Collaborative Projects
Small Grants
Faculty Fellows

Cornell University
Institute for the Social Sciences
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THE INSTITUTE FOR THE SOCIAL SCIENCES nurtures the careers of Cornell social science faculty members by supporting their world-class scholarship that contributes to our fundamental understanding of the social world.

THE MISSION of the Institute for the Social Sciences (ISS) is to encourage scholars from different departments, units, schools, and colleges to delve together into boundary-spanning research collaborations addressing significant disciplinary, social, and public policy concerns. The ISS provides an important venue where Cornell faculty, who otherwise might not meet, have opportunities to learn from one another and form intellectually rewarding and gratifying social and professional bonds. The ISS also strives to raise the visibility of the social sciences at Cornell.

Over the years, three signature research programs have evolved—Collaborative Projects (formerly called theme projects), Small Grants, and Faculty Fellows. All aim to build Cornell faculty excellence, raise the scholarly profile of social science projects university-wide, and help to recruit and retain top social science faculty. In particular, the ISS focuses on supporting early career faculty as an investment in Cornell’s future.

DANIEL T. LICHTER was named the Robert S. Harrison Director of the Institute for the Social Sciences during summer 2015. The Ferris Family Professor of Life Course Studies in policy analysis and management in the College of Human Ecology, Lichter also holds a faculty appointment in sociology in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Lichter publishes widely on population and public policy, including studies of concentrated poverty and inequality, intermarriage, immigrant incorporation in American society, rural sociology, and America’s racial and ethnic transformation.

Prior to coming to Cornell in 2005, Lichter was on the faculty at Ohio State University and Pennsylvania State University. He received his Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.
COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

Comprised of four to five tenure-line Cornell faculty members, Collaborative Projects enable scholars to study a significant social science topic from interdisciplinary perspectives and approaches. Led by Cornell social scientists, the research projects are designed to build bridges among Cornell faculty from different disciplines, units, and colleges, and act as a catalyst to spur new relationships and stimulate discussion among researchers across the campus. Social scientists as well as faculty beyond traditional social science disciplines, such as the physical sciences, life sciences, and information sciences, are welcome to participate on a Collaborative Project.

David Strang in sociology expresses his views at a New York City-based workshop, Artists and Social Scientists: Doing Things Together.
DETAILS: Collaborative projects receive funding for three years to support research, workshops, and other activities. Each Cornell faculty member is awarded a research stipend and partial teaching and administrative relief, at the same time as their department is provided limited funding to offset course release. During their second year, the faculty are in-residence at the ISS.

CREATIVITY, INNOVATION, AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

“The Creativity, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Project is an excellent example of how the Institute for the Social Sciences brings together faculty from different disciplines to engage in boundary-spanning collaborations,” said Daniel T. Lichter, ISS Director.

Led by Diane Burton in human resource studies, this project from 2013-2016, examined how novel ideas capture others’ attention and financial backing, giving birth to new organizations and industries.

Cornell faculty members from five colleges – the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, the Industrial and Labor Relations School, the Samuel Curtis Johnson Graduate School of Management, and Cornell Law School – were on the project. Through collaborative research, a semester-long doctoral seminar, workshops and public events, the project seeded new publications, including books, as well as grants from organizations, such as the National Science Foundation.

ONGOING COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

The Causes, Consequences, and Future of Mass Incarceration in the United States
Assessing the Consequences of Temporary Deportation Relief
China’s Cities: Divisions and Plans
SMALL GRANTS

The biannual ISS’ Small Grants Program has provided support for about 300 research projects and conferences. **Up to $12,000 is awarded** to tenure-track and tenured Cornell faculty members for research and conferences. Priority is given to scholars early in their career to jump-start their research and pilot projects likely to lead to a major external grant.

**MULTISECTORAL NUTRITION:**
**FROM POLICY TO PRACTICE IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA**

David Pelletier, nutritional sciences, received a small grant for his project, *Implementation Research for Global Nutrition: Opportunities for the Social Sciences at Cornell.*

Project funds supported domestic travel to meet with researchers, international donors, and non-governmental organizations. As the result of his work, Pelletier was named an advisory committee member to both the World Health Organization and the New York Academy of Sciences. He secured multi-year grants from UNICEF and published a paper in *Advances in Nutrition.*

**DETAILS:** Funding has supported diverse projects ranging from an archaeological excavation in Israel to a study on how having a student with a father in jail affects school teachers’ expectations. The Small Grant Program also funds workshops, such as the Economic Methods for Historians Workshop first launched in 2013 to train historians in the methods economists and finance experts use.
An ISS fellowship offers exactly what junior faculty need most: time, space, resources, and community. The support and investment in the fellows made it easy to be productive and creative. Being at ISS is easily one of the most valuable experiences I’ve had at Cornell. — Jane Mendle, human development

FACULTY FELLOWS

ISS Fellowships support Cornell’s most promising early career social science faculty members.

DETAILS: Every three years the ISS seeks nominations from deans and chairs for the ISS Faculty Fellows’ Program.

Faculty fellows receive a semester-in-residence at the ISS when they are relieved of teaching and major department service responsibilities and can devote time to their research. In-residence fellows meet regularly to discuss their projects and participate in professional development activities. Each fellow receives funding to support their research.
The ISS does an excellent job supporting young scholars, especially very early in their careers. — Levon Barseghyan, economics