
REPORTS

GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR RESEARCH IN LATIN AMERICA 1970-1971

by

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Foreign Area Fellowship Program

INTRODUCTION

THIS ARTICLE PRESENTS THE RESULTS OF AN INFORMAL SURVEY, CONDUCTED through interviews with governmental officials, to determine the types and amounts of support provided by federal agencies for training fellowships and research grants to individuals in the field of Latin American studies. A new situation has been created with respect to the funding of Latin American studies by the nearly complete termination of aid to university centers by The Ford Foundation in 1971 and the quadrupling of funds available for national competitions through the Foreign Area Fellowship Program (FAFP) and the Joint Committee on Latin American Studies (JCLAS) of the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) and the Social Science Research Council (SSRC). The question of the effects of the new situation on the centers has not been approached in this report in view of the forthcoming survey of the experience of language and area centers by Richard D. Lambert, sponsored by SSRC and funded by the U.S. Office of Education. However, it is clear that the total amount of external funding for Latin American studies is smaller than it was three years ago, and attention to its allocation for training and research becomes therefore more inviting.*

* This report assumes familiarity with the activities of the FAFP. Individuals desiring additional information may request an Announcement from the Foreign Area Fellowship Program, 110 E. 59th St., New York, N.Y. 10022. Copies of two other publications are also available on request from FAFP: "Joint Committee on Latin American Studies and Joint Committee on the Foreign Area Fellowship Program: Report on Activities, 1959-70;" and "A Guide to Selected Fellowship and Grants for Research on Latin America and the Caribbean," by Michael Potashnik, (1972).

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Some of the questions examined through interviews in Washington, D.C., are: What programs of fellowships and grants offered by governmental agencies are relevant, similar or supplementary to those offered by FAFP/JCLAS? What are the implications of our findings for the shape and emphasis of the FAFP/JCLAS programs? How can FAFP's funding be most strategically employed in the national research and training ecosystem? This ecosystem, like others, changes seasonally, and the present report necessarily deals with recent, temporary trends and prospects; it should be updated regularly. The report is based on ten man-days of interviews with some 20 officers of a dozen agencies: National Research Council (NRC), Agency for International Development (AID), National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), Inter-American Foundation (IAF), National Science Foundation (NSF), U.S. Office of Education (OE), Hispanic Foundation, Library of Congress, Organization of American States (OAS), Department of State (Office of Inter-American Programs and Office of External Research).

There is no national governmental policy with respect to support of training and research on Latin America and the Caribbean. A number of agencies receive funds from Congress, after hearings in varied committees, but no agency or committee appears to attempt to reconcile total appropriations with some concept of "national needs" or a perception of "the state of the field." The Lambert Report is one step in this direction. If it can assist the Office of Education more rationally to allocate funds for training and research among foreign area fields, attention may be given to its recommendations by other agencies and the Congress.

A general financial review of the federal picture *re* Latin American studies is provided in the attached informal Table V ("Governmental Support for Latin American Studies and Research: Fiscal 1971"), prepared in the Office of External Research, Department of State, for a panel on funding at the Latin American Studies Association meeting at Austin, Texas, on December 4–6, 1971. For various reasons, the great majority of these funds do not overlap with those provided by the Ford Foundation to the Foreign Area Fellowship Program. The AID funds, for example, are largely for contract research on topics selected by AID, as are those from the Department of Defense. Similarly, HEW funds via the Office of Education are mostly for support of administrative expenses of area centers and for NDFL fellowships for graduate students in their first two years.

On the basis of a study of reports by governmental agencies and discussions with officials, four new tables have been constructed which are intended to delineate the several categories of governmental support for Latin American studies, and to offer a basis for comparing them in terms of funding and other features with comparable elements of the FAFP/JCLAS program for Latin America and the Caribbean, which is the largest program in the private sector.* The two comparable categories are (1)

* The other major private program is that of the Doherty Foundation, which offers ten dissertation fellowships a year. The program of Latin American Teaching Fellowships offers about 30 appointments a year; it is sponsored by the Fletcher School, Tufts University, and is supported by a combination of private and public funds.

