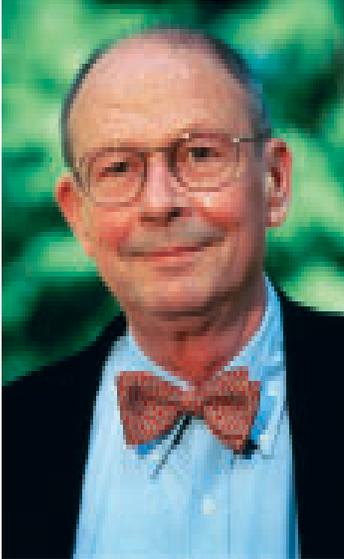




Frank DiMeo/CU



Robert C. Richardson

Working toward Advanced and Stable Societies

As Cornell scientists push ahead with scientific and technological advancements, Cornell’s social scientists are rising to meet the challenges of today’s advanced and developing “third” worlds. They study some of the most pressing issues facing human societies. From the economic and social well-being of people to human development and behavior, the research of Cornell faculty in the social sciences asks questions about our human condition, our societies, and our interactions with each other and our physical environments. Their research topics are disciplinary and interdisciplinary, regional and global, laboratory-based and field-based. Topics sometimes interface with the sciences or with the humanities.

Cornell’s social scientists probe for answers to problems such as poverty, development, and inequality. They seek understanding of issues such as how we transition through the various stages of our lives; why we make the choices, both social and economic, that we make as individuals; and how we coexist on the global scale. Cornell social scientists study the societies in which we live, work, and play—reflected by topics such as built and natural environments, the global workplace, tourism, and policies and laws.

The quest for quality lives for people throughout the world is the arena of both science and technology and the social sciences. With scientific and technological advancements come social responsibility. It is a responsibility of the human race not only to create the intellectual capacity to continue these advancements but also to accommodate and manage them well. This takes societies that function well—societies that can contribute to and share in an ever-advancing world, and at the same time, protect the world’s natural environments.

As the research goals of these areas converge to bring about an improved, well-functioning global society, Cornell research remains at the forefront. The recently instituted Social Sciences Initiative strives to keep the Cornell faculty in the social sciences at the leading edge of research to help bring about an advanced and stable world.

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