Data Driven Discovery for the Social Sciences
Our Mission

Growing access to novel data sources, the development of powerful computing tools, and innovation in quantitative and qualitative research methods are opening a new frontier for social scientists to explore bold, inventive research questions. In this burgeoning era for social science research, the Stanford Institute for Research in the Social Sciences (IRiSS) facilitates first-rate interdisciplinary research, trains the next generation of scholars, and incubates research projects to address critical societal challenges. IRiSS ensures that world-class evidence-based research is produced to meet evolving problems in areas of governance and democracy, economic inequality, immigration policy, effective philanthropy, and other social issues that affect communities across the globe.

INCUBATING AND SUPPORTING RESEARCH LABS FOCUSED ON SOLVING SOCIETY’S GREAT CHALLENGES

IRiSS | Center for American Democracy
IRiSS | Center for Computational Social Science
IRiSS | Center for Global Ethnography
ipl | Immigration Policy Lab
Stanford PACS | Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society
Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality

ANTHROPOLOGY
COMMUNICATION
ECONOMICS
POLITICAL SCIENCE
PSYCHOLOGY
SOCIOLOGY
LETTER FROM THE DIRECTORS

The 2019-2020 academic year will be remembered as a year of progress and milestones, and resiliency and innovation at IRiSS.

The fall of 2019 and first months of 2020 saw the launch of two new research centers: the Center for American Democracy and the Center for Global Ethnography. The programming of both centers featured IRiSS hallmarks of interdisciplinary collaboration and support, workshops, and resources for graduate students. More established labs and centers also made substantial contributions to the social science community. The Center on Poverty and Inequality sent dozens of research fellows to nearly 200 neighborhoods across the country to speak with community members in 47 states; the first qualitative census of its kind in our country. The Immigration Policy Lab launched a new research initiative in partnership with Stanford's King Center on Global Development to assess the potential that migration can have for aiding development in some of the world’s poorest countries. The Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society published *The Nonprofit Sector: A Research Handbook*, which fills a unique space in the nonprofit literature as the only sector-wide volume aimed at furthering research in the field. Finally, the Center for Computational Social Science held three major academic conferences on the topics of computational text analysis, computational sociology, and education data science.

IRiSS also hosted conversations with two of the nation’s foremost leaders in national defense and science. Former Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and the National Science Foundation’s head of social, behavioral, and economic sciences, Skip Lupia, emphasized the importance of social science research for solving social and policy issues.

Due to the efforts of staff and researchers across our centers applying for external grants, as well as the generosity of IRiSS’s advisory board and donors, funding increased 29% from 2018-19 to 2019-20. IRiSS added two new grants programs for graduate students to increase access to data: the Center for American Democracy Graduate Fellows Program and the Pilot Data Grants Program. These opportunities for social science doctoral candidates increased the total number of grants issued by the Institute from 45 to 71, as well as the amount of graduate students involved in IRiSS programs. Notably, for both graduate students and faculty, engagement was widespread across all six social science departments and five graduate schools: Business, Education, Engineering, Law, and Medicine. Furthermore, 13% of students and 20% of faculty participate in two or more IRiSS programs, speaking to the breadth and diversity of opportunities for engagement and support provided by IRiSS.

When the reality of the dangers and impact of the COVID-19 pandemic became evident in March, the IRiSS team and affiliated centers moved quickly to adapt to the social distancing protocols put in place by local and state governments. The teams conducting surveys in the field—the Center on Poverty and Inequality and the American National Election Studies—quickly transitioned to phone and video call interviews. No longer able to conduct fieldwork internationally, the Immigration Policy Lab pioneered a strategy to survey people remotely using automated messages sent through WhatsApp. Meanwhile, conferences such as the Conference on Computational Sociology were hosted in new, innovative formats to enhance virtual participation and online learning.

A major milestone that took place despite obstacles related to the University shutdown was the opening of a new, significantly larger Federal Statistical Research Data Center, which increased access to restricted government data for Stanford researchers. IRiSS provided online training for social scientists and public health scholars to access microdata held by the National Center for Health Statistics and other agencies in the fight against the coronavirus.

At the close of this year, we want to recognize the contributions of two members of the IRiSS Advisory Board who are retiring after many years of service. Ken Prewitt has provided crucial guidance from the very first days of the Institute. His leadership on the growing importance of computational social science research, access to federal statistical data, and his broad understanding on social science issues in a national policy context has been instrumental to our progress. Stephen Peeps’ impact has been similarly consequential, as he generously shared his broad and deep understanding of Stanford in ways that helped steer us toward success. Partners and friends to us all, we are grateful for the opportunity we had to work with them.

We give our heartfelt thanks to all who contribute to the IRiSS mission to produce world-class evidence-based research to meet evolving social issues across the globe.

C. Matthew Snipp  
Acting Director

Chris Thomsen  
Executive Director

Sandy Smith  
Advisory Board Chair
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 2,902 PARTICIPANTS
  - 2,154 COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS
  - 748 STANFORD ALUMNI
  - HOURS VOLUNTEERED: 14,945

EXTERNAL GRANTS

- 39
- 5 FACULTY FELLOWSHIPS
- 5 SEED GRANTS
- 12 DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIPS
- 20 SCAD FELLOWSHIPS
- 5 CSS FELLOWSHIPS
- 24 DATA GRANTS

6 RESEARCH CENTERS AND LABS

71 IRiSS GRANTS
99
STANFORD FACULTY COLLABORATE IN IRISS PROGRAMS

12 DEPARTMENTS AND GRADUATE SCHOOLS

793 ENGAGED RESEARCHERS

139 FACULTY
95 GRADUATE STUDENTS
19 POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLARS
24 UNIVERSITIES REPRESENTED

1 ENGINEERING
7 ECONOMICS
3 COMMUNICATIONS
11 EDUCATION
16 BUSINESS
16 POLITICAL SCIENCE
16 SOCIOLOGY
3 HISTORY
3 LAW
5 PSYCHOLOGY
11 ANTHROPOLOGY

31 RESEARCHERS ACCESSING RESTRICTED DATA
RESEARCH AND POLICY IMPACT

NICOLAS BLOOM, ADVISORY BOARD

Nicolas Bloom, Professor of Economics, is a leading researcher using restricted government data from the Federal Statistical Research Data Center (RDC). His areas of specialization include economic uncertainty, productivity, and working remotely. He has presented his research to the Federal Reserve, White House, International Monetary Fund, World Bank, European Central Bank, and Bank of England. While most RDC researchers were required to pause their work as RDCs across the nation shut down when social distancing protocols went into effect, Bloom was granted special access to continue his research as it is used by the Census Bureau and the Federal Reserve to evaluate the economic impact of COVID-19. Additionally, Bloom’s work on COVID-19-induced economic uncertainty and work-from-home has been reported on widely by top media outlets such as the Wall Street Journal, the Economist, the New York Times, and the BBC. Bloom leads and participates on several teams that produce major datasets and surveys for academics' and policymakers’ use. This year, he released the World Uncertainty Index, which provides a broad assessment tool for economic uncertainty in 143 countries.

