



INSIDE THE INSTITUTE

AN ISR NEWSLETTER

FALL 2020 • ISSUE 1 • VOLUME 1



IN THIS ISSUE

Applied Social Science
Research in 2020

Anchor University Spotlight

The Pathway Fellows at ISR

ABOUT THE INSTITUTE

The Institute for Social Research is an interdisciplinary center of the College of Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies. Located at the university's Downtown School, the Institute supports community partners in improving programs and policies in the Capital Region. Since 1989, our collaborations with government agencies and nonprofit organizations have contributed to public accountability, program fidelity, and the strengthening of communities. The Institute is a part of Sacramento State's commitment to community engagement and establishing the university's role as Sacramento's anchor university.

INSTITUTE for SOCIAL
RESEARCH
SACRAMENTO STATE UNIVERSITY





APPLIED SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH IN 2020

The COVID pandemic has brought about a significant shift in how we experience our daily routines, education, and workplaces. It has laid bare how our institutions, relationships, and everyday social interactions are fundamental to the ordering of our lives.

In our latest [Sacramento Regional Poll with Valley Vision](#), we asked Sacramento Valley residents about what they hoped might change as the result of the pandemic. Almost two-thirds hoped for positive change in the public sphere and their connections with others. Common themes were the strengthening of our health care systems and safety nets in times of need, a new awareness about racial and social inequity, and the desire for an increased sense of community and compassion for one another.

Six-months into this global re-ordering, ISR continues to work with our research partners to understand the social, health, educational, and economic impacts of COVID-19. It is a privilege to be able to work with these organizations and agencies during this critical and challenging time. We too are hopeful that we will collectively emerge from the pandemic with new insights about, and an appreciation for, the social fabric of our lives.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shannon Williams'.

Shannon Williams | ISR Executive Director



ANCHOR UNIVERSITY SPOTLIGHT

IN HIS 2018 FALL ADDRESS, SACRAMENTO STATE PRESIDENT ROBERT S. NELSEN OUTLINED A VISION TO DEEPEN THE UNIVERSITY'S ENGAGEMENT WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY BY TRANSFORMING THE CAMPUS INTO AN "[ANCHOR UNIVERSITY](#)." FOR THE LAST 30 YEARS, ISR HAS PROVIDED RESEARCH SUPPORT TO LOCAL AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING THEIR GOALS OF IMPROVING AND STRENGTHENING SACRAMENTO COMMUNITIES.

SIMPL Development Project in the River District. An example of ISR's anchor work is our new seven-year partnership with the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA) evaluating the [SIMPL](#) project (Sacramento Integrated Multimodal Place-Based Living) located in the [Sacramento Promise Zone](#). SHRA, along with 15 local partners, will develop affordable housing, a multi-modal transit hub at a new light rail station, renewable energy, and multimodal transit within the River District. ISR will work with the community partners to ensure the efficient and effective delivery of TCC goals.

Sacramento Valley Region COVID-19 Resiliency Poll. ISR has partnered with Valley Vision since 2017 to maintain a survey panel of a representative sample of households in the 8-county Sacramento Valley region. During the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, ISR and Valley Vision conducted a public opinion poll about how the pandemic and mitigation efforts were impacting their families, employment, and outlook on the future. Results of the [COVID-19 Resilience Poll](#) highlighted how COVID-19 impacted Sacramento-area residents in all aspects of their lives - their physical and mental health, finances, schooling, and workplace habits to name a few. Capital Public Radio presented the [results](#) in a series of news reports to highlight survey findings that suggested the impacts of the pandemic were affecting Black and Latino residents disproportionately.

Estimating Sex Trafficking in Sacramento County. ISR is partnering with the Sacramento-based organization Communities Against Sexual Harm ([CASH](#)), which assists women who have been commercially, sexually exploited. With the assistance of City Councilman Eric Guerra, Senator Richard Pan, and the California Department of Justice, the state allocated \$1.5 million to CASH to lead a study to estimate the scope of sex trafficking in Sacramento County. ISR is the study's local research partner, assisting CASH in collecting and matching administrative data from local agencies and organizations serving victims. Using Multiple Systems Estimation, the study aims to produce a model which can be replicated to estimate trafficking across municipalities in the state.



THE PATHWAY FELLOWS AT ISR

The [Pathway Fellows Program](#) is designed to prepare undergraduate and graduate students of all majors to engage in rigorous, high quality educational research and enter a doctoral-level program. Since 2016, ISR has served as a research site for two of the students completing their 10-week research practicum.

This year's fellows have been working remotely with the ISR research team. Migdalia Sazo is a Social Work student at Sac State, assisting with research about non-profit organizations in the Sacramento Promise Zone. She hopes to use her skills to work directly with policy affecting marginalized communities, as well as engaging on the macro level to build and maximize resources.

Mariam Sultan graduated with a BA in Sociology in Fall 2019. At the ISR, she is working with the CSU-LSAMP STEM Pathways and Research Alliance evaluation by conducting data analysis and coding. She is excited to apply her studies in sociology and has plans to apply to graduate school in public policy or pursue a research- related job in the future.

CONTACT US



[Join our mailing list to receive our next newsletter!](#)