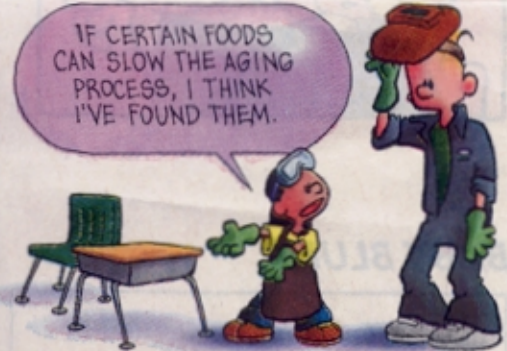


FRAZZ

BY JEF MALLET



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MALLET

WHERE IS MY SLICE OF THE SPONSORED RESEARCH PIE?

Mario J. Crucini

November 13, 2003

BROAD CONTEXT: WHY DON'T RESEARCHERS SELF-FINANCE?

- Some do: entrepreneurs, inventors
- The research is more important to someone else (or group) than it is to the individual
- It's too expensive
- It's too risky
- It's easier to undertake in groups
- It is complementary to their main activity (e.g. education)
- Value of monitoring by peers, institutions
- and many more

OUTLINE

- YOUR CAREER PROFILE
- STUDY THE SUPPLIERS
- RISK AND RETURN TRADEOFF
- SOURCES: NEAR AND FAR
- CASE STUDY: NSF FELLOWSHIPS AND DISSERTATION IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

STUDY THE SUPPLIERS: WHAT ARE THEIR GOALS?

- To make the world a better place (how they hope to do so, is often alluded to in the mission statement).
- To advance knowledge
- To gain strategic private or public advantage
- To ‘substantiate arguments’
- and many more

RISK AND RETURN:
WILL MY RESEARCH BE FUNDED?

Most common way:

In the social sciences,
most academic research is funded **indirectly**
(merit review, tenure track)

In this sense the answer is:

Yes

RISK AND RETURN: WILL MY RESEARCH BE FUNDED?

- maximize return and minimize risk and by carefully considering:
 - the general availability of funds for the type of research you are conducting
 - the alignment of your research with the goals of particular granting agencies
 - eligibility requirements
 - merit criteria
 - the competition
 - luck

WHERE TO LOOK? NEAR AND FAR

- Economics department
- College of Arts and Sciences
- Private organizations
- Federal agencies
- State and local agencies

ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT

- Summer research grants (3)
- Dornbusch Research Assistantship (1)
- Walter Noel Dissertation Fellowship (1)
- Faculty with sponsored research awards
 - 1994-1999 \$ 37K, 2.3 grants
 - 2003 \$ 76K, 6 grants (active)

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY

- College summer grant program
- University investments in graduate education

PRIVATE AGENCIES

- Most require individuals to have a Ph.D.
- Awarded to institutions rather than individuals.
- Often limited to supporting tax-exempt institutions.

- Alfred P. Sloan Foundation
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (health)

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

- National Science Foundation
- National Institutes of Health
- U.S. Department of Education
- there may be others, depending on the field of interest and possible cross-disciplinary linkages.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION: ECONOMICS PROGRAM

Supports basic scientific research designed to improve the **understanding of the processes and institutions of the U.S. economy and of the world system of which it is a part.** The program supports **empirical and theoretical** research as well as conferences in **almost every sub-field** of economics, including econometrics, mathematical economics, labor economics, macroeconomics, industrial organization, international economics, public finance, and economic history. The program also supports **interdisciplinary research and conferences** that strengthen the connection between economics and other disciplines, including the other social sciences, statistics, mathematics, the behavioral sciences, and engineering.

KEY ELEMENTS (MY VIEW)

- Posing a **precise** research question that will be understood by economists outside your field
- Make a compelling case that the question is **important and interesting**
- Demonstrate **knowledge of relevant literature** and how the proposed research fits into the broader literature.
- Demonstrate **technical aptitude**: theory, data and methods.
- **Convincing** preliminary results.
- How **support will enhance** research productivity.

NSF: INTELLECTUAL MERIT

The **intellectual merit criterion** includes demonstrated intellectual ability and other accepted requisites for scholarly scientific study, such as the ability:

- (1) to plan and conduct research;
- (2) to work as a member of a team as well as independently; and
- (3) to interpret and communicate research findings.

Panelists are instructed to consider: the strength of the **academic record**, the **proposed plan of research**, the description of **previous research experience**, the **appropriateness of the choice of references** and the extent to which they indicate merit, Graduate Record Examinations (**GRE**) General and Subject Tests scores, and the appropriateness of the **choice of institution for fellowship tenure relative to the proposed plan of research**.

NSF: BROADER IMPACTS CRITERION

- (1) **effectively integrate research and education** at all levels, infuse learning with the excitement of discovery, and assure that the findings and methods of research are communicated in a broad context and to a large audience;
- (2) **encourage diversity**, broaden opportunities, and enable the participation of all citizens-women and men, underrepresented minorities, and persons with disabilities-in science and research;
- (3) **enhance scientific and technical understanding**; and
- (4) **benefit society**.

Applicants may provide **characteristics** of their background, including personal, professional, and educational experiences, **to indicate their potential to fulfill the broader impacts criterion**.

NSF GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

<http://www.ehr.nsf.gov/dge/programs/grf/#apply>

FACT SHEET

- 900 across all disciplines
- 17 awarded to economics
- 46 in electrical engineering)
- \$27,500 stipend for a 12-month tenure
- \$10,500 cost-of-education allowance per tenure year.

NSF GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

ELIGIBILITY:

- Citizens, nationals, permanent residents
- Fellowships are awarded for graduate study in fields supported by the NSF
- Fellowships are intended for individuals in the early stages of their graduate study.
- In most cases, there are three opportunities:
 - during the senior year of college
 - prior to or during the first year of graduate school
 - beginning of the second year of graduate school.

NSF Dissertation Awards in Economics

Active grants 2004 (2000)

FACT SHEET

- 399 (518) active NSF awards in Economics
- 7 (9) are dissertation awards
- low \$ 4,770 (\$ 5,130)
- high \$ 11,860 (\$ 60,000)
- average \$ 9,000 (\$ 17,400)

NSF: DOCTORAL DISSERTATION (EXAMPLE #1)

Doctoral Dissertation Research in Economics:

Age Discrimination, an Audit Study

Award#:0318012 Current Year Award Amount:\$0

Cumulative Award Amount:\$8,045

Estimated Total Award Amount:\$8,045

Original Start Date:Sep 01, 2003

Projected Duration:12 Months

PI: Costa Institution:MIT State:Massachusetts District:08

NSF: DOCTORAL DISSERTATION (EXAMPLE #2)

Doctoral Dissertation Research:

The "Give" and "Take" on Restaurant Tipping

Award#:0241935 Current Year Award Amount:\$0

Cumulative Award Amount:\$11,860

Estimated Total Award Amount:\$11,860

Original Start Date:Mar 01, 2003

Projected Duration:18 Months

PI: Eckel Institution:VA Polytechnic Inst & St U

State:Virginia District:09