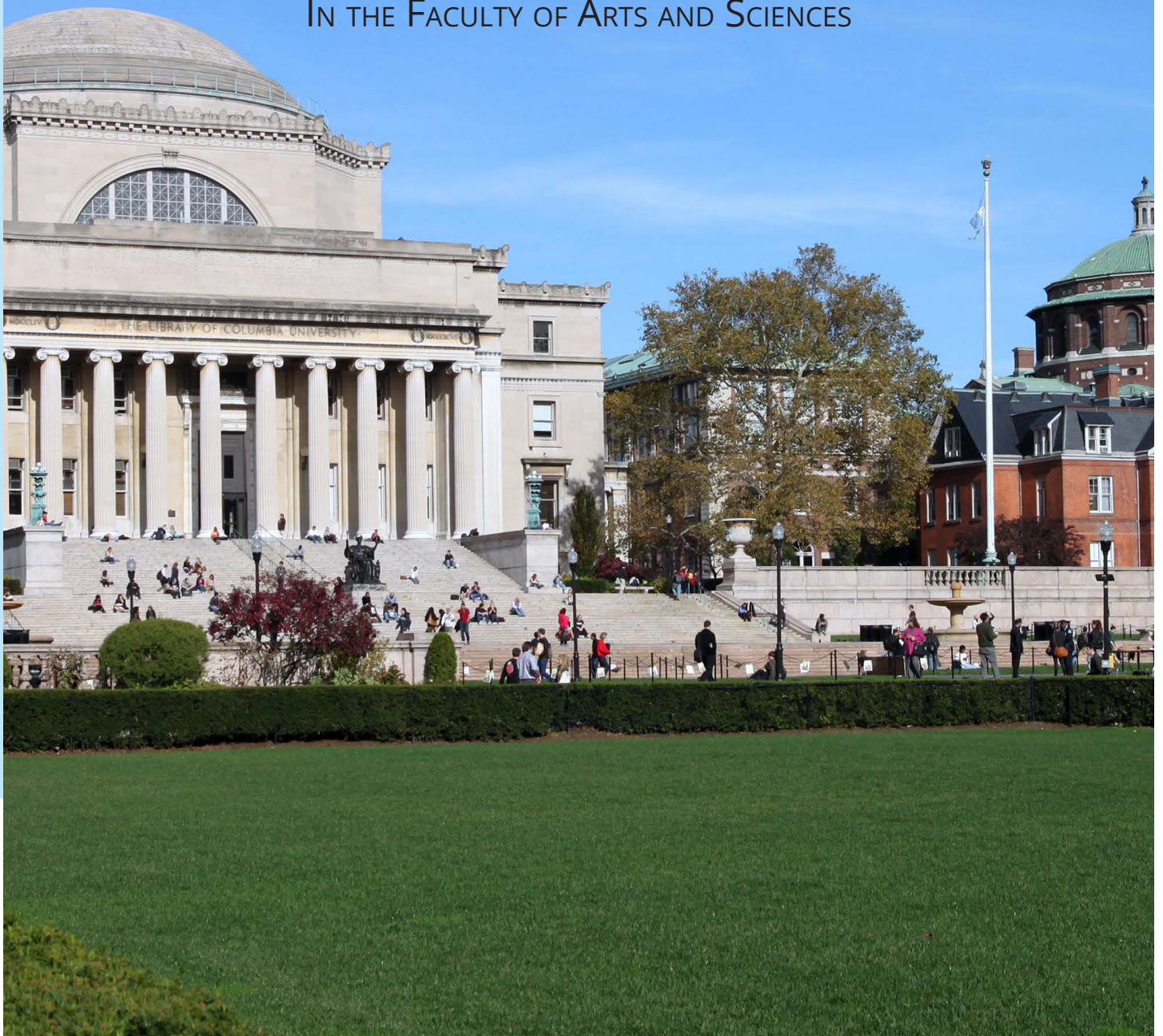# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2018 - 2019

# INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH AND POLICY

### IN THE FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

**The Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy (ISERP)** is Columbia University's research institute dedicated to the social sciences. ISERP pioneers research and integrates knowledge and methods across the social sciences.
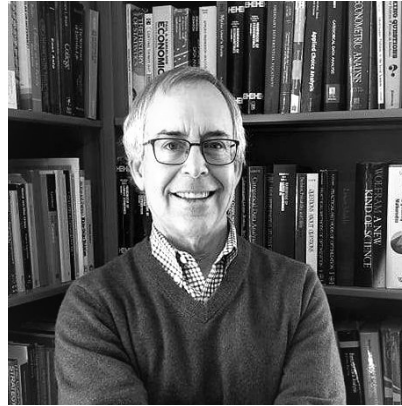
**OUR MISSION**
To bring ideas into the world, ISERP supports researchers, faculty, students, and social science research through research development, education and training programs, centers, workshops and administrative support.

# CONTENTS

# MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTORS

Since taking the helm as ISERP co-directors, we have launched a series of new initiatives, many of them cross-disciplinary, to create community and encourage innovation among Columbia social scientists. This year was no exception. But we are also pleased to report that we have been able to continue expanding core support for departments and programs. It is less visible to the broader community than our many conferences, speaker series, and grant competitions, but it is the Institute's single greatest commitment, and core to our own mission.

This was one of our first decisions as members of the ISERP executive committee, and then as co-directors: To allocate a significant part of ISERP resources to block grants to support the intellectual life of the social science departments.  We believe that the departments themselves are often in the best position to identify and promote the most promising new work in their disciplines. Unlike other departmental resources, these funds come with few strings attached -- they need only be used for purposes of promoting workshops, colloquia, and graduate student research. Since academic year 2016-17 we have disbursed almost a million dollars in block grants to departments.

Nothing is more central to ISERP's identity and mission than helping faculty and graduate students apply for and manage research grants. Since 2016-17, we have helped Columbia social scientists obtain 105 new grants. This often involves identifying private sources of funding they might not otherwise have been aware of. This past year there was a 14% increase in private awards. All together ISERP is now managing $28.5 million dollars in grant funding, with $9.7M in government grants and $18.8M in private grants.

The social science departments also receive funding from the masters in Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences Program, which continues to grow to match the ever-increasing demand for training at the intersection of social science and data science. QMSS graduates also go on to contribute to the social science disciplines, earning Ph.D.s at places like Harvard, Chicago, Princeton, Berkeley, Carnegie Mellon, Oxford, Duke, Cornell and Columbia itself. And these courses are also important in training Columbia social science students in such topics as Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Time Series and Forecasting, Bayesian Statistics, Natural Language Processing, Data Visualization, Applied Data Science, Modern Data Structures, Data Mining, Social Networks, Machine Learning and Large-Scale Data Analysis. One in three students in QMSS elective courses are not QMSS students.

In FY19, QMSS had its largest number of applicants ever -- over 500 -- and also welcomed its largest cohort to date (92 students).  The students remain exceptionally qualified and diverse, coming from approximately 20 countries, with dozens of different majors, and all with unique career plans upon graduation. In addition to Ph.D. programs, QMSS continues to place students in organizations like Accenture, Slalom Consulting, Nielsen, The New York Times, GroupM, JP Morgan Chase, American Express, the United Nations, and the New York City Mayor's Office.

Under Greg Eirich's leadership, QMSS also began offering summer courses and workshops in 2018, and expanded these offerings to three summer courses and three workshops in the summer of 2019.  They covered topics like Machine Learning, Modern Data Structures and GIS.  Nearly sixty students from across the University were able to take advantage of these offerings this summer. We are now exploring the idea of making an expanded summer program part of a dual masters program with peer universities. We are already forging exciting new partnerships both with academic units and departments within Columbia, like the Center for Public

**BLOCK GRANTS**
support the intellectual life of social science departments, with very few strings attached. Since FY17, ISERP has allocated almost one million dollars in block grants.

**PRIVATE GRANTS**
are a growing source of funding for ISERP researchers. This year saw a 14% increase in private grant funding, to $18.8M.



**DEAN'S LECTURES**
over breakfast or lunch allowed social science faculty to learn about upcoming research their new and newly promoted colleagues are undertaking.

**QMSS**
continues expanding with more MA students and classes each year. The program now also runs summer courses and workshops on topics like Machine Learning.

