Fifty years ago, a group of Peruvian and foreign intellectuals committed to understanding and envisioning Peru founded the IEP, calling it the Institute of Peruvian Studies (Instituto de Estudios Peruanos). Although the impact of its researchers’ work has reached far beyond our country’s borders, Peru remains the IEP’s main area of interest.

From the original series, Perú Problema, a collection of emblematic texts now recognized as the backbone of social sciences in the country, to new books proposing “a Peru of Solutions”, the IEP has lit the spark of intellectual debate and sown the seed of curiosity for research about Peru and Latin America among its associates, partners, admirers and even its detractors.

Today the IEP is committed to understanding the dilemmas of economic growth with inequality, a crucial issue that will undoubtedly provide research topics for social scientists who are inspired to envision Peru over the next 50 years.
IEP Instituto de Estudios Peruanos

The Institute of Peruvian Studies (Instituto de Estudios Peruanos, IEP) is a non-profit social sciences think tank and research center, where a pluralistic, multidisciplinary group of professionals engages in intellectual reflection about Peru and Latin America, creating forums for dialogue and discussion that shape public opinion and influence public policies.

Its mission is to promote and engage in research, teaching and the dissemination of studies in the social sciences, as a way of contributing to equitable economic development, the strengthening of democratic institutions and recognition of Peru’s identity and the richness of its diversity.

History

In the beginning

The IEP was founded on 7 February 1964 by a group of Peruvian and foreign intellectuals who wanted to create an independent institution for studying Peru from the standpoint of the social sciences. People connected with those early years included José María Arguedas, Jorge Bravo Bresani, Alberto Escobar, John Murra, María Rostworowski, Augusto and Sebastián Salazar Bondy, Luis E. Valcárcel and José Matos Mar, who was the promoter, founder and director of the IEP during its first 20 years.

In its early years, the IEP saw a need for an overall assessment to address the issues of rural society, power relationships, and ethnic, historical and linguistic diversity.
As part of this work, in 1968 the IEP published the first volume of the Peru Problema series, a collection consisting of innovative studies of Peru from the standpoint of Peruvian social sciences. This series is complemented by America Problema, which includes papers about Latin America as a region. Recognition for this international effort came in 1970, when the IEP became the main organizer of the 39th International Congress of Americanists, which was held that year in Lima.

The 1970s

Social and political changes during this decade set the direction for the IEP’s studies, which focused on agrarian reform, the role of the state and the emergence of new social groups. These new ways of looking at Peru led to widely distributed books, such as Clases, Estado y Nación en el Perú by Julio Cotler, published in 1978, which quickly became a classic. The IEP also expanded its historical research, which raised questions about the simplistic view of Peru’s past, underscored the importance of the pluralistic Andean heritage and examined the colonial legacy. The most significant contributions included the books, Formaciones económicas y políticas del mundo andino by John Murra, and La Independencia en el Perú by Heraclio Bonilla, truly novel studies of modernization processes in small farming communities in the highlands, and the first stages of what would later become María Rostworowski’s Historia del Tahuantinsuyu.
Institutional renovation

The 1980s were a decade of great changes. The IEP revamped its internal structures and expanded its assembly, introducing democratic mechanisms for organization and the election of its leaders. This led to the diversification of research topics and an increase in the number of publications.

The creation of an economics research area facilitated study of the relationship between democracy and growth, employment, agriculture, fiscal management and regionalization. Contributions by economists such as Oscar Ugarteche, Efraín Gonzales de Olarte and Francisco Verdera were crucial for a renewal of knowledge in this area.

Outstanding texts during this decade included Desborde popular y crisis del Estado by José Matos Mar (1984). Important studies of internal migration and changes in social relationships crystallized in the texts, Conquistadores de un nuevo mundo by Carlos Iván Degregori, Cecilia Blondet and Nicolás Lynch (1986), and Los caballos de Troya de los invasores by Jürgen Golte and Norma Adams (1990).

During the difficult decade of the 1990s, which was marked by social fragmentation, hyperinflation, terrorism and political crisis, the IEP maintained the quality of its multidisciplinary research.