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dissertation research fellowships and (2) postdoctoral grants to individual scholars in the United States. The remaining categories of the FAFP/JCLAS program, such as its seminars and collaborative research training projects, are not found in the governmental programs.

Our estimate is that about 90 per cent of the total funds of over \$6,000,000 provided by federal agencies for Latin American studies are for research by contract, or other activities in fields that are not within the scope of FAFP/JCLAS programs. Total governmental funding for research on Latin America thus parallels FAFP's type of funding only in the range of 10 per cent of all governmental research on Latin America, contract and otherwise. Moreover, the amount of this parallel government funding is considerably larger, namely \$695,313 to some \$500,000 for FAFP/JCLAS in the total of the two relevant categories of dissertation fellowships and senior research grants to individuals. FAFP/JCLAS's total for all types of training and research for 1971-72, apart from administrative costs, was \$979,500.

The level and range of discipline support is very different in governmental and FAFP/JCLAS programs, as may be seen from the following comparison. (Here we are comparing governmental figures for 1970-71, which are the only ones available for all agencies, with average FAFP and JCLAS figures for 1959-1970, but we do not think the comparison is essentially unfair. If anything, the domination of anthropology in federal programs as far back as 1966 was even greater than that shown.)

The figures, in addition to those on anthropology, are particularly striking on economics and political science, for reasons we are not ready fully to appraise. There may be a combination of dearth of applications, or of good ones; sensitivity of topics;

FELLOWSHIPS AND POSTDOCTORAL GRANTS BY DISCIPLINE

	U.S. Governmental Agencies 1970-71		FAFP 1962-70	JCLAS 1959-70
	Fellowships (By No.)*	Postdocl Grants (By Amt.)	Fellowships (By No.)	Postdocl Grants (By No.)
Anthropology	54.4%	19.0%	16.2%	8.3%
History	17.6	8.4	27.4	26.3
Political Science	10.2	—	15.1	13.2
Geography	5.9	—	3.9	2.9
Linguistics	1.5	37.3	—	—
Economics	1.5	—	14.0	15.1
Education	1.5	—	2.2	0.5
Sociology	—	27.8	10.0	15.6
Language/Lit	—	7	1.7	10.7 (inc.
Music	—	.5	—	— Ling.)
Psychology	—	—	—	1.0
Public Adm	—	—	1.7	1.9
Other	7.4	—	2.2	4.4
	100.0 (N=68)	100.0	100.0 (N=219, c. 24/yr)	100.0 (N=205)

* See Table II

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and preference of members of these disciplines for private funding, or for participation in agency projects and contracts, as distinct from individually motivated research.

The question of the adequacy of fellowships and grants for the field of Latin American studies needs further clarification. In 1970–71, the governmental agencies awarded 68 dissertation fellowships, 37 or 54.4 per cent in anthropology; FAFP awarded 31, 25 per cent in anthropology. FAFP's annual average for this discipline is 16.2 per cent. At the postdoctoral level NSF and NEH made 8 and 12 grants, respectively; and JCLAS made 22 grants, plus 4 collaborative research grants. These figures should be considered in relation to the total number of members of the Latin American Studies Association, some 900, and its composition in terms of pre- and postdoctoral status and disciplines. Additional data and detailed analysis are needed in this connection.

In general, private funding for dissertation research and for individually motivated senior scholars in the Latin American field does not seem excessive. There should always be private sources of support for scholars in the humanities and social sciences, so that scholarship may have a refuge from politically limited sources of grants. The balance among disciplines and between pre- and postdoctoral funding is a matter for discussion, and our inquiries provide an introduction to the basic data for making judgments in this realm. Again, further study may be desirable to illuminate separate or centralized strategies of support for scholarship in Latin American and Caribbean studies. We are unable to compare the situation with respect to studies of other world areas because, so far as we know, no comparable inquiry has been made for Africa, East Asia, and the rest.

