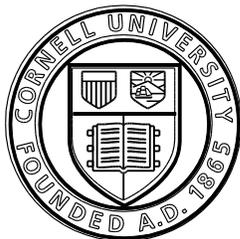




2011 ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY



Cornell University

This report summarizes the annual achievements of the Institute for the Social Sciences (ISS) in three programming areas:

- **Theme Projects**, bringing together faculty from across Cornell to explore a promising research topic together for three years;
- The **Faculty Fellows Program**, providing funding and course relief for assistant and associate faculty in the social sciences, and
- The biannual **Small Grants program**, awarding funding for cutting-edge faculty social science research or conferences.

Theme Projects Active During 2010-2011

Persistent Poverty and Upward Mobility: 2008-2011

The team offered 41 public events, including 30 seminars, two international conferences, two workshops, a forum, and a University Lecture. These events were attended by 204 affiliate members--more affiliates than any other ISS team. The group reached out to policy makers and community organizations through more than a dozen public presentations and 14 video segments posted online. Within Cornell, the group awarded 10 student grants to 1 undergraduate and 9 doctoral candidates. Project faculty taught 18 courses to Cornell students 25 times, including a new co-taught cross-listed seminar. Since the project's inception in 2008, team members used the ISS's support to leverage an additional \$5.6 million in external grants and fellowships, and produce more than 90 publications. Although the team officially ended in June 2011, members are continuing their collaborative efforts as they strive to institutionalize poverty research at Cornell. Efforts are also underway to organize a conference on persistent poverty that focuses on cross-cutting lessons from global, national, regional, community, and neighborhood research.

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

The JDSB project completed its year in residence, typically the second year of ISS theme projects, in June 2011. Building on Cornell's strength in fostering collaborations among economists, psychologists and other social scientists focused on judgment, decision making and social behavior, this team worked with 108 affiliate members. The team cosponsored 25 Behavioral Economics seminars, as well as the 2010 Behavioral Economics Annual meeting. The group addressed such topics as dual-process models, social and moral preferences, converting qualitative to quantitative judgments in law and neuroscience in four smaller workshops. Public lectures were delivered by Bob Cialdini, Sendhil Mullainathan, Daniel Gilbert, Matthew Rabin, and Esther Duflo, and the videotaping and posting of 27 online presentations enabled those outside Cornell to benefit from the group's events. Since the start of their term in 2009, team members have produced 33 publications and received more than \$2.1 million in external grants and fellowships.

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

The Immigration Project held biweekly meetings to plan a range of public activities focused on the Dream Act, labor immigration, second-generation immigrants, new immigrant destinations, and the trend to criminalize immigration to be held during their residency year.

Retired Theme Projects

The ISS' inaugural theme project, The Evolving Family (2004-2007), created the Cornell Population Center in 2008 to develop demographic research and training at Cornell with support from a large number of Cornell units and a National Institute of Child Health and Human Development 5-year R-24 infrastructure grant. Daniel Lichter, a Family Project affiliate and Poverty faculty fellow, is the current CPP Director.

This year members of the Networks Project (2005-2008) continued to develop the new Center for the Interface of Networks, Computation, and Economics. Google provided an \$800,000 research grant to examine how social network phenomena affect large-scale information systems. David Easley and Jon Kleinberg continue to lead their popular co-taught Networks 204 course, developed while in residence at the ISS in 2007 and cross-listed in four departments.

The Contentious Knowledge Project (2006-2009) published the most books of any ISS team to date. This year they added two more, bringing their total in print to seven: Kenneth Roberts co-edited *The Resurgence of the Left in Latin America* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2011) and Jason Frank authored *Constituent Moments: Enacting the People in Postrevolutionary America* (Duke UP, 2010). For more information, please see the team's list of publications.

Faculty Fellows Program

The ISS Fellows Program operates every three years and is designed to give junior faculty members a semester of leave from teaching responsibilities so that they can concentrate on research activities. Research highlights from the 2008 cohort are updated online each year. The 2008 fellows have brought to Cornell more than \$1.3 million in funding from the National Science Foundation, the Advanced Social Science Research section of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and Cisco. In Fall 2011, the ISS will begin a search for 2012-2013 fellows.

Small Grants Program

The ISS provides biannual small grants to support faculty social science research and conferences. As part of the Fall 2010 round, 11 grants supported research conducted in 12 different programs and departments across campus. As part of the Spring 2011 round, 17 grants funded research in 7 colleges and schools. Updates from the Fall 2009 and Spring 2010 rounds of funding, when 28 small grants were awarded, show that recipients have secured close to \$12 million in external funding. Several awardees merit special recognition. The small grant Marianne Krasny (natural resources) received for a conference on Exploring Trans-disciplinary Research in Environmental Education led to the awarding of a 5-year grant of \$11,297,500 from the Environmental Protection Agency to conduct evaluative research on the National Environmental Education Training

Program. Tamar Kushnir's research team secured \$300,000 from the National Science Foundation to study the influence of developing social cognition on causal learning in the preschool years. Poppy McLeod is using an \$81,448 Hatch Act grant provided by the US Department of Agriculture to study language use in public controversies, such as natural gas drilling using hydraulic fracturing.

The Institute for the Social Sciences

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