Violence, gender differences and obstacles to the establishment of a party system were topics that received priority attention. Outstanding works included those by Carlos Iván Degregori on the internal armed conflict. With government decentralization on the horizon, the IEP expanded into the country’s regions, engaging in deconcentrated work with non-governmental organizations and universities in provinces on a key project: the Network for Development of the Social Sciences (Red para el Desarrollo de las Ciencias Sociales), in partnership with the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru and the University of the Pacific.
The IEP in the new century

Since 2000, the research agenda has focused on the effects of decentralization from different standpoints, with the work of Efraín Gonzales de Olarte, Romeo Grompone, Patricia Zárate, Carolina Trivelli, María Isabel Remy, Martín Tanaka and others.

Studies over the past decade have centered on structural analysis of the state and the crisis of the political system, the study of poverty and the increase of inequality in the country, with keys for understanding the problems of exclusion and the fragility of democracy as a political regime. The IEP is now analyzing the country’s ability to face the global crisis and move forward with a more equitable agenda.
The IEP’s organization

The IEP’s top leadership body is its Assembly of Associates, which currently consists of 45 members. Every two years, the assembly elects a director general and a Board of Directors to guide the institute’s work. The Board of Directors consists of seven members who are responsible for the institute’s day-to-day direction. The director general provides overall leadership in coordination with the Board of Directors.

The IEP currently consists of 180 people, including researchers, research assistants and staff in the administration and communications areas and the Editorial Fund.

Members of the Board: Jaime Urrutia, Patricia Ames, Ludwig Huber, Roxana Barrantes, Francesca Uccelli, Natalia González y Martín Tanaka

The IEP’s directors, throughout its history

- Luis E. Valcárcel  
  Honorary Director
- Jorge Bravo Bresani  
  1964 – 1965
- José Matos Mar  
  1965 – 1984
- Julio Cotier  
  1985 – 1986
- Efrain Gonzales de Olarte  
  1987 – 1990
- Carlos Iván Degregori  
  1991 – 1994
- Cecilia Blondet  
  1995 – 2000
- Carolina Trivelli  
  2001 – 2004
- Martín Tanaka  
  2005 – 2006
- Carlos Iván Degregori  
  2007 – 2008
- Marcos Cueto  
  2009 – 2010
- Roxana Barrantes  
  2011 – present
The IEP’s academic community

It is pluralistic, engaging in its work in an atmosphere of intense multidisciplinary dialogue, and it undergoes ongoing generational renewal.

Throughout its 50 years, the IEP has brought together the country’s most outstanding social scientists and provided them with an invaluable forum for intellectual freedom, where they can ask questions, discuss ideas publicly and present their findings with rigorousness.
THE IEP’S ACADEMIC COMMUNITY: RESEARCHERS AND PROJECTS

Researchers: 42
Research assistants: 38

Men: 41%
Women: 59%

21 - 30 years: 52
31 - 40 years: 14
41 - 50 years: 24
51 + years: 10

18 Public universities: 23%
62 Private universities: 77%

With doctorate: 20
With master’s degree: 13

12 Special projects: 26%
35 Research projects: 74%
Research agenda and the IEP’s Institutional Program

In the IEP, research projects respond to the institutional agenda and the initiatives and interests of the researchers. These are organized in three main thematic areas:

- Democracy, governance and decentralization
- Poverty and inequality
- Culture and diversity

The IEP also offers consulting services for government, private and international entities. In addition, the researchers participate in courses, develop proposals and obtain resources for their research projects. All of these efforts contribute to the diversification of sources of funding.

INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAM

The Institutional Program links various research projects, maintaining a common framework that facilitates holistic, multidisciplinary reflection about problems that Peru faces in its development.

The Institutional Program (2009 – 2012), “Between consolidation of development and deepening inequality,” explored the contradiction between economic growth and the persistent inequality of opportunities and political, social and cultural discrimination.

The new Institutional Program, “State and society in middle-income Peru” (2013 – 2016), begins with the findings of the earlier program and uses the concept of the “middle-income trap” to discuss Peru’s progress and the possible adoption of mechanisms to consolidate that progress in the future.

