



STANFORD
Institute for Research
in the Social Sciences

2021-2022
ANNUAL REPORT

2021–22 was a year of major transitions at IRiSS. After over a year of working remotely, we returned to campus in September 2021. However, the biggest changes involved leadership transitions.

In September 2022, Sandy Smith stepped down as chair of the advisory board. As the Institute's founding chair, Sandy was responsible for expanding the board's membership from its original seven to the current 27. Throughout his 17 years, no one has offered more generous help or wiser counsel than Sandy. We are delighted that Kathy Chou, who has been on the board for nine years, will serve as our new chair, and that Allan Thygesen will serve as our new vice chair.

A Letter from the Directors



Kathy Chou
Advisory Board Chair



Mike Tomz
Interim Director



Chris Thomsen
Executive Director

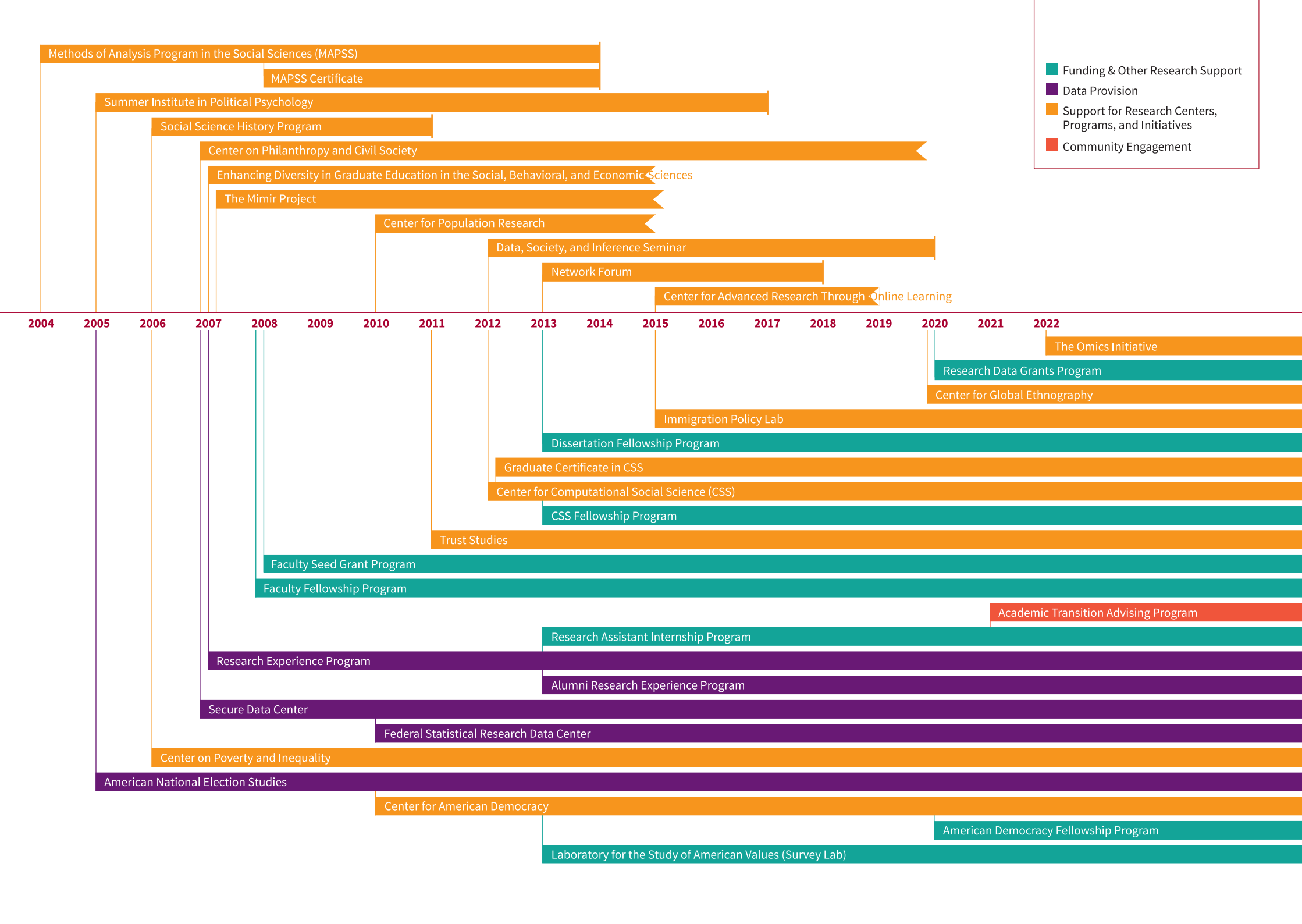
Having seen us safely through the pandemic and having served for 18 years as our guiding light, Professor Karen Cook announced her decision to step down as founding director of IRiSS. This unprecedented change in faculty leadership presented an opportune moment to reflect on the ground we have covered since Karen first proposed a social science research institute at Stanford. Her vision for IRiSS was to assure Stanford's excellence in social science research, while also being a nimble organization, ready to adapt dynamically to meet the evolving needs of faculty and graduate students. Over the past 18 years, this mandate has translated into an unusually big tent for such a small Institute: over its lifetime thus far, IRiSS has hosted 30 different centers and programs spanning all six social science departments and has facilitated an almost bewildering array of interdisciplinary collaborations in the form of research initiatives, conferences, seminars, fellowships, and grants.