Research and Leadership and the Data Science Institute Working Group on Data Science Education -- and also with external partners, like employers, policy organizations and other institutions of higher education.

ISERP also helps provide the basic infrastructure for social science research -- resources that many faculty might not even be aware of until they find them indispensable. Many have access to Columbia's high performance computing cluster because ISERP is a member of the Social Science Computing Committee (SSCC) and serves as its administrative home.  The major initiative in the past year was the initiation of a production version of the secure data enclave (SDE) for the analysis of sensitive data sets. This follows three years of experience with a pilot version and over fifteen active projects.

ISERP also helps make it possible for our researchers to conduct experiments in a controlled environment, since it helps govern and administer the Columbia Experimental Laboratory for Social Sciences (CELSS). The CELSS subject pool consists of a little over two thousand students. In academic year 2018-19 they managed 12 studies with 8-12 experimental sessions per study. This past year the lab updated all its computers, and CELSS continues to solicit small grants for junior faculty and graduate students.

One of the main leadership challenges at ISERP is to continue this kind of core support for social science research while at the same time identifying and supporting new initiatives that can help Columbia's social science community add up to more than the sum of its parts. We therefore allocate a large part of our budget to funding seed grants, conferences, workshops, and start-up centers. Since 2016-17, this support has amounted to almost eight hundred thousand dollars, and has helped advance and showcase innumerable research projects.

In addition to encouraging proposals from our own researchers, we also scan the horizon for new initiatives and models that have been successful at peer institutions. For instance, ISERP joined with Dean Fred Harris to launch a series of breakfast and lunch talks by newly hired -- or newly tenured -- faculty from each of the social science departments. This allowed the entire social science community to learn about the best new work in different disciplines. Speakers included Kimuli Kasara and Justin Phillips from the Political Science Department, who spoke on ethnic segregation and conflict in Kenya and the partisan evolution of the culture war in the US, respectively. The series also featured John Asker, from the Department of Economics, who gave a talk on the abuses of market power, and

Frank A. Guridy of the History Department, who lectured about a new turn in his research towards early tobacco sponsorship of women's tennis with his talk, "Feminism, Phillip Morris, and the Commercialization of Sport in the 1960s and 70s." ISERP was also proud to host anthropologist Audra Simpson, who compared American and Canadian history and policies regarding Native Americans in "Savage States: Settler Governance in an Age of Sorrow." The series concluded with a joint talk by Sociology's Jennifer Lee and Van C. Tran, who presented their research on the diverse ways Asian Americans are affected by and feel towards affirmative action programs and policies, both in education and the workplace.

ISERP also continued its joint sponsorship of recently published book events with Dean Harris and the Heyman Center for the Humanities. In the fall, we celebrated books by Tey Meadow (Trans Kids: Being Gendered in the Twenty-First Century), and Brinkley Messick (Shari'a Scripts: A Historical Anthropology). In the spring we delved into work by Bruce Western (Homeward: Life in the Year After Prison), Adam Reich and Peter Bearman (Working for Respect: Community and Conflict at Walmart), and Maria Victoria Murillo (Non-Policy Politics: Richer Voters, Poorer Voters, and the Diversification of Electoral Strategies, co-authored with Ernesto Calvo). Panelists discussing the new books included scholars from each author's department, noted experts in each field, and activist leaders. The series drew crowds as large as 80 people, with over a hundred more viewing the discussions via live-stream.

ISERP has also continued to co-sponsor talks along with the Data Science Institute (DSI). Through our working group on Computational Social Science, ISERP joined DSI in hosting eight Data for Good talks and seminars this year. Topics ranged from algorithmic fairness and data set complications, to social news consumption patterns and the spread of disinformation and novel ideas. In this series, social science scholars join statisticians and computer scientists for discussions about how to ensure advances in technology and automation can increase fairness, transparency, and accountability.

ISERP also entered an agreement with the Center on Poverty and Social Policy (CPSP) to jointly sponsor University-level support in the interest of advancing fundable research, conferences, and workshops that centrally involve the study of poverty and inequality. This funding will enhance the integration of the CPSP with the many social scientists in the Columbia social science departments and the School of International and Public Affairs. CPSP and ISERP will issue calls for proposals for seed grants, workshops, seminars, and

conferences up to two times per year to include the five social science departments, SIPA, and CPSP affiliated faculty.

To celebrate our successes and help create community ISERP also holds a series of social events. This includes a yearly wine and cheese reception at the end of September for new and returning faculty, graduate students, and administrators. We also host a well-attended Winter Party. We had a special reason to celebrate this year with the announcement that the newly-named Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies will join the ISERP family. We look forward to integrating the department into ISERP's activities and services.

We could not have achieved any of these things without the support and guidance of our executive committee: Professors Fredrick Harris, Ex-Officio, Political Science and Dean for Social Sciences, Wojciech Kopczuk, Economics & SIPA, David Scott, Anthropology, Pamela Smith, History, Michael Ting, Political Science & SIPA, and Miguel Urquiola, Economics. They review all major policy decisions, approve our budgets, and join with us in evaluating each and every application for ISERP funding. We are also grateful to our Advisory Committee for helping us plan long-range strategy, Professors Jess Benhabib, NYU - Economics, Jennifer Hirsch, MSPH-Sociomedical Sciences, Kenneth Prewitt, SIPA, and Harriet Zuckerman, Sociology. Finally, all this depends on the tireless work of our staff, above all the Director of Administration and Finance, Jo-Ann Espaillat.

As much as we have been able to accomplish, we can do even more when Columbia social scientists come to us with new ideas and initiatives. Our door is open.
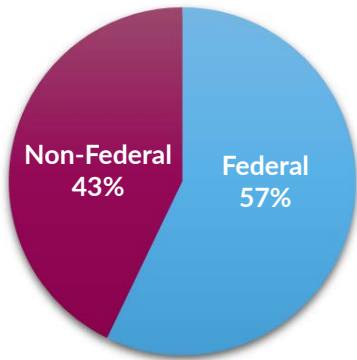
MATTHEW J. CONNELLY                THOMAS A. DIPRETE

# RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT

## RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

### FY 19 Proposals by Category



Non-Federal 43%

Federal 57%

### FY 19 Awards by Category



Federal 29%

Non-Federal 71%

The Research Development Office (RDO) supports investigators in Anthropology, Economics, History, Political Science, Sociology and the School of International and Public Affairs.  For details on our services, see ISERP's website, iserp.columbia.edu.

In the last fiscal year, the RDO assisted with the submission of 77 grant proposals to 34 government agencies, foreign institutions, and private foundations.
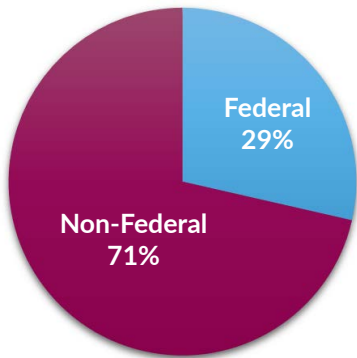
ISERP's work resulted in 28 grants awarded by 17 sponsors in FY19. Awarded projects include faculty research, grants supporting doctoral student dissertations, and funding for convening scholars and practitioners.

ISERP is pleased to add the Arcadia Fund to its list of sponsors this year. Arcadia is a London-based foundation that awards grants in the areas of culture, the environment, and open access. The foundation is supporting the Freedom of Information Archive, a project of the History Lab. This archive is the largest collection of declassified documents, and Columbia researchers are working to create a database that can be used by other investigators, journalists, and interested members of the public to study these government documents.

In FY19, ISERP researchers conducted studies involving over 30 countries and collaborations with dozens of universities and other institutions. To complete their research, ISERP's investigators access datasets from a wide range of sources, including private companies and state and federal government agencies.

## RDO OUTREACH

In addition to one-on-one meetings with faculty and students, ISERP participated in activities for larger groups. We hosted an Institutional Review Board (IRB) information session with an official from the Human Research Protection Office and researchers in ISERP's departments. Additionally, ISERP Directors and staff presented at orientations for incoming students and new faculty.

# SEED GRANTS

Full time faculty in the social sciences and the School of International and Public Affairs are eligible to apply for up to $30,000 in seed funding to develop a proposal for an external sponsor. ISERP issued two calls for proposals in FY19 and awarded five seed grants.