We regret that this report is less than comprehensive. The data have been gathered in small blocks of time, snatched from the press of other duties over a period of several months and without special funding. We do not consider, however, that we have missed any significant source of federal funding that parallels FAFP's programs. Under the heading "Brief Agency Reviews" we attach descriptions of some of the characteristics of the relevant programs of certain governmental agencies with which we have been in contact, along with the corresponding figures. These sections have been reviewed by the agencies concerned, although the responsibility for the data presented is that of the authors.

BRIEF REVIEWS OF AGENCY PROGRAMS

I. National Science Foundation

A. Social Science Division. The Division offers awards for doctoral dissertation and postdoctoral research in social sciences and history of science, but in general not in other fields of history. No amount is set aside for Latin American or Caribbean studies; proposals must compete with all comers. The Division's total budget was increased from \$18,000,000 in 1970–71 to \$22,200,000 in 1971–72.

It is impracticable for NSF to provide data on applications by world area or by

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discipline because its computerized record-keeping system does not afford printouts by these categories. Similarly, this information cannot be fully obtained from the annual "Division of Social Sciences Grant List" of NSF, Fiscal Year 1971, e.g., because many grants are non-areally titled, such as "Prehistoric Urban-Rural Relationships" or "Dissertation Research in Anthropology" (Grant Nos. GS-29323X and GS-28990. However, through the cooperation of an officer of the Division, grants awarded in 1970-71 for research on a Latin American topic have been so designated.

The best indication of the disciplinary breakdown and the amount of NSF grants available for research on Latin America is provided by "Government-Supported Research: International Affairs. Research Completed and in Progress, July 1969-June 1970" (Office of External Research, Department of State, Prepared for the Foreign Area Research Coordination Group—FAR. See Table V.) In 1970-71, of a total of \$709,600 listed for Latin America in the Division of Social Sciences, the categories by disciplines were as follows:*

Anthropology, 10.1%, including Linguistics, 12.6%, Archaeology, 55.2%, and miscellaneous including Colonial History, 3.5%	\$578,150	81.4%
Sociology and Social Psychology	127,100	18.0
Economics (\$950) and Geography (\$3,400)	4,350	.6
	\$709,600	100.0%

The small amount awarded for economics and political science projects is notable. Although the NSF supports research in these disciplines, it has received only a very small number of proposals for research in Latin America.

B. Office of International Science Programs and Division of Biological and Medical Sciences. There have been significant reductions in the budgets of the Office and the Division. The effect on training and research relevant to Latin America is impossible to determine, because of the record-keeping problem mentioned above. The major part of the funds available here goes to contract research and to training programs in foreign countries. In the current year, \$100,000 was available for foreign travel and research expenses but not for stipends, for dissertation research in biological sciences, especially in systematics and ecology. The Latin American component in this program is unknown, and an effort to obtain an estimate was unsuccessful.

In 1971-72 a new program was offered with about \$100,000 per year—"Scientist and Engineers in Economic Development Program," directed by Max Hellmann. Research and teaching awards are offered to senior scholars who desire to work in one of 35 developing countries, of which 16 are Latin American. Experience with this program has just begun; the first date for receiving applications was March 15, 1972.

2. *National Endowment for the Humanities*

Like NSF, NEH does not have any special program for Latin America and the

* This breakdown, more complete than that of Table V, includes figures from Tables I, III and IV.

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Caribbean. Its record-keeping is more complete than that of NSF, however, and its compilation, "NEH Grants Relating to Latin-American Studies, 1967-1971," provides useful data on its grant-making activities. Of the total of \$1,058,870 awarded in these five years, approximately one-half (\$510,000) was devoted to the development of Chicano studies; about \$230,000 was given to support training and research institutes of various types; and about \$315,000 went for grants for research by individual scholars. The breakdown by disciplines in this last category (our categorization) is as follows for 1967-71:

Anthropology	\$ 39,000	12.5%
Archaeology	41,112	13.1
Colonial History	74,300	23.7
National History	41,396	13.2
Language and Literature	82,496	26.2
Political Science	6,000	1.9
Sociology	29,130	9.3
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$313,434	100.0%

The Research Division, which administers grants to individuals, anticipates a trend away from grants to "one scholar per year" to projects in certain fields, notably: (1) the Philadelphia bicentennial celebration; (2) race relations; (3) black and American Indian studies. "Block fellowships" have been set aside for these fields for 1972-73; this means that a university would select a program in race relations, for example, choose the persons to be trained, and NEH would decide how many to support for graduate training. NEH does not offer dissertation fellowships. Foreign nationals can be supported, but only if they are associated with U.S. scholars, whose funding is arranged through NEH grants to U.S. universities, which regularly include overhead charges.

