

Annual Report 2023-2024



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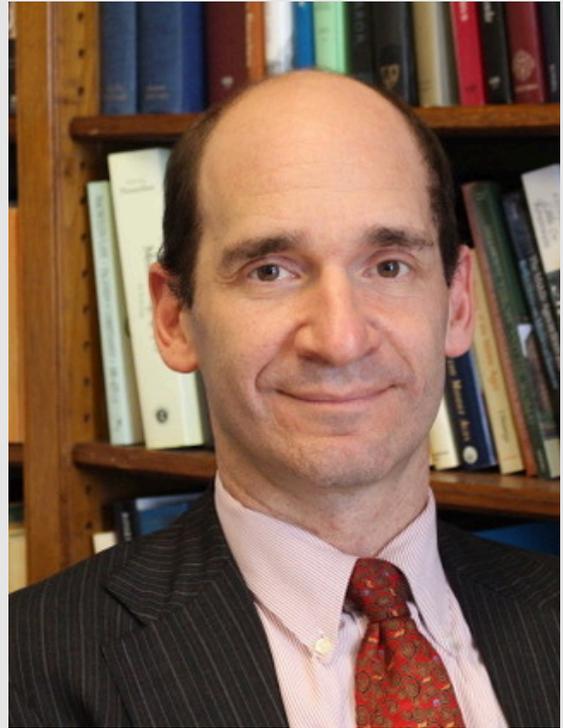
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Co-Directors



Alessandra Casella

Professor of Economics and
Political Science



Adam Kosto

Professor of History

Message from

The Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy (ISERP) in the Faculty of Arts & Sciences at Columbia University supports research within the Social Science departments and the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA). During the 2023–2024 academic year, ISERP remained committed to its mission and advanced its efforts to strengthen connections within the Social Science community at Columbia.

ISERP awarded seven seed grants to Social Science faculty: Douglas Almond in Economics & SIPA, Sarah Daly in Political Science, Eunji Kim and John Marshall in Political Science, Eunji Kim and Naoki Egami in Political Science, Qingmin Liu in Economics, David Knight in Sociology, and Naor Ben-Yehoyada in Anthropology. We sponsored one workshop in its second year of funding, directed by Naor Ben-Yehoyada. With funding made possible by former Dean of Social Sciences Professor Fredrick Harris, ISERP introduced a new program aimed at supporting cross-disciplinary and interdisciplinary workshops, speaker series, or conferences that center on criminal justice research. In its first year, this program awarded two workshop grants, to David Knight and Bruce Western, both in Sociology.

We continued our sponsorship of workshops and conferences, including those that were postponed due to the pandemic. We directly funded a total of 13 proposals from faculty and graduate students across five departments, and contributed to even more departmental seminars and other programming through ISERP's Block Grants. As part of the New Book Series initiative—a collaboration with the Society of Fellows and Heyman Center for the Humanities—we celebrated the publication of Professor Pamela H. Smith's new work, *From Lived Experience to the Written Word: Reconstructing Practical Knowledge in the Early Modern World* (University of Chicago Press, 2022), in History.

In the summer of 2023, the ISERP-sponsored "Writing the History of COVID-19: Lessons for the Next Pandemic" research program ended. It had brought together a community of dedicated scholars and students to address the challenges of documenting the pandemic with the influx of born-digital materials. In June 2024, ISERP sponsored and assisted with the second iteration of "Archives as Data: An Institute for Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities," hosted by the History Lab and led by History's Professor Matthew Connelly. At this workshop, historians and archivists convened for a discussion on archival research in the age of big data.

ISERP played a vital role in facilitating the acquisition of 26 new grants by faculty members. We are currently managing 96 active grants, amounting to a cumulative funding of \$15,006,034 from a mix of government, private, and non-federal grants. These projects include a range of activities, such as faculty research, doctoral dissertation research, and bringing together scholars and practitioners.

ISERP also contributed to data acquisition for two projects: the Center for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE)–States of India set and the L2 Voter Data set. The CMIE–States of India data set is available through the Columbia Library and provides important data information on the Indian economy. The L2 Voter Data set, available through the [Columbia Data Platform](#), is particularly exciting in that it grants Columbia affiliates easy access to detailed US voter, consumer, and constituent data. There are three modules available: L2 Uniform Data, Voter History Data, and Demographics Data. In addition, ISERP, along with other schools and departments at Columbia, continues to support the New York Federal Statistical Research Data Center. [NYRDC](#) is used by multiple researchers on the Morningside and CUIMC campuses.

On the teaching front, in fall 2023, the MA Program in Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences (QMSS) welcomed a cohort of 157 students. Coming from various backgrounds and with diverse goals, QMSS students distinguished themselves across Columbia by joining research teams, working with a number of partner organizations via large-scale practicum projects, and serving as research assistants for faculty. Notably, QMSS student Taylor Francisco won the Audience Choice Award for Most Innovative

Our Directors

Thesis at the GSAS-Wide Synthesis Showcase. QMSS graduates continue to find themselves in high demand, finding employment at leading companies and institutions across a range of fields.

This was a big year for ISERP's communications efforts. We revamped the ISERP website by restructuring its layout and introducing new pages to increase collaboration between the Social Science departments. Highlights include a newly-launched "[Find a Social Scientist](#)" page that organizes faculty members by their research interests. We also divided the website into two sections: one for public-facing programming initiatives and another for administrative services that is accessible only to Columbia affiliates.

To increase ISERP's visibility on College Walk, ISERP commissioned artist Anastasia Lopoukhine to illustrate posters for our display box. You can see an example of her work on the cover page of this annual report. Anastasia is a New York-based Franco-Russian artist educated in the United Kingdom and the United States who specializes in large-scale drawings in various mediums. For ISERP, she has created captivating illustrations featuring imaginative pigeon characters in different settings.

We released two more episodes of our podcast "Espresso with the Experts," which is hosted and run by Political Science PhD candidates Beatrice Bonini and Leila Travaglini. This podcast features conversations between the hosts and Columbia-affiliated experts on contemporary social and political debates. We released the episodes "Cutting Edge Legislation on Climate Change: A Conversation with Professor and Lawyer Michael Gerrard" and "Incorporating Ethical Standards in Digital Platforms and AI Tools: A Conversation with Professor Tamar Mitts and McKinney Gray Analytics LLC CEO and QMSS Alumna Miriam McKinney." We plan to release two additional episodes next year. These efforts have fostered increased interaction and dialogue among the Social Science faculty, students, and alumni within the Columbia community.

