

Date: Fri, 18 Feb 2011 13:04:00 -0500

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From: Lloyd Etheredge <lloyd.etheredge@policyscience.net>

**Subject: 235. Red Team: Online Data Systems for Fast
Discovery Social Science; Emerging Islamic
Democracy**

Dear Dr. Fischhoff and Colleagues:

A useful upgrade investment, to accelerate social science in every field, would be online data systems that allow researchers, in all countries and 24x7, to test hypotheses at almost the speed of thought. (Such new investments in online infrastructure underlie the new Sentinel and related biomedical systems, starting with tens of millions of online patient records and analysis software).

A Red Team/National Academy of Sciences project should follow-up Gary King's article

(an archived copy is available with # 228 at www.policyscience.net at II. D; see also # 210 re Sentinel) by designing a set of initial projects for fast discovery.

Emerging Islamic Democracies is an obvious prototype. Hopefully, General Clapper, Dr. Atkinson, and a Red Team/National Academy project will move quickly and Phase One will be online later this spring.

Traditionally, the federal government requires teams of social science researchers to seek their own grants and acquire data to test their own theories. By contrast, my suggestion is to create much larger (free) online systems, at public expense, that allow many, rapid comparative tests and new discovery. The COBE project from NASA is a good example: it was designed to test 100 competing theories. Both an Everything Included content analysis system, with new translation/analysis tools, and a database of the new public opinion polling that is getting underway in the Islamic world, would be worthwhile to include. Collaboration with researchers and research Centers in the region would help to strengthen their own self-reflective capacities.

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