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

*Investigator:* Timothy Frye, Marshall D. Shulman Professor of Post-Soviet Foreign Policy

*Department:* Political Science

### Ends of the House: Excavating the Waste House in the Late Industrial Urban Midwest

*Investigator:* Catherine Fennell, Associate Professor

*Department:* Anthropology

### A Foot in Both Countries

*Investigator:* Naor Ben-Yehoyada, Assistant Professor

*Department:* Anthropology

*Co-investigator:* Chiara Superti, Lecturer in the Discipline of Political Science

### Treating Victims with Transitional Justice

*Investigator:* Sarah Daly, Assistant Professor

*Department:* Political Science

### The Keys to Service Delivery: Top-Down Incentives and Bottom-Up Pressure in Uganda

*Investigator:* John Marshall, Assistant Professor

*Department:* Political Science

# EXTERNAL GRANTS

## Partial Listing of Awards ISERP Received in FY19:

"Greener on the Other Side? Tax Collection and Horizontal Inequity"
Sponsor:  Jameel Poverty Action Lab
Investigators: Michael Best and Francois Gerard

"Studies on the Data-Driven Economy and School Choice"
Sponsor: National Science Foundation
Investigator: Yeon-Koo Che

"The Freedom of Information Archive"
Sponsor: Arcadia Fund
Investigator: Matthew Connelly

"Voting for Victors: Why Violent Actors Win Elections"
Sponsor: Carnegie Corporation
Investigator: Sarah Daly

"Conducting Research on Gender Rights in Conflict"
Sponsor: Oak Foundation
Investigator: Yasmine Ergas

"Reproduction Experiences of Mental Illness: Attitudes and Needs of Patients
   and Clinicians"
Sponsor: Fahs Beck Fund for Research and Experimentation
Investigators: Gil Eyal and Erela Portugaly

"Rikers Island Longitudinal Study"
Sponsors: Russell Sage Foundation and William T. Grant Foundation
Investigator: Bruce Western

"Square One Roundtable on the Future of Justice Policy"
Sponsor: Joyce Foundation
Investigator: Bruce Western

"The Effects of State Violence on Social Networks, Collective Action, and Pro-
   Social Behavior During Conflict: Evidence from Kachin State, Myanmar"
Sponsor: International Growth Centre
Investigators: Timothy Frye and Daniel Thomas

"Informative Priors for Bayesian Inference, Regularization, and Computation"
Sponsor: Office of Naval Research
Investigator: Andrew Gelman

"Doctoral Dissertation Research: Recovering the Polyvalent Genealogies of
  Machine Learning, 1948-2017"
Sponsor: National Science Foundation
Investigators: Matthew Jones and Aaron Plasek

"Asian Americans: Affirmative Action, Intergroup Attitudes and Racial Group
  Formation"
Sponsor: Russell Sage Foundation
Investigators: Jennifer Lee

"Dynamic Pricing and Matching with Asymmetric Information"
Sponsor: National Science Foundation
Investigator:  Qingmin Liu

"Doctoral Dissertation Research: Forest engineers, bureaucrats and the
  constitution of state rainforest information in Peruvian Amazonia"
Sponsor: National Science Foundation
Investigators: Elizabeth Povinelli and Eduardo Romero Dianderas

"Doctoral Dissertation Research: Redress, Property, and Disputing Land Claims
  in Guyana"
Sponsor: National Science Foundation
Investigators: David Scott and Anna Schirrer

"Dissertation Grant: Dissecting Sight: Eye Surgery and Vision in Early Modern
  Europe"
Sponsor: National Science Foundation
Investigators: Pamela Smith and Wenrui Zhao

"Outcome-Based Incentives in Export Markets:
Sponsor: Private Enterprise Development in Low-Income Countries
Investigator: Eric Verhoogen

"Doctoral Dissertation Research: The direct and indirect effects of innovation
  subsidies in Peru"
Sponsor: National Science Foundation
Investigators: Eric Verhoogen and David Alfaro Serrano

"Rikers Island Longitudinal Study"
Sponsors: Russell Sage Foundation and William T. Grant Foundation
Investigator: Bruce Western
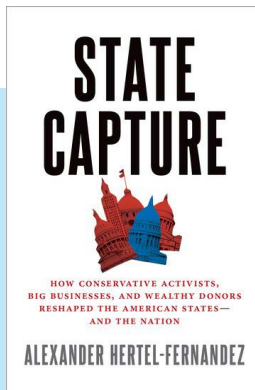
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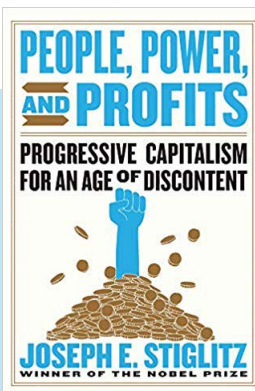
# FACULTY ENGAGEMENT

## FACULTY BOOKS

### ALEXANDER HERTEL-FERNANDEZ
Assistant Professor of International and Public Affairs

*State Capture: How Conservative Activists, Big Businesses, and Wealthy Donors Reshaped the American States – and the Nation*
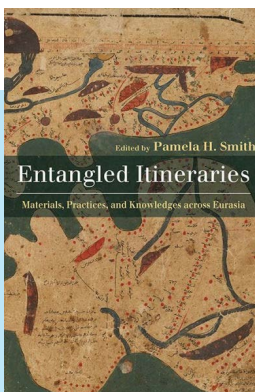
Oxford University Press, February 2019

### JOSEPH STIGLITZ
University Professor

*People, Power, and Profits: Progressive Capitalism for an Age of Discontent*

Allen Lane, April 2019

### PAMELA SMITH (EDITOR)
Seth Low Professor of History

*Entangled Itineraries: Materials, Practices, and Knowledges across Eurasia*

University of Pittsburgh Press, April 2019

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## FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

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## Michael Best

Professor Best has been conducting research into the drivers of organizational performance in bureaucracies. With Jonas Hjort and David Szakonyi, he has analyzed over 16 million procurement purchases in Russia, finding that both the quality of the individuals in charge of procurement as well as their organizations are important drivers of performance, despite all purchases being made under a common set of rules and institutions. Nevertheless, centrally set policy plays an important mediating role. A policy change they studied significantly improved performance by poor performers, but at the cost of worsening performance by the best performers.

In a related experiment with Oriana Bandiera, Adnan Khan, and Andrea Prat, he has worked to understand the potential benefits of giving bureaucrats more work autonomy. Again studying procurement purchases, but this time in Punjab, Pakistan, the experiment finds that relaxing monitoring requirements to give bureaucrats more autonomy improves procurement performance up to 9%. Surprisingly, pay for performance schemes have little effect, likely because bureaucrats are so constrained by the monitoring regime they inhabit that they are unable to exercise discretion to improve performance. Ensnaring bureaucrats in tangles of red tape may prevent some forms of corruption, but it comes at an extremely high cost.

Best has also implemented an experiment in Manaus, Brazil with François Gérard, Joana Naritomi, Evan Plous, and Laura Zoratto. The experiment seeks to understand why approximately half of households fail to pay their property tax. He is seeking to understand the role that norms about the fairness of tax systems play in people's decisions about whether to comply with their tax obligations.

## Catherine Fennell

Professor Catherine Fennell was awarded a seed grant to expand her anthropological research on the aftermaths and futures of derelict homes in the late industrial urban Midwest. Throughout most of twentieth century America, public policies and sentiment positioned widespread homeownership as the cornerstone of household wealth, municipal provisioning, and general national prosperity. By examining the social, material, and financial legacies of homeownership in "shrinking" late industrial urban neighborhoods, "Ends of the House" pursues questions about the limits and potentials of collective wealth, obligation, and thriving in places and times characterized by intense economic and ecological degradation.

