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**NSF-DOD Issue Joint Solicitation for Minerva Research:
AAA to Host Media Conference Call**

The National Science Foundation and Department of Defense issued yesterday a joint solicitation for Project Minerva research proposals. The solicitation includes details about topic areas for research, types of grants and funding available.

Project Minerva is a Defense Department initiative to fund social science and behavioral research in national security-related areas including terrorist organizations and ideologies, religious and cultural changes, and political, cultural and social dynamics under authoritarian regimes.

The program has been regarded with caution by the social science community. Some anthropologists have raised concerns that the Minerva program would discourage research in important areas outside the Pentagon's interest areas and undermine the role of the university as a place for independent critique of the military.

Spokespersons of the American Anthropological Association (AAA)—including AAA President Setha Low, Executive Director Bill Davis and Public Affairs Director Damon Dozier—will discuss the solicitation in depth today during the first half of the media conference call scheduled for 2-3pm ET.

To register for the call, contact Jennifer Steffensen at 703-528-1902 ext. 3039 or email jsteffensen@aaanet.org.

View the solicitation: http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2008/nsf08594/nsf08594.htm?govDel=USNSF_38

Useful Links:

Gates Minerva Speech before Association of American Universities:
<http://www.defenselink.mil/speeches/speech.aspx?speechid=1228>

DoD Broad Agency Announcement:
<http://www.arl.army.mil/www/DownloadedInternetPages/CurrentPages/DoingBusinesswithARL/research/08-R-0007.pdf>

Letter from AAA President Setha M Low: <http://www.aaanet.org/issues/policy-advocacy/upload/Minerva-Letter.pdf>

Statement by the Network of Concerned Anthropologists:
<http://concerned.anthropologists.googlepages.com/concernsaboutdod%27sminervaproject>

NSF Press Release: http://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=111829&govDel=USNSF_51

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Founded in 1902, the American Anthropological Association is the world's largest professional organization of anthropologists and others interested in anthropology, with an average annual membership of more than 10,000. The Arlington, Va.-based association represents all specialties within anthropology — cultural anthropology, biological (or physical) anthropology, archaeology, linguistics and applied anthropology.

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