



Winter 2025 Newsletter

What is the SSRIC?

Founded in 1972, the Social Science Research and Instructional Council is the oldest of the affinity groups in the CSU. The Council is dedicated to assisting social science students and faculty in their learning, teaching, and research. The goals of the Council are to develop and coordinate programs to extend the research skills of faculty and students. Please visit [our website](#).

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What's new in the SSRIC this year?

If you are already familiar with the SSRIC, you will probably want to read this section and skim through the remaining parts of the newsletter and pick out the sections you want to look at. If you're not familiar with the SSRIC, the other sections will give you valuable information.

So, what's new?

- Our website has undergone a massive redesign! Please visit <https://ssric.calstate.edu> to see all the changes.

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- Our annual CSU SSRIC Social Science Student Symposium (S⁴) will be hosted by CSU Dominguez Hills on Thursday, May 1, 2025. The conference will be held in person on the CSU Dominguez Hills campus. Please encourage your students to think about submitting their papers to our conference. Registration is now open. Please register by March 30, 2025. For more information, go to [the participate page of our website](#).
- Stipends are available for attending the ICPSR Summer Program. Applications are due in spring 2025, and you will find more information down below.
- Stipends are also available for creating instructional materials. Proposals are due March 21, 2025.
- If you would like to subscribe to the SSRIC email list, go to the end of this newsletter for more information.

Website

Please pardon our dust! Currently, our website is undergoing a massive redesign. We appreciate your patience while we are transporting all of our pages over to the new site.

Once completed, our website will include information on:

- The social science data bases (Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research, Cal Speaks, and General Social Survey)
- How to participate in:
 - Our CSU SSRIC Social Science Student Symposium (S⁴) in the spring,
 - The ICPSR summer program, and
 - Subscribing to our email list
- Teaching Resources ARE NOW AVAILABLE via a Canvas page available to all, which will include exercises, online texts, and links. There are exercises that use the 2018 General Social Survey that focus on religion, tolerance, abortion, gender differences, confidence in societal institutions and spending priorities, guns, statistics, and longitudinal analysis.
- The SSRIC Council, including how to locate your campus's representative.

Social Science Data Bases

Faculty, staff, and students on campuses that subscribe to the social science data bases have access to these data bases.¹ The SSRIC provides assistance to all CSU faculty, staff, and students in accessing the information in these data bases. (See our [website](#) under “Data” for more information.)

¹ Each campus has the option of subscribing to the social science data bases. This typically occurs in July and August. For information on subscribing to the data bases, please contact Patricia Morris (morris@csus.edu, SSRIC chair for 2024-25).

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- The Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research at the University of Michigan is the closest we have to a national social science data archive in the United States. It is a consortium of nearly 800 member-institutions, which include virtually every major university and college in the United States and Canada and many universities throughout the world. The ICPSR data holdings serve a broad spectrum of disciplines including political science, sociology, history, economics, geography, demography, gerontology, public health, criminal justice, education, international relations, business, and education. Currently the ICPSR's archive includes over 15,000 studies including the General Social Survey, the American National Election Studies, U.S. Census data from 1790 to the present, the World Values Survey, Current Population Surveys, the Panel Study of Income Dynamics, U.S. election returns from 1788 to the present, the Monitoring the Future surveys, the National Survey of Black Americans, the National Crime Victimization surveys, the Household Survey on Drug Abuse, and the National Health Interview surveys. More information about the ICPSR is available on its [website](#).

The consolidation of membership in these data archives, facilitated by the SSRIC, represents a considerable savings of almost \$30,000 to the CSU campuses over what it would have cost for campuses to join individually.

CALSPEAKS Data

The SSRIC has historically partnered with CALSPEAKS, a survey of California public opinion housed at Sacramento State.