We also published two new issues of our Working Papers Bulletin, showcasing unpublished research papers authored by faculty members in the Social Sciences. These papers are kept on a private ISERP webpage only accessible to people with Columbia and Barnard UNIs. This initiative has increased the visibility of faculty research across the Social Science departments and the broader university community.

Navigating the challenges presented by the 2023–2024 academic year, ISERP continued to serve as a vital resource of valuable information about important activities and prospects in the Social Sciences. As we reflect on our accomplishments and support for students and faculty across the six Social Science departments and SIPA this past year, we look forward to further enriching this vibrant community of dedicated researchers.

Alessandra Casella and Adam Kosto

Research Development Office

Research Development

The Research Development Office (RDO) supports investigators in the departments of Anthropology, Economics, History, Political Science, Sociology, and African American and African Diaspora Studies, as well as the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA). For information on our full services, you can [visit our website](#).

Last year, the RDO helped submit 44 grant proposals to government agencies, foreign institutions, and private foundations. 26 grants were awarded—see the list of titles, researchers, and sponsors on pages 6–7. Successful proposals include funding for faculty research, doctoral student dissertations, training for early career researchers, and scholarly convenings.

Throughout the year, ISERP held several professional development workshops for graduate students in the Social Science departments. These workshops focused on identifying funding, applying to funding, and understanding the institutional requirements associated with receiving funds. They were well received and we plan to continue them in the coming year.

Full-time faculty in the Social Science departments and SIPA are eligible to apply for up to \$40,000 in seed funding to develop proposals for external sponsors. ISERP issued two calls for proposals in FY24 and awarded seven seed grants, which are outlined below.



External Grants

Using Weather Forecasts to Identify Economic Behavior

Sponsor: National Science Foundation (NSF)

Researcher: Jeffrey Shrader, Assistant Professor of International and Public Affairs

Updating Teacher Beliefs about Autistic Students' Quality of Life

Sponsor: Weiss Fund/Chicago

Researcher: Eric Verhoogen, Professor of Economics and International and Public Affairs

Student: Tushar Kundu, PhD Candidate in Economics

Popularity, Social Networks and Student Outcomes

Sponsor: Weiss Fund/Chicago

Researcher: Cristian Pop-Eleches, Professor of International and Public Affairs

Student: Palaash Bhargava, PhD Candidate in Economics

Party Lines or Voter Preferences? Explaining Political Realignment

Sponsor: George Mason University

Researcher: Suresh Naidu, Professor of International and Public Affairs and Jack Wang and Echo Ren Professor of Economics

Student: Nicolas Marx, PhD Candidate in Sustainable Development

Approaches Toward External Validity of Randomized Controlled Trials in the Social Sciences

Sponsor: National Science Foundation (NSF)

Researcher: Naoki Egami, Assistant Professor of Political Science

Never on Silent: Phone Demands on Female Microentrepreneurs

Sponsor: Weiss Fund/Chicago

Researcher: Eric Verhoogen, Professor of Economics and International and Public Affairs

Student: Nadia Ali, PhD Candidate in Economics

Minority Candidate Emergence in the U.S.: Barriers, Motivations and Strategies

Sponsor: American Political Science Association

Researcher: Yamil Velez, Assistant Professor of Political Science

Student: Diana Lee, PhD Candidate in Political Science

Leveraging Quasi-Experimental Methods to Evaluate Foster Care Reform in California

Sponsor: TAY-Hub

Researcher: Sandra Black, Professor of Economics and of International and Public Affairs

Student: Kate Musen, PhD Candidate in Economics

Legibility and Statebuilding in West and North Africa

Sponsor: American Political Science Association

Researcher: John Marshall, Associate Professor of Political Science

Student: Aaron Christensen, PhD Candidate in Political Science

Land Redistribution and Productivity: Evidence from a Peruvian Reform

Sponsor: Weiss Fund/Chicago

Researcher: Eric Verhoogen, Professor of Economics and International and Public Affairs

Student: Dafne Murillo, PhD Candidate in Economics

Kabir Banerjee Predoctoral Fellowship

Sponsor: Weiss Fund/Chicago

Researcher: Eric Verhoogen, Professor of Economics and International and Public Affairs

Improving Latinx Knowledge and Acceptance of Preventative Health: A Community-Centered Ethnic Media Public Health Communication Randomized Control Trial

Sponsor: University of California, Berkeley

Researchers: Yamil Velez, Assistant Professor of Political Science, and Stephanie Zonszein, Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of California, Berkeley

EAGER: Using Large Language Models to Model Threats to Sensitive Information

Sponsor: National Science Foundation (NSF)

Researcher: Matthew Connelly, Professor of History

External Grants

Decentralized Escrow: Easing Contracting Frictions for Small Enterprises

Sponsor: Weiss Fund/Chicago

Researcher: Jack Willis, Assistant Professor of Economics

Data-Driven Methods for Missing Data Imputation in Surgical Disparities Research Inference

Sponsor: University of Pittsburgh

Researcher: Andrew Gelman, Professor of Statistics and Political Science

Control Data: American Power and the Global Assembly Line, 1957-1992

Sponsor: National Science Foundation (NSF)

Researcher: Elizabeth Blackmar, Mary and David Boies Professor of American History

Student: Ella Coon, PhD Candidate in History

Collaborative Research: Transparency and the Rule of Law: A Field Experiment in Ukraine

Sponsor: Northwestern University

Researcher: Timothy Frye, Marshall D. Shulman Professor of Post-Soviet Foreign Policy, Political Science

The Enemy Is Within: Elite Affective Polarization in American Politics

Sponsor: Russell Sage Foundation

Researcher: Gregory Wawro, Professor of Political Science

Student: Sam Frederick, PhD Candidate in Political Science

What Is Fair? Disentangling Public Conceptions of Merit and Equity in the Age of Inequality

Sponsor: Russell Sage Foundation

Researcher: Marissa Thompson, Assistant Professor of Sociology

DDRIG: Reassembling Art, Science, and Technology: Goldsmithing, and the Making of Objects During the Renaissance and Its Impact on Modern Science and Technology

Sponsor: National Science Foundation (NSF)

Researcher: Pamela Smith, Seth Low Professor of History

Student: Celine Camps, PhD Candidate in History

Immigration Replenishment, Residential Segregation, and the Reconfiguration of Ethnoracial Boundaries in the United States

Sponsor: George Mason University

Researcher: Thomas DiPrete, Giddings Professor of Sociology

Student: Flavien Ganter, PhD Candidate in Sociology and Paul F. Lazarsfeld Fellow

