

Judith Stepan-Norris is Professor and Chair of Sociology at the University of California, Irvine. Her past administrative roles include Vice Provost for Academic Planning (2014-2019), Chair of the UCI Academic Senate (2009-2010), and Sociology Department Chair (1998-2002; 2020-present).

Her research focuses on social movements that reduce inequalities; it has a predominant concentration on the U.S. labor movement (workers, union structure, union leadership, and union democracy), with other work on the Los Angeles renters' movement and efforts to change gender inequity in higher education.

Her historical co-authored books focus on American unions affiliated with the Congress of Industrial Organizations from the 1930s through the mid-1950s and on the organization of the United Automobile Workers Union at the Ford Motor Company's River Rouge plant. Other research analyzes unions' and churches' impact on their neighborhoods, the AFL-CIO's Union Summer program, workplace networks, and the relevance of rival unionism for change in union density. With Jasmine Kerrissey, she is working on a book to synthesize and analyze the data they collected with Caleb Southworth through an NSF funded project on unions throughout the entire 20th century.

Her research has been recognized with awards from the American Sociological Association, the Society for the Study of Social Problems, and the University of California, Irvine Academic Senate. It has been funded by the National Science Foundation, the American Sociological Association, the UC Institute for Labor and Employment, and the University of California, Irvine.

She teaches undergraduate courses in occupations and professions, research methodology, and the capstone sociology majors seminar. At the graduate level she teaches work and industrial relations, comparative and historical methods, as well as seminars to advance dissertation work.

She has served the department, school, campus, UC, and professional and local communities by participating in and leading committees, workgroups, initiatives, and editorial boards. Her service work was recently recognized by the Academic Senate. Her work with the UCI ADVANCE program spanned two decades, beginning with examining its efficacy in enhancing gender equity among the faculty, serving as the Social Science Equity Advisor, and as chair of the UC-wide Research Scholars Advisory Board for the ADVANCE PAID program.

In the discipline, she has served as Co-Editor of Contemporary Sociology (2006-2008), Associate Editor of Social Problems (1999-2002), member of the ASA Publications Committee (2006-2008), Chair of the ASA Political Sociology Section (2012-2013), Co-founder and Chair of the ASA Labor and Labor Movements Section-In-Formation (2000, 2001), Member of the Pacific Sociological Association (PSA) Publication Committee (1998-2000), Member of the PSA Program Committee (1996-1997), Member of the PSA Executive Council (1995-1997), and Program Chair of the PSA Annual Meeting (1994).