In early 2024, we were informed that the CALSPEAKS survey would be ending. They will be maintaining an archive of past survey results that should continue to be accessible. To explore the past survey results, see <https://scholarworks.calstate.edu/collections/8s45qc545>

SSRIC SEED GRANT Award

Following the ending of the CALSPEAKS survey, the SSRIC created the SSRIC SEED GRANTS. These grants will fund activities that support the submission of larger external grant proposals, aligned with SSRIC's mission and vision in the social sciences. The Seed Grant will fund the following for faculty who receive the award:

- 3 WTUs of reassigned time (paid by the Chancellor's Office to the awardee's campus)
- A hired research mentor, retained by SSRIC, who has experience with successful grant writing with NSF (some potential research mentors have even been program directors at NSF)
- A stipend (\$500) upon successful submission of the NSF grant proposal

Applicants must be full-time tenured/tenure-track faculty appointed in a social science-related discipline/department (sociology, political science, anthropology, public health, economics, psychology, business, and others that are strictly social science by reasonable

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determination of SSRIC) AND the project proposed must be social science, subject to the sole and final determination of the SSRIC SEED GRANT award committee

In Spring 2024, the following individuals received seed grants:

Leslie Ponciano, CSU Dominguez Hills

Ahrum Chang, CSU Sacramento

Yu Zhang, CSU San Marcos

Lauren Heidbrink, CSU Long Beach

Andrea Giuffre, CSU San Bernardino

Annabella Espana-Najera, CSU Fresno

Jon Spenard, CSU San Marcos

Hyowon Ban, CSU Long Beach

Ezgi Yildiz, CSU Long Beach

Gabriel Valle, CSU San Marcos

Anna Bax and Itxaso Rodriguez, CSU Long Beach

Kristen Emory, CSU Dominguez Hills

Reo Song and Aiden Lee, CSU Long Beach

The 2025-26 SEED grants applications are due March 17. For more details and the Call for Proposals, please email ssric@calstate.edu.

Social Science Student Symposium (S⁴)

[The 50th Annual CSU SSRIC Social Science Student Symposium \(S⁴\)](#) will be hosted by CSU Dominguez on Thursday, May 1, 2025. Undergraduate and graduate students can present their work in a non-threatening environment. For many students, this is their first opportunity to present their work at a professional conference. Although there are awards, the conference is low key with the intention of offering students an opportunity to present their social science research in a supportive environment.

In 2024, the SSRIC hosted its 49th annual student research conference hosted by CSU Sacramento State University on May 2, 2024. The following students were presented with awards:

- The Charles McCall Award for Best Undergraduate Papers:
 - Winner: Molly Augello and Lorene Sousa, Sociology, Sacramento, “Unraveling the Threads: Investigating Modern Conspiracy Theories
 - Honorable Mention: Bridget LaPorte, Jonah Storey, Kaley Scheppler, and Olivia Thomas, Communications, San Luis Obispo, “The Effect of Artificial Intelligence on Credibility, Instructor Immediacy, and Future Student Investment”
- Nesvold Award for Best Graduate Paper

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- Winner: Rocci Vizzusi, Psychology, Chico, “Exploring the Mechanisms Linking Childhood Trauma to Adult Depression: A Parallel Mediator Model”
- Honorable Mention: Staci Burns, Sociology, San Diego, “Personal Boundaries in Professional Relationships: How support staff navigate interactions in residential addiction treatment facilities”
- The Gloria Rummels Awards for Best Paper Using Quantitative Methods:
 - Winner: Nicholas Jendian, Social Psychology, Fresno, “The Link Between Digital Communication Preferences and Social Anxiety”
 - Honorable Mention: Nataleigh Denning, Jazmine Flores, and Kelsey Hunkins, Sociology, Sacramento, “Comparing the Impact of Political and Religious Beliefs Versus Group Affiliations on Abortion Attitudes: Insights from the 2022 General Social Survey”
- The Award for the Best Paper Using Qualitative Methods
 - Winner: Leticia Mejia, Social Work, Chico, “Voces Valientes: COVID-19 Lessons Learned from Latiné Social Workers in Rural Communities”
 - Honorable Mention: Sam Minard, Sociology, Monterey Bay, “Climate Migration in the United States: The Influence of Natural Disasters, Resource Scarcity, and Perceived Climate Inhospitability.”

Thanks to the continuing generosity of Dr. Gene Geisler, Professor Emeritus of Political Science at San Francisco State and a key founding member of the SSRIC, the 2025 Symposium will include cash awards for the best papers (i.e., best undergraduate paper, best graduate paper, best paper using quantitative data, best paper using qualitative data). Eligibility for awards is limited to CSU undergraduates and Master’s level graduate students, and students in the first two full years of a CSU doctoral program including recent graduates (Spring term 2024 or later) presenting work completed prior to graduation.

