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Cover image: word cloud of the poster for the conference “Disciplines, Technologies, and Algorithms”
Back cover: photos of speakers and participants at the conference “Disciplines, Technologies, and Algorithms”
Over the next year our campus will celebrate a number of anniversaries. Along with the University’s 125th anniversary, this fall also marks the 25th year of our humanities research institute. From its inception in 1990 – renamed in 1998 in recognition of Barbara E. and Richard J. Franke – the Franke Institute for the Humanities has been and remains a locus of intellectual life at this university.

The Franke Institute provides assistance and support to graduate students and faculty members at important points in their careers. My own Franke fellowship year in 1999-2000 was a welcome opportunity to explore my own research free from my teaching and editing responsibilities. I also benefited from an exceptional cohort of Fellows, whose questions and ideas made the fellowship year one to remember.

This scholarly exchange is what the Franke Institute brings to the University. There are the formal scholarly exchanges of conferences and talks that come to fruition in articles and monographs. The Franke ably supports such work. Yet it also provides a space where the informal exchange of knowledge thrives. At the Franke Institute, conversations happen, ideas are questioned, and scholarship flourishes. This intellectual exploration has enhanced the work of UChicago humanities scholars over these last twenty-five years. I look forward to seeing what the next twenty-five years bring us.

Martha T. Roth
Dean, Division of the Humanities

This past summer, I spent a couple of days in Madison for the annual meeting of the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes (CHCI), an organization on whose executive board I have served for fifteen years. One of the strengths of the CHCI is that it fosters collaboration among humanities centers internationally. At recent meetings in Cape Town, Hong Kong, and Bellagio, we have been developing an international network and a set of pilot collaborative projects funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. These connections have helped the Franke Institute’s international reach as well, as we pursue our own partnerships.

This year’s CHCI meeting in Madison addressed a theme that I initially proposed, “Humanities by the Numbers.” It is a theme, not coincidentally, that relates to two new initiatives at the Franke, both recipients of recent grants from the Mellon Foundation. One of these is in fact an international collaboration – with Cambridge University and the University of California at Santa Barbara – that addresses “The Limits of the Numerical in the Social Sciences.” Each of the three institutions takes up a particular topic under this broad rubric: for Cambridge, it is health care; for Santa Barbara, higher education; and for us, on the strength of the important work being done on this campus by Dipesh Chakrabarty and others, it is climate change. A second project reverses perspective on this same kind of issue by seeking to understand the ever-increasing role of algorithms and models in a range of disciplines, including those we loosely call the digital humanities. The key leaders of this project are Adrian Johns, who works in the history of science, and James Evans, who works in the sociology of knowledge.

All in all, it promises to be an interesting few years at the Franke Institute, especially when we add a third Mellon–supported international collaboration to the roster: “The Musical Pasts Consortium.” This project won’t begin in earnest for another year, and so I’ll have more to say about it in next year’s annual review. I’ll also report then about our planned celebration of the Institute’s 25th anniversary on November 10, 2015.

James Chandler
Director, The Franke Institute for the Humanities
This consortium serves to address how universities of the twenty-first century should respond to the challenge of disciplinary change in the humanities and social sciences.

Under a renewal grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the CDI offers one to two courses per year with an inflection concerning Disciplines & Technologies. The CDI supports a Disciplines & Technologies faculty-working group. For more information about the CDI, please see: http://franke.uchicago.edu/cdi.html

### COURSES, 2014-15

**Spectacle and Surveillance**
W.J.T. Mitchell, English Language & Literature
Bernard Harcourt, Columbia University

- Related Lecture
- On Trevor Paglen’s Photographs
  - Rebecca Zorach, University of Chicago

**Color & Culture in Japan & Beyond:**
An Interdisciplinary Approach
Chelsea Foxwell, Art History
Henry Smith, Columbia University

**Enslavement and Performativity in Comparative Perspective**
Agnes Lugo-Ortiz, Romance Languages & Literatures
Reginald Jackson, University of Michigan

**Blinding Duration:**
Material History of the Book, Techniques and Methods of Bookmaking, and Book Conservation
Ann Lindsey, University of Chicago

**Institutional Duration and Conservating the Contemporary**
Jennifer Draffen, Art Institute of Chicago

### COURSES, 2015-16

**Nomads, Networks, and Political Complexity in the Ancient Near East**
Emily Hammer, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations
Richard Payne, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations

**Philology as a Way of Life:**
Humanism and the Classics
Rocco Rubini, Romance Languages & Literatures
Boris Maslov, Comparative Literature

**Data Visualization:**
Aesthetics, Intent, and Practice
Jason Salavon, Visual Arts and Computation Institute
Gordon Kindlmann, Computer Science and Computation Institute

**Writing Images/Picturing Words**
Srikanth Reddy, English Language & Literature
Jessica Stockholder, Visual Arts

On the course, Spectacle and Surveillance:
"Coming from a background in visual studies and cinema studies, I lacked knowledge of how surveillance intersects with discourses in law, sociology, and information technology. The variety in both the students’ backgrounds and in the professors’ approaches to the issues raised in discussion deepened my own knowledge, which I found particularly important and imperative as much of the concerns that we uncovered are relevant for my own studies and my life outside of the classroom."

– Gary Kafer, Master of Arts Program in the Humanities

On the course, Time Out of Mind: Arts and Sciences of Material Duration:
"A very rewarding experience. The opportunities to build conversations, not only between ourselves and among our students, but also between this campus and other institutions have been invaluable."

– Timothy Campbell, English Language & Literature and Matthew Hunter, McGill University
The Disciplines & Technologies Project explores the relations between technologies and disciplines, both historically and in their current state. Technologies typically entail the existence of particular communities—often disciplines—possessed of specific knowledge and distinct skills with which to deploy them, but technologies fall out of use or tunnel through the walls dividing disciplines. What happens when they do is a central topic of the Disciplines & Technologies (D&T) Project.

CONFERENCE
Disciplines, Technologies, and Algorithms

FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2015

Session One: Archaeologies of Disciplines & Technologies
Algorithms of Pleasure: Art as Expert-System ca. 1900, Robert Brain, History, University of British Columbia
Boundaries of Science and the Science of Boundaries ca. 1900, Alex Csiszar, History of Science, Harvard University

Session Two: Documents and Displays
The Postal Conditions of North American Horticulture, Lisa Gitelman, English and Media, Culture and Communication, New York University
The Agonies of Machine Translation: From Switchboard to Cloud, Michael Gordin, History, Brown University

Session Three: The “Infra-Disciplinary”
Old New Things: Newsletters, Genetics, and the Genealogy of Open Data, Christopher M. Kelty, Institute for Society and Genetics, Information Studies, and Anthropology, University of California, Los Angeles
‘The Gene Didn’t Get the Memo’: Realigning the Normal and Pathological in Genetic Medicine, Daniel Navon, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Scholar in Health Policy Research, Harvard University
New Work in History, Examining the Longue Durée with Paper Machines, Jo Guldi, History, Brown University

SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2015

Plenary
What We Mean by ‘Algorithm’, Tarleton Gillespie, Communication and Information Science, Cornell University

Session Four: Models/Algorithms in Practice
Sociality with Algorithms, Karin Knorr Cetina, Sociology and Anthropology, University of Chicago
Algorithms and Retail Trade, Alex Precla, Accounting, Accountability, and Financial Management, King’s College London
The Data-Driven (Good) Life: Digital Tracking and the Algorithmic Self, Natasha Dow Schüll, Science, Technology, and Society, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Session Five: Models/Algorithms in Practice
Computational Fine Arts, Jason Salavon, Visual Arts, University of Chicago
Deciphering Cancer Through Computational Medical Imaging, Maryellen L. Giger, Radiology, University of Chicago
The Baum-Welch Learning Algorithm for Hidden Markov Models (HMMs) and Computational Linguistics, John Goldsmith, Linguistics and Computer Science, University of Chicago

STReERING COMMITTEE
Megan Ahern, Postdoctoral Scholar, 2012-14
Sivakumar Arumugam, Postdoctoral Scholar, 2012-14
James Chandler, English Language & Literature
Lorraine Daston, Social Thought
James Evans, Sociology
Patrick Jagoda, English Language & Literature
Adrian Johns, History
Karin Knorr Cetina, Sociology
Alison Winter, History

SPONSOR
The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

CONFERENCE CO-SPONSORS
Center for Disciplinary Innovation
Morris Fishbein Center for the History of Science & Medicine

For more information on the Disciplines & Technologies Project, please visit http://franke.uchicago.edu/dnt.html
For more information on the Disciplines & Technologies Digital Museum, please visit https://dntmuseum.uchicago.edu

