Dear Friends,

We are pleased to report that 2016-2017 was a healthy, growing year for the Institute and all of our research centers. On a financial basis, we saw an 8% increase in volume of activity to a total of $12.5M. The primary source of our funding continues to be federal and foundation grants that support the core work of the research centers. Perhaps most importantly, we are starting to track our total support for graduate students. This amounted to $650,000 for the past year, through a combination of research assistantships, research grants, training workshops, data support, and dissertation fellowships. Few categories of funding are as strategically important as these investments in our new scholars.

An important element of our work last year was the planning activity for the Institute and centers. This effort tied neatly to President Tessier-Lavigne’s long-range planning process for the university. While we haven’t included those planning documents with our annual report, we will be glad to share that information with you.

With an organization as large and diverse as ours, it is a challenge to call out highlights of the past year. Nonetheless, here’s a small sample.

- The NSF-sponsored American National Election Studies, co-led by faculty at the University of Michigan, completed its public opinion survey work during the 2016 presidential election. It’s hard to over-estimate the value of these quadrennial studies, especially in the current political climate, that are used to assess current events and identify trends in the behavior and attitudes of the American electorate.
- The Survey Lab for the Study of American Values completed its 4th and final year as an IRiSS trial initiative. Based upon the measurable impact the Lab has had influencing the career trajectory of its participating students, we aim to make the Lab an ongoing offering in our lineup of graduate research programs.
- While only in its second year, the Immigration Policy Lab published an unprecedented number of research papers. This included “Protecting Unauthorized Immigrant Mothers Improves Their Children’s Mental Health,” published in Science Magazine.
- The Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society completed a $10M endowment fundraising campaign which will increase its capacity to support research activities such as its junior scholars program and the Digital Civil Society Lab.
- The Center on Poverty and Inequality created a new Poverty and Technology Lab with the aim of “developing new interventions that exploit the capacity of technology to reduce transaction costs, allow information to be disseminated widely and cheaply, and eliminate the usual capital barriers to self-sufficiency and entrepreneurship.”
- With substantial support from Dean Richard Saller, we received approval from the Stanford Provost and the U.S. Census Bureau for the expansion of the Federal Statistical research facilities at Stanford – which will support a ten-fold increase in capacity for studies like the work of Nick Bloom, Raj Chetty, and other Stanford scholars whose research examines microdata collected by federal agencies.

This list is not intended to be comprehensive. Instead we hope it provides some encouragement to look more closely at the report in the pages that follow.
As ever, we are grateful for your interest in and support for our work, assuring the vitality of social science research at Stanford, and expanding social science contributions to tackle many of the toughest challenges we face in our world today.

With our best wishes,

Karen Cook  
Institute Director

Sandy Smith  
Advisory Board Chair

Chris Thomsen  
Institute Executive Director
About

Our Mission

*Data Driven Discovery for the Social Sciences*

Founded in 2004 with the broad goal of advancing social science research, the Stanford Institute for Research in the Social Sciences (IRiSS) trains social scientists in advanced and innovative research methods, undertakes high-quality interdisciplinary research, and disseminates research findings that address significant global challenges.

At the core of our activity, the Institute invests in new, shared research infrastructure for the social science community; creates a collaborative research community to strengthen Stanford’s ability to attract and retain top-tier faculty and students; offers seed grants and sponsors a faculty fellows program to encourage innovative and interdisciplinary research; teaches graduate and undergraduate students state-of-the-art methods for data acquisition and analysis; convenes conferences of leading scholars and students to further the debate on large-scale societal problems; and, collaborates with leading universities to disseminate information and leverage research worldwide.

Seven research centers have been launched and are supported under the IRiSS umbrella. Descriptions for each of these, as well as several other research support services are found in the following pages.
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Mission
The Center for Advanced Research through Online Learning (CAROL) facilitates scientific research in digitally mediated learning environments. CAROL avails researchers worldwide of data describing learner interactions on three online platforms: Lagunita, Coursera, and NovoEd. To date, CAROL has facilitated 172 shares of data to researchers within Stanford and worldwide. Shares have been extended to researchers at U.S. universities such as UC-Berkeley, Carnegie Mellon, Harvard, Purdue, and UC-San Diego; and internationally with researchers at Oxford, Peking University, Simon Fraser University, and the University of Sydney among many others.

Featured Project: Understanding Change in Higher Education
The explosion of digital instructional technologies is one part of a fundamental restructuring of how higher education is delivered, experienced, measured, governed, and paid for. Remaking College is an ongoing effort to account for this change and explain it to policy-makers, academic leaders, and the general public. Publications include Remaking College: The Changing Ecology of Higher Education (2015) and Association, Service, Market: Higher Education in American Political Development (2016).

Related Publications

Key Research Projects

- **Bay Area Human Capital Project** - Lifelong learning for a vibrant regional economy
- **MOOC Item Lab** - What makes a good question?
- **MOOC Survey Lab** - Building truly global social sciences
- **Remaking College** - Understanding change in higher education
- **Responsible Use** - Setting standards for student data in higher education
- **Statlets Design Lab** - Digital tools to improve math learning

About

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Mission
The Stanford Center for American Democracy (SCAD) brings the tools of multi-mode survey research and sophisticated statistical analysis to the examination of American elections and voters. SCAD began in 2010 as the home of the American National Election Studies (ANES), but is envisioned as an ongoing enterprise housing a variety of research programs and student training programs focused on parties and party coalitions, candidates and campaigns, and the beliefs, attitudes, and actions of ordinary citizens in order to advance a broader understanding of the merits and challenges of American electoral democracy.