AMERICAN NATIONAL ELECTION STUDIES

The American National Election Studies (ANES) produces high-quality data through administering surveys on voting, public opinion, and political participation and as such is the premier data source for social scientists studying American politics, authors of a metanalysis of quantitative articles on American mass political behavior concluded that “the ANES is a critical investment for the scientific community and a main driver of political behavior research.” The ANES has 7,514 citations in academic research to date, but this list is far from comprehensive. Similarly, the ANES team tracked more than 280 mentions of research using ANES data in the media this year alone. The ANES’s newest project will be of special interest to journalists and policymakers: a study that will link survey data to participants’ Facebook newsfeeds over the course of the 2020 presidential campaign to shed light on the mechanisms underlying polarization, misinformation, and support for democratic norms.

CENTER ON POVERTY AND INEQUALITY

The Center on Poverty and Inequality (CPI) Administrative Data Program (ADP) studies the effectiveness of social policies and programs with research partners in local, state, and federal government agencies. The CPI team regularly presents on the effects of a Santa Cruz subsidized employment program on labor market outcomes (i.e., job retention and earnings growth) to county human services officials across California who lead the Expanded Subsidized Employment programs. Several of these counties (e.g., Merced, San Francisco, and Ventura) are now partnering with CPI on an initiative to evaluate and improve subsidized employment programs in California. The CPI team continues to regularly advise the Washington Department of Children, Youth, and Families on the use of linked administrative data to improve the effectiveness of early childhood interventions on the near-term and intergenerational wellbeing of children and families. CPI will continue this partnership through the creation of the Early Childhood Impact Lab (see page 29).
The Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society’s Program on Democracy and the Internet (PDI) is a joint program between the Stanford Cyber Policy Center and the Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society. With respect to government policy, PDI research and participation has influenced privacy policy in the European Union, reform proposals from the Kofi Annan Commission on Elections and Democracy in the Digital Age, proposed online political advertising regulation in the U.S. Congress, and election protection efforts at the Department of Homeland Security.

IMMIGRATION POLICY LAB

The Immigration Policy Lab (IPL) team members traveled to Switzerland to present their work at a regional forum hosted by the International Organization for Migration. Public officials from across the EU learned about an IPL technology, GeoMatch, that uses machine learning to match newcomers to places within their destination country that give them the best chance of success. The Intergovernmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees (IGC) supports inter-governmental information exchange and policy debate on all issues of relevance to the management of international migratory flows.

The group also presented a proposal for a GeoMatch pilot-testing initiative to about 70 officials in the Canadian government. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) is exploring the potential benefits of using GeoMatch to help incoming economic immigrants decide where to settle.

IPL team members participated in the 2019 National Summer Institute hosted by CASAS, which provides testing services and curriculum tools for providers of adult education, including English as a second language (ESL) programs for immigrants. They presented a new tool, the IPL Integration Index, that measures how well these programs help immigrants integrate into their communities, allowing for comparisons across different places and groups of people. The attendees included representatives of state government agencies that are involved in adult education, primarily from California.
Research Centers

01. CENTER FOR AMERICAN DEMOCRACY
02. CENTER FOR COMPUTATIONAL SOCIAL SCIENCE
03. CENTER FOR GLOBAL ETHNOGRAPHY
04. IMMIGRATION POLICY LAB
05. CENTER ON PHILANTHROPY AND CIVIL SOCIETY
06. CENTER ON POVERTY AND INEQUALITY
01. CENTER FOR AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

Michael Tomz, William Bennett Munro Professor of Political Science
Faculty Director
iriss.stanford.edu/american-democracy

MISSION

The Stanford Center for American Democracy (SCAD) convenes faculty and graduate students in a multidisciplinary effort to address fundamental questions about American democracy, institutions, and the American electorate. With a methodological focus on survey research, the Center also serves as Stanford’s premiere resource hub for graduate students who employ survey research methods to study American public opinion.

SCAD houses three programs: the Graduate Fellows Program, the Laboratory for the Study of American Values, and the American National Election Studies.

We would like to give special thanks to Wintson and Phyllis Chen for their generous gift to the Graduate Fellows Program.
GRADUATE FELLOWS PROGRAM

2019-2020 was the inaugural year for the SCAD Graduate Fellows Program. Launched under the direction of Faculty Director Michael Tomz, the program holds a competitive request for proposals, open to graduate students from the social sciences and graduate schools who study questions related to American democracy—specifically those using experimental survey research methods. Selected grantees join the Center as Graduate Fellows, and in addition to receiving financial support, they are inducted into a community of researchers with access to feedback on research, methods workshops, and joint-access to omnibus surveys. Graduate Fellows can also utilize a restricted platform that hosts information on the network of researchers who have participated in the program—particularly their research skills and specialties—so that students can reach out to peers for help and feedback, as well as view recordings of past workshops.

This year’s cohort was comprised of 20 grantees. They represented eight departments and graduate schools, including the Schools of Education and Medicine, the Stanford Law School, and the Graduate School of Business. A selection of this year’s projects, below, indicates the diverse nature of topics researched.

Alejandra Aldridge (Political Science), Presidential Influence on Democratic Norms
Katie Hedgecock (Political Science), Private Entities and the State in the Cyber Era
Ryan Moore (Communication), How fake is your news? Investigating the consequences of the veracity of political information
Marissa Thompson (Education), The Effect of Information on Parental Attitudes Towards School Segregation

“SCAD’s Graduate Fellows Program was a major highlight of my first year as a PhD student. The workshops were a fantastic way for me to pick up new research skills, network with other students, faculty, and staff who share my methodological interests across departments, and share my own work with a supportive and engaged group of scholars.”

KATIE CLAYTON, POLITICAL SCIENCE
LABORATORY FOR THE STUDY OF AMERICAN VALUES

The Laboratory for the Study of American Values, known as the Survey Lab, supports graduate students who are writing dissertations about American public opinion by helping them conduct original surveys of nationally representative samples of adults. SCAD provides students with funds to run online survey experiments with specific audiences, such as Americans of voting age or certain racial groups. These survey results provide students with invaluable data tailored specifically for their dissertations. Professors Paul Sniderman and Michael Tomz teach the Laboratory for the Study of American Values seminar, which meets over two quarters to provide training on all stages of the experimental survey research process including survey design, implementation, and analysis of the results. The Lab’s goal is to enhance the research productivity and career success of graduate students and yield rich new insights about American values.