The D&T postdoctoral scholars, Megan Ahern and Sivakumar Arumugam, completed their pilot studies in 2014. These scholars worked with our Principal Investigators, James Evans and Adrian Johns, to build a database to track disciplinary change via university structures, and a digital museum to organize exhibits of historical instances of disciplinary and technological coevolution. Together with the steering committee, they planned the two-day conference, “Disciplines, Technologies, and Algorithms” that took place on May 8-9, 2015.
In bi-weekly workshops throughout the year, the Franke Fellows engaged in intensive discussions of their research projects. How do images and spectators interact with one another, in art or in cinema? How does spectatorship relate to ethics in encountering beauty and wonder, or for making moral judgments? How is the subject (self) constitutive of meditation, human agency, or mathematical probability? Yet how are the creation, performance, and experience of art – of music or photography – also shaped by sociability, politics and ethics, and sociocultural conventions? For linguistic communication, how does meaning occur within the limits of linguistic variation, or in reaction to temporal regimes of political states?

FRANKE FACULTY FELLOWS

Claudia Brittenham, Associate Professor, Art History; Unseen Art: Vision and Memory in Ancient Mesoamerica
My project examines the conditions under which ancient art was viewed and experienced, focusing on cases diametrically opposed to the modern paradigm of museum display.

Anton Ford, Assistant Professor, Philosophy; The Province of Human Agency
Human agency is often said to be a power of self-movement. I defend the view that agency is a power to be the source of change, not in oneself, but in another.

Itamar Francez, Assistant Professor, Linguistics; Meaning and the Limits of Linguistic Variation
I study how generalizations about what words can and can’t mean may be used to explain systematic differences in what sentences that say the same thing look like.

Gabriel Richardson Lear, Professor, Philosophy; Plato on the Splendor of Virtue
My project is to understand the roles of beauty and wonder in Plato’s ethical theory and to show their continuing relevance.

Constantine Nakassis, Assistant Professor, Anthropology; Onscreen/Offscreen: Ontologies of the Image in South Indian Cinema
My project looks at the relationship between the onscreen and the offscreen in Tamil cinema, focusing on the ways in which the image opens up beyond itself.

Anubav Vasudevan, Assistant Professor, Philosophy; Chance, Determinism, and the Classical Theory of Probability
My project analyzes the intellectual motives that led the earliest theorists of mathematical probability to adopt a subjective or epistemic interpretation of probability.

Christopher Wild, Associate Professor, Germanic Studies, Meditation and the Institution of the Self: Descartes, Ignatius, and Augustine
My book project examines Descartes’ main work, the Meditations on First Philosophy. I ask why Descartes gave this text, that was to found a new philosophy, a title associated with religious practices.

Alice Yao, Assistant Professor, Anthropology; The Ancient Highlands of Southwest China: An Archaeological History from the Bronze Age to the Han Empire
I study how tribal subjects on the frontier appropriated Chinese scripts and genealogies in their efforts to evade empire and state time.

FRANKE DISSERTATION-YEAR FELLOWS

Nir Ben Moshe, Doctoral Candidate, Philosophy; Idealization and the Moral Point of View: An Adam Smithian Account of Moral Reasons
I offer a new interpretation of Adam Smith’s “impartial spectator” in order to account for the correctness of moral judgment and the existence of moral reasons.

Daniel Gough, Doctoral Candidate, Music; Listening in the Magicy: Music in São Paulo’s Cultural Policy Worlds
My project considers the sociability of musical performance in contemporary São Paulo, Brazil, particularly in the contexts of state support for the performing arts.

Marcelle Pierson, Doctoral Candidate, Music; The Voice under Erasure: Singing, Melody, and Expression in Late Modernist Music
My dissertation examines the politics, ethics, and mechanics of how modernist composers treat voice and melody after World War II.

Ranu Roychoudhuri, Doctoral Candidate, South Asian Languages & Civilizations; Images and Imaginings: A History of Photography in Twentieth-Century Bengal
I explore the sociocultural conventions that framed publicly circulated documentary photographs in Bengal from the 1890s through the 1980s.

“I was influenced by the spirit fostered by this Institute of asking disciplinary work to speak to a wider humanistic audience. I’m very grateful for having been pushed in this way.”