The NEH has made a matching grant (with the Ford Foundation) to the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) to allow ACLS to offer grants-in-aid of up to \$2,500 for research in the humanities in the U.S. or abroad. ACLS refers to FAFP any application for research on Latin America in the national period.

The Fellowship Division of NEH supports young postdoctoral scholars whose research is directly related to improving their teaching competence. As may be seen from Table III, 12 individual projects for work on Latin America in 1970-71 were funded by this division.

3. National Institute of Mental Health

The Cultural Anthropology Fellowship Review Committee of NIMH administers a program of grants and fellowships. In 1968 its budget was \$1,800,000, but in 1971-72 the available amount is some \$1,000,000, of which about \$160,000 will be for dissertation research fellowships in Latin America. NIMH offers other research awards in sociology and psychology in the United States, but only to anthropologists for research abroad, primarily because anthropology is the only discipline that requires research in another culture for the Ph.D. degree.

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As a result of the cut in funds, the application-award rate, which was about two to one, has been reduced to six or five to one. In 1970–71, NIMH awarded a total of 39 research fellowships to anthropologists, as compared to 111 in 1969–70; for Latin American scholars in this program the figures in each year were 12 and 20, respectively. Average dissertation research stipends are \$8,000 per year.

4. *U.S. Office of Education*

In sponsoring the Lambert Report, it appears that OE plans a re-evaluation of its support of training in foreign area fields, and that support for Latin American studies will be reduced by 5 per cent of the \$15.6 million total, or by as much as 25 per cent of the funds available for Latin American studies in the current year. About 25 appointments are anticipated in 1971–72 for Fulbright-Hays appointments for dissertation research in Latin America.

OE's Institute of International Studies (IIS) shares with the Department of State the administration of the Fulbright-Hays Act, which provides support for doctoral dissertation research on foreign areas, including Latin America. In Fiscal Year 1971, IIS awarded 106 fellowships of which 14, for a total of about \$100,000, were for dissertation research on Latin America. In FY 1972, IIS plans to award 150 fellowships, with about 23 for research on Latin America for a total of \$150,000. The average stipend for research fellowships in FY 1971 was \$6,662; in FY 1972 it will be increased to \$7,100.

In the past, IIS offered faculty research grants for research in Latin America, but this program has been discontinued after the awarding of 11 grants for a total of \$76,230 in FY 1970.

5. *National Research Council*

NRC does not offer fellowships or grants to individuals for research in foreign areas. It has AID money for development of chemistry departments in certain countries, notably in Brazilian universities in São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. The NRC's Board on Science and Technology for International Development (BOSTID) organizes workshops and seminars in various fields of the natural sciences in Latin America and elsewhere.

6. *Agency for International Development*

AID does not administer a nationally competitive program of fellowships or grants to individuals. Its current principal activity *re* Latin America consists of making large grants of the order of \$500,000 to selected universities, including Florida, UCLA, and Wisconsin, to encourage inter-university cooperation in Mexico, Argentina, and Brazil. Smaller grants also are being made for comparable activities to other universities with leading centers of Latin American studies. Principal substantive interests of AID at present include support of cooperative organizations such as Leagues of Women Voters, and research on community development, income distribution, involving tax policies, unemployment and, in demography, development of motivation toward small families.

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7. National Institutes of Health

NIH offers grants to individuals for research abroad, but these are principally for work in advanced medical techniques, and the recipients almost invariably go to Japan or to European countries.