On the heels of Karen's announcement, our Deputy Director, Mike Tomz, agreed to step in as Interim Director for the 2022–23 academic year, during which time he will guide us through the process of planning for the future of the Institute.

Finally, the Institute saw a significant change in its professional staff. After over 40 years of service to Stanford, our dedicated finance manager, Marie Toney, announced her well-earned retirement. Reflecting on Marie's time at IRiSS, building manager Afrooz Emami noted, "Marie's attention to detail and knowledge of Stanford systems were indispensable, and she was a caring mentor to and advocate for her staff when we needed her guidance." We have been very fortunate to welcome Jonelle Whiting as our incoming finance and administrative manager.

As the design of this year's report is meant to suggest, looking back at the Institute's history is also a way to begin envisioning what its future could be. To that end, we invite you to keep an eye out for the QR codes that punctuate these pages. They will lead to our recently updated website, adding context and detail to this brief overview of our efforts.

Throughout much of the past year the Institute was honored to host an exhibition of quilts by Ora Clay, titled "Living My Truth." Her work provided an inspiration for our efforts to magnify the impact of social science research. We trust that inspiration carries on into the new year.





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American National Election Studies

Stanford joined the ANES team in 2005

2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014

Over the summer, the National Science Foundation approved a new \$14 million proposal to study the 2024 American presidential election, making its fifth consecutive award to IRiSS researchers. The award extends the American National Election Studies (ANES), a widely used research data series that began in 1948 and a preeminent source for studying public opinion, political participation, representation, accountability, and democracy.

In addition to Stanford political scientist Shanto Iyengar, the project's scientific leadership team includes Nicholas Valentino from the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research, Stanford alumna D. Sunshine Hillygus from Duke University, and Daron Shaw from the University of Texas at Austin.

Due to its longevity, the ANES dataset provides researchers a unique opportunity to observe and document stability and change over time. The 2024 study will include key questions asked since the study's inception in 1948, alongside new questions on topics such as public health, democratic norms, and electoral legitimacy.

The centerpiece of the study will be the first eight-year panel in the project's history, connecting interviews with the same individuals from 2016, 2020, and 2024.

Another innovation will be a social media study connecting individual survey responses to social media activity during the election, and a new survey of respondents during the final election certification process in January 2025. The 2024 ANES will also collaborate with other prominent research projects, including the General Social Survey (GSS), linking detailed information about social demographic conditions to political attitudes and behavior. All this will be in addition to the standard, large number of interviews from new respondents in order to provide the highest data quality available about the 2024 election itself.

ANES provides its data as a free public good for the use of scholars, students, policy-makers, journalists, and all other interested persons in the U.S. and worldwide. ANES data have been used in thousands of journal articles, books, media presentations, and dissertations.



“

Reinterviewing the same respondents will permit systematic modeling of opinion dynamics over a period of extreme volatility. These data will also open entirely new avenues of research into the spread of misinformation, support for political violence, and threats to the legitimacy of our electoral institutions.

Shanto Iyengar





Research Support Services



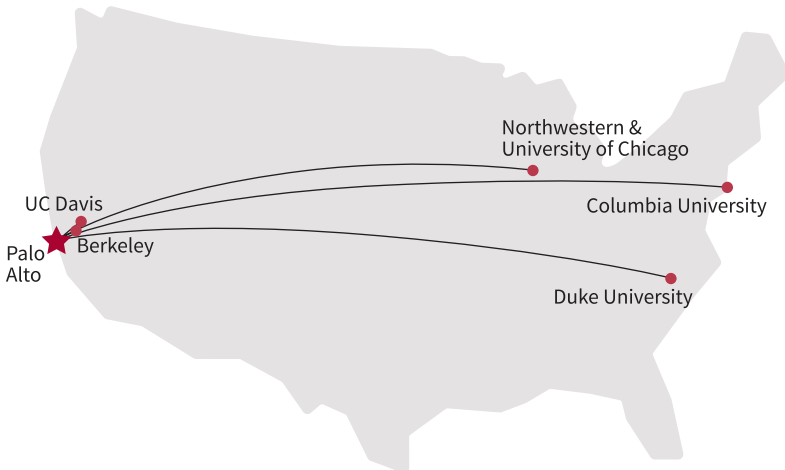
Federal Statistical Research Data Center

Stanford RDC Launched in 2010



55 researchers are currently affiliated with the Stanford RDC. In 2021–22, Census approved two new projects by GSB faculty member Chenzi Xu and Stanford Medicine faculty member Titilola Falasinnu.

