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The Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society offers a new approach to humanistic and social scientific research. The world we inhabit has never before been so dramatically shaped and altered by our own activity. But how are we to understand—and perhaps change—our world-making and world-destroying activities? The difficulty lies not only in the staggering complexity of the problems, but also in a peculiar but crucial aspect of our lives. If we are to understand ourselves adequately, we must do so, at least in part, in terms of our own understandings. The entire world we inhabit—our cultural and political institutions as well as the natural environment—is shaped by human thought. So, for example, if we want better to understand the possibilities for freedom, we need the most exacting studies we can devise for measuring income inequality, outcomes of early education, the impact of affordable healthcare, the availability of meaningful employment, the formation of social structures in which people feel safe, the electoral systems that honor people’s choices, the challenges of technology and data-gathering, the psychological, social, and economic pressures that tend us toward bigotry and oppression, and so on; but we also need to understand what freedom means, what freedom has meant to us throughout the ages and, perhaps, what freedom should come to mean. The possibilities for freedom are inevitably tied to our conceptions of what freedom might be. This we can learn from poems and paintings, plays and novels, histories and memoirs, philosophy and ethics.

If we are to find ways to flourish—and to allow nature to flourish—in this age, we need more than vibrant thinking in the humanities and social sciences. We need to find new ways to integrate these remarkable modes of inquiry—so that the most rigorous search for new evidence is of a piece with the deepest exploration of our values and commitments. The Neubauer Collegium is committed to the idea that working together we can come to better understand ourselves and the world. Some of those understandings will be for their own sake. Surely, one of the triumphs of the human spirit is to understand; another is to create beauty. But other discoveries will be for the sake of addressing the many challenges that confront us. The aim is to use thinking and planning and creativity to make the world a better place.

Collaborations are ever more necessary because the issues that confront us require approaches from many perspectives. We need to develop research methods that may lead to the emergence of new areas of inquiry. Unique among research institutions, the Neubauer Collegium aims to integrate humanistic thinking into even the most advanced quantitative research. By taking the broad range of our thinking into account and facilitating constructive conversations, we can begin to rethink our possibilities. The Neubauer Collegium is above all an aid to the human imagination through collaborative conversations.

In its first five years, the Neubauer Collegium pursued its mission through four major initiatives. First, we supported collaborative research projects that brought together faculty from all areas of the University, as well as scholars, artists, curators, policymakers, tribal elders of
“Collaborations are ever more necessary because the issues that confront us require approaches from many perspectives.”

indigenous peoples, diplomats, and politicians from around the world. We have thus sponsored eighty collaborative research projects with 142 University of Chicago faculty. Second, our Visiting Fellows program has brought fifty-three thinkers to campus to join in the research projects, as well as to participate more broadly in the life of the University. These visits regularly establish contacts between the University and the home institutions and countries of our Visiting Fellows. Third, our exhibitions program supports our belief that artistic expression and aesthetic understanding need to be integrated into path-breaking research. The gallery hosts exhibitions that open up new ways of thinking about art, the human, the world we inhabit, justice, and beauty. Finally, through the Roman Family Director’s Lecture series we have brought major thinkers to campus to speak publicly on the most important challenges we face. Although only in our fifth year, the Neubauer Collegium is already a recognized center of excellence at the University of Chicago.

The next five years are crucial. The Neubauer Collegium needs to maintain its standards of excellence and enhance its current programs, but it also needs to develop in three new directions. First, there ought to be a Global Solutions initiative. Our research programs draw on the imagination and ingenuity of University faculty to devise research topics as well as methods. This has been enormously successful. In addition the Neubauer Collegium ought to isolate a pressing world-historical problem and invite applications from faculty and researchers around the world to form a research team to solve it. For example: How should democracies respond to contemporary challenges to their very existence? The Neubauer Collegium would support the proposal that had the most promise to make a real difference. In this way, the Neubauer Collegium could contribute to the University’s overall mission to make lasting global contributions through the finest research available. Second, the Neubauer Collegium needs to establish a robust Global Visiting Fellows program. In the first five years we have relied on visitors who have sabbatical funding from their home institutions or countries and on visitors from the University’s global centers. To achieve a truly global reach, we must be able to invite researchers, thinkers, policymakers, and artists from all over the world—especially from economically developing regions such as Africa, South America, South Asia, and the Southern Pacific—who do not have funds to support themselves on such a visit. Third, the Neubauer Collegium needs to launch a Next Generation program. We ought to invite interested undergraduates and graduate students to join the path-breaking research in which the Neubauer Collegium projects are already engaged. This requires building the infrastructure so that students can genuinely be integrated into the research, but it is an important investment in the future of thinking and research.

So, these are our projects and our goals. This book, Restless Inquiries, aims to give you a glimpse of what the Neubauer Collegium does.

—JONATHAN LEAR, ROMAN FAMILY DIRECTOR
These projects apply emerging methodologies or apply familiar methodologies in unfamiliar contexts.
It was only with the 2005 launch of the digital tool Cinemetrics that scholars began to realize the potential of a new approach to film studies made possible through the analysis of rate changes within films. Conceived by Yuri Tsvian and housed at the University of Chicago, Cinemetrics is an open-access, interactive website that collects, stores, and processes data about film editing. It has already emerged as an important forum for the world’s leading film scholars, enabling them to share data and ideas about the statistical analysis of cinema.

Scholars interested in the history and aesthetics of film editing have been analyzing average shot lengths for many years. By dividing the total running time of a film by the total number of shots, they have gleaned useful information about the impact of new film technologies, the evolution of directors’ styles, the range of experimentation across geographic and historical periods, and more. But average shot length reveals nothing about a film’s internal structure or the unique capacities to capture and express qualities of meter and motion, and reveal the editorial choices that shaped film’s early narratives.

Tsvian, Khitrova, and Baxter coordinated closely as their research progressed, comparing discipline-specific methods and results. This collaboration has borne fruit in multiple forms that continue to progress, including work on a co-authored book. An early conference organized by project leaders historicized the idea behind quantitative measures of film. As part of the project’s goal to share broadly its findings, it held a capstone conference in Chicago, bringing together fifteen international leaders for the first-ever international conference of Cinemetrics scholars. (Supplementary support was provided by the Film Studies Center, the Cinema and Media Studies program, and the Franke Institute for the Humanities.) Conference participants included the world’s most expert Cinemetrics users. Renowned film editor Sandra Adair described in her keynote address the unique continuity challenges she faced while editing twelve continuous years of footage for the critically acclaimed film Boyhood (2014), then recently released. Adair’s participation at this key event in the project not only brought together the worlds of scholarship and artistic practice; she also shared her insights with the next generation of filmmakers.

In addition to generating new ideas for the filmmaking process, the project also explored the role of film in revising our historical understanding of human psychology and the senses. Cornell University psychologist James Cutting gave a talk in which he used Cinemetrics analysis to show how Hollywood films have evolved to align better with human perception and cognition. Cutting looked at factors like motion, cutting rates, and color contrast—all of which correlate with increased attention and all of which, according to his research, have increased in popular movies over time.

In the process of examining film editing and its measure from the larger perspective of human history, the Cinemetrics project formed a new community of inquiry. The project brought together for the first time a large and growing international cohort of scholars and practitioners interested in exploring how this analytical tool can lead to a new understanding of film’s relationship to social change. As the impact of the project’s multiple intensive partnerships continues to unfold, we expect to see the emergence of new practices in filmmaking, and deeper understanding of the ways film reflects and shapes the processes of the human mind.

The project’s collaboration among specialists in film, movement, and statistical technologies has broken new ground, positioning film as a key narrative form for the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.
ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF ANCIENT TRADE: THE CASE OF THE OLD ASSYRIAN MERCHANTS OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY BCE

For over 100 years, economists at the University of Chicago worked in close proximity to archaeologists and ancient historians, but they rarely worked together. That has started to change with the Economic Analysis of Ancient Trade project.

The first step toward this collaboration took the form of a two-year working group on comparative economics at the Neubauer Collegium. Researchers from the Booth School of Business and the Departments of Classics, History, Sociology, Economics, and Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations found common ground by considering how modern concepts of the managerial firm and border labor might apply to the investigation of ancient markets. An important highlight from that project was a discussion with the economic historian Avner Greif, who shared insights he gained using Transaction Cost Theory and game theory to compare the dynamics of medieval trade in Muslim North Africa and Europe.

The Economic Analysis of Ancient Trade project builds on the ideas and close intellectual relationships that the working group forged. The project brings the tools and methods of economics together with the textual and area expertise of historians working on the ancient world to deepen our understanding of ancient markets and continue to present their findings to experts on the region and period, working together to identify any problems with working models.

Scholars have long debated whether this kind of entrepreneurial, profit-oriented trade was the norm or an exception in ancient times. The Economic Analysis of Ancient Trade project was the first attempt to use a comprehensive, interdisciplinary set of ideas and methods to study the actual mechanisms and dynamics of the trade process. Members of the research team extracted new information from texts and tested the soundness of theoretically derived market models by applying techniques from economic anthropology, New Institutional Economics, game theory, and network analysis. The project developed a collaborative methodology that allows specialists in the ancient world to ask new questions of their evidence. It also offers mathematically oriented economists an empirical testing ground to gauge the veracity of their working models.

The project brought together an unusual mix of scholars in an inaugural workshop to think through the problem of how the various economic models could speak to each other. The project staff then built the evidence base by digitizing thousands of Old Assyrian cuneiform texts using OCHRE, an innovative computational platform developed at the University of Chicago. OCHRE makes possible complex analyses of information from ancient sources, which are then aggregated for statistical analysis that is shaped by specific research questions. Software specialists continually tweaked and improved the methods to strengthen the analysis. Data specialists shared early results with researchers, working together to identify any problems with the approach. Economists presented preliminary research findings to experts on the region and period, and they received valuable feedback.

Knowledge generated in relation to trade that occurred thousands of years ago may help improve the economic policies of the twenty-first century.

These early encounters confirmed the need for continuous software innovations throughout the digitization process. The end result was a refined technique that served the team well and will benefit other researchers on later projects. At the same time, the core group of economists integrated the new data into their ongoing analyses of these ancient markets and continued to present their findings to other economists. Kerem Coşar was able to infer the location of ancient cities otherwise lost from the historical record by using a structural gravitational model of trade—a powerful example of the value of this sort of complex interdisciplinary approach.

The example of “lost cities found” is an early indicator of how important the project may turn out to be. The model Coşar used revealed important information about the economic landscapes of the Bronze Age—where people chose to live, what they produced, and how they traded. It also has immediate relevance to economists and policymakers, who analyze the same processes to shape policy. The models developed and refined through the Economic Analysis of Ancient Trade project did not merely improve our understanding of the drivers and mechanisms that governed Old Assyrian trade—but that is, in itself, an important result. Using the past to improve the efficacy of economic modeling for the present, the project presents an opportunity for direct positive impact. Knowledge generated in relation to trade that occurred thousands of years ago may help improve the economic policies of the twenty-first century.

Can a computer be programmed to make and appreciate great art? This is the question at the heart of the Critical Computation project, which is investigating the creative potential and theoretical implications of machine-generated visual art and design. The project is among the first significant scholarly efforts to explore the use of machine learning for the creation and evaluation of cultural artifacts. Computer scientists are now able to harness sophisticated algorithmic methods to identify common features across huge databases and then apply that learning in new contexts. Machines with the capacity to "learn" are reshaping our society in fundamental ways. New applications have improved medical diagnosis, demographic targeting, fraud detection, and financial analysis. Artists and designers are also experimenting with machine learning, though the humanistic questions posed remain largely unaddressed. What aesthetic possibilities are created through this new technology? How is machine learning itself shaped by the software engineers’ value judgments? Crucially, can machine-learning methods be adapted to incorporate traditional notions of quality?

Working with a team of undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, faculty, and staff, Jason Salavon has transformed his studio into a laboratory environment combining art production, computer science, applied mathematics, and philosophical inquiry. In its first year, the group conducted more than 500 experiments to test artificial intelligence capabilities with regard to still images and video. Early in their experimentation they focused on “deep learning”: machine learning that uses large-scale neural networks to solve a wide range of otherwise intractable problems. Interest in deep learning is now spreading throughout the world, and the Critical Computation project’s early progress has placed it at the forefront of exploring deep learning’s capabilities in creative imaging and architecture. The researchers also developed ties to top researchers and developers working on computational art-making. And they hosted a private weekly seminar to share and brainstorm ideas, address technical challenges, and present formal papers.

Presentations that were open to the public gave the research team the chance to showcase their work and exchange ideas with audiences interested in artificial intelligence and machine learning. Salavon presented a series of “generative” paintings created by a program that had learned how to reproduce Abstract Expressionist style at the University’s 2016 Innovation Fest. He presented more recent experiments at the 2017 Eyos Festival, an annual conference for professionals working at the intersection of art, data, and creative technology, and also exhibited ongoing work from the project at NIPS 2017. In May 2017 the Neubauer Collegium welcomed Zoë Prillinger and Luke Ogrydziak, principals at the pioneering architecture firm OPA, who discussed three projects that applied generative computational methods to the design of residential homes. The University subsequently commissioned OPA to create a temporary architectural installation for the seventy-fifth anniversary of the first controlled nuclear chain reaction. Partially engineered in computational design with black rubber cord, OPA’s Nuclear Thresholds used computational modeling of unstable processes to provoke questions about the science, history, and existential realities of the nuclear age.

This project is among the first significant scholarly efforts to explore the use of machine learning for the creation and evaluation of cultural artifacts.

The Critical Computation project has enabled Salavon and a team of researchers and developers to create and launch Genmo, a neural-network-driven visual effects application that re-creates any photo or video using an entirely separate set of images. Genmo replaces standard social media filters with generative effects, bringing AI-powered creativity to mobile phone users around the globe. "The proliferation of user-generated content and the creative limitations of existing technologies have paved the way for artificial intelligence to rethink the social photo/video creation and sharing experience, allowing for content creations to leverage their idiosyncratic behaviors and augment their visual production," Salavon said. Genmo won the Winter 2018 UChicago App Challenge and is set to launch in 2018. Post-launch, the technology will begin to learn about users’ content interests and behaviors, and the app’s visual effects will evolve accordingly.

A gallery exhibition exploring the Critical Computation project’s central themes is planned for the 2019 Fall Quarter.

Image: A photo of the Chicago skyline re-created by Genmo.
SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AS A RELATIONAL LEARNING PROCESS

2017–2019

What does “sustainability” mean in the context of agriculture? Ask an executive at a large-scale dairy producer, and you will get one answer. Ask the organic cheesemonger at your local farmer’s market, and you will likely get another. Both responses have a point. But then what accounts for the difference? And what can we learn about sustainability from these variations?

This project attempts to gain a deeper understanding of the nature and potential of sustainable agriculture by examining farming methods in five of the world’s top dairy-producing countries: the United States, Germany, Ireland, Switzerland, and New Zealand. The researchers are studying the practices that facilitate or impede learning on sustainable dairy farms, and they are paying close attention to how such practices differ across social and political contexts. The researchers are focusing on case studies in each country because that allows them to compare empirical data on the three "ideal types" of sustainable dairy farms—large-scale corporate-industrial, mid-sized entrepreneurial, and small-scale artisanal. Market segmentation differs in each country, and variations in regulatory standards, community values, technological innovation, and global market integration help account for the divergent strategies that sustainable dairy farms in these markets pursue.

