A Message from the Director

August 2017

The Institute for the Social Sciences (ISS) aims to elevate the research profile and impact of the social sciences at Cornell. We made progress in 2016-17.

Our three collaborative projects, Deportation Relief, Mass Incarceration, and China’s Cities, are focusing on timely issues relevant to public policy debates at home and abroad. Diverse in discipline, the projects are comprised of social scientists from multiple colleges and departments involved in qualitative, quantitative, and computational social science studies. Aside from publishing papers and books individually, the team members are participating in collaborative research expected to yield important findings.

The ISS strives to build community by encouraging social scientists from across the university to get to know one another. We also are continuing our efforts, in consultation with the Council of Social Science Centers and the ISS’ Advisory Committee, to strengthen Cornell’s grant management infrastructure in the social sciences. On March 1, 2017, we held the first of several workshops planned on social science research funding opportunities. Cornell social scientists Laura Tach, Tom Pepinsky, and Jeff Niederdeppe shared their experiences working with foundations. They provided valuable tips to other Cornell faculty members and graduate students in attendance.

Working with the Center for the Study of Inequality and the University Lectures Committee, we brought MacArthur Fellow and Pulitzer Prize winner Matthew Desmond to campus to discuss his book, Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City. Turnout in the Statler Auditorium was excellent. This was the first lecture the ISS has sponsored as part of its goal to bring prominent social scientists to Cornell for an annual public lecture.

In 2017-18, we will be selecting the next collaborative project through a peer-reviewed process. We support interdisciplinary research teams comprised of 4-5 researchers working together for three years on social science topics. I’m happy to talk about your ideas!

We also will be picking our fourth cohort of ISS’ fellows. The ISS’ Fellows program is designed to nurture tenure track Cornell faculty members early in their careers. The ISS will consider department/college nominees in the spring semester. Stay tuned.

Thank you for your support.

Daniel T. Lichter
Robert S. Harrison Director
The Institute for the Social Sciences nurtures the careers of Cornell’s social science faculty members by encouraging scholars to delve into interdisciplinary research collaborations addressing some of the world’s most complex challenges and disciplinary concerns. Through three signature programs—Collaborative Projects, Faculty Fellows, and Small Grants—the ISS encourages research, including quantitative, qualitative, and computational social science studies. We also advance interdisciplinary collaborations through forums, such as workshops and informal lunches, where research findings and methods are discussed, and new research projects are cultivated.

Daniel T. Lichter, professor in both the Departments of Policy Analysis and Management, and Sociology, is the Robert S. Harrison Director. A demographer, he has published widely on topics in population and public policy, including studies of poverty, inequality, intermarriage, and immigrant incorporation. He is particularly interested in America’s racial and ethnic transformation.

MISSION

ISS fosters systematic, evidence-based, and collaborative research studies addressing important disciplinary and public policy concerns. The organization recognizes the critical value of basic research in the social sciences and strives to cultivate world-class scholarship that contributes to our fundamental understanding of the social world. Consistent with Cornell’s mission as a Land Grant Institution, the ISS disseminates knowledge in service to the public good.
Current Collaborative Projects

Deportation Relief (2015-18)

Matthew Hall
Co-Leader
Policy Analysis and Management

Shannon Gleeson
Co-Leader
Labor Relations, Law, and History

Faculty Fellows
Steven Alvarado, Sociology
Kate Griffith, Labor Relations, Law, and History
Jordan Matsudaira, Policy Analysis and Management

The Causes, Consequences, and Future of Mass Incarceration in the United States (2015-18)

Faculty Fellows
Maria Fitzpatrick, Policy Analysis and Management
Anna Haskins, Sociology
Christopher Wildeman, Policy Analysis and Management

Peter Enns
Project Leader
Government

China’s Cities: Divisions and Plans (2016-19)

Jeremy Wallace
Project Leader
Government

Faculty Fellows
Panle Barwick, Economics
Eli Friedman, International and Comparative Labor
Shanjun Li, Applied Economics and Management
Jessica Chen Weiss, Government
Deportation Relief

Co-led by Shannon Gleeson in the Department of Labor Relations, Law, and History and Matthew Hall in the Department of Policy Analysis and Management, this mixed-methods project is examining how having temporary protected status (TPS) shapes immigrants’ experiences at work and school, as well as immigrants’ long-term goals and sense of belonging.

