



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: 2026 ICER Fellows

APSA's Institute for Civically Engaged Research (ICER) is a four-day, residential institute that provides political scientists with training to conduct ethical and rigorous civically engaged research. Up to 20 scholars will be selected as ICER Fellows and invited to attend the 2026 Summer Institute. ICER Fellows will network with other like-minded political scientists, and together, learn best practices for conducting academically robust, mutually beneficial scholarship in collaboration with communities, organizations, and agencies outside of academia.

ICER is organized in partnership with the [Center for Community Engagement](#) (CCE) at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). with generous support from [the John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation](#).

The 2026 Institute will be held in person at UCLA in Los Angeles, CA from **July 13-16**. To apply, please complete [this form](#) by **April 15, 2026, 11:59 pm PT**.

What is Civically Engaged Research?

Scholars in many disciplines are grappling with how to produce rigorous scholarship that addresses significant social challenges in collaboration with communities, organizations, and agencies. They strive to learn from those working outside of academia, to grow in understanding from the insights of all kinds of groups and institutions, and to give back to communities rather than extract value from them. Civically engaged political science research is an approach to inquiry that involves political scientists collaborating in a mutually beneficial way with people and groups beyond the academy to co-produce, share, and apply knowledge related to power or politics that contributes to self-governance. Conducting robust community and civically engaged research entails a different set of practices than other kinds of political science research,

APSA's Institute for Civically Engaged Research

ICER trains political scientists at all career stages in best practices for conducting CER The Institute Directors are **Peter Levine** (Tufts University), **Samantha Majic** (John Jay College & The CUNY Graduate Center), and **Adriano Udani** (University of Minnesota). Together with practitioner experts and scholarly guest speakers, ICER Directors and fellows will explore key topics related to civically engaged research by discussing relevant readings, by analyzing specific examples of civically engaged research from political science and cognate disciplines, and by considering the research plans and ideas of institute participants.

2026 Summer Institute

The Institute will take place on campus at UCLA from **July 13-16**. Approximately twenty fellows will meet each day for intensive discussions and workshops. Thanks to generous support from the [Haynes Foundation](#), participants will have access to complimentary housing on the UCLA campus alongside scholarships available to defray costs of meals and travel. Applicants are expected to seek financial support from their home institution, but admission to the Institute will not be affected by financial need.

TOPICS TO BE COVERED

- **How to do civically engaged research:** Practical guidance on initiating, designing, and sustaining collaborative research across fields and sectors.
- **Scholarly engagement:** What political scientists uniquely contribute to CER, the limits of scholarly expertise, and the value of working across disciplines and practitioner and community knowledge
- **Ethics:** Engaging partners fairly by sharing credit, funding, and other resources equitably, managing disagreement, and navigating IRB and other institutional constraints.
- **Career considerations:** Aligning and producing engaged research for publication, tenure and promotion, and funding.
- **Communicating impact:** Strategies for sharing findings and articulating the value of civically engaged research to partners, communities, policymakers, the media, and the broader public.
- **Engaging with different kinds of partners:** Why and how to engage with governments and other institutions, communities, social movements, and other kinds of partners. We will welcome ICER participants from subfields including but not limited to governance, public administration, public policy, and social movements.

How to Apply

ICER is not intended for scholars who already have extensive CER experience; instead, it is designed for political scientists who wish to learn about or transition into Civically Engaged Research (CER). While the program is best suited to early- and mid-career scholars, advanced graduate students nearing completion of their doctoral program are also welcome to apply. We are especially interested in gathering scholars interested in partnering with government officials, policy practitioners, and/or community organizers for CER projects.

To apply, please complete the form located [here](#). **Applications are due April 15, 2026**, and applicants will be notified of decisions by early May 2026.

For more information about ICER, please visit our website: <https://connect.apsanet.org/icer/>. If you have further questions about the institute, please contact us at centennial@apsanet.org.



The Institute for Civically Engaged Research is a partnership between the American Political Science Association and the Center for Community Engagement at the University of California, Los Angeles in collaboration with the Haynes Foundation.

The John Randolph Haynes and Dora

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Undergraduate Education

Center for Community Engagement