Research Update
Since this time last year, the American National Election Studies have completed data collection and released the data for their flagship project, the ANES 2016 Time Series Study. This study interviewed 1,181 respondents face-to-face, primarily in their own homes, and 3,090 respondents online. The study asked questions about voting behavior, campaign participation, policy issues, partisanship, values, racism, social media usage, and other topics to understand Americans' voting decisions. Researchers have made the data available for free on the project website (www.electionstudies.org), and the results have already been used in numerous scholarly and news media outlets, including the New York Times, The Nation, the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, and pending publications in peer-reviewed journals such as PS: Political Science and Politics.

In addition to the main study, ANES conducted a Non-Response Follow-Up Study, which is a methodological study designed to measure the accuracy of the main study and identify and understand any systematic differences between people who respond to surveys and people who do not respond. They will release the data from this study in the coming weeks.

Publications
- Iyengar, S. “E Pluribus Pluribus, or Divided We Stand.” Public Opinion Quarterly (2016).
Funding
The American National Election Studies received $830,997 in supplemental funding from the National Science Foundation in 2016. The total four-year NSF grant, co-directed with the University of Michigan, is funded at approximately $11 million, making it the largest grant from NSF’s political science program. In addition, they also received a supplemental grant award for $44,004 to bring additional scholars to their board meetings. This grant involves innovative junior scholars in the ANES study design process.

About

Stanford PI of the ANES: Shanto Iyengar (Communication)
Professional Staff: Senior Research Scholar Matthew DeBell, Director of Stanford Operations for ANES; Natalya Maisel, Social Scientist for ANES
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Mission
The Center for Computational Social Science (CSS) supports social science research by using computational techniques to analyze big data. Today, huge amounts of data are available for research on human behavior: website clicks, medical records, social media data, etc. This data can be used to address larger societal issues of inequality, healthcare, education, democracy, and more. The center supports these endeavors by hosting conferences, training students, offering a certificate program, and funding interdisciplinary student projects.

Research highlight: Fake News and the 2016 Presidential Election
Did fake news help Donald Trump win the election? Matt Gentzkow, Stanford economist, and Hunt Alcott of New York University recently published a paper analyzing the impact of fake news on the election outcome. In their paper they analyzed three sets of data: web browsing data, a 1200 person post-election survey, and a database of 156 election-related news stories that were classified as “fake” by fact-checking websites. Based on this data, they found that fake news painting Trump in a positive light was shared about four times as many times as similar material related to Clinton. However, only half of readers believed the fake stories that were being circulated. So while there was a large amount of fake news circulating, the odds of someone reading it, believing it, and believing it enough for them to change the way they votes are fairly slim.

Featured Projects
How Public Opinion Shapes Policy Outcomes in China: To prevent rebellions and coups, autocrats implement policies that the majority of people favor. Because autocratic regimes have trouble understanding the public’s true opinion, this project uses computational methods to examine how governments strategically release feelers of policy ideas to the public, monitor discussion about the feelers on social media, and choose to confirm, deny, or adjust the policies based on the public discussion. This project is being conducted by Tongtong Zhang, graduate student in Political Science.

2017-2018 Graduate Fellows
Kirk Bansak (Political Science), Improving Refugee Integration Through Data-Driven Algorithmic Assignment
Engin Bumbacher (Education), Scientific Models as Guides for Disciplined Perception
MJ Cho (Communication), Lexicon-Based Factuality Classification of Media Consumption Data
Caue Dobbin and Tom Zohar (Economics), Determinants of Inequality and Economic Opportunity Using Administrative Databases from Israel
Fernanda Herrera (Communication), Using Virtual Reality to Understand Racism and Reduce Racial Bias
Alice Kathmandu (Education), Understanding the Global Gender Gap in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Engagement with Agent-Based Simulation and Online Social-Psychological Interventions
Josh Kim, Sebastián Otero, and Hernán Barahona (Economics), Food Labelling and (Mis)Information: Evidence from the Chilean Industry
Will Qiu (Sociology), Estimating the Determinants of Trust Using Online Field Experiments
Daniel Thompson and Chloe Lim (Political Science), Covering Congress: The Impact of a Congressperson’s Roles on Her Coverage
Scott Williamson (Political Science), The King Can Do No Wrong: Delegation and Blame Avoidance in Authoritarian Regimes

2016-2017 Graduate Fellows
Thomas Ginn (Economics), Understanding Movement Patterns of Internally Displaced Persons in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
Quinlan Jung (Computer Science), Planting Passwords Through Online Games
Angela Lu (Sociology), Bureaucratic Mobility in China and India
Jessica Santana (Sociology), Learning from Startup Failure
Anita Tseng (Education), The Nature of Science Misinformation in Social Media
Tongtong Zhang (Political Science), How Public Opinion Shapes Policy Outcomes in China

Publications


Executive Committee
Sharad Goel (Chair of the Executive Committee; Management Science & Engineering); Michael Bernstein (Computer Science); Matt Gentzkow (Economics); Amir Goldberg (Graduate School of Business); Jeff Hancock (Communication); Paolo Parigi (Sociology); Meghan Sumner (Linguistics)

About
Director: Jeff Hancock (Communication)
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Mission

Research Highlight: Digital Civil Society Lab
The Digital Civil Society Lab (DCSL) is led by Rob Reich, Faculty Co-Director, and Lucy Bernholz, Senior Research Scholar at Stanford PACS. It explores the implications of the digital age for global civil society. DCSL is applying that knowledge to build a universal framework for civil society to use digital resources safely, ethically, and effectively. Through the Digital Impact World Tour the lab is learning directly from leaders of nonprofits and foundations, individual funders, and advocacy groups about how they are using digital resources in line with the unique values of civil society. At every stop, participants are contributing to the custom-built tools and resources that the Lab is developing, while sharing insights into how they are maximizing social impact in the digital age. The World Tour stops cover 11 cities across 6 continents – Stanford, Toronto, Beijing, Brussels, London, Berlin, Brisbane, Cape Town, New York City, Mumbai, and Sao Paulo.

