

The logo for the International Social Science Council (ISSC) features the letters 'ISSC' in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Each letter is contained within a vertical rectangular bar of a light purple color. The bars are separated by thin white lines.

international social science council



29th General Assembly Meeting

Montréal, 10-12 October 2013

Social Science and Humanities Priority

Scan: a proposal



For discussion by the GA delegates:

- A new ISSC agenda-setting initiative in interdisciplinary, global social science and humanities research
- Under the auspices of the World Social Science Fellows Programme
- One-off event to be held in 2014/2015; potential series

**Strengthening
the social
sciences to
help solve
global
problems**



Recurring challenges and requests from ISSC members:

Raise the ISSC's scientific standing and science policy influence

- Maintain a diverse and forward-looking profile of priorities
- Reach out more to the humanities
- Engage our members more actively, serving them more clearly and directly

E.g., Survey of ISSC members (2004); IPSA (2007); consultation of ISSC disciplinary members (2013)



The proposal:

Workshop on a problem (epistemic, methodological, systemic), or a global priority challenge, with implications for the international social science bodies.

- 2 days, including a public event
- The participants (max. 45):
 - 15 x WSS Fellows;
 - 15 x ISSC scientific members and regional councils;
 - 10 x international experts;
 - 3 x senior representatives from CIPSH members;
 - 2 x Distinguished Guests



Overall objective:

To increase the ISSC's capabilities in global SSH agenda-setting

More specific objectives:

- Provide a platform to build common visions about future SSH directions, and identify opportunities for concrete collaboration on global priority issues
- Provide a basis for longer-term ISSC strategic planning, targeting the development of recommendations to be taken to the 2016 General Assembly
- Facilitate systematic exchange between ISSC members and ExCo, strengthen the ExCo's role in strategic scientific discussion and policy making.



Building this initiative under the umbrella of the WSS Fellows programme serves 3 ambitions, to

- Increase the involvement of outstanding early career social scientists in setting future priorities for international social science
- Train new generations of social scientists into science policy design, and
- Integrate outstanding early career social scientists more in the various activities of the ISSC.





Potential outputs:

An ISSC Global SSH Priority Scan: a 5 to 10-page science policy brief, to be disseminated amongst scientific, funding, policy and media communities

WSS Report and WSS Forum: contributions, follow-up panels, special events

Special issues of Journals: workshop as basis for special issues of *Journals*, in order to reach larger academic audiences.



Tentative budget for a meeting in Paris

➤ Travel for 45 participants	45p x 1,000 EUR
45,000 EUR	
➤ Accommodation for 3 days	45p x 3d x 150 EUR
20,250 EUR	
➤ Catering	45p x 3d x 60 EUR
8,100 EUR	
Total	73,350 EUR

About 40,000 EUR from the WSS Fellows programme for an event in 2014.



To brainstorm and discuss:

- General interest in the proposal?
- Outputs?
- Format?
- Hosting partners?
- Topics?