Please encourage your students to present their research at the conference. If they would like to compete for the awards, they must submit their complete paper. If they want to present their research and not compete for the awards, they only need to submit an abstract. **Registration is open through March 30, 2025.** For more information, please visit our [website](#).

Teaching Resources

Instructional materials, including short exercises and longer modules with introductions to many methodological and statistical topics, **are now available via our new Canvas page. To join the page and gain access to these resources, [click here](#).** They will include exercises focusing on longitudinal analysis, statistics, research methods, critical thinking, economics, social issues, religion, tolerance, abortion, gender differences, confidence in societal institutions, spending priorities, and guns.

Some exercises worth noting:

- A new set of exercises on the SSRIC website — *Regression Modeling in Social Sciences Using GSS* – This set of instructional materials offers eight modules, each of them containing a (1) Rscript file and a (2) lab exercise to demonstrate regression modeling in social sciences. The activities employ the General Social Survey (GSS-2018) using RStudio. After completing the modules, students will be able to run and interpret multiple linear regression and logistic regression analysis.
- Another new resource on the SSRIC website — *Introduction to Human Geography*— This resource is a manual, with accompanying YouTube video tutorials, meets a need for a free collection of exercises for students enrolled in Introduction to Human Geography (and faculty teaching it), using real world data. Topics include crime mapping, demography and segregation, food and fitness, and retail site location. Exercises include work with ArcGIS 10.8 and/or ArcGIS Pro.—

There is an excellent website (Merlot) full of teaching resources for your classes. Accounts are free. For more information, go to [Merlot's website](#).

Programs for Statistical Analysis

Along those same lines, it is worth noting that there are several commonly used statistical packages widely used in the CSU.

- Survey Documentation and Analysis (SDA). SDA is an online statistical package written by the Survey Methods Program at UC Berkeley that allows online data analysis, including frequencies, comparison of means, crosstabulations, comparison of means, correlation and regression, and logistic regression. A new release of SDA is now available. A list of SDA resources will be available on the SSRIC's new website.
- Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) is the most commonly used statistical package in the CSU. The CSU has a systemwide site license for SPSS which allows faculty and staff (but not students) to have SPSS installed on their computers and in computer labs. There is also an online textbook that will be available on our new website which serves as an introduction to SPSS.
- PSPP. A free alternative to SPSS, created by the *Free Software Foundation*. We've prepared a tutorial for this package (This is in process of being moved over to the new website).

Instructional Materials Wanted

SSRIC seeks CSU faculty to submit proposals in creating instructional exercises that will be posted on the SSRIC website. Upon successful completion of the process, recipients will be awarded \$3,000 each for their submission of acceptable exercises. Potential applicants are

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encouraged to see existing exercises [here](#). Additionally, this year we are accepting proposals from previous awardees to revise existing materials. The call for proposals has gone out to members of our mailing list (email: ssric@calstate.edu to be added) and is **due March 21, 2025**.

SSRIC Stipends Available for ICPSR Summer Program

This year the CSU's Social Science Research and Instructional Council (SSRIC) is once more offering stipends for CSU faculty members to register for quantitative methods courses in the 2025 Summer Program presented by the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR). For information about the ICPSR Summer Program, including course descriptions, dates, and host locations, please visit the ICPSR website at <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/sumprog/>. Each stipend will pay the course registration fee for a short (three-to-five-day) course.

ICPSR will announce its summer 2025 course schedule at the beginning of February; look for the RFP shortly thereafter. The deadline for applications will be in March 2025.

There are also a number of scholarships and other funding opportunities available directly from ICPSR, for both faculty and current students. To find information about applying for these, [click here](#).

Subscribing to the SSRIC Email List

The SSRIC sends out periodic emails about our Social Science Student Symposium (S⁴), and other teaching and research opportunities. If you would like to subscribe to our email list, please email Rebecca Eissler, the newsletter editor, at reissler@sfsu.edu.

Contacts

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