

Institute for Social and Economic
Research and Policy

Annual Report

2025–2026



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Message from Our Directors



Alessandra Casella

Professor of Economics
and Political Science &
Co-Director, ISERP



Adam J. Kosto

Professor of History &
Co-Director, ISERP

The 2025–2026 academic year witnessed continued upheaval in long-established patterns of research and funding in the social sciences, with scholars forced to grapple with challenges ranging from the disruption of grants, to the shrinking of doctoral programs, to the rise of AI. In the face of this turmoil, ISERP remained focused on its mission of support for research in the six Social Science departments and SIPA and interdisciplinary scholarship.

The core of ISERP's work is its funding of and administrative support for research and related programming through: assistance in applications for external grants (42 over the course of the year) and management of successful awards (63); a robust program of our own research grants; block grants to the Social Science departments; and scholarly communication efforts such as the A&S New Books Series, our monthly newsletters, and the Working Papers Bulletin. Our long-standing semi-annual conference, workshop, and seed grant calls saw a 21% year-over-year growth in applications, leading to a highly competitive selection process. We also fund initiatives outside these frameworks; an excellent example this year was the Robert Jervis Archival Papers Project, joint with the Harriman Institute. We are exploring collaborations with the Data Science Institute, and generally welcome proposals from the community for creative and high-impact initiatives.

This academic year marked the inaugural year of ISERP's Faculty Fellows program. Our first two Fellows, Professors Nikhar Gaikwad (Political Science) and Noémie Pinardon-Touati (Economics), took their semesters of teaching and administrative leave, using the time to advance their research and begin planning conferences that will bring their work to the attention of scholars and networks relevant to their fields at a key point in their careers.. Professor Gaikwad's conference on "Identity and International Political Economy" will take place on November 13–14, 2026; Professor Pinardon-Touati's conference on "Frontiers in Empirical Macroeconomics" will be scheduled for early Fall 2027. We also selected the next two Fellows: Tatiana Mocanu (Economics) and Patricia Kirkland (SIPA), who will be taking their leaves in Fall 2026 and Spring 2027.

2025–2026 also saw the introduction of two new grant programs. The first, the Social Science of Pandemics Grant, was made possible by a generous gift from the estate of Julia Crandall Moser in support of the Center for Pandemic Research. The three-year award provides up to \$100,000 in funding for faculty proposals that advance ambitious, feasible, and scalable approaches to understanding pandemics, including proposals involving interdisciplinary and multi-investigator collaborations.

We also launched Graduate Student Research Grants, which provide up to \$5,000 support to dissertation research by PhD students in our departments; in its inaugural year, the program is supporting 29 projects.

To support increased interest in understanding the changing landscape of research funding from government and nongovernmental sources, in January, ISERP held its first “Funding Workshop 101” for graduate students and faculty in the Social Sciences departments. The workshop consisted of two parts: an information session guiding prospective applicants through the proposal process and sponsored research policies, followed by a faculty-led workshop offering practical guidance and feedback on proposals. We look forward to providing additional opportunities to learn about research funding in the coming year.

ISERP’s support for the next generation of social scientists also continues through the Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences (QMSS) master’s program. QMSS continues to thrive under the leadership of Greg Eirich and welcomed over 200 students in Fall 2025. Drawing students from a wide variety of backgrounds and disciplines, QMSS prepares graduates for careers as data scientists, research directors, senior analysts, and academic researchers in many fields. This year, students Federica Pennino and Gabriel Møller were selected for the GSAS Master’s SynThesis competition, with Møller receiving the Audience Award for Best Slide. The QMSS Innovation Lab likewise continued to develop cutting-edge work in collaboration with a range of companies and organizations.

This report highlights these activities and many others supported by ISERP. As ISERP closes the books on our 25th year and looks toward the next 25, we invite you to continue to be part of our community: to take advantage of our programs and opportunities, to celebrate your milestones and those of your colleagues, to visit us in our new space in Interchurch, and to look to us as a resource for your work and for the continued strength of social science research at Columbia.

Alessandra Casella and Adam Kosto



Research Development Office

Workshop | Seed Grants |
External Grants | Graduate Student
Research Grants



The Research Development Office

The Research Development Office (RDO) supports investigators at SIPA and in the Arts & Sciences departments of Anthropology, Economics, History, Political Science, Sociology, and African American and African Diaspora Studies at Columbia University. ISERP's RDO is the go-to resource for Columbia's social scientists to find funding opportunities, develop proposal materials, apply to grants, and manage grants after award. To learn more about our resources and funding offerings, [please visit ISERP's administrative website](#).

In FY26, 13 grants were awarded, and they funded faculty research, fellowships, and PhD student dissertations. Throughout the year, RDO helped submit 42 grant proposals to government agencies, foreign institutions, and private foundation.

Throughout the year, in addition to our pilot funding workshop, the RDO also held several professional development workshops for graduate students in the Social Science departments. These workshops focused on identifying funding, applying for funding, and understanding the institutional requirements associated with receiving funds. We plan to continue holding these workshops through next year.

63
GRANTS
MANAGED

13
NEW
GRANTS

11
NEW SEED
GRANTS

29
NEW STUDENT
GRANTS

FUNDING 101 WORKSHOP

ISERP's Proposal Support

- Identifying grant opportunities
- Proposal and budget preparation
 - Proposal review – for non-technical clarity and funder requirements
 - Budget verification and review
- Internal administrative requirements
 - Approval and proposal registration
 - Coordinate with Sponsored Projects Administration
 - Manage account setups and proposal submission for federal grants
 - PI or indirect cost waivers
- Subaward coordination
 - Contact for subaward administration

 COLUMBIA ISERP
Institute for Social and Economic
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On January 26, 2026, ISERP held a funding workshop for graduate students and faculty in the social sciences. The workshop consisted of two parts: an information session followed by a discussion session. During the information session, administrative staff from offices across the university presented on a range of internal and external funding opportunities, including foundation, corporate, and federal funding. They also guided participants through the proposal development process, covering proposal preparation, budget development, and the Columbia and federal policies that govern sponsored research.

The second part of the workshop featured a discussion session with Professor Yamil Velez and Professor Joshua Whitford. Participants engaged in peer review of one another's proposal abstracts, with guidance from Professors Velez and Whitford, and received feedback

on their ideas, guidance on application norms and expectations, and suggestions for funding opportunities that aligned with their research interests and projects. The workshop provided participants with practical guidance, institutional resources, and opportunities for peer and faculty feedback to support the development of competitive funding proposals.

If you wish to take a look at the administrative presentations from this workshop, we host the slideshow [on our administrative website](#).

SEED GRANTS

Full-time faculty and select visiting faculty appointed in ISERP's constituent units are eligible to apply for up to \$40,000 in seed funding to develop proposals for external sponsors. For funding in FY26, ISERP issued two calls for proposals—in Spring and Fall 2025—and awarded 11 seed grants.

Political Geographies

Caterina Chiopris

Political Science

Bringing the Bureaucracy to the Margins: Improving Bureaucratic Response to Undocumented Migrants

Gemma Dipoppa

Political Science

The American Lawsuit: Civil Litigation from the Revolution to the Age of Jackson

Hannah Farber

History

The Wine of Mocha: Coffee and Sufi Trade Networks 1300–1600

Ali Karjoo-Ravary

History

The Conservative Influence of Gaming on America's Young Men

Eunji Kim

Political Science

Reconstruction and the Law in the United States: Southern Courts, 1865–1876

Stephanie McCurry and Kellen Funk

Political Science and Columbia Law School

Understanding and Overcoming Barriers to Lead Service Line Replacement in Disadvantaged Communities

Robert Metcalfe and Fanyu Wang

SIPA

Adrift in the Indian Ocean: Coastal Livelihoods and the Unmaking of Maritime Sovereignty

Kalyani Ramnath

History

“What is Public About Public Weather Forecasting?”