To understand how farms and processors pursue sustainability strategies one needs to understand how the very idea of sustainability can acquire different meanings for different groups—and how the meaning can shift according to social, political, and economic conditions. By categorizing sustainability models and evaluating the practices, the researchers aim to identify a broad range of possibilities for sustainable agriculture, and thereby advance our understanding of what it means to be "sustainable." This project is interdisciplinary in nature, as it draws on debates and methodologies in rural sociology, political economy, economics, and anthropology. It is also the first project to use a comparative value chain analysis as a way of deepening our understanding of sustainable agriculture.

The researchers are studying the practices that facilitate learning on sustainable dairy farms in a range of settings. This yearlong Visiting Fellowship provided Susanne Wengle the time, space, and resources to pursue this ambitious research agenda with Gary Herrigel. In the first year of the project, the researchers conducted extensive fieldwork in the United States and Europe. Their goal is to conduct interviews with farmers representing all three sectors across the full range of social and political contexts. Conversations with large industrial processors in California, Massachusetts, Wisconsin, Indiana, and Switzerland; mid-sized farms in California, Indiana, and Wisconsin; and several small farms in California, Illinois, Wisconsin, Germany, and Switzerland have already yielded valuable insights.

Early findings reveal expected differences, but also surprising borrowing across strategic and national boundaries. A small Swiss dairy farmer, for example, implemented a pasturing method he learned about from a successful experiment with pasture-based dairy farming among large-scale producers in New Zealand. Several large processors in the U.S. and Switzerland sought to engage their suppliers in ways that both lowered costs and enhanced producer ability to provide decent working conditions with environmentally friendly results. These primarily "commercial" practices resembled value chain governance practices pursued by organic dairy coops considered emblematic of alternative agriculture. Such exchanges have important implications for how the relational learning process is shaping sustainable farming practices across the sample of countries in the study.

The project’s early findings suggest an intriguing message. Many of the oppositions that characterize contemporary debate about sustainability in food and agricultural production should be softened. Alternative agricultural producers are developing new sustainability techniques by adapting methods developed by their conventional and commercial "rivals." At the same time, the success of small-scale alternative producers is pressing conventional producers to rethink their sustainability efforts. Value conflict here appears, at least in some cases, to be creating possibilities for mutual learning across the industry. The next steps in the project’s research will be to determine the conditions under which such mutual learning is enhanced—and to learn what factors undermine, disrupt, or block learning.
These projects bring together scholars who do not normally collaborate to confront new challenges.
THE PAST FOR SALE: NEW APPROACHES TO THE STUDY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL LOOTING AND THE ILLICIT TRAFFICKING OF ANTIQUITIES

2014–2017

The problem of archaeological looting has long vexed policymakers. But the opacity of the market for illicit antiquities makes it difficult for them to bring looting under control. Even as global demand rises and archaeological sites in war-torn regions are pillaged by terrorist groups, the search for effective policy responses remains hampered by longstanding disagreements. In particular, are legal and illegal market practices mutually dependent or largely unrelated? The Past for Sale project intervened in this debate by bringing together an unprecedented constellation of researchers, policy leaders, museum curators, buyers and sellers of antiquities—including representatives of the major auction houses—and law-enforcement officials. The group worked to assemble the available empirical research in order to formulate realistic solutions for policymakers across the world.

The three-year project focused initially on clarifying the general features of the illicit antiquities market as well as local variations. Highlights included a presentation by DePaul University anthropologist Morag Kersel, who is pioneering the study of archaeological sites in the Middle East before, during, and after looting. A two-day conference brought together a group of ten leading international scholars to compare case studies in the Middle East and Asia. The keynote address by Maxwell Anderson, former chair of the Association of Art Museum Directors, featured input from industry professionals, a rare intervention among scholars working on this issue.

In its second year, the Past for Sale project incorporated input from industry professionals, a rare intervention among scholars working on this issue. The project generated new tools to measure illicit markets and new modes of analysis that are scalable and replicable. The concurrent rise of the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) brought archaeological looting to the attention of legislators who had not previously focused on the problem. Addressing the wide variation in estimates of how much ISIS was earning through the sale of looted antiquities, Fiona Greenland convened a group to model the antiquities trade in Iraq and Syria. The resultant MANTIS project, based at the Oriental Institute, used satellite images, archaeological records, and market data to calculate ISIS’s antiquities trade network and estimate the total market value of the objects buried at ISIS-controlled sites. MANTIS research, widely cited in policy circles, served as a corrective to prior estimates and generated a new evidence-based method for determining market values.

The final year of the project focused on synthesizing its conceptual and empirical contributions and articulating new best practices for policymakers. In the spring of 2017, Kersel and Greenland co-curated a Neubauer Collegium gallery exhibition titled The Past Sold: Case Studies in the Movement of Cultural Property. A multimedia display featuring aerial drone footage, photography, maps, archival documents, and Early Bronze Age pots, the exhibition added new dimension and a visual vocabulary to the research project. The exhibition also introduced the project’s findings to a broader public. The opening reception coincided with a keynote conference that included a keynote address by Richard Kurin, a longstanding government leader currently serving as the Smithsonian Institution’s Distinguished Scholar and Ambassador-at-Large.

Although it is too soon to report on the overall impact on cultural policy, the knowledge generated by the Past for Sale project is circulating broadly in academic journals and beginning to influence discussions in Washington. Larry Rothfield and Kurin are exploring the feasibility of lease programs for museums, an important innovation in dealing with black markets. And the Antiquities Coalition, a major advocacy group, has adopted tax recommendations Rothfield detailed in a briefing paper.

“All in all, the Neubauer support—both financial and logistical—has been spectacularly helpful in permitting us to think bigger and explore our research agenda more easily than has ever been possible with any group grant I’ve been involved with,” Rothfield said.

Research Team

Morag Kersel, Associate Professor of Anthropology, DePaul University, 2013–2017 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow

Fiona Greenland, Associate Professor of Anthropology, University of Virginia (then Assistant Professor, University of Texas at Austin, current position)

Lawrence Rothfield, Associate Professor, Department of English and Comparative Literature, University of Virginia

The project incorporated input from industry professionals, a rare intervention among scholars working on this issue.
The project has fostered a collaborative network of scholars advancing a new approach to the study of U.S. democratic power.

The State as History and Theory project has fostered a collaborative network of scholars advancing a new approach to the study of U.S. democratic power. Bringing together a growing international cohort of historians, sociologists, and political scientists, the project has built on Max Weber’s still-fresh theoretical framework of the bureaucratic state to explore the multifaceted relationships between government and civil society. It has also complicated Weber’s framework by examining cases of democratic governance and the theoretical issues they raise regarding the putative autonomy of the state.

Project leaders recognized that a new research community could overcome analytic blind spots by creating conversations that were simultaneously multi-disciplinary, comparative, and historically engaged. The effort to create a new research network began informally and progressed to a more formalized series of workshops at which members of the research team and prominent interlocutors read critical texts, exchanged ideas, and tested analyses. Discussions focused on areas where the influence of American state-building is often hidden or overlooked: the philanthropic sector, local communities, post-World War II international commitments, and other areas that historians have tended to disregard or underestimate as factors in governance and civil society. It has also complicated still-trenchant theories of the bureaucratic state through the theoretical and interpretive lenses they bring to bear on the contemporary crisis of democratic governance and the theoretical issues they raise regarding the putative autonomy of the state.

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The network of scholars expanded through a fruitful partnership with the Consortium on the History of State and Society (CHOSAS), a multi-year initiative that hosts rotating conferences at the University of Chicago, the American University of Paris, and the University of Michigan. The inaugural event, organized by Gary Gerstle and Joel Isaac and held at Cambridge in June 2015, explored the role of “exceptions” in American political development, with “exceptions” interpreted broadly to include both suspensions of the rule of law in the face of emergencies and jurisdictional gray zones. Isaac subsequently joined the University of Chicago as a member of the Committee on Social Thought and hosted a follow-up conference on “exceptions” in May 2018, to which Clemens and Sparrow contributed as they did in the 2015 meeting. The Neubauer Collegium provided funding to support this follow-up conference.

Clemens and Sparrow regrouped to extend their collaborative work through its next phase in the Problem of the Democratic State project (2015–2017). In May 2017 they convened a two-day conference, co-sponsored by CHOSAS, that explored how the “neo-liberalism” of the American postwar period was supplanted by the “neo-liberalism” of the current era. Sparrow, Clemens, Gerstle, Isaac, and others presented original work that interrogated the paradoxical emergence of neoliberalism from a postwar context and future of the state.

The project has yielded a large list of publications, including articles, books, special issues of academic journals, and edited collections. Notably, the collaboration has generated and improved the quality of two book projects that were already underway. Boundaries of the State in U.S. History, a historical treatise edited by the research team that included an introduction, conclusion, and several chapters written by them, was published by the University of Chicago Press in 2015. The Many Hands of the State, a collection of essays theorizing political authority and social control, was released by Cambridge University Press in 2017. More scholarly output is forthcoming as the collaborative team continues to explore democracy and state formation in the United States.

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The Gaming Orientation project transformed the University of Chicago’s 2017 college orientation into an immersive, alternate-reality game (ARG) called The Parasite. Incoming students were invited to collaborate on nine challenges, each of which helped them get acclimated to campus and prepared for college life. As they banded together in search of clues to solve a central mystery—“Where is the room that a secret society of masked monks seems to be guarding?”—they became acquainted with each other and with key sites on and near campus. Innovative participatory-learning activities throughout the week prompted them to confront questions about their own identity, the identity of others, and presumptions about each. Whether they realized it or not—the game was not announced as a game, intentionally blurring the border between fiction and reality—the students were being primed for valuable lessons about collaboration, leadership, inclusivity, and digital media literacy. They were also helped to get acclimated to campus and prepare to live on their own, with more than 600 players online, a robust Facebook following, and live play that included roughly half the incoming class of 1,750 students. It was arguably the largest educational transmedia game ever created.

Preliminary research suggests that ARGs can be a useful platform for collaborative learning. Participants report that gameplay included role-playing and a mix of challenges that increased their sense of agency and sense of place on campus. Students were partners at every stage, from conception to live performance. Kristen Schilt worked with a group of undergraduates to gather ethnographic data on the 2016 orientation, which helped to this project. Its impact has never before been rigorously studied. The Parasite was the first ARG that aimed to shape the culture of a specific university cohort. The Gaming Orientation project will assess whether it succeeded. With more than 600 players online, a robust Facebook following, and live play that included roughly half the incoming class of 1,750 students, it was arguably the largest educational transmedia game ever created.

The research team designed, ran, and evaluated a large-scale alternate-reality game to test its effectiveness as an educational tool.
For the first time in human history, the majority of people live in cities. Thus understanding what it means to live in a city has never been more important. At the same time, technology has made more information available than ever before. But what are the social and ethical implications of knowing all that we know about humans and cities? In particular, what social policy decisions should we make when we have a vastly improved ability to predict where a crime is likely to happen?

The Crimes of Prediction project is a unique trans-disciplinary collaboration between big urban data and machine-learning approaches, on the one hand, and urban theorists, analysts, and ethnographers, on the other. The research team is investigating the predictability of criminal infractions, with the aim of dissecting the social and ethical issues accompanying our newfound abilities in the age of big data analytics. The project draws upon the spatio-temporal event logs from the City of Chicago Data Portal, enumerating the location and type of infractions over the past decade. These feed into sophisticated machine-learning algorithms to infer automatically millions of locally predictive models, which then self-assemble into a complex evolving mathematical object predicting future events with unprecedented accuracy.

Three big ideas distinguish this from similar efforts in the past. First, the project’s pattern-learning algorithms use no prior domain expertise, and they very nearly eliminate manual tuning and human intervention. This hands-off approach minimizes the possibility of prediction bias, and it enables true pattern discovery. Second, unlike past efforts aimed at “predictive policing,” the project focuses on predicting the behavior of society as a collective organism that creates opportunities for crime, instead of attempting to predict the future actions of isolated individuals. Third, the approach loosens the “diffusion” assumption that prior systems have often held: crimes unfold across contiguous spans in the self-evident spatial geometry of the city. Crimes of Prediction contends that communication and transportation technology, as well as heterogeneous patterns of habitation and migration, rewire the topology of the city in ways potentially impossible to intuit or render in a two-dimensional raster, but possible to reveal with data. The project aims to discover the degree to which crime unfolds not only across space, but also on a hidden social topology exploited by its models to make accurate event forecasts.

Going beyond predictive ability, inferred generative models allow for the first time a rigorous investigation of the existence of bias in law enforcement outcomes at a level of detail far greater than what is possible with summary statistics. Simple association studies between differences in outcomes with racial and other social groups obfuscate the direction of causality. And the possibility of statistical confounders renders even the existence of a systemic causal mechanism suspect. In contrast, these models are able to mathematically characterize the spatio-temporal event dynamics in the zero-bias scenario, where the dynamics and the corresponding enforcement responses are not modulated by unknown factors. Emergent anomalies then expose enforcement bias as statistically significant differences in responses to similar event evolution. While true causality is impossible to uncover simply from data, the research team aims to formulate an approach capable of identifying aberrations from expected enforcement outcomes, identifying the existence and causal direction of hidden mechanisms that might underlie such differences.

Any validated predictability the researchers distill allows for the formulation of optimal intervention and predictive enforcement policies. Law enforcement has already begun to use data mining to inform resource allocation in the City of Chicago. These efforts have had limited success, and they have often garnered vocal allegations of systemic bias and racial profiling. In contrast, the algorithms used for this project operate on public event logs, use open source software, leverage unsupervised learning mechanisms, and attempt to account for a reporting or policing bias—all to minimize injection of personal bias. This potentially lays the foundation for the acceptable use of predictive analytics in law enforcement.

By minimizing modeling errors, illuminating sources of possible biases in enforcement policies via enabling transparent analytics in policing, the project focuses an ongoing conversation on the deeper questions remaining: How does the ability to accurately predict events impact society in the long term, and how does the use of such predictive analytics shape the evolution of urban spaces? The team will continue to tackle these and related questions in a series of quarterly workshops, where they will explore the broad implications of this work and attempt to deal with the overarching and unavoidable societal challenges that confront us at the dawn of the age of large-scale machine inference.

Image: An analysis of crime data from the City of Chicago generated by the Crimes of Prediction research project.
These projects take inquiry in new directions and establish contours for new areas of research.
Humans express their creative genius and technical expertise in the ways they organize their agriculture, weave clothes and dress themselves, build walls, and structure their communities. Much of this has occurred without being recorded in writing. The Knowing and Doing project explored the nature and history of these non-written forms of knowledge—farm work, construction, crafts, and skills that produce material objects. The goal was to expand our conception of what might constitute a “text” in order to open up new ways of understanding human endeavors from the past.

The project launched with a workshop on agriculture at which Bray and Lisa Onaga, an expert on modern Japanese science and technology, participated as Visiting Fellows. Early discussions helped identify the core questions and develop a methodology that would guide the project through its later stages. Collaboration among partners was essential, as historians and philologists learned about advances in computer modeling and GIS used by archaeologists and anthropologists, and vice versa. The workshop also unearthed important divides among scholars of East and South Asia, with the former focusing more on texts and the role of the state than the latter.