Meanwhile, seven RDC researchers have achieved placements at other institutions: three former pre-doctoral fellows will be starting PhD programs at the University of Chicago, Northwestern University, and Columbia University; and two graduating PhD students and two post-doctoral fellows will be starting tenure-track positions at Duke Fuqua School of Business, Berkeley Law School, Northwestern University, and U-C Davis, respectively.



2015



**Melanie Wallskog
(PhD, Economics '22)**

2021–22 IRiSS Dissertation Fellow
and incoming Assistant Professor
of Finance at Duke University's
Fuqua School of Business



As an economist who studies interactions between workers and firms, I rely heavily on rich U.S. Census Bureau data, which is housed in the RDC system, so the vast majority of my work couldn't be done without access to an RDC. As a PhD student, having easy and nearby access to the Stanford RDC, hosted by IRiSS, allowed me to start and develop this research agenda. The RDC was a key input into all works in my dissertation and ultimately allowed me to launch my career in academia.

Melanie Wallskog

Center Updates





2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014



BOOK TALK

THE CENTER FOR GLOBAL ETHNOGRAPHY PRESENTS

A Contested Caribbean Indigeneity

Language, Social Practice, and Identity within Puerto Rican Taino Activism

with **Sherina Felibiano Santos**
Anthropology
University of South Carolina

Friday, November 12, 2021
3:30 PM to 5:00 PM (PST)
Zoom

PANDEMIC WORKPLACE

TOCQUEVILLE REVISITED

with **ILANA GERSHON**
University of Indiana Bloomington

Friday, February 11th
3:30 PM to 5:00 PM (PST)
Zoom

The Center For Global Ethnography Presents

Louis Bomer
Vassar College

Indirection, Opacity, and Parrhesia

Unsettling Ideologies of Language, Race, and Democracy

Friday, April 29, 2022
Blag 50, Rm 51A
Anthropology Colloquium Room
3:30PM to 5:00PM

AUTHORITATIVE IMAGES

Technologies of Language, Race, and State

Babcock

Friday, May 11th
3:30pm to 5:00pm

Friday, May 11th
3:30pm to 5:00pm



Center for Global Ethnography

Launched in 2020

2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022

Since its launch in January 2020, the Center for Global Ethnography has convened faculty and graduate students to foster rigorous, meaningful, and ethical ethnographic fieldwork across the disciplines. To date, the Center's public programming has drawn hundreds of attendees to live in-person and virtual events.

In the 2021–2022 academic year, Miyako Inoue (Anthropology), Kabir Tambar (Anthropology), and Jonathan Rosa (Graduate School of Education) became co-directors of the Center for Global Ethnography. The new co-directors sought to build on their previous collaborations, which focused on semiotic approaches to the analysis of cultural contexts, including a Stanford VPTL Innovation Grant that supported the creation of a new graduate seminar in the Department of Anthropology, titled Semiotics for Ethnography.

With much of academic life since the start of the COVID pandemic remaining online, the Center focused its activities over the past year on exploring methods for studying language and communication both on- and off-line. We invited speakers with expertise on the study of social media, the language of racial politics, and political communication in authoritarian states. True to the mandate of the Center, workshops and panels discussed global concerns, from the Caribbean to Hungary to Singapore, and asked how ideologies of race, nation, and labor are being remade in the era of the pandemic.

STANFORD CENTER ON
POVERTY & INEQUALITY



Center on Poverty & Inequality

Launched in 2006

2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014

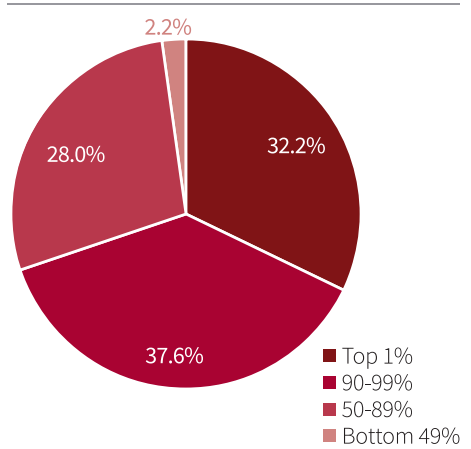
Open Science Qualitative Research

The CPI is developing a new model of open science qualitative research based on representative samples, secondary analysis, and open access to qualified researchers. The American Voices Project (AVP) includes over 2,700 immersive interviews that deliver a comprehensive portrait of life across the U.S. The first set of AVP analyses was released in a series of Monitoring the Crisis reports that examined how the low-income population, people of color, women, children, and other groups were affected by the pandemic, the economic downturn, and mass protests.