In 2016-17, Gleeson and Kate Griffith, also in the Department of Labor Relations, Law, and History, oversaw research assistants working with legal aid providers, as they interviewed 55 immigrants, primarily from Haiti and Central America. They collected information about workplace experiences, such as immigrants’ ability to contest workplace abuses, for analysis and publication.

Gleeson continued her work with Xóchitl Bada (University of Illinois, Chicago) on a project researching how the Mexican Consulate protects the rights of immigrant workers, and the roles that enforcement agencies and nonprofit advocates play in assisting immigrants. With Els de Graauw (Baruch College, City University of New York), Gleeson analyzed the 2012 implementation of the federal program, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.

Meanwhile, Hall investigated the key contributors to immigrants incorporation into mainstream social, political, and economic institutions. He also examined the factors driving competition in the job market between immigrants and natives.

Steven Alvarado in the Department of Sociology, and Hall, along with graduate student, Alex Currit, used the U.S. Census to understand how having TPS shapes the educational outcomes of child immigrants from El Salvador. Children with TPS are more likely to stay in school, according to findings Currit presented at the Population Association of America’s April 2017 annual meeting in Chicago.

Jordan Matsudaira in the Department of Policy Analysis and Management, and Hall, engaged with graduate student Julia Zhu on a study examining the relationship between immigration enforcement activities and employer hiring.

Publications


Events


Leticia Saucedo, Professor of Law, UC Berkeley came to Cornell April 13, 2017, for her lecture, “The Legacy of the Immigrant Workplace: Lessons for the 21st Century Economy.” Saucedo discussed historical lessons applicable to immigrants working as independent contractors, subcontractors, and contingent employees.
Led by Peter Enns in the Department of Government, the Mass Incarceration project is examining the factors that cause mass imprisonment and the consequences of imprisonment on individuals, families, and society. In the project’s second year, the team engaged in collaborative and individual research related to these important topics.

Christopher Wildeman and Maria Fitzpatrick, both in the Department of Policy Analysis and Management, and Alyssa Goldman, graduate student in sociology, are using data from the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections to see how general educational programs available to prisoners moderate the consequences of incarceration. In another project, Wildeman is examining teachers’ expectations of a child with an incarcerated parent and how having a parent in prison affects children.

Julilly Kohler-Hausmann in the Department of Government completed Getting Tough: Welfare and Imprisonment in the 1970s America, published by Princeton University Press. Her book uses cases in California, Illinois, and New York to shed light on how the penal system expanded at the same time as politicians eviscerated the nation’s welfare system in the 1970s. She was awarded a 2017-2018 Faculty Fellowship at Harvard University’s Warren Center to research her next project on the politics of felon disenfranchisement and voter fraud in the decades after the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

Anna Haskins in the Department of Sociology is involved in several projects examining the educational consequences of paternal incarceration for children. Her findings published in Social Forces show that for elementary-aged boys and girls, the incarceration of a parent is associated with reductions in memory and attention skills for boys and reading comprehension and math skills for girls. Moreover, this paper estimates that paternal incarceration explains between 2-15 percent of the Black-White achievement gap. Another project, led by Haskins, is looking at how living in neighborhoods with high incarceration rates potentially impacts children’s health, behavior, and academic outcomes.

Enns is analyzing the relationship between racial prejudice and punitive attitudes, such as support for lengthy prison terms toward drug offenders and other lawbreakers. Using county-level votes for California ballot initiatives related to criminal justice policy as well as national public opinion polls from the 1930s and 1940s—which are available from the Roper Center where Enns is the executive director—he is trying to determine how the public’s perceptions about race, crime, and punishment have evolved during this period and the factors behind these changes.

Events
Wildeman and Haskins organized the conference, Minimizing Collateral Damage: Interdisciplinary Perspectives and Interventions to Diminish the Consequence of Mass Incarceration for Children, hosted by the Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research on September 15-16, 2016. The conference featured interdisciplinary scholars spotlighting how mass incarceration affects children. The American Psychological Association plans to publish an edited volume, based on the conference, in late 2017. Another event, Educate the Vote, that focused on incarceration and immigration issues, was held just before the first presidential debate in 2016. Enns helped organize the well-attended debate.