Fennell initially undertook "Ends of the House" as an ethnographic project. She focused her efforts on analyzing how people who live and/or work within high vacancy urban areas understand and navigate devalued, decaying, and demolished homes, as well as the unexpected ecologies and financial quagmires that they engender. The grant helped her further contextualize and interrogate anxieties and uncertainties concerning the potential toxicity of vacant homes and wasted lots. This year, she collaborated with archaeologists, soil scientists, used building material brokers, and property owners to examine residential building debris and its deposition on vacant residential lots. This work led to ongoing soil testing and analysis and is opening up unexpected questions about the destruction and disposal of homes during industrial decline and disinvestment, the chemical and material footprints of that destruction in the soil, and the strategies remaining residents develop as they learn to live with rather than avoid toxicity. This exploratory work will ground further research, as well as the development of general educational materials geared at disseminating practical information concerning the everyday navigation of contaminated lots and vacant homes.

## Bruce Western

Bruce Western's research focused on three main projects. The first, supported by the NSF, studies solitary confinement in U.S. prisons. In any given year, one-in-five prisoners are held in solitary confinement, locked in their cells for 23 hours each day, often for months at a time. Western and his research team conducted interviews and neuro-cognitive testing with a sample of prisoners in the solitary confinement unit of a maximum security prison, shedding some light on one of the most inaccessible parts of the penal system. A second project, supported by Arnold Ventures, enrolls defendants at a misdemeanor court in Oklahoma in a randomized controlled trial to study the effects of court-imposed fees on a sample of poor men and women who are often contending with high rates of untreated mental illness and homelessness. The final project, funded by a group including the MacArthur Foundation, challenges policymakers, researchers, and community representatives to reimagine our public policy response to violence under conditions of poverty and racial inequality. The Square One Project, as it is called, aims to change the language and narrative of crime and criminal justice in the public conversation.

## Yasmine Ergas

With funding from the Compton Foundation, the Open Society Foundation and other support, Yasmine Ergas has been developing an interdisciplinary, international network of academic centers and scholars focused on gender in global affairs (The Women and Gender in Global Affairs network). WGGA fosters resilience, particularly in areas most affected by rising sovereigntist and populist movements. Through meetings, webinars, and the circulation of working papers, syllabi and other materials, the WGGA promotes conversations regarding teaching and research, including with respect to the interactions between the worlds of practice – especially advocacy and policy-making – and academics to foster common initiatives.  This project is a collaboration with SIPA, the Harriman Institute and the Columbia University Global Centers, in particular the CGC: Paris. Over two years, meetings in New York (with participants primarily from the United States) and Paris (with participants primarily from Eurasia) have drawn together scholars from more than fifty institutions and 23 countries. In addition to these meetings, webinars held in 2018-19 focused on "The Politics of Language and the Issue of 'Gender'" and "Gender under Threat."  A future webinar may focus on "Gender Settlements" in different political regimes.

In addition to this work, Ergas secured grants to support a Gender & Public Policy Specialization fellow in 2018-19 to work with the advocacy NGO MADRE on issues regarding the documentation and prosecution of gender crimes. She has been engaged for several years in research on the development of transnational reproduction, and has been working on the regulation of surrogacy both internationally and in the United States.

## Nikhar Gaikwad

Dr. Gaikwad led three grants administered through ISERP. The first study focused on municipal water access in Mumbai. Partnering with local NGOs, researchers aided a group of slum-dwellers in overcoming the bureaucratic hurdles involved in demonstrating eligibility for connections to the city's municipal water system. They also helped citizens overcome collective action problems and put pressure on politicians while following up on these water requests. The study examines the downstream effects of "getting on the grid" for outcomes ranging from the economic empowerment and political integration of slum residents to gender equity, child health, and environmental sustainability.

Does helping groups of migrants to register to vote in urban areas improve their wellbeing by increasing electoral returns in their interest? The second study examines the efficacy of voter registration drives for migrants in New Delhi and Lucknow. Researchers helped urban migrants apply for voter ID cards and establish residency in a randomly selected set of treatment households, and tracked how enfranchisement impacted the political integration and long-term welfare of this group, relative to control households.

The third study examines the impact of employment-based international migration on migrants' political behavior, policy preferences, economic outlooks, and social attitudes. With local government and civil society organizations, researchers implemented an experimental study in which Indian subjects interested in seeking employment in the United Arab Emirates participated in a skills-training and recruitment program for hospitality-sector jobs abroad. The study tracks the employment and migration-related decisions of these subjects, and estimates the long-term impact of relocating abroad for work on the political, economic, and social behaviors of migrants.

# ISERP RESOURCES

# COLUMBIA EXPERIMENTAL LABORATORY FOR SOCIAL SCIENCES

**The Columbia Experimental Laboratory for Social Sciences (CELSS)** is an interdisciplinary resource for Columbia researchers in Economics, Political Science, Sociology, SIPA, and the Business School, as well as the Barnard Economics department. Its goal is to facilitate experimental research in the social sciences, with a focus on computer-based experiments, whether physically located in CELSS' lab, or web-based. The lab, equipped with 24 computers for participants and one computer for the experimenters, was opened in the fall of 2013 and is located on the fifth floor of the International Affairs Building. Current projects span the different disciplines—from the foundations of behavioral game theory to intergenerational altruism, from mediation of conflict to the understanding of Bayesian principles in Statistics, from conspiracy theories to the impact of "too many alternatives' on choice.

In addition to running the lab and providing guidance and support for experiments, CELSS has come to be a community of scholars who meet regularly to discuss their research. The Experimental Lunch is a bi-weekly forum where researchers, and graduate students in particular, present their ongoing projects to each other and to a regular group of four-five faculty members. SWEET-NY (Student Workshop in Experimental Economics Techniques - New York) is a yearly conference, in its fourth year in fall 2019, run by Columbia, NYU, Princeton and the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and dedicated to the presentation of advanced projects by graduate students. The conference has regularly attracted a large number of faculty interested in experimental research and is serving as highly visible pre-job market exposure for young experimenters.



CELSS is directed by Alessandra Casella, Professor of Economics and Political Science and founder of CELSS, Mark Dean, Associate Professor of Economics, and Jacopo Perego, Assistant Professor of Business at Columbia Business School. Silvio Ravaioli, a PhD candidate in Economics, is the current lab manager, and Leo Goldman, a rising Columbia College senior in Economics and Statistics, who provides software support.

Learn more about CELSS at https://celss.iserp.columbia.edu/

# COMPUTING RESOURCES

Columbia University has a large selection of computing resources available to researchers. For computing consulting please email **iserpsa@columbia.edu** to schedule an appointment. The following resources are available at no additional cost for ISERP researchers:

- *CUIT Shared High Performance Computing*:  Columbia's centrally-managed High Performance Computing (HPC) resources offers a Linux-based computing cluster.

- *CUIT LionMail Drive*: LionMail Drive includes sharable online Google applications and web-based editors to create drawings, forms and fusion tables. LionMail Drive also has dropbox-like syncing functionality through Drive File Stream. All sensitive & confidential data (such as PII) MUST be encrypted before storing in LionMail drive.

- *Secure Data Enclave*: Research Computing Services (RCS) manages a Secure Data Enclave (SDE) intended as a virtual environment used to work with secure data sets. This service is approved by the IRB as a certified server for even the highest security data granting agency requirements.

- *Secure Data Cold Room*: Researchers (including faculty and students) who need to work with restricted data sets (e.g. IES Database) have access to a cold room to work on this data. A cold room is separate from the master key, and complies with all physical and secure computer requirements.  Loading and unloading data must go through a Data Security Officer, currently Eric Vlach at ISERP. Please contact iserpsa@columbia.edu for information about this cold room. Undergraduates must have a faculty sponsor to act as a Principal Project Officer.

For an additional cost, the following resources are also available to ISERP researchers:

- *CUIT Virtual Servers*: CUIT offers a managed virtual machine environment with configurable Storage, Compute, Backup and Disaster Recovery options and will assume responsibility for management as outlined in the SLA.

- *Amazon Web Services (AWS) through CUIT*: AWS offers a broad set of global compute, storage, database, analytics, application, and deployment services. Additionally, CUIT will implement an AWS Direct Connect private network peering, leading to reduced data egress rates and some additional technical capabilities.

ISERP is also a part of the **Social Science Computing Committee (SSCC)**. The SSCC supports the computing needs of affiliates of ISERP, the Columbia Population Research Center, and the Department of Economics, and includes shared high performance computing clusters, file storage, and secure computing.