Jeffrey Shrader

SIPA

Combining Local History Research with Field Measurements in High School Curricula to Address Toxic Exposure: Pilots in Lead-Impacted Lavrion, Greece and Newark, New Jersey

Pamela H. Smith and Alexander van Geen

History and LDEO

Co-sponsored with the Columbia Population Research Center

EMBRacing a Family-Based Program to Reduce the Impact of Discrimination on Black Youth Mental Health

Riana Anderson, Brandi Summers, and Minh Duc Pham

CSSW, African American and African Diaspora Studies, and CSSW

EXTERNAL GRANTS

Sloan Foundation Fellowship

Sponsor: Alfred P. Sloan Foundation

Researcher: Hassan Afrouzi, Associate Professor of Economics

Doctoral Dissertation Research: An Ethnographic Study of Humanitarian Forensic Science at Ireland's Former Mother and Baby Homes

Sponsor: National Science Foundation

Researcher: Zoë Crossland

Student: Phoebe Whiteside

Forgive and Forget: The Elusive Electoral Returns to Student Debt Cancellation

Sponsor: Rapoport Family Foundation

Researcher: Donald Green, Burgess Professor of Political Science

Student: Patrick Liu

Survey Support: Political and Social Consequences of Gaming Among America's Young Men

Sponsor: George Mason University

Researcher: Eunji Kim, Assistant Professor of Political Science

Building New Foundations for Public Economics and Law

Sponsor: Norwegian University of Life Sciences

Researcher: Wojciech Kopczuk, Professor of Economics and of International and Public Affairs

Encouraging Lead Service Line Replacement in Disadvantaged Communities

Sponsor: Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab

Researcher: Robert Metcalfe, School of International and Public Affairs Professor of Energy Policy

Formal–Informal Synergies: Networks, Forbearance, and Firm Outcomes

Sponsor: University of Chicago/Weiss Fund

Researcher: Suresh Naidu, Professor of International and Public Affairs and Economics

Student: Dafne Murillo

Disaggregated Earnings Trajectories in the U.S. Labor Market: New Evidence from Linked Longitudinal Data

Sponsor: National Science Foundation

Researcher: Xi Song, Professor of Sociology

Export Restrictions as Industrial Policy

Sponsor: University of Chicago/Weiss Fund

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

Student: Patrick Farrell

Nolkup: An App to Access Low Arsenic Water in Bangladesh

Sponsor: University of Chicago/Weiss Fund

Researchers: Jack Willis, Assistant Professor of Economics, and Lex van Geen, Lamont Research Professor, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory

Attentional and Perceptual Foundations of Economic Behavior

Sponsor: New York University

Researcher: Michael Woodford, John Bates Clark Professor of Political Economy

GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH GRANTS

In Spring 2026, ISERP piloted a new grant program: the Graduate Student Research Grant. PhD students in all six of ISERP's PhD-granting constituent units were eligible to apply for up to \$5,000 in funding for the dissertation. These funds were intended to cover a variety of research activities, from travel to archives to conducting fieldwork to purchasing datasets.

In this first year, ISERP received 89 total applications and gave awards to 29 projects totaling approximately \$132,000. See the students and their dissertation topics below.

Anthropology

Migration Governance and Border Externalization in Indonesia
Oliver Friedmann

Testing Grounds: Agrarian Aid and Experimentation in Cebu, the Philippines
Taylor Mitchell

Queer Histories of the Khmer Rouge
Tabitha Payne

Plantation/Place: The Archaeology of Community on the Latta Estate
Milan Taylor

Cayuco Crisis: The Politics and Poetics of Passage on the Canarian Archipelago
Elena Vanesse Torres

Economics

Geoeconomics of Sovereign Debt
Patricio Goldstein

From Training to Work: Childcare and Job Consideration Sets
Uditi Karna

Medical Innovation in Hospitals: Adoption and Consequences
Kaitlyn Kennedy-Moulton

History

Migration and the Psy-Sciences in West and Reunified Germany (1945–2000)
Elijah-Matteo Ferrante

Urban Transformation of Crimea after 1783 Russian Annexation
Aisha Garaeva

Law and Order in the Early Cuban Republic
Batel Levy

Guatemalan Refugee and Return, 1980–2000
Thomas Maggiola

Chinese Labor in the Post-Emancipation United States South and British Caribbean, 1852–1880
Samuel Niu

Beyond the Catch: The Gendered Political Economy of Lake Victoria Fisheries in Kenya, 1920–1990
Lynder Atieno Ogembo

Queer, Catholic, Communist: Forging a Sexual Revolution in the Italian Republic, 1959–1989
Lucas Ramos

The “Worthy Virtuosa”: Women and Natural History Collecting, 1650–1800
Stephanie Reitzig

We Are Forever: Indigenous Intellectual Warfare and the Coalition that Fought to Remain
Wyatt Reynolds

Challenging Peonage Through Habeas Petitions: Empire and Unfreedom in the Reconstruction Southwest
Theodore Aubrey Vial

China Out for Delivery: The Transnational Development of Communist China's Foreign Trade Infrastructures, 1946–1961
Ziqian Zheng

Political Science

Intelligence and Strategic Stability in the Nuclear Age
Garrett Hinck

Activism and the Administrative State after Empire
Mayaki Kimba

Forgive and Forget: The Elusive Electoral Returns to Student Debt Cancellation
Patrick Liu

Before Antitrust: Recovering Early Modern Anti-Monopoly Thought and Strategy
Kaarish Maniar

Boss Fight: Career Consequences and Competition for Specialized Office
Nat Rubin

SIPA Sustainable Development

The Localized Environmental and Resource Impacts of U.S. Data Center Expansion
Junho Choi

Landfills and Human Health
Cameron Scalera

Sociology

Navigating the AI Revolution: Major Choice, Skill Formation, and Labor Market Inequality in Higher Education
Yuhan Li

Incarcerated Domestic Violence Survivors and the Fight for Freedom
Alia Nahra

Thinking through genAI: Analysis of genAI Chatlogs
Kiran Samuel



Faculty Highlights

ISERP Fellows | Profiles | Books |
Publications



ISERP Fellows

The ISERP Fellows program was launched in Fall 2024 as a new way for ISERP to support junior faculty in the Social Science departments and at SIPA.

ISERP Fellows receive a one-semester leave from all teaching and administrative duties at full salary, as well as the budget and administrative support for a high-visibility conference to be organized around each Fellow's research interests. The intent is to support junior faculty as they prepare to pursue tenure, giving Fellows more time to concentrate on their research and publications and the opportunity to extend their networks and share their research with a wider audience. ISERP selects one Fellow per semester, and applications for the fellowship are submitted a year in advance of the planned leave. This year, ISERP selected two new fellows, Economics' Tatiana Mocanu and SIPA's Patricia Kirkland.

Below, you can read all about what this year's fellows, Political Science's Nikhar Gaikwad and Economics' Noémie Pinardon-Touati, accomplished over their leaves.

To find out more about the application process, [visit the Fellows Program section of our website](#).

Have any questions? Email our programming team at iserp-events@columbia.edu!

NIKHAR GAIKWAD

POLITICAL SCIENCE
Fall 2025

Nikhar Gaikwad, Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, served as the inaugural ISERP Fellow in Fall 2025. Gaikwad used the Fellowship to work on his book project, *Identity and Emigration: Migration Decisions and Political Consequences in Ranked Ethnic Systems*.

Extensive work has shown that emigration has the potential to transform the lives of migrants and their families and to reshape the politics of sending regions. It matters a great deal, then, who takes overseas employment opportunities and why. The starting point of Gaikwad's research was his finding from dozens of countries around the world that members of minority or underrepresented groups nearly always make up a disproportionate share of cross-border emigrants.

In turn, he used the Fellowship to develop and test a theoretical argument to explain these migration patterns and study their implications for the politics of sending regions where particular types of identity-based groups reside. Theoretically, Gaikwad argued that in ranked ethnic systems, where class and ethnicity overlap, members of disadvantaged groups face discrimination in domestic labor markets and thus view emigration as a relatively favorable path to mobility. Discrimination can limit the skills that members of minority groups bring to the global economy, but escaping that discrimination can also make emigration more attractive. This, in turn, has implications for economic resources and political behavior in sending communities. Members of underrepresented groups are more likely to migrate and augment wealth in rights-poor countries (such as autocracies) than members of advantaged groups; lacking pathways to political incorporation in these destinations, they are also more likely to return home with economic resources to augment the power of political parties representing the interests of minority communities.



The centerpiece of Gaikwad's empirical research during the Fellowship was the study of ethnicity and migration patterns in Kerala, India's most migration-intensive state. Using seven rounds of the Kerala Migration Survey and an original, in-depth survey of migrants and non-migrants from various religious and caste communities in Kerala, Gaikwad's research documented that members of discriminated groups are substantially more likely to migrate abroad, particularly to rights-poor countries such as those in the Persian Gulf, while individuals belonging to advantaged groups predominate in migration to rights-rich destinations like western liberal democracies. His work probed how discrimination shapes migration aspirations and perceptions of opportunity, and how migration feeds back into the politics of sending communities, influencing attitudes toward democracy, redistribution, and globalization. The Fellowship permitted Gaikwad to travel to India during the semester to conduct qualitative and quantitative research to probe these claims. He also explored the implications of the book project's argument for a range of other historical and comparative cases, such as Ireland and England during the 19th and early 20th centuries and other regions of South Asia in more contemporary periods.

Finally, Gaikwad used the Fellowship to plan and organize a conference on the broad theme of "Identity and International Political Economy" in Fall 2026. The conference focuses on how global economic integration alleviates or magnifies identity-based disparities, and the political consequences of these changes. The cross-border flows of goods and services, people, pollutants and greenhouse gases, and capital have the potential to upend the social hierarchies that produce group-based disparities or reinforce them. Yet existing research has paid inadequate theoretical and empirical attention to the processes by which globalization alters group relations and the short- and long-term political consequences of these changes. This conference aims to introduce cutting-edge scholarship emerging in this domain and foster conversations with scholars who have studied the broader impacts of globalization on domestic political outcomes.

NOÉMIE PINARDON-TOUATI

ECONOMICS
Spring 2026

Noémie Pinardon-Touati's Fellowship semester was devoted to her research agenda on the environmental consequences of economic growth.