These conversations continued at a second workshop on manufacturing and a final workshop on technology “in action.” They turned to Francesca Bray, a social historian of modern China, who realized that they shared deep interest in learning more about Chinese culture. The central problem Bray explores is the divide that separates texts (which serve as ways to communicate expert knowledge) and the peoples whose knowledge was being recorded (who seldom wrote or read). Knowing and Doing is part of a movement to correct that elision, and thereby welcome humanity’s myriad creations as texts that can help us reimagine the shape of human history.

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The project identified key scholars from around the world and brought them to campus for intensive engagement around the core set of research questions. In addition to Bray and Onaga, other Visiting Fellows included Dagmar Schäfer and Annapurna Mamidipudi, who contributed to the workshop on manufacturing; anthropologist Caroline Boditec attended the final workshop. The Visiting Fellows spent significant time with graduate students interested in their fields, adding an important pedagogical dimension to the project’s research.

The Knowing and Doing project is part of a larger groundswell of interest among scholars, activists, and practitioners globally who recognize the need for better international policies around the issue of local producers. Students engaged with the project were intrigued to explore the policy implications, and collaborations among researchers and with the next generation of scholars interested in the topic, this project has laid the foundation for further growth of this emerging field at the University of Chicago. A new area of research on technology as a form of knowledge in Asia is now firmly established at the University, linking it with partners worldwide.

Efforts to foster the growth of ideas developed during the initial two years of seed funding are ongoing. One promising offshoot is a new project at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science on the technology of weaving and textiles in China and India. Another is an examination of the material artifacts from archaeological excavations in the Chengdu region of China’s Sichuan Province, which will bring together methods from archaeology, the history of science and technology, and related fields needed to understand the diverse materials from those sites.

Human beings are making a profound and irreversible impact on the natural world. This happens largely through industrial activity. And while we have sophisticated abilities to track such changes—for example, we can map the effects of carbon pollution—we lack a deep understanding of the social impact of these “engineered ecologies.” What new political, economic, and legal practices would help states and multinational organizations grapple more effectively with toxic exposure and the unequal distribution of ecological risk? The goal of the Engineered Worlds initiative—comprising two related projects—was to create new theoretical frameworks and social science methodologies to address these urgent questions.

Because any rigorous attempt to reconsider the terms of environmental justice requires a range of perspectives, the Engineered Worlds project adopted an interdisciplinary approach. The research team brought together anthropologists, historians, geographers, and environmentalists to work in a collaborative setting on the ways industry is irrevocably altering ecologies and social relations. In a series of seminars, workshops, and conferences, they considered what social policies might adequately address problems of toxicity introduced into the environment. More generally, they wanted to take on the challenge: How should humans deal with their own transformation of the natural world? But, of course, to take on the large issues one needs to study specific problems. The research team took on the challenge: How should humans deal with their own transformation of the natural world?

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IMPERIAL INTERSTICES: AGENTS OF EURASIAN INTERACTION IN LATE ANTIQUITY

By investigating premodern interstitial regions as major centers of production, consumption, and influence, the research team fostered the collaborative work needed to produce an integrated history of Eurasian late antiquity. Specialists in each of the categories presented research on their respective bodies of evidence in order to compare activities across Eurasia. Discussions brought the analyses together, identifying intersections and ruptures as a starting point for open-ended discussion.

The formal public presentations were preceded by informal private discussions, which allowed participants to become acquainted and identified areas of common interest and inquiry. These unstructured conversations helped establish a rapport among participants that transcended disciplinary boundaries. The informal private discussions, especially monasteries, support transregional trade in late antiquity? To what extent were political elites adopted? And how did religious institutions foster these intimate regions as major centers of production, consumption, and influence in their own right—a project that will continue to shape—these distinct and often distant societies. Through careful analysis of these interconnected fields and disciplines.

The workshops shifted attention away from the Central Asian steppes, Indian Ocean ports, and the passes of the Caucasus and Hindu Kush. Discussions focused on the interstitial regions as major centers of production, consumption, and influence, the research team fostered the collaborative work needed to produce an integrated history of Eurasian late antiquity. The workshops shifted attention away from the Central Asian steppes, Indian Ocean ports, and the passes of the Caucasus and Hindu Kush. Discussions focused on the interstitial regions as major centers of production, consumption, and influence, the research team fostered the collaborative work needed to produce an integrated history of Eurasian late antiquity. The workshops shifted attention away from the Central Asian steppes, Indian Ocean ports, and the passes of the Caucasus and Hindu Kush. Discussions focused on the interstitial regions as major centers of production, consumption, and influence, the research team fostered the collaborative work needed to produce an integrated history of Eurasian late antiquity.

When we look at maps of the premodern world we see centralized empires divided by bold lines. In fact, we are learning that the boundaries between empires were more often vibrant and fluid zones for intense production and exchange. This is particular—y the nascent field of premodern global history by convening discussions among archaeologists, philologists, and premodern historians who specialize in civilizational spheres on both sides of the Eurasian landmass. A series of three interlinked workshops refocused scholarship on the places and time periods. Recent literature on the structural similarities between premodern civilizations has highlighted the need to study the interactions that connected—and, to varying degrees, shaped—these distinct and often distant societies. But scholars working on such questions rarely con—

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Richard Poyne, Associate Professor of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations

Clifford Ando, David R. and Clara L. Steck Professor of Humanities and Professor of Classics, History, Law and in the College

Paul Copp, Associate Professor in Chinese Religion and Thought, East Asian Languages and Civilizations

Whitney Cox, Associate Professor, South Asian Languages and Civilizations

2016–2017
With the rise of the digital humanities has come the promise of new methods of exploring literary texts on an unprecedented scale. How does our approach to literature and literary history change when the canon expands to include millions of texts—all of them immediately analyzable by cutting-edge methods? What previously undetectable trends, long-term shifts, and patterns within and across cultures are revealed when we study texts at this scale? Can software help us transcend language barriers to enable a truly global perspective for comparative literature? In recent years a diverse group of scholars at the University have taken up these research questions, exploring the possibilities and challenges that digital technology has introduced to the field of literary studies. The Textual Optics project brings these scholars together in a lab-like environment to consolidate and expand the scope of methods associated with new scalable reading methods, many of which are imported from the sciences and enabled by recent software innovations—everything from data mining and visualization to machine learning and network analysis. The research team is employing a set of tools and interpretive methods that allow them to read textual archives through multiple lenses and scales of analysis, from single words up to millions of volumes. In particular, the project is considering how readers might move between close and distant readings of texts, alternating from a qualitative mode that involves traditional close reading and distant reading. The research team aims to demonstrate the value and extraordinary potential of literary scholarship at the intersection of computation and humanistic inquiry.
These projects question long-held assumptions in search of new insights.
When Christine Mehring first saw Wolf Vostell’s Concrete Traffic sculpture in 2011, it was, as she later wrote in Artforum, “coding its precarious na- ture as art.” Commissioned as a “happening” for the Museum of Contemporary Art in January 1970, the concrete-encased 1957 Cadillac was donat- ed to the University in June of that year—and then suffered from decades of weather exposure on a neglected patch of grass before being relocated to a storage facility. Mehring’s first encounter with the sculpture raised the questions at the core of the Material Matters research project. How do the changing qualities of materials alter the way humans experience and interpret art? At what point does a work of art cease to be art? Was it too late to con- serve Concrete Traffic? If not, what form should the conservation take?

“I knew from the very beginning that I could not do this alone,” Mehring said. “It’s clear to me that the funding and the imprimatur from the Neubauer Collegium put the proper conservation and return of the sculpture within reach.”

Conserving the work required sustained collaboration among art historians, who studied Vostell’s intentions and situated the project with -
How does the body influence the mind? This compelling question has motivated researchers in psychology, linguistics, human development, and the performing arts for many years. Recent technological innovations and a turn toward interdisciplinary collaboration have opened up new possibilities for scholars seeking ways to disentangle thoughts from physical sensations. The University of Chicago has emerged as a globally recognized leader in this area of research, known as “embodied cognition,” with pioneering work on gesture, formal and informal sign languages, and the universal features of language. The Body’s Role project served as a catalyst for additional work in this area, uniting a number of small projects and establishing a foundation for empirical research that cuts across the humanities and social sciences.

The project supported three studies that looked at gestures and sign in relation to storytelling, action, and indexical painting, respectively. For the storytelling study, Peter Cook—an American Sign Language (ASL) scholar and a renowned Deaf performance artist who served as a Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow in the 2013–14 academic year—helped conduct comparative analyses of poetry and performance in both English and ASL. The research team used video and motion-capture recordings of ASL and English performers, and then developed a coding procedure to analyze aspects like metrical structure and rhythm. The comparisons yielded important insights on the similarities and differences between the ways Deaf and hearing storytellers use their bodies to narrate. Related work in this area explored the role of eye gaze and facial gestures in performance.

The second study used motion-analysis equipment to explore the connections between gesture and action. By observing participants as they encountered perceptual illusions, the researchers were able to determine the extent to which gesture mirrors the actions on which it is based compared to the language it accompanies. Preliminary results were presented at the 2016 International Society for Gesture Studies conference in Paris. A third study, the first of its kind, clarified distinctions between pointing gestures used by signers and pointing gestures speakers produce when they talk.

The schedule of Body’s Role activities at the Neubauer Collegium was ambitious, with conferences and performances, a quarterly workshop series, biweekly meetings, a sign language reading group, and related work. The project culminated with the October 2017 capstone conference, which included a lively evening of performances by sign-language and spoken-language artists, followed by a full day of presentations by graduate students and postdoctoral scholars on the project’s three studies. Herb Clark, a psycholinguist at Stanford University, delivered a keynote address on the use of the body in everyday communication. The event, cited by the research team as a high point of the project, “not only brought together Herb Clark and other leading researchers, but it was an exciting cross-disciplinary hub,” said Kensy Cooperrider, a postdoctoral scholar in the Psychology Department who helped run the study on embodiment and social sciences. The Neubauer Collegium was ambitious, with conferences and performances, a quarterly workshop series, biweekly meetings, a sign language reading group, and related work. The project culminated with the October 2017 capstone conference, which included a lively evening of performances by sign-language and spoken-language artists, followed by a full day of presentations by graduate students and postdoctoral scholars on the project's three studies. Herb Clark, a psycholinguist at Stanford University, delivered a keynote address on the use of the body in everyday communication. The event, cited by the research team as a high point of the project, “not only brought together Herb Clark and other leading researchers, but it was an exciting cross-disciplinary hub,” said Kensy Cooperrider, a postdoctoral scholar in the Psychology Department who helped run the study on embodiment and social sciences. The project inspired nearly a dozen student-led projects.

Very early on, the Neubauer project became an exciting cross-disciplinary hub,” said Kensy Cooperrider, a postdoctoral scholar in the Psychology Department who helped run the study on embodiment and social sciences. “Collaborations were springing up between young scholars who might not otherwise have talked much to each other. And it wasn’t long before it felt like a community. In my case, being part of this community really broadened my understanding of my research and the questions I was asking—it got me thinking about issues that will be with me for the rest of my career.”

Significant supplemental support for the project was provided by internal partners at the Humanities Division, the Delft Center, and the Center for Gesture, Sign, and Language, a research initiative launched by Diane Brentari, Anastasia Giannakidou, and Susan Goldin-Meadow in March 2013. A $750,000 grant from the NSF Science of Learning competition will provide the collaborative network that the Body’s Role project fostered with funds for a three-year project to explore how the body can be incorporated into primary school math education. The Neubauer Collegium has also extended its commitment to this growing network with a new project, launching in the 2018–2019 academic year, that will study the relationship between motion and meaning in classical Indian dance.

The Idealism Project: Self-Determining Form and the Autonomy of the Humanities

2015–2017

The Idealism Project sought to reanimate possibilities in the humanities through a careful examination of its intellectual roots. Idealism emerged in Germany in the eighteenth century in response to a crisis in the Enlightenment’s understanding of humanity’s place in the natural world. Out of this crisis grew the field of humanistic inquiry, in which literature, art, and related expressions of humanistic knowledge became objects of academic study. The governing thought was that the very idea of the human would help shape these fields and, reciprocally, the understanding gained would help shape our conception of the human. Thus arose the idea that humans would help shape who they are via their own understanding of who they are. The Idealists coined the term “endogenous form” to capture this self-defining capacity.

The Neubauer Collegium team formed research collaborations with scholars in Leipzig, London, Harvard, and Johns Hopkins, and organized a transatlantic series of lectures, workshops, conferences, and graduate-level seminars focused on the meaning of the humanities in the context of its own conceptual history.

In the project’s year, the researchers attempted to historicize the Idealist notion of form through three major events. A Fall Quarter conference brought together sixteen scholars to consider for three days of talks and high-level discussion. Presentations introduced important new research on Ibsen’s tragedies, Hegelian phenomenology, poetry as a form of knowledge, and more. Over the course of the project, an international community of inquiry took shape. The researchers all delivered lectures, attended conferences, and published theoretical and critical work on topics germane to the idealism Project at institutions in the U.S. and abroad. Wellbery organized an international conference on Goethe’s late style that brought a transatlantic cohort to the Neubauer Collegium in March 2016. A group of graduate students and faculty from the U.S. and Europe convened at the University of Leipzig for a Summer 2016 workshop that reconsidered German idealism as a post-Kantian return to Aristotle. The project’s efforts to foster this community produced important direct and indirect results. Two external partners, Matthias Haase and Matt Boyle, were recently recruited to the University of Chicago Philosophy Department. And in 2016 the University of Leipzig successfully nominated James Conant for the prestigious Alexander von Humboldt Professorship, an honor that includes 5 million euros in funding for five years of research in Germany.

With more publications forthcoming and ongoing activities at several institutions, the ideas generated by the idealism Project continue to resonate. Working within the context of the idealism Project, being inspired by my co-inquirers, having the sense that something heretofore only partially understood was coming into view—all these things deepened my sense that what we do in our research and teaching is crucial to human self-understanding,” Wellbery said.

The research team organized a transatlantic series of lectures, workshops, conferences, and graduate-level seminars focused on the meaning of the humanities in the context of its own conceptual history.
OPEN FIELDS: ETHICS, AESTHETICS, AND THE FUTURE OF NATURAL HISTORY

An ambitious collaboration that brings together anthropologists, visual artists, curators, scholars of historic preservation, lawyers specializing in indigenous rights, and tribal elders from across North America, the Open Fields project is helping to redefine the concept of “natural history.”

Museums that display Native artifacts are increasingly compelled to reconsider curatorial and conservation practices that do not adequately reflect indigenous peoples’ understanding of their own heritage. As these museums look to the future, how should they present Native material culture in ways that are culturally appropriate and stimulating to both the general public and Native populations? And what normative frameworks would help assess and, if necessary, adjudicate indigenous people’s ethical, legal, and religious claims to the cultural property currently held in these museums?

The site and subject of this crucial inquiry is Chicago’s Field Museum of Natural History, which, through a series of open-ended discussions over the course of two days, a group of artists, scholars, and lawyers gathered at the Neubauer Collegium, to honor the past while exploring new forms of cultural expression, these exhibitions suggest a viable means to be an important venue for inspiration and guidance as the Field Museum plans for the wholesale revision of its Native American collections.

The Neubauer Collegium continues to be an important venue for inspiration and guidance as the Field Museum plans for the wholesale revision of its Native American collections.

“The Neubauer Collegium continues to be an important venue for inspiration and guidance as the Field Museum plans for the wholesale revision of its Native American collections.”