– Gabriel Richardson Lear

FRANKE FELLOWS, 2014–15

Top row, left to right: Nir Ben Moshe, Christopher Wild, Margot Browning, Associate Director, Gabriel Richardson Lear, Daniel Gough, Anton Ford, Marcelle Pierson; Front row, left to right: Claudia Brittenham, Itamar Francez, Alice Yao; Not pictured: Constantine Nakassis, Ranu Roychoudhuri, Anubav Vasudevan
AFFILIATED DISSERTATION-YEAR FELLOWS

At the Franke Institute, the Affiliated Dissertation-Year Fellows meet over lunch to discuss each other’s dissertation chapters-in-progress. From different humanities departments, often new acquaintances, the fellows take on the challenges of engaging with topics far from their own specialized research. In the fellows’ own words, their interdisciplinary efforts promoted “a proper balance between my narrow academic expertise and broader, theoretical dialogues beyond my field,” and “helped to articulate my research across disciplinary boundaries.” Reading and commenting on each other’s chapters, the fellows provided “excellent feedback on my work” and “much needed outsider perspectives on my research.” This “collegial gathering space” was “especially welcome in the otherwise isolating period of dissertation writing.”

Sabahat Adil, Doctoral Candidate, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations; Memorializing al-Maqqarī: The Life, Work, and Worlds of a Muslim Scholar

I trace the footsteps of scholar al-Maqqarī and argue that his corpus offers a valuable avenue through which to interrogate memory, nostalgia, and history writing.

Katherine Alexander, Doctoral Candidate, East Asian Languages & Civilizations; The Business of Being Good: Baojuan in late Qing Jiangnan

I address a genre of Chinese popular performance literature called baojuan, analyzing it in terms of the people composing, publishing, and reading baojuan in the nineteenth century.

Ellen Alexis Ambrosone, Doctoral Candidate, South Asian Languages & Civilizations; Making Modern Malayalam: Literary and Educational Practices in Nineteenth-Century Kerala

I examine early novels, literary journals, grammars, and educational tracts to see how literati sought to fashion Malayalam, the language of Kerala, India, into a modern vernacular language.

Stephen Haswell Todd, Doctoral Candidate, Germanic Studies; The Forming of Autism, 1910-1943

I trace how autism was progressively narrowed into the category it now occupies, and how echoes of its previous broader registers of meaning still make themselves heard.

Edward Hayes, Doctoral Candidate, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations; The Envoys of the Hidden Imam: Religious Institutions and the Politics of the Occultation in 3rd/9th-5th/11th century Shi’ism

I investigate the political and doctrinal foundations of Twelver Shi’ism during an era of seismic rupture.

Ji Young Kim, Doctoral Candidate, East Asian Languages & Civilizations; Interrogating Double Decolonization: Korean Literature and Culture in the Formative Cold War, 1945-1950

My dissertation explores the decolonization project in postcolonial Korean literature and culture.

James Nemiroff, Doctoral Candidate, Romance Languages & Literatures; Comedias judaizantes: Performing Judaism in Lope de Vega’s Toledan Plays, 1590-1615

I examine the representation of Judaism in the plays written by Spanish dramatist Lope de Vega while he lived in Toledo.

Antje Postema, Doctoral Candidate, Slavic Languages & Literatures; Literature, Film, and the Shaping of Social Memory After Trauma in Bosnia and Herzegovina

I explore representations of trauma in wartime and postwar Bosnian fiction and film to demonstrate how these artistic works integrally participate in shaping memorial practice.

Ling Zhang, Doctoral Candidate, Cinema & Media Studies; Sound Images, Acoustic Culture, and Transmediality in 1920-1940s Chinese Cinema

My project traces the emergence of a modern audiovisual culture as it intersected with new understandings of the urban mediasphere and transmedial practice in Republican Shanghai.
On the first or second Wednesday of the month, once every quarter, University alumni and friends gather for a public lecture by a University faculty member at the downtown Gleacher Center. For the sixteenth year, the Visiting Committee to the Division of the Humanities Centennial Endowment has funded these lectures for the Franke Forum, and the receptions that follow. To reserve a seat for an upcoming forum, please email franke-humanities@uchicago.edu.