LAB IMPACT: A CAREER IN SURVEY RESEARCH

Government officials and pundits often make claims about the nature of Muslims’ beliefs, touting assumptions that influence national security and immigration policies, as well as Americans’ perceptions of their Muslim neighbors. Often lost in the noise are Muslims’ own opinions, and little quantitative evidence existed to make sense of their diverse, wide-ranging beliefs. Dr. Rachel M. Gillum, Stanford PhD ’14 in political science and alumna of the Survey Lab, sought to address this problem by carrying out an original survey to examine Muslim Americans’ experiences in the face of America’s changing security landscape after September 11th. The Muslim American National Opinion Survey (MANOS)—launched with support from the Survey Lab—provided a novel source of data for her book *Muslims in a Post-9/11 America: A Survey of Attitudes and Beliefs and Their Implications for U.S. National Security Policy*. Gillum’s research has unlocked a whole host of insights that can be used to create more fair and effective policies aimed at improving immigrant integration, policing, and countering violent extremism in the United States and beyond.

Q&A WITH DR. RACHEL M. GILLUM

What impact did participation in the Survey Lab have on your research?

The Survey Lab was essential to the success of this project. In addition to funding a significant portion of the survey, the instruction and dedicated group of colleagues I received as a member of the Lab improved the survey significantly. I learned from others, avoided costly mistakes and my survey was meaningfully improved as a result.

How has your training in survey research methods assisted or shaped your career?

Training in survey research methods has been an incredible asset to my career. It allowed me to publish a book that stood out for its survey research in an area that is dominated by qualitative methods. It has afforded me opportunities to advise on national polls, including several conducted by the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding, where I serve as a Poll Advisor. More broadly, working in areas adjacent to politics and policy making, it is also incredibly important to be able to interpret and understand public opinion polls and their limitations.
AMERICAN NATIONAL ELECTION STUDIES

The mission of the American National Election Studies (ANES) is to inform explanations of election outcomes by providing data that support rich hypothesis testing, maximize methodological excellence, measure many variables, and promote comparisons across people, contexts, and time. The ANES serves this mission by providing researchers with a view of the political world through the eyes of ordinary citizens.

Shanto Iyengar, Harry and Norman Chandler Professor of Communication
Co-PI of the ANES
electionstudies.org
Facebook provided a $351,000 gift to the ANES to gather data on an important topic pertaining to the American electorate: what is the nature of the relationship between social media usage and public opinion? This survey will augment the data collected by the primary ANES study in 2020. The study will be a two-wave, web-based survey sampling the national electorate, a large proportion of which will be Facebook users. The objective of the study is to connect social media usage with political attitudes and behavior. “By linking what happens in an individual’s Facebook newsfeed over the course of the 2020 presidential campaign with changes in their political attitudes and voting behavior, we hope to shed light on the mechanisms underlying important outcomes including polarization, misinformation, and support for democratic norms,” said Shanto Iyengar, co-PI of the ANES and Professor of Political Science.
2020 DATA COLLECTION

Deep into a presidential election year, the ANES team is in the process of interviewing a total of 9,300 subjects across the portfolio of studies it conducts. Data collection for the flagship ANES survey began in August 2020, and traditionally has two components: a web-based survey and face-to-face interviews, the latter of which has been the centerpiece of the ANES since 1948. As face-to-face interviews are not possible as a consequence of COVID-19, the ANES team is redesigning this part of the study. Matthew DeBell, director of the ANES’s Stanford operations, explained “we are actively exploring the use of video interviews, which can provide many of the same benefits as face-to-face interviews in terms of participant engagement, while being affordable and safe during a pandemic.” The video component of the study is expected to be the first randomized test of video interviewing at this scale with a nationally representative sample, which advances the state of art in survey methodology. Additionally, ANES researchers will re-interview a portion of 2016 ANES participants, and a portion of respondents to the General Social Survey, the premier opinion survey in the field of sociology. This will allow for the first-ever data linkage between these leading surveys.
02. CENTER FOR COMPUTATIONAL SOCIAL SCIENCE

Daniel McFarland (Education)
Faculty Director
css-center.stanford.edu

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, and social media data. 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.

2019-2020 CSS FELLOWS

Yiming He (Economics), *The Effects of Slum Clearance on Displaced Residents: Evidence From Victorian London*

Mufan Luo (Communication), *Understanding Live Broadcasting Media Events and Intensified Emotions*

Katarina Mueller-Gastell and Austin Van Loon (Sociology), *Formal Inclusion, Informal Exclusion: The Gender Differences In Social Interaction At Work*

Franklin Qian and Rose Tan (Economics), *The Effect of High-Skilled Firm Entry on Gentrification*

Michael Webb (Economics), *The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on the Labor Market*
PREDICTING THE EFFECTS OF AUTOMATION ON JOBS

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHT

Michael Webb, 2019-2020 CSS Fellow and PhD ‘20 in economics, developed a new methodology to address a timely question that is on policymakers’—and workers’—minds: what will the effects of artificial intelligence (AI) be on jobs? While many researchers are working on different facets of this question, Webb’s dissertation research is focused on finding a way to make credible predictions about the effects of AI in the future, rather than simply studying the impacts of past automation. Using natural language processing on historical databases of patent records and job descriptions, Webb uses the overlap between these two bodies of text to develop an algorithm that can correctly predict which occupations were impacted by new technologies. Although Webb had developed the fundamentals of the model upon beginning his CSS Fellowship, the painstaking process of calibrating and validating his algorithm required hundreds of hours of ingesting, standardizing, and linking a large number of disparate data sources. With the fellowship funding, he was able to hire a research assistant to carry out this work, thereby refining the predictive capabilities of his model and freeing up valuable time to work on other aspects of his research.


FEATURED EVENTS

TEXT AS DATA CONFERENCE

The 10th annual Text as Data conference, sponsored by the Center for Computational Social Science and Stanford Department of Political Science, was a two-day event that featured social and computer scientists sharing innovative statistical methods for natural language processing across diverse text corpora. The conference takes place at a different university each year, with 2019’s event organized at Stanford University by Justin Grimmer, Professor of Political Science. The topics ranged from applications of word embedding methods to novel data collection methods using multilingual Twitter data to explore the impact of authoritarian regimes and the complex behavior of online social movements. Highlighted topics included model validation, detection of algorithmic bias, and the challenges of causal inference using machine learning on complex high-dimensional text data.

