
BUILDING A SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COMMUNITY

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS

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OVERVIEW AND GOALS

This project will create and maintain an infrastructure and community to support policy relevant social science research. It will use STAR METRICS data on how universities spend federal research grants to examine the scientific, social and economic impact of federally funded academic research. The infrastructure includes both shared research tools and datasets. The community will span researchers in multiple disciplines, academic administrators and state/federal policymakers.

Project goals include:

- 1) Utilize STAR METRICS data and infrastructure to provide systematic answers to the following research questions: What scientific collaborations are directly supported by research funding; what indirect effects do federal grants exert on regional economies and labor markets?
- 2) Provide a comprehensive picture of the effects of federal R&D spending on economic resilience and job creation by analyzing the distribution, geographic location, and industry of vendors that supply federally funded research

STRUCTURE OF PROJECT

In order to maintain an infrastructure and community to support policy relevant social science research, the team will investigate the feasibility of creating an infrastructure based on STAR METRICS data from the University of Michigan Ann Arbor. The team will then investigate the possible public and private data sources available for linkage (i.e. industry data, CV data, publications data, etc.) and the quality of those sources.

MAIN CHALLENGES

Challenges:

- 1) Confidentiality associated with matching student name data to link to publications/patents (other outcomes) to workforce and Census data
- 2) Challenges with linking disparate sources together
- 3) Linking university vendor/subaward institutions to Industry codes
- 4) Building useful topic models