DDRIG: Intimate Crises: The History of Notions of Sexuality and Gender in the 19th and 20th Century

Sponsor: National Science Foundation (NSF)

Researcher: Marwa Elshakry, Associate Professor of History

Student: Jamil Sbitan, PhD Candidate in History

SEWA Wage Loss Insurance Experiment: Evaluating the Sustainability and Scalability of an Insurance Product to Protect Against Wage Loss Due to Hospitalization

Sponsor: Weiss Fund/Chicago

Researcher: Pietro Tebaldi, Assistant Professor of Economics

Insurance at Scale

Sponsor: United States Agency for International Development/Pula Insurance

Researcher: Jack Willis, Assistant Professor of Economics

Doctoral Dissertation Research: The Political Economy of Congestion Pricing: Evidence from New York City (Wave 2)

Sponsor: National Science Foundation (NSF)

Researcher: Donald Davis, Ragnar Nurkse Professor of Economics

Student: Natalie Yang, PhD Candidate in Economics

Advance Warning and Response Exemplars (AWARE)

Sponsor: Brown University

Researcher: Natalia Pasternak, Adjunct Senior Research Scholar in the Center for Science and Society

Faculty Highlights

In the Faculty Research section, we shine a spotlight on the research of certain faculty members across the Social Sciences.

Douglas Almond

Professor of Economics and
International and Public Affairs



Almond

Douglas Almond and his co-investigator, Xinming Du at the National University of Singapore, have been working on an ISERP-supported project entitled “Catalyzing Climate Change: Modifiable Methane Leaks and the Fossil Supply Chain.” Methane accounts for 30% of the increase in global temperatures since pre-industrial times (United Nations, 2021). Not only are global methane concentrations increasing, they have been increasing at an accelerating rate. Particularly in the United States, fossil fuels are the preponderant driver of increasing methane emissions. Jackson et al. (2020) find that 80% of the methane increase in the US from the early 2000s to 2017 came from fossil fuel-related methane emissions through fugitive pipeline leaks, venting, etc. Increased methane emissions parallel the massive increase in US fossil fuel production enabled by new fossil-extraction technologies, including hydraulic fracturing (fracking). The US is now the world’s top producer of oil and gas.

Estimates of the methane leakage rate from the oil and gas sector have been increasing over time, thanks in part to improved measurement technologies, especially satellite-based measures. Many recent estimates of methane leakage are sufficiently high as to imply that natural gas is worse for global warming over the next twenty years than coal.

Fortunately, their ISERP-supported work finds that methane leakage rates can be responsive to public policy. Their evidence comes from the end of first Trump administration. In August 2020, Obama-era federal requirements that oil and gas firms detect and repair methane leaks were lifted. Almond and Du merged GIS coordinates of 1,193,575 wells, 478 natural gas processing facilities, and 1,367 compressor stations to geo-identified methane concentrations from the European TROPOMI (satellite instrument). Using a difference-in-differences design, they found a large, prompt increase in US methane emissions at oil and gas infrastructure sites following the August 2020 rollback relative to areas without such infrastructure. Average methane concentrations increased by 5 parts per billion (ppb), or one quarter of a standard deviation. The number of high-methane emission events from the oil and gas sector more than doubled relative to the coal sector, which did not experience the rollback. Their finding highlights policy’s central role in curbing global methane concentrations.

Work in progress considers methane releases related to the export of natural gas as liquefied natural gas (LNG). Thanks to the US fracking boom and recent export-friendly US policies, the United States has become the world’s #1 LNG exporter. Almond and Du’s new work assesses leakages in methane occurring during the unloading of LNG abroad, a growing methane source that has been all but ignored.

REFERENCE:
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Ben-Yehoyada



Naor H. Ben-Yehoyada

Associate Professor of Anthropology

At the height of the Cold War, various state officials, politicians, middlemen, and mafiosi operated in transnationally transporting toxic (chemical & radioactive) waste from Italy to Nigeria, Venezuela, Romania, Lebanon, and Somalia during the 1980s. The circuit stood at the center of several Italian Parliamentary investigative commissions (with self-described inconclusive reports in 1995, in 2001, and in 2018) and numerous journalistic and judicial investigations.

In their research, Naor Ben-Yehoyada and his colleagues focus on the structure, dynamics, and ramifications of the Italian-Somali branch of this circuit. What forms of transnational political relations mobilized to facilitate the transit and depositing of toxic waste, and how did these circuits reshape those relations? What traces did such toxic material leave en route? What damaging effects did it have on humans and non-humans both in places of transit and where it was deposited? How did erstwhile and ongoing colonial and imperial relations shape locations, actions, and transactions along the route? What political imaginaries of shared fate, reparation, responsibility, and evidence motivate the aftermath of this dumping of fateful waste?

This year, Ben-Yehoyada and other investigators conducted preliminary archival research and analysis regarding two dozen investigations into one or more individual cases of toxic ships or shipments, based in State Prosecutor's Offices throughout Italy. In April, Professors Jatin Dua and Naor Ben-Yehoyada presented their preliminary findings as a keynote lecture, "[Dumping Fate: Toxic Waste and its Maritime Aftermath](#)," at the opening of the 2024 Evasion Graduate Fellow Workshop, held by the Evasion Lab, an Andrew Mellon Foundation Sawyer Seminar hosted by the Centre for Diaspora & Transnational Studies at the University of Toronto. This October, they will convene their team of researchers for each of the involved countries and regions. They are planning on applying to NSF collaborative research grants and are ascertaining their eligibility for EU ERC grants.

Eunji KimAssistant Professor of Political Science



As a political communication scholar, Eunji Kim has been dedicated to exploring the implications of the evolving media landscape in America through two key avenues. The first focuses on the rise of social media influencers. Despite widespread political apathy and skepticism toward traditional authorities among young adults, and a general decline in news consumption, influencers seem to capture the attention of this demographic. However, the critical question remains: Do these seemingly frivolous yet engaging and trusted figures have a lasting impact on political values, substantive attitudes, and behaviors? To address this, Professor John Marshall (Political Science), Kirill Chmel (PhD Student in Political Science), and Kim have partnered with the Better Internet Initiative, a progressive organization based in Washington, D.C., to conduct an innovative online field experiment. This study, set to take place throughout this fall, examines the effects of exposing young people to five months of progressive narrative change messages delivered by social media influencers on platforms like Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube. This will be the first large-scale field experiment to quantify the political influence of these digital actors, whose impact is often assumed but rarely rigorously tested.

