

ANNUAL REPORT

2017 - 2018

INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC
RESEARCH AND POLICY

In the Faculty of Arts and Sciences





ISERP

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ISERP

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTORS

Thomas A. Diprete and Matthew J. Connelly



ISERP continues to be a nexus for innovative research by some of the world's most distinguished social scientists. We are pleased to report another year of progress in a multiyear effort to reinvigorate ISERP's capacity to foster pioneering social science and policy research and support the educational missions of anthropology, economics, history, political science, sociology, and SIPA.

The number and size of grants that ISERP administers continues to climb. In FY18, ISERP helped faculty obtain 41 new grants, more than in FY17 and double the number in FY14. In FY18 we managed 103 active grants, compared to 68 in FY14, a 51% increase. Altogether, ISERP is now managing grants that total \$28.9 million dollars, with \$12.3M in government grants and \$16.5M in private grants. This represents a 27% increase just in the past year.

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In addition to helping researchers obtain and manage external grants, ISERP distributes its own seed research grants and conference grants, supports multi-investigator start-up centers and thematic workshops, and provides both block funding for departments and space for researchers and support staff. The overall level of support is reflected in our annual budget, which has doubled in the last four years, from \$ 2,185,207 to \$4,610,489. This year, we instituted rolling deadlines for our seed grant competition to make them more flexible. ISERP also sponsored a new interdepartmental graduate student seminar and social hour to provide increased opportunities for graduate students to become better acquainted with the research by their peers in the other social science departments in Arts and Sciences.

In FY 2018, ISERP supported 12 conferences that were sponsored by Columbia scholars from history, sociology, political science, economics, SIPA, and earth and environmental sciences. The conferences included the Second Biennial Sustainable Development Research

Symposium, the Spring 2018 BREAD conference, and the Political Economy Conference at Columbia. ISERP also supported a number of one-time thematic conferences: “The American Political Economy in Comparative Perspective,” “Urban Floods: Interdisciplinary Perspectives,” “Impairment in the Social World,” “Two Hegemonic Restructuring Projects in Diachronic Perspective: America’s Marshall Plan and China’s Belt and Road Initiative,” “Policing and Violence: An Interdisciplinary Conference,” “Ten Years After the Financial Crisis,” “The Success of Failure: Perspectives from the Arts, Sciences, Humanities, Education, and Law,” and “Shaping the Future of DACA: Bridging Research and Policy.”

ISERP has provided continuing support to the Working Group on Computational Social Science, a joint initiative with the Data Science Institute. Through biweekly meetings it has created a forum to discuss common methodological problems and hear presentations on work in progress. Participants came from all the ISERP departments and SIPA, as well as Engineering, the Law School, the Business School, Social Work, and Columbia Libraries. In 2018, ISERP co-initiated the “Data for Good” seminar series with Data Science Institute. In May, it also co-sponsored a free two week “boot camp” on “Data Science for Social Scientists.” ISERP also supported a set of events intended to stimulate research on the “smart university” that will harness Columbia’s own administrative data to develop policies and practices that improve the academic and administrative functioning of the university.

From this working group emerged a new initiative focusing on Data Ethics that won an ISERP “start-up center” grant. The idea behind the start-up center grants is to bring together teams to work on a project that cannot be accomplished in a conference and that could lead to a larger, longer-term initiative, such as a new center, curricular innovation, a laboratory, or a degree-granting program. In this case, Josh Whitford from Sociology, Manan Ahmed from History, and Bruce Kogut from the Business School organized three lectures on using “data for good” and a workshop on news and digital circulation. They also partnered with QMSS to create modules on data and ethics for use in the QMSS curriculum and worked with CUIT to conduct a study on biases in student course evaluations.

ISERP supports multi-investigator centers and thematic workshops, and provides both block funding for departments and space for researchers and support staff.

In 2018, ISERP provided support for a new start up center. The Center for the Lifecourse Approach to Adolescent Well-Being (CLAAW) is being led by Shamus Khan of sociology and Jennifer Hirsch of Sociomedical Sciences. CLAAW will advance a program of interdisciplinary research on the institutional drivers of young adult well-being, using a lifecourse approach with particular attention to substance use, mental health, gender, and sexual health. It has the goals of building an intellectual community at Columbia that researches structural and policy drivers of adolescent and young adult wellbeing, develops procedures for “smart university” research on these issues, and increase Columbia’s competitiveness in applying for grants in substance use and mental health.

The Columbia Tutoring and Learning Center (TLC), an ISERP center funded by the Gates Foundation, continued to expand its mission of providing innovative, face-to-face online tutoring of the highest quality in mathematics to students in Harlem high schools. In 2018, the TLC continued its tutoring effort in the Columbia Secondary School and also expanded into A. Phillip Randolph Campus High School on W 135th St. Its continuing mission is to innovate in the tutoring services it provides and to conduct rigorous evaluation of these services.

The Justice Lab at Columbia University has just completed its first year under the founding co-directors Bruce Western and Vincent Schiraldi. Through research, convenings, and outreach, the Lab is a national center for criminal justice reform. This past year, the Justice Lab has initiated major projects to close youth prisons, develop new strategies for young adults, reform probation and parole, expand efforts for prisoner reentry, study the conditions and consequences of solitary confinement in U.S. prisons, and assist New York City in closing Rikers Island and implementing legislation raising the age of its juvenile court. The Justice Lab is also hosting the Square One Project, a multi-faceted initiative to propel criminal justice reform, involving community leaders, advocates, and criminal justice agencies. Justice Lab projects are supported in part by the National Science Foundation, the Laura and John Arnold Foundation, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Catherine T. and John D. MacArthur Foundation, the Public Welfare Foundation, the W.T. Grant Foundation, Open Philanthropies, the Shaw Foundation, the Tikkun Olam Foundation, the Rosenberg Foundation, and the Galaxy Foundation.

In FY 2018, ISERP supported 12 conferences that were sponsored by Columbia scholars from history, sociology, political science, economics, SIPA, and earth and environmental sciences.

