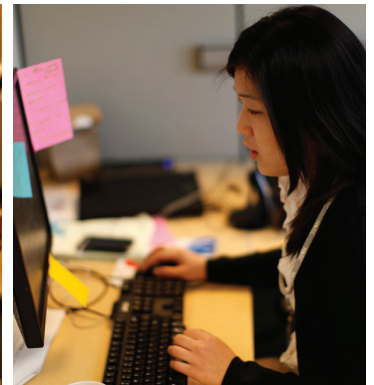


# Academic Research Centers



## Academic Research Centers

Center for Advancing Research and Communication in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)

Center on the Demography and Economics of Aging

Center for the Study of Politics and Society

Cultural Policy Center

Joint Center for Education Research

Ogburn-Stouffer Center for the Study of Social Organizations

Population Research Center

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Seven Academic Research Centers exemplify NORC's commitment to the highest standards of academic excellence and research innovation. The relationships among NORC's Academic Research Centers and the University of Chicago are mutually beneficial in many ways, applying renowned scholarship to practical social science problems. The newly renovated, environmentally friendly offices provide University faculty and graduate students with an open, collaborative working environment. NORC's core capabilities support faculty research at the University of Chicago, as well as projects led by or involving faculty at many other institutions, including Northwestern University, Stanford University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the University of Michigan, UCLA, Temple University, New York University, Carnegie Mellon University, and Michigan State University.

As part of a learning culture, intergenerational project teams support learning, scholarship, and discovery. In particular, graduate research assistants at NORC have the tremendous opportunity to apply what they have learned in practical settings. As the next generation of social scientists, they work with experts in various fields and disciplines to conduct world-class empirical research, while NORC benefits from their fresh perspectives, energy, and insights.

Collaboration with the University's Division of Social Sciences is particularly strong, but NORC also has long-standing relationships with other key institutions at the University, including:

Argonne National  
Laboratory

Irving B. Harris Graduate  
School of Public Policy Studies

Biological Sciences Division

*Journal of Labor Economics*

Center for Health and the  
Social Sciences

Pritzker School of Medicine

Chapin Hall at the University  
of Chicago

School of Social Service  
Administration

### Center for Advancing Research and Communication in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)

This Center, funded by the National Science Foundation, supports education research focused on core scientific questions of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Committed to sharing the insights, methods, and results that help build an arc of knowledge across STEM fields, the Center's mission is to build capacity to produce rigorous evidence of what works to improve STEM instruction and learning; encourage discovery and innovation across disciplines and institutions; and accumulate, synthesize, and disseminate findings to stakeholders. To this end, Center staff members conduct research and support more than 300 STEM education researchers across the United States in their efforts to identify promising interventions, talented scholars, new methods, and opportunities to capitalize on STEM research findings to improve educational policy and practice. Center investigators' research interests include factors that impede and enhance knowledge accumulation, STEM education and learning, and underrepresented groups' participation in STEM education research and careers.

Recently, the Center's program of work was extended to develop new methodological resources to address design and analytic issues arising in intervention studies in U.S. elementary and secondary schools, and to propose new metrics to assess the rigor and impact of STEM educational research initiatives.

### Center on the Demography and Economics of Aging

This Center was established as an exploratory center in 1994 with a grant from the National Institute on Aging (NIA). Currently, the Center



is one of 14 NIA-funded centers across the U.S. that investigate aspects of health and health care, the societal impact of population aging, and the economic and social circumstances of the elderly. A key project conducted by the Center, in collaboration with NORC's Health Care Research department, is the National Social Life, Health, and Aging Project (NSHAP). This national longitudinal study of health and social factors aims to understand the well-being of older Americans by examining the interactions between health and social connectedness. Respondents participate in an in-person interview and the collection of 13 biomeasures.

The Center supports a highly diverse faculty of University research affiliates in sociology, economics/business, the Pritzker School of Medicine, the School of Social Service Administration, and the Harris School of Public Policy Studies. Faculty members' research portfolios draw upon expertise in medicine, epidemiology, and the biological and social sciences. The Center nourishes an environment for research in the demography and economics of aging by providing research support services, encouraging the development of new research projects and areas of focus, and facilitating collaborative research and teaching among scientists throughout the field of aging research.