The CPI is partnering with the Russell Sage Foundation to develop a new open science infrastructure that will allow all qualified researchers to access these data (in secure enclaves) and to carry out transparent and replicable research using shared qualitative data. The first round of this research will be published in a special double issue of the RSF Journal of the Social Sciences.

Only 2% of Total Wealth is Held by Bottom Half of Households (in the 2nd quarter of 2021)



Source: Federal Reserve, Survey of Consumer Finances and

Subsidized Employment Lab

The CPI's newly launched Subsidized Employment Lab is partnering with county and state agencies to analyze qualitative and administrative data to help create new pathways to upward career mobility for 21st-century California. A grant from the Urban Institute's WorkRise initiative will support the SE Lab through 2023.

Scan to read
the full report

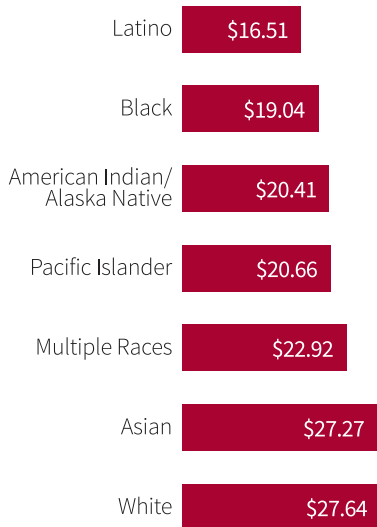


Ending Poverty in California

A Blueprint for a
Just and Inclusive Economy

2015 2016 2017 2018 2019

Racial and Ethnic Gaps in Median Hourly Wages are Very High (California workers, 2016-2018)



Source: California Budget & Policy Center analysis of
Economic Policy Institute Current Population Survey extracts

A New Plan for an Inclusive Economy

In February 2022, the CPI published *Ending Poverty in California*, a new anti-poverty plan that lays out how California can build a just and inclusive economy that provides opportunities to flourish to everyone—not just to those born into privilege, not just to white people, not just to men, and not just to citizens. The report describes how California can build a new approach to reducing inequality that combines “predistributional reform” (i.e., repairing the institutions that generate inequality) with “redistributional reform” (i.e., providing cash transfers that compensate for inequalities that remain unrepaired). The redistributional reforms include, for example, new income and wealth floors that will permanently eliminate poverty and reduce racial gaps in wealth.

In a Sophomore College class this September, Stanford undergraduates will analyze data from the CPI’s American Voices Project and other sources to build evidence-based models of the effects of the proposed reforms.

2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014

GeoMatch



Connecting people to places

Early on, the Immigration Policy Lab research uncovered a pivotal insight: For immigrants and refugees, place matters. When they arrive in a new country, the location where they settle can make a big difference in whether they thrive. If that location is a good fit, they're more likely to integrate into their community. In 2018, IPL introduced a new method for matching refugees to optimal locations, GeoMatch. Nearly five years later, IPL is working in five countries to implement this algorithm-based tool, and to meet the growing demand the GeoMatch team expanded to include a software engineer, graphic designer, program associate, and an additional data scientist. In the Netherlands, the country's refugee resettlement program approved an initiative to pilot GeoMatch. In Canada, the team is finalizing a prototype for a tool that provides personalized location recommendations to incoming immigrants. Switzerland's pilot program is in its fourth year, and IPL is laying the groundwork for implementation in the U.S. These GeoMatch projects continue to inspire support from a wide range of funders interested in its potential to propel AI innovation or deliver humanitarian benefits. The team recently won a Hoffman-Yee Research Grant from the Stanford Institute for Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence.

Immigration Policy Lab

Launched in 2015

2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020

Qualitative Research Initiative

Often in academic research there is a separation between qualitative and quantitative methods. Sociologists pursue research questions differently from political scientists, and combining their methods can make studies more complex and logistically difficult. Yet the two approaches can complement each other and enrich efforts to improve public policy. With its new Qualitative Research Initiative, IPL is building a bridge to join the disciplines and more systematically embed qualitative research components in IPL projects. Led by Tomás Jiménez, a Stanford sociologist and professor of comparative studies in race and ethnicity, the initiative will bring two full-time qualitative researchers and several graduate students to IPL. Through focus groups, interviews, and participant-observation, this team will help refine research questions, design interventions, validate results, and explain the mechanisms driving patterns in the data. For its flagship project, the qualitative unit is working with a U.S. government agency to design and test an intervention intended to encourage eligible immigrants to naturalize.