Grants
The Russell Sage Foundation awarded Wildeman $35,000 to create a linked administrative dataset of children in New York City with paternal or maternal incarceration. The new link will provide more accurate causal estimates of the effects of parental incarceration on children than the surveys previously used which suffered from high attrition rates.
China’s Cities: Divisions and Plans

The China’s Cities: Divisions and Plans project spent most of its first year planning research projects and organizing a speaker series to be held in 2017-18. Led by Jeremy Wallace in government, the team is examining the factors that divide migrants and native city dwellers, including environmental policies, health consequences, and attitudes. Panle Barwick in the Department of Economics, Eli Friedman in the Department of International and Comparative Labor, Shanjun Li at the Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management, and Jessica Chen Weiss, also in the Department of Government, are on the team.

One joint research project, “How Domestic Urban Unrest Affects Commerce,” examines how both the 2010 labor protests at automobile factories in Southern China and the 2012 anti-Japanese demonstrations in China’s cities affected consumer behavior, specifically car sales. Working with graduate student Yiding Ma, the team is merging car registrations and consumer data to explore this dynamic.

Barwick and Li are investigating how the eight national and 26 regional high-speed railways are facilitating market integration and reducing domestic trade barriers. They also are collaborating on another project assessing the correlation between health spending and human health impacts stemming from air pollution.

Working with graduate research assistant Hao Zhang, Friedman is using empirical research to explore labor issues, including employment practices, strikes, and collective bargaining, in China’s sanitation and taxi industries. Another project under Friedman’s leadership is incorporating ethnographic observations and interviews to assess how the urban state uses migrants for labor purposes but ignores them in primary school education.

Wallace and Weiss are involved in “Nationalism and Nativism: Varieties of Other in China,” research exploring whether nationalist appeals promoting economic performance drive or counter domestic unity among disparate groups – rural and urban, migrants and locals, and ethnic minorities and Han. In another project, Wallace and research assistant Lincoln Hines, are using the Chinese census as well as fiscal data and satellite imagery to explain why slums and ghost cities – areas where there is too much infrastructure and urban services in the same place – are simultaneously emerging in China.

Events

Wallace participated in the “Sustainability in Asia: Partnerships for Research and Implementation” held in Hong Kong from April 6-7, 2017. Organized by the Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future and the Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies, the conference brought together international scholars, scientists, business leaders, and policy influencers from the U.S. and Asia to advance sustainable practices worldwide. Wallace was a member of the panel, “Rural-Urban Transitions to Sustainable Settlement Systems” – examining Asia’s economic growth and focusing on challenges and solutions.

Student Research Training

China’s Cities worked with 14 graduate students on projects as varied as the impact of urban air pollution on public health to slums in ghost cities. The graduate students helped with project design, ethnographic interviews, dataset creation, and data analysis.
Running for three years, ISS theme projects (now called collaborative projects) encouraged interdisciplinary research collaborations on timely social science topics. In 2016-17, past theme project members secured grants, published research findings, and earned recognition — all seeded with initial ISS support.


Elaine Wethington is co-investigator on “Program for Research on Youth Development and Foundation,” receiving a $1.2 million award from the Morgan Foundation. The W. T. Grant Foundation is providing $450,000 for “Fathers and Low-Income Children’s Academic and Behavioral Outcomes: The Role of Social and Economic Policies,” a project where Maureen Waller is co-investigator. With co-author Kimberly Tumer, Waller published “Indebted Relationships: Child Support Arrears and Nonresident Fathers’ Involvement with Children” in the *Journal of Marriage and Family*.


**Getting Connected: Social Science in the Age of Networks (2005-08)**


**Contentious Knowledge: Science, Social Science and Social Movements (2006-09)**

*Reordering Life* by Stephen Hilgartner examines how the governance and control of knowledge changed during the Human Genome Project. Published by MIT Press, his book sheds light on secrecy and openness in science, data access and ownership, and the politics of research communities.

