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**INSTITUTE
FOR SOCIAL
RESEARCH**

annual report

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letter from the director

Dear ISR Community,

The Institute for Social Research was established in 1949, launching the nation's premiere academic social science research organization. University of Michigan President Alexander Ruthven said ISR would more effectively "bring to bear quantitative and experimental research methods on complex and important social problems."

As we celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Institute for Social Research, we're reflecting on the rich history of innovation that informs our world, and looking ahead to the future of research. Over the past seven and a half decades, ISR has consistently pushed the boundaries of social science, pioneering new methodologies and providing crucial insights into the human condition. Our researchers have delved into a wide array of topics, from economic behavior and political attitudes to health disparities and education systems.

This report provides you with the highlights of our research programs, our efforts in training future social scientists, and the valuable data we have made available for research purposes. We have a proud tradition of mentorship and education, nurturing the next generation of social scientists who will continue to address the pressing issues of our time. Our research fosters a deeper understanding of societal trends and informs policy decisions that shape our future.

Thank you for your interest in our work. We are deeply grateful for the support of our community, without which our achievements would not be possible. As we look forward, we remain committed to advancing the field of social science and making meaningful contributions to society.

All my best,

Kate Cagney



research

ISR Research in the Media

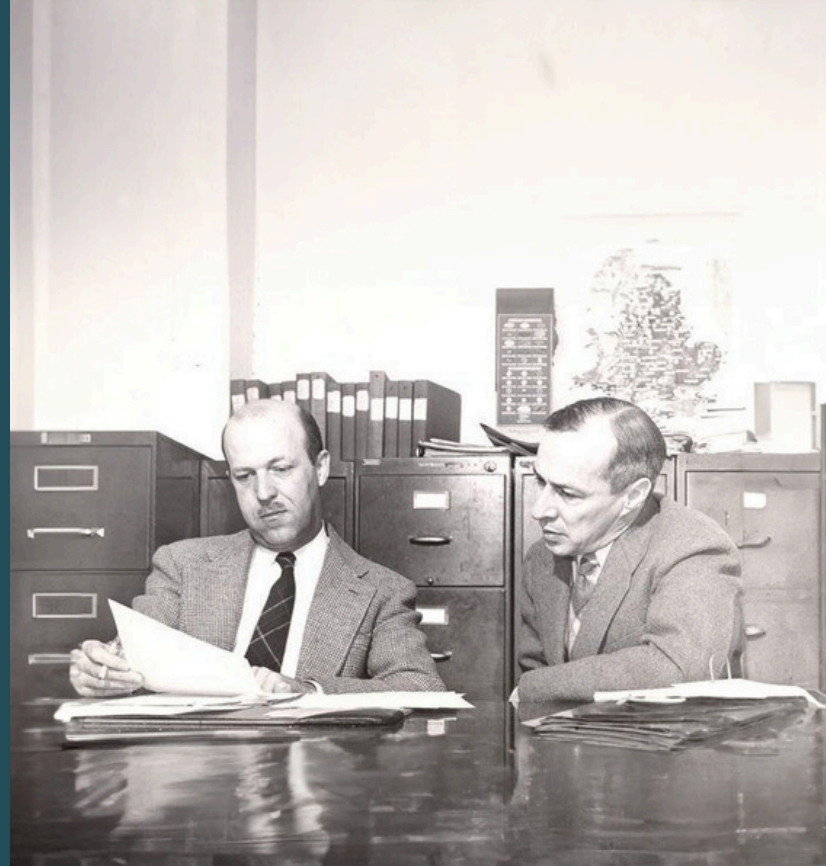
This year, ISR's research was cited **more than 2,000 times** by major outlets like BBC, Forbes, and The New York Times. Our expanded media presence reflects our commitment to disseminating knowledge that informs public policy, academic discourse, and societal progress.