The second area of Professor Kim's research addresses the phenomenon of news avoidance. Given this trend, experimental studies on media effects must carefully consider external validity, as they typically focus on the conditional effects of forced exposure to relevant information—essentially, the estimated impact of information if consumed. For instance, NGOs might find that their climate advocacy messaging is effective in experimental settings, but if no one actually engages with the message in the real world, its influence is nullified. In collaboration with Professor Naoki Egami (Political Science), Kim is investigating the conditions under which people choose to consume or ignore political information, as well as the extent to which similar information, when presented in an entertaining format, can resonate with a broader segment of the American electorate.

At Columbia's Arts and Sciences and SIPA, there is now a strong concentration of researchers specializing in political communication, whose expertise ranges from partisan media and propaganda to misinformation and social media dynamics. Building on this strength, Professor Tamar Mitts (SIPA) and Kim have been organizing the annual Media Effects Empirical Workshop (MEEW) since 2023, with support from the ISERP Conference Grant program. The 2024 workshop brought together leading scholars and emerging junior researchers, showcasing six papers on topics ranging from field experiments using WhatsApp in Colombia and Chinese propaganda on TikTok to studies about Reddit and the impact of pro-police entertainment media in the United States.

Knight



David Knight

Assistant Professor of Sociology

This past year, David Knight launched a new project that examines people’s experiences with policing and non-police emergency interventions in Northern California. Funded with a seed grant from ISERP, the new project uses quasi-experimental techniques to understand the shape and prevalence of certain types of carceral entanglements in the region and the implications of those entanglements for racial health equity. The project also uses quasi-experimental techniques to explore the role of protest and community-based mobilization in the shift toward non-police emergency interventions. Finally, the project uses in-depth interviews and longitudinal surveys to explore the quotidian experiences of locals with these countervailing forces.

With the seed grant support, Knight launched each of these components of the project this year, expanded his research capacity by hiring a team with methodological and content expertise, and secured the survey software to catalyze the qualitative portion of the project. For the next academic year, Knight plans to continue data collection for the qualitative component of the project. He also plans to conclude analyses on the quasi-experimental components of the project and to publish those findings in peer-reviewed journals. The findings of this research have scholarly and practical implications across the social sciences and public health.

Knight also convened the Carcerality, Law, and Punishment Workshop for the 2023-24 academic year. The aim of the workshop, a collaboration with other units at Columbia and with the NYU Sociology department, is to bring scholars and institutes that do resonant work on the carceral system together for a deeper and more focused dialogue on new directions in the field. The theme of the workshop in 2023-24 was “Interrogating Lived Experience.” Researchers, policymakers, and advocates increasingly underscore the importance of lived experience for conducting research and constructing positive policy change in the carceral system, but with relatively little critical engagement into the multiple ways lived experience is developed, deployed, and appropriated in research and policy on the carceral system.

Speakers for the 2023-24 year presented published works and works-in-progress on topics including labor and abolition, trans experiences with the prison state, child protective services, the emotional and physical experience of doing time in jail, reentry after release from incarceration, the long history of state repression and prisoner resistance at Attica prison, and Black-led movements for redress and safety from carceral harm. Workshop participants included faculty in the Arts and Sciences; doctoral, masters, and JD students; staff members; high school students; artists; and activists and independent scholars from the local community.

With the support of ISERP, the workshop will continue in the 2024-25 academic year. The theme will focus on public engagement in research on the carceral system.

Jack WillisAssistant Professor of Economics



Agriculture is the main income source for most households in sub-Saharan Africa, yet trade in its main input, land, is sparse. The consequences are argued to be pervasive—for rural livelihoods, agricultural productivity, and structural change—but there is relatively little evidence. In their paper “Land Rental Markets: Experimental Evidence from Kenya,” Jack Willis and his co-authors present a three-year experiment in Western Kenya where they offered landowners a subsidy to rent out agricultural plots. The rentals led to substantial gains in output and the rentals persisted; they consider the sources of these gains and the barriers to achieving them more broadly.

Exclusion from financial markets is another barrier for the rural poor. In “Value Chain Microfinance,” a recent review paper, they argue that innovative microfinance products can serve financially excluded households by harnessing their existing relationships. For example, firms that regularly buy crops from small farmers may provide them with credit for inputs early in the season, deducting repayment from harvest revenues. The paper presents existing such examples, outlines when and why tying contracts can be a good (or bad) idea, and discusses potential new applications.

Insurance markets are one application Jack Willis is working on. While risk is particularly costly for the poor, they are often the least likely to be insured. In previous work, Jack Willis and his co-authors showed that a novel crop insurance design, enabled by tying insurance to an existing contract, increased take-up substantially, especially among the poorest farmers. Current work considers further implications of the design. For health insurance, they are working with hospitals who offer insurance directly to their patients. Through an experiment in three hospitals in Uganda, they are studying the trade-off between copays and premiums and how they affect take-up and usage.

Faculty Publications

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Faculty Publications

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Faculty Publications

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- Sobel, M. E., Wawro, G. J., & Farhang, S. (2023). Association and causation: Attributes and effects of judges in equal employment opportunity commission litigation outcomes. *The Annals of Applied Statistics*, 17(4), 3526–3549. doi.org/10.1214/23-AOAS1774
- Stark, D. (Ed.). (2024). *Practicing sociology: Tacit knowledge for the social scientific craft*. Columbia University Press.
- Stephens, R. (2024). Conceptual history in precolonial contexts: A view from East Africa. *History of Humanities*, 9(1), 129–141. doi.org/10.1086/729079
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- Woodford, M. (2024). Beyond the natural rate: Stephen Marglin on the instability of market economies. *Journal of Economic Literature*, 62(1), 294–316. doi.org/10.1257/jel.20221712
- Zhang, H., Lu, Y., & Bai, R. (2023). Selection and description bias in protest reporting by government and news media on Weibo. *The China Quarterly*, 257, 75–99. doi.org/10.1017/S0305741023001042

Events

New Book Series

New Book Series (NBS) events are panel discussions celebrating recent works by Columbia faculty in the Arts and Sciences, co-sponsored by ISERP and the Social Science departments. Each year, ISERP sends out two calls for faculty members to sign up. If you have a book coming out this year and would like to hold such an event, please reach out to iserp-events@columbia.edu. This year, we held one NBS event.