8. Organization of American States

The training and selection division of OAS administers a general fellowship program which in past years has provided modest support for doctoral dissertation research by U.S. students in Latin America. The program is financed out of a fellowship budget which supports research and training at various levels in selected social science and humanistic disciplines (i.e., history, anthropology, literature) unrelated to specific OAS development programs. In 1969–70 the OAS awarded 65 fellowships for a total of \$130,000 to U.S. residents. Two-thirds of these fellowships were for periods of less than a year, and the disciplinary distribution was as follows: history, 13; housing, 7; anthropology, 4; economics, 6; education, 5; language and literature, 4; political science, 4; geography, 3; comparative law, 3; music, 1; fine arts, 2; mathematics, 2.

This is a substantial program involving about \$6,000,000 per year, of which over 95 per cent is for fellowships to Latin American scholars for study in the U.S. and other countries.

9. The Inter-American Foundation

The Foundation was provided \$50,000,000 by the U.S. Congress as multi-year funding to support private sector social development projects in Latin America and the Caribbean. Formerly the Inter-American Social Development Institute (ISDI), it began operations in March 1971 and to date has funded 21 projects.

In addition to its own research, the Foundation contemplates two ways it may relate to social scientists in the hemisphere. First, the Foundation will contract for full-scale evaluations of the operation and social impact of projects that it supports. Second, on questions of special concern to its operations, the Foundation will occasionally sponsor basic research.

The Foundation also hopes to provide forums, conferences and, possibly, publications to disseminate information about the types of projects it supports, and to seek the ideas of Latin American, Caribbean, and North American leaders on particular problems of social development in the hemisphere.

10. Fulbright-Hays Program

This program, administered by the Institute of International Education for the Department of State, has recently become a source of support for doctoral dissertation research in selected Latin American countries. The availability of this support is the result of the Program's response to the preference of some of the binational commissions in Latin America for more mature exchange students, able to contribute to the research and teaching activities of local universities. Previously, Fulbright-

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Hays opportunities had been limited to graduating seniors and M.A. candidates for graduate study abroad. However, despite the recent offering by the Fulbright-Hays program of dissertation research grants for appointments in 1971–72, there was not a significant increase in the number of doctoral candidates receiving support. Of the 29 appointments made, 18 were for graduating seniors; 6 were M.S. candidates; only 5 were doctoral candidates. Given the modest stipend offered by the Program—\$3,500–4,000 per year—candidates at the immediately predoctoral level prefer to compete for the offerings of OE, NIMH, and other comparable programs, including FAFP, which offer higher stipends.

TABLE I

U.S. Government Support for Dissertation Fellowships for Research in Latin America, 1970–71

Fellowships within Agencies, Ranked According to Discipline	Number	Amount
HEW—OE		
NDFL, c. \$7,000 each		
Anthropology	8	
History	7	
Political Science	4	
Geography	2	
Linguistics	1	
	—	
Total	22	\$154,000
Fulbright-Hays, c. \$3,460 each		
History	5	
Anthropology	3	
Political Science	3	
Economics	1	
Education	1	
	—	
Total	13	44,980
NIMH, c. \$8,000 each		
anthropology	c. 20	160,000
NSF		
Anthropology, c. \$4,000 each	6	\$24,000
Geography, c. \$1,700 each	2	3,400
	—	
Total	8	27,400
Dept. of State/Fulbright, \$3,500 each		
Fields not known	5	17,500
	—	
Total	68	\$463,880

Sources: Interviews with officers of HEW—OE, Institute of International Studies; NIMH; NSF, Division of Social Sciences; U.S. Department of State, Officer of Inter-American Programs

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TABLE II
*Governmentally Awarded Fellowships by Discipline, Ranked by Numbers
 and by Funding, 1970-71*

Discipline	Number	Per Cent	Amount	Per Cent
Anthropology	37	54.4	\$250,380	62.0
History	12	17.6	66,300	16.4
Political Science	7	10.2	38,380	9.5
Geography	4	5.9	17,400	4.3
Linguistics	1	1.5	7,000	1.7
Economics	1	1.5	3,460	.9
Education	1	1.5	3,460	.9
Other (fields not known)	5	7.4	17,500	4.3
	<u>68</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>\$403,880</u>	<u>100</u>

