

A stylized globe graphic is positioned on the left side of the page. It features a grid of latitude and longitude lines in a light blue color, set against a darker blue circular background. The globe is partially cut off by the left edge of the frame.

**SOCIAL
SCIENCE
RESEARCH
COUNCIL**

WHO WE ARE

Better understanding makes for better choices. The SSRC is an international, interdisciplinary network of networks dedicated to galvanizing knowledge and mobilizing it for the public good.

The Council is unique in scope and structure. It convenes scholars, practitioners, and policymakers while standing alongside the academy and public affairs. By supporting individual scholars, enhancing the capacity of institutions, generating new research, and linking researchers with policymakers and citizens, the SSRC plays a vital role in efforts to build a more just and democratic world.

The SSRC was founded in 1923 by visionaries in the fledgling fields of anthropology, economics, history, political science, psychology, sociology, and statistics. The organization was shaped by the need to cross the boundaries that separated these disciplines from each other, university scholarship from public affairs, and the social sciences from the humanities and the natural sciences.

For more than ninety years, the SSRC has navigated these borders, emerging as both a pivotal force in the academy and a respected contributor to the public good. Today, our work remains focused on enhancing the capacity of scholars and institutions and on building research networks that cross regions and disciplines to produce and communicate new knowledge.



HOW WE WORK

SSRC staff and scholars work to gather knowledge and communicate its implications for debate and public use. As we partner with institutions and scholars around the world, the Council offers an independent space for collaboration and an unbiased voice for social science. Through research networks and committees, workshops and conferences, summer training institutes and fellowships, scholarly exchanges and publications, the Council enhances the conditions for knowledge production worldwide.

The SSRC's organizational capacities focus on four intersecting purposes:

SUPPORTING INNOVATION IN SOCIAL SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP

By connecting disciplines and methods, the SSRC advances fresh ways to inquire, expand, and integrate the craft of social science.

BUILDING INTERDISCIPLINARY AND INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS TO ADDRESS PUBLIC ISSUES

The Council's experience and standing allow it to convene leading researchers and practitioners—from policymakers and UN leaders, to architects and artists, to journalists and activists—to generate new knowledge and explore solutions to pressing public matters.

NURTURING SCHOLARS AND STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONS

Through fellowships, workshops, and mentorship, the SSRC identifies and supports the most promising young professionals across the social sciences. While supporting individual scholars, the SSRC is also deeply committed to improving worldwide conditions for knowledge production at an institutional level through capacity building, resource sharing, and networking.

COMMUNICATING AND EXPLAINING SOCIAL KNOWLEDGE

Relying upon diverse forms ranging from books and digital forums to conferences and public events, the Council seeks to deepen the comprehension of social science by journalists, policymakers, practitioners, and citizens. Through strengthening institutions and exploring digital frontiers, we also work to expand scholarly access to knowledge, particularly in arenas where access has traditionally been limited.

TOOLS

- Graduate and postgraduate fellowships
- Convening policymakers and scholars
- Cross-disciplinary engagement and innovation
- Conferences and workshops
- Mentorship for young scholars
- Books and other publications
- Digital forums and resources
- Lectures and public events

WHAT WE DO

The Council's roster of programs and activities is flexible and responsive to changes in the world around us. Our programs nurture the excellent, the experimental, and the innovative.

DIGITAL KNOWLEDGE, MEDIA & DATA SSRC scholars explore and model new means of knowledge sharing in a digital world. By engaging the extraordinary opportunities and challenges offered by big data and the vast quantities of social information now available, the Council seeks to maximize two core values: democratic access to knowledge and the deepening of its quality and utility.

ECONOMY & SOCIAL POLICY Programs and fellows address the causes of deep poverty and growing inequality, their consequences for life chances, and strategies for reversing them. In partnership with local governments and nonprofits, we have created indices for racial and geographic disparities in economic opportunity and access to services in the United States.

GLOBAL & REGIONAL CONNECTIONS Decades ago, the SSRC helped change social science by creating the interdisciplinary intersections that shaped "area studies." Today, our programs and fellows explore cultural, economic, religious, and political connections between different parts of the world. Equally important, we encourage deeper understanding by nurturing cross-regional collaborations of scholars and institutions.

GOVERNANCE, DEMOCRACY & CIVIL SOCIETY The Council mobilizes scholars and decisionmakers to address whether and how governance systems and institutions address the major public issues of our time. We are equally concerned with understanding diverse modes of citizen access to the political arena, and with understanding how diverse citizens (rich and poor, religious and secular, marginalized and powerful) shape public discourse and policy outcomes.

HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT These programs support research on the impact of population and environmental changes on human well-being and livelihood. They also explore why truly effective policies addressing climate change and sustainability have been elusive.

HIGHER EDUCATION Council programs engage the changing nature of, and pressures on, higher education, providing knowledge about student learning and helping to shape current debates on the value of a university education. Internationally, we partner with various institutions to strengthen the infrastructure for social science research and training on issues central to developing societies.

PEACE, CONFLICT & SECURITY SSRC programs partner with researchers, humanitarian organizations, the United Nations, and other policymakers to further the world's understanding of conflict, conflict prevention, and peacebuilding. This work includes support for researchers in post-conflict countries whose voices need amplification in academic and policy debates.

SCHOLARLY BORDERLANDS The Council deepens scholarship and advances innovation by promoting boundary crossing among social science disciplines, and with the humanities and natural sciences. By identifying topics for which multiple fields have something to contribute and by pioneering research methods, these efforts connect different ways of knowing and understanding the social world.



WHERE WE WORK

With headquarters in Brooklyn, New York, the SSRC partners with scholars, academic institutions, NGOs, and governmental bodies across the world.

Council activities and networks span more than 80 countries on 6 continents.

The SSRC has offered more than 15,000 fellowships since 1923.

The Council supports fellows from across Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East, and North America.

SSRC committees and scholars have catalyzed academic fields including Area Studies, Comparative Politics, Human Cognition, International Peace and Security, Migration, Social Indicators, Sociolinguistics, and Survey Research.

Policy figures engaged in Council programs have included Lakhdar Brahimi, Zbigniew Brzezinski, Ralph Bunche, Fernando Henrique Cardoso, Henry Kissinger, Mamphela Ramphele, Condoleezza Rice, Mary Robinson, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, George Shultz, and Norman Thomas.

Nearly 200 scholars serve on SSRC committees annually.

The Council currently supports more than 900 researchers with fellowships.

Past SSRC fellows who transformed their fields include Kenneth Arrow, Howard Becker, William Bowen, Anthony Downs, Nikki Keddie, Theodore Lowi, James March, Margaret Mead, Douglass North, Marshall Sahlins, Herbert Simon, Neil Smelser, Robert Solow, Charles Tilly, and Michael Walzer.

MISSION

The Social Science Research Council is an independent, international, nonprofit organization founded in 1923. Governed by a Board of Directors, it fosters innovative research, nurtures new generations of social scientists, deepens how inquiry is practiced within and across disciplines, and mobilizes necessary knowledge on important public issues.



Social Science Research Council

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