Other Research initiatives
The Stanford Project on the Evolution of Nonprofits (SPEN) combines cutting-edge quantitative and qualitative methodologies to provide a comprehensive overview of the San Francisco Bay Area nonprofit sector. SPEN is led by Stanford PACS Faculty Co-Director Woody Powell.

The Effective Philanthropy Lab (EPL) is an interdisciplinary team based at Stanford PACS, working at the intersection of human centered design, strategic philanthropy, and the behavioral sciences, to design and test methods, messages, products, and services to increase donor impact. It is led by Stanford PACS Faculty Co-Director Paul Brest and is directed by Nadia Roumani.

The Global Innovation for Impact Lab (GIIL) develops and shares knowledge on social innovation and organizational strategies that is portable across geographies, sectors, and issue domains. Lab directors Johanna Mair and Christian Seelos study why and how organizations innovate and how differences in their processes and their organizational context generate positive and negative consequences.
Event Highlight
Stanford PACS hosted its third Philanthropy Innovation Summit (the Summit) on September 19th, 2017. The Summit is a biennial event and its goal is to help high net worth philanthropists become more strategic and impactful in their giving by providing a forum to facilitate discussions with peer experts in an intimate, non-solicitation environment. Participants have the opportunity to expand their personal philanthropic network and learn how “best in class” philanthropists, innovators, and entrepreneurs create high-impact social change.

Over 250 participants from around the world attended the 2017 Philanthropy Innovation Summit which explored a variety of approaches, issue areas, and philosophies. In the morning, Darren Walker, Reed Hastings, and Rob Reich were in conversation about “Philanthropy and Democracy: Dangerous Liaisons?” followed by Carol Larson, President & CEO of the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, interviewing Mark Heising, Liz Simons, and their daughter Caitlin Heising on “Family Dynamics: Navigating Giving, Values, and Philanthropic Priorities.” During lunch, Stanford PACS founder and Advisory Board chairman Laura Arrillaga-Andreessen interviewed Alex Karp, CEO of Palantir Technologies, on “The Promise and Peril of Big Data for Social Good.”

The afternoon session kicked off with Stanford University President Marc Tessier-Lavigne and Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen discussing “Catalyzing Scientific Breakthroughs and Innovations” followed by a plenary on “Impact Investing” with Matt Bannick, Liesel Pritzker Simmons, Julie Sunderland, and Summit faculty advisor Paul Brest.

After the plenary, audience members were directed to one of nine different philanthropy salons, each led by experts in a reception-style salon setting. The nine salons explored the following topics:

- Creating a Giving Compass for Your Philanthropy
- Social Innovation – Revealing Productive Pathways for Philanthropists
- Effective Altruism: Doing the Most Good
- Leveraging Your Full Philanthropy Tool Kit
- Organizational Capacity Building
- Saving Civil Society in the Digital Age
- Universal Basic Income: Safety Net 2.0
- Globalization and Giving
- Place-Based Philanthropy

The evening program featured a conversation between Stanford PACS founder and Advisory Board chairman Laura Arrillaga-Andreessen and Laura Arnold. The evening concluded with a performance titled “The Foundation” by Tony and Obie Award-winning performer Sarah Jones.

About
Faculty Directors: Paul Brest (Law School), Walter W. Powell (Education), and Rob Reich (Political Science)
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More information: http://pacscenter.stanford.edu/
Mission
The Center on Poverty and Inequality (CPI) has five objectives: to monitor trends in poverty and inequality, to support scientific analysis of poverty and inequality, to develop science-based policy on poverty and inequality, to disseminate data and research on poverty and inequality, and to train the next generation of scholars, policy analysts, and politicians.

Administrative Data Program
In this moment of rapid technological advance, the Center on Poverty and Inequality is bringing together the country’s best minds in science, technology, service, and government to build a 21st-century research and development infrastructure for solving poverty, reducing inequality, and increasing mobility. As it stands, the country often runs its poverty and labor market policy largely in the blind. Rather than draw on administrative data to monitor labor markets and evaluate and develop policy, governments at all levels (federal, state, and local) are often obliged to guess about how best to target social service spending because existing surveys are not large enough to provide small-area or small-group estimates. Moreover, given that individual-level data are not linked over time, policy-makers do not know who is moving into and out of poverty, employment, and other labor market statuses.

This problem can be solved. The CPI’s California Longitudinal Administrative Database (CLAD) is a new administrative-data infrastructure for California that will make it possible to monitor real-time trends in labor market outcomes as well as evaluate how new and existing programs are delivering on their stated objectives. Although one could of course set up one-off evaluations of state programs, it is more cost-effective to carry out the requisite evaluations by building an administrative database in California that adds value by linking existing data. This new infrastructure entails linking administrative tax data, administrative program data, and survey data.

This year, the CPI has joined with Third Sector Capital Partners and three state and local governments to develop a new big-data infrastructure for evaluating programs that aim to increase economic opportunity. These government-nonprofit-university partnerships will build linked federal, state, and local administrative data sets for evaluating policy and improving economic outcomes and well-being. The first cohort of state and local agencies to receive research and development support include the San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency, the Santa Cruz Human Services Department, and the Washington Department of Early Learning.
Ending Poverty with Technology

The CPI aims to leverage the data and technology revolution to create new, lasting, and low-cost solutions to poverty and inequality in the United States. To this end, the CPI recently founded the Stanford Poverty and Technology Lab, with the mission of developing new interventions that exploit the capacity of technology to reduce transaction costs, allow information to be disseminated widely and cheaply, and eliminate the usual capital barriers to self-sufficiency and entrepreneurship. Interventions designed in the lab will be tested and evaluated using the CPI’s administrative data infrastructure (see above). The simple objective: to develop a suite of ambitious “Silicon Valley” antipoverty interventions that change the face of poverty in the Bay Area and, ultimately, the United States. The lab launched in November at the first-ever Summit on Technology and Opportunity, hosted by the White House, the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, and the CPI.