WORKSHOP IN COMPUTATIONAL SOCIAL SCIENCE

The Center for Computational Social Science teamed up with the Computational Policy Lab to host the 2019 Workshop in Computational Social Science. Instructors provided hands-on introductions to the R and Python programming languages, with lessons on data manipulation and visualization, model fitting and interpretation, working with APIs and web scraping, and best practices for reproducibility. Over the course of two days, the workshop was attended by over 100 Stanford students, faculty, and researchers.
03. CENTER FOR GLOBAL ETHNOGRAPHY

Sharika Thiranagama, Sakurako and William Fisher Family Faculty Scholar in the School of Humanities and Sciences, and Sylvia Yanagisako, Edward Clark Crossett Professor of Humanistic Studies (Anthropology)
Faculty Co-Directors
iriss.stanford.edu/ethnography

MISSION

The Center for Global Ethnography brings together faculty and graduate students from a variety of disciplines, who are engaged in ethnographic research. The Center serves those interested in linking ethnography with other research methods. In addition to showcasing interdisciplinary conversations and collaborations of ethnographic research, the Center trains graduate students for rigorous, meaningful, and ethical ethnographic fieldwork.

CENTER LAUNCH

Jointly supported by IRiSS and the Department of Anthropology, the Center for Global Ethnography inaugurated its first year of programming by bringing together qualitative researchers from across Stanford’s campus and from institutions around the world. The Center’s first events explored a range of formats. From a dialogue with seasoned ethnographers, to a graduate student workshop, and to a video series and webinar, each explored the practical, ethical, and digital facets of doing ethnography in today’s world.

In January, the Center launched by hosting “Urban Life in a Digital Age,” a conversation with Forrest Stuart (Sociology) and Thomas Blom Hansen (Anthropology). While for decades, ethnographers have studied social life in cities, increasingly these public and private spaces are mediated by online social networks. Hansen and Stuart spoke about how they have engaged with interlocutors in real time to learn how they use social media to navigate their day-to-day lives and move through neighborhoods safely. The conversation also reflected on what it means for one’s own research profile and digital media presence to be accessible to interlocutors. Audience members from across campus extended the conversation by discussing their own work in the urban world. Participants reported that the Center’s kickoff was a useful space for strengthening the on-campus community of qualitative researchers at Stanford.

In February, the Center held “Ethnographic Methods Across the Disciplines,” a day-long graduate student workshop hosted at IRiSS. The Center’s Co-Directors, Sharika Thiranagama (Anthropology) and Sylvia Yanagisako (Anthropology) led students through an introduction to formulating research questions, selecting methods, and integrating research ethics at the research planning stage. Breakout sessions gave students a hands-on research design challenge, and the day concluded with a discussion of how to navigate in-the-field challenges.
In March, the Center moved its programming online in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Professors Thiranagama and Yanagisako postponed a spring series on visual ethnography in order to respond to the emerging needs of graduate students preparing for the field. Interviewing six experts in remote and digital ethnographic methods, the Center’s public video series, “Doing Ethnography Remotely,” gathered perspectives on conducting research at a distance. Interviewees also came together for a live webinar responding to audience questions. Topics discussed included how to engage with interlocutors who may have limited access to phones, computers, and reliable internet connections, how to recruit new participants, how to weigh the ethical concerns of digital and remote research, and how to collaborate with online communities.
04. IMMIGRATION POLICY LAB

Jens Hainmueller, David Laitin, James T. Watkins IV and Elise V. Watkins Professor in the School of Humanities and Science, and Jeremy Weinstein, (Political Science) Faculty Co-Directors

immigrationlab.org

MISSION

Researchers at the Immigration Policy Lab (IPL) evaluate and design policies surrounding the integration of refugees and immigrants world-wide. 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, IPL research can inspire solutions and ultimately improve countless lives.
FEATURED PROJECTS

MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE
Many projects aim to promote economic development in struggling areas, in part to encourage residents not to leave. But this ignores the reality that the many people who migrate out of these areas often enjoy better jobs, educational opportunities, and health. And just as the free movement of goods and services yields economic growth, the free movement of labor can benefit not only migrants and their families back home but also the communities receiving them.

Yet there are challenges in realizing this potential. Aspiring economic migrants are constrained by lack of information, scarce resources for travel and training, and restrictions on their access to a host country’s job market. There are more than 29 million refugees and asylum-seekers, who have fled their home countries and face steep hurdles to rebuilding their lives. And regardless of their reason for migrating, an influx of newcomers can generate political and social tension.

The Migration and Development Initiative addresses the barriers to making migration a powerful catalyst for development in low-income countries. Led by IPL faculty and researchers, it pursues research and innovation in four subject areas: mobility, journey, integration, and return. The program supports Stanford faculty, postdocs, and graduate students who are working to make migration an engine of growth in the developing world by building key partnerships with NGOs and governments, gathering evidence, developing new policies and programs based on that evidence, and rigorously testing them in the field.

CONDUCTING SURVEYS REMOTELY
When researchers rely on traditional surveys to study groups of people over time, the logistics can be daunting. It’s expensive to hire and train people to conduct the surveys, subjects are reluctant to complete them, and it’s difficult to keep track of people as they change residences or phone numbers. And because IPL studies refugees and migrants, who move frequently, traditional survey methods are not ideal.

The answer to these problems might lie in the apps people use on their mobile phones every day. IPL is pioneering a strategy to survey people remotely using automated messages sent through WhatsApp. The pandemic has accelerated these efforts, and now several projects are moving toward this model. In Colombia, IPL is partnering with Mercy Corps and Innovations for Poverty Action to evaluate a cash assistance program for Venezuelan refugees. With the guarantee of additional income, are recipients better able to weather the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic? Are they more likely to return home? Thanks to the new WhatsApp survey method, IPL researchers can answer these questions by more frequently and efficiently checking in with study participants.
**05. CENTER ON PHILANTHROPY AND CIVIL SOCIETY**

**Walter W. Powell,** Jacks Family Professor of Education, **Rob Reich** (Political Science), and **Robb Willer** (Sociology)

Faculty Co-Directors

pacscenter.stanford.edu

**MISSION**

The Stanford Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society (Stanford PACS) develops and shares knowledge to improve philanthropy, strengthen civil society, and effect social change. Stanford PACS connects students, scholars, and practitioners and publishes the preeminent journal, *Stanford Social Innovation Review (SSIR).*

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**POLARIZATION AND SOCIAL CHANGE LAB (PASCL) PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT**

The Polarization and Social Change Lab (PaSCL) is led by Robb Willer, Faculty Co-Director of Stanford PACS. PaSCL conducts research on actionable solutions sufficient to check rising polarization and incivility in the U.S. The Lab’s multidisciplinary team theorizes interventions, rigorously evaluates them with experimental and observational data, pursues partnerships with organizations to directly intervene, and disseminates findings to political leaders and the general public. The Lab is focused on developing practical scientific knowledge in three main areas: paths to political consensus, reducing harms of polarization, and effective strategies of social activism.

