STI

Social Trends Institute

FOSTERING UNDERSTANDING

STI is an independent, non-profit research center that offers institutional and financial support to academics in all fields who seek to make sense of emerging social trends and their effects on human communities.
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The Social Trends Institute has a 15-year history of collaborating with academic and cultural institutions of excellence. The activities STI sponsored this year reflect once again this commitment.

The Home Renaissance Foundation hosted The Home in a Digital Age to explore the effects of new technologies on personal environments. It was STI’s second joint venture with this London-based foundation that focuses on the importance of the home as a pillar of society.

Corporate Governance and Ownership with Diverse Shareholders was another collaborative endeavor. Led by IESE’s Center for Corporate Governance, it marked the first such event since STI and IESE Business School reached an agreement to deepen their longstanding cooperation. IESE will contribute to STI’s long-term institutional development, while STI retains its mission, values and autonomous strategy, operations and organization. STI will continue to make funding available to IESE faculty as well as to other scholars with competitive projects that align with its mission.

The University of Navarra was also a partner in this year’s Master’s in Social Science Research Grants, which contribute to STI’s promise to support the young talent who will become tomorrow’s scholars.

Lastly, this year, STI formalized an agreement with the Saxum Foundation regarding collaboration for the Holy Land Dialogues series.

STI is thankful to have such fruitful relationships with these and other important institutions around the world.
Social Trends Institute in Numbers

- **Experts Meetings**: 42
- **Publications**: 47
- **Experts**: 492
- **Institutions**: 209
- **Countries**: 28
THIS YEAR ▶ 2019
Social Trends Institute organizes and sponsors experts meetings of some dozen scholars from a variety of disciplines to study and debate specific issues of current social significance. The conferences are held over a two-and-a-half day period at any one of a number of prestigious universities around the world. They are developed under the oversight of an Academic Leader - a professor expert in the field under consideration. The Academic Leader defines the topic to be studied, poses the principal inquiries, identifies and invites the best thinkers on the issue - representing different disciplines and nationalities, directs contributions, leads discussion and oversees the resulting publication.
Technology is dramatically changing how we live. Society must consider how to cope with the new possibilities and new vulnerabilities it introduces into the home sphere.

Over the coming years, a technological "revolution" will continue to unfold. How will the increasing presence of new technologies in the home affect its pivotal roles in human development and the creation of a balanced and humane society?

Are technology's inroads into the home inevitable, and if so, can the home coexist with this intruder without critical aspects of domestic life becoming compromised, including relationships and work? What might the specific costs be to people's home lives, and how can they be avoided or minimized?

Furthermore, what benefits of an advanced technological age can be identified that can be better exploited in the home to enhance its functioning? How can these emerging components enter the home to benefit the whole?

In the past, social sciences, neurosciences, economics and philosophy have explored the topics of individual constitution and development dynamics, focusing on people's cognition, action, subjectivity, intersubjectivity and their relationship with the environment. But today engineering and bioengineering also play an increasingly relevant role in such an evaluation.

“"The home is a social unit with a set of social connections as well as a physical location."”

Stephen Davies

Principal Inquiries

- Is the invasion by new technologies, for better and worse, inevitable?
- What new factors are in play and how can they be employed to serve the ends that we consider worth preserving in the case of the home and household?
- How might interpersonal and intergenerational relationships in the domestic environment be affected by the new technologies?
- How do new technologies shape feelings of vulnerability, safety, and belonging, and how does the home reflect them?
- Can technology provide psychological and physical rehabilitation or slow the progression of disease?
- How important is social interaction and physical contact for both young and old and is this threatened by modern technology?

A new epistemological approach must be developed that might include disciplines including sociology, economics and law, philosophy and anthropology, and engineering and architecture, which might be able to develop and account for new models of care. The home remains a paradigmatic place where such care models and practices emerge and take place, shaping human personhood, and its bodily dimension as well as social possibilities for development and growth. Such an approach should increasingly conceive the human being not as a subject opposed to the environment, but as an actor in the environment.
Experts who participated in the meeting

Academic Leaders

Marta Bertolaso  
University Campus Bio-Medico Rome

Rosa María Lastra  
Queen Mary University

Maria Tomas-Rodriguez  
University of London City

Speakers

Maria Sophia Aguirre  
Catholic University of America

Homayoun Alemi  
The Bartlett-London's Global University

Luisa Damiano  
University of Messina

Stephen Davies  
Institute of Economic Affairs

Mohamed Gamal Abdelmonem  
Nottingham Trent University

Mei Lin Fung  
The Australian National University

Sonia Livingstone  
London School of Economics (LSE)