Research Group Leaders

- Sanjay Basu, Health Disparities
- Nicholas Bloom, Income and Wealth
- Raj Chetty, Income and Wealth and Social Mobility
- Shelley Correll, Discrimination
- Mark Cullen, Health Disparities
- Rebecca Diamond, Housing
- Mark Duggan, Safety Net
- Jeremy Freese, Health Disparities
- Tomás Jiménez, Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration
- Karen Jusko, Safety Net
- Hazel Markus, Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration
- Arnold Milstein, Life Course
- David Pedulla, Discrimination
- Joan Petersilia, Incarceration
- Luigi Pistaferri, Consumption
- Sean Reardon, Life Course and Education
- David Rehkopf, Health Disparities
- Cecilia Ridgeway, Discrimination
- C. Matthew Snipp, Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration
- Florencia Torche, Social Mobility
- Gregory Walton, Life Course

Publications

**Bold Visions: Blueprints for Ending Poverty (Pathways Magazine)**

How might poverty be eliminated if the usual political constraints were set aside? Would we resort to a basic income? Is a jobs program the answer or should we work instead on human capital development? In this most recent issue of *Pathways Magazine*, distinguished commentators go beyond well-known “consensus poverty plans” and instead offer bold ideas for ending poverty.


Featured Event

State of the Union on Poverty and Inequality

Are our country’s policies for reducing racial and ethnic inequalities getting the job done? The simple answer is that they are not. For many key outcomes, racial and ethnic disparities remain very substantial in the United States, with the gaps narrowing only slowly in recent decades, according to the 2017 State of the Union report, which was released at the CPI’s annual conference on June 16, 2017. At the conference, the country’s leading experts on poverty and inequality came together to analyze racial and ethnic disparities, explain their causes, and offer solutions.

About

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Communications Director: Stephanie Garlow, sgarlow@stanford.edu
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Mission
Researchers at the Immigration Policy Lab (IPL) evaluate and design policies surrounding the integration of refugees and immigrants worldwide. Using large datasets, creative research designs, and cutting-edge analytical tools, IPL brings new evidence to bear on the urgent problems practitioners face. By guiding the people who set public policy, as well as those who directly serve immigrant communities, our research can inspire solutions and ultimately improve countless lives.

Featured Projects
**Authorized to Drive:** When California moved to make driver’s licenses available to unauthorized residents, critics raised an outcry: the law, they said, would flood the roads with inexperienced, uninsured drivers and lead to more accidents. Two years and more than 800,000 licenses later, those fears are largely unfounded, IPL researchers found. The study also revealed a 10 percent decrease in the rate of hit-and-run accidents in the law’s first year, which adds up to savings of $3.5 million in out-of-pocket expenses for California drivers.

**Decoding European Attitudes Toward Refugees:** Despite rising nationalism and anti-Muslim sentiment, most Europeans would prefer a humane and cooperative asylum system over the restrictive policies of the far right. In a wide-reaching study of 18,000 Europeans in 15 countries, IPL researchers revealed an untapped well of support for refugees and a strong mandate for reform. A large majority of respondents favored the allocation of asylum-seekers in proportion to each country’s capacity—even if that system brought greater numbers into their own country.

**How DACA Affects the Health of America’s Children:** Should unauthorized immigrants who were brought to the United States as children be granted permission to live and work in this country? In the heated debate over Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), it is often overlooked that these young adults are also raising children who are U.S. citizens. IPL examined the intergenerational health effects of DACA to find out how these children’s lives change when their parents no longer fear being deported. The findings were striking: among children whose mothers were eligible for DACA protections, diagnoses of anxiety and adjustment disorders fell by more than 50 percent compared to children whose mothers were ineligible.

**Breaking Down Barriers to Preventive Care:** An estimated 41 percent of the nation’s unauthorized immigrants are uninsured, leading many of them to forgo preventive care and treatment for major health conditions and chronic diseases. Some states have created more inclusive health systems, for example by extending publicly funded coverage for prenatal care to pregnant women who are unauthorized
immigrants. IPL examined the impact of one such program in Oregon, and found that bringing these women into the health system delivered significant benefits for their children: Compared to similarly situated immigrant women without coverage, they were much less likely to have babies with low birth weight, and they saw a marked decline in infant mortality. Their children also were more likely to receive screenings, vaccinations, and well-child visits later in life.

**Featured Event**

About half of California children live with at least one parent who is foreign-born, and about 5 million nationwide have at least one parent who is an unauthorized immigrant. Recent changes in immigration policy may have a profound impact on the well-being of this next generation of Americans. IPL partnered with colleagues at the Stanford School of Medicine to co-host a day-long conference on children’s health and immigration policy. The event drew more than 250 attendees and brought together experts and practitioners in pediatrics, law, political science, health policy, politics, social services, and other fields.

**Publications**


**Affiliated Faculty**

- **Ran Abramitzky**, Associate Professor of Economics, Stanford University
- **Claire Adida**, Associate Professor of Political Science, UC San Diego
- **Rafaela Dancygier**, Associate Professor of Politics and International Affairs, Princeton University
- **Jeremy Ferwerda**, Assistant Professor of Government, Dartmouth College
- **Vicky Fouka**, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Stanford University
- **Dan Hopkins**, Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Pennsylvania

**About**

**Directors**: Jens Hainmueller (Stanford Political Science), Dominik Hangartner (ETH Zurich), David Laitin (Stanford Political Science), and Jeremy Weinstein (Stanford Political Science)

**Executive Director**: Duncan Lawrence

**Contact**: Noelle Daly, communications director, noelle.daly@stanford.edu

**More Information**: www.immigrationlab.org
Laboratory for the Study of American Values

Mission
The Laboratory for the Study of American Values supports graduate students who are writing dissertations about American public opinion by helping them conduct original surveys of nationally representative samples of adults. The lab’s goal is to enhance the research productivity and career success of graduate students and yield rich new insights about American values.