# STATISTICAL CONSULTING

ISERP offers statistical consulting to Columbia faculty and students who are engaged in social science and public policy research. Consultants are available to help with how to conduct statistical analysis for your research. They can also give advice on experiment or survey design, regression models, or possible biases in your analysis.

**Consultations**
For more information or to arrange a consultation, please email iserp-stats@columbia.



# DATA USE AGREEMENTS

Investigators and students in departments supported by ISERP who require a signed Data Use Agreement to access data for their research should contact iserp-funding@columbia.edu. In FY19, ISERP negotiated 7 data use agreements. Sources include data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and IPUMS at the Institute for Social Research and Data Innovation at the University of Minnesota.

If any of the data is human subjects data, Columbia will require an approved IRB protocol before signing use agreements. ISERP also has a secure cold room (information found on the previous page) for restricted data sets.

# WORKSHOPS AND WORKING GROUPS

## ISERP WORKSHOPS

### AMERICAN POLITICS WORKSHOP

The American Politics Workshop explores scholarly issues and controversies involving the role of politics in American society. It provides a forum for scholars in the American politics academic community to exchange ideas and receive feedback on their ongoing work. Topics are various, including public opinion and political behavior, electoral politics, American public policy, political institutions and their interactions, plus the connections among the demands of society and public opinion on one hand and public policy on the other.

### POLITICAL PSYCHOLOGY

This workshop brings together local political psychologists to discuss a small number of papers and to talk about political psychology generally. Themes covered in paper sessions reflect the broad array of interests shared by political psychologists, which include the dynamics of public opinion, the impact of the media on political attitudes, the organization of political beliefs, the role of cognition and affect, political information processing, political socialization, leadership, and international negotiation.

### POLITICS, SOCIETY, ENVIRONMENT, & DEVELOPMENT

This seminar features robust interdisciplinary discussions on politics, environment, development, and the social world. They also hold film screenings and public lectures followed by questions from a large range of participants.

### WEALTH AND INEQUALITY SEMINAR SERIES

The Seminar covers a wide range of topics pertaining to inequality, such as poverty, labor market behavior, education, and the family. The research topics and methodologies are at the cutting edge of the interdisciplinary study of wealth and inequality, as the CWI Seminar invites speakers from multiple social science disciplines and fields.

### 20TH CENTURY POLITICS AND SOCIETY

The purpose of the Workshop on 20th Century Politics and Society is, first, to bring together scholars in political science, history, and related disciplines to consider issues of shared interest; second, to create a small intellectual community for students and faculty who work in related areas; and third, to tackle interesting and important problems in the current scholarship on twentieth-century politics and society.

### SOCIOLOGY OF GENDER AND SEXUALITY

This workshop brings together students and faculty from across the disciplines whose work engages the heterogeneity of issues related to gender and sexuality in the social world. It helps train interested graduate students from across the arts and sciences in the foundational methods of data collection and analysis specific to empirical and theoretical approaches to gender and sexuality.

## POLITICAL ECONOMY SEMINAR

The Columbia University Political Economy Seminar is a forum for presentations on new research in the field of political economy. Its goal is to bring some of the brightest and most innovative scholars in the field of political economy to CU, and to expose faculty and students to their work. The seminar creates a unique opportunity for cross-disciplinary discussion between economists and political scientists.

## COMPARATIVE POLITICS SEMINAR

The Comparative Politics Seminar meets weekly during the academic year for presentations of new research on a diverse range of topics in comparative politics. The seminar draws a range of Columbia faculty and graduate students as well as community members.



## INTERNATIONAL POLITICS SEMINAR

This seminar provides an essential forum for faculty and graduate students to meet and discuss cutting-edge research in international relations. Its mission is to bring the country's foremost junior faculty in international relations to present their work at Columbia. The series also creates multiple opportunities for graduate students to meet and discuss their research with invited speakers.

## CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF MUSLIM SOCIETIES (CSMS) WORKSHOP

This workshop enables the CSMS to gather and focus its community of scholars: the individuals scattered across schools and disciplines at Columbia who concentrate on Islamic studies and the study of Muslim cultures and societies. Graduate students play a major role in the workshop, not only in presenting their own projects but also as commentators and discussants for invited papers.

## POLITICAL ECONOMY COLLOQUIUM

The Columbia Political Economy Colloquium is an interdisciplinary forum where graduate students, faculty, and visitors in Economics and Political Science present work in progress in political economy. It meets weekly during the academic year.

## TIME AND TEMPORALITY IN THE AFRICAN PAST

This workshop undertakes a systematic exploration of the function of time—both the newly fashionable future and the under-appreciated longue durée—in the conceptualization and writing of African history. The workshop consists of discussions of pre-circulated readings, which have included an article, manuscript, excerpts from a recent book, and reflections on the production of an historical novel.

## CRITICAL MEDIA AND DIGITAL STUDIES

This workshop interrogates the sociocultural and political implications of digital technologies' growing scope and indelibility upon the public sphere, in particular, its impact upon marginalized communities. Currently, digital technologies are advancing in their capabilities and reach at a far faster rate than conversations and policies that challenge its implementation and effects, both short and long-term.

ISERP INTERDISCIPLINARY
GRADUATE STUDENT SEMINAR

**The ISERP Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Seminar (IIGSS)** seeks to foster a conversation across the social science communities at Columbia to discuss the diverse ways in which interdisciplinarity can be mobilized. The ultimate goal of the seminar series is to explore how interdisciplinary approaches can contribute to and enrich traditional disciplines and what such interdisciplinarity demands from them.

The following Ph.D. students served on the 2018-2019 organizing committee:
- Anthropology: Anna Simone Reumert
- Economics: Nathaniel Denison Mark
- History: Caroline Foster Marris
- Political Science: Dylan William Groves
- Sociology: Mireia Triguero Roura

For FY19, the IIGSS committee adopted the theme of Crisis for their seminars. The seven following seminars consisted of a 30 minute presentation, a 30 minute Q&A, and a 1 hour reception. Each meeting attracted 15-25 attendees.

"Classical German Philosophy and the First Crisis of Capitalism"
September 27, 2018
Lars Thimo Heisenberg (Philosophy PhD)

"How Much Does School District Leadership Matter? Superintendent Effects on Student Achievement"
October 25, 2018
Greer Mellon (Sociology PhD)

"War and Political Behavior: The Local Effects of Exposure to Military Casualties in Italy"
November 29, 2018
Simone Paci (Political Science PhD)

"The Mariel Emergency: Incarceration and the Management of Immigration Crisis, 1980 - 1982"
February 7, 2019
Brianna Lane Nofil (History PhD)
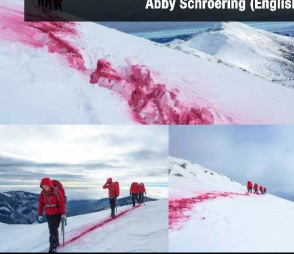
"Protest Performance in the Anthropocene"
March 7, 2019
Abby Noelle Schroering (English PhD)

"Divine Interventions: Protestant Responses to Opioid Use, 1960 - 2017"
March 28, 2019
Molly Emma Harris (American Studies MA)

"Meetings Along the Edge: Collisions Between Populist and Institutional Risk Imaginaries"
April 25, 2019
Ryan Hagen (Sociology PhD)

The ISERP Interdisciplinary Graduate Seminar Series brought together PhD and MA students from different social science departments in conversations that otherwise would not have occurred. The IIGSS is a unique seminar series where Columbia PhD students in the social sciences can explore novel interdisciplinary intellectual directions and interact with students of other disciplines.

# WORKING GROUP ON COMPUTATIONAL SOCIAL SCIENCE

The Working Group on Computational Social Science (CSS) at Columbia University, in partnership with the Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy (ISERP) and the Data Science Institute (DSI) explores profound and urgent questions about how the information revolution will transform society as a whole.

The incipient field of computational social science continues to generate an array of interdisciplinary projects, often pursued in partnership with computer scientists, statisticians, and mathematicians. Some involve leveraging tools of prediction and machine learning to assist in tackling policy problems. Others entail applying recent advances in speech and image recognition to classic and novel problems in the social sciences. These projects often require methodological innovation or scalable techniques to new levels, as well as designing new metrics and interfaces to make research findings intelligible to scholars who lack coding skills but have deep domain expertise.

