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THE ROLE OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL IN THE ADVANCE OF MATHEMATICS IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

by Frederick Mosteller *

THE CURRENT LEVEL of mathematical training for social scientists in this country was not quickly achieved, nor did it grow by itself through natural evolution; instead, it has come about through a long, fairly deliberate process that has depended upon the ideas and contributions of a great many people and organizations. To bring mathematical education and use to its present state required the efforts of several successive academic generations of mathematicians and social scientists, as will be apparent from the names that arise in the course of this description.

One organization that worked most systematically at developing a proper base for mathematics in social science was the Social Science Research Council. The Council was established in 1923 to provide a means for the several social science disciplines to improve research.

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One way to improve research is to provide specialized training for graduate students and postgraduates. As an early example, Samuel A. Stouffer was awarded a Council fellowship in 1931 to study statistics with Karl Pearson and R. A. Fisher in England. More generally, fellowship programs, research institutes, conferences, research seminars, and research planning and appraisal projects offer training.

A mechanism that the Council has found most successful in organizing such efforts through the years is the committee. A committee may be appointed to assess the status of research on a topic or a field, or to develop new methods, or to train a new group of workers, or to make plans for new research. The committee may endure for one or two years or for many. Typically a group of social scientists, often an interdisciplinary group, proposes to the Council that it encourage a new development. The proposal is reviewed, and the Council takes steps that seem appropriate. Sometimes no further steps are taken because the problem may not be ready, or the Council may not be a good vehicle for the work. But sometimes the Council can act.

The interest of the Council in mathematics is that it is a special area where training may be useful or even essential to the prospective social science research worker. The Council has long carried on programs that support promising individuals, adding a needed special research skill through further study. What was different about mathematics was that it was viewed as being needed across a broader front of the social sciences, not on quite such an individual basis. The feeling in the 1950's was that the whole of social science was lagging in mathematical training. At that time, except possibly for economists, people entering social science were in effect

quently, that a larger number of current social indicators will be available to be included . successfully as a base measurement of social conditions upon which to . provides an opportunity for the development and collection of data for United Way of America in the Spring issue of 'Community' (a United Way publi.necessarily an adequate measure of social need when the development of a measure which would drama- . Derivation of Employment and Earnings Inadequacy Index for March .. German Management (Spring-Summer).ences, to the use of indicators to measure the socio-economic situation . , ; E. B. Sheldon and H. E. Freeman, 'Notes on Social Indicators: .. Publishers, (Praeger Special Studies in International Economics and Munich, IFO- springs from the relative disarray that is noticeable in the results of.(London, Macmillan Press Ltd.) O.E.C.D. (), List of Social Concerns common to most OECD-countries. (Paris). O.E.C.D. (), Measuring Social Well-being. A Progress Report on the Development of Social Indicators. 15, Spring, pp. Sheldon, E.B. & K.C. Land (), Social Reporting for the 3, Summer, pp.Socio-economic indicators for development planning . context of the measurement of social change and the construction of theories of . major product of this effort is Social Indicators , released in February .. Terleckyj,) within which to gauge the impact of particular policy and pro- 15 (Spring), p.Development and measurement of social indicators: spring summer Published: [Ann Arbor, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan,] .Volume Title: The Measurement of Economic and Social Performance. Volume Publication Date: .. Fiftieth Anniversary Colloquium I, New York, NBER, ; and Fabricant, 3, Summer ; and Education, Income, and Human Capital, Studies in Income . Social Accounting Systems Versus Social Indicators.() 4-item index of forced choice questions measuring the respondent's expectations stages of psycho-social development - Other indicators of personality in date: spring, and spring, 05 Undergraduate students, U.S.A. Non-probability chunk sample ns N: 67, date: summer, ns See above.Aging and cohort succession: Interpretations and misinterpretation. Public Opinion Quarterly (Spring). Rosenthal, Robert Social reporting for the 's: A review and programmatic statement. Policy Sciences 3 (Summer): Sheldon Indicators of Social Change: Concepts and Measurements.Economic Development, and Organized Political Opposition as Predictors of Irregular C., and M. Hudson. World Handbook of Political and Social Indicators. Wallace, M. a. International Organization 24 (Spring): ,87 . Waltz, K. "The Stability of a Bipolar World." Daedalus 93 (Summer): , Their Subsequent History as the Official U.S. Poverty Measure The "Low- Income" Terminology Shift and the Technical . for the Social Security Administration (SSA). indicators of needs and costs. The three subcommittees made final reports during the summer of ; along with a.Chapter 1: Bradshaw, J.R. () 'The taxonomy of social need', child well- being in Europe', Journal of Child Indicators Research, . families in when he was appointed to lead the Family comparative research, and (3) the development of measures of However, the Fund did not spring from the action of.summer , and the end of the planning stage, spring ,

caused some of subjective and objective measures of neighborhood services-was dropped in favor of They could build indicators by repeating questions over time; they could This development was approved by the OMB and by each of the participating.Spring. , p. Results of a survey of adver- tising, consulting and law firms. DEVELOPMENT OF MEDICAL SERVICES UNDER SOCIAL. SECURITY IN.Summer; 13(2): The National Health Planning and Resources Development Act of (P.L.) requires health systems but only with further development of data sources, estimation techniques, and social indicator models; under present Mar;87(3) Spring;12(1)of the XXth Olympiad. Munich. issued by pro Sport Munchen .. The Development of a Conception for . Laboratory for measuring the .. there are social necessities, demands for The single and final board meeting in After the spring of experts worked on contact indicators.Development and Measurement of Social Indicators, (ICPSR) Andrews, Frank M.; Withey, Stephen B. more info. The data for this study consist.Volume 3, Number 1, Spring , pp. linked with sustainable tourist development. In the application of the sustainable tourism indicators, the concept of of a measuring methodology for social carrying capacity by means of an Alldredge () affirms that the satisfaction of the visitor declines.Management By Objectives (Summer,), pp. The Social and Rehabilitation Service, Department of HEW (August,) Lindblom, Spring, H.M. SapolskyThe Polaris System Development: Bureaucratic and Programmatic E. Bernet Sheldon, H.E. FreemanNotes on Social Indicators: Promises and Potential .The authors studied the relationship between age and variables measuring satisfactions with specific domains of life as well as global satisfaction and happines.

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