Research Highlight: Secrecy and Covert Action in U.S. Foreign Policy-Making
Countries use a wide variety of policy instruments to gain leverage in interstate disputes. One way in which these instruments vary is the extent to which they are transparent to the public. For instance, in recent years, the United States has engaged in drone strikes and other covert operations in Yemen while simultaneously leading a multinational coalition to conduct airstrikes in Syria. The objective of this project, led by Rachel Myrick, graduate student in Political Science, is to explore to what extent norms of transparent foreign policy-making matter to democratic publics.

2016-2017 Research Projects
- **Adina Abeles** (*Communication*), Party Cues, Polarization, or Something Else? How People Form Perceptions of Public Opinion on Climate Change
- **Anna Boch** (*Sociology*), Freedom of Speech on Campus
- **Tina Cheuk** (*Education*), Attitudes on Public Education and School Choice
- **Jonathan Chu** (*Political Science*), International Organizations and Mobilizing Support for Humanitarian Intervention Alliance Resilience: Evidence on China, the U.S., and Two Koreas
- **Doron Dorfman** (*Law*), The Fear of Disability Con: PublicSuspicion of Abuse of Disability Rights
- **Cayce Hook** (*Psychology*), The Role of Choice and Personal Responsibility Beliefs in American Attitudes Towards a Soda Tax
- **Nathan Lee** (*Political Science*), Can Experts Correct Misperceptions in Public Policy?
- **Mashail Malik** (*Political Science*), Economic Anxiety and Support for the Far-Right
- **Amanda Mireles** (*Sociology*), Perceptions of College Value in an Era of Growing Female Advantage
- **John Muñoz** (*Sociology*), Category-Spanning Protest: Participation and Public Opinion
- **Rachel Myrick** (*Political Science*), Secrecy and Covert Action in U.S. Foreign Policy-Making
- **Sandra Nakagawa** (Sociology), How Gender Identity Shapes Preferences for Environmental and Health Behaviors
- **Taylor Orth** (*Sociology*), Where are the Men in Childcare? Gender Essentialism, Care Work, and the Stalled Gender Revolution
- **Erik Peterson** (*Political Science*), Causes and Consequences of News Media Reputations
• Michael Robinson (Political Science), Influencing Public Opinion on Intervention: Public Appeals by the Military
• Seth Werfel (Political Science), The Politics of Private Contributions to Public Goods
• Scott Williamson (Political Science), Security or Democracy? U.S. Public Opinion and Support For Autocrats Abroad

About

Faculty Directors: Michael Tomz (Political Science) and Paul Sniderman (Political Science)
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Secure Data Center

Mission
The Stanford IRISS Secure Data Center (SDC) has a three-part mission to:

- provide social science research infrastructure
- safeguard sensitive data at Stanford
- serve as a liaison between Stanford and providers of sensitive data

The Center also provides secure research facilities for a limited number of individual faculty and graduate student projects that need dedicated, secure space.

Data Highlight: Getting Data from an NGO in Brazil
Nine out of ten violent deaths in the world occur outside countries involved in direct conflict. 41 of the 50 most dangerous are in Latin America. As a consequence of violence, around one million people have died in the past decade in this region. Despite its pervasiveness, our understanding of criminal violence is still very limited. Edgar Vivanco, a graduate student in Political Science working with Professor Beatriz Magaloni at the Freeman Spogli Institute, submitted a project proposal to the Center for Computational Social Science in the fall of 2016 looking at such issues of police violence. The final objective of the project was to provide advice to researchers, policy-makers, and police departments on how to reduce violence and build better relations with the community.

Vivanco’s budget requested funds to purchase a dataset from Instituto Movrio, an NGO in Brazil. The Brazilian project is called Disque Denuncia and the data being purchased was the call log from an anonymous hotline for residents to report criminal activity in their neighborhoods in Rio de Janeiro. Calls can describe illicit activity among private citizens as well as corruption among police and other security services. It has been in operation since 1995 and has registered 2.3 million complaints. Edgar had requested to purchase the entire dataset whose initial cost would absorb the entire amount of the fellowship.

The review committee at IRISS decided that while the project had academic merit, the initial cost of the dataset was prohibitively expensive. In order to reduce that cost, and to ensure that the contract terms and international fund transfer abided by Stanford policies, IRISS worked together with the Stanford Libraries’ Center for Interdisciplinary Digital Research (CIDR) to collaborate with contract negotiators and seasoned data acquisitions personnel.

Though the negotiations took several months to conclude, partially due to the time it took to ensure the Portuguese-English translations were sufficiently accurate for legal purposes, we were able accomplish
two goals beyond simply purchasing the data: 1) the cost was reduced drastically allowing IRiSS to repurpose fellowship funds into another award; 2) the negotiations yielded a subset of the data that would be made available through the Stanford Library catalog to campus community members in perpetuity. The latter item is especially important in providing the NGO another outlet through which they can make others aware of the valuable social science dataset they have been working tirelessly to develop.

**Federal Statistical Research Data Center Update**

Staffing for the Federal Statistical Research Data Center (RDC) at Stanford has been expanded in expertise and coverage over the past year, with the new objective of support by a full-time RDC administrator. This growth has allowed them to more than double the number of projects and work with 50% more investigators who work with secure microdata held by certain federal departments and agencies. From January 2017 to today, the number of projects has more than doubled, from 9 to 21; the number of researchers has jumped from 21 to 32 individuals. As anticipated, with more people aware of the RDC and interested in using survey and administrative microdata, the community of RDC researchers has expanded and the demand for critical help from the RDC administrator has been essential. It is expected that this growth will continue for years.