The Lab’s research on political consensus focuses on “moral reframing,” a technique for persuasion that involves framing a political position in terms of the moral values of the audience targeted for persuasion. This research suggests that moral reframing is effective for increasing support for policies and candidates, offering a means for building political coalitions in a pluralistic society. The Lab is also testing interventions designed to address the harms of political polarization, with the goal of identifying and driving uptake of effective interventions. The third area of focus for the Lab is identifying activist techniques that are most effective. Much of this work has focused on the negative effects of violent or highly disruptive protest actions on public perception of social movements and some of it has been devoted to studying the effects of white racial status threat on stimulating the rise of conservative social movements (e.g., the Tea Party), and Americans’ perceptions of minority-lead activism.
Faculty Co-Director Woody Powell and Patricia Bromley’s (Education and Sociology) edited volume—the third edition of *The Nonprofit Sector: A Research Handbook*—was published by Stanford University Press. The handbook fills a unique space in the nonprofit literature, as the only sector-wide volume aimed at furthering research in the field. The first edition, published in 1987, focused efforts on a newly emerging space referred to as the independent sector that explored how nonprofit organizations were becoming more professional. The second edition, published in 2006, explored the ways in which nonprofit organizations attempted to influence society, interact with governments, and operate in an increasingly business-like manner. This volume is unique, however, in its focus on advancing cutting-edge empirical and theoretical developments in the field. The volume aims to shape the future direction of research on nonprofits, rather than providing overviews of existing literature. This issue also comes at a time when nonprofits are increasingly intertwined across both the public and business domains, opening a broader conversation on civic action and social purpose.

The world and the nonprofit sector have changed in fundamental ways since the last edition was published more than 10 years ago. The nonprofit sector has expanded further, and now overlaps a great deal more with both the public and private sector. Thus, it is time to revisit the state and direction of nonprofit research. The themed sections in the handbook highlight the growing role of nonprofits in public policy, visit current debates over whether these entities are vehicles for supporting democracy or tools for special interests, examine the blurring boundaries between the for-profit, public, and nonprofit sectors, and analyze the challenges encountered by efforts to measure impact and outcomes in the sector.
PHILANTHROPY INNOVATION SUMMIT
EVENT HIGHLIGHT

Stanford PACS hosted its fourth Philanthropy Innovation Summit on September 17th, 2019. 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 350 participants from around the world attended the 2019 Philanthropy Innovation Summit, which explored a variety of approaches, issue areas, and philosophies. Speakers included Gov. Gavin Newsom, Laura Arrillaga-Andreessen, Darren Walker, Jeff Raikes, Rob Reich, Laurene Powell-Jobs, and other prominent philanthropists and changemakers. The day-long event explored a wide range of topics such as public interest technology, the role of philanthropy in policy and advocacy, funding diversity and inclusivity, and leveraging public-private partnerships for social impact.
06. CENTER ON POVERTY AND INEQUALITY

David Grusky, Barbara Kimball Browning Professor in the School of Humanities (Sociology)
Faculty Director
inequality.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.

AMERICAN VOICES PROJECT: 2019-2020 UPDATES
FEATURED PROJECT

Led by researchers at Stanford University, Princeton University, Georgetown University, the American Institutes of Research, and a coalition of Federal Reserve banks, CPI’s American Voices Project (AVP) is a new infrastructure for gathering immersive qualitative evidence on the everyday life of Americans located across the country. This infrastructure is built on large samples, a rigorously representative methodology, and a commitment to open, transparent, and cumulative research.

The AVP launched a new initiative for real-time monitoring of the COVID-19 crisis. The project, which had initially been focused on face-to-face interviewing, was based in the field for approximately seven months when the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated economic collapse hit the country. At that point, CPI converted to telephone-based immersive interviews for a cross-section of Americans spanning nearly 200 neighborhoods in the United States. These interviews provide rich portraits of how Americans are faring as schools close, as children are homeschooled, as family members fall sick, and as jobs are lost and money runs out.

CPI will be providing real-time policy reports that inform the public and the country’s policymakers how vulnerable communities are faring during the crisis. The team will also harness the AVP infrastructure to monitor how the crisis is affecting the low-income population and people of color. This archive of unmediated voices will serve as a fact-checking resource, provide the foundation for transparent and cumulative research, document an unprecedented crisis, and make it possible to monitor new developments during an unusually volatile moment in history.

1,750 INTERVIEWS
47 STATES VISITED
153 SITES VISITED
15 INTERVIEW LANGUAGES
240,274 MINUTES OF AUDIO
THE EARLY CHILDHOOD IMPACT LAB
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

CPI is committed to tackling social problems through partnerships that bridge the research and policy gap. As part of this commitment, the Center recently received funding from Stanford Impact Labs to evaluate childhood development programs, an exciting initiative that allows CPI to expand its long-standing partnership with the Washington Department of Children, Youth, and Families. The team is evaluating three early interventions that target first-time mothers, children with disabilities, and parents. CPI will explore if participants in these early-childhood programs are healthier, learning and developing more successfully, and otherwise thriving. The evidence from CPI researchers’ assessments will allow them to fine-tune the program’s design and delivery, and help to build better futures for Washington’s most vulnerable children and families.
Research Support Services

01. SECURE DATA CENTER
02. FACULTY FELLOWS
03. FACULTY SEED GRANTS
04. DISSERTATION FELLOWS
05. GRADUATE STUDENT SUPPORT
06. RESEARCH EXPERIENCE PROGRAMS
07. RESEARCH ASSISTANT INTERNSHIPS
MISSION

The Secure Data Center has a three-part mission: to build up Stanford’s social science data resources, to provide access to sensitive data for Stanford researchers, and to serve as a liaison between Stanford and sensitive data providers. In partnership with the U.S. Census Bureau, the Secure Data Center hosts one of the nation’s 29 Federal Statistical Research Data Centers, providing access to restricted data for Stanford researchers and those from nearby universities. Researchers with approved projects can access microdata from the Census Bureau’s economic and demographic surveys and censuses, restricted-use data from the National Center for Health Statistics and other partnered agencies, and administrative data from partnered state and local governments.

FEDERAL STATISTICAL RESEARCH DATA CENTER
MILESTONES, 2019-2020

In response to a constantly growing number of research projects at the Institute’s Federal Statistical Research Data Center (RDC), IRiSS completed the construction of a new RDC facility this August. The new space, located near the economics department and central to campus, provides the potential for 28 workstations and a separate conference room for meetings of the teams of scholars working with confidential microdata. This replaces the original facility that could only accommodate five workstations in two small offices. The $1.3 million project was funded by a combination of the schools of Humanities and Sciences, Medicine, and Business.