Since 1949, the Institute for Social Research has been a vehicle for research that transcends divisions in academic disciplines as well as social, economic, and political issue areas. ISR's structure and funding support flexibility, giving our researchers a unique opportunity to respond to continually changing problems in our society.

In the 2024 fiscal year, ISR's researchers dedicated themselves to meaningful work on a wide range of topics. Among many other subjects, our researchers published papers on aging and family structure, the mechanics of survey research, the U.S. criminal justice system, and the health effects of hypertension, racism, and the built environment. As a result, ISR faculty are frequently cited as experts in the media.

The excellence of our many research teams was rewarded through new funding. Most notably, the Health and Retirement Study (HRS) in the Survey Research Center (SRC) was renewed through 2029 via a \$195 million grant from the National Institutes of Health, the largest research award in the history of the University of Michigan. The grant will allow HRS to expand its research into new areas, especially those related to Alzheimer's disease and dementia.

ISR also continued to expand its research footprint on the University of Michigan campus. Through a continuing interdisciplinary partnership with the College of Engineering, ISR researchers are working to explore and find solutions to the challenges specific to rural communities in the United States and around the world. Through these and other efforts, ISR continues to be a leader in social science research.



The year 2024 marks ISR's 75th anniversary. Since its founding in 1949, ISR has been at the forefront of social research, thanks to the vision of pioneers like Angus Campbell (left) and Rensis Likert. Their groundbreaking work in survey research and social science has set the standard for excellence in the field.

As we commemorate this significant milestone, we reflect on the legacy of these trailblazers and their profound influence on ISR's ongoing mission. Their foundational work continues to drive our research and informs our commitment to advancing knowledge and addressing contemporary social challenges.



REPORT



ISR would not achieve its mission without talented faculty and staff. We rely on our excellent social scientists to lead our research in every subject area we study, and we count on them to build the future of research by training the next generation of social scientists.

Our faculty were recognized for their leadership this year. Notably, J. Trent Alexander received a Collegiate Research Professorship Award, which honors exceptional scholarly achievement and impact on advancing knowledge in science, engineering, health, education, the arts, the humanities or other field of study.

We honored our past while preparing for the future in two key moments over the past year. In November 2023, we celebrated the appointment of Sasha Killewald as ISR's very first Robert F. Schoeni Research Professor. Named for Bob Schoeni, ISR's first named professorship will carry on its namesake's commitment to interdisciplinary research across campus. Soon after, ISR honored the memory of James Jackson through a research symposium, highlighting his interdisciplinary legacy that carries on to this day through the many people he mentored.



JPR 2024 Cohort



The Visiting Scholars Program provides ISR faculty with the opportunity to host colleagues for one-week visits. The program has led to fruitful collaborations, including a visit this year hosted by the Stone Center for Inequality Dynamics, part of the Survey Research Center (SRC). Future plans include the potential for expansion of this program to accommodate longer visits and additional scholars.

Strengthening our commitment to future researchers, we expanded our Junior Professional Research program to include nine up-and-coming social scientists. The Next Generation Initiative continued its work as well, offering financial support and assistance to young researchers in the early portion of their career.

“I take this professorship as a deep honor, but also as a call to action, and I promise to do my best in this role to live into the legacy that Bob has already brought to this university.”

– Sasha Killewald, Director of the Stone Center for Inequality Dynamics



training

Then: ICPSR Summer Program of 1963

The Institute for Social Research advances the work of the social sciences through key training opportunities for researchers in diverse fields.