—RICHARD LARIVIERE, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE FIELD MUSEUM

Through a series of open-ended discussions at the Neubauer Collegium and the Field Museum, the Open Fields project has convened scholars, practitioners, and indigenous leaders representing a wide range of perspectives. The participants have come together to pursue two large-scale, overlapping goals: articulating a vision for the future of ethnographic museology and updating antiquated methods of conserving and preserving indigenous material culture. In both contexts, substantive engagement with indigenous people supports an epistemic shift from a period in which natural history collections were regarded as objects of scientific inquiry toward one in which they may prompt cross-cultural encounters with increasingly diverse publics.

The project’s first event, a multi-site conference organized by Jessica Stockholder in October 2015, examined how form, symbolic meaning, and social norms interact in art and law, particularly as they relate to First Nations artwork. Over the course of two days, a group of artists, scholars, and lawyers gathered at the Neubauer Collegium, the Field Museum, the Smart Museum of Art, and the Kari Gunilla Gallery for wide-ranging discussions and exhibition tours. One of the presenters was Anna Tsa’skaniks, a multimedia artist whose work explores the relationship between cultural expectations when encountering Native art. Tsa’skaniks returned to the Neubauer Collegium a year later for a solo exhibition titled She Made for Her. Presented as part of the Open Fields project, the show included three large-scale sculptures made from scrap materials sold by the furniture store IKEA. Audio recordings of Native women responding to the enigmatic works challenged traditional notions of critical authority while asserting the validity of Native aesthetic experience.

The Field Museum opened two exhibitions in the fall of 2016 that, like She Made for Her, showcase contemporary Native American art. Drawing on Tradition brings the Great Hall with Kanaka artist Chris Pappan’s inventive take on nineteenth-century “ledger art,” featuring pencil drawings of iconic images on ledger paper, often playfully distorted to suggest public misperceptions of Native culture. Full Circle/Omani Iwakan pairs Lakota artist Rhonda Holy Bear’s intricately carved and beaded figures with materials she selected from the permanent collection, completing a “sacred journey” that began with Holy Bear’s childhood trips to the museum.

By creating space for Pappan and Holy Bear to honor the past while exploring new forms of creative expression, these exhibitions suggest a viable path forward for curators at natural history museums. “When we realize that Native peoples are not just the objects of ethnographic inquiry, but are audiences and contributors to the ongoing stories of these collections, all of a sudden the Field Museum itself takes on a very different layer of meaning and importance,” said Anthropology professor Justin Richland.

Field Museum curator Alaka Wali, who has partnered closely with Richland as a Visiting Fellow, believes the project has fostered productive dialogue among stakeholders with distinct perspectives and interests. “The Neubauer Collegium has contributed to the intellectual and theoretical foundations for the renovation by creating a neutral space for open discussion,” Wali said. She also credited the project for helping her and her colleagues secure a Mellon Foundation grant that will enable the Field Museum to implement plans for the renovation and community engagement.

Resources from the Neubauer Collegium, leveraged with external funding from the Guggenheim Foundation and the McCormick Family Foundation, have also enabled the Open Fields research team to collect and study ethnographic data related to the Pappan and Holy Bear exhibitions. At a series of workshops in the summer and fall of 2017, the team shared their initial findings with museum professionals, indigenous artists, tribal leaders, and scholars. Employing recent methodological innovations in linguistic and visual anthropology, participants supplemented their review of traditional observational data with video and audio recordings collected during the planning, production, and installation stages. These efforts helped the research team identify promising strategies for curating and conserving Native artifacts on a broad scale. They also confirmed strong interest in the approach adopted for the Pappan and Holy Bear exhibitions.

Ongoing discussions with tribal elders, museum professionals, and ethnohistorians are advancing the team’s understanding of their findings and helping the Field Museum identify the goals and imperatives for its Great Hall renovation, currently underway.
Supported by the Brenda Mulmed Shapiro Fund, the exhibitions program is an essential part of the Neubauer Collegium’s mission: to encourage thought and creativity to move in whatever directions they need to go to address problems of human significance. Since its gallery opened in the spring of 2015, the Neubauer Collegium has hosted thirteen exhibitions. Each of them has provided space for scholars, artists, practitioners, and the general public to engage with the arts in the context of collaborative research. Our aim is to integrate art and collaborative research as forms of inquiry.
This exhibition presented a body of work attributed to the Czechoslovakian architect Petra Andrejova-Molnár, an overlooked (in fact, fictional) figure active in the first half of the twentieth century, as realized by Slovakian-born American artist Katarina Burin. In this complex and multidimensional project, Burin created not only the character of Petra Andrejova-Molnár, or P.A., but also her work, in the form of architectural drawings and models, graphic design, furniture, and “archival” photographs and documents.

Presented as part of the inaugural Chicago Architecture Biennial, Contribution and Collaboration surveyed a number of P.A. projects that Burin had reconstructed over the previous several years, including a new body of work in which Burin recovered and presented P.A.’s contribution to the Czechoslovakian pavilion at the 1925 Exposition Internationale des Arts Décoratifs et Industriels Modernes in Paris. In this project, P.A.’s work appeared alongside that of other young architects such as Farkas Molnár, Josef Fischer, Jaromír Krejcar, and Bohuslav Fuchs.

Part alter ego, part historical intervention, P.A. serves as a kind of cipher, allowing Burin to participate in the social, political, and aesthetic debates of an earlier historical moment as well as those of our present day. Then and now, the figure of P.A. questions notions of authorship and authenticity, the relationship between gender and the archive, and the historical tension between national identity and internationalist aspiration. Alongside the production and display of P.A.’s works, Burin’s exhibition mobilized the tropes and techniques of contemporary museological and academic discourse to establish the artistic persona of a figure who may not have existed but just as easily could have, pointing along the way to the mutability of the historical record itself. Ultimately, it is perhaps less important that P.A. is a fiction than that we encounter her today as a previously unknown player in this historical milieu. Filling in for the figures we don’t encounter in dominant historical narratives—those whose proper names, for whatever reason, are no longer available to us—she calls attention to their absence.

The exhibition was accompanied by a comprehensive catalogue, published by Koenig Books, featuring extensive documentation alongside essays by Neubauer Collegium curator Jacob Proctor, architectural historian Sean Keller, and writer J.A. Gibson. Bard College’s Center for Curatorial Studies hosted a book launch and panel discussion in New York City with Burin, Proctor, and publication designer Francesca Grassi, moderated by Prem Krishnamurthy.
This exhibition of new works by London-based artist Ian Kiaer continued his longstanding engagement with the eighteenth-century French architect Claude Nicolas Ledoux. The gallery was transformed into a carefully calibrated landscape of found objects, enigmatic sculptures, and a tiny video projection—a playful, erudite take on Ledoux's utopian designs. But Kiaer's arrangements didn’t merely call to mind Ledoux's neoclassical sketches for ideal cities. Necessarily contingent on their immediate context, they also prompted viewers to ask: What constitutes the category of “painting” today? And how do we understand the relationship between sculptural fragment and architectural model?

IAN KIAER: ENDNOTE, LEDOUX
February 26 – April 22, 2016

The Danish artist Jakob Kolding’s solo show reflected his deepening interest in scenography. At the time of the exhibition he was collaborating with the annual performing arts festival in Bregenz, Austria, to create the stage design for a new operatic production of Virginia Woolf’s To the Lighthouse. In the Neubauer Collegium gallery he created a stage-like environment featuring flat, life-size wood figures, surrealistic collages on paper, and large-format photomontage graphics that evoked theatrical backdrops. With its overt focus on construction and performative gesture, Making a Scene invited visitors into a drama staged at the nexus of real and imaginary space.

JAKOB KOLDING: MAKING A SCENE
September 21 – October 26, 2016

Anna Tsouhlarakis is at the forefront of contemporary Native American art. In She Made for Her, she created three large-scale sculptures made of materials purchased from IKEA’s “as-is” section. As viewers encountered the sculptures, their visual experience was mediated by a multi-channel sound installation featuring Native women describing those very objects. Some of the women approached the works as abstractions, some as utilitarian forms, and others as cultural symbols. The overlapping and divergent voices prompted viewers to rethink their cultural expectations when encountering the work of Native artists. This exhibition was presented as part of the Open Fields project.

ANNA TSOUHLARAKIS: SHE MADE FOR HER
November 1, 2016 – January 13, 2017

Glasgow-based artist Luke Fowler’s solo show centered on the relationships between sound and image, looking and listening, and different modes of portraiture. The show included the North American premiere of For Christian, a cinematic portrait of New York School composer Christian Wolff, including interview extracts and impressions from a trip to Wolff’s farm in Vermont. Fowler’s Tenement Films (2009) are intimate portraits of four individuals brought together by their residence on four floors of the same Glasgow tenement. On view alongside the films were two suites of color photographs representing individuals via the spaces they occupied: one was shot in the home of Italian photographer Luigi Ghirri, and the other in Karlheinz Stockhausen’s legendary studio for electronic music in Cologne, Germany. Related programming included a screening of Fowler’s earlier films and a panel discussion with Fowler, Neubauer Collegium curator Jacob Proctor, and musicologist and gallerist John Corbett.

LUKE FOWLER
April 29 – July 1, 2016
Archaeological artifacts are always moving—out of excavation sites, across geopolitical borders, into museums and private collections. This movement can be positive or negative, authorized or unauthorized, legal or illegal. The Past Sold presented these contrasting modes of artifact movement. The case studies under consideration included the legal, state-sponsored sale of Early Bronze Age antiquities from Jordan during the late 1970s and the illegal looting of archaeological sites in Jordan, Iraq, and Syria that continues to this day. The exhibition included ceramic pots from the Oriental Institute and the McCormick Theological Seminary along with unpublished archival documents, maps, photographs, and aerial drone video footage. By calling attention to these materials in a gallery setting, The Past Sold added new dimension and a visual vocabulary to the Past for Sale research project.

MARK STRAND: COLLAGES
May 24 – June 30, 2017

Mark Strand is one of the great American poets of his generation. He is celebrated at the University as a longstanding member of the Committee on Social Thought. He also was an accomplished visual artist. Toward the end of his life, he produced a remarkable series of collages, eighteen of which were included in this exhibition. Working while the base paper was still wet, Strand “painted” with colored liquid pulps using brushes, small squirt bottles, and his own hands. This method gave the works their sense of gestural dynamism and chromatic vibrancy. Once the papers were dry, Strand cut and tore them, assembling the pieces into collages. Modest in scale and often deceptively simple, the works reward careful and extended looking. Semitransparent layers gradually reveal subtle depth of field, while seemingly casual details coalesce into surprisingly precise compositions.
On August 24, 2017, the State Department announced that sixteen government employees working at the U.S. embassy in Cuba had received medical treatment for symptoms including headaches, nausea, and hearing loss. Although the Cuban government strongly denied any involvement in what the State Department suspected was a sonic attack, the U.S. launched an investigation and removed all nonessential staff from the building. A brief diplomatic thaw ended with a familiar freeze.

The announcement created an apt historical context for Terence Gower’s Havana Case Study, which opened as part of the Chicago Architecture Biennial and is part of Gower’s larger series on U.S. embassies and their design. The show presented the U.S. embassy building as symbolic of U.S.-Cuban relations. Gower conducted extensive research in Havana and in U.S. archives to study the embassy program’s attempt to represent the government and its foreign policy through architecture and design—and the ways the meaning of the building has evolved since it opened in 1953.

The centerpiece imagined a comprehensive architectural exhibition in the style of the late 1950s, when postwar diplomatic ties were at their peak and the embassy was being hailed as a triumph of modernism. Across four massive vitrines, Gower framed details from this period in a complex display of architectural models, photographs, magazine spreads, and archival documents. Resting on top of the cases, free for viewers to handle, a set of photographs and newspaper clippings testified to the new, more propagandistic function the building acquired after it closed in the wake of the Cuban revolution. These more recent images obscured those underneath the glass, layering a troubled history over postwar ideals of transparency and progress. The images were reconfigured in a series of collages that juxtaposed architectural ambition and political fallout.

Gower’s monumental sculpture Balcony, a 1:1 scale outline of the ambassador’s balcony rendered in rebar, was installed outdoors on the Neubauer Collegium’s terrace. When the embassy opened, the balcony was singled out for criticism by a State Department inspector, who described it as “Mussolini style” and worried about stoking Cuban sensitivity to perceived U.S. imperialism. Masses did eventually assemble below the balcony, but for anti-U.S. rallies organized by the Cuban government. As Gower explains in a limited-edition booklet the Neubauer Collegium published on the occasion of the exhibition, he found inspiration in the balcony as “an abstract symbol of the state of limbo that has characterized the material culture of post-revolutionary Cuba.”
It seems a fairly straightforward and self-evident question, but no less worth asking because of it: What does art have to do with culture and society? Interrogating art’s position and role in a “collegium for culture and society” devoted to “exploring novel approaches to complex human questions” may be a mere matter of hitting upon the right conjunction or preposition. Should we really think art and culture, or art and society? Should we look at art as culture, and find art in society? How about opting for art instead of culture, or art contra society? For a long and venerable tradition exists, naturally, of opposing art to culture—and a much longer one still pitting art against society. In this view, “true” art is irremedial to the very idea of culture as we know it today—of culture as diminished to a mere jumble of cogs in the entertainment industry machine. This is a tradition weighed down by a certain degree of nostalgia and romantic naïveté, perhaps, but one that we nonetheless continue to hold dear. Our vision of art is one that seeks to secure a measure of refuge for the utopian impulses of negation, of contradiction—not so much art as merely opposed to culture and society, but rather art as actively opposing what passes for culture and society in our fractured here and now. Art as “something else”—a dependable island of otherness in our culture’s all-encompassing ocean of sameness from which it so often seems no escaping is possible. Such is our idea of art, in “culture and society.”

The great Brazilian art critic Mário Pedrosa once defined art as “the experimental exercise of freedom.” (Definitions are currently hugely unpopular in art, especially definitions of art as such, but this one remains very dear to us—just like we enjoy asking the most straightforward and self-evident of questions: What is it, and why are we doing it?) In this sense, the idea of art evidently converges rather seamlessly with certain notions of research that, if idealized, undergird the founding philosophy of a research institution such as the Neubauer Collegium, or the University of Chicago as a whole. It is this idea of the “experimental exercise of freedom,” with its inevitable implications of play, that is perhaps of the greatest value now that a whole cottage industry has sprung up around the relatively novel conception of art as research, and around the subsequent academicization of the art field. It has become a commonplace to align art with certain research practices, which has resulted, in part, in the annexation of art to the sprawling realm of what is now known as the “knowledge economy”—an economic-industrial complex in which both the museum and the university occupy positions of great symbolic import. The Neubauer Collegium’s exhibition program naturally inclines toward such notions of art (or specific examples of art practice) conceived as inquiry—and the more critical, the better, of course. It is hard to think of a more thankful free space, in this regard, for the articulation of such experiments in knowing than the Neubauer Collegium gallery—and how fitting it seems for this gallery to be housed inside a former theological seminary. There is more than just a passing resemblance between theories of art and theological inquiry. For all these reasons, however, it seems important to reiterate the emphasis on art’s freedom—from the aforementioned pressures of the knowledge economy, for instance, or from the demands of increased academicization. If art has any role to play, considered more concretely, within the framework of the Neubauer Collegium’s dedication to stimulating interdisciplinary research into “complex human questions” and “culture and society,” it is perhaps to be found in art’s fundamental indiscipline—its eternal irreverence in the face of disciplinary thinking. A corrective, counterbalancing, critical role, in short.