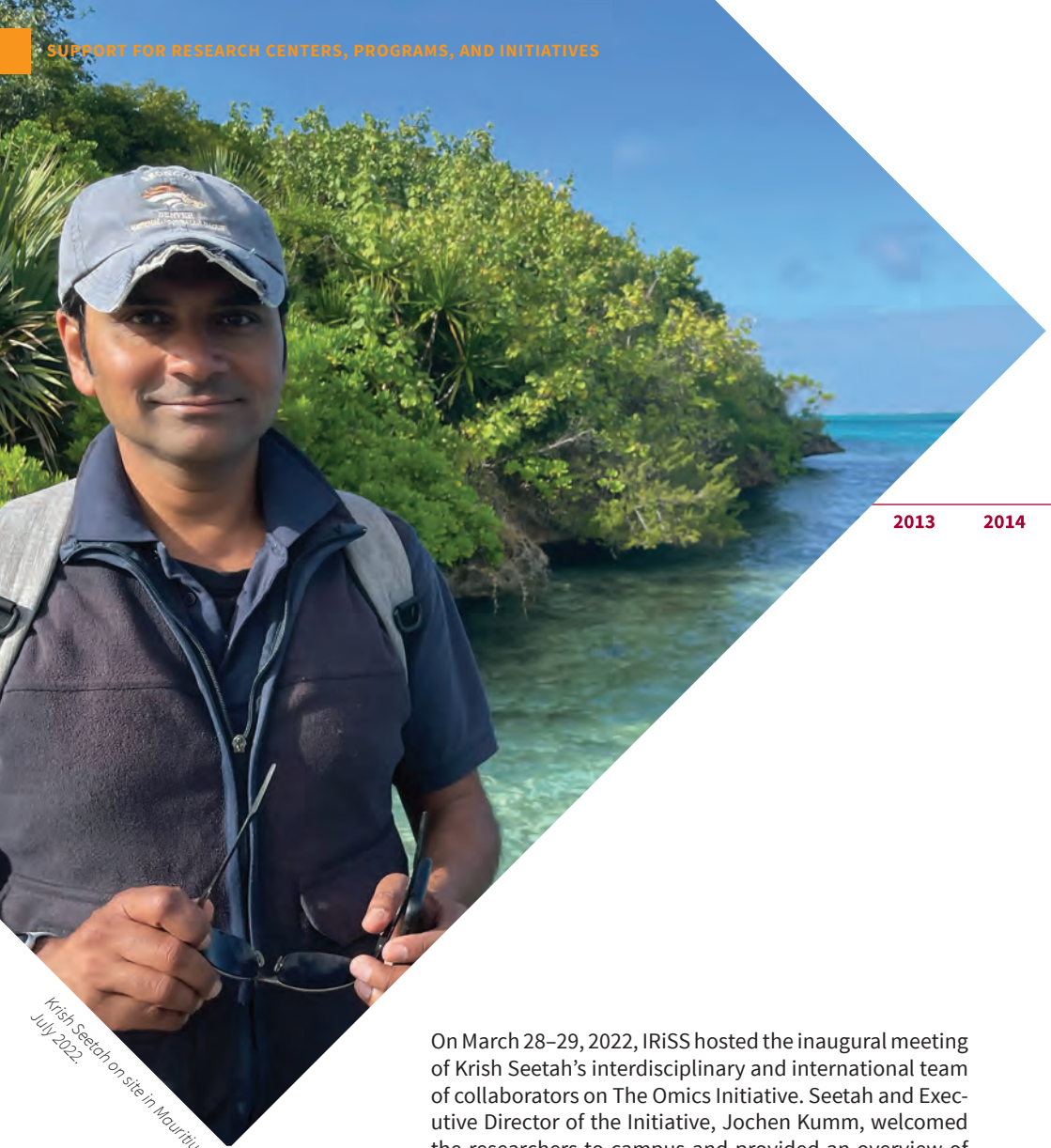


Planning for Productive Migration

In the fight against poverty in Africa, many humanitarians and development experts have focused on improving conditions in rural countries so that people there don't feel pressured to migrate. It's important work. But it can only go so far in places where agricultural livelihoods are increasingly difficult and more than half of working-age people have no job. Rather than discourage migration, IPL researchers say, we can harness it to boost prosperity and quality of life in these regions.

Working with Mercy Corps and local partners in Niger, IPL is designing and evaluating a program to equip young men to take advantage of seasonal job opportunities in cities. The program will not only pay for the journey; it also will help Nigeriens identify where the jobs are, acquire new skills, prepare family members for their absence, and learn how best to send money home. The team will then measure the program's impact on the migrants, their families, and their entire community.

