Strengthening the social sciences to help solve global problems
What is the International Social Science Council?

The ISSC works to:
■ identify and mobilise resources for international research priorities
■ facilitate research collaborations across regions, disciplines and scientific fields
■ foster innovative talent and build social science research capacities
■ provide access to global social science expertise, resources and networks
■ connect research, policy and practice.
The ISSC is an independent non-governmental organisation established by UNESCO in 1952. It is the primary body representing the social, economic and behavioural sciences at an international level. The ISSC’s mission is to increase the production and use of social science knowledge for the well-being of societies throughout the world.

The ISSC is a membership-based organisation governed by a General Assembly and an elected Executive Committee. Our members include international professional associations and unions, regional and national social science research councils and academies, universities and institutes with major interests in the social sciences.

The Secretariat in Paris manages a dynamic portfolio of programmes and activities aimed at strengthening the social sciences to help solve global priority problems and secure a sustainable future for everyone.
Every three years, as part of its strategic partnership with UNESCO, the ISSC produces the *World Social Science Report*, an ISSC flagship publication. The report addresses important social science challenges, takes stock of social science contributions and capacities, and makes recommendations for future research, practice and policy.
The World Social Science Report 2010: Knowledge Divides reviewed social science knowledge production and use in different regions of the world and assessed how the social sciences are evolving in the face of unequal conditions and diverging trends.

In the third edition, World Social Science Report 2013: Changing Global Environments, 150 authors from all over the world and a wide range of disciplines offer insights to help us understand the global environmental challenges before us. The report issues an urgent call to action to the international social science community to collaborate more effectively with each other, with colleagues from other fields of science and with the users of research to deliver solutions-oriented knowledge on today’s most pressing environmental problems. The 2013 report is also co-published with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The next World Social Science Report will be published in 2016.
The ISSC regularly convenes a World Social Science Forum. These events provide a global platform for researchers, funders, policymakers and other stakeholders to debate topics of world significance and to determine future priorities for international social science.
The first World Social Science Forum, *One Planet – Worlds Apart*, was held in 2009 in Bergen, Norway, and hosted by the University of Bergen.

The 2013 forum, *Social Transformations and the Digital Age*, took place in Montreal, Canada, and was hosted by a consortium of Canadian partners under the leadership of the International Political Science Association.

The third forum, *Transforming Global Relations for a Just World*, will take place in Durban, South Africa in 2015, and will be hosted by a consortium of African partners led by the Human Sciences Research Council of South Africa and the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa.
World Social Science Fellows Programme

The World Social Science Fellows Programme brings together outstanding early career social scientists from across the world to ask questions that matter and to work with leading global thinkers on answering them.
The fellows programme seeks to foster a new generation of globally-networked research leaders who will collaborate in addressing global problems with particular relevance for developing countries. Fellows from a diverse range of disciplines participate in seminars to discuss and design interdisciplinary and cross-sector perspectives on priority topics.

The fellows programme is supported by the Swedish International Development Agency and the Government of Sweden. Individual seminars are implemented in collaboration with the ISSC’s co-sponsored programmes and partner organisations.

**Sustainable Urbanisation**

The first World Social Science Fellows Seminar took place in Quito, Ecuador, in March 2013. The first in a series, it focused on developing new, interdisciplinary perspectives on the sustainability challenges posed by rapid processes of urbanisation. Discussions started during the seminar are being developed and will be published in a book entitled *Untamed Urbanism*, in 2014.

Extending the scope and reach of the World Social Science Fellows Programme, the ISSC collaborates with strategic partners on associated activities for early career researchers, notably, a series of Young Scientists Networking Conferences co-organised by the ISSC and the International Council for Science (ICSU) and supported by the German Research Foundation. These integrated science conferences assemble large groups of researchers to discuss complex themes relevant to Future Earth, the new international programme of research for global sustainability.

**Food Futures**

The first Young Scientists Networking Conference took place in April 2013 at Villa Vigoni, the German-Italian Cultural Centre, Lake Como, Italy. The week-long conference, Food Futures, provided a common platform for a group of early career natural and social scientists to work with senior colleagues to design new, collaborative, integrated research. As a result, participants have published peer-reviewed articles and drafted joint funding proposals.

An associated fellowship scheme offers early career social scientists working and living in developing countries a six-month research residency at the WZB Berlin Social Science Research Centre, funded by the WZB.
International Research Programmes and Networks

Consistent with the ISSC’s objective to facilitate research collaborations across regions, disciplines and scientific fields, the ISSC co-sponsors several international research programmes and networks on various themes, including global change and sustainability, disaster risk, poverty and gender.
Integrated Research on Disaster Risk Programme

The IRDR addresses the challenges brought by natural disasters, mitigating their impacts and improving related policy-making mechanisms. It fosters the full integration of research expertise from the natural, socio-economic, health and engineering sciences, as well as policy-making, and works with an understanding of the role of communications, and public and political responses to reduce disaster risks.

The IRDR is co-sponsored by ICSU, the ISSC and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.

www.irdrinternational.org

Future Earth

Future Earth is an international research initiative that seeks to develop the knowledge needed for responding effectively to the risks and opportunities of global environmental change. Bringing together existing international programmes on global environmental change, Future Earth will be an international hub that coordinates new, interdisciplinary approaches to research based on three themes: Dynamic Planet, Global Development and Transformation towards Sustainability. It will also provide a platform for international engagement to ensure that knowledge is generated in partnership with society and users of science. It is open to scientists of all disciplines, natural and social, as well as engineering, the humanities and law.