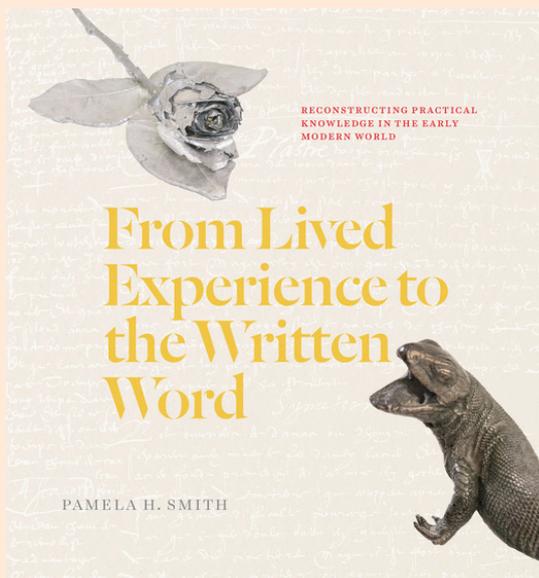
March 1, 2024

Celebrating Recent Work by Pamela H. Smith

Seth Low Professor of History; Director of the Center for Science and Society

From Lived Experience to the Written Word: Reconstructing Practical Knowledge in the Early Modern World

Panelists: Caroline Bynum, Deborah L. Krohn, Caterina Pizzigoni, Pablo Piccato



Conferences

ISERP releases Calls for Proposals each fall and spring. Faculty in the six Social Science departments or SIPA are eligible to apply for Conference funding. Graduate students in the same departments or SIPA are eligible to apply for Graduate Student Conference funding. Learn more about how to secure funding for your proposed conference on ISERP's website:

Conferences

Graduate Student Conferences

September 15-16	Nations in Fragments: A Conference in Honor of Partha Chatterjee Organized by Manan Ahmed
September 22	Conference on Interactions in International and Domestic Human Rights Organized by Stephanie Char and Lisa Fan (Graduate Students)
September 22-24	New York – Cambridge Training Collaboration in 20th Century British History (NYCTC) Organized by Susan Pedersen
November 10	Global Perspectives on the Criminalization of Migration Organized by Giorgia Mirto and Chloe Howe Haralambous (Graduate Students)
December 8	Accumulation: A Conference on Dance History Organized by Juliana DeVaun and Emily Hawk (Graduate Students)
February 2	Labor Past and Present: Bringing History and Activism Together Organized by Isobel A. Plowright, Juliana DeVaun, Samuel Joe-Guan Niu, and Anusha Sundar (Graduate Students)
March 28-30	Columbia Conference on the Coproduction of Knowledge for Climate, Conservation, and Communities Organized by Michael A. Petriello, Pamela H. Smith, Ajit Subramaniam, and Paige West
April 19	The 2nd Annual Conference in Honor of Robert Jervis: “The Dark State? Government Secrecy and American Democracy” Organized by Matthew Connelly, Jameel Jaffer, and David Pozen
April 25	New (and Old) Directions in Historical Political Economy Organized by Benjamin Kodres-O'Brien and Ella Maria Coon (Graduate Students)
May 3	Media Effects Empirical Workshop (MEEW) Organized by Tamar Mitts and Eunji Kim

Conference Posters

Labor Past & Present

February 2nd, 2023 9AM-6PM
Columbia University Law School
Jerome L. Greene Hall, Room 106



<https://www.columbia.edu/event/conference-labor-past-and-present-bringing-history-and-activism-together>

Interactions in International and Domestic Human Rights Conference

September 22, 2023
International Affairs Building, Room 918

9AM-5PM

Sign up: <https://hrnyu.com/whconference>
Email: wh@protonmail.com or wh@hrnyu.com

MEDIA EFFECTS EMPIRICAL WORKSHOP

Annual workshop featuring latest research in political communication across subfields

Friday May 3rd, 2024
10am-4:15pm

707 International Affairs Building

RSVP Link: 

Speakers

- **Nejla Asimovic (Penn):** Bridging the Digital Divide: Data Access and Integration of Venezuelan Migrants in Colombia
- **Alexandra Siegel (Colorado):** Co-optation and Coercion of Online Influencers: Evidence from Saudi Wikipedia
- **Jennifer Allen (MIT):** Harnessing Partisan Motives to Solve the Misinformation Problem
- **Karthik Srinivasan (Chicago):** Paying Attention
- **Tyler Rens (Claremont):** Copaganda: Entertainment, Media Origins of Policing Attitudes
- **Brandon M. Stewart (Princeton):** Speaking with the State's Voice: The Decade-Long Growth of Government-Authorized News Media in China under Xi Jinping

NATIONS IN FRAGMENTS

A CONFERENCE IN HONOR OF PARTHA CHATTERJEE



FRIDAY & SATURDAY
SEP 15-16, 2023

BUELL HALL
COLUMBIA

Sponsored by:

- Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy
- Department of Political Science
- Department of History
- Department of Anthropology
- Department of Media, Culture, & Society
- South Asia Institute

Global Perspectives on the Criminalization of Migration

November 10th 2023

Genealogies of a Criminological Paradigm

The Politics of Facilitation

The Political Life of Border Death

Roundtable

ACCUMULATION

A conference on **DANCE HISTORY AND THE SOCIAL SCIENCES**

December 8, 2023

The Lehman Center for American History
Columbia University
420 W 118 St, Room 406

COLUMBIA ISEERP
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY



New (and Old) Directions in Historical Political Economy

25 April 2024
9am-5pm

World Room, Pulitzer Hall
Columbia School of Journalism



PH. use Chrome

Initiatives

Centers

Applied Statistics Center
Director: Andrew Gelman

**Working Group on
Computational Social
Science**
Director: Augustin
Chaintreau

**Columbia Experimental
Laboratory for the Social
Sciences**
Director: Mark Dean
Associate Director: Jacopo
Perego

The AI Model Share Project
Director: Michael Parrott

**Center on African American
Politics and Society**
Director: Fredrick C. Harris

**Center on Organizational
Innovation**
Director: David Stark

**Center for the Study of
Wealth and Inequality**
Directors: Thomas DiPrete,
Yao Lu, and Marissa
Thompson

Workshops



David Knight

Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology | Faculty Fellow, Institute for Research in African-American Studies

Interrogating Lived Experience: New Directions in Criminal Justice Research, a Workshop on Carcerality, Law, and Punishment



Naor Ben-Yehoyada

Associate Professor of Anthropology

The 'Crime-Criminalization Nexus' Seminar



Bruce Western

Bryce Professor of Sociology and Social Justice | Director, Justice Lab

Seminar on Criminal Justice Research and Policy Change

ISERP Podcast

Last year, ISERP launched a new podcast series titled “Espresso with the Experts,” founded and run by PhD candidates Beatrice Bonini and Leila Travaglini. This podcast series invites you to learn from Columbia’s experts, both inside and outside academia, about the main social, economic, and political challenges we face. This year, we released two episodes.