The field of computational social sciences raises inescapable questions about the politics and ethics of data science research, particularly when it focuses on sociopolitical problems with applications in government and the private sector. Just as with the field of genomics, to which computational social sciences has been compared, it may well take a generation before we see researchers who combine high-level competence in data science with equivalent expertise in anthropology, sociology, and other social sciences.

As of the present, we have yet to see an "Asilomar moment," in which researchers pause to consider both the historical record and future risks before plunging ahead. Instead, there are vast experiments – many conducted in secret, in the private sector, and with no IRB – limited only by what researchers believe an informed public would consider "creepy." Columbia convenes these kinds of conversations, developing professional training grounded in a sophisticated understanding of both the research itself and how it relates to law, philosophy, and ethics.

This year, the CSS working group was chaired by Suresh Naidu, Yao Lu (fall 2018), and Joshua Whitford (spring 2019). The working group hosted the following **Computational Social Science Seminars**, which were open to the university community:

"The Blessings of Multiple Causes"
David Blei and Yixin Wang
September 20th, 2018

"Modeling Market Dynamics"
Herbert Gintis
December 6, 2018

"The Future of Coding: A Comparison of Hand-coding and Computer-Assisted Text Analysis"
Laura Nelson and Leslie McCall
November 1, 2018

"Algorithmic Fairness in Large Networks"
Augustin Chaintreau
March 25, 2019

The CSS working group also contributed to the **Data For Good talk series**, hosted by the Data Science Institute. Data for Good talks this year included:

"Data for Good (or Scary AI and Other Dangers of Big Data)"
Jeannette Wing
September 14, 2018

"Algorithmic Fairness in Large Networks"
Augustin Chaintreau
November 2, 2018

"Limits and opportunities in algorithmic fairness"
Joshua Loftus
October 5, 2018

"Technical Complexity and Public Discourse: Why It's So Hard to Write About Data Science"
Meredith Broussard
November 9, 2018

"Truth-Seeking in the Age of Disinformation"
Preslav Nakov
October 12, 2018

"Crowdsourcing Visual Ads"
Lydia Chilton
Friday, January 25, 2019

"The Analysis of News Consumption through Co-Exposure Networks"
Sandra González-Bailón
March 8, 2019

"Where do new things come from, and what do we do what we get them?"
Simon DeDeo
April 4, 2019

# CENTERS AND INITIATIVES

# ISERP CENTERS

## CENTER ON ORGANIZATIONAL INNOVATION

### Director: David Stark

The Center on Organizational Innovation promotes research and experimentation with new forms of collaboration, communication, and coordination afforded by emerging interactive technologies. Mid-century, organizational analysts at Columbia University charted the rise of bureaucratic organizations and the emergence of mass communication through case studies of work groups and the demographics of audience reception. In our new century, we chart the emergence of collaborative organizational forms in an era when social interaction moves seamlessly between encounters face to face and at the digital interface.

## CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF WEALTH AND INEQUALITY

### Directors: Seymour Spilerman and Thomas DiPrete

The Center for the Study of Wealth and Inequality (CWI) takes as its mission the investigation of income and wealth, along with exploring the dimensions of societal inequality in these household resources. The Center's interests encompass issues of poverty, labor market behavior, public transfer programs and tax policy, in that each has a clear relevance to economic inequality, family resources, and to living standards.

## CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

### Director: Macartan Humpreys

The Center for the Study of Development Strategies (CSDS) provides a forum at Columbia to support rigorous field based research on major questions in the political economy of development. Research at the center focuses on democracy and governance, peacebuilding, and aid effectiveness. The center is supported by the Earth Institute, ISERP, and the Political Science department at Columbia.

## APPLIED STATISTICS CENTER

### Director: Andrew Gelman

The Applied Statistics Center (ASC) is a community of scholars at Columbia organized around research projects in the human, social, and engineering sciences, as well as basic statistical research. In addition to coordinating existing projects and seminars, the Center supports visitors and research fellows, facilitates the development of new projects, and connects Columbia students in statistics and quantitative social science as part of research teams in data-rich projects.

## CENTER ON AFRICAN AMERICAN POLITICS AND SOCIETY

### Director: Fredrick C. Harris

The Center on African American Politics and Society (CAAPS) provides an intellectual infrastructure for social science research on the political, social, and economic conditions affecting black communities. It aims to support theoretically sophisticated and policy-informed research among Columbia faculty, using a variety of methods and approaches that intersect various disciplines, including political science, psychology, sociology, law, economics and urban studies. With its emphasis on policy-relevant research, the Center on African American Politics and Society aims to bridge the center's research with the needs and concerns of policy and community-based actors who work within and on behalf of black communities.

## COLUMBIA JUSTICE LAB

### Directors: Bruce Western and Vincent Schiraldi

The Justice Lab combines original research, policy development, and community engagement to propel the project of justice reform. In their vision, justice depends on peaceful and healthy communities that help all their members to flourish in a climate of fairness and respect. They work for a community-centered justice, in which incarceration is no longer used as a solution to problems that are often rooted in poverty and racial inequality. The Justice Lab believes justice policy should strengthen the bonds of family and community that are often threatened by poverty, crime, and punitive crime policy. Bringing together research expertise with a track record of policy innovation and collaboration with justice-involved people, they aim to advance a community-centered future for justice.

## DEEPAK AND NEERA RAJ CENTER ON INDIAN ECONOMIC POLICIES

### Director: Arvind Panagariya

This center focuses on developing a deeper understanding of the Indian economy through analytical research and disseminating this knowledge widely. It draws upon the expertise of scholars within Columbia University and members of the broader academic and policy community with interests in India and in research areas of relevance to the Indian economy.



## COLUMBIA TUTORING AND LEARNING CENTER

### Executive Director: Marguerite A. Browning

Columbia University's Tutoring and Learning Center (TLC) strives to:
- Provide face-to-face and online math tutoring of the highest quality to high school students in public schools in the Harlem neighborhood.
- Provide access to technology that will enhance the tutoring program and provide opportunities for self-guided learning.
- Create a vibrant, inclusive, and supportive community that fosters academic achievement and intellectual development for both high school students and tutors.
- Partner with teachers to ensure that our services complement and support education in the classroom.
- Train our tutors and provide ongoing supervision and mentoring so that they can become excellent teachers and role-models.
- Evaluate our program rigorously so as to improve our services as quickly and effectively as possible.

# COGNITIVE AND BEHAVIORAL ECONOMICS INITIATIVE

Columbia's Cognitive and Behavioral Economics Initiative (CBEI) supports research into the role of cognitive processes in explaining economic behavior, and the consequences of cognitive limitations for the way in which behavior responds to changing environments and policies.  It seeks to deepen the empirical foundations of economic analysis by encouraging exchange of ideas among economists, psychologists, neuroscientists, and other cognitive scientists.  Among the activities supported by the initiative are the following.

**Cognition and Decision Seminar Series**.  The seminar unites scholars from economics, psychology, neuroscience and other fields with interests in cognitive mechanisms, and the ways in which a better understanding of these mechanisms can lead to more accurate models of human behavior and more effective public policies. Research presented in the seminars employ a variety of methods, including physiological measurement of nervous systems, observation of decision making in laboratory settings, computational modeling of decision processes, and normative analyses of optimal decisions subject to information constraints or limits on the complexity of processing.

**The C&D Seminar is organized by:** Mark Dean, Eric Johnson, Michael Shadlen, Daphna Shohamy, Michael Woodford

**This year's speakers included:**

"Using Visual Saliency in Game Theory"
Colin Camerer

"Econographics"
Pietro Ortoleva

"Resource-Rational Models of Decision Making"
Tom Griffiths

"Moral Decision-Making: Conscience, Conflict and Conformity"
Molly Crockett

"Faces: A Window into Cognition"
Angela Yu

**Workshop on Efficient Coding and Resource-Limited Cognition.** *May 10, 2019.* Economists, computer scientists and computational neuroscientists have all been interested in models in which the structure of the internal representations on which decisions are based is assumed to represent an efficient use of finite cognitive resources.  Theories of this kind go by different names ("efficient coding," "rational inattention," "information bottleneck," etc.), and the nature of the assumed resource constraint also differs in different strands of the literature.  This conference, the latest in a series of Columbia University interdisciplinary conferences on the cognitive foundations of decision making, brings together leading researchers representing several of these approaches, to discuss both their foundations and important applications.