The program focuses on four key study areas:

- The new middle-income political economy
- The new social stratification and differentiation and dynamics of relations with the state
- The processes and actors that shape agendas for institutional change
- Rationales behind the functioning of the state
THE IEP AND THE THINK TANK INITIATIVE

Since 2011, the IEP has been part of the Think Tank Initiative (TTI), which strengthens independent research institutions that engage in research on public policies in developing countries. The TTI has provided financing to 49 think tanks in 22 countries worldwide, to enhance the quality of research, strengthen institutional organization and administration, and improve channels of communication and advocacy.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

The IEP’s academic experience meets practice in special projects. These projects combine research with formation in and dissemination of social sciences, academic networks and actions that promote development. Key special projects include:

- Proyecto Capital (Ford Foundation)
- DIRSI – Regional Dialogue on the Information Society (IDRC)
- Leer es estar adelante (BBVA Foundation)
- Municipio al Día (IFC – World Bank Group)
The Editorial Fund

The IEP’s imprint is one of the most important in the social sciences in the entire Andean region.

The Editorial Fund has published more than 800 titles in 32 thematic series. Every year, about 30 new books are published and distributed through the country’s major bookstores, specialized bookstores abroad and the Virtual Shop on the web site: www.iep.org.pe.

Since 2011, the IEP has published digital versions of its publications (in PDF format), which can be downloaded free from the Virtual Library on its web site. With its launch of digital editions in 2013, the IEP published 33 e-books, which can be consulted and acquired through the e-Libro platform (e-libro.com/e-libro.net), which is connected with libraries in Latin America, Spain, Portugal and the United States.

The IEP’s Editorial Fund participates in leading national and international book fairs and events to make the ideas and arguments contained in its publications and the results of its research available to the public.

Book Presentations
María Rostworowski Library

The IEP has a library specializing in social sciences, which serves university students, researchers, teachers, professionals and the public. It includes 35,000 titles organized in various collections. Notable collections include those by Fernando Romero on Afro-Peruvians; Maria Rostworowski on ethnohistory, John Murra on anthropology; Carlos Iván Degregori on anthropology, violence and human rights; and Gustavo Gorriti’s microfilm collection on violence and the Shining Path.

**LIBRARY**

**Virtual library downloads**
20,000 downloads a month, on average

**Consultations of library’s on-line catalogue**
1,300 consultations a month, on average
Academic activities and dissemination of work

The IEP engages in ongoing activities to encourage debate and share the knowledge produced by its researchers with experts and the public.

GREEN TABLES

These discussion meetings, which focus on a single topic or study, are held regularly in the IEP with the participation of in-house researchers and guest researchers.

SOCIAL SCIENCES FORMATION PROGRAM

This initiative allows researchers from the IEP and other academic institutions to present the results of their work in courses, seminars or workshops. The annual program’s courses are an important channel of communication between national and international scientific communities. They promote research agendas inspired by current events and the development of the social sciences in Peru and Latin America.

SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS AND ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSIONS

The IEP offers these activities, which are open to the public, to disseminate knowledge and promote democratic and inclusive development in Peru.

CHOLONAUTAS

This virtual platform encourages academic use of the Internet, promotes better teaching in the social sciences and contributes to the interconnection of the academic community in Peru and the Andean region.

REVISTA ARGUMENTOS

www.revistargumentos.org.pe

With a style that combines an academic approach with journalistic language, this electronic journal published by the IEP seeks to connect reflection on current affairs with social research into new and persistent problems in the country. It is published in March, May, July, September and November.
NEW FORMS OF COMMUNICATION

In the public debate over the country’s social, economic and cultural problems, the IEP and its researchers have established an active media presence, promoting analysis and presenting evidence resulting from their research.

The IEP disseminates its studies, publications and activities through its institutional web page; social media such as Facebook and Twitter, where it has tens of thousands of visitors and followers; and its YouTube channel, with thousands of video views every month. Through these channels, the IEP offers a steady flow of content in accessible, journalistic language, enabling it to reach new audiences, especially young professionals and university students in various parts of the country and Latin America.

**Key digital communications traffic data:**

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<th>Platform</th>
<th>Traffic Data</th>
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<tr>
<td>FACEBOOK</td>
<td>More than 50,000 followers to date</td>
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<tr>
<td>TWITTER</td>
<td>More than 22,000 followers to date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YOUTUBE</td>
<td>Average of 8,000 video views a month</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL DONORS

Throughout its 50 years of institutional life, the IEP’s work has been made possible by the generous support of various institutions and organizations, including:

NATIONAL


INTERNATIONAL

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50 years envisioning Peru