In 2018 ISERP initiated a new lecture series on the theme of “Coming to Terms with a Polarized Society.” Five events were held in the fall and the spring. They featured distinguished political scientists, sociologists, economists, and journalists discussing the causes and consequences of polarization in American politics and American culture. This included the reporting of events and the consideration of evidence from science and social science in public discourse about politics and policy. These panels discussions were co-sponsored by the Heyman Center for the Humanities and social science departments at Columbia and Barnard.

ISERP also continues to support a number of established centers and working groups in the social science departments, both through its block grant funding to departments, and through direct administrative support. These centers include the Applied Statistics Center, the Center for the Study of Wealth and Inequality, the Center for Organizational Innovation, the Center for the Study of Development Strategies, and the Center on African-American Politics and Society. We also continue to support the Program in Economic Research (PER) at Columbia for all their pre and post award activities, and to support their program to enhance the research environment for faculty and graduate students of economics.

As in recent years, ISERP held a competition to support the creation of new thematic workshops that bring scholars together from within and across disciplines to focus for up to two years on a compelling issue. Three new workshops were funded for FY19: “Time and Temporality in the African Past,” which is organized by Gregory Mann and Stephens Rhiannon in the Department of History, “The Sociology of Gender and Sexuality,” which is organized by Tey Meadow and Shamus Kahn the Department of Sociology, and “Critical Media and Digital Studies,” which is organized by Alondra Nelson, Department of Sociology and Desmond U. Patton, Columbia School of Social Work.

As part of its educational mission, ISERP runs a highly-successful masters program in Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences. QMSS continues to offer a general track along with concentrations in economics, in data sciences, and in experiments to serve the needs

of its growing student community. That success can be measured both by the growth of its program offerings and in the number of degree students it serves, which rose from 126 to 139 students over the past year. Also, for the first time QMSS expanded its offerings into the summer, offering a new summer course in Applied Machine Learning in Python and two summer workshops on innovative methodology, Introduction to Quantitative Text Analysis and Introduction to Principles of Data Visualization.

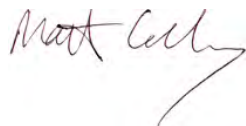
All this activity has helped to deepen our partnerships not just with the social science departments and SIPA, but with other centers on campus as well as the Arts and Sciences and SIPA deans. For instance, ISERP joined with the Heyman Center for the Humanities in 2018 to co-sponsor the New Books in Arts and Sciences series. These events feature authors of new books from the social science and humanities departments including a summary by the author, a commentary from an invited speaker, and a reception. ISERP began its involvement in this series by co-sponsoring the event around the new book, *Nation Building*, by Andreas Wimmer from sociology.

ISERP also continues to collaborate closely with the Columbia Population Research Center through joint seed grants and enhancing the research computing environment through the Social Science Computing Committee (SSCC). In the spring of 2018, the SSCC facilitated the transition of its pilot Secure Data Enclave into a full-scale production version -- built and managed by CUIT—to provide a computing environment for sensitive data. In addition to the SSCC, ISERP also administers the finances of the Columbia Experimental Laboratory in the Social Sciences (CELSS) and is a member of the New York Research Data Center. NYRDC provides research access to sensitive data collected by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. Partnerships like this are essential for providing the basic infrastructure for social science research at Columbia.

The success of the Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences MA program can be measured both by the growth of its program offerings and in the number of degree students it serves.

None of this would be possible if ISERP did not have a terrific staff who work behind the scenes to sustain these many initiatives – hiring hundreds of researchers, managing tens of millions of dollars of funding, and coordinating events all across campus. As ISERP co-directors, we hope you will join with us in recognizing their hard work, above all our Director of Administration and Finance, Jo-Ann Espaillet. We are also grateful for the support of our 2017-18 Executive Committee (Wojciech Kopczuk, David Scott, Robert Shapiro, Miguel S. Urquiola, and Dean Frederick Harris), and the guidance of the 2017-18 Advisory Committee (Harriet Zuckerman, Jennifer Hirsch, Jess Benhabib, Bruce Kogut, and Kenneth Prewitt).

ISERP has a great history, and it keeps getting stronger. But we realize that there is still untapped potential. If you would like to get involved in ISERP, or suggest new initiatives, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.



MATTHEW J. CONNELLY



THOMAS A. DIPRETE

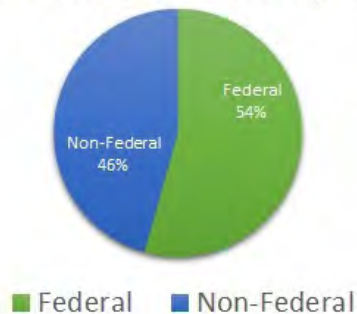
RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT

RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

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.

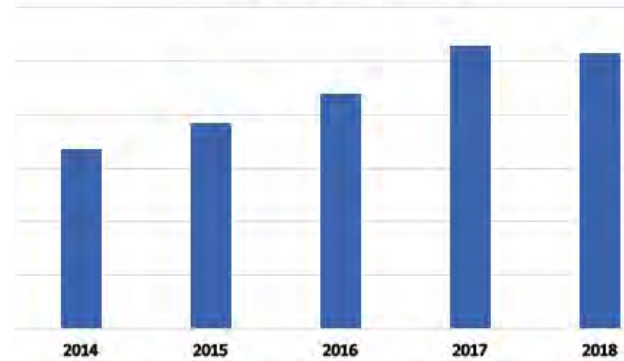
In the last fiscal year, the RDO assisted with the submission of 92 grant proposals to 36 government agencies, foreign institutions, and private foundations.

FY 18 Proposals by Category



ISERP's work resulted in 41 grants awarded by 24 sponsors in FY18. Awarded projects include faculty research, grants supporting doctoral student dissertations, and funding for convening scholars and practitioners.

Active Grants FY14-FY18



ISERP is pleased to add the Annie E. Casey Foundation to its list of sponsors this year. The foundation was established over 60 years ago to support underserved youth who face the challenges of poverty, limited opportunities, and other hardships. In FY18, ISERP managed two Casey Foundation awards, both under the direction of Senior Research Scientist Vincent Schiraldi, in the Justice Lab. The "Support Youth Administrators for Effective Youth Justice" project brings together current and former Juvenile Correctional Administrators to promote community based programming alternatives and the reduction of youth incarceration. The "Case Study in Closing America's Youth Prisons" project documents the deinstitutionalization of youth and will provide data and outcomes to promote deinstitutionalization in other jurisdictions.