Chapters by Ken Roberts are included in several books: *Parties, Movement and Democracy in the Developing World, Challenges of Party Building in Latin America*, and the *Oxford Handbook of Politics of Development*. He also published pieces in the *European Journal of Political Research* and *Brown Journal of World Affairs*.

**Persistent Poverty and Upward Mobility (2008-11)**

Susan Christopherson died December 14, 2016. Known for her scholarly work on regional economic development, her research on the Persistent Poverty project provided a geographic perspective on the fate of U.S. manufacturing regions and explored rebuilding regional economies. The first female promoted to full professor in the Department of City and Regional Planning, Christopherson was fondly remembered at a memorial service on April 29, 2017.

Judgment, Decision Making, and Social Behavior (2009-12)

Valerie Hans is co-principal investigator on a research project receiving a $293,250 award from the National Science Foundation. She co-edited two books: Trends in Legal Advocacy and The Psychology of Tort Law. She co-wrote chapters in The psychology of juries: Current knowledge and a research agenda for the future and Research Handbook in Comparative Law and Economics. Other pieces are published in Trial and Oñati Socio-Legal Series.

Peter Enns is co-principal investigator on “Rising Inequality and the Congressional Economic Agenda,” supported with a $70,000 award from the Russell Sage Foundation. Enns co-authored a piece in Research and Politics.


Immigration: Settlement, Integration and Membership (2010-13)

Maria Cristina Garcia was elected to membership in the Society of American Historians and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She wrote the foreword in Global Latin(o) Americanos, edited by Mark Overmyer-Velázquez and Enrique Sepúlveda, published in 2017. Her interviews and op-eds appeared on NPR, PRI, and The Conversation.

Contested Global Landscapes: Property Governance, Economy and Livelihoods on the Ground (2012-15)

Team members Wendy Wolford, Steven Wolf, Raymond Craib, and several other Cornell faculty members were awarded $139,000 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to continue their research initiated with the ISS Land project and now supporting land management seminars and student internships. The National Science Foundation Scholars’ Award, Program in Science, Technology, and Society, provided Sara Pritchard $102,000 for her research on “Light Pollution’s Social and Ecological Consequences and Contexts.”

Wolford was a Fulbright Scholar with the sub Saharan Africa program in Mozambique researching land transactions. She co-authored papers on critical agrarian studies published in Antipod. Work by Pritchard is in Environmental History. Papers co-authored by Wolf were featured in Environment and Planning A, Ecological Economics, Organization and Environment, and Global Environmental Change. Paul Nadasdy wrote a book chapter in Ice Blink: Navigating Northern Environmental History and a paper in the Canadian Journal of Political Science.

Creativity, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship (2013-16)


Melissa Ferguson and Thomas Mann, graduate student in psychology, co-authored a paper in the Journal of Experimental Social Psychology. Charles Whitehead is director of the Law, Technology, and Entrepreneurship Program at Cornell Tech. Launched in 2016-17 with 12 students, the program exceeded expectations.
Since its inception in 2004, the ISS has sponsored three Faculty Fellow cohorts. Designed to nurture Cornell’s most promising social science faculty early in their career, the program gives faculty time to devote to their research and professional training and development. Fellows receive funding for research and partial relief from teaching and major administrative responsibilities in their departments. Following their stints at the ISS, Cornell faculty members have secured grants, published their research, and received promotions.

**2015-16 Cohort**

The National Institute on Aging awarded Erin York Cornwell in sociology and her collaborators $3 million for a smartphone-based study of neighborhoods and health. Her paper, "Racial and Social Disparities in Bystander Support During Medical Emergencies on US Streets," co-authored with graduate student Alex Currit, was published in the *American Journal of Public Health* and cited in the *Washington Post, Boston Globe, Huffington Post,* and *Reuters.*

Jane Mendle in human development is principal investigator on “Early Pubertal Timing and Psychosocial Outcomes in Adulthood,” a research project supported with an $181,500 award from the National Institutes of Health. She’s also co-investigator on a program for research on youth development and engagement funded with a $1.2 million grant from the Morgan Foundation.

