

About ISR

As the world’s largest academic social science survey and research organization, the Institute for Social Research (ISR) is a leader in developing and applying new social science methods and is committed to educating the next generation of social scientists. Our scientific mission is threefold ...

ISR serves as a telescope on society, bringing the attitudes and behavior of people into clearer focus. Our large survey studies include the University of Michigan Surveys of Consumers, the Health and Retirement Study, the National Survey of American Life, the Monitoring the Future Study, the Panel Study of Income Dynamics, and the World Values Study. These studies — providing data on voting behavior, teen drug and alcohol use, consumer confidence, the health and economic status of Black Americans, and other topics — are among our most visible work. But we also develop and test survey methodologies; conduct experimental studies; maintain and distribute the world’s largest archive of computerized social science data; and train and educate researchers and students from around the world in survey methodology and survey research.

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Institute for Social Research (ISR)

Description:

ISR is the world's largest academic social science survey and research organization. We are a leader in developing and applying new social science methods, and are committed to educating the next generation of social scientists.

Stakeholder(s):

University of Michigan :

Established in 1949, the University of Michigan Institute for Social Research (ISR) is among the world's largest and oldest academic survey research organizations, and a leader in the development and application of social science methods and education. With researchers from a broad range of academic disciplines, ISR serves as a national laboratory for the social sciences, advancing public understanding of human behavior through empirical research of extraordinary depth and breadth.

ISR Leaders

David Lam :

Director, ISR

Greg Tewksbury :

Managing Director, ISR Director's Office

Mary Schmidt :

Administrative Assistant, ISR Director's Office

ISR Research Scientists :

Our research scientists are entrepreneurs, collaborating with colleagues to compete for public and private research funding. The core disciplinary strengths within our centers provide the intellectual foundation for the multi- and inter-disciplinary research that distinguishes our work.

ISR Research Centers :

The Institute for Social Research (ISR) consists of five separate but interdependent research centers, each with a particular focus and capabilities. More than 300 research scientists are affiliated with one or more of the ISR research centers. They come from more than 20 academic disciplines, including psychology, business, economics, public health, political science, demography, statistics, and engineering. Their work provides the foundation for the Institute's legacy of social science in the public interest. Our centers include:

Center for Political Studies :

The Center for Political Studies (CPS) is recognized around the world as a leader in the quantitative study of politics and an innovator in research methods and training. Its scholars investigate the interactions among public opinion, political action, political processes, elections, institutions, political parties, and individuals – themes united by a concern for democratic process. The Center produces datasets used around the world,

infrastructure for the social sciences, and offers training programs for students who go on to work in academia and throughout the private sector and government.

Kenneth Kollman :

Director, Center for Political Studies

David Howell :

Associate Director, Center for Political Studies

Barbara Opal :

Senior Secretary, Center for Political Studies

Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research :

The Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) maintains the world's largest archive of digital social science data. More than 7,000 data collections are part of the archive, with up to 500 new collections added every year. ICPSR provides leadership and training in data access, curation, and methods of analysis for the social science research community. A well-trained staff provides user support to faculty, students, researchers, and policymakers using the extensive online data archive. ICPSR conducts research in the emerging field of data science and works to promote data sharing around the world.

Margaret Levenstein :

Director, Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research

J. Trent Alexander :

Associate Director, Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research

John Lemmer :

Assistant Director, Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research

Michelle Overholser :

Administrative Assistant, Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research

Population Studies Center :

Since 1961, the Population Studies Center (PSC) has served as an interdisciplinary community of scholars in population re-

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Stakeholders (continued)

search and training. PSC affiliates pursue independent research in sociology, economics, public health, biostatistics, etc. with support from Center staff and resources. PSC supports a substantial portfolio of domestic and international demographic research in family change; health and mortality trends; human capital, labor and wealth; and population dynamics. In addition, the Center runs a large training program for pre- and post-doctoral scholars interested in population studies.

Sarah Burgard :

Director, Population Studies Center

Paula Fomby :

Associate Director, Training Director, Population Studies Center

Carol Bowen :

Interim Center Administrator, Population Studies Center

Research Center for Group Dynamics :

The Research Center for Group Dynamics (RCGD) has advanced the understanding of human behavior in social contexts since 1948. RCGD conducts experimental studies in laboratories and in natural settings, including schools, businesses, and community groups. These studies shed light on issues related to social decision-making, prejudice, social relations, attitudes, and emotion. The findings have immediate practical applications to social concerns such as crime, delinquency, and racism.

Richard Gonzalez :

Director, Research Center for Group Dynamics

Debra Bourque :

Research Administrator, Research Center for Group Dynamics

Survey Research Center :

The Survey Research Center (SRC) is an international leader in interdisciplinary social science research involving the collection and analysis of data, especially data from scientific sample surveys. SRC conducts some of the most widely cited and influential studies in the world. SRC also advances the scientific method of social research through teaching and training. The Center's Survey Research Operations unit provides cutting-edge study design, data collection, and data processing services for national and international as well as small-scale, regional studies. Its Program in Survey Methodology trains the next generation of survey statisticians and methodologists.

Matthew Shapiro :

Director, Survey Research Center

Steven Heeringa :

Associate Director, Survey Research Center

Helen Levy :

Associate Director, Survey Research Center

Catherine Thibault :

Assistant Director, Survey Research Center

Stephanie Shimko :

Administrative Assistant, Survey Research Center

Vision

The attitudes and behavior of people are brought into clearer focus

Mission

To develop and apply new social science methods

Values

Research

Rigor

Diversity: The Institute for Social Research (ISR) seeks to develop, strengthen, and diversify its research faculty, students, and staff. ISR and its constituent centers have a strong commitment to the diversity of our institution because we recognize that having a diverse organization improves the quality of our scientific research. Diverse perspectives strengthen our ability to study a diverse society. We work to value all participants in the research process, including faculty, students, staff, study participants, and data users. ISR is committed to maintaining a welcoming and inclusive

organization so that we can learn from one another to sustain and continually revitalize our research and training activities.

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1. Research

Plan and conduct rigorous social science research

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2. Findings

Disseminate the findings of this research

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3. Training

Train future generations of social scientists

Stakeholder(s)

Social Scientists

Administrative Information

Start Date:

End Date:

Publication Date: 2020-12-25

Source: <https://isr.umich.edu/about/>

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