

UC SANTA BARBARA

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UCSB Professor Honored for Meritorious Service to the Social Sciences

The Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) has honored M. Kent Jennings, professor of political science at the University of California, Santa Barbara, with the Warren E. Miller Award for Meritorious Service to the Social Sciences.

The award was presented at the organizations biennial meeting on October 19 at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. It was established in 1993 and named for ICPSR's co-founder and first executive director. It recognizes individuals who have had a profound impact on social science research and infrastructure.

"This is a fitting honor for a giant in the social sciences," said Melvin Oliver, dean of social sciences at UCSB. "Practically all empirically based scholars doing social science research have benefited from the superb services of ICPSR. Kent's original social science surveys, his commitment to empirically based research, and his service as a leader in political science are all aptly captured in this great honor. We are fortunate to have Kent here at UCSB as a superb teacher, extraordinary researcher, and enthusiastic colleague."

Added John Woolley, chair of the political science department: "The Miller award has gone to an exceptionally distinguished list of scholars who have contributed to large-

scale social science research. Kent Jennings is appropriately included among them. He has led the field in using large panel surveys—repeated surveys of the same individuals—to disentangle the factors that may change political attitudes."

Jennings is a past president of the American Political Science Association and the International Society of Political Psychology, and was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1982. He has received numerous awards throughout his career, including a Guggenheim Fellowship, grants from the Ford Foundation, Russell Sage Foundation, the National Science Foundation, and the National Institutes for Mental Health. In 2004, he was listed in the Political Science 400, a compendium of scholars whose work has been cited most frequently by other researchers.

"This award has special meaning for me because of my long friendship and admiration for Warren E. Miller," said Jennings. "He had a rare vision and talent for institution building. The award is also special because I was able to watch at first hand the development of the ICPSR into a superb resource for researchers and teachers around the world. It is an honor to be associated with its invaluable contributions to the social sciences."

Established in 1962 as a unit within the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan, ICPSR is a membership organization of more than 500 colleges and universities around the world. They work together to acquire and preserve social science data, provide open and equitable access to that data, and promote effective data use.

About UC Santa Barbara

The University of California, Santa Barbara is a leading research institution that also provides a comprehensive liberal arts learning experience. Our academic community of faculty, students, and staff is characterized by a culture of interdisciplinary collaboration that is responsive to the needs of our multicultural and global society. All of this takes place within a living and learning environment like no other, as we draw inspiration from the beauty and resources of our extraordinary location at the edge of the Pacific Ocean.