**Cognition and Decision Lab.** The Cognition and Decision lab is a joint venture between principal investigators Michael Woodford, Mark Dean and Hassan Afrouzi and Pietro Ortoleva. Its fosters research and trains students in the use of tools and techniques from Economics, Neuroscience and Psychology to better understand the cognitive processes underlying economic decision making. The lab meets weekly to share ideas and develop projects, and contains 10 PhD students and a post-doctoral researcher. Areas of interest include studying the way in which limited attention is allocated during choice and understanding the role of incomplete preferences in economic decision making.

Publications this year include:
- "Temporal discounting and search habits: evidence for a task-dependent relationship." Khaw, Mel W., Ziang Li, and Michael Woodford. Frontiers in Psychology 9 (2018): 2102.
- "Efficient Coding of Subjective Value" Rafael Polanía, Michael Woodford and Christian C. Ruff, Nature Neuroscience, Dec 2018, 22: 134-142.
- "Diverse motives for human curiosity." Kobayashi K, Ravaioli S, Baranès A, Woodford M, Gottlieb J. Nature human behaviour. 2019 Apr 15:1.
- "Rational inattention, optimal consideration sets, and stochastic choice", A Caplin, M Dean, J Leahy, The Review of Economic Studies, May 2019, 86 (3), 1061-1094
- "The empirical relationship between nonstandard economic behaviors" M Dean, P Ortoleva, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, May 2019: 116 (33), 16262-16267
- "Noisy Memory and Over-Reaction to News," R. Azeredo da Silveira and M. Woodford AEA Papers and Proceedings 2019 109: 557-561
- "Modeling Imprecision in Perception, Valuation and Choice," M. Woodford, 2019 Annual Review of Economics, volume 12,.

New working papers include:
- "Econographics", Jonathan Chapman, Mark Dean, Pietro Ortoleva, Erik Snowberg, and Colin Camerer, Nov 2018.
- "Information Costs and Sequential Information Sampling", Benjamin Hébert and Michael Woodford, Nov 2018.
- "Rational Inattention in Continuous Time", Benjamin Hébert and Michael Woodford, Nov 2018.
- "Deeper Habits", Mel Win Khaw and Oskar Zorrilla, Nov 2018.
- "Using Difference Equations to Explain Value, Discounting and Risk," M.L. Commons, P.M. Miller, X.J. Liu, N. Commons-Miller, S. Wei, L.S. Miller, S.P. Giri, R.F. Gane-McCalla, T. Heffernan, A. Pekker, and A.M. Richardson and M. Woodford, Jan 2019
- "Cognitive Imprecision and Small-Stakes Risk Aversion", Mel Win Khaw, Ziang Li, and Michael Woodford, Feb 2019.
- "Multiple Conceptions of Resource Rationality", W.J. Ma and Michael Woodford, Apr 2019
- "Outlier Blindness: Efficient Coding Generates an Inability to Represent Extreme Values," E. Payzan-LeNestour and Michael Woodford, Ap 2019
- "Individual Differences in the Perception of Probability," August 2019, M.W. Khaw, L. Stevens and Michael Woodford Revised
- Efficient Sampling and Noisy Decisions", J. Heng , R. Polania and M Woodforn, Aug 2019.

In addition, Han Huynh received the NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research in Economics grant for her research on "Benefit Disclosure in Financial Choices - Online and Field Experiments."

## PROGRAMS

## QUANTITATIVE METHODS IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

The Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences (QMSS) program is an interdisciplinary social science MA degree program, focused on the design of social research, advanced statistical methodologies and data science.  The program integrates perspectives and research strategies of six disciplines: economics, history, political science, psychology, sociology and statistics.  QMSS was established in 1999 through the leadership of professors Andrew Gelman, Seymour Spilerman and Gregory Wawro.  QMSS joined the Institute for Economic Research and Policy (ISERP) in 2002.

With its largest cohort of students (92) and largest number of applicants to date (over 500), the QMSS MA program continues to grow in size, scope and programming.  The QMSS students come from approximately 20 countries, with dozens of undergraduate majors, and our graduates can be found working as data scientists, analysts and academic researchers at many of the world's premier institutions, such as Accenture, Slalom Consulting, Nielsen, The New York Times, GroupM, JP Morgan Chase, American Express, the United Nations, and the NYC Mayor's Office, or earning their Ph.D.s at places like Harvard, Chicago, Princeton, Berkeley, Carnegie Mellon, Oxford, Duke, Cornell or Columbia itself, among many others.

QMSS now offers a very large set of elective courses, including Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Time Series and Forecasting, Bayesian Statistics, Advanced Analytic Techniques, Data Visualization, Applied Data Science, Modern Data Structures, Data Mining, Social Networks, Machine Learning and a Practicum on Large-Scale Data Analysis. These courses are taught by dedicated lecturers for QMSS or by adjunct faculty



*QMSS MA degree Orientation Sketch*
*By **Yuxiu Hu***

with strong connections to the New York tech community and/or to academia.  QMSS elective courses have become quite valuable to the larger Columbia community, where now approximately 1 in 3 students in QMSS elective courses are not QMSS students.

QMSS has created a variety of focuses of study for students to engage in, including in data science, economics and experiments.  These focuses -- forged through strategic partnerships with other departments and schools, like the Data Science Institute -- help to define students' interests so they achieve their goals in the shortest period of time possible. QMSS is also famous, however, for the flexibility it offers its students, and so reflecting its strong interdisciplinary spirit, QMSS students took approximately 140 unique courses last year from dozens of departments and schools at Columbia.

A dedicated QMSS staff, along with the QMSS student group, QASR - the Society for Quantitative Approaches to Social Research, offer a rich variety of advanced programing for the MA students, including alumni networking nights, career panels, technical workshops on numerous topics like Structured Query Language (SQL), data visualization with Tableau, hack-a-thons, Ph.D. panels, a day of service for Girls' Science Day and other socializing programs (like a Thanksgiving celebration and young alumni picnic).  This fall, we held our 2nd annual Thesis Expo and Alumni Reunion, with many alumni in attendance.

QMSS continues to build strategic relationships across the University.  Over the past two years, we have developed a partnership with the Center for Public Research and Leadership, which allows a select number of QMSS students to work with education and public sector organizations via interdisciplinary teams under the guidance of experienced former PK-12 managers and consultants, to improve education and public policy.  QMSS has also recently joined the new Data Science Institute Working Group on Data Science Education, which will involve pushing forward data science education at Columbia.  QMSS plans to share some of our best practices, but to also learn from what others have been doing very well.  The Group aims to produce new learning materials, tips and tricks for teaching data science, case studies and other activities from which QMSSers can benefit.

*QMSS MA students at Convocation*

Lastly, the QMSS Research Assistant program continues to provide research opportunities and support for students and faculty.  The program provides valuable research experience and financial assistance to participating students and precious research assistance to faculty.  Last year, QMSS supported over 30 faculty research projects, on a great variety of topics.

As it has done for the last 19 years, QMSS will continue to look for ways to add value to the experiences of the MA students in the program, and also for ways to support advanced quantitative research among the larger Columbia community as well.

# PROGRAM on ECONOMIC RESEARCH

**Staff**

Harrison Hong, Ph.D.
*John R. Eckel Jr. Professor of Financial Economics*

Sophia N. Johnson, Ph.D.
*Assistant Director*

Lauren G. Close
*Program Manager*

**Announcement**

Professor Harrison Hong has been appointed Executive Director of the Program for Economic Research (PER). Hong succeeds David Weinstein who served as Executive Director, 2018-2019.

**Urban Economic Association (UEA) Conference**

*October 11-13, 2018*
Over 400 scholars in the economics profession with an urban related component to their research participated in the 13th annual meeting.  These meetings feature keynote lectures and presentations dealing with the economics of cities, housing, real estate, local public good provision, and the distribution of economic activity in space. Keynote Lectures by Leah Platt Boustan, Raj Chetty, and Edward Glaeser
Organized by Donald Davis

**PER Distinguished Lectures**
**"Cheap Talk and Credibility"**
*September 26, 2018*
Gary Charness

**"Some Simple Bitcoin Economics"**
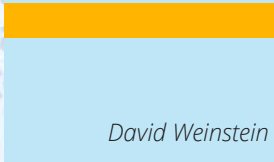*April 19, 2019*
Harald Uhlig

**Political Economy Conference**
*December 14, 2018*
Organized by Suresh Naidu and Carlo Prato
Sponsored by ISERP, PER and the Department of Political Science.