The Secure Data Center has also made important progress toward the facilities expansion of the Stanford RDC. Two critical approvals were received in August and September. Stanford’s provost has approved the assignment of space on the 4th floor of the Lathrop Library building. That facility could provide as much as 3,000 square feet for secure data activity. This site is ideal because of its central campus location and the existing security provisions of the building. An equally important milestone was the project approval from the U.S. Census Bureau. The Stanford project is one of only six facilities projects approved for 2018. During the remainder of the calendar year, the focus will be on the design of the new RDC. The target date for the construction phase is fall of 2018, and it is expected that the facility should be opened on or before January 2, 2019.

**Available Datasets**

**Federal Statistical Research Data Center**
The Federal Statistical Research Data Center provides access to non-public microdata from a growing number of federal agencies, including the Census Bureau, the Department of Commerce, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and the National Center for Health Statistics in a secure facility at Stanford IRiSS.

**Add Health Data**
The National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (also known as Add Health) is a nationally representative study designed to examine how social contexts (such as families, friends, peers, schools, neighborhoods, and communities) influence teens' health and risk behaviors through early adulthood.

**Eurostat Microdata**
Microdata refers to records about individuals or businesses that are considered confidential and must be handled through different mechanisms than publicly available administrative data.

**About**

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**Program Director:** Vijoy Abraham

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**More Information:** https://iriss.stanford.edu/centers-programs/sdc
Faculty Fellows Program

Mission
The Stanford IRiSS Faculty Fellows program brings Stanford faculty members together from multiple departments to explore cutting-edge research questions with the goal of creating and communicating new knowledge through research publications and in the classroom.

Research Highlight: Responses of Immigrant Minorities to Discrimination: Assimilation or Alienation?
While recent terrorist attacks in Europe and the United States have increased Islamophobia and highlighted the connection between discrimination and Muslim integration, there is still little understanding of when discrimination leads to support for radical Islam. Vasiliki Fouka seeks to understand how immigrants react to discrimination. In what contexts do they increase efforts toward assimilation, and when do they become discouraged and turn inward, or in extreme cases, undertake radical oppositional actions? Her two-part research includes a historical study of naturalization petitions and the “Americanization” of names among German-Americans in the discriminatory context of post-World War II United States. Exploring the rich information on the location and socioeconomic characteristics of petitioners helps in understanding the factors that led some immigrants, but not others, to assimilate in response to discrimination. The second, contemporary part of the research is an experimental study of Muslim immigrants in Europe, consisting of an online game that includes discriminatory treatments. By randomly varying exposure to discrimination against an in-group, the experiment assists in identifying conditions that influence a stronger or weaker reaction among Muslims.

2017-2018 Fellows
Melanie Morten (Economics), The Welfare of Walls: Migration and the U.S.-Mexico Border
Jennifer Pan (Communication), Detecting Collective Action with Unstructured Digital Data
Kabir Tambar (Anthropology), The Politics of Nonviolence in the Middle East
Robb Willer (Sociology), The Revolution Will Be Analyzed: The Social Psychology of Political Beliefs and Actions
2016-2017 Fellows

Avidit Acharya (*Political Science*), Economic Origins of the Territorial State System

Vicky Fouka (*Political Science*), Responses of Immigrant Minorities to Discrimination: Assimilation or Alienation?

Matthew Kohrman (*Anthropology*), Cigarettes and the Politics of Life and Death

Tanya Lurhmann (*Anthropology*), Big Question: Is There a Relationship Between the Way People Think About Thinking and Their Experience of the Supernatural?

Petra Persson (*Economics*) and Maria Polyakova (*Health Research and Policy*), Health Insurance Design and International Differences in Health at Older Ages

John Rick (*Anthropology*), Innovation, Religion, and the Development of the Andean Formative Period

Sharika Thiranagama (*Anthropology*), The New Worlds of Dalit Women: Slavery, Case, and Communism in Kerala

About

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More information: https://iriss.stanford.edu/faculty/faculty-fellows
Faculty Seed Grants

Mission
The Stanford IRISS Seed Grants program supports proposal development, pilot research, and other activities that advance faculty projects to the point where they can attract external funding.

Research Highlight: Improving Malaria ‘Early Warning’ Predictive Models: A Proof-of-Concept Using Archaeohistoric and Climate Data
Krish Seetah and interdisciplinary collaborators Rob Dunbar, Earth System Sciences, and Aleks Pluskowski, Archaeology, Reading University, take a novel approach to malaria control, aimed at developing a more precise understanding of the relationship between the malaria parasite, mosquitoes, humans, and the environment. The project uses terrestrial cores and coral cores to correlate information found in the sediment with archaeological and historical evidence on human populations. Terrestrial cores provide evidence on temperature, rainfall, humidity, land cover change, and other determinants of mosquito distribution. They also contain mosquito egg casings, allowing researchers to estimate the prevalence of mosquitoes. The researchers correlate this sediment data with historical data on climate, malaria epidemics, mosquitoes, and human response to the disease. Archeological information gives precise timing for malaria infections in humans. Coral cores contain both dating and weather information that bridge the other two data sources. This allows researchers to link climate and other factors to past malaria epidemics, in order to potentially alleviate the disease burden to descendants of a population in a high-risk malaria area.