Sources: Interviews with officers of HEW—OE, Institute of International Studies; NIMH; NSF, Division of Social Sciences; U.S. Department of State, Office of Inter-American Programs

TABLE III
*U.S. Government Support for Postdoctoral Research in Post-1830
 Latin America in the Social Sciences and Humanities, of
 the same type as FAFP Awards, 1970-71*

Funding Agency and Field	Awards	Total
NSF		
Linguistics (3)	\$ 99,600	
Cultural Anthropology (3)	46,950	
Sociology (2)	81,000	
		<u>\$227,550</u>
NEH		
Modern History (6)	24,583	
Language and Literature (2)	20,500	
Linguistics (1)	8,800	
Anthropology (2)	8,500	
Music (1)	1,500	
		<u>63,883</u>
		<u>291,433</u>
Discipline Ranked by Per Cent of Funding		
Linguistics	108,400	37.3%
Sociology	81,000	27.8
Anthropology	55,450	19.0
Modern History	24,583	8.4
Language and Literature	20,500	7.0
Music	1,500	.5
	<u>\$291,433</u>	<u>100.0</u>

Sources: NSF, "Division of Social Sciences, Grant List, Fiscal Year, 1971," and interviews. NEH, "NEH Grants Relating to Latin-American Studies, 1967-71"

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TABLE IV

U.S. Government Support for Competitive Programs in the Social Sciences and Humanities of Postdoctoral Research and other Activities Relating to Latin America of Types not Supported by FAFP Activities, 1970-71

Funding Agency and Field	Amount	Total
NSF		
Archaeology	\$391,700	
Colonial History	9,500	\$401,200
NEH		
Archaeology	15,500	
Colonial History	1,500	17,000
NEH		
Curriculum and Research Support (mainly for Puerto Rican and Chicano Studies)		197,500
	Total	\$615,700

Sources: NSF, "Division of Social Sciences, Grant List, Fiscal Year 1971," and interviews.

NEH, "NEH Grants Relating to Latin-American Studies, 1967-1971"

NOTE: For comparative purposes, the total expended in 1970-71 by federal agencies for fellowships and grants similar to FAFP programs was about \$695,313 (see Tables I, II and III). The total FAFP program budget for dissertation fellowships and postdoctoral research grants in 1970-71 was about \$500,000.

TABLE V

*Government Support for Latin American Studies and Research: Fiscal-1971 (An Unofficial Survey) **

Agency	Division	FY-71	Total
Agency for Int'l Development	Bureau for Latin America	\$ 500,000 E	
	Bureau for Tech Assistance	1,330,736	\$1,830,736
Arms Control & Disarmament Agency		0	0
Dept of Defense		162,990	162,990
Office of Emergency Preparedness		10,000	10,000
Dept of Health, Educ & Welfare	OE/Inst International Studies		
	Language & Area Centers	467,302	
	NDFL Fellowships	500,000 E	
	Research Contracts	0	
	Fulbright-Hays Grants	90,970	
	OE/Nat'l Ctr for Educ R&D	60,000 E	
	PHS/Nat'l Inst Mental Health	101,650	
			1,219,922

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Nat'l Endowment for Humanities		227,383	227,383
Nat'l Science Foundation	Div of Social Sciences		
	Antro, Linguistics, Archaeol	578,150	
	Economics	950	
	Sociology & Soc Psych	127,100	
	Geography	3,400	
	(Subtotal—Social Sciences)	(709,600)	
	Div of Undergrad Educ in Science	92,700	
	Div of Bio & Med Science	150,000	
			952,300
Dept of State	External Research Program	37,575	
	Educ'l & Cultural Exchange		
	US Scholars/Students	757,910	
	Foreign Scholars, Students	919,922	
			1,715,407
US Information Agency		109,523	109,523
	Total		\$6,228,261 E

* Office of External Research, Dept of State