# Study Title

Semi-Structured Expert Interviews on Research Funding Infrastructure & Open Access to Grant Proposals

# Person(s) conducting the research:

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# Purpose

This interview series is one component of “Planning for Open Grants: Fostering a Transparent and Accessible National Research Proposal Infrastructure.” This project seeks to lay a foundation for an openly accessible repository of grant proposals. These interviews aim to understand how a repository or similar infrastructure that shares grant proposals will impact researchers and the broader research ecosystem.

# What you will be asked to do in the study

During this interview, we will ask you a series of questions on your involvement with the grant seeking process and the challenges and opportunities that you envision arising as a result of sharing grant proposals openly. A list of initial questions is below, and we may ask additional questions based on topics that arise over the course of this conversation.

**Initial questions:**

1. How would you articulate your role in the grants process, including specific activities that you undertake?
2. When accessing a sample proposal or reviewing a submitted proposal for potential funding, what kinds of information do you consider most useful or key to understanding the project plan?
3. What uses can you envision for a grants repository, including access to hundreds or thousands of proposals from multiple sources?
4. Do you or your organization (e.g., university, funding agency) currently share funded or unfunded proposals? If so, how do you make these available?
5. Are there any components of a typical proposal that you do not share or would not share? Does the ability to share depend on permission from grantees or co-authors?
6. For grant seekers, do you access sample proposals? How do you go about locating or accessing these documents?
7. For grant seekers, how do you or your organization value grant proposals as documents/outputs independent of the associated proposed research or success of funding? How and to what extent do you receive individual professional recognition for writing or receiving grant awards?
8. How do proposals compare with other professional or research outputs such as articles, books, datasets, digital projects or websites, etc.? What information might proposals contain that would not be available in other materials, and vice versa?

# Time required

The interview should take about 45 minutes.

# Possible Discomforts and Risks

There are no more than minimal risks to study participants.

# Confidentiality

Audio or video recordings of interviews will be made for transcription purposes, and accessible only to the study investigators. Recordings will be destroyed after transcription is completed.

All other data will be maintained in password-protected online storage, accessible only to project team members, for three years; some portions of the interview transcripts may be kept indefinitely.

Your responses may be summarized or quoted directly in project outputs, with identifying information redacted. Your identity, including name and affiliation, will be shared publicly only with your explicit consent. You will have an opportunity to grant or withhold consent for your identity to be shared at the beginning of the interview.

# Compensation

There is no compensation for participation in this study.

# Benefits

There are no direct benefits to subjects for participating in this study. The researchers may benefit professionally if the results of the study are presented at meetings or in publications.

The study findings may inform future development of an open grants repository or related initiatives by the project team and/or advisors. This outcome may benefit future researchers and users of shared grant proposals.

# Withdrawal from the study

You are free to withdraw your consent and to stop participating in this study at any time without consequence. You can decline to answer any question you don’t wish to answer.

If you wish to discuss the information above, please ask questions now or contact one of the research team members listed at the top of this form.

# Conflicts of Interest

Hao Ye, the principal investigator of this study, voluntarily maintains <https://www.ogrants.org/>, a website that currently functions as a free and open-source listing of shared grant proposals.

The topic of this study involves grant proposals and associated data, which are evaluated and selected for funding by various funding agencies. Both Hao Ye and Perry Collins have past relationships working for organizations involved in the selection of grant proposals for funding. At this time, none of the study investigators are involved with funding agencies in any capacity other than that of researcher.

# Agreement

To participate, please email Hao Ye <haoye@ufl.edu> with the subject “{YOUR NAME} Interview Request for Research Study Planning for Open Grants”