**2014-15**

- **Orit Bashkin**
  Professor of Modern Middle Eastern History, Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations
  *Jewish Refugees in a Jewish State, 1950-1958*

- **Theaster Gates**
  Director, Arts + Public Life Initiative
  Professor, Department of Visual Arts
  *I Need a Title For My Talk, But For Now Its Untitled*

- **Steven Rings**
  Associate Professor, Department of Music
  *'Don’t Think Twice, It’s All Right’: A Genealogy*

**2015-16**

- **Hillary Chute**
  Associate Professor, Department of English Language & Literature
  *Disaster Drawn: Visual Witness, Comics, and Documentary Form*

- **D. Nicholas Rudall**
  Founding Director, Court Theatre
  Professor Emeritus, Department of Classics
  *What We Call Greek Tragedy*

- **Christine Mehring**
  Professor, Department of Art History
  *Material Matters in Postwar Art*

Recent Franke Forums can be viewed on the Franke YouTube channel: [http://youtube.com/frankeinstitute](http://youtube.com/frankeinstitute)

For more information on the Franke Forum series, follow us on Twitter: @UChiFrankeForum

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**FRANKE FACULTY FELLOWS**

- **Agnes Callard**, Assistant Professor, Philosophy; *A History of Provisional Belief*
- **Whitney Cox**, Associate Professor, South Asian Languages & Civilizations; *Medieval South India*
- **Laura Gandolfo**, Assistant Professor, Romance Languages & Literatures; *Mexico’s Itinerant Objects: Practices of Writing, Perception, and Material Culture*
- **Heather Keenleyside**, Assistant Professor, English Language & Literature; *Women and Children First: Early English Feminism and the Invention of Children’s Literature*
- **David J. Levin**, Addie Clark Harding Professor, Germanic Studies, Cinema & Media Studies, and Theater & Performance Studies; *After Regie: Opera, Performance, and the Stakes of Representation*
- **Yung-ti Li**, Associate Professor, East Asian Languages & Civilizations; *The Kingly Crafts: Large-Scale Production and the Rise of State Craft Industries in Bronze Age China*
- **Mark Miller**, Associate Professor, English Language & Literature; *The Unredeemptive Middle Ages*
- **Ada Palmer**, Assistant Professor, History; *Aspiration*
- **James Burgin**, Doctoral Candidate, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations; *Hittite Finance and the Festival Economy*
- **Erik Epperson**, Doctoral Candidate, South Asian Languages & Civilizations; *Tracing out Trends in Tibetan Translations: An Analysis of Tibetan Translation Practices Surrounding the Fourteenth-Century Translation of Kalidasa’s Cloud Messenger*
- **Cesar Favila**, Doctoral Candidate, Music; *Music and Devotion in Novohispanic Convents, 1600-1800*
- **Gilad Nir**, Doctoral Candidate, Philosophy; *Wittgenstein on Inference*
- **Victoria Salinger**, Doctoral Candidate, Art History; *Writing Calculations, Calculating Writing: Hanne Darboven’s Computer Art*
- **Han Zhang**, Doctoral Candidate, East Asian Languages & Civilizations; *Dwelling in Language: The Practice of Wu Dialect in Late Qing Shanghai and Beyond*

**FRANKE DISERTATION-YEAR FELLOWS**

- **James Burgin**, Doctoral Candidate, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations; *Hittite Finance and the Festival Economy*
- **Erik Epperson**, Doctoral Candidate, South Asian Languages & Civilizations; *Tracing out Trends in Tibetan Translations: An Analysis of Tibetan Translation Practices Surrounding the Fourteenth-Century Translation of Kalidasa’s Cloud Messenger*
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- **Han Zhang**, Doctoral Candidate, East Asian Languages & Civilizations; *Dwelling in Language: The Practice of Wu Dialect in Late Qing Shanghai and Beyond*
Every Wednesday Luncheon Series

Helping faculty members stay abreast of their colleagues’ current work from any department in the humanities or humanistic social sciences, the Every Wednesday Luncheon Series was created eighteen years ago to provide University humanities faculty with regular opportunities to assemble informally. On most Wednesdays during the academic year, a faculty member gives an informal talk over a catered lunch at the Institute about his or her work-in-progress and afterwards responds to questions from the audience. For each talk, participants also include five graduate students who are invited on behalf of the speaker. In addition to “Every Wednesday” talks about ongoing faculty members’ works-in-progress, this series also presents talks by new faculty members in the humanities, by visiting professors, about collaborative faculty projects, and about current affairs.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