She completed a first version of her paper "Growth, Firm Scale, and the Energy Intensity of Production" (with Kathryn McDonald and Conor Walsh), which centers on a question with large stakes for global climate projections: how much energy will the developing world need as it catches up to rich-country income levels? The paper starts from a striking macro fact — the energy needed to produce a dollar of output falls steadily as economies develop — and traces it to a micro origin: the growth of firms themselves.



Using administrative data on Indian manufacturing plants, the authors show that as individual firms expand, their energy use rises much less than proportionally with output. They document the physics and technology choices behind this "scale effect": larger production units are intrinsically more energy-efficient, and larger firms find it profitable to adopt energy-saving technologies. Embedding these forces in an equilibrium model of firm growth, they find that the expansion of firm scale accounts for nearly all of the large decline in the energy share of Indian manufacturing since 1990. The results imply that growth may be substantially less energy-intensive than extrapolations from today's developing-country technology suggest. [The paper is now available as an NBER Working Paper](#) and was presented at the NBER Summer Institute Economic Growth and Long-Run Macroeconomic Development workshop.

The Fellowship also supported a second paper in the same agenda, "The Intrinsic Valuation of Biodiversity Loss" (joint with Adrien Bilal and Conor Walsh). While economic growth has supported large increases in human population and in human quality of life, habitat loss, competition for resources, and pollution have caused dramatic declines in wild animal populations. This paper develops an economic framework for valuing these animal population losses. Specifically, it explores the welfare costs of the loss of animal life in a consequentialist total utilitarian framework that incorporates the intrinsic value of living beings through their sentience. Building on advances in neuroscience, Pinardon-Touati and her co-authors construct a conservative cardinal bound on the sentience of animal species relative to humans. They find that the aggregate sentience losses of animals over the past half-century outstrip the sentience gains to humans from population growth by at least 10,000-fold. Breaking even in welfare terms requires assigning a correspondingly small welfare weight to animals. [The draft is available online](#), and the NBER Working Paper version will be available soon.

Looking ahead, Pinardon-Touati will continue developing this agenda in the coming academic year.

Faculty Profiles

**Assistant Professor
SIPA**



FERNANDO CIRELLI

Fernando Cirelli is an Assistant Professor of International and Public Affairs whose research lies at the intersection of macroeconomics, household finance, and financial intermediation. During the 2025–26 academic year, his work examined how households’ financial decisions and the structure of the banking system shape the effects of recessions, inflation, interest-rate changes, and new forms of money.

One central project developed during the 2025–26 academic year, “What Makes Depositors Tick? Bank Data Insights into Households’ Liquid Asset Allocation,” coauthored with Arna Olafsson at Copenhagen Business School, uses detailed transaction-level data from a major Icelandic bank to study how households allocate savings across assets with very similar safety and liquidity characteristics but different interest rates. Despite instantaneous, free transfers, households’ portfolios respond surprisingly little to changes in interest rates, except among the wealthy. The findings reveal substantial forgone interest income and suggest that standard theories of household portfolio choice may overstate how strongly household portfolios respond to monetary policy. In complementary work with Remo Nyffenegger at the Swiss National Bank, Cirelli studies how the growing use of stablecoins and the potential introduction of central bank digital currencies could affect banks and the broader economy. Their research shows that these forms of digital money do not necessarily reduce bank lending and, under some conditions, may in fact increase it.

Cirelli also published “Economic Winners versus Losers and the Unequal Pandemic Recession,” with Mark Gertler, New York University, in the July 2025 issue of the *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics*. The paper documents sharply divergent outcomes among firms exposed to the pandemic and develops a macroeconomic model to explain the monetary and fiscal consequences of the unequal downturn.

With support from ISERP, Cirelli organized the Columbia SIPA Workshop on Financial Intermediation in April 2026. The workshop brought together leading scholars studying instant payments, shadow banking and bank regulation. Its discussion-oriented format allowed ample time for substantive debate and the exchange of ideas among participants. Looking ahead, Cirelli hopes to develop the workshop into a recurring conference at SIPA, helping to raise the School’s profile as a center for research on banking and financial intermediation.



**Professor
Economics**

MARK DEAN

Mark Dean's work aims to understand how and why people behave differently to the standard economic model of a fully rational, selfish, stoic decision maker, free from biases, temptations, and emotional baggage. His focus is on "bounded rationality," or the idea that people have limited cognitive resources they can use to gather information, reason through problems, recall information, and so on. Seemingly "irrational" behavior may in fact be an optimal response to these constraints. Recent work in both economics and psychology has suggested that this may be a fruitful approach to improving models of decision-making.

Dean's most recent work, supported by a seed grant from ISERP, looks to understand the why the way in which choices are presented can have a significant effect on what people choose. Such "framing effects" are ubiquitous—for example, enabling customers to search by price radically affects how responsive they are to price differences, while stock prices respond differently depending on whether earnings are reported in tabular or graphical format. The fields of Marketing and Information Design are built on the idea that the way in which information is presented affects choices. Yet, despite their importance, economists lack a theory of framing effects. Filling this gap would have far reaching implications in any policy sphere that requires the communication of complex information, such as school choice, taxation, and insurance markets.

The key insight in Dean's approach is that framing effects may operate by changing how easy it is to retrieve different types of information. For example, allowing people to sort wines by price makes it easier to access the relative prices information, while providing graphical presentations of earnings data makes it easier to spot trends. By changing these costs, different frames change the information on which people make their decisions, and so the decisions themselves. Dean and his team began by developing a model of framing effects based on the concept of "rational inattention"—that people decide what to pay attention to based on the costs and benefits of doing so. They next developed methods to measure the costs of obtaining different pieces of information from a given decision making environment. These costs can then be used to predict the choices people will make, and how they change with the frame. With these tools under their belt, they next intend to understand the impact of real world design choices on decision-making quality.

**Assistant Professor
Political Science**



GEMMA DIPOPPA

Gemma Dipoppa is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at Columbia University, working at the intersection of comparative politics and political economy. Her research examines contemporary threats to the capacity of the modern state arising from the difficulty of governing phenomena which are not confined within state borders, such as environmental harm, migration, and crime, while institutions remain designed to operate within them.

Over the past year, Dipoppa advanced this agenda on each of these fronts. In work published in *Nature* and as a *Nature* Policy Brief with Saad Gulzar, she showed that realigning the incentives of local bureaucrats in India and Pakistan sharply reduced agricultural crop burning and, with it, child mortality. This is evidence that modest institutional reforms can yield large gains in public health and environmental quality.

In a study accepted at the *Journal of Politics*, she and her coauthors offer the first causal evidence that women who narrowly win mayoral elections in Italy are roughly three times more likely than comparable men to be attacked, and that such violence reflects backlash against women's presence in power rather than the policies they pursue.

Her ISERP seed grant, "Bringing the Bureaucracy to the Margins: Improving Bureaucratic Response to Undocumented Migrants," turns to a population largely overlooked by a literature centered on refugees and legal migrants, yet increasingly present in advanced democracies and acutely exposed to marginalization: undocumented migrants. Partnering with the NGO INTERSOS in the Borgo Mezzanone camp in Puglia, Dipoppa is fielding an experiment testing whether structured information about health, legal, and employment services can increase undocumented migrants' knowledge, institutional trust, and willingness to engage with institutions.

Looking ahead, one strand of Dipoppa's work examines the institutional design of environmental enforcement and political incentives to control pollution. A second strand turns to the logic of state surveillance more broadly, asking who states chose to watch and why. A third strand focuses on migration, asking whether migrants integrate more successfully when settled in migrant enclaves or when placed in early contact with native residents, a question examined using quasi-random assignment to public housing.

Together, these projects pose a single question: whether a state is defined by its control of the institutions that govern within its borders, or in its capacity to act on the forces that ignore and cross them—pollution, crime, and migration that fall outside its competence but shape its fate.



**Associate Professor
History**

HANNAH FARBER

Hannah Farber is an Associate Professor in the Department of History. Her research focuses on commerce, law, and culture in colonial North America and the early United States. Supported by an ISERP seed grant, she is working on a book tentatively entitled *The American Lawsuit: Civil Litigation from the Revolution to the Age of Jackson*. This book explains how early American civil litigation worked, how it distributed the republic's public and private resources, and how, as democracy's counterpart process, it shaped the nation we live in today.

The American Lawsuit is a legal history organized around typical American courtroom goals and experiences rather than pathbreaking precedents. Research conducted this year at the National Archives in Waltham, Massachusetts established what was typical during the early years of the Federal District Court of Massachusetts, which is the focus of one of the book's chapters. Research conducted earlier this summer at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History focused on fragmentary newspaper records, private correspondence among lawyers, judges, and politicians, and the records of the High Court of Errors and Appeals of that state in the 1820s and 1830s.