Mendle published in the *Journal of Adolescence, Clinical Psychological Science, Journal of Youth and Adolescence,* and *Teen Vogue.* She was named a Stephen H. Weiss Junior Fellow in recognition of her excellent teaching. She also was accepted into the 2017 Public Voices Fellows Program providing media training for Cornell faculty members.

Laura Tach in policy analysis and management is co-investigator on “Assessing the Impact of Place-Based and Place-Conscious Interventions on Economic Mobility,” The Gates Foundation provided $500,000 for this research. She also co-authored a paper in *The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences.*

Natalie Bazarova in communication received a $75,000 Hatch grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to study family and technology practices in the digital age.


Adam Levine in government and co-founders launched Research4Impact (r4i), an online matchmaking organization connecting people from the academic, nonprofit and government sectors interested in collaborating. They received about $35,000 from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, Skoll Global Threats Fund, and Surface 51 to start the project.

Kurt Jordan published “Categories in Motion: Emerging Perspectives in the Archaeology of Postcolumbian Indigenous Communities,” and another co-authored article in Historical Archaeology. He also co-wrote Smith Woods: The Environmental History of an Old Growth Forest Remnant in Central New York State. Articles co-authored by Connie Yuan were published in Human Communication Research and Communication Research. She received the Dennis Gouran Research Award for Best Paper at the 2016 National Communication Association Conference.

Eli Friedman joined the ISS’ China’s Cities project where his research is focusing on labor issues in China’s sanitation and taxi industries. He’s also assessing how the urban state uses migrants for labor purposes but fails to educate them. Modern China published his article “Teacher’s Work in China’s Migrant Schools.”

2012-13 Cohort

Under the leadership of Kim Weeden, the Center for the Study of Inequality received $10 million from Atlantic Philanthropies to advance inequality research. Weeden is the lead author on “Degrees of Difference: Gender Segregation of U.S. Doctorates by Field and Program Prestige,” published in Sociological Sciences. A co-authored piece on the motherhood wage penalty is in The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences.

Dan Cosley, along with Cornell faculty members Natalie Bazarova and Janis Whitlock, received a $1.2 million National Science Foundation award for their continued work on self-disclosure in social networks — a project the ISS supported.

Speaking about the $750,000 award he and his collaborators received from the U.S. Departments of Education and State, and the Henry Luce Foundation, Tom Pepinsky said, “Our focus is on fostering cross-disciplinary research that targets modern topics,” including agriculture and climate change, while also supporting basic social science research on an important but critically understudied country.

The award will support basic research on Indonesian society, politics, and history by graduate students and early-career researchers in the United States and Indonesia through the American Institute for Indonesian Studies. Pepinsky was named an international fellow with the Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies for 2016-19. He wrote pieces published in Comparative Political Studies 49 and World Politics 67.


Craib also wrote a book chapter published in Decolonizing the Map: Cartography from Colony to Nation by University of Chicago Press. Journal articles by Lee Humphreys in communication were published in Mobile Media and Communication, Social Media and Society, and New Media and Society. Tamar Kushnir co-authored a piece about preschoolers’ sharing published in Open Mind.

2008-09 Cohort


Lillian Lee is co-author on “Tie-breaker: Using language models to quantify gender bias in sports journalism,” presented at the 25th International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence. Her paper received the Best Paper award at the workshop on “Natural language processing meets journalism.” She also co-authored papers published at the Worldwide Web Conference 2017.

Tarleton Gillespie is principal researcher at Microsoft Research New England where he joined a team of sociologists, communication scholars, anthropologists and others studying the impact of information technology on social and political life. He retains his position at Cornell as affiliate associate professor in the Department of Communication.
Twice yearly, the ISS’ small grants program supports Cornell faculty research and conferences. In the fall 2016, the ISS funded 15 research projects and one conference. The average award was $5,037.

