how to identify and interact fruitfully with leading experts, and how to read academic publications for their journalistic relevance. Beyond that, we believe that some of the ways social scientists conduct inquiries can be adapted by journalists to their own work. Social science concepts like study design, hypothesis testing, causation and correlation, independent and dependent variables, false positives and false negatives, inductive and deductive reasoning, and the "denominator problem," all have their uses not just for understanding research, but in doing journalism. The workshop will also include skills instruction in social-science techniques that journalists can understand or in some cases use themselves. These might include statistical literacy, ethnography, and conducting literature reviews.

The program will involve instructional sessions in the morning and application-oriented sessions in the afternoon. Guest speakers, both journalists and social scientists, will help with both the instructional and application aspects of the program, and will point journalists toward current topics where interaction with social science may be useful.

Eligibility
Participation is restricted to U.S.-based journalists reporting on issues relevant to the foundation.

How to Apply
Applications must be submitted via the RSF online application portal, Fluxx (rsf.fluxx.io).

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 March 15, 2019**
2. Start a new "Summer Institute" application and select "Social Science for Journalists."
3. Submit the following documents:
   (i) a statement (maximum three pages) describing both your current work and your interest in social science research (especially as it relates to RSF's research programs)
   (ii) an abbreviated curriculum vitae;
   (iii) writing samples (no more than 20 pages total).

Complete applications must be received by Monday, April 1, 2019. We will notify applicants solely through e-mail, by end of May, and will ask participants to confirm their participation very soon thereafter.

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