



SUCCESSFUL SOCIETIES

Explores the roots and effects of social inequalities and asks the question: What makes a society successful?

The program's primary focus this year was to connect with colleagues and maximize the impact of the program's work. Reviewed by an international panel, the program was successfully renewed for a term of two years.

The three program meetings primarily focused on distribution and recognition as complementary dimensions of inequality. The ideas generated have laid the groundwork for program members to collaborate on numerous papers to be included in a special issue on "Inequality as Process." The papers, which aim to connect micro-, meso-, and macrodynamics in the production and reproduction of inequality, are coauthored by colleagues from the different disciplines represented in the program. These collaborations bring an interdisciplinary lens to a third collective volume written by program members.

Program Co-Director **Michèle Lamont** (Harvard University) is co-editing a special issue of the *British Journal of Sociology* with collaborators at the London School of Economics on post-Trump and Brexit politics. Contributors include Co-Director **Peter Hall** (Harvard University), Senior Fellow **Paul Pierson** (University of California, Berkeley) and Advisor **Patrick Le Galès** (Sciences Po d'études européennes)

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Senior Fellows **Jane Jenson** (Université de Montréal), **Paige Raibmon** (University of British Columbia) and **Francesca Polleta** (University of California, Irvine) produced a working paper addressing why policies intended to combat inequality often create new inequalities. The paper draws on prominent cases, including efforts to address inequalities for Indigenous groups in Canada, gender inequality in the European Union and biomedical research in the United States. The work enhances our understanding of how conceptual language for understanding inequality in policies can have unintended consequences.

A set of experimental studies by Fellow **Anne Wilson** (Wilfred Laurier University) reported that in Canada and the United States, reminders of historical injustice toward women undermine men's support for a gender-based equity policy. They increase men's conviction that gender discrimination no longer exists, which is a defensive reaction to the social identity threat to men as a group. This potential for backlash is an important consideration when discussing discrimination, since the acknowledgement of a group's history of injustice is central to social justice.

Using a multidisciplinary perspective, Senior Fellow **Paige Raibmon** (University of British Columbia) demonstrated one way that understandings of Indigenous knowledge and settler colonialism can contribute to conversations about the politics of risk, danger and uncertainty, and the production of imperception. Dr. Raibmon examined a case where the Mowachaht Muchalaht, an Indigenous community on Vancouver Island, pursued an anti-colonial, environmental justice campaign to promote Indigenous knowledge in epistemologies in environmental science and public health. After its initial approaches failed, the community rendered itself visible to the state only by mantling itself as a subject under colonial rules.

AT A GLANCE

FOUNDED: 2002

MOST RECENT RENEWAL: 2017, for 2 years

PROGRAM DIRECTORS: Peter A. Hall, Harvard University, and Michèle Lamont, Harvard University

FELLOWS, ADVISORS AND CIFAR AZRIELI GLOBAL SCHOLARS: 19

INSTITUTIONS REPRESENTED: 16, in 3 countries

FIELDS AND SUBFIELDS REPRESENTED: sociology, including demography, social stratification, social theory and cultural sociology; political science, including comparative politics, political economy and comparative public policy; organizational, cultural and social psychology; political philosophy; history; economics

MEETINGS: 3; in Toronto and Montebello, Canada; and Palo Alto, USA

RELEVANT KNOWLEDGE USERS: community organizations focused on addressing inequality, resilience and inclusion; public policy-makers

SUPPORTERS: BMO Financial Group | (1 Anonymous Donor)

TO LEARN MORE: www.cifar.ca/research/successful-societies/

Other Notable Publications and Outputs

- Bloemraad I, Terriquez V. 2016. Cultures of engagement: The organizational foundations of advancing health in low-income communities of color. *Soc Sci Med.* 165: 214-222.
- Banting K, Kymlicka W. (Eds). 2017. *The strains of commitment: The political sources of solidarity in diverse societies.* Oxford University Press.
- Lamont M et al. 2016. *Getting respect: Responding to stigma and discrimination in the United States, Brazil, and Israel.* Princeton University Press.

GLOBAL ACADEMY

The program engaged three graduate students as program meeting reporters to provide written summaries of presentations and discussions.

Most fellows have doctoral students whose research is influenced by the ideas flowing from the collective discussions within the program. Program members supervised over 70 graduate students and postdoctoral fellows over the year.