- Conference: Practice What You Preach: Gender (In)Equality in Labor Union Leadership
  Rachel Aleks, Industrial and Labor Relations; Tina Saksida, School of Business, University of Prince Edward Island

- Consumer Understanding of Information on OTC Product and Rx Drug Advertisements: A Pilot Study
  Rosemary Avery, Policy Analysis and Management; Jeff Niederdeppe, Communication; Sahara Byrne, Communication; Matthew Eisenberg, Public Health, Johns Hopkins University

- Life Abroad: Spanish-Speaking Communities in Anglophone Cities in the Americas
  Ernesto Bassi, History

- The Politics of American State Constitution-Making
  David Bateman, Government

- Neighborhood Preferences and School Choice
  Kendra Bischoff, Sociology

- Agricultural Productivity Gaps: Feedbacks from Human Capital and Equipment Embodied Technology Adoption
  Julieta Caunedo, Economics; Elisa Keller, Economics, University of Exeter Business School; David Jaume, Econ

- Ordering Effects and Cognitive Bias in Law
  Zachary D. Clopton, Law; Carmen Sanchez, Psychology

- Childhood Poverty, Health, and Behavior: Biological and Psychosocial Pathways Conference
  Gary W. Evans, Design & Environmental Analysis and Human Development

- Why Is There a Valuation Discount for Dual-Class Firms?
  Hyunseob Kim, Johnson Graduate School of Management

- Individuals’ Need to Feel “True” to Themselves during Life Transitions and How Charitable Organizations can be Positioned to Fulfill the Need
  Soo Kim, Johnson Graduate School of Management

- The Impact of the 2008-2009 Economic Recession on Service Intensity in Physician Offices
  Jing Li, Healthcare Research and Policy; Alice Chen, University of Southern California Price School of Public Policy

- The Starbucks Effect: How Consumer Identification Impacts Consumer Preferences
  Stijn M. J. van Osselaer, Johnson Graduate School of Management; Sarah Lim, Johnson Graduate School of Management

- Employee Incentives in Microfinance Institutions: Examining the Importance of Diversification and Profit Status
  Sarah E. Wolfolds, Applied Economics & Management

- The Cornell Criminal Records Panel Survey (CCRPS): Sample Expansion and Linkage to Administrative Records
  Erin York Cornwell, Sociology; Martin Wells, Statistical Sciences; Lars Vilhuber, Economics; Esta R. Bigler, Industrial and Labor Relations; Linda Barrington, Institute for Compensation Studies, Industrial and Labor Relations; Hassan Enayati, Institute for Compensation Studies, Industrial and Labor Relations

- Social Affiliation and Music-Induced Synchrony in Dance
  Vivian Zayas, Psychology; Olivia Xin Wen, Psychology; Carol Lynne Krumhansl, Psychology
In the Spring 2017, the ISS funded 10 research projects and 1 conference. The average award was $7,826.

- The Farm to Plate Conference: Uniting to Create, Educate, and Celebrate a Sustainable and Equitable Local Food System  
  Rachel Bezner Kerr, Development Sociology  
  Noliwe Rooks, Africana Studies

- Unions and the Postwar European “Economic Miracle”  
  Murillo Campello, Johnson Graduate School of Management  
  Mathew Baron, Johnson Graduate School of Management

- Gender Inequalities in Social Media Work: Digital Labor as a New “Pink Ghetto”?  
  Brooke Duffy, Communication

- Mobile Phones in Public  
  Lee Humphreys, Communication

- Promoting Healthy Eating among Poor Children: Information, Affordability, and Accessibility on Food Consumption in Ethiopia  
  Hyuncheol Bryant Kim, Policy Analysis and Management

- Social Influence and Reward Learning in Discriminatory Decision Making  
  Amy Krosch, Psychology

- Promoting Conservation of a Risk-Laden Species Using One Health Risk Messaging: The Case of White Nose Syndrome in Bats  
  Katherine McComas, Communication  
  Bruce Lauber, Natural Resources  
  Heidi Kretser, Natural Resources

- Access Denied: Poverty, Politics and Civil Representation  
  Jamila Michener, Government  
  Mallory SoRelle, Lafayette College, Government and Law

- Further Education During Unemployment  
  Zhuan Pei, Policy Analysis and Management  
  Pauline Leung, Policy Analysis and Management

- Presence in Mediated Social Interactions Leads to Absence from the Here-and-Now  
  Andrea Stevenson Won, Communication

- When Do People Perceive Their Positive Outcomes as Unfair?  
  Emily Zitek, Industrial and Labor Relations
Small Grants: Results

The ISS’ Small Grants Program seeds research projects that then receive larger grants from government agencies and private foundations and result in publications.