Over the past year, IPL researchers finalized plans to recruit 3,000 households for the randomized control trial and completed a baseline survey to assess the current conditions and experiences of potential participants. They also pilot tested the training program and received feedback from participants. New funding from Open Philanthropy, USAID's Development Innovation Ventures, and the Fund for Innovation in Development will help fuel the program and RCT.



2013 2014

*Krish Seetah on site in Mauritius,
July 2022.*

On March 28–29, 2022, IRiSS hosted the inaugural meeting of Krish Seetah’s interdisciplinary and international team of collaborators on The Omics Initiative. Seetah and Executive Director of the Initiative, Jochen Kumm, welcomed the researchers to campus and provided an overview of their previous work on malaria and related projects.

Genetics researcher Martin Sikora of the University of Copenhagen presented his work on pathogen DNA; paleogeneticist Rosa Irene Fregel Lorenzo of the Universidad de La Laguna in Tenerife presented some of her recent research in demography; archaeologist Aleks Pluskowski of the University of Reading discussed environmental sampling as it relates to the team’s work in Mauritius; and

The Omics Initiative

Launched in 2022

2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022

archaeologist Alexander Brown of Wessex Archaeology talked about how to incorporate broader paleoenvironmental work, both marine and terrestrial, into the project.

Building on this momentum, IRISS Executive Director Chris Thomsen traveled to Seetah's field site in Mauritius, accompanied by Advisory Board Member Birong Hu. The two of them met with the Vice-Chancellor and the Dean of Social Sciences at the University of Mauritius to open discussions about possible collaboration, and Seetah met with the heads of the various departments.

Krish Seetah and fellow Omics Initiative archaeologist Alessandra Cianciosi at a former quarantine station on Île Plate.





Graduate Student Support



In 2021–2022, IRiSS offered a suite of four different programs in support of graduate student research in the social sciences.

2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014

American Democracy Fellows

Completing its third year, the American Democracy Fellowship supported 13 students whose research uses the specialized method of survey experiments—that is, experiments embedded in the larger context of a survey, typically administered online. The 2021–2022 Fellows came from Business, Economics, Political Science, Sociology, and the Law School.

American Democracy Fellowships

Program Launched in 2020

Research Data Grants

Program Launched in 2020

2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022

Research Data Grants

14 Research Data Grants of up to \$1500 each helped to offset the costs of data collection, from transcribing interviews and compensating research participants, to traveling to national archives and paying API licenses. Funding was awarded to students at all phases in their PhD programs, across the social sciences and the Graduate School of Education.

