Research funding for doctoral students

carpe pecunia!
Find funding how?

• What are your research questions?
• What type of funding are you seeking? How much? and when do you need it?
• Identify possible funding agencies/sources – who funded the research you cite?
• Look at recently funded projects
• Talk with someone – ask questions, give them a one page summary of your research plans
Find funding where?

- **UW resources**
- Evans School resources:
  - Research Services
Find funding where?

- NSF and other federal agencies – NEH, NIST, DOE, ONR, NIH, CDC…
- grants.gov
- SciVal Funding (UW restricted): http://www.funding.scival.com/home#b
- Foundations: http://fdncenter.org/funders/
- State and Local agencies, foundations and corporations. Look for campus connections, through your faculty
Funding types

• Fellowships and scholarships
• Research funding without stipends
  – Travel funding
  – Funding for data collection
• Full research funding
National Science Foundation

- Is an Independent Agency of the Federal Government
- Was established in 1950 to promote and advance scientific progress in the United States by sponsoring scientific research and by supporting selected activities in science and engineering
- Does not conduct research itself.
NSF has four outcome goals

1. Discoveries at and across the frontier of science and engineering;
2. Connections between discoveries and their use in service to society;
3. A diverse, globally-oriented workforce of scientists and engineers; and
4. Improved achievement in mathematics and science skills needed by all Americans.
• Composed of nine programs (in clusters)
• Supports research to develop and advance scientific knowledge focusing on:
  – Economic, Decision, and Management Sciences
  – Methods, Cross-Directorate, and Science and Society Programs
  – Science, and Technology
  – Social and Political Sciences
• Intellectual and social contexts that govern the development and use of science and technology
• All programs consider proposals for research projects, interdisciplinary projects, conferences, and workshops
National Science Foundation

- **NSF Dissertation enhancement funding**
  SBE Dissertation Improvement Awards: Grants to doctoral students in order to improve the quality of dissertation research.

- **Program Solicitation NSF 06-605**
How to find a home at NSF

- Visit www.nsf.gov
- Search abstracts of funded research by keyword (full text search) to see
  - the program funding the research
  - the PI
  - an abstract
- Visit program homepages
Successful proposals

- Stress the novel aspects of your approach
- Differentiate your work from that done by others
- Emphasize the hypothesis that your research will test
- Respond to all aspects of the program description
- Support your ideas with references / preliminary results
- Describe broader impacts – social, policy - that could result from the research
- Show where the research might lead
- Include figures and graphs to facilitate understanding – teach not snow
- See an example of a successful dissertation enhancement proposal in a related discipline here (with reviews!)
What is the intellectual merit of the proposed activity?

• How important is the proposed activity to advancing knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields?
• How well qualified is the proposer (individual or team) to conduct the project? (If appropriate, the reviewer will comment on the quality of prior work.)
• To what extent does the proposed activity suggest and explore creative and original concepts?
• How well conceived and organized is the proposed activity?
• Is there sufficient access to resources?
What are the broader impacts of the proposed activity?

- How well does the activity advance discovery and understanding while promoting teaching, training and learning?
- How well does the activity broaden the participation of underrepresented groups (e.g., gender, ethnicity, disability, geographic, etc.)?
- To what extent will it enhance the infrastructure for research and education, such as facilities, instrumentation, networks and partnerships?
- Will the results be disseminated broadly to enhance scientific and technological understanding?
- What may be the benefits of the proposed activity to society?
Good luck!