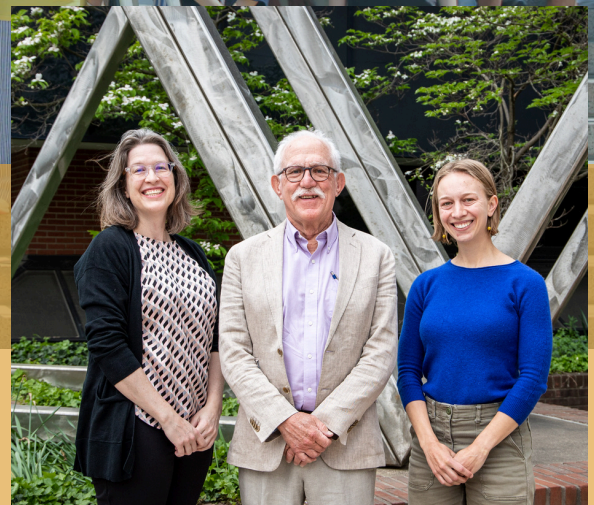
Over the past year, our five centers have hosted numerous training efforts designed to support two of the three principles in our mission statement: to disseminate the findings of our research and to train the next generation of social scientists.

Among the most notable efforts, the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) has led a growing number of researchers through a specialized program designed to help with new National Institutes of Health (NIH) Data Management and Sharing Plan (DMS Plan) requirements for all proposed research. This important training ensures all researchers who work with NIH data are in compliance with NIH requirements, safeguarding their projects against the pitfalls associated with falling short of NIH standards.



Now: ICPSR Summer Program of 2023

Other centers also worked to uplift future scientists through training. The Research Center for Group Dynamics (RCGD) sponsored two theme semesters over the past year, inviting interdisciplinary speakers to ISR and giving students an opportunity to interact with leaders in their research fields. And in addition to their ongoing work with the DMS plan as outlined above, ICPSR announced the Ukrainian Summer Methods Fellowship, giving Ukrainian students, faculty, and researchers unique access to ICPSR's summer program.

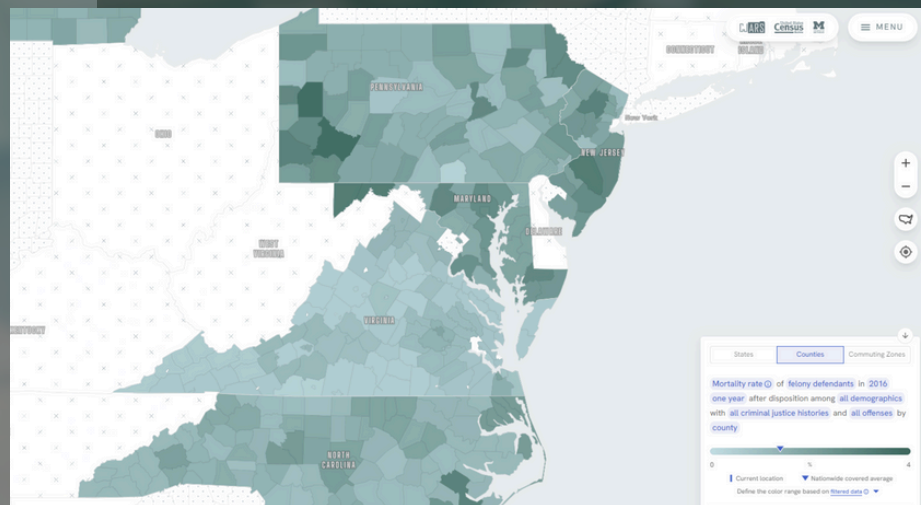


Over the past year, ISR's Population Studies Center (PSC) has continued to lead in the field. In the 2024 fiscal year, PSC trainee Erin Ice (right), a Ph.D. candidate, received the Dorothy S. Thomas Award from the Population Association of America, recognizing her as an outstanding young demographer. This achievement continues a notable tradition: three generations of PSC recipients have won the award 20 years apart—in 1983, 2003, and 2023. The previous awardees are current PSC Director Sarah Burgard (left) and former ISR and PSC Director David Lam (center).

data

ISR is committed to changing the world by sharing our research in meaningful and innovative ways. In 2024, we were proud to see impactful research shared broadly through new methods.

The Criminal Justice Administrative Records System (CJARS) is a key example of such work over the last year. Its new Justice Outcomes Explorer (JOE) website, launched in May 2024, gives researchers (and the public) a first-of-its-kind look at the United States' criminal justice system (see map above).