Computational Social Science Fellowships

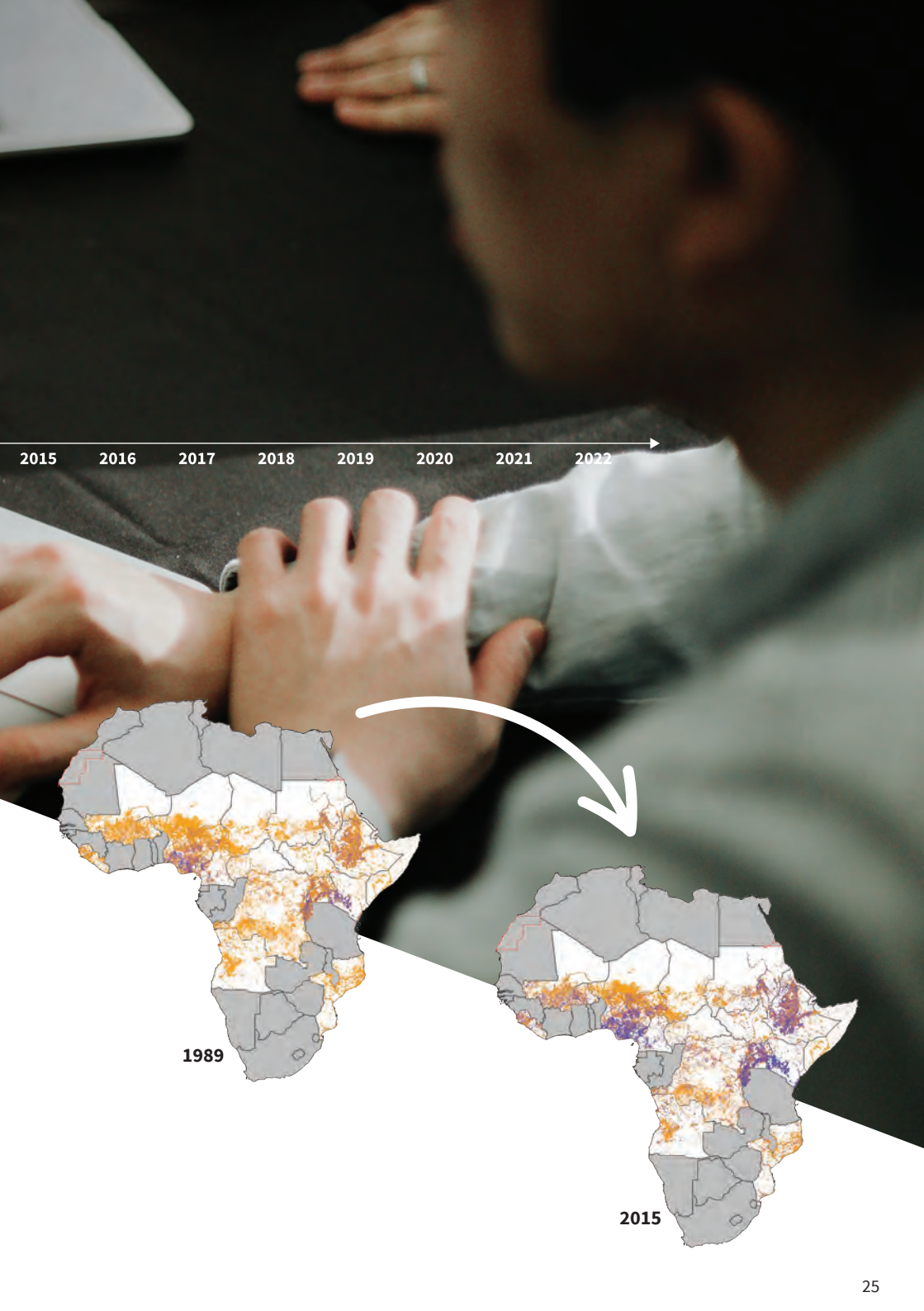
Program Launched in 2013

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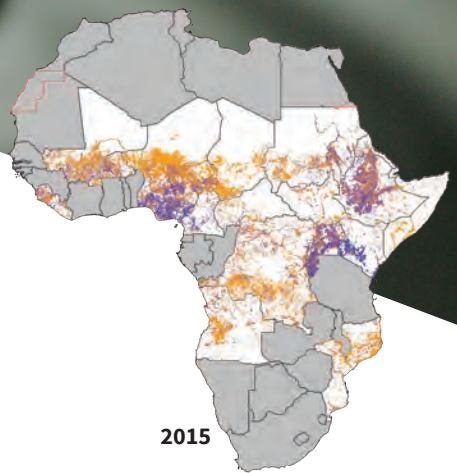
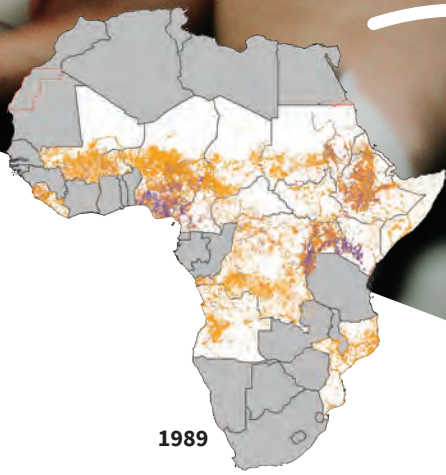
The Computational Social Science Fellowship had one of its most competitive application cycles in recent memory. IRiSS ended up awarding over \$60,000 across nine projects proposed by advanced graduate students from Communication, Economics, Education, Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology.

Psychology PhD student **Cinoo Lee** is researching the extent to which African Americans are censored when they speak out against discrimination online. With funding from IRiSS, she and her assistants are creating a sample of 2,000 posts from the popular community app Nextdoor. Lee hypothesizes that her team will find that posts about racial discrimination are recommended for removal (by human users) or labeled as “toxic” (by algorithms) at a significantly higher rate than other posts.

Political Science PhD student **Jamie Hinton** is developing a novel method of measuring infrastructure development in low-income countries by using satellite imagery and computer vision. He starts by identifying government buildings in a sample of villages in a country, using existing labels and the buildings’ distinctive characteristics. Then he trains a convolutional neural network to automate his detection process for images covering all of a country’s mid-sized settlements. Finally, he uses low-resolution satellite imagery from as early as the 1980s to identify construction dates for a sample of buildings, which he will use to train a model to estimate all construction dates. His CSS Fellowship is helping him to complete his work on Sudan.



2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 →



Dissertation Fellowships

Program Launched in 2013

2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014



The eighth cohort of IRiSS's Dissertation Fellows again represented all six social science disciplines at Stanford. Eight of this year's twelve fellows have already filed their dissertations, six of whom have moved on to post-doctoral fellowships or full-time academic positions and two of whom have taken jobs in industry.

Communication PhD **Hannah Mieczkowski** studied how people perceive their own agency when AI systems operate on their behalf in human-machine communication, asking how people understand the role(s) of the system in these circumstances. Using a think-aloud study and an online experiment, she demonstrated how people devise different strategies for preserving a sense of agency in AI-mediated communication. Mieczkowski's research participants were particularly attuned, for example, to the level of control they exercised in both the process of writing messages and the final outcome.