### Center for the Study of Politics and Society

The Center for the Study of Politics and Society focuses on the investigation of societal change. The National Data Program for the Social Sciences (NDPSS) is the largest component of this Center and its major activity is the regular collection and distribution of the General Social Survey (GSS) and its allied surveys in the International Social Survey Program (ISSP). The well-respected GSS, which has been conducted 28 times since 1972, tracks and develops models to explain societal change.

The NDPSS is a highly productive social indicators, infrastructure, and data-diffusion program with three basic purposes. First, it gathers data on American society in order to monitor and explain trends and constants in attitudes, behaviors, and attributes—and it examines the structure and functioning of society in general as well as the role of various sub-groups. Second, the NDPSS seeks to gain fresh perspectives on American society by comparing the United States to other societies, and to develop cross-national models of understanding human society. And last, the Center and NDPSS make high-quality data easily accessible to scholars, students, and others with minimal cost and waiting. The Center accomplishes all of this through its work with the GSS and the ISSP.

### Cultural Policy Center

The Cultural Policy Center (CPC) is a joint initiative of the Harris School of Public Policy Studies and NORC and is dedicated to researching and understanding the most significant issues affecting arts and culture from a range of interdisciplinary perspectives.

Founded in 1999, the CPC serves as an incubator for new ways of understanding arts and culture, particularly how they work, and how they are informed and affected by policies in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. The Center's expertise is drawn from collaborations with faculty and students throughout the University of Chicago and with researchers and cultural sector leaders across the globe.

Given the Center's position at the intersection of the humanities, social sciences, law, and policy, it has worked with a wide range of interdisciplinary scholars who use multiple methodologies for studies that have included cultural policy at the state level, the arts workforce, arts censorship, cultural amenities, economic impact analyses, cultural infrastructure, and contingent valuation methodology.

### Joint Center for Education Research

An integral resource for NORC's Education and Child Development Studies department, the Joint Center for Education Research coordinates research activities with University of Chicago faculty from the Committee on Education and other academic units, as well as with education researchers at research institutes affiliated with the University of Chicago. University faculty members affiliated with the Center are drawn from the departments of Sociology, Economics, Psychology, and Comparative Human Development; the Irving B. Harris Graduate School for Public Policy Studies; and the School of Social Service Administration. The Center affiliates also include prominent researchers from University-based research organizations including the Consortium on Chicago School Research and the Urban Education Institute, Chapin Hall, and the Center for Evaluation of Mathematics and Science Education.

The Center seeks both to provide a home at NORC for faculty-initiated and directed grant-based research projects and also to include University of Chicago faculty and researchers in expert advisory roles within NORC contract-based education projects conducted for federal and state agencies and private foundations.

### Ogburn-Stouffer Center for the Study of Social Organizations

The Ogburn-Stouffer Center for the Study of Social Organizations promotes innovative, theoretically informed, empirical research on population, political attitudes and decision making, community, health, social inequality, and social structure. A core mission is to promote the training of graduate students in the social sciences through involvement in all phases of large-scale survey research from development to execution and analysis. The Center has played a major role under the direction of Edward O. Laumann in the application of social network approaches to the study of social life. Among its major projects has been a series of studies of the social organization of intimate relationships, starting in 1988 with the National Health and Social Life Survey (NHSLS), the first major national representative survey of sexual practices in the U.S. That work continues today in the National Social Life, Health, and Aging Project (NSHAP) — a national longitudinal study of older Americans — that integrates the study of social networks, relationships, and health by incorporating social science theory and methods with biological markers. The Center provides support to researchers, visiting fellows, and advanced graduate students to develop research projects that advance our understanding of social life and organization.

### Population Research Center

The Population Research Center (PRC) has enjoyed a strong partnership with the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development for more than 30 years, and was funded in 2010 for another five years of service to the research community.

This Center is an interdisciplinary research institution designed to facilitate high-quality demographic analysis on social and economic change within its signature theme of human and social capital in the urban context. The Population Research Center's growth has come from researchers in economics, psychology, business, public policy, sociology, medicine, and social services administration. The diverse group of Center research associates, affiliates, and staff reflects the expanded domain of contemporary demography and the consistent theme of integrative research at NORC and the University of Chicago. This Center has continued to promote collaboration and advance population research through novel research projects, an active pilot grant program, the Demography Workshop and sponsored conferences, and the Center website, as well as a newly appointed Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Specialist.



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