

## 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 ISS (known in Japan as Shaken).

ISS was established in 1946 in reflection of the bitter experiences of WWII and the shortcomings of social science research in prewar Japan. Our aim is to further "the construction of a democratic and peace-loving nation by promoting empirical social science based on the 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 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.



Meridian 180 Global Summit  
(by "Social Sciences of Crisis Thinking" web site)

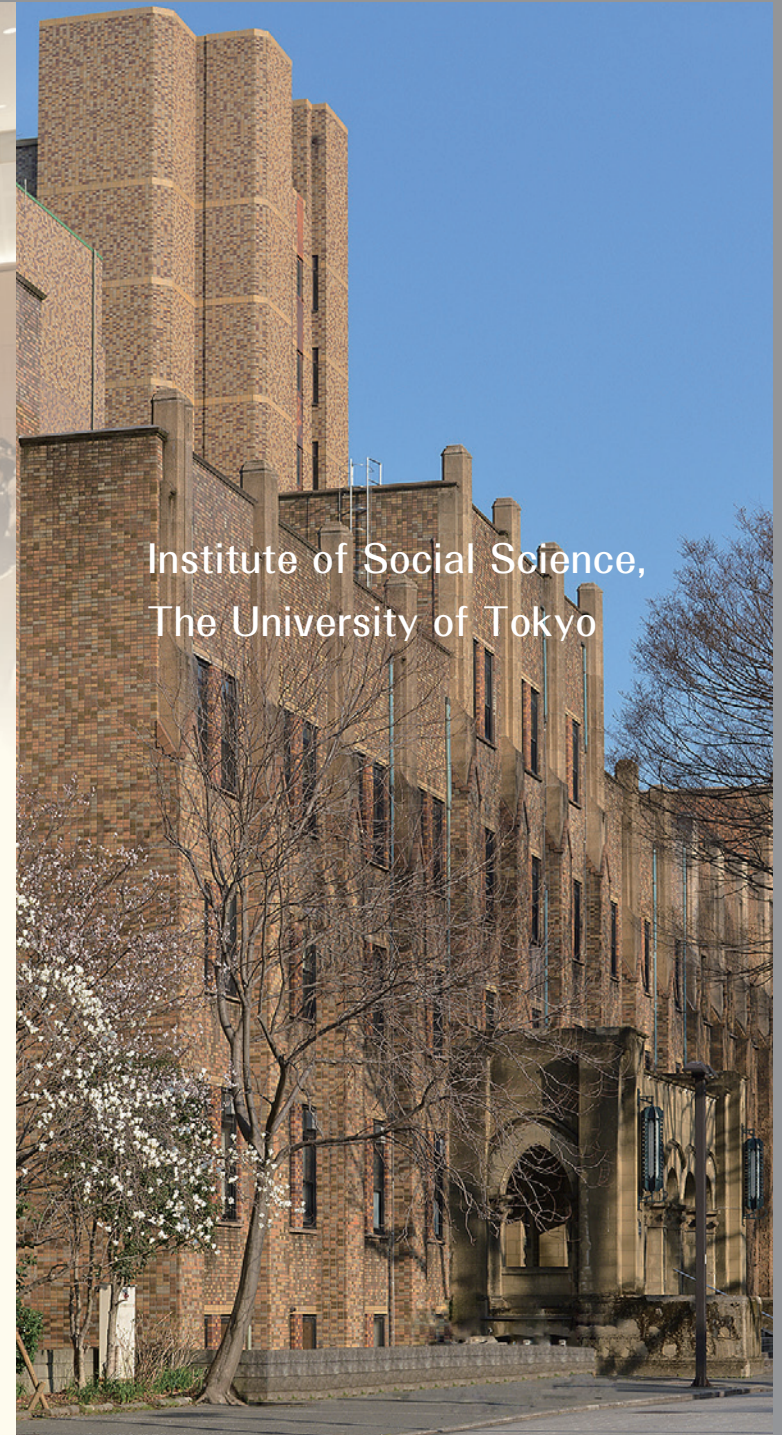


"Social Sciences of Crisis Thinking" symposium  
in Kamaishi City



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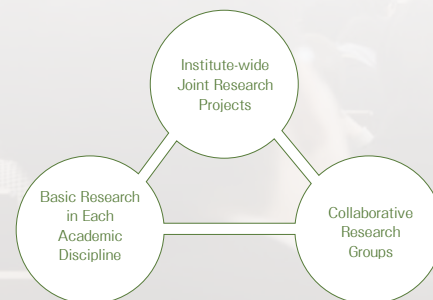
## Objectives and Mission of ISS

### I. Institute-wide Joint Research Projects

At 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) and "Reconsidering Governance" (2010-13). Since 2016, ISS is conducting a new major research project on the "Social Sciences of Crisis Thinking."



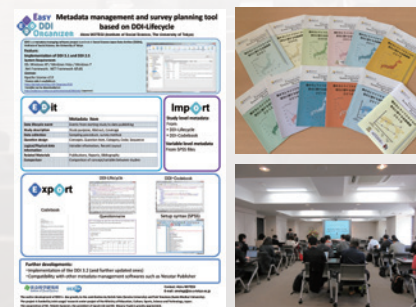
#### ■ Three Pillars of ISS Activities



### II. Creating an Infrastructure for Social Science Research

In order to strength the foundations for empirical social science research, ISS established the Social Science Japan Data Archives (SSJDA) and promotes secondary analysis of datasets stored in the Archive. The ISS Library collects books and resources on Japan, Asia, Russia, the Americas, and Europe.

SSJDA commenced services in 1996 and currently provides over 2,000 datasets used by more than 4,000 researchers every year. The ISS Library's collection comprises 350,000 books, 7,500 journals, 23,000 reels of microfilms, and 290,000 sheets of microfiche.



### III. Creating an International Hub for Research on Contemporary Japan

ISS houses the editorial office of the internationally renowned 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). ISS also hosts a wide range of overseas researchers working on Japanese topics.

