



**Director
Survey Research Center
Institute for Social Research
University of Michigan
Position Description**

The University of Michigan invites nominations and applications for the position of Director of the Survey Research Center (SRC) at the Institute for Social Research (ISR).

Founded in 1946, [the Survey Research Center \(SRC\)](#) is an international leader in interdisciplinary social science research involving the innovative collection and analysis of data, especially data from scientific sample surveys. The largest of five research Centers housed at ISR, SRC conducts some of the most widely cited and influential studies in the world, including the Panel Study of Income Dynamics, the Monitoring the Future Project, the Health and Retirement Study, and the University of Michigan Survey of Consumers. SRC's studies contribute to science and policy, both nationally and internationally, in many areas including economic behavior, health, human development and aging, substance use and abuse, and family formation and development in the U.S. and abroad. SRC also has a core group of faculty focusing on the development and evaluation of behavioral interventions in areas including education, mental health, and substance use. The Center's Survey Research Operations (SRO) unit provides cutting-edge study design, data collection, and data processing services that are invaluable for other ISR Centers, University researchers, and scientists across the nation and the world. SRC advances the science of social research through its education programs including the MS and PhD programs of the Michigan Program in Survey and Data Science (MPSDS) and the SRC Summer Institute.

SRC is an organization of approximately 80 core research faculty, 70 affiliated faculty, and 350 other employees who include professional and administrative staff, undergraduate and graduate student research assistants, and research fellows. The SRO unit also employs approximately 500 field staff conducting interviews throughout the country. The annual operating revenues of SRC are in excess of \$82 million, principally from external research grants and contracts.

SRC is driven by and organized around faculty-led research programs. The SRC Director works within this structure to administer SRC's scientific, human, and financial resources. Specific

responsibilities of the Director's Office include leadership in Center administration; faculty hiring, mentoring, and promotions; visionary intellectual leadership in support of the Center's shared mission of high-quality scientific data creation and research; oversight of staff hiring, development, and support; strategic planning and financial forecasting; supervision of SRC's graduate program; leadership and advocacy for the Center's diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts; and management of a Center-wide annual operating budget. The SRC Director is also the Center's chief representative to the rest of the ISR community and coordinates with Institute leadership across a range of functions, including fostering collaboration with the broader UM community and participating in the Institute's development, communications, and diversity, equity, and inclusion activities. The Director of SRC reports to the Director of ISR.

This is an exceptional opportunity for an accomplished social scientist to join a team of renowned scholars in maintaining and enhancing SRC's long-standing role in the social sciences.

THE POSITION

As the leader of an organization driven by faculty-led research programs, the SRC Director is responsive to the needs of those programs. At the same time, the Director embraces SRC's unique position within ISR and the University of Michigan, which offers a wealth of opportunities for intellectual engagement. This twin perspective, facing both inward and outward, informs the Director's leadership of the Center.

The Director must manifest outstanding commitment and accomplishment in supporting diversity, equity, and inclusion, aligned with the values and goals identified in ISR's DEI plan.

The Director plays a pivotal role in maintaining a world-renowned faculty. Hiring initiatives generally originate within research programs; the Director leads efforts to recruit candidates following ISR and UM procedures. The Director works with the ISR Director to engage other units of the University in these efforts, as appropriate.

Mentoring junior faculty is an important activity at SRC that is coordinated by the Director's office with broad-based faculty engagement. The Director has responsibility for assuring fair and rigorous review and promotion processes following the procedures and regulations of the Center, Institute, and University, which provide for significant faculty involvement.

In collaboration with the faculty in the Program in Survey and Data Science and the ISR Director, the Director promotes and oversees the educational programs of SRC, including its graduate degree programs and its Summer Institute in Survey Research Techniques, and links them to UM's educational mission.

The Director fosters the distinctive collaboration between research projects and primary data collection that is fundamental to the mission of SRC. The Center's SRO unit conducts primary data

collection for SRC projects as well as for external investigators and clients. The Director of SRO reports to the Director.

The Director plays a leadership role in ensuring that SRC and ISR have cutting-edge computing infrastructure supporting the scientific mission of the Center and the Institute. The Director of Computer and Multimedia Technology (CMT) reports to the Director.