Espresso with the Experts
ISERP's Podcast on Social Science Subjects

Episode 3

Climate Change and the
Geoengineering Legislation:
A Conversation with Professor
and Lawyer Michael Gerrard



Cutting Edge Legal Action on Climate Change: A Conversation with Professor and Lawyer Michael Gerrard

What is the future of climate solutions and how are they legally being shaped, what are the policies passed by Congress in support of curbing climate change and what should we expect to be politically feasible next? In this episode, we explore the controversial realm of geoengineering, from carbon capture technologies and storage to solar radiation management. Are these cutting-edge innovations our climate's saving grace, or do they pose a risky distraction from green energy? Plus, we unravel the mystery of nations threatened by rising seas. Join us and Professor and lawyer **Michael Gerrard** for a thought-provoking episode that's not to be missed!

Episode 4

Incorporating Ethical Standards in
Digital Platforms and AI Tools: A
Conversation with Professor Tamar
Mitts and McKinney Gray Analytics
Miriam McKinney



Incorporating Ethical Standards in Digital Platforms and AI Tools: A Conversation with Professor Tamar Mitts and McKinney Gray Analytics Miriam McKinney

With the rise of social media and developments in artificial intelligence, several ethical challenges have emerged. How can we address the spread of misinformation and harmful content on social media platforms? And what can be done to counter the biases introduced by algorithms? In this episode, SIPA Professor **Tamar Mitts** and **Miriam McKinney**, founder and CEO of McKinney Gray Analytics, guide us through the difficult tasks of introducing ethical standards in AI and social media and the best practices. Join us for an insightful conversation to learn about how academic work and private research can come together to combat online harm.

Find us on [Apple Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#), and [YouTube](#)

Website – iserp.columbia.edu

ISERP now has a refreshed website. We restructured its layout and introduced new tools for collaboration between the Social Science departments.

Highlights include:

- A newly-launched “Find a Social Scientist” page that organizes faculty members by their research interests.
- A standalone tab for our “Call for Proposals” for an easier search.
- Division into two sections, one for public-facing programming initiatives and another for administrative services, accessible only to Columbia and Barnard affiliates with UNIs.

The screenshot displays the 'Find a Social Scientist' search results page. At the top, there is a search bar with filters for 'All', 'Research Interest', 'Department', and 'Keywords'. Below the search bar, it indicates '113 Table Listing, showing 1 - 24'. The results are presented in a grid of 8 faculty profiles, each consisting of a portrait photo, the faculty member's name, their department, and a list of research interests.

Name	Department	Research Interest
Adam Kosto	ISERP, Department of History	Legal History
Alessandra Casella	ISERP, Department of Economics and Political Science	Behavioral & Experimental Political Economy, Public Economics
Alexander Hertel-Fernandez	School of International and Public Affairs	American Politics
Allison Carnegie	Department of Political Science	International Relations, Political Economy
Alma Steingart	Department of History	Politics and Mathematics
Andrew Gelman	Department of Statistics and Political Science	Statistics
Audra Simpson	Department of Anthropology	Empires, States, Sovereignties, Indigeneities, Diasporas, Intellectual & Disciplinary Histories, Slavery, Colonialism, Race, Social
Benjamin Goodrich	Department of Political Science	Political Methodology, Comparative Politics, Political Economy

“Find a Social Scientist” page, sorted by Research Interest

Working Papers Bulletin

Last year, ISERP launched the Working Papers Bulletin, an initiative aimed at enhancing the visibility of research both to other faculty in our own departments and across Social Science departments and the university. This year, we released two Working Papers Bulletins with a total of 22 papers.

We aim for projects just completed at the stage of manuscript submission (not publications, not media pieces, not proposals—just academic papers and book chapters). The Working Papers are stored on an ISERP website and, to avoid possible conflicts with future publication, are available to readers with Columbia and Barnard UNIs only. They are searchable by keyword to make it easier for scholars across disciplines to find each other's work. If you are interested in submitting a working paper for our future bulletins, please reach out to iserp-communication@columbia.edu, or do so [through this link](#).



ISERP's Working Papers Bulletin
Fall 2024

Belief, Attitudes, and Trust
Trust Methods: Accounting for Who, What, When and How to Trust
Larry An, Sociology, Cristian Caporaso, Trust Collaborative, Gill Eyal, Sociology, Sophie Sharp, Sociology

Confronting Core Issues: A Critical Test of Attitude Polarization
Yamil Ricardo Velez, Political Science, Patrick Liu, Political Science

Making Sacrifice: How Normative Control Is Enacted through Rituals of Integration
James Y. Cha, Sociology

Political Behavior and Democratic Attitudes
Academia Are More Specific, and Practitioners More Sensitive, in Forecasting Interventions to Strengthen Democratic Attitudes
James Y. Cha, Sociology, Jan G. Voelkl, Sociology, Stanford University, Michael N. Stogdins, Sloan School of Management, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Sujit Kang, Political Science, Northwestern University, James N. Druckman, Political Science, Northwestern University, David G. Rand, Sloan School of Management, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Robb Willer, Sociology, Stanford University (Lead author)

Megamutually identifying effective interventions to strengthen Americans' democratic attitudes
Jan G. Voelkl, Department of Sociology, Stanford University, Michael N. Stogdins, Sloan School of Management, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, James Y. Cha, Sociology (Lead author)

Affirmative Action and Educational Ranking at University
Affirmative Action in Centralized College Admission Systems
Nuno Barabona, Economics, UC Berkeley, Cait Dobbins, Economics, Georgetown University, Sebastian Otten, Economics
James Y. Cha, Sociology

The Price of Prestige: Educational Rankings and Adolescent Perceptions of College Cost
James Y. Cha, Sociology

Learning, Teaching, and Grading in Economics
Improving Learning Outcomes in Introductory Level Econometrics
Seyhan Erdem, Economics

The Relationship between Students' Attitudes and Performance in Econometrics at an Ivy League College
Seyhan Erdem, Economics

Grade Inflation and Grading Consistency in Principles of Economics
Wanren Nove, Economics

Advances in Estimation Methods
Estimating Separable Matching Models
Abhishek Gadhokar, Economics and Mathematics, NYU Arts & Science, Bernard Salanie, Economics

Unifying design-based and model-based sampling inference by estimating a joint population distribution for weights and outcomes
Andrew Gelman, Political Science and Statistics

Artificial Intelligence
Artificial Intelligence and Aesthetic Judgment
Jessica Hullman, Computer Science, Northwestern University, Ari Holtzman, Computer Science, University of Chicago, Andrew Gelman, Political Science and Statistics

Slavery, Abolition, and the Revolutionary Era
Ancestry in the Age of Rights Or, The Rights of Slaves Confronts the Right to Slaves
Christopher Bennett, History

To read any of these working papers, visit our new site by scanning the QR code. This site is UNI-protected, only Columbia and Barnard affiliates have access to the full text.