During the summer of 2026, Farber served as an external fellow at Iona College's Institute for Thomas Paine Studies, funded by a US Department of Education grant for American History and Civics Seminars. Under the auspices of this fellowship, Farber co-led a development workshop for Iona College faculty involved in the undergraduate civics curriculum. She participated in a summer intensive workshop, The Historian's Writerly Craft, run by the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture for historians at work on their second books. She recruits and supports early American historians as a series editor for *American Beginnings 1500-1900* at the University of Chicago Press, and holds a Distinguished Lectureship position with the Organization of American Historians.

Farber will spend 2026-2027 in residence as a fellow at the Cullman Center at the New York Public Library, conducting research for the book's final chapter (on New York state courts) and revising drafted chapters in conversation with the other fellows, who are fiction writers, popular nonfiction writers, and academics.

**Campbell Family Professor
of Anthropology**



CLAUDIO LOMNITZ

This past year, Claudio Lomnitz published a book, *Antropología de la zona de silencio* (Ediciones ERA, 2026), that completes a trilogy on the subject of violence, the state and “negative sovereignty” in Mexico. He also finished work on a book that grew out of this trilogy, titled *A Political Theology of Negative Sovereignty*. It will appear with Duke University Press in the Spring of 2027 and is a study of an emerging political theology in a context where a growing array of economic activities is ordered with recourse to extrajudicial violence. Because sovereignty is a divine trait, the rise of new sovereign powers always develop together with a flourish of metaphysical ideas, for whereas normal humans rely on the give and take of social life, the ability to kill without consequence—which is the ultimate expression of sovereignty—is an attribute of spiritual beings. Sovereignty overrides the expectation of mutuality inherent in everyday life. As a result, sovereignty requires metaphysical, religious, moorings.

A Political Theology of Negative Sovereignty studies an emerging grassroots political theology that has developed in tandem with an economy that relies crucially on extra-judicial killings. In it, Death competes with God’s primacy. A recognition of the autonomy of Death, its independence from God, is a shared characteristic of this splintered mythology.

On the collaborative front, Claudio Lomnitz continued to labor as director of the Social Study of Disappearance Lab, teaching his yearly imparted “Mexico’s Disappeared Practicum.” The Lab also organized two international conferences this year, with the “Violence and Thriving Economies” project that it developed in an institutional alliance with Sciences Po and the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales in Paris. These conferences both sought to examine how formal and informal economic sectors interact in contexts of armed violence. The first event was devoted solely to the case of Mexico and was held at Columbia’s main campus, while the second, larger, conference was broadly comparative and global in scope, and was held at Columbia’s Paris Global Center in Reid Hall (sponsored by ISERP).



**Professor
Sociology**

XI SONG

Over the past academic year, Xi Song's research has focused on how technological change and occupational restructuring are reshaping inequality and workers' career opportunities in the United States. A central part of this work is her externally funded project, "Occupational Restructuring, Job Displacement, and Worker Mobility," which examines long-term patterns of jobs and mobility using large-scale administrative and LinkedIn data. More broadly, she is interested in understanding inequality not only through where people end up in the labor market, but also through the career pathways that lead them there.

One line of research in her ongoing project examines what happens to workers when occupations expand, contract, or are transformed by new technologies. In work published in *Science Advances* last year, Song and her collaborators show that workers in declining occupations face particularly constrained mobility opportunities. Although many leave their occupations, they often move into other declining fields rather than into expanding ones; transitions from declining to growing occupations are comparatively rare, even though such moves offer some of the best prospects for upward mobility. A related project, "AI-Accelerated Occupational Decline and the Mobility Trap" (*AEA Papers and Proceedings*), extends this research into the emerging AI era and examines whether workers in AI-exposed declining occupations can successfully navigate technological disruption. The results point to an increasingly segmented opportunity structure, with limited bridges between growing and declining occupations.

This year also marked an important professional transition as she joined the Sociology faculty at Columbia. Looking ahead, she is especially excited to build interdisciplinary connections around AI and social science. This June, she organized the Summer Academy on Large Language Models in Social Science. This fall, with support from ISERP, she will help organize a conference on new developments in AI for social, economic, and policy research. The conference will bring together scholars across sociology, economics, political science, statistics, computer science, and related fields to address emerging questions about AI-assisted measurement, research design, validation, inference, and the future of socialscience research.

**Associate Professor
African American and
African Diaspora Studies**



BRANDI SUMMERS

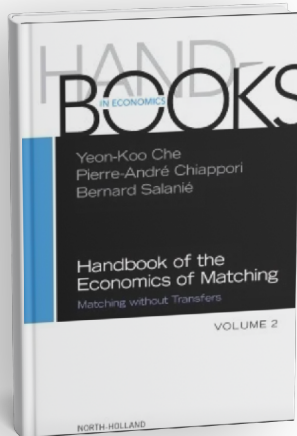
Over the past academic year, Brandi Thompson Summers completed her forthcoming book, *Oakland Afterlives: How Black Cities Survive Their Unmaking* (University of California Press), which will be released in May 2027. In *Oakland Afterlives*, she turns to her hometown to trace seven decades of both the unmaking and persistent reinvention of Black Oakland. Summers chronicles the systematic destruction of Black urban space, while revealing how Black Oaklanders have continually fought to claim the city as their own. In preparation for the publication of *Oakland Afterlives*, Summers published “Oakland and the Ghosts of Urbicide” this year in *Places Journal*. Summers was also invited to publish “When the Margin Is the Center: Urban Geography and Possibility Amid Crisis,” as part of the “Debates and Interventions” series in *Urban Geography* this year. Her article draws on an approach to urban geography, coming from the traditions of Black Studies and Cultural Studies, that offers a vantage point from which to appreciate antiblack racism as the geographic precondition for excessive incarceration, deportation, and environmental degradation in the U.S.

In Spring 2026, Summers marked the conclusion of two significant projects in Oakland, CA. First, the Oakland Museum of California (OMCA) major exhibition, “Black Spaces: Reclaim and Remain,” for which she was a contributor and co-curator. Second, “Oakland’s Black New Deal: Racial Impact Analysis,” for which she served as principal investigator of a research study and report on archival data, survey data, and policy recommendations centering Black residents in Oakland, CA, for the Oakland City Council.

Another project, generously supported by the Center for the Study of Social Difference (CSSD) and ISERP, explores connected but distinct challenges that have threatened and been contested by equally distinct and linked strategies of Black self- and community determination. The “Black Archipelago” initiative is a collaboration between Summers and Prof. Nathan D.B. Connolly (Johns Hopkins University) that has invited a group of Black Studies scholars from the arts, humanities, and social sciences from Columbia University, Johns Hopkins, University of Chicago, Georgetown University, the University and College of the Cayman Islands (UCCI), and more. The focus of the initiative is to form a small, yet international, research collective of 17 scholars, intended to extend support to researchers working in politically targeted and nonetheless crucial fields exploring Black thought, expression, and life-making. The group successfully held two workshops, with one culminating into a public conversation between Summers and Connolly on Black diaspora, migration, and the political economy of family.

Looking forward, Summers will continue developing the “Black Archipelago” project with plans to host a public symposium in Bermuda. She has also begun initial research for her next book project on race, place, and carceral ecologies.

Faculty Books

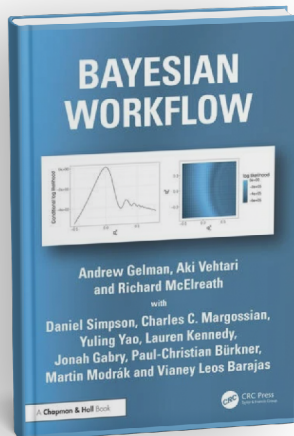


Handbook of the Economics of Matching, Volume 2
(Elsevier)

Edited by
Yeon-Koo Che
Kelvin J. Lancaster Professor of
Economic Theory

Pierre-André Chiappori
E. Rowan and Barbara Steinschneider
Professor of Economics

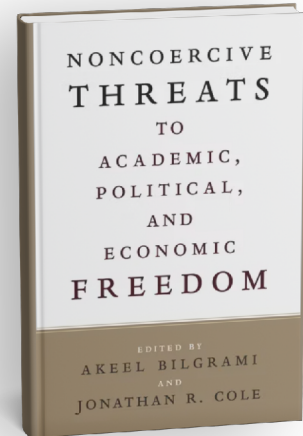
Bernard Salanié
Sami Mnaymneh Professor of
Economics



Bayesian Workflow
(Routledge)

Andrew Gelman
Professor of Sociology

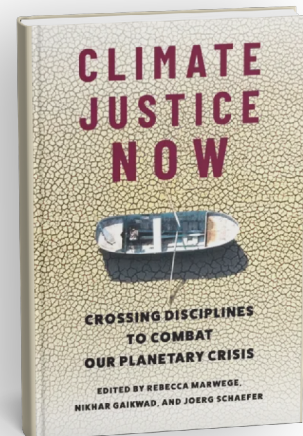
with Aki Vehtari (Aalto University),
Richard McElreath (Max Planck
Institute for Evolutionary
Anthropology), et al.