2017-2018 Seed Grant Recipients
Vicky Fouka (Political Science), The Role of History and Family Experience in Shaping Xenophobic Attitudes
Jeff Hancock & Byron Reeves (Communication), Social Robots as Media
Ian Hodder (Anthropology), Virtually Rebuilding Catalhoyuk
Shanto Iyenagar (Political Science), Divided We Stand: Partisan Media, Selective Exposure, and Political Polarization
Beatriz Magaloni & Alberto Diaz-Cayeros (Political Science), The Problem of Police Violence
Jeanne Tsai & Brian Knutson (Psychology), Cultural Neuroscience of Trust and Resource Sharing
Christine Wotipka & Francisco Ramirez (Education), World Gender Database

2016-2017 Seed Grant Recipients
Andrew Hall (Political Science), Interactive Visualizations of Political Information in Large Datasets of Text

Krish Seetah (Anthropology), Improving Malaria “Early Warning” Predictive Materials: A Proof-of-Concept Using Archaeohistoric and Climate Data

About

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More information: https://iriss.stanford.edu/faculty/seed-grants
Mission
This program supports dissertation writers with TGR status within the six social science departments of the School of Humanities & Sciences. Particular encouragement is provided to graduate students whose research crosses disciplinary boundaries, relies upon computational social science methods, and/or analyzes large, complex data sets.

Research Highlight: Gender Differences in Healthy and Pro-Environmental Behaviors
Why are men less likely than women to engage in many common healthy and pro-environmental behaviors? This research suggests that men often enact masculinity by actively avoiding environmental and health-promoting practices that are seen as feminine and care-oriented. Using a social psychological approach, this research draws on survey, experimental, and text analysis methods to explain the gender gap in health and environmental preferences. In addition, it illustrates that it is possible to increase men’s willingness to adopt health and environmental behaviors by reframing these to fit more closely with widely held beliefs about masculinity.

2017-2018 Fellows
Christof Brandtner (Sociology), Cities in Action: An Organizational Theory of City Agency
Nicholas Camp (Psychology), Black and White Meets Blue: Race and the Social Psychology of Police Encounters
Fulya Ersoy (Economics), Effect of Information on Study Effort and Performance
Soomin Kim (Sociology), Marriage Norms and Intergenerational Relations by Lineage in South Korea
Molly King (Sociology), Information Inequality: The Class, Gender, and Race of Knowledge
Dave Markowitz (Communication), The Media Marshmallow Test
Rebecca Perlman (Political Science), Capture Under Precaution: How Industry Benefits from the Precautionary Principle
Bradley Spahn (Political Science), The Forging of the American Voter: Politics Before and After the New Deal Realignment
David Yang (Economics), 1984 or The Brave New World? Evidence from a Field Experiment on Media Censorship in China
Lauren Yapp (Anthropology), Colonial Pasts, Future Cities: The Rise of Urban Heritage Advocacy in Contemporary Indonesia
2016-2017 Fellows

**Maddie Brown (Anthropology),** Social Interaction Influence on Access and Management of Common Property

**Maron Greenleaf (Anthropology),** Making More than a Market: Carbon Credits and the Politics of Distribution in the Western Brazilian Amazon

**Adam Liu (Political Science),** Proliferation of Players and Competition in China’s Banking System

**Sandra Nakagawa (Sociology),** Gender Differences in Healthy and Pro-Environmental Behaviors

**Julia Payson (Sociology),** Public Interest: The Dynamics of Intergovernmental Lobbying in the U.S.

**Seth Werfel (Political Science),** The Spillover Effects of Prosocial Behavior in Public Life

About

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**More information:** [https://iriss.stanford.edu/students/funding/iriss-dissertation-fellowships](https://iriss.stanford.edu/students/funding/iriss-dissertation-fellowships)
Graduate Student Programs

Mission
Graduate student programs provide general support for the social science research activities of graduate students within the six social science departments of the School of Humanities & Sciences, the Graduate School of Education, and the Graduate School of Business.

Highlights
Since instituting this set of graduate programs, we have seen an improvement in communication about IRISS services, and in attendance at IRISS events. For example, applications for the IRISS Dissertation Fellowships tripled in the past year.

2016-2017 Activities
IRiSS Liaisons: Quarterly meetings and ongoing communication with representative students from each of the six social science departments, and GSE, provide a two-way information stream regarding the needs of students and the opportunities provided by IRiSS.

Lunch and Learn: Essential Social Science Research Tools seminar series: In cooperation with the Laboratory for Social Research (sociology) and Social Science Data and Software (libraries), we provide sessions focused on social science software and research tools. 122 students attended 12 sessions in 2016-17. In 2017-18, we coordinated qualitative software sessions with research methods course faculty in the social sciences.

New Graduate Student Communication: New incoming graduate students in the social science departments are provided with detailed information on IRISS events and services during their orientation. An annual IRISS Graduate Student Reception introduces students to IRISS events and services, providing an opportunity for students to meet IRISS staff, raise concerns, and ask questions.

Dissertation Bootcamp: In 2016-17 a ten-day bootcamp supported dissertation writers in jump-starting their dissertation writing. Three postdoctoral fellows provided volunteer support.

About
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Research Experience Program

Mission
The Research Experience Program (REP), a collaborative, year-round program with local community colleges, creates a much-needed subject pool for Stanford researchers who are conducting experimental research. At the same time, REP provides an opportunity for community college students to experience Stanford social science experiments as a part of their introductory social science coursework in college.

Research Highlight: The Domain-Specific Effects of Instrumental vs. Value-Rational Appeals to Organizational Legitimacy
Christof Brandtner and Aaron Silverman

Do non-profit and for-profit organizations attract public support by using different kinds of messages in their mission statements? Specifically, do for-profit organizations benefit from signaling efficiency, while non-profit organizations benefit from signaling values?

To examine this question, the researchers administered an online survey experiment to 253 Stanford alumni volunteers in the IRISS Alumni Research Experience Program pool. Participants evaluated two organizational profiles by expressing their level of support (e.g. willingness to patronize/donate to/promote the target organization) for each organization. They also indicated the extent to which they thought each organization was efficient, moral, unusual, and authentic.