ISERP's Working Papers Bulletin
Winter 2024

Politics
"Compensate the Losers?" Economic policy and partisan realignment in the US
Bhavana Kuziemko, Economics, Princeton University, Nicolas Longuet-Mars, Sustainable Development, SIPA, Suresh Naidu, Economics

Discovering optimal ballot wording using adaptive survey design
Diana Du In Lee, Political Science, Donald P. Green, Political Science

Individuals and Public Opinion Change: The Liberal Rebound and Patterns of Continued Partisan Divergence, 2016–2020
Alan Yang, SIPA, Robert Shapiro, Political Science

A Return to Khaki Rule? Africa's Lost History of Military Government
Gregory Mann, History

Markets
Value Chain Microfinance
Lorenzo Casaburi, Economics, University of Zurich, and Jack Willis, Economics

Land Rental Markets: Experimental Evidence from Kenya
Michelle Acampora, Center for International Development, Harvard Kennedy School, Lorenzo Casaburi, Economics, University of Zurich, Jack Willis, Economics

Bayesian Methods for Statistical Analysis
Bayesian workflow for time-varying transmission in stratified compartmental infectious disease transmission models
Judith A. Bouman, Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine, Multidisciplinary Center for Infectious Diseases, University of Bern, Anthony Hauser, Multidisciplinary Center for Infectious Diseases, University of Bern, Institut national de la santé et de la recherche médicale-Sorbonne Université (INSERM), Sorbonne Université, Simon L. Grunau, Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine, Center for Space and Habitability, University of Bern, Martin Wohlwendler, Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine, Multidisciplinary Center for Infectious Diseases, University of Bern, Sanjit Bhatia, MRC Centre for Global Infectious Disease Analysis, Jameel Institute, School of Public Health, Imperial College London, Section of Epidemiology, Department of Public Health, University of Copenhagen, Elizaveta Semenovna, Department of Computer Science, University of Oxford, Andrew Gelman, Statistics, Political Science, Christian L. Aldaus, Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine, Multidisciplinary Center for Infectious Diseases, University of Bern, Julien Riou, Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine, Multidisciplinary Center for Infectious Diseases, University of Bern, Centre for Primary Care and Public Health (Unisanté), University of Lausanne

Understanding posterior realization for a simple example
Andrew Gelman, Statistics, Political Science, Philip Greengard, Statistics, Julie Gershunskaya, Terrance Saviotky, United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, Ben Goodrich, Political Science

To read any of these working papers, visit our new site by scanning the QR code. This site is UNI-protected, only Columbia and Barnard affiliates have access to the full text.



Programs

QMSS

During the 2023–2024 academic year, the Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences (QMSS) MA program welcomed 157 students. These students brought a rich variety of backgrounds and goals, coming from numerous countries and holding training in diverse disciplines such as social sciences, data science, geography, accounting, philosophy, English, communications, finance, and more.

The QMSS students made the most of Columbia's diverse activities and classes while focusing closely on their studies. Thinking outside the box and pushing the boundaries of what can be done within an interdisciplinary MA program at the intersection of social science and data science here, QMSS students continue to pursue excellent work in different ways, whether as research assistants, via their thesis, on group projects, or in internships. QMSS faculty members also continue to explore innovative methods for data analysis, whether via geographic information systems (GIS), or Bayesian statistics, or social network analysis, or machine learning, or natural language processing, or data visualization, or via numerous other techniques practiced in modern data science. To demonstrate the kind of work produced by QMSS students, QMSS student Taylor Francisco won the Audience Choice Award for Most Innovative Thesis at the GSAS-Wide Synthesis Showcase. Taylor presented her research examining Native American data representation using a Bayesian approach to model trends in small populations.

QMSS students continued to make meaningful contributions to a number of partner organizations via large-scale practicum projects. Working with both large and small organizations—like the UN Refugee Agency, Priceline, the Census Bureau, Memorial-Sloan Kettering, the new Columbia Climate School, Just Capital, Ekimetrics, and KPMG—students took on all sorts of challenges, whether those of reducing literacy gaps among households, or developing alternative methodologies to measure customer priorities, or creating a prototype for a natural language processing pipeline tied to ChatGPT, or building dashboards for massive amounts of climate data or country information. Our Innovation Lab continues to grow, support groundbreaking work, and connect QMSS students with alumni mentors, research institutes, and organizations across industries.

QMSS students also got to know each other outside of the classroom. To support these efforts, the QMSS student group, QASR—the Society for Quantitative Approaches to Social Research—offered a variety of advanced programming activities, including a virtual mini-hackathon, trips and tours around the City, and fun in-person events.

Our QMSS research assistant program also continues to provide vital research support to dozens of Columbia faculty, working on over 50 faculty research projects over the last year. Numerous QMSS students were selected as Data For Good Scholars to work with Columbia faculty via research internships run through the Data Science Institute.

QMSS graduates continued to find themselves in high demand, taking on roles at many of the world's premier institutions. They join the hundreds of QMSS alumni who distinguish themselves as data scientists, research directors, senior analysts, and academic researchers in many fields.

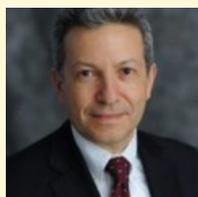
For the past 24 years, QMSS has consistently sought to enhance the experiences of its MA students and support advanced quantitative research within the broader Columbia community. This commitment will continue as the program looks for new opportunities to add value and support research excellence.



QMSS again had two competitors for the GSAS SynThesis thesis competition this year. Agustina Carvallo Vazquez (second from front left in black coat) presented a study assessing the impact of the historic Itaipu hydroelectric dam on Paraguay's economic growth and environment. Taylor Francisco (middle back in red) won the Audience Choice Award for Most Innovative Thesis, on research examining Native American data representation using a Bayesian approach to model trends in small populations.

Program for Economic Research (PER)

In July 2023, the Program for Economic Research (PER) welcomed Professor David Weinstein as the new Executive Director for the 2023–2024 year. Professor Weinstein previously served as Executive Director of PER from 2009–2012, and it has been a pleasure to welcome Professor Weinstein back into the role.