*Alvin E. Roth*

*David Weinstein*



### A Special Evening Lecture with Dr. William H. Janeway
**"The Digital Revolution and the State: The Great Reversal"**
*October 1, 2018*
Dr. William H. Janeway, author of Doing Capitalism in the Innovation Economy: Reconfiguring the Three-Player Game between Markets, Speculators and the State

### The 11th Annual Kenneth J. Arrow Lecture
**"Market Design in Large Worlds: The Example of Kidney Exchange."**
*November 8, 2018*
Alvin E. Roth
Discussants: Joseph Stiglitz, Parag Partak
Moderator: David Weinstein

### The Economics of Early Childhood Intervention
*March 5, 2019*
Panelists: Janet Currie, Jane Waldfogel, Douglas Almond
Moderator: Miguel Urquiola
Welcome: David Weinstein

### America and the New Protectionism
*April 1, 2019*
Panelists: Paul Krugman, Pinelopi K. Goldberg, David Weinstein
Moderator: Amit Khandelwal
Welcome: Maya Tolstoy

### PER Mini-Courses
The Program for Economic Research sponsored two Mini-Courses this semester.  Over 80 students and faculty attended.  Tim Roughgarden's course touched on some of his research on the interface of computer science and economics from the past 20 years; and, Xavier Gabaix's course reviewed basic models of bounded rationality and inattention, emphasizing those that are tractable and can be taken to the data.

**Workshop on Efficient Coding and Resource-Limited Cognition**

*May 10, 2019*

This interdisciplinary workshop was co-organized by Michael Woodford and Rava Azeredo da Silveira, and sponsored by the Program for Economic Research and the Cognitive and Behavioral Economics Initiative (CBEI).  The workshop included keynote speakers Naftali Tishby and Andrew Caplin, and featured additional talks by Matt Botvinick, Rafael Polania, Aldo Rustichini, Sophia Sanborn, Alan Stocker, and Noga Zaslavsky.

**Columbia Economic Review (CER) Journal Tenth Anniversary Edition**

The Department is proud to support undergraduate research and to encourage critical thinking in our students.  This issue shows the diversity of the questions that shape our field: from questioning the efficacy of biomedical research in the field, to analyzing the coasts of legislative turnover, immobile labor and corruption in India, and further assessing the determinants of nationalism and the effects of conscription on national pride. Congratulations to all!

# CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

## ISERP SPONSORED CONFERENCES

### Political Economy Conference at Columbia

*December 14, 2018*

Organized by Michael Ting, Alessandra Casella, Shigeo Hirano, John Huber, John Marshall, Suresh Naidu, Carlo Prato, and Navin Kartik



*Yarran Hominh, Clemence Boulouque, Aminah Hasan-Birdwell, and Sabina Bremner*

### The Transmission of Songs in Birds, Humans, and Other Animals

*February 17, 2019*

Organized by Brian Boyd, Pamela Smith, and Julia Hyland Bruno

### Finding the Way to Truth: A Conference on the Sources, History, and Impact of the Meditative Tradition

*February 1-2, 2019*

Organized by Matthew Jones and Christia Mercer

## The Role of Narrative in the Natural Sciences and Humanities

*February 28 – March 1, 2019*
Organized by Pamela H. Smith, Rita Charon, Marwa Elshakry, Stuart Firestein, Melinda Miller, and Roshana Nabi



## No Health = No Justice

*April 3, 2019*
Organized by Samuel K. Roberts

## States of Crisis: Disaster, Recovery, and the Possibility in the Caribbean

*May 3-4, 2019*
Organized by David Scott

## Punishing Trauma: A Conference on the Collateral Consequences of Incarceration

*April 26-27, 2019*
Organized by Thomas DiPrete, Bailey Brown, Anna Hidalgo, Joan H. Robinson, and Dialika Sall

## The Politics of Norms: Economic Sociology Summer Workshop

*June 23-26, 2019*
Organized by Joshua Whitford and David Stark



*Anna Hidalgo, Dialika Sall, Joan Robinson, and Bailey Brown*

# NEW BOOKS IN THE ARTS & SCIENCES

The New Books in the Arts & Sciences is a series of panel discussions celebrating recent work by the Columbia Faculty. The series is jointly presented by ISERP, The Heyman Center for the Humanities, and the Divisional Deans of Social Science and Humanities in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. Each event highlights a recently published academic monograph written by Columbia faculty, and invites discussion from departmental colleagues as well as scholars from the rest of Columbia University and the broader academic and professional communities. Topics span the wide range of faculty research, and display the diverse interest and work of the Columbia community.

In addition to a celebration of the work, these events are opportunities to focus on the impact of these works within and across fields, and a change for the public to engage with these recent publications. Each panel discussion draws a diverse crowd of faculty, students, staff, and community members. Events drew as many as 80 participants, with over one hundred more viewers via online livestreaming.



*Rebecca Weitz-Shapiro, Sheri Berman, John Huber, Maria Victoria Murillo, and Justin Philips*

*Bruce Western, Adam Reich, Ronald B. Mincy, and DeAnna Hoskins*

## Trans Kids: Being Gendered in the Twenty-First Century
*By Tey Meadow*
October 10, 2018
Chaired by Shamus Khan
Featured discussion by:
- Shamus Khan
- Ken Corbett
- Julia Serano

## Shari'a Scripts: A Historical Anthropology
*By Brinkley Messick*
December 5, 2018
Featured discussion by:
- Mashal Saif
- Islam Dayeh
- Guy Burak
- Gil Anidjar
- Intisar A. Rabb
- Mahmood Mamdani

## Homeward: Life in the Year After Prison
*By Bruce Western*
February 18, 2019
Chaired by Shamus Khan
Featuring discussion by:
- Adam Reich
- Ronald B. Mincy
- DeAnna Hoskins

## Working For Respect: Community and Conflict at Walmart
*By Adam Reich and Peter Bearman*
February 26, 2019
Chaired by Shamus Khan
Featuring discussion by:
- Shamus Khan
- Suresh Naidu
- Catherine J. Turco

## Non-Policy Politics: Richer Voters, Poorer Voters, and the Diversification of Electoral Strategies
*By Maria Victoria Murillo and Ernesto Calvo*
April 15, 2019
Chaired by Justin Philips
Featured discussion by:
- John Huber
- Sheri Berman
- Rebecca Weitz-Shapiro

# DEAN OF SOCIAL SCIENCES LECTURE SERIES

ISERP hosted the Dean of Social Science Lecture Series, which featured current research and projects underway by faculty members of all five social science departments. This series served to highlight important and interesting work, and fostered interdisciplinary conversations. Encouraging bridges between the social science research fields, these lectures allowed faculty members to learn about the work of their colleagues and start crucial conversations about shared themes and methods. Each event, hosted as either a breakfast or lunch, included a lecture followed by discussion.

## POLITICAL SCIENCE

OCT. 23

*Ethnic Segregation and Conflict:
Evidence from Kenya*

**Kimuli Kasara**

*Understanding the Partisan Evolution of America's Culture War*

**Justin Phillips**

## ECONOMICS

NOV. 12

*Abuses of Market Power*

**John Asker**

## HISTORY

DEC. 10

*Feminism, Phillip Morris, and the Commercialization of Sport in the 1960s and 70s*

**Frank Guridy**

## ANTHROPOLOGY

FEB. 13

*Savage States:
Settler Governance in an Age of Sorrow*

**Audra Simpson**

## SOCIOLOGY

FEB. 19

*Presumed Competent:
Asian Americans and Affirmative Action*

**Jennifer Lee** and **Van C. Tran**

## ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH STAFF

### Officers of Instruction

**Johann Peter Thomas Brambor**
*Adjunct Assistant Professor, QMSS*

**Dawn M. Brancati**
*Adjunct Assistant Professor, QMSS*

**Benjamin K. Goodrich**
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