



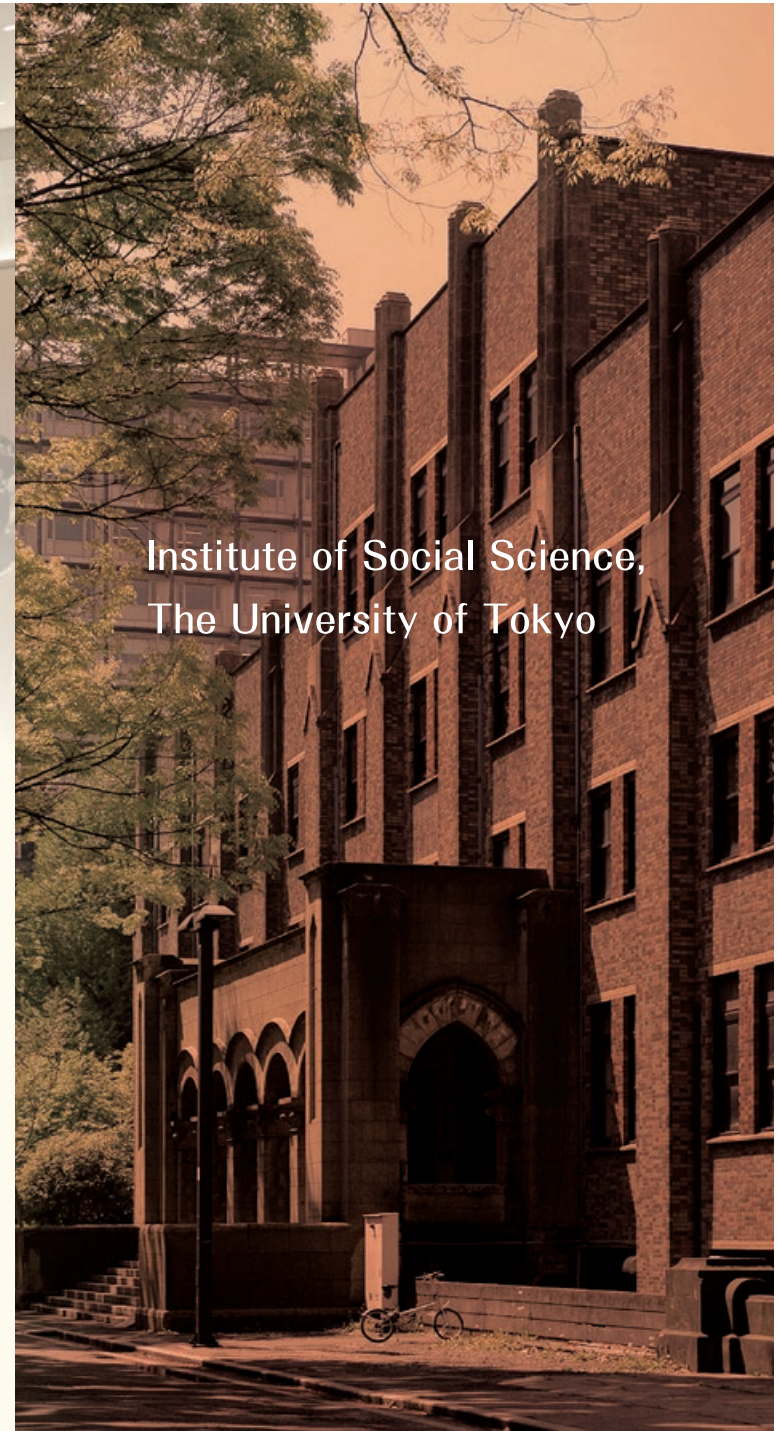
What is the Institute of Social Science (ISS)?

The University of Tokyo is composed of 15 graduate and undergraduate schools and 11 affiliated research institutes, including the ISS (known in Japanese as *Shaken*).

The ISS was established in 1946 in reflection on the bitter experience of the war and the shortcomings of social science research in prewar Japan, with the aim of furthering "the construction of a democratic and peace-loving nation by promoting empirical social science based on systematic collection of data and conducting comparative studies of a high academic standard."

The research conducted by ISS staff extends across four major academic fields of the social sciences -- law, political science, economics and sociology -- with a broad range of regional focuses including not only Japan, but also East Asia, Europe and the Americas. ISS staff also engage in university teaching at both the graduate and undergraduate levels.

The mission of the ISS is to carry out empirical studies of an interdisciplinary and international nature from various theoretical, historical and comparative perspectives, to further a comprehensive understanding of social, political and economic issues facing Japan and the world.



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Objectives and Mission of the ISS

I. Institute-wide Joint Research Projects

At the ISS, scholars specializing in the academic fields of law, political science, economics and sociology come together to promote interdisciplinary study through basic research in their various disciplines, collaborative research groups, and Institute-wide Joint Research Projects. Recent Joint Research Projects include "Social Sciences of Hope," and the "Comparative Regionalism Project" (both 2005-08). During the 2010-2013 academic years, the ISS conducted a major research project on "Reconsidering Governance."



■ Three Pillars of ISS Activities



II. Creation of a Research Infrastructure for Social Science Research

In order to strengthen the foundations for empirical social science research, the ISS established the Social Science Japan Data Archive (SSJDA) and promotes secondary analyses of data sets stored in the Archive. The ISS Library collects books and materials on Japan, Asia, Russia, the Americas and Europe.

The SSJDA commenced services in 1996 and currently provides about 1,500 data sets used by more than 2,000 researchers every year. The ISS Library collection comprises 340,000 books, 7,700 journals and 23,000 reels of microfilm.



III. Creation of an International Hub for Research on Contemporary Japan

The ISS houses the editorial office of the internationally reputed *Social Science Japan Journal* (SSJJ), as well as the *Social Science Japan Newsletter* (SSJ Newsletter), which focuses on current issues in Japan. SSJJ is published in English by Oxford University Press and is included in the Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI). The ISS also hosts a wide range of overseas researchers working on Japanese topics.