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 officials from the Human Research Protection Office and researchers in ISERP's departments. Additionally, ISERP Directors and staff attended 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 three calls for proposals in FY18 and awarded eight seed grants

"How U.S. Employers Mobilize Employees to Change Policy: A Survey of State Legislatures"

Investigator: Alexander Hertel-Fernandez

Department: School of International and Public Affairs

"Pricing in Multiple Currencies in Domestic Markets and Learning to Price in Retail Markets"

Investigator: Andres Drenik

Department: Economics

"How much of the waste in public procurement in Amazonas, Brazil is because good suppliers don't want to sell to the government?"

Investigator: Michael Best

Department: Economics

"Ancestral Rice: tracing the development of irrigated riziculture in highland Madagascar"

Investigator: Zoe Crossland

Department: Anthropology

"Does Political Empowerment Improve the Welfare of Urban Migrants? A Field Experiment on Voter Registration"

Investigator: Nikhar Gaikwad

Department: Political Science

"Understanding the Structure of Retail Financial Markets Using Administrative Data"

Investigator: Tobias Salz

Department: Economics

"A National Solitary Confinement Database"

Investigator: Bruce Western

Department: Sociology

"Strategic Focus in Games: An Experiment"

Investigator: Alessandra Casella

Department: Economics/Political Science

START UP CENTER

The purpose of ISERP's Start-Up funding is to bring together one or more teams to work in a common space toward a common goal. The award supports a project that cannot be accomplished in a conference and that could lead to a larger, longer-term initiative, such as a new center, a research program or laboratory, or a degree-granting program. The Start-Up Center is intended to generate products, including papers, applications for large-scale external funding, a model curriculum and syllabi, or shared resources, such as datasets, software, or a public-facing website.

"The Center for the Lifecourse Approach to Adolescent Well-Being (CLAAW)"

Investigators: Shamus Khan and Jennifer Hirsch

Departments: Sociology (Faculty of Arts & Sciences) and Sociomedical Sciences (Mailman School of Public Health)

FACULTY **ENGAGEMENT**

Faculty Highlights

DOUGLAS ALMOND

As part of his research grant from the National Science Foundation, Dr. Almond has been studying China's greenhouse gas emissions. Having surpassed U.S. Carbon emissions since 2006, China is ground zero for public policies that will shape the course of global climate change. At present, relatively little is known about China's green house gas emissions, this despite both their global importance and relationship to air pollutants that compromise local air quality and health in China. Key obstacles are the lack of reliable data and the novelty of China's most ambitious environmental policies, including a nationwide carbon Cap and Trade Program currently being adopted and favored by many economists as an efficient way to address the externality of carbon emissions. Our work to date has focused on measurement of emissions and air quality, "scraping" data on Continuous Emissions Monitoring Systems (CEMS) of hourly stack concentrations at coal-fired power plants and other large manufacturers. Together with co-authors at MIT Sloan and NYU Shanghai, we have benchmarked these "on the ground" readings of sulfur dioxide against (independent) satellite readings to assess data reliability as well as responsiveness to new rules on stack concentrations adopted in July 2014. We published our initial findings in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences in June 2018: Quantifying coal power plant responses to tighter SO2 emissions standards in China.

To read these finding, visit: <http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2018/06/12/1800605115>

TIMOTHY FRYE

In the past year, Dr. Frye began examining whether videotaping judicial proceedings influences the behavior of judges in Ukraine. The project focuses on one of the most common forms of abuse in Ukraine's notoriously weak and corrupt judicial system: pre-trial detention. Many in Ukraine charge that prosecutors use pre-trial detention to extract bribes. With funds from ISERP and the National Council for Eurasian and East European Research, this project explores how videotaping pre-trial detention hearings influences judicial effort, decision-making, and professionalism. Working with the Ukrainian NGO "Open Courts," Dr. Frye began a pilot study over the summer and will launch a randomized control trial in the fall of 2018. In addition, with a grant from the National Science Foundation, Dr. Frye is exploring how firm managers mobilize their workers during elections in a range of political systems, including Russia, Turkey, Venezuela, Argentina, Nigeria, and Indonesia. Finally, with grants from the Harriman Institute and the Columbia Center for Global Energy Policy, Dr. Frye finished a project examining how economic sanctions shape support for the Russian government. His paper, "Economic Sanctions and Public Opinion: Survey Experiments from Russia" will appear in a forthcoming issue of *Comparative Political Studies*. He also continues to co-direct the Institute for the Study of Institutions and Development at the Higher School of Economics in Moscow and to serve as editor for *Post-Soviet Affairs*.



HARRISON HONG

During the past year, Professor Harrison Hong, under a 3-year grant from the Norges Bank Investment Management (NBIM), conducted research on climate finance. Climate finance addresses how the financial system ought to manage climate-change risks when providing credit, making investments and delivering other financial services, such as insurance. A large part of this grant was to organize a special issue on climate finance for the *Review of Financial Studies* (RFS) with his colleague Jose Scheinkman, Professor of Economics at Columbia University, and Andrew Karolyi, executive editor of RFS and Professor of Finance at Cornell University. The special issue had a workshop for nine papers chosen from over one hundred submissions during the Fall Semester of 2017 at Columbia University. The workshop featured papers on the expectations of investors and corporations regarding climate change and the efficiency of capital markets in pricing climate-change risks, including work from three previous winners of the Nobel Prize in Economics. View more information on the workshop at the following link: <http://rfssfs.org/news/climate-finance-workshop/>

MAE NGAI

Professor Mae Ngai and her co-principal investigators Professor Rebecca Kobrin and Professor Laura Kurgan launched a three-year project to create interactive web-based maps showing historical demographic change in New York City from 1850 to 1920. "Mapping Historical New York," funded by the Robert Lion Gardiner Foundation and managed by ISERP, will focus on the changes brought to Manhattan and Brooklyn during an era of high immigration and the consolidation of the City of New York. The project is a collaboration of the History Department (A&S) and the Center for Spatial Research in (GSAPP). The maps, which will be publicly available on the Columbia University website, will enable users to identify population attributes (nationality, race, gender, age, etc.) at set points in time and changes over time. It also includes teaching historical-GIS, an exciting new domain of historical research, to undergraduate and graduate students in methods and thematic courses.