Regardless of the mission statement, non-profit organizations received significantly greater support than did for-profit organizations, because non-profits were perceived to be more moral and authentic than were for-profits. Preliminary inferences are that non-profits maintain a competitive edge against for-profits in the same industry because they seem more moral or authentic in pursuit of their mission.

In 2016-17, REP supported:

- 5638 subject hours
- 44 Stanford student or postdoc researchers
- 18 Stanford faculty PIs
- 1911 research subjects

Alumni Research Experience Program
The Alumni Research Experience Program (AREP) is a unique and fun opportunity for Stanford alumni to volunteer as human subjects for non-medical, social science research. Alumni participants contribute to
scholars’ research on important questions of political science, economics, sociology, communication, and psychology.

**In the spring of 2017, AREP supported:**

- 937 subject hours
- 4 Stanford student or postdoc researchers
- 4 Stanford faculty PIs
- 670 research subjects

**Research Assistant Intern Program**

The Social Science Research Assistant Internship Program matches community college students interested in social science research and careers with volunteer internships at social science research labs at Stanford University. Community college students serve as research interns with graduate and postdoctoral researchers in psychology, sociology, psychophysiology, education, communication, and other social science related disciplines.

**In 2016-17, the RA Intern program supported:**

- 50 volunteer interns
- 3090 hours of volunteer work
- 25 graduate and postdoctoral mentors

**About**

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**More information:** https://iriss.stanford.edu/rep
Data, Society, & Inference Seminar Series

Mission:
This cross-disciplinary seminar series at Stanford University features speakers tackling social science questions with big data and cutting-edge computation, data analysis, and inference techniques. Seminars are recorded and shared online.

Event Highlight: Improving Refugee Integration Through Data-Driven Algorithmic Assignment

Jens Hainmueller & Kirk Bansak

Developed democracies are settling an increased number of refugees, many of whom face challenges integrating into host societies. We develop a flexible data-driven algorithm that optimally assigns refugees across resettlement locations to improve integration outcomes. Using a combination of supervised machine learning and optimal matching, our method discovers and leverages synergies between refugee characteristics and resettlement sites. Backtesting the algorithm on registry data from the United States and Switzerland demonstrates that this approach can lead to considerable gains in refugees’ short- and long-term employment outcomes as compared to current assignment practices. Our data-driven assignment method provides governments with a practical and cost-efficient policy tool that can be immediately implemented within existing institutional structures and offers significant potential to improve refugee integration.

2016-2017 Events

- Sham Kakade (University of Washington), Finding Hidden Structure in Data with the Method of the Moment
- Susan Murphy (University of Michigan), Assessing Moderated Effects of Time Varying Mobile Health Interventions
- Eytan Bakshy (Facebook), Adaptive Field Experiments Using Bayesian Optimization
- Joshua Angrist (MIT), Uber vs Taxi: A Driver’s Eye View
- Doug Rivers (Stanford), What the Hell Just Happened? The Perils of Polling in the 2016 U.S. Elections
- Lihong Li (Microsoft Research), Offline Evaluation for Interactive Systems
- Peter Bühlmann (ETH Zurich), Heterogeneity: New Opportunities for Causal Inference and Prediction
• Jens Hainmueller & Kirk Bansak (Stanford University), Improving Refugee Integration Through Data-Driven Algorithmic Assignment

About
Organizers: Guido Imbens, Susan Athey, Mohsen Bayati, Stefan Wager, & Chris Thomsen
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Summer Institute in Political Psychology at Stanford University

Mission:
The Summer Institute in Political Psychology (SIPP), seeks to accomplish one preeminent goal: to produce skilled, creative, and effective scholarly researchers who would do more and better work as a result of their attendance at SIPP. To achieve this goal, the training experience was designed to: 1) provide broad exposure to theories, empirical findings, and research traditions; 2) illustrate successful cross-disciplinary research and integration; 3) enhance methodological pluralism; and 4) strengthen institutional networks.

2017 Event
For three weeks, from August 7 - August 25, 2017, Stanford hosted the 23rd Summer Institute in Political Psychology, an intensive program designed to advance the research capabilities of graduate students from around the world studying political science, psychology, and other social sciences. The goal was to expose participants to a wide range of current topics in political psychology, as well as basic research in the fields of psychology and political science that could inform participants’ interests in the political domain. Attendees were primarily from political science, however the full makeup of the event included: 62% from political science, 33% from psychology, and 5% from some other field. In terms of educational status, 19% were undergraduates, 67% were graduate students, and 15% were non-students. Some of the best-received lectures included Robb Willer’s presentation on the politics of threat response, Arthur Lupia’s presentation on the necessary conditions for persuasion in political context, James Sidanius’ presentation on gendered prejudice and social dominance, and Jon Krosnick’s presentation on attribution theory.

About
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Faculty and students at the Institute’s research centers are asking critically important questions for today.

- Is being born into a well-off family the ticket to success in the U.S.?
- What do Americans really think of politics?
- How can we improve online learning?
- How does the asylum process impact refugee integration?
- How can we draw on data science to understand changes in human interaction?
- What role does philanthropy play in a democracy?

Find out more about the Institute at iriss.stanford.edu

Faculty Director: Karen Cook
Deputy Director: C. Matthew Snipp
Executive Director: Chris Thomsen
Executive Committee: Paul Brest, Karen Cook (chair), David Grusky, Jens Hainmueller, Jeff Hancock, Shanto Iyengar, David Laitin, Walter Powell, Rob Reich, Matt Snipp, Mitchell Stevens, Chris Thomsen
Advisory Board: Henry Brady, Kathy Chou, Roger Clay, Mary Dent, Craig Falkenhagen, Tom Geiser, Matt Halprin, Rich Jaroslovsky, Roberta Katz, Doyle McManus, Gretchen Milligan, Stephen Peeps, Ken Prewitt, Donna Schweers, Sandy Smith (chair).