

BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE WORKSHOP

Building Infrastructure for International Collaborative Research

by Jennifer Lansford, Duke University

On September 22-24, 2013, the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, DC convened a workshop entitled "Building Infrastructure for International Collaborative Research in the Social and Behavioral Sciences." The workshop was designed as a follow-up to a workshop held in 2006 at which the overall landscape of international collaborative research was examined, and a number of challenges and issues were identified. The original workshop resulted in a widely-circulated [report](#). The 2013 workshop focused on ways in which universities and collaborative projects have attempted to meet challenges involved in international research.

The workshop was co-chaired by SRCD members Judith Torney-Purta and Oscar Barbarin. Other participating SRCD members included Lonnie Sherrod in his role as Executive Director of SRCD, Martha Zaslow in her role as Director of SRCD's Office for Policy and Communications, and Melissa Menzer who is now with the National Endowment for the Arts. The workshop was organized around four panel presentations and discussions:

- Elements of the organizational infrastructure in the behavioral and social sciences that facilitate international research collaborations (including a presentation by SRCD member Merry Bullock);
- Lead-in and planning in international research collaboration (including a presentation by SRCD member Charles Super);
- Issues in the conduct of internationally collaborative research (including a presentation by SRCD member Jennifer Lansford); and
- Disseminating the products of internationally collaborative research.

Some issues that frequently impede international research include tenure and training policies that militate against the involvement of graduate students and junior faculty, funding that is insufficient for appropriate dissemination, Institutional Review Board (IRB) policies, identifying potential collaborators, and challenges in new web-based environments. Discussions focused on comparing solutions that have worked for different types of institutions, professional associations, and projects. Panels and discussions presented a number of innovative ideas and identified resources that should prove to be helpful to SRCD members interested in participating in international collaborative research. These ideas will be described in a report of the workshop that will be published in 2014 by the National Academy of Sciences and available on their website

The workshop was hosted by the U.S. National Committee for the International Union of Psychological Sciences and supported by the National Science Foundation and the Spencer Foundation. It sought advice from key actors: scholars experienced in conducting international research, academic officials (including deans and directors of international offices), leaders in professional associations, specialists in IRBs, and specialists from agencies and consortia.

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