ELIZABETH A. POVINELLI

Professor Povinelli, in collaboration with Vanessa Agard-Jones and Catherine Fennel, was awarded funding for two years beginning in FY17 for the Toxic Sovereignty Workshop. The workshop was established to explore how environmental toxicity has affected historical and contemporary forms of sociality in a variety of socio-historical and geographic contexts including but not limited to post-industrial landscapes in the US, mining and other extractive operations on Indigenous lands in the Papua New Guinea, Northern Australia and Canada, and agricultural contaminants in South Asia and the Caribbean. In the first year they held eight events that involved faculty from Columbia, Columbia's Mailman School of Public Health, University of Chicago, City University of New York and North Western. Faculty presented on a variety of topics including: experimental preservation, global toxicity and class, history of industry and understanding the harms done by industrial toxins, contemporary history of the Kodak Company in Rochester with special emphasis on chemical photography and postindustrial ecology to name a few. In addition, graduate students from the Department of Anthropology led a graduate and faculty workshop on their PhD research in this area. The workshop received a second year of funding and in FY18 organized an internationally grounded series of scholarly and artistic presentations and exchanges around the concept of toxic assets in conjunction with the Frontier Imaginaries curatorial project, led by Vivian Zihel, and the "Martha Bierman Symposia for the Collapse of Civilization." View more information at the following link: <https://www.e-flux.com/program/154262/toxic-assets-nbsp-frontier-imaginaries-ed-no3-at-e-flux-and-columbia-university/e-flux-and-columbia-university/>

DAVID STARK

During the past year, David Stark launched a research project, "Diversity and Performance: Networks of Cognition in Markets and Teams," supported by a five-year Advanced Career Award from the European Research Council. The project investigates three interrelated, but analytically distinct, cognitive challenges facing contemporary organizations. First, organizations should be alert to mistakes that could be catastrophic. Second, they need to allocate attention, especially to correct past mistakes and to make accurate predictions about future developments. Third, they should be innovative, able to stand out from existing categories while being recognized as outstanding. The cognitive challenges of error detection, attention allocation, and innovation are studied with the aim of developing a comprehensive sociological approach to study the social properties of cognition.

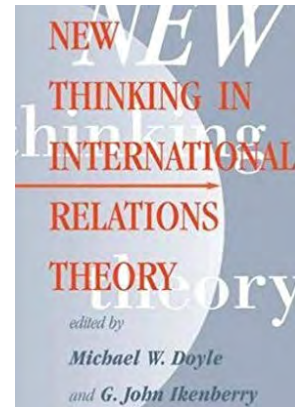
The research question that cuts across the socio-cognitive challenges asks whether and how diversity contributes to performance. The project adopts different research designs in three distinct settings strategically chosen so the scale and complexity of the performance challenges increases across the cases.

- 1) The first study tests how the social context, understood at the most basic level as the composition of a small collectivity, affects behaviour. To do so, it uses experimental methods to test how ethnic diversity affects decision-making.
- 2) The second study tests how the social structure of attention affects valuation. The activities involve error correction and accuracy of prediction in estimates by securities analysts; the method is two-mode network analysis; and the timing, intensity, and diversity of attention networks are the effects to be tested.
- 3) The third study examines relations within and across collaborative teams. In studying the network properties of creativity, the challenge is recognizing innovation, the activity involves releases in the field of music, the method is cultural network analysis, and the effects to be tested are the combined effects of stylistic diversity and social structure.

For more information, please visit the following website: <http://blogs.cim.warwick.ac.uk/diversityandperformance/>

FACULTY BOOKS

Michael Doyle, School of International and Public Affairs
Co-Author: G. John Ikenberry
New Thinking In International Relations Theory.
Routledge, 2018



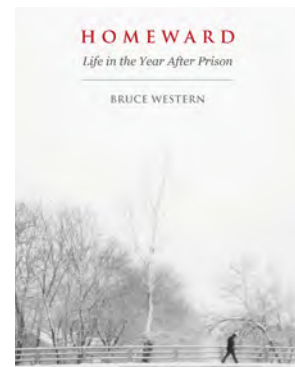
Yasmine Ergas, School of International and Public Affairs
Co-Authors: Jane Jenson, Sonya Michel
Reassembling Motherhood: Procreation and Care in a Globalized World.
Columbia University Press, 2017



Alexander Hertel-Fernandez
Politics at Work: How Companies Turn Their Workers into Lobbyists.
Oxford University Press, 2018



Bruce Western, ISERP
Homeward: Life in the Year After Prison
Russell Sage Foundation, 2018



CENTERS



APPLIED STATISTICS CENTER

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, and facilitates the development of new projects.

CENTER ON AFRICAN AMERICAN POLITICS AND SOCIETY

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.

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

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.

CENTER ON ORGANIZATIONAL INNOVATION

The Center on Organizational Innovation (COI) promotes research on organizational innovation as well as new forms of collaboration, communication, and coordination made possible with the advent of interactive technologies. The Institute's core mission is to catalyze and produce pioneering social science research and to shape public policy.

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF WEALTH AND INEQUALITY

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.

COLUMBIA EXPERIMENTAL LABORATORY FOR THE SOCIAL

The Columbia Experimental Laboratory for the Social Sciences (CELSS) has opened at Columbia. CELSS resides on the 5th floor of the International Affairs Building and is an interdisciplinary venue for researchers in Economics, Political Science, Sociology, SIPA and the Business School. It has 24 computers for participants and one computer for the experimenter.

COLUMBIA JUSTICE LAB

The Justice Lab combines original research, policy development, and community engagement to propel the project of justice reform. 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.

