

Services

The Culture and Policy Institute offers a variety of services to campus and community stakeholders. These include (1) grant development and implementation, (2) research services and (3) specialized courses.

Grant Development and Implementation

The Institute works with faculty members to articulate research interests, identify funding opportunities and develop competitive grant proposals. Interested faculty members can call the main office to set up an appointment to discuss research ideas.

Research Services

Qualitative, survey, evaluation, demographic and policy research services are available through the Institute. Interested agencies and organizations can call the main office to obtain free cost estimates for research projects.

Specialized Courses

For-credit courses in leadership and research are available through the Institute, which is exploring the feasibility of offering certificate programs in diversity leadership and cross-cultural communications.

Other Opportunities

The Institute provides research, internship, and employment opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students enrolled at UTSA. In addition, it provides professionals from government and research agencies assignment opportunities through its Visiting Researchers Program.

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UTSA

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Overview

The Culture and Policy Institute (CPI) at the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) uses multidisciplinary approaches to conduct research on culture and community and public policy issues.

The Institute fosters relationships among researchers, community practitioners, analysts, governmental units and other organizations to conduct research that facilitates public awareness and understanding of community and societal problems and solutions.

The aims of the Institute are (1) to contribute to the stock of knowledge in the relationship between culture, social tradition and the impact on public policy and (2) to translate research results for practical uses by community leaders, applied professionals and policy makers.

Mission

To conduct research in the areas of community development, health, and the environment with a specific emphasis on how culture impacts the dynamics within each of these areas and policy development and analysis.

Vision

The Culture and Policy Institute will develop an international reputation for research focusing on the relationship between culture and societal institutions.

How culture and cultural forms and practices inform and define society and communities is the principal research focus of the Institute.



The Culture and Policy Institute

Cultural beliefs, behaviors, customs, inventions, language, technology and values of a society are examined in terms of their impact on policy formulas and implementation.

Areas of Concentration

The Institute has four research concentrations: (1) Culture and Community Development; (2) Culture and Health Care; (3) Culture and the Environment; and (4) Culture and Literacy.

Culture and Community Development

This area of concentration identifies and examines cultural features of society with special emphasis on how culture and public policies interact to promote community development, and how they impact the cultural meanings and values of communities.

Culture and Health Care

This concentration focuses on the relationship between culture and health, including culturally informed medical practices, the delivery of healthcare services, health disparities, and health and wellness. A specific research emphasis is on the health issues facing the large, underserved and understudied sector of South Texas.

Culture and the Environment

Social movements have redefined ecological priorities and practices across most societies over the past two decades. Research issues include those associated with environmental justice, urban sprawl and inner city development, regional and

transborder environmental issues, and the integration of culture in the management of natural resources.

Culture and Literacy

This concentration focuses on the relationship between culture and literacy, with an emphasis on closing the educational achievement gap among the diverse groups that constitute the U.S. population, and on cross-cultural communications and competencies.



Facilities

The Institute maintains a state-of-the-art Survey Lab and Data Center which is used to conduct public surveys, maintain community and cultural indicators, and to generate customized maps using national, regional, and local data sets.

Dissemination of Research Results

The Institute disseminates its research results through publications in professional journals, presentations at conferences, and through its own research papers, policy briefs and working papers series, all of which are available through its web site.