Overview of the Organization

CASR is an interdisciplinary research center that examines the cultural, political, organizational, tech–nical, interpersonal, cognitive, and biological dimensions of contemporary challenges in human communities. CASR fosters research excellence through multi-disciplinary collaborations within the center, with OU partners, and with outside partners. Five key research themes include: 1) neuroscience, complex cognition and decision making; 2) interpersonal interaction, organizations, and leadership; 3) security, trust, integrity, and ethics; 4) culture, communities, and public policy; 5) health, development, and aging. CASR produces high quality research, high quality students, and is uniquely poised for future growth by virtue of its unique interdisciplinary environment, multiple substantive foci, and faculty members with excellent funding track records.

Recent Highlights

- CASR welcomed Dr. Cecil Lewis in the fall of 2012
- Use of metagenomics to address anthropological questions
- NSF project on ideological websites and credibility, persuasion, and interactivity
- Evaluating university ethics programs for research integrity under the Office of Research Integrity
- NSF project on effectiveness of case study content and processes used in teaching scientific ethics
- NIH project exploring dogs and children's development on a Northern Plains reservation
- IARPA contract testing effectiveness of a video game for mitigating cognitive biases
- Intelligence communication post-doctoral fellowship investigating interviewing techniques
- Partnering with NOAA to study human response to severe weather in order to reduce the loss of life and property
- Collaborating with Sandia National Laboratories to include public perspectives in a range of technical policy areas: nuclear waste management, renewable energy, the valuation of hydropower, and consent based siting.
- Part of the Oklahoma EPSCoR team studying Oklahoman's response to changes in our climate.
- NASA project identifying leadership research needs for long-duration space flight

Activities Planned for 2014

- NIH R1 project investigating the ancestral state of the oral microbiome, which includes vulnerable populations, non-human primates, and historical samples
- NIH R21 project investigating blood microbiome in Burkina Faso and associations with neurological diseases
- OTRC seed grant project investigating urine microbiome and its association with tobacco use
- Follow-on NSF proposal to examine strategies for countering the impact of ideological messages
- NSF proposal to examine the effects of forecasting on learning in ethics contexts
- NSF proposal to examine the training approaches in support of organizational anti-phishing efforts
- NSF proposal to develop game-based training to teach deception detection techniques
- NIH CoBRE Application for the Oklahoma Center for Microbiome Engagement and Research
- NIH R34 project on interventions in maternal and child health with the Chickasaw Nation and Southcentral Foundation in AK
- NIH R21 application on deliberation and public health research with the Chickasaw Nation

Core Competencies

- Health and Healthcare
- Native American & Indigenous communities
- Water, sanitation and hygiene
- Organizational leadership
- Assessment and development of complex cognitive processes
- Public policy, energy, and the environment
- Ethics, scientific integrity
- National security
- Risk assessment and management with respect to weather, climate change, water, national security
• NIH R01 project on environmental determinants of childhood obesity with the Cherokee Nation
• NIH proposed research on dog bite and attack prevention on a Northern Plains reservations
• NIH proposed project on chronic pain and opiate abuse in Native populations
• NIH project for assessing ethics and ethics programs
• Office of Naval Research on computational methods and data for assessment of cultural, social, and cognitive factors on human behavior.

Linkages and Partnerships
CASR researchers have partnered with a variety of internal and external centers and organizations. These have included partners related to efforts in weather and climate (CIMMS, NSSL, EOMF, and the CSC), the WaTER Center within CEES, Sandia National Laboratories, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, South Central Climate Science Center, the Department of Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency, the K-20 Center, the Administration on Children and Families (which funds Home Visiting, Head Start, Early Head Start, and Child Care), the Administration on Aging, the Stephenson Cancer Center, the Oklahoma State Department of Health and the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, the Oklahoma City Veterans Administration Medical Center, the Oklahoma Tobacco Research Center, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the Department of Homeland Security, the Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity, Aptima, Inc., Fort Sill, US Army Research Institute, the Department of State, OG&E, Devon, Sand Ridge, NASA, and many university research partners around the country.

Impacts and Outcomes of CASR
In addition to the substantive contributions of CASR research in the areas described above, CASR research impacts OU’s strategic priorities and graduate education in the varied doctoral programs represented in the center. We anticipate catalyzing applied social research in new Departments at OU, creating new interdisciplinary social science knowledge through graduate training, undergraduate research experience, and opening new opportunities for minority participation in science. One example of CASR’s broader impacts includes the professional ethics training program that has been institutionalized at OU, and that universities nationwide are looking to as a model in terms of content, delivery, and evaluation of research ethics. A second example includes the potential for CASR research to inform U.S. energy policy in the coming years. A third area of increased emphasis is on tribal and rural health and health care disparities, which is being developed with numerous tribes and state agencies. Ongoing research and applied work has led to substantial published contributions to the advancement of science and research. CASR has also provided nearly 50 undergraduates per semester with meaningful research training opportunities, provided for the training, development and placement of doctoral students, and supported various post-doctoral fellows.