COLUMBIA PROGRAM ON INDIAN ECONOMIC POLICIES

The Program on Indian Economic Policy (PIEP) is funded by a generous grant from the Templeton Foundation and brings together scholars from Columbia and other universities and think tanks around the world. The program houses a data center on India's economy and organizes lectures, seminars, and conferences in the U.S. and India.

START UP CENTER: DATA ETHICS

The Data Ethics Start-Up Center aims to develop both a context of discussion that attracts colleagues from different fields and seeds research to advance our understanding of ethics in the new age of data sciences and computational social science. The time to identify, study and address ethical issues associated with data-driven decision-making is now.



Pictured from left to right: Van Jones, Donna Hylton, and Topeka K. Sam. speak at a press conference held by the Justice Lab

WORKING GROUPS

WORKING GROUP ON COMPUTATIONAL SOCIAL SCIENCE

The Working Group on Computational Social Science at Columbia University is a joint initiative of the Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy and the Data Science Institute. It brings together faculty from multiple schools and departments to share research, build institutional capacity, and explore larger questions about how the information revolution is transforming society. In 2017-18, it continued the seminar series that began in 2016, and then launched three new initiatives: A "Data for Good" lecture series, a "Smart University" seminar, and a two-week "Data Science for Social Scientists" boot camp. Fall meetings included the following speakers and topics:

- October 5th, 2017: "Sexual Health Initiative to Foster Transformation (SHIFT)" by Jennifer Hirsch and Shamus Khan
- October 9th, 2017: "Fighting Gerrymandering with the Blue Waters Supercomputer" by Wendy Tam Cho
- October 19th, 2017: "Mass Digitization of Chinese Court Decisions: How to Use Text as Data in the Field of Chinese Law" by Benjamin Liebman
- November 2nd, 2017: "Computational Models of Understanding Language in Social Context" by Smaranda Muresan
- November 16th, 2017: "Center for Spatial Research: Conflict Urbanism" by Laura Kurgan
- November 30th, 2017: "Deep Analytics Applications: From NLP, Computer Vision to Sensors" by Siddhartha Dalal
- December 14th, 2017 - "Monopsony Power in Online Work Platforms: Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Evidence From Mechanical Turk" by Suresh Naidu

Data for Good Seminar Series

In the Spring, CSS moved from smaller bi-weekly discussions with invited faculty to a larger "Data for Good" weekly talk series open to the entire community. Eleven distinguished speakers addressed a series of complex challenges, all related to ensuring data science serves the public good. Topics included financial systems risk, interpretability and discrimination in machine learning, and different definitions of fairness and privacy:

- February 9th, 2018 : "FATES: Fairness, Accountability, Transparency, Ethics, Safety and Security" by Jeannette Wing
- February 16th, 2018 : "A Data Science Approach to Predict the Impact of Collateralization on Systemic Risk" by Sharyn O'Halloran
- March 2nd, 2018: "Algorithmic Bias: The Hard Problems" by Arvind Narayana
- March 9th, 2018: "Vulnerabilities in a Sociotechnical Society" by danad boyd
- March 22nd, 2018: "Deregulating Collection: Must Privacy Give Way" by Helen Nissenbaum
- March 30th, 2018: "Library Collections as Data: Cultural Heritage Designed for Computation?" by Laurie Allen
- April 6th, 2018: "Auditing, explaining, and ensuring fairness in algorithmic systems" by Sorelle Friedler
- April 13th, 2018: " An Online Professional Certificate in the Digital Humanities" by Peter Bol
- April 20th, 2018: "Data for Good: Simple Rules for Decision-Making" by Ravi Shroff
- April 27th, 2018: "Data for Good" by Chris Wiggins and Renee DiResta

Smart University Initiative

Inspired by earlier CSS talks, in April 2018 CSS sponsored a seminar with faculty and senior administrators to discuss projects that use computational analysis of internal university data to support better decision-making. Dustin Tingley was invited to discuss Harvard's "Radmin" project, which has created open-source tools in R to improve the efficiency of labor-intensive administrative tasks like course scheduling, curriculum planning, and tracking Ph.D. student progress. Josh Whitford discussed how the Data Ethics Start-Up Center is analyzing racial and gender bias in course evaluations data at Columbia. Finally, Shamus Khan and Jennifer Hirsch discussed the SHIFT project to analyze other aspects of student wellbeing.

The CSS Smart University initiative also helped inspire a new ISERP "start-up center," The Center for the Lifecourse Approach to Adolescent Well-Being (CLAAW). It will build on earlier work by Khan and Hirsch to develop best practices in doing research with sensitive institutional data, such as exploring methods to encrypt this information using new data science techniques. CSS members also started a dialogue with the Provost's Office of Planning & Institutional Research on how Columbia can learn from the policies and practices of peer institutions in this area.

Data Science for Social Scientists Summer Workshop - May 22nd, 2017 – June 2nd, 2018.

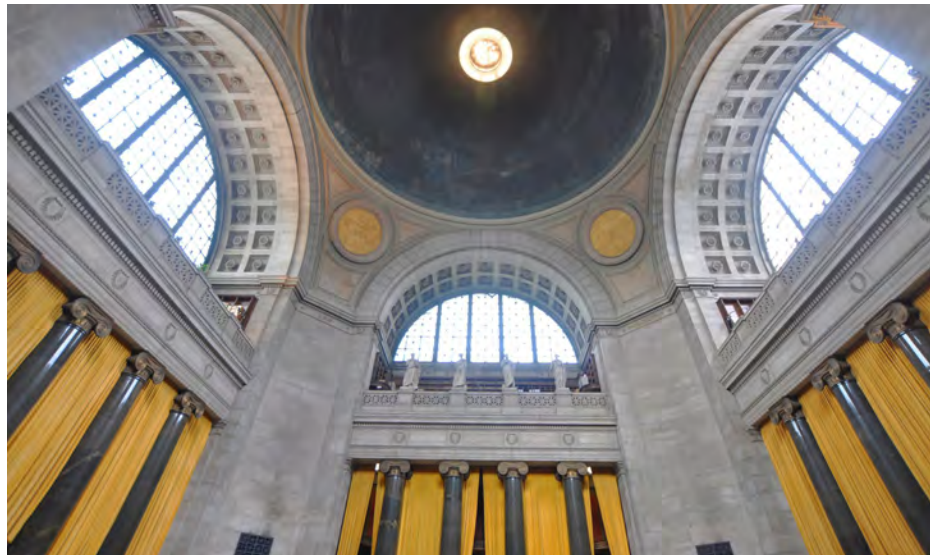
CSS organized a new workshop offering a practical introduction to computer packages accessible to researchers with varying skill sets. Nineteen people from Economics, History, Political Science, and Sociology registered for the workshop. They included graduate students, post-doctorate students, and faculty. The workshop covered the following topics:

- Day 1: Introduction to Data Science
- Day 2: Exploring Data
- Day 3: Statistical Modeling
- Day 4: Introduction to Machine Learning (1)
- Day 5: Introduction to Machine Learning (2)
- Day 6: Working with Digital Text
- Day 7: Pre-Processing Text Data/Quanteda
- Day 8: Basic Textual Analysis
- Day 9: Advanced Topics in Textual Analysis



*Data Science Institute
Director Jeannette Wing
presents "Data for Good".*

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, and more.

INTERNATIONAL POLITICS SEMINAR

The Columbia University International Politics Seminars (CUIPS) provides an essential forum for faculty and graduate students to meet and discuss cutting-edge research in international relations. The mission of this seminar series is to bring the country's foremost junior faculty in international relations to present their work at Columbia.

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. It brings together faculty from other departments and advanced graduate students to present their work on topics related to comparative politics.

POLITICAL ECONOMY COLLOQUIUM

The Columbia University Political Economy Seminar is a forum for presentations on new research in the field of political economy. It meets weekly during the academic year. It is a joint endeavor of ISERP, political science, and the economics departments.

POLITICAL ECONOMY SEMINAR

The primary goal of the seminar is to bring some of the brightest and most innovative scholars in the field of political economy to Columbia University, and to expose faculty and students to their work. In addition, the seminar creates a unique opportunity for cross-disciplinary discussion between economists and political scientists.

POLITICS, SOCIETY, ENVIRONMENT, & DEVELOPMENT

The seminar brings students and faculty together for robust interdisciplinary discussions on politics, environment, development, and the social world. To better facilitate discussion across the social and natural sciences, they hold film screenings and public lectures followed by questions from a range of participants.

TOXIC SOVEREIGNTIES

This public seminar features dance, poetry, art installation, screenings, and talks that respond to the question: What would it take to detox New York City? The project marks the arrival of art and research initiative Frontier Imaginaries to New York City, as a guest of e-flux lectures and Columbia University.

UNDOCUMENTED STORIES

This workshop aims to bring together scholars interested in reconstructing the history and experiences of people in Africa and the Americas (with a special focus on indigenous communities) in contexts of limited or non-existent contemporaneous documentation using methodologies from a range of disciplines.

WEALTH AND INEQUALITY SEMINAR SERIES

The interdisciplinary Seminar Series on Wealth and Inequality takes as its mission the investigation of income and wealth, along with exploring the dimensions of societal inequality in these household resources. Topics encompass issues of poverty, labor market behavior, public transfer programs, and tax policy.

WORKSHOP ON 20TH CENTURY POLITICS AND SOCIETY

The Workshop on 20th Century Politics and Society brings together scholars in political science and history (and related disciplines) to consider issues of shared interest; to create a small intellectual community for students and faculty who work in related areas; and to tackle important problems in the current scholarship.

WORKSHOP ON POLITICAL PSYCHOLOGY

This Workshop on Political Psychology brings together local political psychologists twice a year to discuss a small number of papers and to talk about political psychology more generally. The workshop provides an opportunity for people with similar intellectual and research interests to present work in progress.

THE INTERDISCIPLINARY GRADUATE STUDENT SEMINAR

This year-long ISERP-sponsored student run seminar series seeks to foster a conversation amongst grad students across the social science departments at Columbia to discuss the diverse ways in which interdisciplinarity can be mobilized. The goal of the seminar series is to explore how interdisciplinary approaches can contribute to and enrich traditional disciplines.



ISERP INTERDISCIPLINARY GRADUATE SEMINAR

The newly established ISERP Interdisciplinary Graduate Seminar Series had a successful first year. The following PhD students served on the 2017-2018 organizing committee:

- Anthropology: Eduardo J. Romero Dianderas and Anna K. Schirrer
- Economics: Nathaniel D. Mark
- History: Thomas B. Zuber
- Political Science: Viviana Rivera-Burgos and Cristy Vo
- Sociology: Tiffany J. Huang

The committee members established a call for presenters, applicants were required to submit a 500-1000 word proposal and cv. In the fall they received 18 proposals and in the spring they received 26, demonstrating the interest of graduate students to participate in the series.

The following seminars were held:

1. September 19th, 2017: "Restoring Interdisciplinarity to the Study of the Interwar Avant-Garde" by Samuel Coggeshall (History PhD Student) and Francisco Lara-Garcia (Sociology PhD Student)
2. October 14th, 2017: "Modernization in Decline: India's Upper Krishna Irrigation Project, 1964-Present" by Divya Subramanian (History PhD).
3. November 14th, 2017: "Legitimizing the State or a Grievance? Property Rights and Political Engagement" by Jacob Kopas (Political Science PhD Student)
4. February 6th, 2018: "The Political Economy of Revenue Dedication" by Matt Mazewski (Economics PhD Student)
5. February 27th, 2018: "Framing Diversity: An Interdisciplinary Review" by Sandra Portocarrero (Sociology PhD Student)
6. March 27th, 2018: "Intergenerational Dynamics and Climate Change: Contributions from Experimental Economics" by Silvio Ravaioli (Economics PhD Student) and Franco Palazzi (Philosophy PhD Student at New School)
7. April 17th, 2018: "Governing through Property and Contract: International Investment Protection as Regulatory Governance" by Gustav Kalm (Anthropology PhD Student)

The series brought together PhD students from different social science departments in conversations that otherwise might not have occurred. The series allowed Columbia PhD students in the social sciences to explore novel interdisciplinary intellectual directions and interact with students of other disciplines.