Noncoercive Threats to Academic, Political, and Economic Freedom
(Columbia University Press)

Edited by
Jonathan R. Cole
John Mitchell Mason Professor of the
University, Sociology

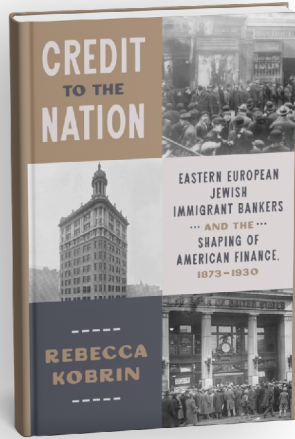
with Akeel Bilgrami (Philosophy)



Climate Justice Now: Crossing Disciplines to Combat Our Planetary Crisis
(Columbia University Press)

Edited by
Nikhar Gaikwad
Assistant Professor of Political
Science

with Rebecca Marwege (American
University of Paris) and Joerg Schaefer
(LDEO)



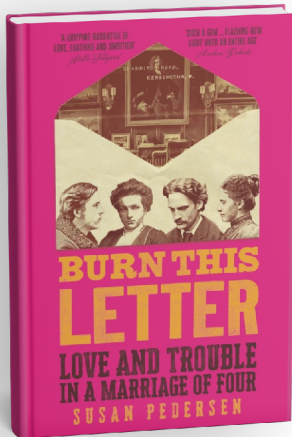
Credit to the Nation: Eastern European Jewish Immigrant Bankers and the Shaping of American Finance, 1873-1930
(Harvard University Press)

Rebecca Kobrin
Russell and Bettina Knapp Associate
Professor of American Jewish History



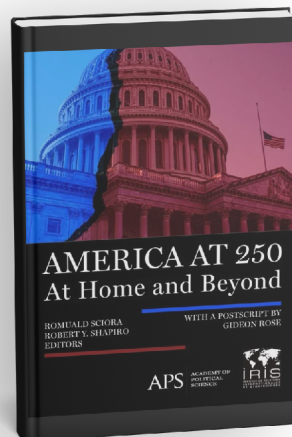
Antropología de la Zona de Silencio
(Ediciones Era)

Claudio Lomnitz
Campbell Family Professor of
Anthropology



Burn This Letter: Love and Trouble in a Marriage of Four
(John Murray)

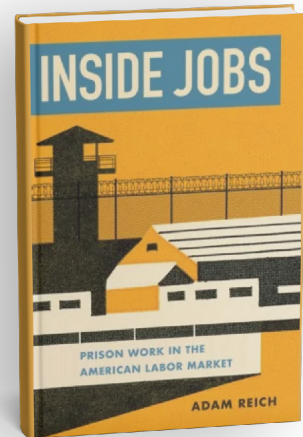
Susan Pedersen
Gouverneur Morris Professor of History



America at 250: At Home and Beyond
(APS and IRIS)

Edited by
Robert Y. Shapiro
Wallace S. Sayre Professor of
Government and Professor of
International and Public Affairs

with Romuald Sciora (French Institute
for International and Strategic Affairs)



Inside Jobs: Prison Work in the American Labor Market
(Russell Sage Foundation)

Adam Reich
Professor of Sociology

Faculty Publications

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Events

New Books | Conferences |
The Interchurch Center

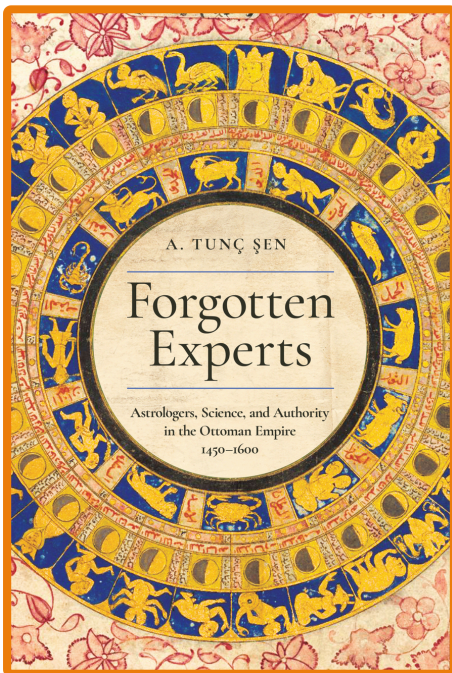


New Books in A&S

New Books in the Arts & Sciences events celebrate the publication of books by Columbia faculty. ISERP organizes the events for faculty members in the Social Science departments. Consisting of a panel followed by a Q&A, each event highlights new work and invites discussion from scholars within a given department, across Columbia, and among broader academic and professional communities. These events are co-sponsored by ISERP, SOF/Heyman, and the Social Science departments.

ISERP sends out biannual calls for faculty members to sign up for these events. If you have a book coming out between July 2026 and June 2027 and would like to be part of this series, please reach out to the programming team at iserp-events@columbia.edu.

This year, we celebrated the following four books:



September 29, 2025

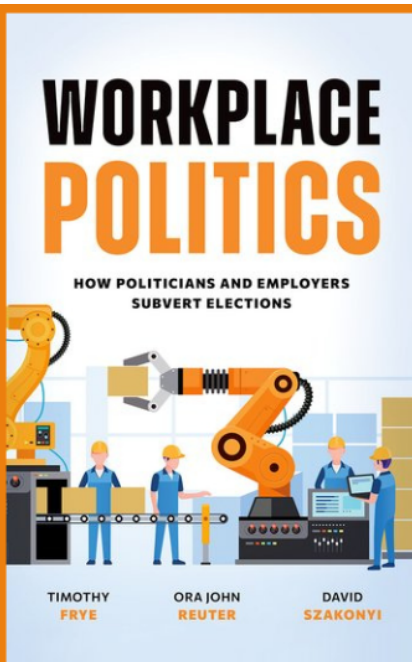
Book Event: *Forgotten Experts: Astrologers, Science, and Authority in the Ottoman Empire, 1450-1600*

By A. Tunç Şen, Associate Professor of History

Panelists:

- Gil Eyal, Professor of Sociology
- Mark Mazower, Ira D. Wallach Professor of History
- Pamela H. Smith, Seth Low Professor of History
- Justin Stearns, Professor of Arab Crossroads and the head of Arab Crossroads Studies at NYU Abu Dhabi

Co-sponsored by the Sakıp Sabancı Center for Turkish Studies, SOF/Heyman, and the Department of History



November 14, 2025

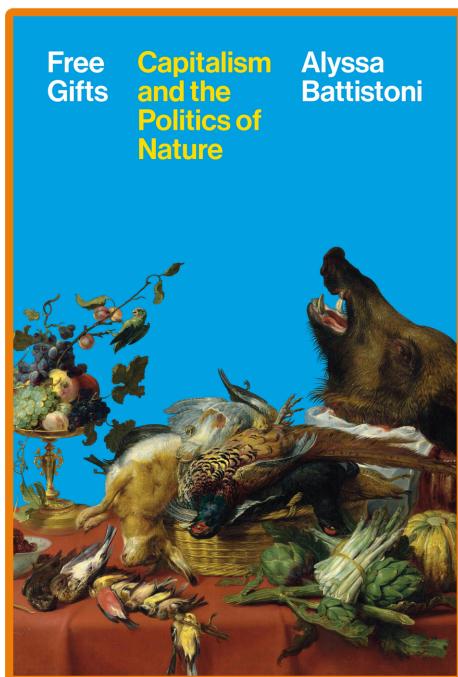
Book Event: *Workplace Politics: How Politicians and Employers Subvert Elections*

By Timothy Frye, Ora John Reuter, and David Szakonyi

Panelists:

- V. Page Fortna, Harold Brown Professor of U.S. Foreign and Security Policy, Political Science
- Alexander Hertel-Fernandez, Herbert Lehman Professor of Government, SIPA
- John D. Huber, Professor of Political Science
- Jessica Pisano, Professor of Politics at The New School for Social Research

Co-sponsored by the Harriman Institute, SOF/Heyman, and the Department of Political Science



November 17, 2025

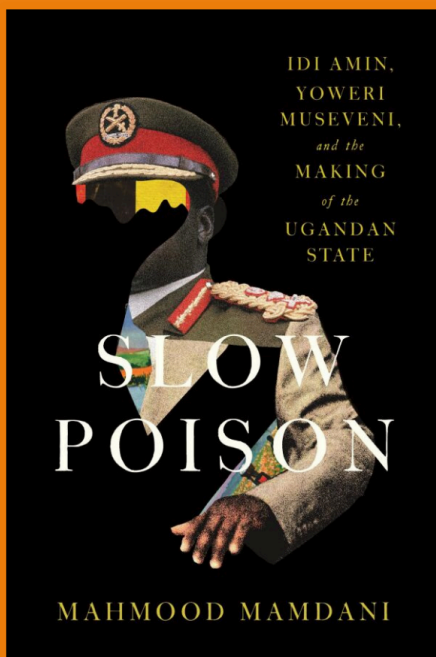
Book Event: *Free Gifts: Capitalism and the Politics of Nature*

By Alyssa Battistoni

Panelists:

- Daniel Luban, Assistant Professor of Political Science
- Karuna Mantena, Professor of Political Science
- Robyn Marasco, Henry A. and Louise Loeb Professor of Political and Social Science at The New School for Social Research
- Carl Wennerlind, Janet H. Robb Professor of History at Barnard College

Organized by SOF/Heyman. Co-sponsored by the Office of the Provost, Barnard College, and the Committee for Global Thought



December 3, 2025

Book Event: *Slow Poison: Idi Amin, Yoweri Museveni, and the Making of the Ugandan State*

By Mahmood Mamdani

Panelists:

- Manan Ahmed, Professor of History
- Rosalind C. Morris, Professor of Anthropology
- Howard W. French, Professor of Journalism

Organized by the SOF/Heyman. Co-sponsored by the Justice Forum, the Department of Anthropology, and the Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies

Conferences

Every fall and spring, ISERP releases its Calls for Proposals. Full-time and select visiting faculty in the six Social Science departments or SIPA are eligible to apply for conference funding; PhD students in the same are eligible to apply for graduate student conference funding.

