

Mission



The Institute for Science, Technology and Public Policy (ISTPP) is a nonpartisan, interdisciplinary public policy research institute. The Institute examines pressing and complex issues related to the framing and communication of science and technology information to help inform difficult public policy questions. ISTPP communicates its research-based findings to the public and decision makers and publishes them in scholarly journals.

Interdisciplinary Research Focus Areas and Expertise

ISTPP conducts interdisciplinary research in four focus areas:

- Environmental and Natural Resources Policy
- Emerging Technologies and Public Policy
- Infrastructure, Built Environment and Public Policy
- Health and Health Policy

ISTPP provides research expertise in:

- Public Opinion Surveys
- Focus Groups
- In-depth Stakeholder Interviews
- Policy and Regulatory Process Analysis

External Funding for Research

ISTPP has been conducting interdisciplinary research for over a decade. To date, the Institute has attracted over \$15.9 million in competitive funding from federal and state agencies for over 21 projects. With support from over \$4.5 million in competitive grants, the Institute furthers understanding of the increasingly important area of climate change policy. ISTPP has conducted six federally funded climate change projects with support from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Partnering on Research

ISTPP has collaborated with over 200 researchers from Texas A&M University System and other U.S. universities on research proposals, funded projects, and scholarship. This includes working with 36 departments and numerous research centers, institutes, and programs. *"The value added by ISTPP extends beyond the Bush School to other departments across campus and throughout the Texas A&M University System,"* writes a top-level administrator in Division of Vice President for Research for Texas A&M. *"ISTPP is a much sought after policy/social science partner on research initiatives across campus and with other universities."*

Communicating Research Findings

ISTPP disseminates research findings to academics through scholarly publications and conferences, as well as presentations to government agency personnel and other practitioners. MIT Press has published a book by ISTPP researchers that continues to benefit both policymakers and academics. In addition, ISTPP researchers have produced over 65 published scholarly articles, 27 published book chapters, 10 dissertations and master's theses, and numerous reports and conference presentations.

Training Future Policymakers

ISTPP offers research experience opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students to augment their training as future decision and policymakers. Students work with faculty, research scientists, and practitioners on ISTPP's interdisciplinary research projects and proposals. More than 50 Bush School students, as well as students from across Texas A&M University and other U.S. and international universities, have worked and trained at the Institute. *"Under the leadership of Dr. Vedlitz, ISTPP afforded me a rare opportunity--to take lessons and theories from the classroom and apply them to the 'real world' of ideas and public policy,"* wrote one former Bush School student. *"The Institute also gave me a taste of what my dad would call a 'yeasty' dynamic; PhD's, grad students, and regular people coming together and trying to find solutions to local and international problems."*

Training Future Faculty

ISTPP employs doctoral students and postdoctoral research associates who contribute to ongoing research projects at the Institute. Over 29 students planning to pursue academic careers have worked on ISTPP projects. They are able to collaborate with scholars and policymakers on interdisciplinary projects, gaining valuable experience that will further their anticipated careers as university faculty members. *"ISTPP has a culture of scientific rigor and objectivity. I recall fondly the debates between research scientists on questions of measurement precision, modeling procedures, and research design,"* wrote a former post-doctoral researcher. *"I benefited immeasurably from my tenure at ISTPP. I learned to work in interdisciplinary teams, the meaning of science and objective policy analysis, and I learned that terrific things can happen with good organizational leadership, design, and supportive culture."*