QUANTITATIVE METHODS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES

QMSS

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 (89) and applicants to date (nearly 500), the QMSS MA program continues to grow in size, scope and programming. The QMSS students come from 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 Google, Capital One, NBCUniversal, Deloitte Consulting, IBM, the United Nations, the New York Federal Reserve, or earning their Ph.D.s at places like Harvard, Chicago, Berkeley, Carnegie Mellon 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 and Social Networks -- and the program continues to

add new exciting courses, most recently, Machine Learning and a Practicum on Large Data Analysis. These courses are taught by dedicated lecturers for QMSS or by adjunct faculty 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 over 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 programming for the MA students, including alumni networking nights, career panels, technical workshops on topics like SQL, Python programming or shell-scripting, hack-a-thons, Ph.D. panels, a day of service and other socializing programs (like a Thanksgiving celebration and young alumni picnic). This Fall, we also held our first ever Thesis Expo and Alumni Reunion, with over 100 alumni in attendance and 25 student presentations in Low Rotunda.

With its largest cohort of students (89) and applicants to date (nearly 500), the QMSS MA program continues to grow in size, scope and programming. The QMSS students come from 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.

QMSS continues to build strategic relationships across the University. Over the last year, 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. We has also begun contributing to the new ISERP Center on Data, Ethics and Decision-making, where we are holding student focus groups and are test-piloting materials for the Center.

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, everything from studying the dynamics of crime and violence in Mexico to studying variation in antitrust laws across time and jurisdictions.

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.



Pictured from left to right: Glenn C. Loury, Joseph Stiglitz at the 10th Annual Arrow Lecture, December 2017.

PROGRAM IN ECONOMIC RESEARCH

PER Staff for 2018

Yeon-Koo Che

Kelvin J. Lancaster Professor of Economic Theory

Sophia N. Johnson

Assistant Director, Program for Economic Research

Stephanie Cohen

Program Manager, Program for Economic Research

Announcement

The Department of Economics announced that David E. Weinstein had been appointed Executive Director of the Program for Economic Research (PER), succeeding Yeon-Koo Che, who served in the role for the past three years. Professor Weinstein previously served as Chair of the Department of Economics, 2012-2015, and Executive Director of PER, 2009-2012.

PER Weekly Visitors Program

PER's visitor program hosted ten scholars in the Fall of 2017, and nine in the Spring of 2018. Scholars from around the globe shared their research through weekly workshops, and interacted with faculty and students.

PER Distinguished Lecture Series

The PER Distinguished Lecture Series launched three years ago to promote understanding of pioneering research agenda by prominent scholars, hosted several scholars. In the Fall of 2017, Jordi Galí from the Center for Research in International Economics (CREI) discussed the role of monetary policies in containing asset bubbles, and Jonathan Gruber from MIT discussed his empirical research on the cost of "defensive medicine." In the spring semester Sandra Black (Texas), Lars Hansen (Chicago) and Vincent Crawford (Oxford) delivered lectures on a variety of stimulating subjects such as the effect of birth order on a child's success, the role of uncertainty in the measurement of climate cost, and behavioral game theory.

Academic Conferences

PER sponsored and co-sponsored several academic conferences throughout the year. In the fall, we co-sponsored A Special Symposium in Memory of Kenneth J. Arrow. Professor Arrow's work was formative in shaping the field of economics over the past sixty years and his ideas, style of research, and breadth of vision were a model for generations of the boldest and most creative economists. Among the list of 24 distinguished scholars in attendance, included: Joseph E. Stiglitz, University Professor and Nobel Laureate (Columbia University); Eric S. Maskin, Adams University Professor and Nobel Laureate (Harvard University); Bengt Holmstrom, Paul A. Samuelson Professor of Economics and Nobel Laureate (Massachusetts Institute of Technology); and, Oliver Hart, Andrew E. Furer Professor of Economics and Nobel Laureate (Harvard University). Kenneth J. Arrow received his Ph.D. in Economics from Columbia University in 1951, and was awarded an honorary doctorate from the university in 1973. The Symposium is an academic tribute to Kenneth J. Arrow, celebrating his pioneering scholarship and innovative spirit. Following the symposium, Professor Glenn C. Loury will deliver the 10th Annual Arrow Lecture, titled "Persistent Racial Inequality in the U.S.: An Economic Theorist's Account".

In the fall of 2017, PER also organized a panel discussion on "Protectionism Today." Moderated by Columbia University Professor, Jagdish Bhagwati, a panel of former policy advisers and academic experts addressed the alarming rise of protectionism under the Trump administration and debated a variety of policy concerns regarding bilateral balances, China, trade disputes, the abandonment of the multilateral trading system.

This year, we are very pleased to serve as the main vehicle for implementing the department's pledge to support graduate student research. As part of this commitment, PER has rolled out several programs. This year, PER will fund 18 summer research assistants.

Other conferences included: Microeconomic Theory Conference held in September 2017 and the Market Design Conference held in April 2018. Other similar frontier conferences included the Climate Finance conference, Political Economy, and the 6th Annual Bounded Rationality in Choice (BRIC) conference, June 2018.

PER Mini Courses

In November of 2017, Benjamin Moll (Princeton) gave a mini-course on "Heterogeneous Agents Model in Continuous Time," which introduces a cutting-edge methodology in macroeconomics research. In the spring semester, John Starchurski (Australian National) taught computer programming languages for economics research, and Rajiv Vohra's (Brown) course titled "Coalitional Games and Farsightedness" explored recent developments that incorporate farsighted behavior in coalitional games, which are designed to model rational behavior when groups have the ability to make binding agreements.

Student Support

This year, we are very pleased to serve as the main vehicle for implementing the department's pledge to support graduate student research. As part of this commitment, PER has rolled out several programs. This year, PER will fund 18 summer research assistants. Funding is also available for students to purchase data and process them for their dissertations. Graduate student support for research travel and editing services is also available through PER.