Future Earth was established by the Science and Technology Alliance for Global Sustainability comprising the ISSC, ICSU, the Belmont Forum of funding agencies, UNESCO, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations University, and the World Meteorological Organization as an observer.

www.futureearth.info • www.stalliance.org

Comparative Research Programme on Poverty

CROP is hosted and co-sponsored by the University of Bergen. Its vision is a world without poverty. It aims to build independent, alternative, critical knowledge and education to inform policies that prevent and eradicate poverty. CROP works with like-minded knowledge networks, institutions and scholars to promote interdisciplinary, comparative research, undertake critical analyses of national and international policy responses to poverty, and build global research capacities on poverty and related issues.

www.crop.org

Gender, Globalisation and Democratisation Network

Sponsored by the ISSC, the GGD Network aims to provide sound and reliable knowledge gathered from all parts of the world that can be used to improve the social, economic and political position of women in this era of globalisation.

www.isscggd.org
World Social Science Prizes
The Stein Rokkan Prize for Comparative Social Science Research was established in 1981 and is awarded every year for substantial and original contributions to comparative social science research.

The prize is awarded in honour of Stein Rokkan, who was Professor of Comparative Politics at the University of Bergen, Norway and who served as the ISSC President from 1973 to 1977.

The prize is funded by the University of Bergen and awarded by the ISSC in collaboration with the European Consortium for Political Research.

Stein Rokkan prize winners

- 2013: Dorothee Bohle, Béla Greskovits
- 2012: Pepper D Culpepper
- 2011: James W. McGuire
- 2010: Beth A. Simmons
- 2009: Robert E. Goodin, James Mahmud Rice, Antti Parpo, Lina Eriksson
- 2008: Professor Cas Mudde
- 2006: Milada Anna Vachudova
- 2004: Daniele Caramani
- 2002: Patrick Le Galès
- 2000: Eva Anduiza-Perea
- 1998: Robert Rohrschneider
- 1996: Kees van Kersbergen
- 1992: Kaare Strøm
- 1990: Stefano Bartolini, Peter Mair
- 1988: Charles Ragin
- 1986: Louis M. Imbeau
- 1983: Jens Alber
- 1981: Manfred Schmidt

The Fondation Mattei-Dogan and ISSC Prize for Excellence in Interdisciplinary Research was established in 2005 to honour social scientists whose work has advanced knowledge in the social sciences by crossing disciplinary boundaries and recombining different specialised subject fields in their research or writing.

The first prize was awarded to David E. Apter, Professor Emeritus of Comparative Political and Social Development, Yale University, United States.

The 2013 winner is Amitrajeet A. Batabyal, Arthur J. Gosnell Professor of Economics at the Rochester Institute of Technology, United States.
Membership

Become a member of the ISSC

ISSC members benefit from:

- the ISSC’s respected voice and presence in science policy debates and activities at national, regional and international levels
- access to the ISSC’s global networks, member organisations, researchers and partners
- participation in the ISSC’s flagship activities
- privileged involvement in shaping new global social science initiatives and discussions on the future of the social sciences
- the outcomes of global scoping and visioning exercises.
Members include international professional associations and unions, regional and national social science research councils and academies, universities and institutes with major interests in the social sciences.

**ISSC members**

Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic (ASCR)
Academy of Social Sciences (ACSS)
Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia (ASSA)
Arab Council for the Social Sciences (ACSS)
Associação Nacional de Pós-Graduação e Pesquisa em Ciências Sociais (ANPOCS)
Association for Politics and the Life Sciences (APLS)
Association of Asian Social Science Research Councils (AASSREC)
British Academy
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS)
Cameroon Academy of Sciences (CAS)
Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS)
Consejo Latino-Americano de Ciencias Sociales (CLACSO)
Consejo Mexicano de Ciencias Sociales (COMECSO)
Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA)
Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)
Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)
European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI)
European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR)
Facultad Latino Americana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO)
Human Sciences Research Council of South Africa (HSRC)
Hungarian Academy of Sciences (HAS)
Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR)
International Association of Applied Psychology (IAAP)
International Association of Legal Science (IALS)
International Economic Association (IEA)
International Federation of Data Organisations (IFDO)
International Geographical Union (IGU)

International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS)
International Peace Research Association (IPRA)
International Political Science Association (IPSA)
International Society for Ecological Economics (ISEE)
International Sociological Association (ISA)
International Studies Association (ISTA)
International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP)
International Union of Academies (IUA)
International Union of Anthropological & Ethnological Sciences (IUAES)
International Union of Psychological Science (IUPsyS)
National Academy of Sciences, Republic of Korea (NAS)
National Research Foundation, South Africa
Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO)
Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters (DNVA)
Nuffield Foundation
Organization for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa (OSSREA)
Philippine Social Science Council (PSSC)
Research Council of Norway (RCN)
Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW)
Royal Society of New Zealand (RSNZ)
Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS)
Science Council of Asia (SCA)
Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAS)
Social Science Academy of Nigeria (SSAN)
Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC)
Social Science Research Council (SSRC)
Society for Social Studies of Science (4S)
Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences (SAGW)
Turkish Academy of Science (TÜBA)
University of Bergen (UHB)
World Association for Public Opinion Research (WAPOR)
World Council of Anthropological Associations (WCAA)
World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH)
The ISSC is an independent non-governmental organisation with formal associate relations with UNESCO (Consultative Status, Category II), UN ECOSOC (Special Category), UNCTAD (Special List) and the International Labour Organization.