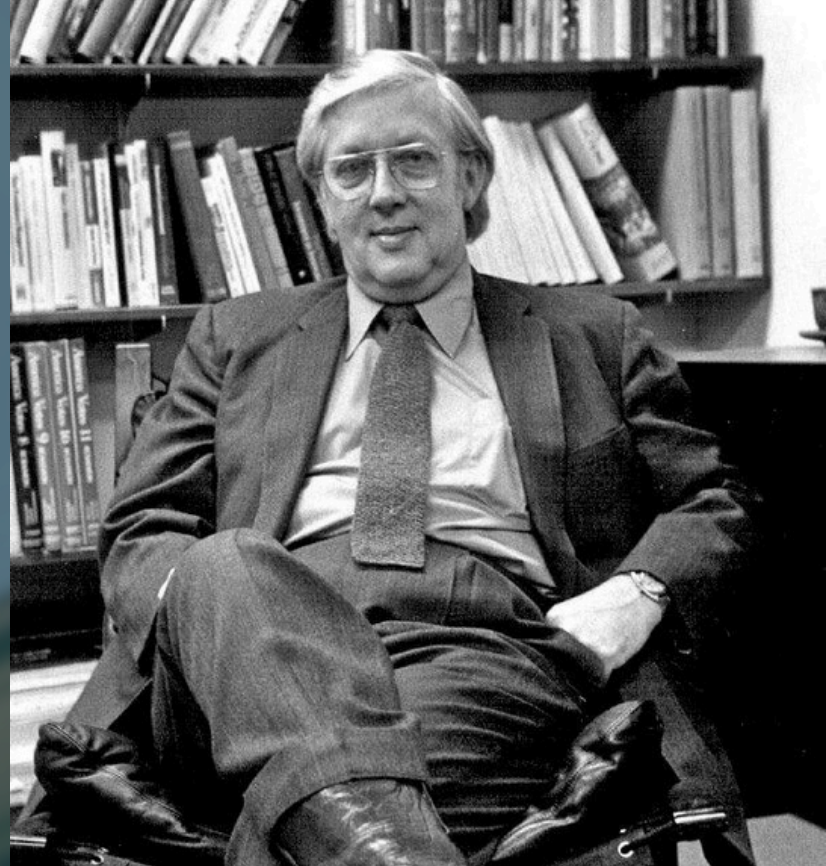


This screenshot from the Justice Outcomes Explore visualizes health outcomes for felony defendants in several East Coast states.

Also in May, the Center for Political Studies (CPS) launched the Subnational Geospatial Data Archive (SUNGEO). SUNGEO allows researchers and analysts to combine disparate datasets, accounting for conflicts and differences in scale from across many different data sources.

The Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) played a key role in a first-of-its-kind data release. In collaboration with the National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC), ICPSR helped create the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act Longitudinal Dataset (HLD), which leverages more than 40 years of home mortgage data to give an unprecedented look into the historical effects of redlining and disinvestment on home ownership.

This year, ICPSR also launched a new tool called the “Researcher Passport.” The Researcher Passport works with the new NSF-supported Research Data Ecosystem. It allows researchers to safely and securely access and work with data at every step of the entire research lifecycle.