The following are the ISERP-funded conferences that took place over the 2025–26 academic year:

18
AWARDED
CONFERENCES

1
ADDITIONAL
EVENT

OCT 3–10

3: Revitalization of Indigenous Languages and Arts Across the Americas
9: Dyeing and the Environment
10: Dyeing and Weaving Showcase

Organized by Pamela H. Smith, Alessandra Russo, and Caterina Pizzigoni

OCT 24

Just Cities

Organized by Donald Davis and Rajiv Sethi

OCT 24

Works-in-Progress: Gender, Human Rights, and Security

Organized by Ana Torres and Gilbert Lai (Graduate Students)

NOV 7

New Luddism: Technology and Resistance in the Modern Workplace

Organized by Emily Mazo, Ari Galper, Gina Markov, and Katy Habr (Graduate Students)

NOV 21

Black Europe: A Field on the Move

Organized by Rochelle Malcolm, Mayaki Kimba, and Zarino Lanni (Graduate Students)

DEC 4–5

Centering Morocco in MENA Studies

Organized by Elya Assayag (Graduate Student)

MAR 6

Columbia University Graduate Conference in Political Theory

Organized by Milan Kende Loewer, Tim Vanable, Rodrigo Mendoza, Ana Rodriguez, Robab Vaziri, Lauren Adamo, and Rachel Finlayson

MAR 7

Politics and Economics of International Finance (PEIF)

Organized by Jeffrey Frieden

MAR 25

**The Disruptive
Economics of Artificial
Intelligence with
Professor Avi Goldfarb**

Organized by Matthew
Connelly*

*Additional funding

MAR 27

**Liberalism and the
Future of International
Order: A Conference
Celebrating Jack
Snyder**

Organized by V. Page
Fortna and Jack Snyder

MAR 27–28

**Interdisciplinary PhD
Workshop in
Sustainable
Development (IPWSD)**

Organized by Cameron
Scalera (Graduate
Student)

APR 17

**Emerging Technologies
and Cybersecurity**

Organized by Erica
Lonergan and Tamar Mitts

APR 20

**Long Covid Science and
Society Symposium**

Organized by Gil Eyal

APR 24

**Macro-Finance
Conference – Columbia
SIPA**

Organized by Fernando
Cirelli

MAY 1

**4th Media Effects
Empirical Workshop
(MEEW)**

Organized by Eunji Kim

MAY 8–9

**The Macroeconomic
Relevance of Measured
Beliefs**

Organized by Hassan
Afrouzi

MAY 11

**Thriving Economies
Amidst Armed Violence**

Organized by Claudio
Lomnitz

MAY 29–30

**Statistical Modeling,
Causal Inference, and
Social Science:
Celebrating Andrew
Gelman's 60-ish
Birthday**

Organized by Justin H.
Phillips and Benjamin
Goodrich

JUN 4–5

**2nd Bocconi-Columbia
Conference on Political,
Economic, and Social
Inequality**

Organized by Carlo Prato,
Shigeo Hirano, and
Michael Ting

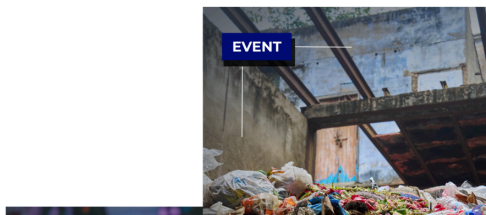
JUN 9–10

Eviscerating the State

Organized by Jean Louise
Cohen and Katharina
Pistor

Conference Posters

EVENT



Dyeing and the Environment

Oct 9, 2025 | 513 Fayerweather | 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM

Revitalization of Indigenous Languages and Arts Across the Americas

Oct 3, 2025 | 513 Fayerweather | 1:00 - 3:00 PM

EVENT



Gender, Human Rights, and Security Conference

October 24, 2025
International Affairs Building, Room 707

Sign up: <https://forms.gle/8624@Columbia.edu>

Making and Knowing Dyeing and Weaving Showcase

Bertha Estrada Huipé | Mateo Rodríguez Estrada

Oct 10, 2025 | 513 Fayerweather | 9:30 - 11:00 AM

Just Cities

October 24
9:00am-6:00pm
Sulzberger Parlor | Barnard Hall

Register Here: 

Speakers:
 Rosanne Haggerty, Community Solutions
 Philip Kitcher, Columbia University
 Sun Kyung Lee, University of Michigan
 Ian Malcolm, Polity
 Julie Moschion, University of Queensland
 Laith Munsinghe, Barnard College
 Valérie J. Purdie-Greenaway, Columbia University
 Brendan O'Leary, Columbia University
 John Pfaff, Fordham Law School
 Amanda Geller, University of California, Irvine
 Edward Glaeser, Harvard University
 Elizabeth Glazer, Vital City
 Sherry Glied, New York University
 Steven Raphael, University of California, Berkeley
 Roman Rivera, Georgetown University
 Margarete Schremsman, Office of Mayor, New York City
 Rajiv Sethi, Barnard College
 Rohini Somanathan, Delhi School of Economics
 Tili von Wächter, University of California, Los Angeles
 Angela Wyse, Dartmouth College
 Morgan Williams Jr, Barnard College

BLACK EUROPE: A FIELD ON THE MOVE

Wednesday, November 12
Heyman Center for the Humanities (East Campus)

10:30 AM | WELCOME
Dr. Alexander Miller, Professor of Africana Studies, Barnard College

10:45 AM | PANEL 1: DEFINING BLACK EUROPE
Annette Gellert, School of Public Policy, University of London
Johanna Schabert, School of Public Policy and Cultural Research, Berlin
Olivier Wertz, University of Edinburgh, Scotland

12:15 PM | AFTERNOON KEYNOTE
Dr. Eusebio John, Lecturer in Black British History, Goldsmiths University of London

2:00 PM | PANEL 2: STUDYING BLACK EUROPE
Farruk Chaudhry, School of the Americas - US, London
Johanna Schabert, School of Public Policy, University of London
Medha Bhattacharya, University of Michigan, US
Sanjiv Kumar, University of Warwick, UK

3:15 PM | PANEL 3: INSTITUTIONALIZING BLACK EUROPE
Deborah Lynskey, Queen Mary University of London
Johanna Schabert, School of Public Policy, University of London
Medha Bhattacharya, University of Michigan, US
Sanjiv Kumar, University of Warwick, UK

4:30 PM | PANEL 4: EXPANDING BLACK EUROPE
Farruk Chaudhry, School of the Americas - US, London
Johanna Schabert, School of Public Policy, University of London
Medha Bhattacharya, University of Michigan, US
Sanjiv Kumar, University of Warwick, UK

6:00 PM | EVENING KEYNOTE
Dr. Audre Lorde, Associate Professor, Institute of French Studies, New York University

Centering Morocco in MENA Studies

4th-5th December, 2025 | Lehman Suite, Room 4
International Affairs Building

This is an open-to-the-public workshop on the past, present and future of Moroccan Studies within the broader context of Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Studies. This workshop will bring together leading scholars of Moroccan studies from the United States and around the world. The program will combine academic discussions with film screenings and visits to archives and exhibitions related to the history of Morocco and Moroccan culture.

Day 1 (12/4)
 10-11am Keynote Speech
 11-11:30am Coffee Break
 11:30am-1:30pm Introduction Through Literary Studies
 1:30-4:30pm Moroccan Studies Past and Present
 4:30-6:45pm Coffee Break
 6:45-8:45pm Film Screening and Discussion: A Thousand and One Nights (1999)
 8:45-10:00pm One-Berber Nights (1999)

MARCH 6, 2026
9:00 AM-4:45 PM
International Affairs Building
Room 707 (Lindley Rogers Room)

Columbia University Graduate Conference in Political Theory
Democracy in Crisis: Backlash, Resistance, and Reform

Register Here: 

POSTSTRUCTURALISM
9:00-10:00 AM
"Emancipation Without Revolution: The Late Foucault on Parricide"
Martha Bitens (Harvard University) | Discussant: Prof. Bernard Harman
"The Politics of Deconstruction: Derrida and the Democracy to Come"
Lana Gaidar (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München) | Discussant: Arjen Grootenboer

CORPORATE POWER
10:00-11:00 AM
"What Is Wrong with Asset Manager Capitalism?"
Hugo Tili (University of Oxford) | Discussant: Prof. Dan Luban
"Corporate Lobbying in the Administrative State: An Epistemic Perspective"
Andrew Hahn (Princeton University) | Discussant: Prof. Turku Isik

NORMATIVE FOUNDATIONS
11:00-12:00 PM
"Publicity Secession and Democratic Boundary Problem"
Shawn Rens (University of Pennsylvania) | Discussant: Prof. Jean Gauthier
"Rethinking the Social Contract: A Hybrid Interpretation of the General Contract Theory"
Rachel Lenz (University of Notre Dame) | Discussant: Prof. Nadia L. L. L.