The Director plays a leadership role in the continuous improvement of the financial, administrative, human resource, and facility activities that support and advance the Center's scientific mission. The SRC Assistant Director has direct responsibility for SRC administration, supervises the SRC Director's office staff, and reports to the Director.

INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH

ISR was founded in 1949 and comprises the [Survey Research Center](#), [Research Center for Group Dynamics](#), [Center for Political Studies](#), [Population Studies Center](#), and the [Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research](#). ISR is closely linked with the University's highly-ranked social science departments and related professional schools, and has, synergistically with these other units, contributed to the University's pre-eminence in empirical social science. ISR's centers often work closely with University academic units around faculty recruitment and retention, and many of ISR's research faculty hold positions in the academic units, and vice versa.

ISR is primarily supported by the direct and indirect costs from grants from external funding agencies (most importantly NIH, NSF, and multiple other government, foundation and for-profit funders) and some cooperative agreements and contracts. The Survey Research Center is responsible for about two-thirds of the budget, staff, space, and reserves/endowment of ISR.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

The University of Michigan serves as a national model of a richly diverse, comprehensive public institution of higher learning. As the flagship institution, it plays a particular role in service to its state; it also has an extensive range of activities that serve the world. The University is recognized for the range and excellence of its research activities (it leads U.S. public institutions in sponsored research), the exceptional level of cross-disciplinary and cross-unit collaboration, and its emphasis on ensuring that discovery and research are translated into ways that benefit society.

U-M has a historical commitment to fostering racial, ethnic, gender, and socioeconomic diversity. In 2003, in the landmark Supreme Court case *Grutter v. Bollinger*, the University advocated for and successfully defended its affirmative action admissions policies. More recently, in 2016, a five-year university-wide diversity, equity, and inclusion strategic plan was adopted, as well as plans for individual units, including one for ISR; 2021-22 marked the conclusion of that plan and the beginning of a year-long evaluation process to guide the planning phase for the next DEI strategic plan, to be launched in October 2023.

U-M's main campus is located in Ann Arbor, 35 miles southwest of Detroit, with regional campuses located in Dearborn and Flint. The Ann Arbor campus is home to over 3,100 tenured and tenure-track faculty; nearly 4,600 additional academic personnel including lecturers, clinical faculty, research professors, librarians, and archivists; and more than 50,000 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students.

QUALIFICATIONS

The search committee seeks an individual with demonstrated leadership ability and a record of distinguished scholarship and externally-funded research in large-scale, interdisciplinary, innovative social science.

Specifically, the SRC Director must be:

- A nationally and internationally recognized scholar in social sciences or allied fields, with a scholarly record commensurate with appointment as a tenured full professor at the University of Michigan.
- An experienced and innovative scientific leader in research, collection, and/or analysis of social science data, including but not limited to survey data.
- Experienced in generating and managing externally funded grants (or similar activities) for empirical, quantitative, or computational social science research.
- Experienced in the administration of academic units, schools, colleges, or research institutes, or equivalent experience such as management of government or non-profit organizations. This should include a demonstrated commitment to mentoring and professional development of early-career scholars.
- Able to articulate confidently the value and importance of diversity, with a demonstrated record of effectively supporting diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- An interdisciplinary thinker committed to harnessing and facilitating the potential of collaborative activities within and across programs, as well as within and across disciplinary boundaries.
- Experienced in building consensus among diverse researchers and staff, leading from a core set of values.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLYING, NOMINATING AND INQUIRING

The Institute for Social Research has retained the search firm Isaacson, Miller to assist with the search for the Director of the Survey Research Center. Individuals interested in applying should

submit a current CV and statement of interest by March 1, 2023 for fullest consideration. Applications can be submitted at www.imsearch.com/8907. Nominations and inquiries about the position can also be submitted to the same web address. All correspondences can be addressed to the search representatives noted below:

John Muckle, Partner
Kahn Lee, Managing Associate
Karson Freeman, Associate
263 Summer Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02210

The University of Michigan is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer dedicated to the goal of building a culturally diverse and pluralistic university community committed to teaching and working in a multicultural environment. Potential applicants who share this goal are encouraged to apply.