
ACADEMY UPDATE

Recent Academy Grants

The Academy conducts a varied program of projects, studies, and activities that carry forth its mission of advancing understanding of critical social and intellectual issues. Over the past several months, the Academy has received a record number of grants to support ongoing studies and to develop new initiatives.

Science, Technology, and Global Security

Reconsidering the Rules of Space (\$100,000, W. Alton Jones Foundation). This new study, conducted under the auspices of the Committee on International Security Studies (CISS), will examine the commercial and military uses of space, as well as the legal rules and procedures that should govern them. The scale and social importance of commercial space developments have increased markedly over the past decade in comparison with the initial focal points of space activity: military support and scientific exploration. To achieve a viable balance among these competing interests, the interested parties will have to adjust and elaborate on the current legal arrangements.

John Steinbruner (University of Maryland) is chairing the study, in consultation with **Richard Garwin** (IBM Thomas J. Watson Research Center), **Neal Lane** (Rice University), **Roald Sagdeev** (University of Maryland), **Carl Kaysen** (MIT), and others.

In the spring, CISS will sponsor a workshop on Chinese perceptions of US space development.

Social Policy and Education

Universal Basic and Secondary Education (\$800,000, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation; \$20,000, Sergei Zlinkoff Fund for Medical Research and Education). Under the leadership of **Joel E. Cohen** (Rockefeller University) and **David Bloom** (Har-

vard School of Public Health), this project continues to develop an ambitious program of research on the prospect of providing every child in the world with a good basic and secondary education.

Last September the project convened an international group of experts to discuss a draft paper by **Ellen Lagemann** (Spencer Foundation) on the intellectual and programmatic history of efforts to advance universal education.

This spring, **Emily Hannum** (University of Pennsylvania) and **Claudia Buchman** (Duke University) will lead a workshop to review the results of research on the consequences of the expansion of primary and secondary education from the perspective of economists, sociologists, political scientists, demographers, and experts in the health sciences.

Evaluation and the Academy: Are We Doing the Right Thing? (\$25,000, Carnegie Corporation of New York). This grant made possible the printing and distribution of an Academy report by **Henry Rosovsky** (Harvard University) and **Matthew Hartley** (University of Pennsylvania) on an Academy study of grade inflation and letters of recommendation (see www.amacad.org/publication.htm).

Humanities and Culture

Humanities Indicators (\$250,000, Rockefeller Foundation). The database task force of the Humanities and Culture Initiative has been working to establish a framework for systematic collection of information about the humanities. The Rockefeller grant will fund the Initiative's first publication, *Making the Humanities Count*, which examines the current state of data collection in the disciplines and sets forth the need for a better-coordinated approach to the development of comprehensive databases. The grant will enable the initiative to take the first steps toward shaping a research template that incorporates the best existing efforts and to build incrementally but soundly on that basis.

The Academy continues to convene meetings of the principal stakeholders in the humanities with inter-

ests in data collection and policy research to establish a cooperative working agenda.

Academy Archival Project and 225th Anniversary Celebration

The Academy, in collaboration with the Boston Athenaeum, is developing an archival project to protect its critical documents for future generations and to share its historic legacy with a wider public throughout the Boston area and beyond. The Cabot Family Charitable Trust has awarded the Academy and the Athenaeum grants totaling \$90,000 that will (1) support the beginning of a program designed to preserve irreplaceable records, manuscripts, photographs, and other memorabilia associated with the Academy's history, (2) advance the publication of the Academy's first complete membership directory, and (3) initiate planning for 225th Anniversary activities that will draw on Academy-related historical materials.

New Academy Projects

In the past month, the Committee on Studies, chaired by **Robert McCormick Adams**, has approved two new projects that will carry the imprimatur of the Academy.

Congress and the Court

This study will examine the changing relationship between Congress and the Court by focusing on three issues: the basis for congressional confirmation of court justices, the increasing judicial limitations on congressional power, and the question of statutory interpretation. In March there will be an initial conversation in Washington to examine these concerns with members of Congress and the federal judiciary, legal scholars, and political scientists. The study is led by **Jesse Choper** and **Robert C. Post** (both of UC Berkeley), with a committee including **Linda Greenhouse** (*New York Times*), **Judge Abner Mikva** (University of Chicago), and **Nelson W. Polsby** (UC Berkeley).

Watershed Protection in the United States and Western Europe in the New Millennium

Under the leadership of **Charles Haar** (Harvard Law School), the Academy will hold a preliminary discussion of a potential study of the governmental arrangements needed to deal with the degradation of the environment in this country, in the European Union, and ultimately worldwide. Participants will consider what can be learned from successful transboundary watershed or resource management programs in these areas of the world and whether more innovative and effective regulations might be developed.

New Academy Publications

Daedalus

All Academy members have been mailed a copy of our redesigned quarterly journal, *Daedalus*. The special theme for this first issue is "Inequality." The new *Daedalus* also includes features such as poetry, short stories, commentaries, and a "Notes" section on topics reflecting the expertise of the Academy's broad membership. Forthcoming issues will focus on the following themes: "Intellectual Property" (Spring 2002), "Education After the Culture Wars" (Summer 2002), and "Beauty" (Fall 2002).

Occasional Papers

In January the Academy initiated an Occasional Papers series that reports on the results of Academy studies. Reports will be published simultaneously in print and on the Academy's website at www.amacad.org/publication.htm. Printed copies can be obtained upon request from the Academy's Office of Publications.

Now available: *Evaluation and the Academy: Are We Doing the Right Thing? Grade Inflation and Letters of Recommendation*, by Henry Rosovsky and Matthew Hartley; *Trends in American and German Higher Education*, edited by Robert McCormick Adams.

Forthcoming this spring: *Making the Humanities Count: The Importance of Data*, with essays by Francis Oakley, Robert M. Solow, John D'Arms, Phyllis Franklin, and Calvin C. Jones; *Probing Human Origins*, edited by Morris Goodman and Anne Simon Moffat, with essays by Deborah L. Gumucio, Richard Potts, Derek W. Wildman, Lawrence I. Grossman, Morris Goodman, Roger S. Fouts, Mary Lee A. Jensvold, Peter J. Richerson, and Robert Boyd.

Visiting Scholars Center

Significant progress has been made in developing the Visiting Scholars Center, scheduled to open at the House of the Academy in fall 2002. Guidelines and application forms were made available on the Web and issued in print. Because this is a new program, an effort was made to announce it broadly through notices in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, the *New York Times*, and a number of learned journals. Fellows were informed of the program through e-mail broadcasts, the *Newsletter*, and the *Bulletin*. The Academy is grateful to those who encouraged students and colleagues to apply. Over one hundred applications have been received from postdoctoral candidates and junior faculty. Priority will be given to candidates whose work will be enhanced by an association with the Academy's current projects. A group of Academy Fellows and project leaders are currently reviewing the proposals. They will submit their recommendations in March to an oversight committee led by the chair of the Visiting Scholars Center, historian and *Boston Globe* columnist **James Carroll**.

Architectural plans have been developed to provide office space for the scholars at the Academy's House in Cambridge. The Academy is grateful to the forty colleges and universities who have provided advice and support for the development of the Center.