SOCIAL STRUCTURES
12:00-1:00 PM
"Bodies Dead and Living: Gandhi, Ambedkar and the Problem of Political Form in Colonial India"
Raghavendra Nataraja (Cornell University) | Discussant: Prof. Karan Singh
"It Was a Different World: How Social Structure Wore?"
Mehmet Ural (University of Pittsburgh) | Discussant: Prof. Alpina B.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS
1:00-1:45 PM
Prof. Paulina Ochoa Espino (University of Virginia)

The Disruptive Economics of Artificial Intelligence
with Professor Avi Goldfarb

March 25, 2026
11:45am - 1:00pm
Uris Hall Room 107
Morningstar Campus, Columbia University

Artificial intelligence technology is likely to be the next general purpose technology, with potential to have a profound impact on productivity and our standard of living. As with electricity and the internet, this impact depends on redefining the rules, rather than inserting AI into existing processes. Economic models of the implications of these changes on essential risks, jobs, inequality, market power, and information point to adverse outcomes if we do not act.

Speakers:
 Avi Goldfarb, Columbia University
 Roman Chel in Artificial Intelligence and Healthcare at the Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto

New Luddism
Technology and Resistance in the Modern Workplace

November 7, 2025 | 9:00AM to 5:00PM
Buell Hall, Columbia University
Jointed by researchers, workers, and labor organizers

Columbia ISEIP
Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
Columbia University

LECOLE
1000 5th Ave
10005 04

please RSVP here by 10/20/2025 

12-14pm Moroccan Treasures - Visit to the Archives and Special Collections of Columbia University
2-4pm Visit to the New York City Library, NYPL - Talk with Hiba Abid

Thriving Economies Amidst Armed Violence Conference
Economic Accumulation in Contexts of Armed Violence

Monday, May 11, 2026
Grande Salle du Grand Théâtre
Avenue de la Gare
75006 Paris

LONG COVID & SOCIETY

A one-day symposium featuring sociologists, anthropologists, historians, patient advocates, clinicians, and scientists.

Speakers include: Gil Eyal (Columbia), Larry Au (CUNY), JD Davids (CUNY), Rachel Dumas (McGill), Emily Lim Rogers (Duke), Emily Mendelsohn (Georgetown), David Scales (West Conn), Melissa Sherman Lee (UNC), Pierre Robitaille (CS), André Luiz Scialoja Campos (UNICAMP), Regan Gonzales (Leeds), Shiva N. K., Iana Lavy (CHRS), Julia Moore Vogel (Stetson), Ian Simon (former Director, DHS Office of Long COVID), Cynthia Ading (BPOC Equity Agency and CYNAERA), Kathryn Veriga, Yancy Yu (Columbia), and more.

April 20, 2026
8:30am to 5pm
Free and open to all.
In person at Columbia (Buell Hall) & Virtually

Sponsors:
 Trans-Atlantic Platform
 UNICAMP
 The City College of New York
 Columbia ISEIP

Workshop on Emerging Technologies and International Security

Emerging technologies, including cyber technologies, are having significant and diverse effects on international politics and international security. This workshop brings together scholars conducting cutting-edge research on these issues to present their work and provide feedback on ongoing projects. The workshop will offer opportunities for networking, idea generation, and exposing students to the latest advancements in the field.

Speakers:
 Justin Caselli, Carnegie Mellon University
 Jason Healey, Columbia University
 Garrett Hinko, Columbia University
 Michael Horowitz, University of Pennsylvania
 Jenny Jun, Georgetown University
 Thea Minopoli, U.S. Naval War College
 Tamar Mitts, Columbia University
 Shira Pindick, University of Pennsylvania

April 17
10am-5pm IAB 1302

Register: 

THE 4TH MEDIA EFFECTS EMPIRICAL WORKSHOP

HANNAH WRIGHT (UNIVERSITY OF OREGON)
Media Manipulation (Invisibility in Chinese Newspapers)

CHAGAI WEISS (UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO)
The Polarizing Effects of Political Attacks on the Press

TIANYI WANG (UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO)
McCarthyism, Media, and Political Repression

JON GREEN (DUKE)
A Framework for Studying Podcasts and Their Audiences

ANDREW SIMON (COLUMBIA BUSINESS SCHOOL)
Platform Power in News Aggregators

Speakers:
 Hannah Wright, University of Oregon
 Chagai Weiss, University of Toronto
 Tianyi Wang, University of Toronto
 Jon Green, Duke University
 Andrew Simon, Columbia Business School

Thriving Economies Amidst Armed Violence Conference
Economic Accumulation in Contexts of Armed Violence

Monday, May 11, 2026
Grande Salle du Grand Théâtre
Avenue de la Gare
75006 Paris

Speakers:
 Avi Goldfarb, Columbia University
 Roman Chel in Artificial Intelligence and Healthcare at the Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto

The Interchurch Center

This year was ISERP's year in its new office space at The Interchurch Center, an off-campus office building at 61 Claremont Avenue. Along with a lovely new space (and windows!), we and our collaborators now have access to multiple event spaces and conference rooms. Over the Spring, several faculty members and students were able to take advantage of these spaces.

The majority of these rooms are currently undergoing renovation, over Summer and Fall 2026. We're excited to reach out to the community when the renovations are finished to tell you more about what the new spaces can bring to Columbia's social science community.

In the meantime, please check out the four conference rooms (two small, two medium) that ISERP can make available throughout the fall semester [on our administrative website](#).





Initiatives

Social Science of Pandemics |
Centers | Workshops | Working
Papers | Newsletter



Social Science of Pandemics

In Spring 2026, ISERP began a new grant program on the Social Science of Pandemics, made possible by a generous gift from the estate of Julia Crandall Moser for the benefit of the Center for Pandemic Research. Faculty members and research scholars in ISERP's constituent units, as individuals or as part of interdisciplinary teams, can request up to \$100,000 over three years. Social Science of Pandemics grant applications focus on ambitious, feasible, and scalable approaches to the understanding of pandemics.

In this first year, ISERP awarded the following three projects.

After Zero-COVID: Recognition, Trust, and the Making of Patient Expertise in China

Gil Eyal, Eugenia Lean, and Cristian Capotescu

Sociology, East Asian Languages and Cultures, and INCITE

Hospital Quality and Capacity Strain: Evidence from the Covid-19 Pandemic

Gautam Gowrisankaran

Economics

Liminal Zones: The Politics of Borders, Migrants, and Disease in South Asia and South East Asia

Kavita Sivaramakrishnan and Kalyani Ramnath

Mailman School of Public Health and History

Centers

ISERP's centers draw on the technical and administrative infrastructure provided by the Institute to develop their own research, initiatives, and programming.

Applied Statistics Center

Director: Andrew Gelman

Center on Organizational Innovation

Director: David Stark

Center for the Study of Wealth and Inequality

Directors: Thomas DiPrete, Yao Lu, and Marissa Thompson

Center for Pandemic Research

Columbia Experimental Laboratory for the Social Sciences (CELSS)

Director: Mark Dean

Associate Director: Jacopo Perego

Center on African American Politics and Society

Director: Fredrick C. Harris

Working Group on Computational Social Science

Director: Donald Green

Beyond the Headlines: Overlooked Conflicts and Prospects for Peace

V. Page Fortna, Harold Brown Professor of US Foreign and Security Policy, Department of Political Science

with Jack Snyder (Political Science)

International, Global and Transnational History Workshop

Mark Mazower, Ira D. Wallach Professor of History

with Adam Tooze (History), Matthew Connelly (History), and History PhD students Elijah Ferrante, Dimitrios Mitsopoulos, Lélia Roche, Audrey Siraud, Ziqian Zheng

Latin American and Caribbean Studies Graduate Workshop: Governance, Inequality, and Civic Life

M. Victoria Murillo, Professor of Political Science and International and Public Affairs

with Eduardo Moncada (Political Science, Barnard)

Workshops

Every Fall and Spring, ISERP releases its Calls for Proposals. Faculty in the six Social Science departments and at SIPA are eligible to apply for workshop funding.