2013 ISS Small Grant Awardees

A 2017 Guggenheim fellowship award winner, Edward Baptist, is examining “white America’s 400-year focus on controlling Africans’ and African-Americans’ movement, from fugitive slave ads and patrols to segregation and incarceration.” The Guggenheim fellowship follows his ISS-funded research on a database of fugitives from North American slavery.

Kelly Musick published articles in American Sociological Review and Demography stemming from her ISS award on “Parents’ Time with Children and Subjective Well-Being.”

2014 ISS Small Grant Awardees

Rebecca Slayton examined how economists, information technologists, and engineers integrate renewable energy into the smart grid to optimize efficiency, enhance reliability, and improve security. Her ISS-funded research led to a $172,299 early career award from the National Science Foundation in 2016 for a new project, “Enacting Cybersecurity Expertise.” Slayton secured a $287,500 grant for her study “Regulatory Options to Reduce Systemic Risks” and $100,000 for “Strengthening Local and Regional Regulatory Capacities for Cyber-resilience” — both from the Department of Homeland Security.

Jeff Niederdeppe was a finalist and $1,500 Runner-Up Prize Winner in the 2016 Frank Prize in Public Interest Communications, given by the University of Florida College of Journalism and Communications. He received the award for research stemming from his ISS grant for “Narrative, metaphor, and inoculation: Communication theory to promote multi-sector approaches to improving health.”

2015 ISS Small Grant Awardees


The Upjohn Institute for Employment Research provided Nicolas Ziebarth a $5,000 early career research award following ISS support for his research on the value of mandated sick pay for the U.S. He co-authored “Profiling the US Sick Leave Landscape: Presenteeism among Females,” published in Health Services Research and cited in the New York Times.

Adam Seth Litwin published "Superbugs vs. Outsourced Cleaners: Employment Arrangements and the Spread of Healthcare-Associated Infections," in Industrial and Labor Relations Review. This paper is based on “Labor Unions and the Spread of Healthcare-Associated Infections” -- a project funded by ISS.

The National Science Foundation provided an additional $24,845 for the biennial Conference in Laboratory Phonology co-organized by Abby Cohn and supported by the ISS.

2016 ISS Small Grant Awardees

Principal investigators Erin York Cornwell and Martin Wells were awarded $244,603 from the Department of Labor for their research project “Criminal Record Inaccuracies and the Impact of a Record Education Intervention on Employment-Related Outcomes.”

Maureen Waller and her collaborators received ISS support for their project examining the extent to which father involvement reduces inequality in children’s academic and behavioral outcomes, and whether policies improve father involvement. Waller subsequently received a $450,000 grant from the WT Grant Foundation for her team’s project, “Fathers and Low-Income Children’s Academic and Behavioral Outcomes: The Role of Social and Economic Policies,” running from 2017-20.
Building Bridges

The ISS aims to build relationships and promote intellectually-rewarding cross-department, cross-college, and interdisciplinary collaborations with social scientists, including faculty members and students, across the university. Sometimes, the ISS plays the leading role in getting social scientists together in venues designed to foster relationships. Other times the ISS contributes financial or other support for events organized by sister units, such as the Center for the Study of Inequality (CSI), Cornell Population Center (CPC) Africana Studies and Research Center, and the China Institute for China Economic Research (CICER).

To kick-off the 2016-17 year, the ISS along with CSI and the CPC held a welcome back reception on August 26, 2016, for Cornell social science faculty members and graduate students. A similar event for post doctoral research associates occurred on September 9, 2016. Throughout the year, the ISS, CSI, and CPC cosponsored working lunches, giving post doctoral research associates opportunities to discuss their research in an informal setting. These events help to build bridges across social science units — a major ISS objective.

The ISS sponsored several conferences at Cornell, including China Research Days on October 27-28, 2016, and the Fall 2016 seminar series, both hosted by CICER. Another conference, Development in Question: The Fifth Annual Conference Section on the Sociology of Development, organized by the Department of Development Sociology and the American Sociological Association, was held from October 6-8, 2016.