To read more—and to see where Hannah landed after graduating—visit her profile page on the IRiSS website, which includes a link to her dissertation via Stanford Libraries' digital repository.



All dissertations supported by IRiSS programs are now linked directly from individual graduates' profile pages on our new website.

2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022



See page 7 for an update on another Dissertation Fellow, **Melanie Wallskog**.





Leadership & Advisory Board



3rd Annual Institute Lecture

After a one-year hiatus during the pandemic, our annual Institute Lecture returned with a presentation from distinguished speaker, **Abraham Verghese, MD**. The Advisory Board convened in the Grand Rounds Room of the Center for Academic Medicine for his talk, “Touching Where It Hurts: The Challenge of Humanistic Medicine in a High-Tech Age,” in which he introduced how his team at Stanford Medicine uses qualitative social science methods to protect the interpersonal dimension of the physician–client relationship even as diagnosis and treatment become increasingly mediated by advanced technology. Verghese’s research demonstrates the importance of continuing to ground twenty-first-century medicine in the subjective experience of living persons—and that this has clinical as well as ethical consequences.

secret of the c
he patient."

Board Briefings

Even though campus slowly opened back up this year, we decided to continue our practice of organizing online research briefings throughout the academic year.



Psychology professor **Gregory Walton** shared some of the findings from his research on the positive long-term outcomes of a one-hour exercise designed to increase a sense of social belonging among first-year African-American college students.



Retired Lt. Col. **Alexander Vindman** joined us from his home in Virginia to share his expert analysis of the initial phase of Russia's war in Ukraine.



Political science professor **Steve Haber** presented his recent research on the historical dynamics shaping the evolution of the patent system in the US.

IRiSS at a Glance, 2004 – 2022

2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014



Research Centers & Initiatives



17 research centers sponsored

2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022

Research Services



70,000+ total subject-hours



5,000+ hours of research assistance for graduate students



120+ affiliated researchers and **95** RDC projects hosted at the Federal Statistical Research Data Center

Research Funding & Time



\$50M+ in grant income awarded (*excluding gift income and PACS awards*)



64 Faculty Seed Grants



63 Faculty Fellowships

Graduate Student Support



800+ graduate students supported by IRiSS programs, including:



87 Dissertation Fellowships



69 students trained in Survey Lab



57 Computational Social Science Fellowships



49 American Democracy Fellowships

Leadership

Michael Tomz

Interim Director of IRISS
Director, Center for American Democracy

Chris Thomsen

Executive Director of IRiSS

David Grusky

Director, Center on Poverty & Inequality

Jens Hainmueller, David Laitin, and Jeremy Weinstein

Co-Directors, Immigration Policy Lab

Miyako Inoue, Jonathan Rosa, and Kabir Tambar

Co-Directors, Center for Global Ethnography

Krish Seetah

Director, The Omics Initiative

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Founding Advisory Board Chair
Partner at Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP

Kathy Chou

Advisory Board Vice Chair
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Nutanix

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Stanford University

Henry Brady

Class of 1941 Monroe Deutsch Professor of
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Farah Champsi

Partner, Population Health Partners

Roger Clay

Former President, Insight Center for
Community Economic Development

Karen Cook

Founding Director, Institute for Research
in the Social Sciences
Ray Lyman Wilbur Professor of Sociology

Mary Dent

Former CEO of Green Dot Bank

Craig Falkenhagen

Former National Chair, The Stanford Fund

Thomas Geiser

Private Equity Advisor

Birong Hu

Financial Controller, SV Tech Ventures

Rich Jaroslovksy

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Journalist, SmartNews

Cindy Lang

Founder, Go To Girl Brazil

Hong Seh Lim

President, Mil Kered Inc.

John McMurtry

Senior Mechanical Engineer,
Applied Precision Designs

Michael McPherson

President Emeritus, The Spencer Foundation

Gretchen Milligan

Founder of Board Focus, Retired

Hema S. Mohan

Former Nonprofit Executive and Senior Aide,
CA Senate

John O'Farrell

President, Andreesen Horowitz

Gloria Principe

Chair, Silicon Valley Committee,
Human Rights Watch

Jeanette G. Reinhard

Chief Economist & Managing Director,
Principal at Robertson Stephens

Donna Schweers

Independent Management Consulting
Professional

Matt Snipp

Burnet C. and Mildred Finley Wohlford
Professor of Humanities and Sciences

Allan Thygesen

CEO, DocuSign

Mark Vander Ploeg

Emeritus Board Member,
The Spencer Foundation

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Scan to view a chronicle
of IRiSS milestones

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