

# Next Decade of Social & Behavioral Research for the Security Community

National Academies of Science Projects

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# What is a Decadal Study?

- An estimate of potential (a mix of forecast and plan)
- Recommendations for investment
- Essential for astronomy, but for social science?
  
- Our motivation
  - Go big
  - Gain standing for social & behavioral science
  - Embrace external/open resources
  - Align to today's threats

# Initial disconnects

- Social science academics don't forecast their own work
- Academic leaders are not keyed to practice
  - Peripheral players fill the gap
- Practitioners are interested but constrained
- 'Translation' is key
  - Government involvement makes the difference

# Six workshops

**1. Sociocultural dynamics**

**2. International security**

**3. Social network thinking**

**4. Cognition and perception for decision making**

**5. Understanding narratives**

**6. Workforce development**

# Frameworks – a spin-off task

**1. Deterrence**

**3. Social identity**

**2. Influence**

**4. Norms & agreements**

David Lake, UCLA:

*“I’ve done a lot of these ‘closing the gap’ projects, but this is the first one that seems to be working!”*

Ken Prewitt, Columbia:

*“A game-changer for the Academies.”*

# Social system modeling – a parallel task

- Symposium with new approaches
- DARPA workshop and book
- Political Instability Task Force
- Many other start-ups surrounding influence
  
- Common platform is possible, but...
- DoD Minerva collapsed
- Technological derailment
  - No theory
  - Non-sensemaking