Joy Malala  
University of Leeds

Mia Mikic  
United Nations ESCAP

Gloria O. Pasadilla  
University of the Philippines

Ioana Ocnarescu  
Strate School of Design, Paris

Matilde Santos  
University Complutense of Madrid

Francesca Toni  
Imperial College London

HRF team: Mercedes Jaureguibeitia, Susan Peatfield, Bryan K. Sanderson, Angela de Miguel

Joy Mayala presents

Stephen Davies and María Sofía Aguirre

Rosa María Lastra, Mercedes Jaureguibeitia, Sonia Livingstone

Matilde Santos, Francesca Toni, Maria Tomas-Rodriguez
Corporate Governance and Ownership with Diverse Shareholders

October 25-26 | Barcelona, Spain

Many policy recommendations that emerge from the flourishing literature on corporate governance do not take into account the diversity of company owners and the different goals of heterogeneous shareholders in the 21st century. Many of them assume that dispersed shareholders are the representative form of corporate ownership. This hypothesis is still dominant in most theoretical studies and in many empirical studies.

The fact is that ownership around the world in the twentieth century changed in many large countries, has become more heterogeneous and diverse than what is assumed in many studies, and its evolution is shaped by a diversity of factors, such as domestic taxation and regulation, capital markets and different management and business practices.

Understanding that ownership is heterogeneous and diverse has implications on how companies are governed. It is also critical for the improvement of corporate governance at the corporate level and the government’s regulatory activity. In the end, it has an impact on companies’ survival and long-term development—many firms that didn’t survive encountered problems with their own shareholders and their commitment.

This Conference offered a context to reflect upon and better understand how the different nature of shareholders have an impact on the way companies are governed and managed, and, eventually, on some key decisions that define corporate governance—like board composition, board dynamics, CEO hiring and firing, strategy making and incentives design.

“Business should promote welfare, not just wealth.”

Colin Meyer

The event, financed by STI, was organized jointly by IESE’s Center for Corporate Governance (CCG) and the European Corporate Governance Institute (ECGI). Further information about these centers is available on CCG’s conference webpage, as are links to download individual presentations.
### Experts who participated in the meeting

#### Academic Leaders
- Marco Becht, University of Brussels
- Jordi Canals, IESE Business School
- Gaizka Ormazabal, IESE Business School
- Xavier Vives, IESE Business School

#### Speakers
- John C. Coffee, Columbia University
- Alex Edmans, London Business School
- Jill E. Fisch, University of Pennsylvania
- Julian Franks, London Business School
- Josh Lerner, Harvard University
- Colin Meyer, University of Oxford
- Xavier Vives, IESE Business School

#### Discussants
- Marco Becht, University of Brussels
- Antonio Dávila, IESE Business School
- Mireia Giné, IESE Business School
- Charlotte Østergaard, Norwegian Business School
- Krishna Palepu, Harvard Business School
- Rafael Repullo, CEMFI
- Ernst-Ludwig von Thadden, University of Mannheim

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Q & A Session

Andrew MacDougall
OTHER ACTIVITIES

STI's work reaches beyond experts meetings. In its quest to foster understanding, STI supports research projects and academic publications by established scholars and institutions. Another of STI's missions is to support and encourage the scholars of the future, a goal that has inspired STI to organize and sponsor graduate seminars, and to offer grants for postgraduate study in the foundation’s priority research areas. STI also assists the Saxum Foundation to further its cultural outreach by providing scholars for the biennial Holy Land Dialogues event in Jerusalem.
The Social Trends Institute supports future great scholars by contributing to their education under the guidance of established scholars.

The class of 2019-2020 is the fourth group to benefit from the Social Trends Institute Grants for Master’s in Social Science Research. The advanced degrees are awarded by the University of Navarra. The Institute for Culture and Society (ICS) designs an individualized program for each student, but all have in common rigorous training in research practices.

The program, called MICS in its Spanish acronym, offers students the methodological tools to undertake the kind of academic research that fosters understanding of social realities. Several professors who have collaborated in STI Experts Meetings teach some of the courses.

The selected students hail from diverse cultural and academic backgrounds. Under the supervision of ICS Director Ana Marta González, each completes an original Master’s thesis in an area of study that has been the subject of STI Experts Meetings and their associated publications.

Through this scholarship program, STI hopes to help talented students reach their potential to advance their fields of study to the benefit of society.