RDCs across the nation were closed during the first phases of the coronavirus crisis. Progress continued for IRiSS in two important areas. First, the Institute hosted a RDC training webinar for researchers in the public health and medical communities. Over 45 scholars participated in a program to highlight confidential data available at the RDC from the CDC’s National Center for Health Statistics and HHS’s Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Second, one of the Stanford RDC studies participated in a test program that uses a variety of novel security systems for working with confidential data in settings outside the RDC lab.

As the larger facility opened in August, a newly implemented set of health and safety measures were instituted for use of the RDC, in compliance with requirements by Stanford, Santa Clara County, the State of California and the U.S. Census Bureau.
WHAT DRIVES DIFFERENCES IN MANAGEMENT PRACTICES?

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHT

Endeavoring to understand the mechanisms that drive differences in management practices across and within firms—and their outcomes vis a vis productivity—IRISS RDC researcher Nicolas Bloom (Economics) and coauthors felt existing data sources were not sufficient for an empirical analysis of these phenomena. In partnership with the Census Bureau, Bloom’s team helped to launch a new, Census Bureau-sponsored survey: the Management and Organizational Practices Survey. Sent to 35,000 manufacturing firms’ plant managers across the country, the survey was comprised of management questions in three main areas: monitoring, targets, and incentives. For their analysis, the researchers also used other datasets accessible through the RDC, such as the Annual Survey of Manufacturers, Census of Manufacturers, and the Business R&D and Innovation Survey.

They found that as much variance in management practices occurs within firms (at different plants) as in between firms. This is significant because management practices can account for more than 20% of variation in productivity across plants, a comparable, or even greater, measure than that accounted for by R&D, information and communication technology, or human capital. It also impacted levels of profitability, growth, survival rates, and innovation. Notably, the researchers found two drivers which contribute to more effective management. First, the business environment plays a role; firms located in states with right-to-work laws (which prohibit forcing employees to pay union fees as a term of employment) saw boosted incentive management practices, such as those around pay, promotion, and dismissals. Second, learning spillovers can also improve management practices, which occur when employees move from firm to firm, bringing their knowledge of structured management practices with them. In addition to their discoveries, Bloom and his coauthors’ study is significant because it is the first of its kind to systematically analyze intra-firm management differences.

STANFORD RESEARCHERS BY DEPARTMENT, 2019-2020

- ECONOMICS: 10
- GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS: 10
- INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH: 5
- MEDICINE: 3
- SOCIOLOGY: 3
- TOTAL: 31

PROJECTS BY SUBJECT, 2019-2020

- BUSINESS: 8
- CENSUS DATA: 5
- ECONOMICS: 6
- HEALTH RESEARCH & POLICY: 9
- TOTAL: 28
02. FACULTY FELLOWS PROGRAM

iriss.stanford.edu/faculty/faculty-fellows

MISSION

The Faculty Fellows Program brings faculty from Stanford’s social science departments together to explore research questions through different disciplinary approaches and methodologies, with the goal of producing knowledge and discoveries that will advance the social science fields and address critical societal challenges.

2019-2020 FACULTY FELLOWS

Adam Bonica (Political Science), The Judicial Tug of War: How Lawyers, Politicians, and Ideological Incentives Shape the American Judiciary

James Fearon (Political Science), The Costs of Violence

Duana Fullwiley (Anthropology), Tabula Raza: Mapping Race and Human Diversity in American Genome Science

Sharika Thiranagama and Sylvia Yanagisako (Anthropology), Inheritance and Inequality in the Current Global Era

Michael Tomz (Political Science), Stanford Center for American Democracy

FINDING WORK WITH A NON-TRADITIONAL EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHT

In a book published earlier this year, 2018-2019 Faculty Fellow and Stanford sociologist David Pedulla explores a question that is on many workers’ minds given COVID-19’s economic fallout: how will having a non-traditional employment history affect my chances of finding a new job? Pedulla found that in the seconds that recruiters spend reviewing an applicant’s resume, observing part-time or temporary work, or jobs below their skill level, can prompt questions for recruiters that cause them to pass over otherwise qualified individuals. To gather data for his study, Pedulla executed a large-scale field experiment of hiring decisions spanning five cities and four occupations, which he supplemented with in-depth interviews with hiring professionals.

Unsurprisingly, Pedulla’s research revealed distinct effects on hiring outcomes based on applicants’ race and gender. For example, he found that Black men with flawless work histories had almost identical callback rates as white men who had been unemployed for a year; this is consistent with other research that finds that Black men without a criminal record moved forward in the hiring process at similar rates as white men with a criminal record. Disparities also arose between men and women. While part-time work was not considered a red-flag in women’s employment histories with the inference that it was linked to motherhood and childcare, it violated recruiters’ perceptions of norms of masculinity, for instance the man’s role as a breadwinner, potentially preventing them from moving forward in the hiring process.

03. FACULTY SEED GRANTS PROGRAM

iriss.stanford.edu/faculty/seed-grants

MISSION

The Faculty Seed Grants Program supports faculty member’s early-stage research projects, providing them with resources to carry out proposal development, pilot research, and other essential tasks to create the proof-of-concept necessary to attract external funding for further research.

6 GRANT RECIPIENTS

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHT

The ultimate goal of 2019-2020 Seed Grant recipient Patricia Bromley (Education) and her coauthors’ research project was to compile the most comprehensive, systematic panel dataset of education reform to date, drawing on a global sample of countries over a 30-year time period (from 1990-2018). To do this, they used a sample of 640 reports from international organizations like UNESCO, the World Bank, and the OECD that provide descriptions of education policies and reforms for over 170 countries. The researchers succeeded in producing a dataset with over 9,000 unique education reforms, which includes the country, year, name, and brief descriptions of each reform identified in the reports.

With the dataset constructed, the authors were able to write and submit their first paper for a special issue of the journal Globalisation, Societies, and Education in March of 2020. The central objective of this paper was to introduce the dataset to a wider audience of education researchers, and to also examine how the pace of education reform has changed over the past 25 years. They show that the overall worldwide pace of education reform has decelerated over the past decade, as a result of the declining global legitimacy of the liberal international order that was constructed over the postwar period. This liberal international order, which was advanced around the world by international organizations like UNESCO and the World Bank, fueled massive global social movements that advocated extending education to all children throughout the world, as a fundamental human right. However, the ongoing nationalist and illiberal movements that attack these previously global, democratic visions of equality and human rights (reflected in places like the United States with Donald Trump, Hungary with Viktor Orban, China with Xi Jinping, or Russia with Vladimir Putin) have started to undercut these goals to reform education systems and extend education to all individuals around the world.