The Neubauer Collegium gallery ranks among the youngest members of the expanding UChicago Arts family. As a new arrival lodged inside its somewhat anachronistic neo-Gothic confines, it lacks the history of the Renaissance Society, the institutional gravitas of the Smart Museum, or the wide reach of the Logan Center. It must cultivate focus instead—and, thankfully, the quiet comfort of its seclusion, half a foot outside time, a little island off the coast of culture and society.

—DIETER ROELSTRAETE, CURATOR
Intellectual collaborations thrive in environments where ideas are shared, freely and respectfully, among individuals representing different backgrounds and perspectives. This is why the Neubauer Collegium regularly opens its conversations and inquiries to the public. Indeed, some programs are explicitly designed to enhance connections between the world of humanistic research and society at large. Among the most successful public engagement programs is the Roman Family Director’s Lecture series, made possible through the generous support of University Trustee Emmanuel Roman, MBA’87. Launched in the fall of 2014, the series has invited fourteen distinguished speakers to share their insights with faculty, students, and the broader community. Speakers address fundamental challenges to the world today as well as enduring problems that confront us simply because we are human.
The Director’s Lecture by Quentin Skinner, Barber Beaumont Professor in Humanities at Queen Mary University, London, commemorated the opening of the Neubauer Collegium’s permanent home on campus. “I can think of no one who better embodies our emerging ideals,” said Roman Family Director Jonathan Lear in his introductory remarks, noting Skinner’s field-defining scholarship and his facility with modes of inquiry native to both the humanities and the social sciences. “It is not an exaggeration to say that Skinner’s work changed the way intellectual history and the history of political thought are done.”

Skinner opened by acknowledging that thinking about freedom is particularly complicated because its meaning and application have been contested throughout the history of the modern world. Focusing on how the concept has been debated in Anglophone moral and political traditions, Skinner developed a “genealogy of freedom” that synthesized the contributions of Hobbes, Locke, Bentham, and Mill, among others. The internal and external forces that inhibit action operate in different ways, these thinkers showed. They act on the body and on the will, through force, coercion, and different kinds of threats. In all cases, however, individual freedom is understood in negative terms as the absence of interference or constraint.

But what about the content of freedom? Toward the end of the nineteenth century, Skinner said, political philosophers began to articulate a positive notion of freedom. According to Victorian liberals, freedom enables individuals to act in such a way as to realize the essence of their nature. Here, too, Skinner insisted, such claims require nuance, qualification, and sensitivity to historical context. Thinkers rooted in the Christian tradition assert that we best fulfill our natures in the service of God, whereas those in the classical tradition maintain that self-realization is possible only in the service of the public good. Skinner posited a third option by reviving the neo-Roman notion of dependence, which is absent in modern conceptions of freedom but which Skinner regards as essential. For slaves, colonists subjected to taxation without representation, and women excluded from the franchise, freedom is restricted by dependence on arbitrary power.

“All of these positions are coherent in their own terms,” Skinner concluded, but they don’t fit together. “If you have to make choices, which choice should you make?”

Peter Cole, the recipient of a 2007 MacArthur Foundation Fellowship, has published four books of poems and translated major works of medieval and modern Hebrew and Arabic poetry. His lecture addressed the mysteries of poetic inspiration and the challenge of “translating one self into another.” The talk was preceded by a reading at the Logan Center, co-sponsored by the Program in Poetry and Poetics and the Committee on Social Thought, at which Cole read selections from his most recent book of poems, *The Invention of Influence.*

May 5, 2016

The Pulitzer Prize–winning author and essayist Marilynne Robinson is one of the nation’s most prominent defenders of the liberal arts. She received the National Humanities Medal in 2012 and has devoted much of her recent writing to a series of nuanced, searching essays in which she dissects and defends the humanities and secular humanism. Robinson brought to her Director’s Lecture the same intelligence and moral seriousness that readers have come to expect from her novels and nonfiction. Grounding her meditation on conscience with a wide range of historical, biblical, and literary references, she aimed to restore a sense of urgency to a subject that, she argued, has faded from contemporary public discussion.

“Conscience appears throughout history in individuals and groups as a liberating compulsion, though the free act is so often fatal,” she explained. The obligation to act in accordance with one’s conscience—that is, the need to validate an inner belief that one’s actions are just—is no guarantee that one’s actions will in fact be just. An honor killing in one culture, Robinson noted, is an especially vicious crime in another. When conscience is “inappropriately invoked,” it makes individuals and societies blind to the moral consequences of their actions, overly confident in their beliefs when they would be better served by doubt.

Freedom of conscience plays a distinct role in American political thought, Robinson said. Inspired by the writings of John Locke and the example set by Cromwell’s Commonwealth, New Englanders found the rationale for a liberating revolution and the basis for a political democracy that would safeguard individual sovereignty. “Lovely old ideals, redolent of Scripture, never realized, never discredited or forgotten, having their moment over against the corruption of, say, plantation life,” Robinson said. More recently, popular investment in the legend of Winston Churchill’s heroic wisdom made it difficult for economists to broaden their inquiries in order to better understand how narratives develop around economic phenomena and made a case for economic activity.

The lecture is the first entry in Robinson’s most recent collection of essays, What Are We Doing Here?, published in February 2018 to wide critical acclaim.

Robert Alter: The Challenges of Translating the Bible

October 8, 2015

Translating the Bible into English requires subtlety, expressive compactness, precision, and evocative use of syntax. All this is challenging because the structure of modern English is so different from that of ancient Hebrew. Robert Alter, a professor of Hebrew and comparative literature at the University of California, Berkeley, demonstrated his own struggles with these issues through examples from his own translation. The event was held at Mandel Hall as part of the University’s 125th Anniversary celebration. More than 350 first-year students attended as part of the College Core course “Human Being and Citizen.”

Robert Alter

David Bromwich: Lincoln As Realist and Revolutionist

February 11, 2016

David Bromwich, a professor of English at Yale University, considered the evolution of President Lincoln’s political thought and action in the years leading up to the Civil War. In the 1850s he adopted the stance of a constitutional moderate, rejecting abolitionism and adhering to the Republican platform that accepted slavery in the states where it already existed. But the “House Divided” speech of 1858 and the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 indicated Lincoln’s increasing readiness to take the nation to war on the issue of slavery.

David Bromwich

Anna Tsouhlarakis: She Made for Her

November 1, 2016

Anna Tsouhlarakis’s Director’s Lecture, delivered at the opening of her solo show in the Neubauer Collegium gallery, charted the evolution of her artistic practice. Showcasing a body of work that ranges widely across media, Tsouhlarakis described her efforts to expand the terms of what constitutes Native aesthetics. Immediately following the talk, she was joined by Neubauer Collegium Curator Jacob Proctor and Department of Visual Arts Chair Jessica Stockholder for discussion on the complex interplay of personal identity, social bonds, and artistic expression.

Anna Tsouhlarakis

Robert J. Shiller: Narrative Economics

January 28, 2015

Robert J. Shiller is an economics professor at Yale University, a columnist for The New York Times, and the winner of the 2013 Nobel Prize in Economics, which he shared with University of Chicago economists Eugene F. Fama and Lars Peter Hansen. For his Director’s Lecture he investigated how popular narratives develop around economic phenomena and made a case for economists to broaden their inquiries in order to better understand how narratives affect economic activity. The lecture was an early draft of a paper Shiller later delivered as the presidential address at the annual meeting of the American Economic Association.

Robert J. Shiller

Events
Joan Scott’s Director’s Lecture offered a penetrating look at the reciprocal nature of gender and society. It also provided Scott the opportunity to reflect on the impact of a canonical paper she wrote on gender as “a useful category of analysis.” Scott’s insistence that rigorous attention to gender could deep- en historical investigations into power and politics was highly controversial at the time, but it has proved to be enormously influential—widely cited by historians and feminist scholars to this day and credited for its role in reshaping the field of cultural history. “My 1986 article did not fully theorize the mutual constitution of gender and politics,” Scott explained. “I knew it could be done, but not how.” Three decades later she attempted that theorization by drawing on insights from psychoanalysis, which she had originally rejected as incommensurable with the project of history. Whether banning noblewomen from the court in monarchical France, rationalizing women’s subjugation through law at the dawn of the modern nation-state, or mythologizing the U.S. president as a primal father, men’s political activities betray a fear of female sexuality and reveal a fantasy in which masculinity forms the basis for exclusive power. Particularly at moments of instability, anxieties about sex difference become the basis for imagining social, political, and economic order—and thus for the policing of sexual behaviors that violate heterosexual norms.

“What makes all this interesting for historians, of course, is that stability can’t be secured,” Scott noted in conclusion. “It’s not that gender and politics as established entities come into contact and so influence one another. Rather, it’s that the instability of each looks to the other for certainty.” Scott, a professor emerita in the School of Social Science at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey, gave two other talks during her stay. The first, sponsored by the Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality, covered recent challenges to free speech and academic freedom. The second, sponsored by the Intellectual History workshop, challenged the notion that secularism is a guarantee of gender equality.
NEW MODES OF ENGAGEMENT

The Neubauer Collegium regularly collaborates with partners across campus to organize events that seek to identify new trajectories for humanistic research. Some events aim to create a new dialogue between University faculty and colleagues at universities and research institutions around the world. Such conversations help sustain collaborations that are already underway and often identify promising new avenues for interdisciplinary research. Other events foster dialogue between humanistic scholars at the University and members of the public. In the years ahead, the Neubauer Collegium will continue to explore new modes of engagement and track their impact.

CONVERSATION ON RESEARCH, COLLABORATION, AND PARTNERSHIPS IN AFRICA

May 10, 2016

Anthony Kesame Appiah, one of the leading philosophers at work today, came to the Neubauer Collegium to join eighteen faculty members for a casual, closed-door session about their work on various aspects of African studies. The event, co-sponsored by the University’s Office of Global Engagement, helped the scholars to think through long-term strategies about Africa studies. It also established collaborations between the University and peer institutions in Africa.

TRANSATLANTIC FORUM

October 24–25, 2016

The Neubauer Collegium joined the Humanities and Social Sciences Division to host Norway’s Transatlantic Forum, an annual event that promotes collaborative research, education, and innovation between Canada, Norway, and the United States. The two-day program included presentations, discussions, and breakout sessions on the theme “Finding Human Solutions to Societal Challenges.” This was the first time the Forum had highlighted humanistic research. Immediately following a tour of the Neubauer Collegium, the Norwegian Minister of Education issued a new call for a K–12 school performance survey whose design would reflect collaboration between humanists and statisticians.

DAVID AUBURN ON THE ART OF ADAPTION

April 25, 2017

Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright David Auburn joined Court Theatre’s Marilyn F. Vitale Artistic Director Charles Newell to discuss the challenges of adapting Saul Bellow’s picaresque novel The Adventures of Augie March for the stage. Auburn, a 2018–2019 Visiting Fellow, has also invited guests and students to rehearsals, dramatic readings, and workshops about the script and set design. Court Theatre will stage the world premiere in May 2019.

THINKING ACROSS BORDERS: ENGAGING AFRICAN AND WESTERN POLITICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL THINKING

April 27–28, 2017

The Thinking Across Borders conference brought together scholars from institutions in the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, and South Africa for two days of intensive discussion. The event was organized as part of an ongoing series of gatherings that aim to foster greater intellectual exchange between African and Western philosophers and political theorists on topics of shared concern. Roman Family Director Jonathan Lear organized the event in conjunction with Katrin Flikschuh of the London School of Economics (LSE) and Martin Ajayi of the University of Ghana, a 2016–2017 Visiting Fellow. The Leverhulme Trust also provided funding support.

LUMINISM: A CELEBRATION OF MARK STRAND’S POEMS AND COLLAGES

May 24, 2017

This event, held in conjunction with the opening of Mark Strand: Collages in the Neubauer Collegium gallery, included readings of Strand’s poetry and prose and a reception in the gallery. Readers included Strand’s former colleagues at the University’s Committee on Social Thought; his daughter, author Jessica Strand; and colleagues and friends from the world of poetry and publishing. A highlight was a video tribute by internationally acclaimed soprano Renee Fleming, who had collaborated with Strand and composer Anders Hillborg to set selections of Strand’s Dark Harbor to music.
The Visiting Fellows program aims to bring the best minds from around the world to engage in collaborative research at the University. Visiting Fellows come either to join research projects already underway at the Neubauer Collegium or to develop new collaborations with University faculty and the larger community. In addition to providing space designed specifically to advance collaborative research, the Neubauer Collegium provides administrative support for scholars and practitioners to engage in all aspects of University life. Visiting Fellows enhance the intellectual and creative environment on campus while strengthening ties between the University and partner institutions around the world. To date, fifty-three Visiting Fellows from seventeen countries have taken up residence at the Neubauer Collegium for periods ranging from a few weeks to several years.
The History, Philology, and the Nation in the Chinese Humanities

The research project supported a bi‐continental group of researchers who convened at the University of Chicago for sustained conversation on multiple occasions. The aim was to explore the writing of Chinese history from a trans‐national, comparative perspective. Scholars looked at historiographic conventions in Euro‐American and Chinese historical writing as well as the relative prominence of nationalistic narratives and philosophical questions across traditions. Chinese scholars who joined as Visiting Fellows included Ge Zhengmu (director of the National Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, Fudan University, Shanghai), Liang Dong (Professor of Chinese and Philosophy and Vice Dean of the Academy of Traditional Chinese Learning at Tsinghua University, Beijing), Wang Min’an (Professor of International Literature at Beijing Foreign Studies University), and Xie Shaobo (Associate Professor of English at the University of Calgary). The participants are currently collaborating on a book intended to reconstitute these conversations. The project helped strengthen ties between the University and partner institutions in China, sharpening the University research team’s understanding of the humanities and social scientific research being conducted in China and deepening their understanding of the protocols and implicit frontiers of their own research agendas.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT:
HISTORY, PHILOLOGY, AND THE NATION IN THE CHINESE HUMANITIES

The History, Philology, and the Nation in the Chinese Humanities research project supported a bi-continental group of researchers who convened at the University of Chicago for sustained conversation on multiple occasions. The aim was to explore the writing of Chinese history from a trans-national, comparative perspective. Scholars looked at historiographic conventions in Euro-American and Chinese historical writing as well as the relative prominence of nationalistic narratives and philosophical questions across traditions. Chinese scholars who joined as Visiting Fellows included Ge Zhengmu (director of the National Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, Fudan University, Shanghai), Liang Dong (Professor of Chinese and Philosophy and Vice Dean of the Academy of Traditional Chinese Learning at Tsinghua University, Beijing), Wang Min’an (Professor of International Literature at Beijing Foreign Studies University), and Xie Shaobo (Associate Professor of English at the University of Calgary). The participants are currently collaborating on a book intended to reconstitute these conversations. The project helped strengthen ties between the University and partner institutions in China, sharpening the University research team’s understanding of the humanities and social scientific research being conducted in China and deepening their understanding of the protocols and implicit frontiers of their own research agendas.
Sheila Fitzpatrick
Professor Emerita of History, University of Chicago

2017–2018 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow

Research Project: Revolutionology: Media and Networks of Intellecutal Resistance

A world-renowned social historian of the Soviet period in Russia, Sheila Fitzpatrick returned to her longtime home at the University of Chicago for the Fall Quarter of the 2017–2018 academic year. With her residence she collaborated with Robert Bird on the Neubauer Collegium Revolutionology project and co-taught a course on revolution with Bird. In October she delivered a well-attended lecture at the Neubauer Collegium on the Russian response to the centenary of the Russian Revolution. In November she participated in the Revolutionology project’s two-day conference on “The Bolsheviks: Context” during which she presented a paper on Nikolai Bukharin and Evgeny Preobrazhensky’s seminal text on utopian revolutionary planning, The ABC of Communism.