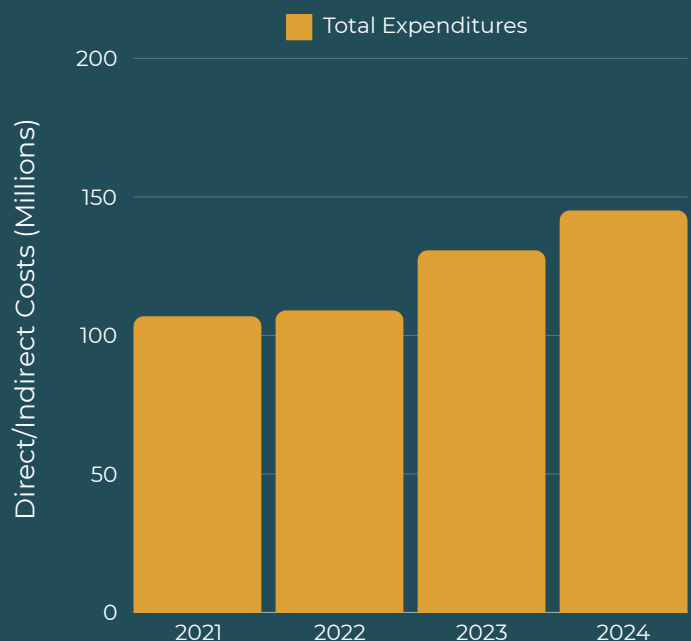
Warren Miller was one of the key early figures in the history of ISR. Miller established ICPSR at ISR’s Center for Political Studies to collect, curate, preserve, and disseminate social science data. Miller’s efforts to increase data sharing were crucial in growing ISR’s profile around the world, helping American researchers make key inroads with scholars across a range of disciplines.



productivity

Research expenditures represent the costs associated with externally sponsored research projects — and are a good metric for gauging ISR's overall productivity. In FY24, research expenditures were at an all-time high, increasing 11% over the previous fiscal year and continuing an upward trend.

Over the last fiscal year, ISR received funding for about 150 externally sponsored awards from federal, non-federal, industry, and foundation entities. This funding had a total value of more than \$147 million, another all-time high.



research spotlight: HomeLab

The Institute for Social Research HomeLab is one of our most distinctive research environments. Simulating a fully functional apartment and other settings, HomeLab lets researchers facilitate human-centered research in a way that would be impossible otherwise.

Within HomeLab, research participants give our research teams key data on many different interpersonal reactions, allowing researchers to control key aspects of experiments on things like medical care and physical rehabilitation within the home, the impact of technology on day-to-day life, and more.

ISR researchers can quickly and easily convert HomeLab to adapt to many different research needs, from studying families and young children to medical treatment in a clinical setting. With numerous state-of-the-art tools available on-site, including a biospecimen lab, HomeLab is a cutting-edge part of social research.

Donna Walter is the Participant Engagement Specialist at the University of Michigan's HomeLab, bringing 25 years of experience to ISR.



As part of the BioSocial Methods Collaborative, Donna manages recruitment and welcomes diverse participants into the lab's functional apartment.

leadership

ISR Director's Office

Kate Cagney, Director
Institute for Social Research

Thom Madden, Managing Director
Institute for Social Research

Center Directors

Ken Kollman, Director
Center for Political Studies

Margaret Levenstein, Director
Inter-university Consortium for
Political and Social Research

Sarah Burgard, Director
Population Studies Center

Richard Gonzalez, Director
Research Center for Group
Dynamics

Pam Davis Kean, Director
Survey Research Center



Be a part of the solution to the world's most pressing challenges. Scan here and learn how to join us today.

With hundreds of faculty members leading dozens of research projects and initiatives across more than 20 disciplines, ISR is well positioned to partner with philanthropic supporters to make maximum impact on the world.

Our researchers are taking on the most pressing challenges of our world today, ranging from climate change to inequality to health behavior to racism. As an interdisciplinary institute, ISR offers many ways for our philanthropic partners to make the impact that matters most to them.

Philanthropic support enables ISR to advance the field of academic research for the public good by drawing on our research in its many different forms to develop informed conclusions that influence the decisions of leaders in both the public and private sectors around the world. It also helps sustain and grow our research ecosystems, giving our faculty and staff the tools they need to respond to social challenges and questions as they arise in real time.

Most importantly, philanthropic support helps us stay on the cutting edge of the social sciences by enabling ongoing training for all of our active researchers, and offering funding for up-and-coming researchers just taking their first steps into their field. Through these partnerships, ISR stays at the forefront of social science research while continuing to lay a strong foundation for the future.

philanthropy

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