2019-2020 SEED GRANT RECIPIENTS

Patricia Bromley (Education), Reformism: The Causes and Consequences of National Education Reform Worldwide, 1970-2016

Saad Gulzar and Vasiliki Fouka (Political Science), Poverty and Hate: The Causal Effect of Economic Distress on Xenophobia

Lochann Jain (Anthropology), The Long Fortuitous Rise and Quick Descent of Heptavax-B (1960-1985)

Clayton Nall (Political Science), Where Interests Trump Ideology: Addressing Suburban Liberals’ Support for Exclusionary Local Housing Policies

Krish Seetah (Anthropology), Integrating Archaeo-Historic, Climatic, and Genomic Data for Comparative Malaria Modeling
04. DISSERTATION FELLOWS PROGRAM
iriss.stanford.edu/students/funding/iriss-dissertation-fellowships

MISSION

The Dissertation Fellows Program supports PhD candidates from the social science departments by providing funding to help them complete their dissertations. Dissertation Fellows are inducted into a multidisciplinary community of graduate students that pushes intellectual boundaries. Through discussion and research presentations, fellows receive feedback on their dissertation research from different social science disciplines.

We would like to give special thanks to IRISS Advisory Board Member Birong Hu for funding the Dissertation Fellows Program.

2019-2020 DISSERTATION FELLOWS

**Nathan Acebo** (Anthropology), *Indigenous Persistence and Resistance in the North American Colonial Hinterlands*

**Rodrigo Carril** (Economics), *The Economics of Public Procurement*

**Dean Chahim** (Anthropology), *Draining the Infinite Metropolis: Engineering and the Mundanity of Disaster in Mexico City*

**Gabriel Chiu** (Sociology), *The Rise of Entrepreneurship in China*

**Mu-Jung Cho** (Communication), *The Dynamics of Thinking and Feeling Experiences on Smartphones*

**Mashail Malik** (Political Science), *Why Do Ethnic Parties Flourish or Die? The Microfoundations of Identity Politics in Pakistan’s Megacity*

**Tony Marks-Block** (Anthropology), *The Socio-Ecological Effects of Indigenous Burning in California’s Klamath Basin*

**Daniel O’Leary** (Psychology), *Socioeconomic Status and Obesity: An Affective Science Perspective*

**Eric Smith** (Psychology), *Broadening the Scope: How Messages of Broad Care Drive Academic Investment*

**Edgar Franco Vivanco** (Political Science), *Strategies of Indigenous Resistance and Accommodation*

**Michael Webb** (Economics), *What Can Artificial Intelligence Do?*

**Tongtong Zhang** (Political Science), *Fining for Living: Central-Local Struggle in the Relaxation of the One-Child Policy*
04. DISSERTATION FELLOWS PROGRAM

(Continued)
Socio-Ecological Dynamics of Indigenous Burning in California’s Klamath Basin

Research Highlight

Fire exclusion and suppression policies, associated with timber extraction and structure protection, have precipitated unprecedented wildfires and associated destruction across California and throughout the American West. Before widespread Federal and State fire exclusion and suppression policies were enacted, American Indians intentionally set prescribed burns to enhance the abundance and quality of species and habitats fundamental to their livelihoods and culture. These fires are known as cultural fires, and they limited woody fuels and, in turn, mitigated wildfire spread across the landscape. In northwest California, the Karuk and Yurok Tribes are leading recent efforts to revitalize and expand the use of cultural fires, and thus, present a distinctive and timely opportunity to evaluate the socio-ecological effects of a formerly widespread land management practice that was and still remains integral to Indigenous culture and California ecology.

2019-2020 Dissertation Fellow Tony Marks-Block used mixed qualitative and quantitative social and ecological methods and analyses to evaluate the cultural fire resurgence in Karuk and Yurok territory. Although public land agencies, Tribes, and diverse non-governmental organizations acknowledge the benefits of expanding prescribed and cultural burns, there remains a shortage of wildland fire teams and experts required to conduct environmental reviews to implement and plan these burns. By generating and assessing empirical ecological and social data, his dissertation corroborates Indigenous knowledge and burning practices by demonstrating that high frequency cultural burning supports ecological functionality as well as Indigenous culture and livelihoods. Integrating these Indigenous and ‘Western’ science approaches reveals that both cultural burning and Tribal land sovereignty are critical for collaborative efforts that seek to expand prescribed fire, reduce wildfire risk, and develop resilient fire-adaptive communities.

“...The financial support that I received from the IRiSS Dissertation Fellowship was exactly the lifeline that I needed to wrap up my graduate studies in the way that I think they deserved. Thank you so much for allowing me to be a part of that program. I benefited not only in terms of support for my research, but also in learning about what graduate students in other fields were doing.”

Daniel O’Leary, PhD ’20, Psychology
05. GRADUATE STUDENT SUPPORT

ABOUT

As a complement to IRiSS’s grant and fellowship programs, IRiSS works with the social science departments and other research communities to provide resources for PhD candidates in the social sciences. These programs enrich the research environment for graduate students, providing them with additional funding, instruction, and workshops to assist them in their academic careers.
**SUMMER STATISTICS BOOTCAMP**

The IRiSS Summer Statistics Bootcamp is designed to prepare incoming PhD students for the sociology statistics sequence, a set of courses that gives students a deep understanding of the most commonly used statistical techniques in the social sciences. While the bootcamp is especially beneficial for students with nontraditional backgrounds or less quantitative experience, it is strongly recommended for all graduate students interested in social science methods to encourage a smooth transition into graduate studies and foster a friendly community of first-year social scientists. In 2019, 11 students participated: five first-year PhD students in Sociology, two first-year PhD students in the Graduate School of Business, two graduate students in the Stanford Law School, one PhD student from the Graduate School of Education, and one PhD student in the Emmett Interdisciplinary Program in Environment and Resources.

The bootcamp has three main goals: (1) increase students’ understanding of and confidence with basic statistical concepts, (2) build students’ programming intuition and data management skills, and (3) encourage collaboration and camaraderie among the graduate student cohort. It consisted of five full-day sessions taught by three experienced graduate student instructors in which students developed their fluency in Stata (the statistical program used by many social scientists and throughout the sequence), reviewed foundational mathematical and statistical concepts (such as exponents, logarithms, probability basics, prediction equations, and basic matrix algebra and calculus), and practiced applications of core statistical ideas.

