

An Overview of the
INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENTAL STUDIES

Through an active program of research, teaching, and public service, IGS expands understanding of governmental institutions and the political process, builds the intellectual capital and practical skills of the next generation of political teachers and leaders, and informs and invigorates public debate on important issues.

Over the past decade IGS has emerged as a major international center for overseas Americanists who study U.S. politics, public policy, and national, state, and local government. IGS has moved in recent years to institutionalize the success it has achieved, strengthen the major components of the organization that have brought it to this point, and create new programs to carry out its mandate.

IGS provides a unique forum in which currents of thought from the University's strong social science departments interact with those from a broad group of professional schools including law, journalism, public policy, education, social welfare, and business, and engage the concerns of political practitioners and the voting public.

Ongoing seminars and colloquia stimulate scholarly thought and foster public outreach. IGS publications communicate research results and current concerns to scholars, political officials, and interested citizens throughout the University, across the United States, and around the world. The IGS Library is unsurpassed as a public policy resource, for the breadth and depth of its holdings, and for the quality of service it provides to researchers.

Begun in 1919 as the Bureau of Public Administration, the Institute was a Progressive-Era effort to provide more honest, efficient government. During the 1930s, a substantial grant from the Rockefeller Foundation enabled the Bureau to become an independent unit with its own library and research staff.

Throughout the Depression, World War II, and postwar readjustment, the Bureau did research and policy analysis for state and local government in California. When the legislature acquired its own research capabilities in the mid 1950s, IGS turned to more academically oriented research. In 1962, the Bureau changed its name to

the Institute of Governmental Studies and branched out, providing research assistance to faculty, and commissioning monographs and research papers.

Publishing became an increasingly important Institute function, focusing at the start on the San Francisco Bay Area. IGS research and publications played a major role in efforts to form a multipurpose regional government for the nine-county Bay Area and led to creation of the Bay Area Air Pollution Control District, the Association of Bay Area Governments, and the Bay Conservation and Development Commission. A monograph series funded by Franklin K. Lane helped Bay Area citizens understand regional problems and weigh policy alternatives.

In the 1970s, IGS once again turned its attention to state agencies and state problems, creating the California Policy Seminar (CPS), a University-wide program of state-oriented research. In 1989, CPS became an independent unit,

The Institute of Governmental Studies (IGS) is the University of California's primary center for interdisciplinary research in politics, government, and public policy.

"IGS is the only academic institution in the country that systematically looks at issues of governmental design and reform in a setting that encourages dialogue between scholars, journalists, and practitioners. We believe this context is essential to genuine reform."

—Bruce Cain
Director, IGS

"Our goal is to expand the understanding of government and the political process and build the intellectual capital and practical skills of the next generation of political teachers and leaders."

—Nelson W. Polsby
Former Director, IGS

but serving the needs of state policymakers in Sacramento remains an essential part of our mission.

Berkeley Public Policy Press

Publishing is an integral part of the work of the Institute. The *Public Affairs Report*, the Working Papers series, and the monographs and books produced by the IGS Publications staff are essential to research at the Institute. IGS publications serve a diverse interdisciplinary constituency on campus and off. They bring the results of IGS research to scholars, teachers, students, journalists, elected officials, public administrators, public interest groups, and public spirited private citizens in the United States and around the world.

The *Public Affairs Report*, published two to three times a year, makes IGS research available and accessible to a wider public audience as well as to scholars, students, and experts in the field. The *PAR* is mailed to 6,269 people and read by at least twice that many key figures in government, business, the media, and academia.

California Statewide Database

The database was originally created for the California legislature for redistricting, a process in which the lines of state senate and assembly districts are redrawn every 10 years following a new census.

In 1993, the California Assembly voted to house the database permanently in a neutral, nonpartisan environment, the Institute of Governmental Studies at UC Berkeley. The information in the Statewide Database is a public resource for any Californian interested in the political and demographic make-up of this state.

The IGS Library

The IGS Library is one of the nation's major collections in public administration, public affairs, and public policy with over 400,000 volumes and 2,500 current serial titles. A depository for California local documents, the collection is especially strong in materials on state and local government and intergovernmental relations, public finance and taxation, political science and practical politics, elections and voting, city planning and environmental protection, social services, and crime and corrections. The library has California's most comprehensive collection of local ordinances and is the official archive for materials documenting redistricting in 1970 and 1990.

Other Programs

IGS is also home to the following research and public service programs:

- Center on Politics
- Center on Institutions & Governance (CIG)
- Berkeley Center on Globalization & Information Technology (BCGIT)
- Program in Psychological Economics (PIPE)
- John Gardner Public Service Fellowship

"The California State Library depends on the IGS Library to fulfill specific research needs of the legislature and the executive branch."

*—Dr. Kevin Starr
State Librarian of California*

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