Using a small grant she received from the ISS in spring 2017, Rachel Bezner Kerr co-organized the Farm to Table Conference: Uniting to Create, Educate, and Celebrate a Sustainable and Equitable Local Food System. Similarly, Aaron Sachs co-led Cornell’s first conference on Creative Academic Writing on May 13, 2017, attended by graduate students and faculty alike. ISS contributed to both conferences’ success.

Immediately before the 2016 presidential election, Washington Post columnist Eugene Robinson discussed Election 2016: Who’s Up, Who’s Down, & What’s Really Going On? His talk on October 27, 2016, was sponsored by the Africana Studies and Research Center and received ISS support.

ISS Director Daniel Lichter co-organized the New Rural-Urban Interface Conference held at the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania on September 29-30, 2016. Lichter along with Cornell faculty members Erin York Cornwell, Matthew Hall, Christopher Wildeman, and David Brown and faculty from other institutions contributed papers included in a special volume, The New Rural-Urban Interface, published by the Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, in July 2017. The conference was cosponsored by the ISS, the American Academy of Political and Social Science, University of Kentucky’s Center for Poverty Research, and the Finger Lakes branch of Scholars Strategy Network.

Pulitzer Prize and MacArthur award winner Matthew Desmond spoke to a crowd filling the Statler Auditorium on November 16, 2016, about his best-selling book, Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City. His talk was organized by the Center for the Study of Inequality, with support from the University Lectures Committee, and the ISS. This was the first lecture the ISS has sponsored as part of its goal to bring prominent social scientists to Cornell for an annual public lecture and enhance the visibility and impact of the social sciences at the university.

The ISS held its winter reception in the A.D. White House on December 7, 2016. Social science faculty across Cornell attended the celebration. This is an annual event the ISS holds to encourage social scientists, especially new faculty members, to get to know one another.
Working with Foundations
Social science faculty and graduate students attended the workshop, *Social Science Grant Opportunities: Where to Turn When Federal Funds are Scarce*, on March 1, 2017. Laura Tach in the Department of Policy Analysis and Management, Tom Pepinsky in the Department of Government, and Jeff Niederdeppe in the Department of Communication, provided tips for success when working with foundations. About 40 social scientists attended the workshop led by Daniel Lichter, ISS director.

Student Research Training
The ISS primarily supports social science faculty members and contributes to the development of graduate and undergraduate students in a number of important ways.

ISS Faculty Fellows include students in their collaborative research projects. For example, 14 graduate students are working with China’s Cities: Divisions and Plans.

Two graduate students in sociology, Alyssa Goldman and Alex Curritt, contributed to the Mass Incarceration and Deportation Relief projects respectively; the graduate students presented papers at the Population Association of America’s annual meeting in Chicago from April 27-29, 2017.

Graduate students also participate in research projects funded with small grants. For example, Vivian Zayas in psychology is working with two graduate students on her project, *Social Affiliation and Music-Induced Synchrony in Dance*, supported by a small grant from the ISS.

To facilitate the exchange of information among post doctoral researchers in the social sciences, the ISS, along with the Center for the Study of Inequality and the Cornell Population Center, sponsored the postdoctoral working group — a group of scholars meeting informally over lunch each month to discuss their research.

The ISS also supported the dissertation development program under the leadership of the Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies. The program is designed to help doctoral students strengthen their dissertation research proposals.

Sabbatic Research Opportunity
The ISS selected social scientists to participate in a new program giving social scientists a quiet place to work while on sabbatical or study leave in Ithaca. Beginning in fall 2017, six social scientists, Jane Mendle, Bruce Lewenstein, Suzanne Lanyi Charles, Rick Geddes, Gustavo Flores-Macias, and Veronica Martinez-Matsuda will focus on special research projects while at the ISS.

Faculty Training
Valerie Hans on the Judgment Team, Sharon Sassler on the Immigration project, and ISS faculty fellow Jane Mendle joined the yearlong Public Voices Fellowship Program. Created by the Provost’s Office of Faculty Development and Diversity, the program is run by the Op-Ed project and aims to increase Cornell faculty members’ presence and impact in the media.