Tatiana George, Dania Andrade, Renata Coronado, Yuliana Franco, Andrea Bravo and Carmen Basanta.
In addition to the publications that result from experts meetings, STI publishes or supports the publication of other research projects - in journals, reports and books. It also produces the findings of some of the meetings in summary form, and oversees their translation into other European languages. Recently, STI has begun to offer alternative access to its published volumes through Open Access, in order to disseminate STI expert research even further.
The World Family Map 2019: Mapping Family Change and Child Well-being Outcomes

Institute for Family Studies

This is the fifth study from the World Family Map project, which STI is proud to have been supporting since 2013. It is published in both English and Spanish.

This year’s Executive Summary, titled “The Ties that Bind: Is Faith a Global Force for Good or Ill in the Family?” addresses that question by considering the relationship between religion and four key family outcomes: relationship quality, fertility, domestic violence and infidelity, in 11 countries around the globe: Argentina, Australia, Chile, Canada, Colombia, France, Ireland, Mexico, Peru, the United Kingdom, and the United States. It uses data from the World Values Survey and the Global Family and Gender Survey.

Chapter 1 is dedicated to “Faith and Fertility in the 21st Century,” chapter 2 to “Religion and Relationship Quality,” and Chapter 3 to “Religion, Domestic Violence, and Infidelity.” There is an additional Sidebar titled “The Family that Prays Together Flourishes Together.” And as in every previous edition, the Report includes the World Family Map Indicators: 30 pages of up-to-date data for 49 countries that are home to the majority of the world’s population on 16 indicators of family well-being in four major areas:

- **Family Structure**: Family structure considers with whom a child lives, including parents and other family members, and the relationships between them.
- **Family Socioeconomics**: The economic conditions people experience in childhood can have great influence on their development. The indicators in this section include poverty, undernourishment, parental education and employment, and public benefits for families.
- **Family Process**: Family processes describe how families operate: how family members interact with one another, how often they spend time together, and whether they are satisfied with their family lives. These processes can influence the lives of individual family members, for better or for worse.
- **Family Culture**: The family culture indicators monitor national attitudes and values on family issues. They describe the cultural climate in which children grow up.

Publication in Spanish

Mapa mundial de la familia 2019: Cambios en las estructuras familiares y el bienestar de los niños.
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STI experts are prolific in their fields. Through its webpage, newsletter and social media, STI shares their work with its entire community of scholars and friends. Some of the work is directly related to STI, and some of it fans out into the many fields of study that STI experts bring to the task of expanding knowledge of globally significant social issues and trends. STI’s newsletter spotlights several such endeavors each month, through articles, interviews, reviews, and media impacts.
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<td>Faith as a Force for Good in Family Life the World Over</td>
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<td>What Makes People Have Babies?</td>
<td>June 05</td>
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Fashion is a multi-faceted phenomenon that must be considered from many angles to be understood.

How can we incorporate digital technologies and AI into our homes to benefit all household members, particularly those in need of more care – children, the elderly, the infirm or disabled – while guarding against their disadvantages?

Politics should take advantage of women’s experience in solving social conflicts and in mediation work, where they are more active than are men, suggests philosopher Ana Marta González in this opinion piece.

Philosopher Al Mele summarizes for STI the thrust of his latest book. It concerns autonomy and free will, into which Mele has delved in many projects - STI's Is Science Compatible with Our Desire for Freedom? experts meeting among them.

The World Family Map 2019 was presented last week at the Brookings Institution’s Center on Children and Families. The Executive Summary “The Ties that Bind: Is Faith a Global Force for Good or Ill in the Family?”

Demographic transition has as much or more to do with cultural values as with socio-economic factors.
After having signed an agreement with IESE, STI welcomes to its Board of Directors 3 new board members from IESE and another from the University of Navarra. The new board met on July 3 to set a strategy that will open the door for closer cooperation between the two institutions.

Samuel Gregg gives Social Trends Institute a glimpse of his latest book, about the particularities of Western civilization and the challenges it faces.

The field of social robotics introduces robots able to interact socially with humans. Studying the resulting human-robot dynamics can provide humans with a new angle of self-observation.

Oxford professor of philosophy and ethics of information Luciano Floridi describes the new, hybrid existence where the barriers between online and offline have blurred to such a degree that there is no longer any difference: “Onlife,” he calls it.

As firms are communities of people with a shared purpose, they require cooperation to yield not only economic results but also the development of people’s knowledge, abilities, values and virtues.

Heterogeneous and diverse ownership have implications on how companies are governed in the 21st century. Differing shareholder goals should be taken into account when making recommendations or setting policy.
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