Teaching the Social and Behavioral Sciences in K-12 Education: Past, Present, and Future

Keck Building, Room 101
National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine
500 5th Street, NW
Washington, DC

November 17, 2016

Seminar Agenda

Goals and Overview

The goals of this seminar are to understand contemporary efforts to teach social and behavioral science in K-12 education, and determine next steps. This seminar builds on earlier efforts of the Division of the Behavioral and Social Science and Education and others to explore the place of the social and behavioral sciences (SBS) in the K-12 curriculum. Presenters and participants will examine new data on the public perception of SBS in K-12, and the current efforts and goals of five SBS disciplines—psychology, sociology, anthropology, political science, and economics—and possible linkages to the social studies and science curricula. The seminar will conclude with a discussion of priorities within and across these SBS disciplines for supporting the teaching of SBS in the future.

Guiding Questions for the Seminar:

1. Why teach the social and behavioral sciences in K-12? What are the contemporary objectives and drivers for teaching social and behavioral sciences?
2. In this context, what is known and needs to be known about current public awareness and understanding of the social and behavioral sciences?
3. What does the teaching of SBS in K-12 look like—in terms of standards, curricula, instructional materials, professional development? To what degree have current standards and guidelines influenced the development of curricula, instructional materials, and teacher preparation? What are the articulated learning outcomes?
4. What practical issues arise related to the teaching of SBS at the high school and K-8 levels?
5. What potential exists for integrating the study of social and behavioral sciences into science education? What potential exists to further connect teaching of the social and behavioral sciences to current standards for teaching science and social studies? What activity is already occurring—for example, to articulate major concepts, skills, learning progressions, and catalyze systemic support?
6. What are priorities for supporting the teaching of SBS in the future? What specific tasks would you like to accomplish in 2 years, 5 years, 10 years? Are there ways the SBS disciplines should work together to achieve some of these priorities through existing networks and mechanisms for collaboration?
9:30-10:00  Welcome and Introduction
Arthur Lupia, University of Michigan, Chair of the Academies Roundtable on the Communication and Use of Social and Behavioral Sciences

10:00-10:30  Public Perceptions of the Social and Behavioral Sciences
Sheri Roder, Horizon Media

This presentation will feature findings from a recent nationally representative survey examining perceptions of social and behavioral sciences generally and as subject matter in K-12 education.

Discussion

10:30-11:30  Perspectives on SBS K-12 from the Social and Behavioral Science Disciplines
Moderator: Howard Kurtzman, American Psychological Association (Roundtable Member)

Representatives from five major SBS disciplines will share their perspectives on the goals, approaches, standards, challenges and successes in teaching their disciplines across the K-12 curriculum. Participants will share their viewpoints on areas of synergy with other disciplines.

Anthropology in K-12
Ed Leibow, Executive Director
American Anthropological Association

Economics in K-12
Stephen Buckles, Senior Advisor for Program Development
Council for Economic Education

Political Science in K-12
Alison McCartney, Professor
Towson University

Psychology in K-12
Jaime Diaz-Granados, Executive Director Education Directorate
American Psychological Association

Sociology in K-12
Margaret Vitullo, Director, Academic and Professional Affairs
American Sociological Association
11:30-12:15  Working Lunch
Open Discussion and Q&A
Moderator: Arthur Lupia, Roundtable Chair

12:15-12:45  Perspectives from Science Education and Social Studies
Moderator: Arthur Lupia, Roundtable Member

  SBS in Science
  Matt Krehbiel, Associate Director, Science
  Achieve, Inc.

  SBS in Social Studies – The C3 Framework
  Lawrence Paska, Executive Director
  National Council for the Social Studies

Discussion

12:45-1:00  Participant reflection and preparation for Next Steps discussion
On their own, participants will reflect upon the day’s presentations and discussions and their own perspectives to generate at least one idea for a concrete and feasible next step to share in the next session.

1:00-1:45  Next Steps
Moderator: Arthur Lupia, Roundtable Chair

Participants will engage in a moderated discussion to identify achievable short- and long-term goals for members of the SBS community based on the day’s presentations and discussions, and steps for achieving them.

1:45-2:00  Final Remarks

Arthur Lupia, Roundtable Chair

Felice Levine, Roundtable Member and Executive Director, American Educational Research Association

2:00  Adjourn