COMING TO TERMS WITH A **POLARIZED SOCIETY**

Lecture Series

The Institute of Social and Economic Research and Policy at Columbia University presented a series of events during the 2017-18 academic year under the theme of “Coming to Terms with a Polarized Society.” These events were jointly sponsored by the Departments of Anthropology, Sociology, Political Science, Economics, and History, and served as a forum for consideration and debate of important trends that are having a profound effect on multiple aspects of American society. Scholars, journalists, politicians, and ordinary citizens have been aware for more than two decades of growing income inequality and stagnant incomes for middle-class Americans.

Along with these developments has come a growing political polarization in state and federal government and diminished empathy and respect between Americans who differ by class, race, religion, sexual orientation, or place of residence. The apparently growing divergence in viewpoints about what kind of country America is, what its strengths and weaknesses are, and how it should go about solving problems has been accompanied by growing distrust of science, expertise, and facts themselves. Everything has become partisan and subjective. Nothing is trusted as objective. This series of events is intended to explore these issues in a forum that encourages thoughtful reflection and discussion.

EVENTS

POLARIZATION, PARTISANSHIP, AND THE FUTURE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM

October 11th, 2017

Featured:

Nolan McCarty, Susan Dod Brown Professor of Politics and Public Affairs, Princeton University.

Christina Greer, Associate Professor of Political Science, Fordham University.

Frances Lee, Professor of Government and Politics, University of Maryland.

STRANGERS IN THEIR OWN LAND: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE

November 1st, 2017

Featured:

Arlie R. Hochschild, Professor of Sociology Emerita, University of California, Berkeley.

Frederick Harris, Dean of Social Sciences and Professor of Political Science, Columbia University.

Nicholas Lemann, Joseph Pulitzer II and Edith Pulitzer Moore Professor of Journalism and Dean Emeritus of the Faculty of Journalism, Columbia University; staff writer for the New Yorker.

PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM, POLARIZATION, POST-TRUTH, AND POST-TRUMP.

November 11th, 2017

Featured:

Michael Schudson, Professor of Journalism, Columbia University.

Leonard Downie, Jr., Weil Family Professor of Journalism, Arizona State University; Former Executive Editor, Washington Post.

Bill Keller, Editor-in-Chief, The Marshall Project; Former Executive Editor, New York Times.



Pictured from left to right: Nolan McCarty, Frances Lee, and Christina Greer.

RHETORIC AND EVIDENCE IN A POLARIZED SOCIETY

March 1st, 2018

Featured:

Mario Luis Small, Grafstein Family Professor, Harvard University.

Robert Krulwich, science correspondent for NPR; Co-host of Radiolab.

Nicholas Lemann, Nicholas Lemann, Joseph Pulitzer II and Edith Pulitzer Moore Professor of Journalism and Dean Emeritus of the Faculty of Journalism, Columbia University; Staff writer for the New Yorker.

IMPORTING POLITICAL POLARIZATION? THE ELECTORAL CONSEQUENCES OF RISING TRADE EXPOSURE

April 12th, 2018

Featured:

David Autor, Ford Professor of Economics and Associate Head, MIT.

Thomas Edsall, Joseph Pulitzer II and Edith Pulitzer Moore Professor, Columbia University; Op-Ed Writer, New York Times.

Alan Krueger, Bendheim Professor of Economics and Public Affairs, Princeton University; Former Chairman of President Barack Obama's Council of Economic Advisers.

ISERP
CONFERENCES



**2ND BIENNIAL SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH
SYMPOSIUM**

April 13th-15th, 2018

Organized by Douglas Almond; Raimundo Atal; Ram Fishman; Stephanie Lackner; Kimberly Oremus; and Anna Tompsett

**35TH BREAD CONFERENCE ON
DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS**

May 11th-12th, 2018

Organized by Christian Pop-Eleches; Amit Khandelwal; Rohini Pande; Miguel Urquiola; and Eric Verhoogen

**THE AMERICAN POLITICAL
ECONOMY IN COMPARATIVE
PERSPECTIVE**

February 16th, 2018

Organized by Alexander Hertel Fernandez and Kathleen Thelen.

**HOW INTERNATIONAL,
TRANSNATIONAL, AND
GLOBAL HISTORY CONQUERED
THE WORLD**

November 30th- December 1st, 2018

Organized by Ira Katznelson; Eugenia Lean; and Jose Moya

**IMPAIRMENT IN THE SOCIAL
WORLD**

February 18th, 2018

Organized by Gil Eyal; Erela Portugaly; Jonathan Lin; and Adrianna Munson

**POLICING & VIOLENCE: AN IN-
TERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE**

October 26th - 28th, 2018

Organized by Shamus Khan and Madiha Tahir

CONFERENCES

**POLITICAL ECONOMY
CONFERENCE AT COLUMBIA**

January 19th, 2018

Organized by Carlo Prato; Alessandra Casella; Shigeo Hirano; John Huber; Suresh Naidu; Pietro Ortoleva; and Navin Kartik

**SHAPING THE FUTURE OF DACA:
BRIDGING RESEARCH AND
POLICY**

February 22nd, 2018

Organized by Van Tran; Sally Findley; Neeraj Kaushal; and Yao Lu

**TEN YEARS AFTER THE
FINANCIAL CRISIS**

December 7th - 8th, 2017

Organized by Sharyn O'Halloran; Thomas Groll; and Geraldine McAllister



**THE SUCCESS OF FAILURE:
PERSPECTIVES FROM THE ARTS,
SCIENCES, HUMANITIES,
EDUCATION, AND LAW**

December 8th - 7th, 2017

Organized by Pamela Smith; Stuart Firestein; Eileen Gillooly; Jeremy Kessler; and Xiaodong Lin

**TWO HEGEMONIC
RESTRUCTURING PROJECTS IN
DIACHRONIC PERSPECTIVE**

November 2018

Organized by Victoria De Grazia and Madeleine Zelin

**URBAN FLOODS:
INTERDISCIPLINARY
PERSPECTIVES**

April 12th, 2018

Organized by Adam Sobel; Anupama Rao; Kavita Sivaramakrishnan; and Pamela Smith

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