Jean-Gabriel Ganascia
Professor of Computer Science, University Paris 6–Pierre and Marie Curie

2017–2018 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow

Research Project: Textual Optics

Amalia Gnanadesikan
Associate Research Scientist, University of Maryland Center for Advanced Study of Language

2015–2016 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow

Research Project: Signa of Writing: The Cultural, Social, and Linguistic Contexts of the World’s First Writing Systems

Susan James
Professor of Philosophy, Birkbeck College London

2017–2018 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow

Susan James, one of the world’s most respected scholars on the philosophy of Baruch Spinoza, joined the Neubauer Collegium in the 2017 Fall Quarter. She was at the same time the Kohut Visiting Professor at the Committee on Social Thought. During her time at the Neubauer Collegium she presented two pieces of work—progress at workshops and seminars—“Envy and Inequality in the Political Treatise” and “Ovid’s Warning to Spinoza”—and delivered the Kohut Lecture on “Spinoza on Fortitude.” Her work at the Neubauer Collegium will culminate in the publication of Spinoza on Learning to Live Together, to be published by Oxford University Press. In addition, she edited a collection of essays, Life and Death in Early Modern Philosophy, also to be published by Oxford. As the Kohut Visiting Professor she taught a graduate seminar on “Spinoza’s Psychological Politics.”

Tobias Keilng
Research Fellow, University of Freiburg, Germany

2015–2016 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow

Morgan Kersel
Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, DePaul University

2015–17 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow


In residence for two full academic years, Morgan Kersel collaborated closely with Larry Rothfield and Fiona Greenland on the Past for Sale project. She assisted with the planning and execution of all project activities, including the “Dealing with Heritage" conference; the Past Sold gallery exhibition, which she co-curated with Greenland; and the “Antiquities as Global Contaminad” capstone conference. During her fellowship Kersel advanced her research on the looting and trafficking of Early Bronze Age artifacts, including her pioneering use of aerial drone technology to survey changes in archaeological landscapes. In addition to presenting her research at Past for Sale conferences and related Neubauer Collegium events, her work was featured in the Oriental Institute’s Drones over the Desert exhibition.

Daria Khtirova
Assistant Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures, Harvard University

2013–2014 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow

Research Project: CinemaMetrics Across Boundaries: A Collaborative Study of Montage

Mark Kingwell
Professor of Philosophy, University of Toronto

2015–2016 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow

Françoise Lavocat
Professor, Comparative Literature, University Paris 3-Sorbonne Nouvelle

2016–2017 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow

Research Project: Fact and Fiction: Creation, Forms, Boundaries

During her time in residence at the Neubauer Collegium (Spring 2017), Françoise Lavocat made signficant contributions to the Neubauer Collegium’s Fact and Fiction research project. At a forum in April, she discussed Literary Theory’s “return to facts” and the documenta- ity tendencies prevalent in contem- porary fiction. Later that month she presented new research on the connections between public opinion about the decadence of the population in the nineteenth-century France, demography, statistics, and popular novels of the era. In early May, she delivered a lecture in which she theorized fiction as a “pluralistic word” that has its own ontology. And at the Fact and Fiction capstone conference in late May, which she helped organize, as Research collaborator Alison James, Lavocat gave a talk titled “A Comparative Demography of Characters” and “The Puzzling Case of Literary Demography of Characters” and focused on the English translation of her book Fait et fiction: pour une frontière (Saul, 2016). Following her stay, Lavocat created, with James, the international Society of Fiction and Fictionality Studies.

Celia López Alcalde
Postdoctoral Researcher, Instituto de Filosofía, Universidade do Porto

2013–2014 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow

Annapurna Mamidipudi
Postdoctoral Researcher, Maastricht University

2015–2016 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow

Research Project: Knowing and Doing: Text and Labor in Asian Handwork

Birgit Mersmann
Professor of Non-Western and European Art, Jacobs University

2013–2014 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow

Wang Minán
Professor of International Literature, Beijing Foreign Studies University

2013–2016 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow

Research Project: History, Philosophy, and the Nation in the Chinese Humanities

Uchenna Okeja
Senior Lecturer, Department of Philosophy, Rhodes University, South Africa

2017–2018 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow

Lisa Onaga
Assistant Professor of History, Asia, Art and Social Sciences, Nanyang Technological University

2014–2015 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow

Research Project: Knowing and Doing: Text and Labor in Asian Handwork

Visiting Fellows

Neubauer Collegium
ALLAN POTALSKY
Professor of Atlantic and French History, University Paris–Diogenes
Paris 7
2016–2017 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow
Research Project: The French Republic and the Plantation Economy: Saint-Domingue, 1794–1803

GRIT AMALDA PRINTZLAU
Postdoctoral Researcher, Center for Subjectivity Research and Theological Faculty, University of Copenhagen
2015–2016 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow

MARINE RIGUET
Postdoctoral Researcher, University Paris Sorbonne-Paris 4
2017–2018 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow
Research Project: Text and Labor in Asian Handwork

STEPHEN SAWYER
Professor and Chair, Department of History, American University of Paris
2013–2014 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow
Research Project: The State as History and Theory

DAGMAR SCHÄFER
Managing Director, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science
2015–2016 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow
Research Project: Knowing and Doing: Text and Labor in Asian Handwork

CHRISTIAN SCHEIDEMANN
Senior Conservator and President, Contemporary Conservation Ltd.
2013–2014 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow
Research Project: Material Matters

ANNA LISE SEASTRAND
Assistant Professor, South Asian Art, University of Minnesota
2017–2018 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow

XIE SHAOBO
Associate Professor, Department of English, University of Calgary
2013–2016 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow
Research Project: History, Philology, and the Nation in the Chinese Humanities

QUENTIN SKINNER
Barber Beaufort Professor of the Humanities, Queen Mary University of London
2017–2018 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow
Quentin Skinner delivered a Director’s Lecture in April 2015 in which he challenged the prevailing understanding of individual freedom as absence of interference, arguing that dependence should instead be seen as the antithesis of freedom. He returned for the 2017 Fall Quarter to immerse himself in campus life as a Visiting Fellow. During his residence Skinner delivered four lectures, all of which were well attended and well received. He offered a general talk outlining his view that literary and philosophical texts can often be most fruitfully interpreted as forms of social action, and in three more specific lectures he put this approach to work. He gave a talk to the Renaissance seminar on Shakespeare’s uses of classical rhetoric; he delivered a Committee on Social Thought lecture on the iconography of the state; and he extended his earlier Director’s Lecture with a talk on how the understanding of freedom as absence of dependence was potentially deployed in the English and American revolutions. Skinner also prepared and taught “Conceputal Foundations of the Modern State,” a graduate-level course offered by the Committee on Social Thought. He spent the rest of his time completing his new book, From Humanism to Hobbes: Studies of his time completing his new book, From Humanism to Hobbes: Studies of his time completing his new book, From Humanism to Hobbes: Studies of his time completing his new book, From Humanism to Hobbes: Studies

DANIEL LORD SMAIL
Frank B. Baird, Jr. Professor, Department of History, Harvard University
2015–2016 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow
Research Project: Deep History
A distinguished historian whose research explores transformations in the material culture of the later Middle Ages, Daniel Lord Smail was in residence at the Neubauer Collegium during the Fall 2015 Quarter. He was an active participant in the Climate Change reading group and delivered a lecture titled “On Containers,” which filled the forum with students and faculty. Taking inspiration from the literature on material culture and on patterns of mass consumption, the talk considered the role of containers in human societies both past and present. Smail described the Neubauer Collegium as an important facilitator for conversations that provided the opportunity to rethink and revise his work and reported that he used the time and space the fellowship provided to think through the meaning of a tree of new material in environmental history and sustainability studies.

MARK SOLMS
Director of Neuropsychology, University of Cape Town
2015–2016 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow
Research Project: Revolutionology: Media and Networks of Intellectual Revolution

GÜNTER THOMAS
Professor of Systematic Theology, Ethics and Fundamental Theology at Ruhr–University Bochum, Germany
2015–2016 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow
Research Project: Living Aspirations

BARBARA VINKEN
Chair of French and Comparative Literature, Ludwig-Maximilians University Munich, Germany
Research Project: Thinking Through Tropes: Figures of Thought and the Political Imaginary

In the 2015 Winter Quarter, Barbara Vinken visited the University to collaborate with Michèle Lowrie on the Thinking Through Tropes project, which focused on the Roman legacy in the Western tradition. She and Lowrie convened a faculty seminar that brought an interdisciplinary approach to discuss how tropes, allegory, and metaphor shape history, and they began work on a co-authored book exploring civil war as a “cluster of tropes” that has given people a framework for understanding their experiences from the age of antiquity to the modern period. Vinken returned in the 2017 Spring Quarter to continue this investigation with Lowrie. Through close readings, discussions, and presentations on the works of Virgil, Augustine, Hugo, Verdi, and others, the scholars deepened their understanding of the civil war paradigm and the modern reception of the Latin tradition. Vinken also taught an undergraduate Comparative Literature course that considered the paradoxes and ambiguities of modern fashion.
The Neubauer Collegium has enabled over 400 leading scholars, artists, and policy experts from around the world to join in research, conversation, and exploration with the University community. It is of the utmost importance to continue to facilitate research collaborations that attract the best minds from around the world.

Over the next five years the Neubauer Collegium aims to launch a fully realized Global Visiting Fellows program. This program will support the University’s long-term commitment to being a world center for cutting-edge research. It will also help establish and enhance institutional connections between the University of Chicago and research communities worldwide.

Visitors to the Neubauer Collegium in our first five years have come from all over North America and Europe, from India and China, from select countries in Africa. We want to maintain and develop this strong presence, bringing new voices to our community and building new partnerships. Over the next five years we plan to expand this aspect of our work, and to welcome the best minds from economically developing areas such as Sub-Saharan Africa, South America, South Asia, and the Southern Pacific regions. Unlike visitors to date, many of these proposed Global Visiting Fellows will need robust economic support to come to the University. It is only through an inclusive and comprehensive Global Visiting Fellowship that we can achieve the breadth of vision required to address the world’s most pressing problems, and imagine solutions.

The Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society has capacity to invite up to ten Global Visiting Fellows at a time, for long-term and short-term residence.

ALAKA WALI
Curator, North American Anthropology, The Field Museum
2015–2019 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow
Research Project: Open Fields: Ethics, Aesthetics, and the Future of Natural History
A crucial partner on the Open Fields research project, Alaka Wali has been in residence at the Neubauer Collegium for the past several academic years. Her expertise as the Field Museum’s Curator of North American Anthropology has been essential in the collection and analysis of ethnographic data gathered during the planning and installation phases of two exhibitions at the Field Museum. Both shows, Chris Pappan’s Drawing on Tradition and Rhonda Holy Bear’s Full Circle/Omani Wakan were co-curated by Wali and her Open Fields research partner, Justin Richland. Wali has also helped to organize a continuing series of presentations and workshops at the Field Museum and the Neubauer Collegium that have broadened discussions about the future of Native American ethnographic museology.

ZHAI OWEI
Postdoctoral Fellow, School of Literature, Capital Normal University, Beijing
2017–2018 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow
Research Project: Textual Optics

SUSANNE WENGLE
Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Notre Dame
2017–2018 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow
Research Project: Sustainable Agriculture as Relational Learning Process

WANG XIANJU
Professor of Ancient World History, Director of the Institute of African History and Philology, School of History & Culture, Sichuan University, Chengdu, China
2015–2016 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow
Research Project: Signs of Writing: The Cultural, Social and Linguistic Contexts of the World’s First Writing Systems

FAN ZHANG
Visiting Research Scholar, Department of Political Science, University of Chicago
2015–2016 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow
Research Project: History, Philology, and the Nation in the Chinese Humanities

GE ZHAOGUANG
Director, National Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, Fudan University, Shanghai
2013–2016 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow
Research Project: History, Philology, and the Nation in the Chinese Humanities

Image: Cecilia Vicuña, Quipu Mapocho, Llolleo, Chile (photo by Rafael Yaluff, courtesy of the artist).
BY THE NUMBERS

80
Faculty-led collaborative research projects funded over 6 annual cycles

142
Faculty Fellows, representing all professional schools and all departments in Humanities and Social Sciences divisions

53
Visiting Fellows from other institutions, representing 17 countries

350
Short-term visitors (conference presenters, lecturers, seminar participants, etc.)

599
Activities in building, including 187 events open to the public and 43 major conferences organized around key questions in humanistic scholarship

13
Gallery exhibitions

16,000
Square feet of dedicated, diverse collaborative research space

This data visualization shows a network analysis of the eighty faculty-led collaborative research projects the Neubauer Collegium has supported to date. The nodes represent the departments and schools involved in each project, and the size of each node reflects the number of projects with which the respective departments, schools, and centers have been involved. The graphic was created by Lingfei Wu, a postdoctoral scholar at the UChicago Knowledge Lab, with Knowledge Lab Director James Evans, a Neubauer Collegium Faculty Advisory Board member.
THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF HISTORY
2013–2014

Scholars brought together insights from postcolonial studies, indigenous anthropology, and archaeological anthropology to locate an emerging understanding of how we come to know the past.

Stephan Palmié, Professor of Anthropology and Social Sciences in the College
Charles Stewart, Professor of Anthropology, University College London

ART AND PUBLIC LIFE
2014–2016

What is a public? How do real and virtual spaces, architecture, and media help to create publics? Artists, critics, and scholars considered these questions with attention to new concepts of art as “social practice” and complex, modern notions of public space.

Theaster Gates, Professor, Department of Visual Arts and the College, Director, Arts + Public Life
W.J.T. Mitchell, Gaylord Donnelley Distinguished Service Professor, Departments of English, Art History, and Visual Arts

ARTFUL LIVING PROGRAM
2016–2018

This project aims to augment patient care and rethink the definition of “treatment” by hosting events that allow medical patients to experience art in its various forms and measuring the health impacts.

David Melzter, Fanny L. Pritzker Professor, Chief, Gordon of Hospital Medicine, Associate Professor of Economics and Public Policy
Bart Schultz, Senior Lecturer in Philosophy, Director, Civic Knowledge Project

ART SCENES: AN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE
2014–2016

Nine teams of international, interdisciplinary collaborators sought to describe and compare contemporary art scenes more precisely, incorporating social science concepts and methods to develop a worldwide “grammar of scenes.”

Terry Nichols Clark, Professor, Department of Sociology
Daniel Silver, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Toronto

AUDIO CULTURES OF INDIA: NEW APPROACHES TO THE PERFORMANCE ARCHIVE
2013–2014

Deploying data-mining and pattern-analysis techniques common to the physical and biological sciences, an interdisciplinary group of investigators from across the University worked to produce a sonic history of modern India.

