

THE INSTITUTE FOR SCIENCE, SOCIETY AND POLICY

STRATEGIC PLAN 2021 - 2026

ISSP

INSTITUT DE RECHERCHE SUR LA SCIENCE,
LA SOCIÉTÉ ET LA POLITIQUE PUBLIQUE
INSTITUTE FOR SCIENCE, SOCIETY AND POLICY



uOttawa

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A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR



The ISSP celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2020. The Institute has much to be proud of. It's built an unparalleled network of researchers, practitioners and students at the University of Ottawa and beyond committed to strengthening the science, society and policy interface. Individually and collectively, our members work across multiple fields to strengthen science for policy (a.k.a., evidence-informed decision-making), policies for science, technology and innovation, and the governance of emerging technologies.

Institute members are boundary-spanners *par excellence*, at the forefront of multisectoral, inclusive and deeply interdisciplinary research, teaching and outreach.

That is why I am so honoured to help take the Institute to the next level with our five-year Strategic Plan. The fruit of eighteen months of engagement with our members, it is grounded in the ambitious vision of helping Canada to transform decision-making to meet the grand challenges of our time. The plan lays out multiple research, teaching and outreach goals, activities and target outcomes to realize this vision.

Domestically and globally, the next five years and beyond will be marked by the need to successfully confront a growing number and range of grand challenges. Durable solutions to everything from climate change to global health pandemics to the governance of robotics and artificial intelligence require weaving together technological, social and policy innovations; fostering robust public trust in expertise and evidence used in decision-making; and authentic co-production of knowledge and policy among researchers, governments, business, Indigenous peoples and civil society.

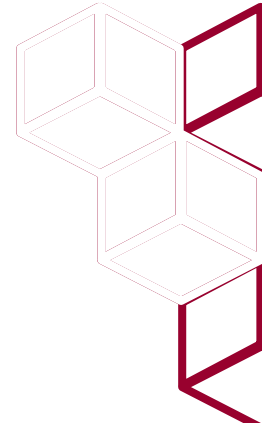
The ISSP is uniquely positioned to identify how this can be done and, what's more, to actually do it in practice. We look forward to executing the plan, which we firmly believe will help to secure Canada's prosperity, environmental resilience, health and social equity at home and abroad.

We look forward to working with you in the years ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MG', with a small flourish at the end.

Professor Monica Gattinger





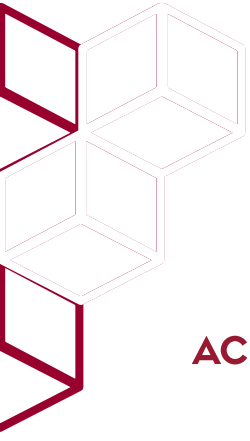
INTRODUCTION TO THE ISSP

HISTORY

Established in 2010, the Institute for Science, Society and Policy (ISSP) is a cross-faculty Institute that explores the links among science, society and policy. Our networks include hundreds of professors, researchers, practitioners and students from over two dozen disciplines spanning academia, government, industry and civil society within and beyond uOttawa and Canada.

MANDATE

The ISSP's mandate is to foster rigorous decision-making for complex problems at the interface of science, society and policy in uncertain, disruptive times. We pursue this mandate through rigorous policy-relevant research, top notch teaching and training programs, and extensive outreach and engagement both within and beyond the university. Our collective expertise spans three thematic areas: science for policy (evidence-based or evidence-informed decision making); policies for science, technology and innovation; and governance of emerging technologies.



ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

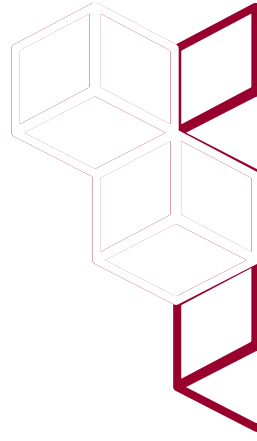
The ISSP has had a successful first decade. The first five years (2010-2015) focused on laying the foundation for research, teaching and outreach by building a vast network and related organizational infrastructure. The next five years (2015-2020) built on strength by substantially scaling up research and engagement, in particular with externally-funded research projects, a second CRC and the creation of five research and engagement clusters.