Mapping AI

Pamela H. Smith, Seth Low Professor of History

with Madi Whitman (Anthropology)

Black Archipelago and the Crisis of Place

Brandi Summers, Associate Professor of African American and African Diaspora Studies

Seminar on International Economics and Geopolitics

Alan Taylor, Professor of International and Public Affairs

with Jeffry Frieden (Political Science | SIPA)

Working Papers Bulletin

For the past few years, ISERP has issued a Working Papers Bulletin. This initiative highlights the active research of Columbia's social scientists and aims to increase the visibility of that research across all Social Science departments and at SIPA.

The Bulletin includes academic paper and book chapter manuscripts that are completed but yet to be published. These Working Papers are stored on an ISERP website and are available to readers with Columbia and Barnard UNIs. Papers are searchable by keyword. The website includes a database of researchers and their areas of scholarly interest, all to make it easier for social scientists to find each other.

If you are interested in submitting a working paper to our future Bulletins, please reach out:

- Direct Email: iserp_communication@columbia.edu
- [Submit through our portal](#)

Newsletter

To learn more about exciting upcoming events and opportunities, and the innovative work from ISERP affiliates, sign up for our newsletter today!



The mission of ISERP's newsletter is to keep Columbia social scientists, the broader University community, and the public informed about the results of ISERP-affiliated researchers' work and the ever-changing opportunities for research and collaboration we offer. It is a once-a-month email that lets recipients know about ISERP's upcoming events, internal opportunities for faculty and PhD students in the Social Science departments and at SIPA, and grant and funding deadlines relevant to Columbia's social scientists.



Programs

IIGSS | QMSS



IIGSS

The ISERP Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Seminar (IIGSS) seeks to foster a conversation across the social science communities at Columbia. The principal goal of the seminar series is to explore how interdisciplinary approaches can contribute to and enrich traditional disciplines, as well as what it demands from them.

The IIGSS organizing committee included three doctoral students: Anika Lanser (Sociology), Mayaki Kimba (Political Science), and Zarino Lanni (Anthropology). The committee premiered a new format for this year, which resulted in a daylong, rather than a yearlong, event in Spring 2026 titled “Blackness Across Geographies.” The workshop was designed to explore questions of Blackness across national and regional boundaries.

The workshop centered on how formulations of Blackness appear and are grounded within local and global relations of power that construct racial differences. Engaging and expanding on particular concepts such as W. E. B. Du Bois’ concepts of double consciousness, Hall’s analysis of race as a “floating signifier,” and Saidiya Hartman’s concept of afterlives of slavery, scholars investigated their applications within and beyond their original locations. The organizing committee sought to continue elaborating on an established lineage of work while exploring emergent concepts and frameworks to further explore what Blackness is across geographies and how it is expressed in broader scholarly racial-political frameworks, e.g., Afropessimism, racial capitalism, slavery and its afterlives, or color-blindness. The overall aim of the workshop, thus, was to gather scholars and attendees who could help further develop the accepted papers and the overall topic of the workshop from interdisciplinary perspectives.

The workshop involved three panels with Columbia PhD students who presented their work, as well as faculty from Barnard, CUNY Graduate Center, and New York University who acted as respondents. The papers were pre-circulated and read on the day of the workshop for all attendees. Respondents asked questions, then were joined in doing so by other panelists and members of the public.

“Blackness Across Geographies” was designed based on the broader research on questions of race and Blackness in the Columbia community. It included a lunch and a closing reception to allow participants to further discuss their work. The presentation of papers and the following Q&As facilitated an open conversation among the audience and participants, some of whom are planning to submit their work for publication in peer-reviewed journals.

Panel 1 – Plantation Afterlives

- Pat Torres, “From Caribbean Plantations to Puerto Rican Prisons” (Latin American and Iberian Cultures)
- Milan Taylor, “Plantation Semiotics: Signs of a Black Geographic Subject” (Anthropology)
- Heather Nickels, “The Porch as Possibility in Twentieth-Century African American Family Photography” (Art History & Archeology)
- Faculty Respondent: Audrey Celestine (New York University)

Panel 2 – Prisons and Police

- Taylor Alarcon, “Police Violence and Avoidance Behavior” (Sociology)
- Sinclair Spratley, “Mapping Black Anti-Carceral Struggle in the Art of the Attica Rebellion” (Art History)
- Faculty Respondent: Amelia Herbert (Barnard)

Panel 3 – Black Self-Actualization and Self-Determination

- Mayaki Kimba, “The Enslaver State: Signifying Blackness in Colorblind France” (Political Science)
- Noah Tesfaye, “Becoming New Afrikan: On Centering National Liberation and African Roots Rather Than Race” (Anthropology)
- Zarino Lanni, “Toward a Black Diasporic Dignity? Temporality in African and African American Notions of Human Dignity” (Anthropology)
- Faculty Respondent: Jean Beaman (CUNY Graduate Center)

QMSS

Last year, the Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences (QMSS) MA program welcomed over 200 new students. The students entered QMSS with incredibly diverse backgrounds and goals. They were from well over a dozen countries, and they were trained in scores of majors, including not only the classic social sciences (e.g., sociology, political science, economics, psychology, history), but also data science, geography, information systems, accounting, philosophy, international relations, English, communications, finance, music, statistics, and many more!

All of the QMSS students threw themselves deeply into their studies, taking full advantage of Columbia classes and activities.

The QMSS students continued to do exemplary work. Whether as research assistants or via their theses, on group projects, or in internships, they were working to push the boundaries of what can be done in an interdisciplinary MA program at the intersection of social science and data science here at Columbia.

QMSS faculty continued to inspire students to look for valuable and impactful ways to analyze data, whether via geographic information systems (GIS), Bayesian statistics, social network analysis, machine learning, natural language processing, data visualization, or numerous other techniques practiced in modern data science.



QMSS students Gabriel Møller (left) and Federica Pennino (right) shared their innovative research at the GSAS Master's SynThesis competition in Spring 2026.

As just one example of the type of work QMSS students did this year, two QMSS students were selected for the GSAS-wide Master's SynThesis competition (see picture). Using electoral reforms in Italy as a natural experiment, Federica Pennino investigated whether increasing women's representation in parliament would be associated with greater labor force participation among women, among other outcomes. Her research highlights the ways that female political representation can potentially have effects well beyond politics, shaping both economic opportunity and women's educational and career goals. Working with a large movie theater company and analyzing the choices of 60,000 moviegoers, Gabriel Møller sought to uncover systematic patterns in where people choose to sit given what seats are still open, looking to see if seemingly mundane decisions about seats can reveal broader consumer preferences about how they organize their leisure in space.

QMSS students continued to apply their data science and research skills across a wide range of partner organizations through semester-long practicum projects. QMSS partnered with Just Capital, Memorial Sloan Kettering, Columbia School of Social Work, The Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture at the University of

Virginia, IBM, The Feedback Desk, and The Opportunity Project at the Census Bureau. Many projects were focused on the evaluation, benchmarking, or incorporation of artificial intelligence across sectors and workflows, the use of synthetic personas for research purposes, and building pipelines for operational growth. Whether working with startups, public agencies, nonprofits, or research institutions, QMSS teams brought creativity, clarity, and analytical precision to every engagement. Overall, the Innovation Lab is growing, supporting cutting-edge work, and connecting students with alumni mentors, research institutes, and organizations across industries.

In general, QMSS students made sure to get to know each other and learn outside of the classroom, too. The QMSS student group, QASR — the Society for Quantitative Approaches to Social Research — offered a rich variety of advanced programming for the MA students, including trips and tours around the city and fun in-person events. The QMSS Alumni Council also generously visited campus to do networking events with current students.

The QMSS research assistant program continued to provide vital research support to dozens of Columbia faculty, working on over 50 faculty research projects over the last year.

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

As it has done for more than 25 years, QMSS will continue to look for ways to add value to the experiences of the MA students in the program and for ways to support advanced quantitative research among the larger Columbia community.



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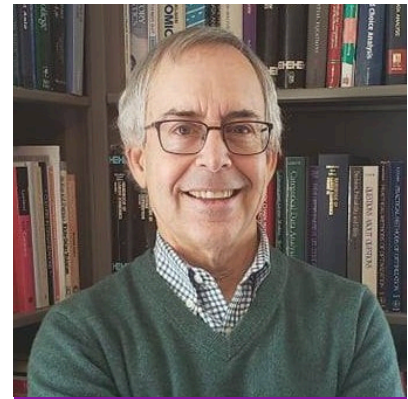
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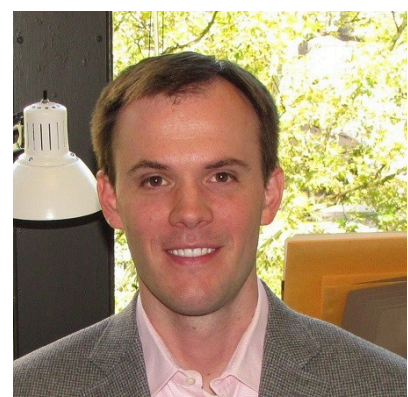
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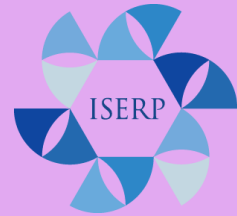
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