Philip V. Bohan, Ludwig Rosenberger Distinguished Service Professor in Jewish History, Department of Music and the Humanities in the College, Associate Faculty, Divinity School
Kaley Mason, Assistant Professor of Music, Lewis and Clark (then Assistant Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Music)
James Nye, Bibliographer for Southern Asia, University of Chicago Library
Laura Ring, Metadata Librarian and Librarian for Southern Asia and Anthropology, University of Chicago Library

THE BODY’S ROLE IN THINKING, PERFORMING, AND REFERENCE: HOW WE USE OUR HANDS TO ACT, GESTURE, AND SIGN
2013–2016

This project studied the relations between action, gesture, and sign language to develop a more nuanced and theoretically informed understanding of embodied cognition.

Sian Beilock, President, Barnard College (then Professor, Department of Psychology)
Diane Brentani, Mary K. Werkmann Professor, Department of Linguistics and Humanities Collegiate Division, Director, Center for Gesture, Sign and Language

CENSORSHIP, INFORMATION CONTROL, AND INFORMATION REVOLUTIONS FROM PRINTING TO INTERNET
2018–2021

This project will compare current efforts to control information with parallel responses to the print revolution in the early modern world, with the aim to inform policy and keep the digital world fertile for art and innovation.

Cory Doctorow, Author, Activist, Journalist, Special Advisor to the Electronic Frontier Foundation
Adrian Johns, Alan Grant Maciuer Professor of History, the Conceptual and Historical Studies of Science, and the College
Ada Palmer, Assistant Professor of Early Modern European History and the College

THE CHANGING SOCIAL AND RHETORICAL FOUNDATIONS OF FLORENTINE REPUBLICANISM
2014–2017

Art historians and political scientists drew from a uniquely rich dataset of social networks among approximately 60,000 Florentines over the period 1360–1530 to explore the tumultuous political history of Florence.

John Padgett, Professor, Department of Political Science
Katalin Prajda, Independent Postdoctoral Researcher
Benjamin Rohr, PhD Student, Department of Sociology
Jonathan Schoots, PhD Student, Department of Sociology

Peter Cook, Chair, Associate Professor, Department of ASL-English Interpretation, Columbia College Chicago, 2013–2014
Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow
Anastasia Giannakidou, Professor, Department of Linguistics and Humanities Collegiate Division
Susan Goldin-Meadow, Beardsley Ruml Distinguished Service Professor, Departments of Psychology and Comparative Human Development

OCTAVIO DE ROYOS
THE COLLABORATIVE PROJECT INDEX – 2017

This project facilitated collaboration among cinema and media studies scholars and statisticians interested in the analysis of cutting rate changes within films, expanding the scholarly potential for a database and online forum and advancing knowledge of film’s role in society.

Michael Baxter†, Emeritus
Professor of Statistical Archaeology,
School of Science and Technology,
Nottingham Trent University,
2013–2014 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow

Daria Khitrova, Assistant Professor,
Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures,
Harvard University,
2013–2014 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow

Yuri Tsvian, William Colvin Professor,
Departments of Art History,
Slavic Languages and Literatures,
Comparative Literature, Cinema and Media Studies, and the College

Climate change: disciplinary challenges to the humanities, and the social sciences 2015–2017

Scholars from across the University convened regularly in a reading group to consider the ways that humanistic inquiry can advance environmental knowledge and improve approaches to climate policy.

Frederik Albritton Jonsson*, Associate Professor,
Department of History and the College

Benjamin Morgan, Associate Professor,
Department of History and the College

Emily Lynn Osborn, Associate Professor,
Department of History and the College

A comparative history of East Asian literatures 2017–2018

Working to correct a gap in scholarship on East Asian cultural history, this project is conceptualizing a cross-border, long-term, multilingual history of the literature of the region.

Haun Saussy, University Professor,
Department of Comparative Literature and the College

The contours of black citizenship in a global context 2018–2021

This project will examine and compare cultural practices, ideologies, and forms of resistance associated with social movements in the U.S., Latin America, the Caribbean, and South Africa.

Jessica Swanson Baker, Assistant Professor of Music
Adom Getachew, Neubauer Family Assistant Professor of Political Science and the College
Yanilda Maria Gonzalez, Assistant Professor,
School of Social Service Administration

Crimes of prediction 2017–2019

Using a database of spatio-temporal logs of criminal activity from the City of Chicago Data Portal, this group is studying the efficacy of predictive models of human behavior and investigating the ethics of crime prediction.

Kathleen Cagnney, Professor,
Department of Sociology, Director,
Population Research Center, NORC
Isham Chattopadhyay, Assistant Professor,
Department of Medicine
Brett Goldstein, Senior Fellow in Urban Science, Harris School of Public Policy, Senior Advisor to The Pearson Institute
Harold Pollack, Helen Ross Professor,
School of Social Service Administration, Affiliate Professor in Biological Sciences Colleage Division and the Department of Public Health Sciences
Forrest Stuart, Assistant Professor,
Department of Sociology

Critical computation: machine learning and questions of quality in art and design 2016–2018

This project is investigating the creative potential and theoretical implications of machine-generated visual art and design.

Kerem Coşar, Professor of Economics, Toulouse School of Economics
Robert O. Anderson, Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies,
Department of Economics, University of Virginia

Cultures of protest in contemporary Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia 2018–2019

Dialogue among intellectuals and artists from post-Soviet states will improve knowledge of shared histories of totalitarianism, the pursuit of democratic reform, and the critical role of art and culture in that endeavor.

Yulija Iachuk, Assistant Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures, Stanford University
Olga Solovieva, Assistant Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Comparative Literature

Curves in context 2016–2020

This project will bring together an international cohort of archaelogists, historians, and philosophers for comprehensive study of ancient curves in their local and archaeological context.

Christopher Farasone, Frank Curtis Springer and Gertrude Melcher Springer Professor in the Humanities, Professor, Department of Classics and the College
Richard Gordon, Honorary Professor of Ancient Religions, University of Erfurt, 2019–2020 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow
Celia Sánchez Tatalias, Postdoctoral Scholar, University of Zaragoza, 2019–2020 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow
Sofía Torallas Tovar, Associate Professor, Departments of Classics and Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the College

Deep history 2015–2016

This project supported the Visiting Fellowship of Daniel Lord Small, whose innovative research on the material culture of the later Middle Ages operates at the intersection of history, anthropology, archaeology, and evolutionary biology.

Fredrik Albritton Jonsson*, Associate Professor, Department of History and the College
Emily Lynn Osborn*, Associate Professor, Department of History and the College
Daniel Lord Small, Frank B. Baird, Jr. Professor of History, Harvard University, 2015–2016 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow

Economic analysis of ancient trade: the case of the old Assyrian merchants of the Nineteenth century BCE 2015–2018

Applying modern mathematical and computational economic methods to the age of antiquity, this project aims to elucidate the ancient history of entrepreneurial, market-oriented private trade.

Gejko Bajamovic, Senior Lecturer on Assyiology, Harvard University
Alain Bresson, Robert O. Anderson Distinguished Service Professor, Departments of Classics and History
Thomas Chaney, Professor of Economics, Sciences Po, Paris (then Professor of Economics, Toulouse School of Economics)
Karen Capor, Associate Professor of Economics, University of Virginia (then Assistant Professor of Economics, Stockholm School of Economics)
Thomas Hertel, Associate Professor of Assyiology, University of Copenhagen
Ali Horzum, Ralph and Mary Otis Isbrand Professor, Department of Economics and the College
David Schloen, Neubauer Professor of Near Eastern Archaeology, Oriental Institute and Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations
Gil Stein, Professor of Near Eastern Archaeology, Oriental Institute and Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations (then Director, Oriental Institute)
Edward Stratford, Assistant Professor of History, Brigham Young University
Francois Velde, Senior Economist and Research Advisor, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago
EMOTION CONSTRUCTION WITHOUT A SENSE OF THE BODY
2018–2020
This project will extend the investigation begun with the Language of Kim project to further explore how areas of the body with limited physical sensations perceive and express affect and emotion.
Lisa Barrett, University Distin-
guished Professor, Psychology, Northeastern University, 2019–
2020 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow
Lenore Grenoble, John Matthews Marcy Distinguished Service
Professor and Chair, Department of Linguistics and Humanities
College Division
Peegy Mason, Professor, Depart-
ment of Neurobiology

THE FRENCH REPUBLIC AND THE PLANTATION ECONOMY
SAINT-DOMINIQUE, 1794–1803
2016–2017
This project investigated what happened to Saint-Domingue’s plantation economy when the French Republic declared universal abolition in 1794.
Paul Cherny, Professor of European History and the College
Allan Potočky, Professor of History, University of Chicago, Paris-Odense 7, 2016–2017 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow

FACT AND FICTION: CREATION, FORMS, BOUNDARIES
2016–2017
Why do humans create fictions, and what kinds of truth can fictions convey? How do we distinguish between fact and fiction, and what is at stake in this separation? This project convened a working group to advance research on such questions.
Alison James, Associate Professor of French Literature and the College
Françoise Lavracot, Professor, Comparative Literature, University Paris 3-Sorbonne Nouvelle–2016–2017 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow
Larry Norman, Frank L. Sulzberger Professor, Romance Languages and Literatures, Theater and Performance Studies, Fundamentals, and the College
Thomas Pavel, Gordon J. Laing Distinguished Service Professor in Romance Languages and Literatures, Comparative Literature, the Committee on Social Thought, and Fundamentals
Jennifer Wild, Associate Professor, Department of Cinema and Media Studies, Romance Languages and Literatures, and the College

ENGINEDERED WORLDS
2014–2016 and 2016–2017
A group of historians, geographers, anthropologists, environmental artists, and security and science studies experts developed new theories and methodologies to assess the social ramifications of “engineered ecologies.”

THE WORLDS ENGINEERED
THE SENSE OF THE BODY
2016–2018
This project is advancing a cross-disciplinary, humanistic social science of economic life by asking: What, within different methodo-
logical and disciplinary approaches, can “the economy” be located? How and for what purposes can it be analyzed? How might various approaches inform one another?
Elaine Hadley, Professor, Department of English, Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality
Kimberly Hoang, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology
Jonathan Levy, Professor of U.S. History and the College, Associate Faculty Member, Law School, Faculty Affiliate, Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture
Amy Dor Stanley, Associate Professor of History and the College, Affiliated Faculty, Center for Gender and Sexuality Studies

THE FRENCH REPUBLIC AND ITS NETWORKS
2013–2015
Combining large datasets, social scientific methods, and close reading approaches, this project investigated the social dimensions of modernist literary history and aesthetics.
Hoyt Long, Associate Professor of Japanese Literature, East Asian Languages and Civilizations
Tom McEwan, Assistant Professor, Department of Comparative Literature, Cornell University
Richard Jean So, Assistant Professor of English and Cultural Analytics, McGill University (then Assistant Professor, Department of English)
LONG-TERM ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL CHANGE IN MESOPOTAMIA: INTEGRATING EVIDENCE FROM ANCIENT TEXTS, ARCHAEOLOGY, AND NATURAL SCIENCE 2015–2017

Marshaling texts, archaeological evidence, natural science findings, information on environmental processes, and satellite imagery, researchers shed light on the impact of the environment on cultural development in Mesopotamia.

Mark Altwasser, Reader, Near East Archaeology, University College London
Hermann Gashie, Professor Emeritus, Archaeology, Ghent University
McGuire Gibson, Professor of Mesopotamian Archaeology, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations

Making Asylum

This project will bring together theory and practice to link the politics of the welfare state and local, street-level organizations with the lived experiences of asylum-seekers in Sweden and Denmark.

Evelyn Z. Brodkin, Associate Professor, School of Social Service Administration
Staffan Höjer, Professor, Department of Social Work, University of Gothenburg, Sweden
Karen Nielsen Breidahl, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Aalborg University, Denmark

Material Matters

The conservation and reinstatement of Wolf Vostell’s Concrete Traffic sculpture prompted a series of practical and theoretical discussions about the nature and complexities of art conservation, particularly when dealing with unusual materials.

Bill Brown, Karla Scherer Distinguished Service Professor in American Culture, Deputy Provost for the Arts

Elka Krajewska, Artist, President and Founder, Salvage Art Institute
Christine Mehring, Chair and Professor of Art History and the College
Christian Scheidelmann, Senior Conservator and President, Contemporary Conservation, 2013–2014 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow

Motion and Meaning: Sign and Body Gesture in Dance Narratives Across Cultures 2018–2021

This project will investigate how meaning is produced by the body, particularly in the context of classical Indian dance.

Diane Brentari, Mary K. Warken Professor, Department of Linguistics, and Humanities College Division, Director, Center for Gesture, Sign and Language

Anastasia Giannakidou, Professor, Department of Linguistics and Humanities College Division
Heun Saussey, University Professor, Department of Comparative Literature and the College

David Shulman, Professor Emeritus, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 2020–2021 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow

NigerHeritage: Conservation and Exposition of Niger’s Unique Cultural and Fossil Legacy 2017–2018

An international group of scientists, social scientists, archists, and planners are developing proposals for the design and function of three sites in Niger—a museum, a cultural center for nomadic peoples, and a fossil field site.

Elka Krajewska, Artist, President and Founder, Salvage Art Institute
Christine Mehring, Chair and Professor of Art History and the College
Christian Scheidelmann, Senior Conservator and President, Contemporary Conservation, 2013–2014 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow

Amanda Trienens, Founder and Principal Conservator, Cultural Heritage Conservation
Anna Weiss-Plou, Campus and Public Art Collection and Conservation Manager

Liza Zahar, Lecturer, Department of Art History, Theory and Criticism, School of the Art Institute of Chicago (then Research Associate, Department of Art History)

NigerHeritage: Research, Development, and Planning for Novel Museum, Cultural Center, and Field Station Facilities 2018–2020

As an international group of scientists, social scientists, archists, and planners are developing proposals for the design and function of three sites in Niger—a museum, a cultural center for nomadic peoples, and a fossil field site.

Elka Krajewska, Artist, President and Founder, Salvage Art Institute
Christine Mehring, Chair and Professor of Art History and the College
Christian Scheidelmann, Senior Conservator and President, Contemporary Conservation, 2013–2014 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow

Amanda Trienens, Founder and Principal Conservator, Cultural Heritage Conservation
Anna Weiss-Plou, Campus and Public Art Collection and Conservation Manager

Liza Zahar, Lecturer, Department of Art History, Theory and Criticism, School of the Art Institute of Chicago (then Research Associate, Department of Art History)


This partnership with the Field Museum brings together anthropologists, visual artists, curators, scholars of historic preservation, lawyers specializing in indigenous rights, and tribal elders from across North America, to help redefine the concept of natural history.

