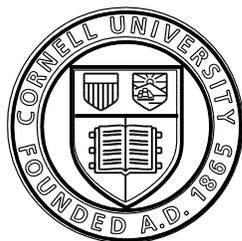




2012 ANNUAL SUMMARY



Cornell University

This report highlights the Institute for the Social Sciences' achievements during the 2011-2012 academic year from July 1, 2011-June 30, 2012, and focuses on three primary areas: Theme Projects facilitating interdisciplinary collaborations by bringing together faculty from across Cornell to explore a research topic over a three-year-period; the Faculty Fellows Program enabling junior scholars to take time away from teaching to delve into their research in a residency program; and the biannual Small Grants Program promoting cutting-edge faculty research.

## Theme Projects Held During 2011-2012

### **Judgment, Decision Making, and Social Behavior: 2009-2012**

Driven by the goal of encouraging collaborations between economists and psychologists, this project, ending in June 2012, fostered connections advancing cognitive neuroscience and law-related social science through events, publications, and research during its term. This productive team sponsored or cosponsored six workshops and conferences, videotaped seven public lectures, and held 24 seminars attended by over 100 affiliates. Public lectures meshing psychology and economics with titles such as "How Best to Incorporate Psychology into Economics" drew enthusiasm from the Cornell community, especially undergraduates.

Faculty members produced over 85 publications, including 3 books. The team created an important research volume in a special issue of the *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies* in 2011 based on the findings presented at a major conference in 2010, *Judgment by the Numbers: Converting Qualitative to Quantitative Judgments in Law*. Another significant volume of research using findings from a different co-sponsored 2011 conference, the *Neuroscience of Risky Decision Making*, is under contract for publication.

The project led to multiple joint grant proposals submitted to government agencies and foundations. Already the team has received \$3.3 million in external grants and fellowship awards. Though the team officially ends in June 2012, research funds are set aside to support an expanded Center for Behavioral Economics and Decision Research.

### **Immigration: Settlement, Integration, and Membership: 2010-2013**

The Immigration team completed its year in residence, typically the second year of ISS theme projects, in June 2012. Building on Cornell's strength in fostering collaborative relationships, this group of political scientists, sociologists, historians, anthropologists, and other social scientists explored many facets of immigration, such as the resettlement and integration into society of immigrants in nontraditional destinations. Since the beginning of its term in 2010, the group has published 29 works, including four books.

During the 2011-2012 academic year, the group sponsored 10 seminars, four workshops and a public panel discussion addressing the Dream Act, the criminalization of immigration, and new immigrant destinations. The workshops focused on such issues as whether labor immigration is good or bad for the United States and the intersection of second generation issues and racial boundaries.

During spring, the ISS held an Immigration Student Fellows' Research Colloquium featuring 10 graduate students and one undergraduate discussed the status of and findings from their research that was funded by the Immigration project in 2010-2011.

The team included 193 affiliate members in many of its activities. There are web postings of 40 ISS-sponsored videos, giving the general public access to information delivered at events sponsored by the Immigration project.

## Retired Theme Projects

The ISS's inaugural theme project, The Evolving Family (2004-2007), created the Cornell Population Center (CPC) to develop demographic research and training at Cornell. In the spring 2012, Atlantic Philanthropies endowed CPC with a \$5 million gift supporting the Frank H.T. Rhodes Postdoctoral Fellowship. The first fellow, Bongoh Kye, is examining how differences in demographic behaviors, including marriage and childbearing, contribute to the reproduction of social inequality.

Another ISS Theme Project, Getting Connected: Social Science in the Age of Networks (2005-2008), continues to procure additional external funding. In November 2011, a \$3 million grant was awarded by the National Science Foundation's Census Research Network to the School of Industrial and Labor Relations' Labor Dynamics Institute (LDI). Led by ISS Networks fellow John Abowd, the LDI, in collaboration with the Cornell Institute for Social and Economic Research, is establishing research networks to solve problems confronting national statistics agencies.

The ISS' Persistent Poverty and Upward Mobility project (2008-2011) continues its policy-related research on issues in Ithaca and across the globe in Africa. In June 2012, Susan Christopherson, a project faculty fellow, traveled to Washington D.C. as part of the Washington Policy Briefing Series to discuss with journalists and Capitol Hill staff the community impacts of horizontal hydraulic fracturing, commonly referred to as fracking. Her economic impact studies on Pennsylvania and New York suggest that, over time, fracking will contribute to the loss of population, increase income inequality, and crowd out other industries, such as tourism.

Chris Barrett, Poverty project team leader, was awarded the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' eighth annual Research and Extension Award for Outstanding Accomplishments in Science and Public Policy. Barrett is a respected world leader in the economics of food aid programs, helping governments understand how markets actually function in low-income countries, such as Kenya.

## Faculty Fellows Program

Designed to nurture the careers of Cornell's most promising assistant and associate faculty members in the social sciences by giving them time away from teaching responsibilities to encourage research, the ISS Fellows Program operates every three years. After an extensive search in 2012, the ISS selected faculty members, nominated by their Deans, to participate in the 2012-2013 ISS Faculty Fellows' Program. Beginning in fall 2012, 12 faculty members from 11 departments at five colleges across the university will be in residence at the ISS.

## Small Grants Program

The ISS provides biannual small grants supporting social science research and conferences. As part of the fall 2011 round, 16 grants supported projects conducted in four colleges across 12 departments. In the spring 2012, 14 grants funded work in 12 departments at five colleges.

Each year the ISS seeks research updates from the previous year's awardees. The 2010-2011 PIs report that they held well attended conferences and conducted research that led to additional funding and publications. For example, more than 200 people attended the March 2011 interdisciplinary conference, Gas Drilling Sustainability and Energy Policy:

Searching for Common Ground, organized by Keith Porter's Water Law Clinic with support from the ISS. The conference was the springboard for local government discussions about moratoriums on horizontal hydraulic fracturing.

Geri Gay (communication) received an ISS small grant for her project employing undergraduates to develop tools to help readers understand political issues, such as cap and trade. The ISS grant helped to lay the groundwork for her collaboration with colleagues from the University of California, Irvine, and a \$467,017 award from the National Science Foundation for a project to improve the quality of online political discussion.

Sharon Tennyson's (PAM) small grant award resulted in a research paper, "The Effects of CARD Act Disclosures on Consumers' Use of Credit Cards" available on the Social Science Research Network. Additionally, the paper was presented at two conferences: The American Council of Consumer Interests (April 2012), and the Boulder Summer Conference on Consumer Financial Decision Making (June 2012).

## The Institute for the Social Sciences

[www.socialsciences.cornell.edu](http://www.socialsciences.cornell.edu)



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