Research. The ISSP's research stands out for its pairing of deep multi- and interdisciplinary inquiry with multisectoral co-produced approaches and knowledge mobilization. Our research network includes two cross-appointed CRCs (one in Environment, Society and Policy with the Faculty of Arts, Jackie Dawson; the other in Science and Society with the Faculty of Social Sciences, Kelly Bronson), five Research and Engagement Clusters, each headed by an ISSP Core Member (Energy, Monica Gattinger; Inclusive Innovation, Sandra Schillo; Risk, Technology and Security, Mark Salter; Robotics and Artificial Intelligence, Jason Millar; Science Advice, Marc Saner) and an annual Canada-US Fulbright Visiting Research Chair in Science and Society. This is in addition to the collective research efforts of individual Institute members.

Teaching and training. ISSP teaching and training activities equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to address the challenges confronting decision-making at the interface of science, society and policy. The ISSP offers a Collaborative Master's in Science, Society and Policy that boasts a dozen participating academic units. The Institute also leads the annual Bromley Memorial Lecture and Graduate Student Event in partnership with George Washington University. Graduate students from both institutions gather in Washington DC or Ottawa to learn about science policy, Canada-US science relations and to connect with decision-makers. The ISSP helps teach a fourth-year science policy course in the Faculty of Science and supported expanding this offering to a minor in science policy. The ISSP partners with national training programs like Science Outside the Lab-North and MITACS' Canadian Science Policy Fellows programs, to train the next generation of science policy leaders in Canada.

Outreach. The ISSP has earned a reputation as a trusted convener and solution seeker. Effective knowledge mobilization and wide-ranging engagement across academic disciplines and the larger public, private and civil society sectors are fundamental to our research, fostering coherence and connection among activities, as well as, importantly, maximizing impact. The ISSP spearheads numerous high-profile events that bring diverse sectors together to frame and address complex contentious science-society-policy issues. Over the last three years, the Institute has held over 70 public events and recordings of all sessions are posted online. ISSP members contribute extensively to traditional and social media. We maintain an ever-green website, a highly active Twitter account, a LinkedIn company page, a YouTube channel, a monthly newsletter, a podcast, and a prolific blog series.

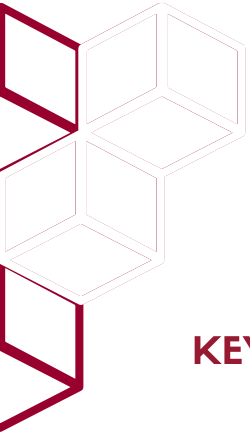
STRATEGIC VISION: TRANSFORMING DECISION-MAKING



Meeting the grand challenges of our time – from climate change to emerging and disruptive technologies to combatting COVID-19 – compels Canada to bridge and align science, society and policy imperatives. This means bringing together the people, expertise, knowledge and institutions from the public, private, academic and civil society sectors to collaboratively forge solutions and chart a successful path forward. Durable solutions require deep interdisciplinarity, robust collaboration and authentic knowledge co-production. This is no simple task amid rapid technological change, uncertainty, polarization, unstable trust in institutions and growing citizen expectations for meaningful involvement in decision-making, but it is essential to secure Canada’s prosperity, environmental resilience, health and social equity.

The ISSP’s Strategic Vision for 2021-2026 is thus ambitious, extending well beyond the walls of the Institute and uOttawa campus to the future of Canada itself, in domestic and global context:

The ISSP will help Canada transform decision-making to meet the grand challenges of our time. The Institute’s research, teaching and outreach will help bridge and align science, society and policy imperatives by strengthening relationships within and among the academic, public, private and civil society sectors.



KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

The ISSP will pursue this vision with a focus on three key areas:

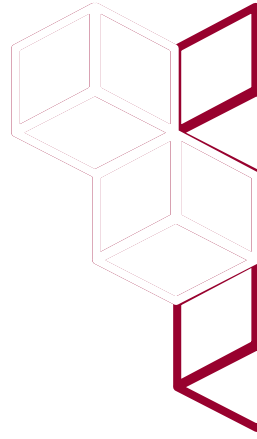
- Public trust in expertise and evidence in public sector decision-making
- Co-development of government policies with business, Indigenous governments, civil society and the academy
- Weaving together technological, social and policy innovation

TARGET IMPACTS

The ISSP aims to have:

- Made significant contributions to the transformation of decision-making across a broad range of grand challenges (e.g., energy transition, science advice, inclusive innovation)
- Helped position Canada as a thought and practice leader in science-society-policy (SSP) imperatives
- Equipped hundreds of students and emerging leaders with the skills to bridge and align SSP imperatives and enlarge their employment opportunities
- Cemented its leadership role in spearheading innovative KMB strategies and deep interdisciplinary convergence research
- Have become a recognized organizational model of inclusive approaches to decision-making (EDI)
- Developed deep ongoing collaborations and partnerships with hundreds of academic, public, private and civil society actors to continuously co-produce and mobilize knowledge
- Become financially stable and able to attract and retain high calibre staff and members.

MAKING THE VISION A REALITY: IMPACT, PARTNERSHIPS, SYNERGIES



To make this vision a reality, the Institute will: (1) scale up its research, teaching and outreach impact, (2) form strategic partnerships with leading academic, public, private and civil society institutions, and (3) mobilize synergies across its research, teaching and outreach activities.

RESEARCH

Goals/activities:

- Create at least one new Cluster in a priority area
- Create a third CRC at the interface of SSP
- Scale up Cluster and CRC activities to leverage expertise and enable resource pooling
- Initiate a second annual Canada-US Fulbright Visiting Research Chair in a priority area supportive of the Institute's Strategic Vision
- Expand its membership, Advisory Committee and Senior Fellows to build CRC/Cluster expertise
- Appoint an Indigenous Writer-in-Residence, alongside Francophone/Anglophone Writers-in-Residence
- Ensure representation (EDI, youth, linguistic, faculty, discipline) across all appointments/activities
- Develop strategic partnerships to maximize research impact

Impacts:

- Helped to position Canada as a leader in aligning SSP imperatives to meet grand challenges
- Expanded research activities and impacts in Canada and abroad
- Stronger funding proposals and higher likelihood of successful grant applications
- Greater capacity to meet research goals through improved funding and administrative support
- Improved participation of students / scholars from multiple disciplines in ISSP members' research
- Expanded contribution of new ideas and perspectives to decision-relevant forums
- Engaged decision-makers who can translate research findings into decision actions / approaches



OUTREACH

Goals/activities:

- Develop strategic partnerships within the uOttawa community of institutes and centres to mobilize synergies and scale up impact
- Build strategic partnerships with external organizations to scale up impact and build synergies, including with youth, student and next generation organizations
- Create and implement a cutting-edge KMb strategy that builds on existing strengths
- Create and expand existing and novel outreach methods
- Support members to undertake novel outreach methods
- Expand and improve video and streaming capabilities and text-based communications products

Impacts:

- Maximum impact of research on decision-making in Canada
- Wider dissemination of ISSP research; higher profile for ISSP members/uOttawa
- Novel, strategic and effective KMb strategies to support research dissemination and cross-fertilization of ideas among policy domains and sectors
- Demonstrated leadership in KMb methods
- Sustained support to ISSP researchers
- Enhanced learning opportunities for students and HQP development
- Improved contact management, stronger network development, deeper engagement

TEACHING AND TRAINING

Goals/activities:

- Expand the number of participating units and facilitate student enrolment in the Collaborative MA program
- Create flexible teaching offerings for graduate and undergraduate students
- Facilitate professors' integration of SSP topics into teaching
- Explore feasibility of creating a full MA and collaborative or full PhD program
- Grow existing training partnerships
- Develop new teaching/training partnerships
- Maximize opportunities for student engagement in research, teaching and outreach

Impacts:

- Emerging leaders equipped with the skills, sensibilities and competencies needed to align science-society-policy on complex issues
- Enlarged student learning and employment opportunities in Canada and abroad
- Greater teaching of SSP on uOttawa campus and beyond ('mainstreaming' SSP teaching)
- Maximized long term impact within policy and decision-making communities



Bienvenue aux étudiants et étudiantes! Welcome students!

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INSTITUTE FOR SCIENCE, SOCIETY AND POLICY

The Institute for Science, Society and Policy is a cross-faculty Institute at the University of Ottawa exploring the links between science, society and policy. Our network includes professors, researchers, practitioners and students from multiple disciplines spanning academia, government, industry and civil society both within and beyond uOttawa.

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