**PILOT DATA GRANTS PROGRAM**

Social science department chairs identified data grants as a critical need for their graduate students. This year, in a pilot program to expand research opportunities that require the creation or acquisition of novel data sets, IRiSS provided grants to students in Economics, Psychology and Sociology. A wide range of data collection and assembly was proposed by the 24 students who received the grants. This ranged from a collection of 70 years of advertising examples from Time Magazine to a data set that brought together demographic information with transcriptions from a genealogy website. One study proposed webscraping college course catalogs while another developed its database from the transcription of public court records.

**COMPUTATIONAL TEXT ANALYSIS IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES**

IRiSS sponsors a student-initiated workshop series on Computational Text Analysis in the Social Sciences (CTASS). Since 2017, the interdisciplinary group has hosted numerous faculty lectures, student talks, and workshop sessions on text analysis methodologies. Highlights from 2019-2020 included three faculty research presentations, including a talk by Jennifer Pan (Communication) which showcased Collective Action from Social Media—a novel form of protest event analysis that uses natural language processing tools to identify social media posts about offline collective action. The CTASS organizers also hosted a variety of workshops and colloquiums on the measurement properties of text, word embeddings, topic modeling, and accessing and analyzing Twitter data.
06. RESEARCH EXPERIENCE PROGRAMS
iriss.stanford.edu/rep

ABOUT
IRiSS runs a series of collaborative year-round programs that engage local community members and Stanford alumni as subjects for Stanford social science experiments. The Community College Research Experience Program (REP) is a collaboration between IRiSS and Foothill College, Mission College, and other local community colleges. 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.

The Alumni Research Experience Program (AREP) is a similar collaboration between IRiSS and the Stanford Alumni Association, which provides Stanford alumni with a unique and fun opportunity to volunteer as human subjects for social science research. Through their participation, alumni and community college students alike contribute to scholars’ research on important questions of communication, economics, political science, psychology, and sociology.

“Words cannot express how valuable it was to have the Research Experience Program as a resource while I was in graduate school. I think this is an under-utilized and under-appreciated service that you are providing both for Stanford students, but also for the community college students who participated.”

DANIEL O’LEARY, PHD ’20, PSYCHOLOGY
2,861 PARTICIPANTS

2,113 COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS

748 STANFORD ALUMNI

HOURS VOLUNTEERED FOR STANFORD EXPERIMENTS: 7,350 + 1,995 = 9,345
The Research Assistant Internship Program (RA Program) has connected hundreds of local community college students to Stanford social science research teams, where they support Stanford research and learn valuable social science research skills. The program matches community college students interested in social science research and careers with volunteer internships at social science research labs in their subject area of interest. They serve as research interns with graduate and postdoctoral researchers in psychology, sociology, education, communication, and other social science-related disciplines. In the 2019-2020 academic year, over 40 students participated in the program.

The RA Program has been in operation for seven years, with community college students participating either during the summer or academic year. The earliest participants have graduated from college and gone on to graduate school or careers. To date, over 40 participants in the RA Program have successfully transferred to four-year universities, which is the ultimate goal of involving students in research—to advance their social science careers.
RA PROGRAM IMPACT: A RESEARCH JOURNEY STUDYING RACIAL INJUSTICE

As a Foothill College student, Apollo Rydzik was dedicated to studying issues of police violence, criminal justice, and the media, so when he enrolled in the RA Program, Rydzik was matched to a research team in the political science department which studied racial disparities in police killings. “They are very intentional about you getting to work on something you actually care about, which I had never had the opportunity to do before,” said Rydzik. This was the beginning of a long, productive research career at Stanford. After completion of his internship, Rydzik transferred to Stanford to pursue a BA in sociology, and went on to carry out his own research on media bias and racial injustice for his thesis work under the guidance of Forrest Stuart, an associate professor in the Department of Sociology. Rydzik was accepted for graduate school at Stanford, and will continue his academic career and vital research as a PhD candidate in sociology this fall.

“The RA Internship Program was foundational to my experiences here. It directly shaped my honors thesis, which has evolved into a writing sample for graduate school and hopefully someday I’ll publish it. That program was everything.”

APOLLO RYDZIK, SOCIOLOGY

40 STUDENTS TRANSITIONED TO 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES IN PAST 4 YEARS
Advisory Board and Leadership
01. ADVISORY BOARD

TWO BOARD MEMBERS COMPLETE TERMS

Two advisory board members complete their terms this year: Kenneth Prewitt, Carnegie Professor at Columbia University and Director of the Future of Scholarly Knowledge Project, and Stephen Peeps, Partner at Meng Peeps National Executive Search. Prewitt worked with former board member Donald Kennedy to provide foundational direction in establishing the Institute’s Center for Computational Social Science, and his many insights on the state and direction of social science research enriched board meeting discussions immensely. As a non-profit search executive, Peeps brought invaluable knowledge of non-profit management and development to discussions of IRISS’s strategic direction.

BUSINESS LEADERS JOIN IRISS ADVISORY BOARD

The IRISS Advisory Board was delighted to welcome two decorated executives who care deeply about higher education: Cathy Benko and Hong Seh Lim.

Benko is former Vice Chairman and Managing Principal at Deloitte LLP. She is a U.S. patent-holder, best-selling author and renowned authority on the changing world of work. She serves on NIKE’s board of directors as well as the advisory councils of several early-stage companies, and is senior advisor to the Federal Institute for Inclusion.

Lim is the president of Mil Kered Inc, a Cupertino-based company that invests in commercial and residential real estate on the Peninsula. He also invests in high-tech startups based in Silicon Valley and China. He is an active volunteer at Stanford University and has served on the Engineering Advisory Board, Athletic Advisory Board, Parents’ Advisory Board, and LEAD Council. He was on the board of the Trans-Pacific National Bank and Self-Help for the Elderly.

IRISS will undoubtedly benefit from their rich experiences in business, organizational development, and leadership.
GENERAL JIM MATTIS VISITS IRISS

For a special advisory board event, IRISS welcomed General Jim Mattis, the 26th U.S. Secretary of Defense, to its offices for an intimate conversation on U.S. geopolitical strategy, leadership lessons gleaned from his experiences in military and political roles, and the importance of evidence-based social science research for crafting sound policies.

Mattis’s address inspired a new social science research briefing series for the advisory board, virtually convening Stanford scholars and IRISS board members for conversations on topics of national and international importance, such as fighting against a pandemic, facing the prospect of economic depression, confronting political realignment and tendencies toward authoritarianism, combatting climate change, and overcoming our nation’s deep and long struggle with racism. One event in the series was open to the general public: the panel on “Securing the 2020 Election during a Pandemic” took place in July, addressing consequential questions of voter safety, turnout, vote-by-mail, and fraud.
IRISS ADVISORY BOARD

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03. FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Fiscal Year September 1, 2019 to August 31, 2020

FUNDING SOURCES

EXPENDITURES BY PROGRAM