The Science of Science and Innovation Policy

John Skrentny
Professor, SociologyCo-Director, Center for Comparative Immigration Studies

CURRENT RESEARCH

Identifying factors related to equal opportunity, job creation, and immigration

Since the Cold War, the U.S. government has watched over the health and vitality of the STEM workforce as a measure of national security. Since the 1980s, the same workforce has become a measure of U.S. economic competitiveness. Other countries have recognized this, and as they develop, they have now joined in on this global race for scientific talent. Dr. John Skrentny is researching the factors that contribute to equal opportunities in the workplace, job development and creation, and those that influence highly-educated immigrants to pursue specific regions for work. In knowledge-based economies such as the U.S., jobs and economic growth, not to mention solutions toward medical, environmental and energy problems, are dependent on innovation. Yet in the STEM fields that approach these problems, many workers with STEM degrees leave the field, and those who do stay are required, by the very rapidly evolving nature of these disciplines, to constantly undergo training just to update their skill set and stay relevant. Further, in many countries highly-educated immigrants drive a high proportion of the innovation, and more countries are entering into the global competition to attract these workers. Dr. Skrentny's multi-disciplinary research projects are geared toward understanding how to make the science and engineering enterprise stronger and more efficient--and that can pay policy dividends for all societies.

John Skrentny, Professor of Sociology and Co-Director of the Center for Comparative Immigration Studies at the University of California, San Diego, runs a research center focused on immigration and identifying the links between education, jobs, policy, and inequality. For many years, Dr. Skrentny's focus...

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AFFILIATION

University of California, San Diego

EDUCATION

- Ph.D., in Sociology, 1994,Harvard University
- A.M., in Sociology, 1990,Harvard University
- B.A., in Philosophy and Sociology, 1988,Indiana University

AWARDS

- National Science Foundation Grant (for "Who Leaves and Who Arrives? Mapping the Connections between Universities and the Science and Engineering Workforce"), 2013
- Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Grant (for "Falling Behind, Moving Up or Moving Out? Worker Training in Science and Engineering"), 2012
- "Best Social Sciences Professor," 2010
- Outstanding UCSD Professor Award, 2009
- Guggenheim Fellowship, John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation (for "The New Racial Division of Labor"), 2006
- and 2 more...

RESEARCH AREAS

Education, STEM

FUNDING REQUEST

Your contributions will help Dr. Skrentny acquire the required resources, both human and technological capabilities, to perform statistical and mathematical analyses on large data sets. More importantly, the immigrant destination project requires novel surveys, which are very costly to gather. Funding will enable Dr. Skrentny to collect the initial raw data this project needs before it can be developed into a practical tool for businesses and policymakers.