Justin Richland, Associate Professor, Departments of Anthropology and Social Sciences, and the College, Associate Member, Law School
Jessica Stockholder, Raymond W. and Martha Hildgruner Distinguished Service Professor and Chair, Department of Visual Arts

Paul Adderley, Lecturer in Geochronology and Environmental History, University of Stirling
Mohamed Alhassane, Museum of Natural History, Paris
Ralph Austen, Professor Emeritus of African History, African Studies, and the College
Lauren Cooney, Graphic Artist, Fossil Lab, Department of Organismal Biology and Anatomy
Didier Dutheli, Independent Researcher in Geoscience, Anatomy, Zoology
Mariam Kamara, Founder and Principal, atelier masomi, Adjunct Associate Professor of Urban Studies, Brown University, 2019–2020 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow
Bess Palmisciano, Founder and Executive Director, RAIN for the Sahel and Sahara
Lisa Roberts, Project Director, The RAIN, Principal, naturalitc, inc.
Rebel Roberts, Vice President, Discipline Leader (Architecture), Stantec
Paul Sereno, Professor, Department of Organismal Biology and Anatomy and Committee on Evolutionary Biology
Bisa Williams, Former U.S. Ambassador to Niger

Project Index
Neubauer Collegium
AN ORGANON FOR THE INFORMATION AGE: ONTOLOGY-BASED DATA INTEGRATION FOR HUMANISTIC AND BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH 2018–2020
This project will address the challenge of combining disparate data with automated querying and analysis by designing, testing, and evaluating a new ontological tool for data integration.

David Schloen, Professor of Near Eastern Archaeology, Oriental Institute and Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations
Samuel Volchenboum, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Associate Chief Research Informatics Officer, Director, Center for Research Informatics, Associate Director, Institute for Translational Medicine
Malte Willer, Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy and the College

THE PAST FOR SALE: NEW APPROACHES TO THE STUDY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL LOOTING AND THE ILLEGAL TRAFFICKING OF ANTIQUITIES 2014–2017
Researchers applied empirical research and new methodologies to identify promising policy solutions to the complex international problem of archaeological looting and trafficking.
Fiona Greenland, Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Virginia (then Research Director)
Morag Kersel, Associate Professor and Director of the Museum Studies Minor Program, Department of Anthropology, DePaul University, 2015–2017 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow
Lawrence Rothfield, Associate Professor, Departments of English and Comparative Literature

This project explored the relationship between migrants and the material culture they carry in order to shed new light on the dynamics of migration and the historical transformation of material culture on a global scale.
Leora Auslander, Arthur and Joan Rasmussen Professor in Western Civilization and the College, Founding Director andAffiliated Faculty, Center for Gender and Sexuality Studies
Tara Zahra, Professor, East European History and the College, Affiliated Faculty, Center for Gender and Sexuality Studies

PLANETARY HISTORY: GROWTH IN THE ANTHROPOCENE 2018–2021
This project will explore the history of planetary change through close analysis of the biophysical dimension of economic development and the history of earth system science.

Lawrence Rothfield, Associate Professor, Departments of English and Comparative Literature

OUTSIDER WRITING 2016–2019
This group is examining extraordinary examples of writing done by authors deemed mentally ill with the goal of exploring the relationship between written forms of expression and larger social norms.
Matt Hytch, Director and Senior Lecturer, Centre for Psychoanalytic Studies, University of Essex
John Collier, Associate Professor, Chair for Creative Writing and Poetics, Department of English, Committee on Creative Writing

This project supported the Visiting Fellowship of Morag Kersel, an archaeologist who collaborated on the Past for Sale project and co-curated the Past Sold gallery exhibition.
Fiona Greenland, Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Virginia (then Research Director)
Morag Kersel, Associate Professor and Director of the Museum Studies Minor Program, Department of Anthropology, DePaul University, 2015–2017 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow

This project brought together a transatlantic group of scholars to advance a new approach to the study of U.S. democratic power that accounts for the co-construction of state and society.
Elisabeth Clemens, William Rainey Harper Professor of Sociology and the College

REVOLUTION-OLOGY: MEDIA NETWORKS OF INTELLECTUAL REVOLUTION 2017–2019
This project takes the centenary of the Russian Revolution as an opportunity to interrogate the links between political and intellectual change, with a focus on the role of media in the dissemination of revolutionary ideas.
Robert Bird, Professor, Departments of Slavic Languages and Literatures, Cinema and Media Studies, Fundamentals, and the College
Sheila Fitzpatrick, Professor, University of Sydney, Distinguished Service Professor Emerita of Soviet History, 2017–2018 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow

These scholars adopted a comparative and interdisciplinary perspective to study the contexts and structural properties of the world’s first writing systems.
Amalia Granados, Associate Research Scientist at University of Maryland Center for Advanced Study of Language, 2015–2016 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow
Edward Shaughnessy, Lorraine J. and Herklee G. Crecel Distinguished Service Professor, Early Chinese Studies
Christopher Woods, Director, Oriental Institute, John A. Wilson Professor of Sumerian
Wang Xianhua, Professor, School of History and Culture, Director, Center for Research in Western and Eastern Cultures, Sichuan University, China, 2015–2016 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow

The Neubauer Collegium Project Index

Project Index Neubauer Collegium
Jean-Gabriel Ganascia, Visiting Fellow 2017–2018 Neubauer Collegium Science, University of Notre Dame, THOUGHT

Marie Curie, 2017-2018 Neubauer University Paris 6-Pierre and Marie Curie, Professor of Computer Science, reading and interpretation of unique, data-driven approach to the meaning, and what accounts for variation and difference across sectors and societies? For Forrest Stuart, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology and the College

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AS A RELATIONAL LEARNING PROCESS 2017–2019 This project asks: How do those who pursue sustainability strategies understand sustainability and give it meaning, and what accounts for variation and difference across sectors and societies? Gary Herrigel, Paul Krieger Professor in Political Science and the College, Associate Faculty in Sociology

Susanne Wengel, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Notre Dame, 2017–2018 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow

TEXTUAL OPTICS 2017–2020 An interdisciplinary group of scholars are collaborating in a lab-like environment to formulate a unique, data-driven approach to the reading and interpretation of textual archives, from single words up to millions of volumes.

Jean-Gabriel Ganascia, Professor of Computer Science, University Paris 6-Pierre and Marie Curie, 2017–2018 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow

Clovis Gladstone, Technical Director and Project Director Hoyt Long, Associate Professor of Japanese Literature, East Asian Languages and Civilizations

Robert Morrissey, Benjamin Franklin Professor of French Literature, Committee on Interdisciplinary Studies in the Humanities

Marine Ripquet, Postdoctoral Researcher, University Paris Sorbonne-Paris 6, 2017–2018 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow

Naon Sausey, University Professor, Department of Comparative Literature and the College

James Sparrow, Associate Professor, Department of History and the College

Zhao Wei, Postdoctoral Fellow, School of Literature, Capital Normal University, Beijing, 2017–2018 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow

THEORIZING INDIAN DEMOCRACY 2018–2019 A close look at the meanings and practices of democracy in India will deepen our understanding of India’s politics and history and identify the different forms democracy can take beyond Western Europe and North America.

Dipesh Chakrabarty, Lawrence A. Kimpton Distinguished Service Professor of History, South Asian Languages and Civilizations, and the College

Tejas Parasar, PhD student, Department of Political Science

Jennifer Pitts, Associate Professor, Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Political Science

Nasimul Sutan, PhD student, Department of Political Science

THINKING THROUGH TROPES: FIGURES OF THOUGHT AND THE POLITICAL IMAGINARY 2014–2015 A faculty seminar gave scholars the opportunity to advance a comparative, fine-grained, and rigorous methodology of understanding the role of tropes in the reception and transformation of traditions.

Michèle Lowrie, Andrew W. Mellon Professor in Classics and the College

Barbara Vinken, Professor of French and Comparative Literature, LMU Munich (Germany), 2014–2015, 2016–2017 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow

TRANSMEDIA STORY LAB: IMPACTING THE PUBLIC HUMANITIES AND PUBLIC HEALTH THROUGH DIGITAL NARRATIVES 2016–2018

This project sought to produce a unique body of knowledge about new media storytelling, exploring the potential for narrative arts to influence broader publics, shape policies, and improve health.

Aída Bouris, Associate Professor, School of Social Service Administration

Melissa Gilliam, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Pediatrics, Ellen H. Block Professor of Health Justice, Vice Provost for Academic Leadership, Advancement, and Diversity

Patrick Jagoda, Associate Professor, Department of English Language and Literature, Department of Cinema and Media Studies

TRANSMISSION OF MAGICAL KNOWLEDGE IN ANTIQUITY: THE PAPYRUS MAGICAL HANDBOOK 2015–2018

An effort to re-edit and re-translate a set of ancient magical handbooks from Graeco-Roman Egypt is providing unique entry into a lightly documented corpus of knowledge and the practices by which the knowledge was transmitted.

Christopher Parson, Frank Curtis Springer Professor of Comparative Literature and Classics, and the College

Sofía Torallas Tovar, Associate Professor, Departments of Classics and Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and the College

UNDERSTANDING THE MEANING-MAKING OF VIOLENCE: BRIDGING PERCEPTION, CODIFICATION, AND CULTURAL SCHEMA 2016–2020

This project will mix methods from psychology and neuroscience to reveal how people are affected by violent images.

Marc Berman, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology

Kyoung Whan Choe, Postdoctoral Scholar, Human Performance Lab, Department of Psychology

Dario Maestripietri, Professor, Department of Comparative Human Development

Collan Scrivener, PhD Student, Department of Comparative Human Development

Richard Shwedler, Harold H. Swift Distinguished Service Professor, Department of Comparative Human Development

Gabriel Velez, PhD Student, Department of Comparative Human Development

UNPACKING THE VALUE OF HEALTH INSURANCE IN INDIA: FOSTERING DIALOGUE AMONGST METHODOLOGIES 2014–2016 This project combined ethnographic research with statistical analysis to measure the effectiveness of a major health insurance expansion program in India.

Gabriella Conti, Associate Professor, Economics, University College London

Stefan Ecks, Senior Lecturer, School of Social and Political Science, University of Edinburgh

Kosuke Imai, Associate Professor, Department of Politics and Center for Statistics and Machine Learning, Princeton University

Cynthia Kinnas, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Northeastern University

Vani Kulkarni, Senior Fellow, Urban Ethnography Project, Yale University, Lecturer, Sociology, University of Pennsylvania

Anup Malani, Lee and Brena Freeman Professor of Law, Professor of Medicine

Anuj Shah, Associate Professor of Behavioral Science, Booth School of Business

Shailender Swaminathan, Research Scientist, Public Health Foundation of India, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Health Policy, Brown University

Alessandra Voaena, Associate Professor, Department of Economics and the College

Project Index Neubauer Collegium
THE VOICE PROJECT
This project supported vigorous dialogue about the role of voice in its ontological, material, technical, and embodied nature across disciplines, from psychoanalysis and phenomenology to linguistics, music, literature, and beyond.

Martha Feldman, Mabel Greene
Myers Professor of Music and the Humanities in the College

David Levin, Addie Clark Harding Professor, Department of Germanic Studies, Department of Cinema and Media Studies, the Committee on Theater and Performance Studies, and the College

Judith Zeitlin, William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor, Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations

WHAT ARE ARAB JEWISH TEXTS?: TEXTS AND QUESTIONS OF CONTEXT
2013–2014
This project explored the ways in which Jewish political thought and literature were transformed in the medieval and modern periods as a result of their interactions with Muslim and Arab cultures.

Ort Bashshin, Professor of Modern Middle Eastern History, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations

WIRING AND RAILS: MAPPING AMERICA’S 19TH-CENTURY INFORMATION REVOLUTION
2017–2018
A digital map of railroad stations and telegraph offices in the United States built in the late 19th and early 20th centuries reveals the rapid spread of these technologies and the economic, social, and political changes they were thought to cause.

Aaron Honowsitz, Assistant Professor of Economics, Bethany College

Richard Hombeck, Professor of Economics and Neuubauer Family Faculty Fellow, Booth School of Business

WORKING GROUP ON COMPARATIVE ECONOMICS
2013–2014
This group convened to discuss the comparative economic and historical analysis of societies, identifying ways that economic tools and analysis can advance historical research on the ancient world.

Alain Brissoux, Robert O. Anderson Distinguished Service Professor, Departments of Classics and History

Gary Herrigel, Paul Klapper Professor in Political Science and the College, Associate Faculty in Sociology

Richard Hombeck, Professor of Economics and Neuubauer Family Faculty Fellow, Booth School of Business

Brian Muhs, Associate Professor of Egyptology, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations

David Schlösen, Professor of Near Eastern Archaeology, Oriental Institute and Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations

E. Glen Weyl, Principal Researcher, Microsoft Research New England (then Assistant Professor of Economics)

WORKING GROUP ON POLITICAL THEOLOGY
2013–2015
These scholars sought to define and refine a coherent agenda for a long-term, trans-disciplinary research project on theology’s influence on political ideas and institutions.

Clifford Ando, David B. and Clara E. Semler Professor, Classics, History, Law and the College

Julie Cooper, Senior Lecturer, Department of Political Science, Tel Aviv University

Andreas Giessier, Professor, Department of Sociology and the College

Michèle Lowrie, Andrew W. Mellon Professor, Classics and the College

William Mazzarella, Department Chair, Neubauer Family Professor of Anthropology and of Social Sciences in the College

John McCormick, Professor, Political Science and the College

Omar M. Roberts, Associate Professor, Sociology and the College

A WORLDWIDE LITERATURE:
JÄM (1414–1492) IN THE DAR AL-ISLAM AND BEYOND
2013–2014
The preparation of a digital collection and searchable corpus of texts comprising the classical Persian poet’s works along with Indian commentaries published in the 19th century helped answer crucial questions largely neglected by Islamic studies.

Thibaud D’Hulibert, Assistant Professor, Department of South Asian Languages and Civilizations

Alexandre Pappas, Director of Research, Center for Turkish, Ottoman, Balkan and Central Asian Studies, Paris (then Research Fellow, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris)

Paul Mendes-Flohr, Dorothy Grant Maclear Professor of Modern Jewish History and Thought in the Divinity School, Associate Faculty, Department of History

Eric Santner, Philip and Ida Romberg Distinguished Service Professor, Modern Germanic Studies, Professor of Germanic Studies, Committee on Jewish Studies, and the College, Chair, Department of Germanic Studies

Eric Sluiter, Associate Professor, Department of English, Director, The Kari Scherer Center for the Study of American Culture

Lisa Wedeon, Mary R. Morton Professor of Political Science and the College, Co-Director, Chicago Center for Contemporary Theory
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Theo van den Hout, Arthur and Joann Rasmussen Professor of Hittite and Anatolian Languages, Oriental Institute, and Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations

David Wellbery, LeRoy T. and Margaret Deffenbaugh Carlson University Professor Germanic Studies, Comparative Literature, and the College

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Carolyn Ownbey, Manager, Events and Gallery Operations

Dieter Roelstraete, Curator

Mark Sorkin, Assistant Director of Communications and Strategic Events

IMAGE CREDITS


7: Jason Salavon, All the Ways (Couch Gag), 2016 (courtesy of the artist).

16: Looted pot at the Early Bronze Age site of Fifa, Jordan (Austin C. Hill, courtesy of the Landscapes of the Dead project).


26: Adam Jones, Bamboo Scaffolding on Building, 2013 (Adam Jones via Flickr).


46: Max Herman, Erielle Bakkum.


49: Art documentation by RCH | EKH.


51: Jakob Kolding, Birds, 2016. Art documentation by RCH | EKH.


54: Art documentation by RCH | EKH.


60, top: Rob Kozloff.

61: Sydney Combs.


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68: Erielle Bakkum, Max Herman.

70–76: Erielle Bakkum.