Executive Director
David Weinstein
Carl S. Shoup Professor
of Japanese Economy

Student Support

Data Purchase Award Recipients:

Kosha Modi, Ricardo Pommer Muñoz

Conference Support Award Recipients:

Natalie Yang, Shuhua Si, Michelle Jiang, Wendy Morrison, Giovanni Bonfanti

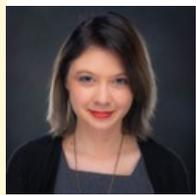
Field or Experimental Research Award Recipients:

Akanksha Vardani, Zhi Hao Lim, Natalie Yang, Palaash Bhargava

In support of ongoing graduate research, PER provided summer stipends and/or funding awards to 44 PhD students/candidates, and funding support to summer research appointments for 10 MA students.



Economics Pre-Doctoral Programs:
Celebrating the Outgoing Pre-Docs PhD and Job Acceptances. From top left: Chiara Chanoi, Barthelemy Bikoi, Gabriel Reyes, Patricio Hernandez Senosiain; From Bottom Left: Muhammad Bashir, Marco Gutierrez Chavez, Jack Rosetti



Program Manager
Chantel Hover

PER is proud to serve as the main vehicle for administrative support and programming to the pre-doctoral students selected through both our Staff Associate program—specifically centered on providing research staff funding to junior faculty within the Economics Department—and the Bridge to PhD pre-doctoral programs. Pre-doctoral students serve as salaried researchers supporting their faculty sponsors, while having the ability to take Columbia classes and participate in special pre-doc programming.

For the 2023–2024 year, PER welcomed four new Staff Associates to the program: **Barthelemy Bikoi**, working under the faculty mentorship of Professor Ebonya Washington; **Filippo Paternollo**, working under Professors Gautam Gowrisankaran and Pietro Tebaldi; **Patricio Hernandez Senosiain**, working under Professors Gautam Gowrisankaran and Pietro Tebaldi; and **Jack Rosetti**, working under Professors Michael Best and Tatiana Mocanu. PER also welcomed one new Bridge to PhD Scholar, Gabriel Reyes, working under the faculty mentorship of Professor Wojciech Kopczuk.

At the end of June 2024, PER celebrated our outgoing pre-doctoral scholars, who on completion of their two-year term position will now be moving on to the following programs or positions in their academic and/or professional journeys:

- Muhammad Bashir, PhD Candidate in Economics, UC Berkeley
- Chiara Chanoi, Research Assistant, Washington Center for Equitable Growth
- Marco Gutierrez Chavez, PhD Candidate in Data Science, University of Virginia
- Michael Duarte, PhD Candidate in Economics, UC Berkeley
- Alex Forlenza, joint JD/PhD Candidate in Law/Economics, NYU

PER continued its PER Weekly Visitor Program, in which PER works with faculty to invite and host an economics professor from another institution for one week at the University. While here, the professor collaborates with a faculty host to prepare a presentation for a PhD seminar class, and holds open office hours to meet with Economics PhD students and pre-doctoral scholars. For the 2023–2024 academic year, PER was proud to host the following Weekly Visitors:

- Leonardo Burszty, Saieh Family Professor of Economics, University of Chicago
- Professor Chen Lian, Assistant Professor of Economics, UC Berkeley
- Eric Maskin, Adams University Professor, Professor of Economics and Mathematics, Harvard University
- Professor Ryan Oprea, Maxwell C. and Mary Pellish Chair in Economics, UC Santa Barbara
- Jean Charles Rochet, Professor of Economics, Toulouse School of Economics

Events:

Sept. 7, 2023: Professor Christopher Sims, 2011 Nobel Laureate in Economic Sciences and John J. F. Sherrerd '52 University Professor of Economics at Princeton University, gave the 14th Annual Kenneth J. Arrow Lecture, entitled "Origins of American Inflation." A welcome speech was given by Dr. Minouche Shafik, President of Columbia University, and Jan Svejnar, Director of the Center on Global Economy and Governance and Richard N. Gardner Professor of Economics and International Affairs at SIPA. Discussion Panel included Columbia Professors Jennifer La'O, Joseph Stiglitz, and Michael Woodford. Co-Hosted by PER, the Center on Global Economy and Governance, the Initiative for Policy Dialogue, and Columbia University Press.



Oct. 25, 2023: Professor Esteban Rossi-Hansberg, Glen A. Lloyd Distinguished Service Professor, Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics at the University of Chicago, gave a lecture entitled "Anticipating Climate Change Across the U.S." as part of the PER Distinguished Lecture Series.



Nov. 14, 2023: Professor Amy Finkelstein, John & Jennie S. MacDonald Professor of Economics at MIT, gave a lecture entitled "We've Got You Covered: Rebooting American Health Care," with welcoming remarks and lecture discussion by Professor Joseph Stiglitz, Nobel Prize Laureate and University Professor of Economics at Columbia University. Co-hosted with the Columbia World Projects Center for Political Economy.

Nov. 28, 2023: The CFM-PER Alternative Data Initiative hosted a Zoom Panel discussion entitled "Generative AI: Transformation or Hype?" with panel discussants Dr. Laurent Laloux, Chief Product Officer at CFM, and Maryam Farboodi, Jon D. Gruber Development Professor at MIT Sloan School of Management. The panel was moderated by Professor José Scheinkman, Charles and Lynn Zhang Professor of Economics at Columbia University.

Jan. 6, 2024: PER hosted a special Columbia Economics reception at the annual AEA ASSA conference in San Antonio, TX.

Conferences & Workshops:

Sept. 15-16, 2023: The 5th Annual Columbia Conference on Economic Theory (CCET), co-hosted with the Microeconomic Theory Initiative (MTI)

Sept. 22-23, 2023: The First Bi-Annual Transatlantic Kellen Conference Series

May 3-4, 2024: Macroeconomics in Emerging Markets Conference, in honor of Professor Martin Uribe



Professor Martin Uribe, Professor and Econ Dept. Chair Mike Woodford, Professor Stephanie Schmitt-Grohe



A Lasting Impression: All of these conference attendees are current university professors who were supervised by Prof. Uribe during their PhD



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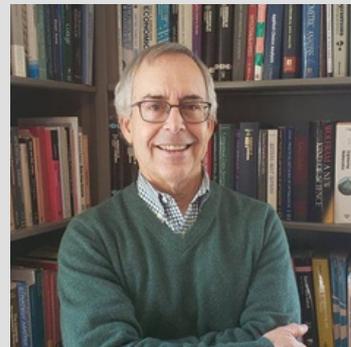
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