**Bill Brown**, English Language & Literature
Assemblage Theory and Assemblage Practices

**Matthew Jesse Jackson**, Art History
The Emergency in the Humanities

**Thomas Pavel**, Romance Languages & Literatures
on Fiction, Next Day

**Anne Walters Robertson**, Music
Music for Desperate Times

**Marshall Sahlins**, Anthropology
Anti-war Protest in the Old Stone Age

**William Sites**, Social Service Administration
Sun Ra in Birmingham

**Rebecca Zorach**, Art History
on Positive Black Images

NEW FACULTY

**Margareta Christian**, Germanic Studies
*A Cultural History of Air Around 1900*

**Timothy Harrison**, English Language & Literature
on Sentience

**Yung-ti Li**, East Asian Languages & Civilizations
Craft Production in Bronze Age China

**Richard Payne**, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations
The Making of Big Men

**Zachary Samalin**, English Language & Literature
The Odor of Things: Victorian Culture and the Aesthetics of Disgust

**Jacqueline Stewart**, Cinema & Media Studies
Black Film and Humor

**Megan Sullivan**, Art History
Nature and Technology in the Andes

**Sofía Torallas-Tovar**, Classics
Excavating Texts in Egypt

VISITING PROFESSOR

**Matthew Hunter**, Art History, McGill University
Enlightenment Art and Science

COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

**David J. Levin**, Germanic Studies
Leslie Bushbaum-Danzig, Gray Center for Arts and Inquiry
on Gray Center’s Mellon Collaborative Fellowship Program

**Berthold Hoeckner**, Music
Howard Nusbaum, Psychology
Anne Henly, Psychology
Teaching About Wisdom

**Margaret Mitchell**, Divinity School
Charles Newell, Law School
Larry Norman, Romance Languages & Literatures
Kenneth Warren, English Language & Literature
Faculty Collaborations at Court Theatre

**Alan Thomas**, Elizabeth Branch Dyson
Timothy Menzel
University of Chicago Press
Scholarly Book Publishing in the Humanities

**Richard McAdams**, Law School
on a Successful Law and Literature Collaboration
The University’s College is renowned for its common core curriculum in the humanities, social sciences, biological sciences, and physical sciences with which undergraduates begin their degree programs. Yet how can a program of courses also provide a transition from college to whatever comes next – at a job or in graduate school?

The Big Problems program, coordinated by the Franke Institute and the College, provides a capstone curriculum for third- and fourth-year students. These elective courses offer students opportunities to broaden their studies from their departmental major by focusing on a “big problem” – a matter of global or universal concern that intersects with several disciplines and affects a variety of interest groups. By their nature, “big problems” call for interdisciplinary teamwork, yet their solutions may not be obvious or finally determinable.

In keeping with the multiple perspectives needed to study a big problem, these capstone courses are team-taught by faculty members from different disciplines, engaging the students in the dialogue and debate between the instructors.

COURSES, 2014-15

Energy and Energy Policy
R. Stephen Berry, Chemistry
George Tolley, Economics

Language and Globalization
Salikoko Mufwene, Linguistics
William Wimsatt, Philosophy

Visiting Speaker:
Abram de Swaan, University of Amsterdam
“Unequal Exchange in the World Language System”

Understanding Wisdom
Howard Nusbaum, Psychology
Berthold Hoeckner, Music
Anne Henly, Psychology

COURSES, 2015-16

Colloquium: Digital Humanities/Digital History
Robert Morrissey, Romance Languages & Literatures
James Sparrow, History

Drinking Alcohol: Social Problem or Normal Cultural Practice?
Michael Dietler, Anthropology
William N. Green, Neurobiology

Energy and Energy Policy
R. Stephen Berry, Chemistry
George Tolley, Economics

Health Care and the Limits of State Action
Haun Saussy, Comparative Literature
Evan Lyon, Medicine

Understanding Wisdom
Clark Gilpin, Divinity School
Anne Henly, Psychology

For more information about the Big Problems program, please see bigproblems.uchicago.edu.

FEEDBACK FROM STUDENTS

On the course, Energy and Energy Policy:
“I have gained a better understanding of energy policy, energy economics, and how to write research papers with models.”

“The interdisciplinary paper was a very good exercise in coming together with a team and approaching an issue from all sides…it was really a cool opportunity to collaboratively work on a semi-publishable paper.”

On the course, Understanding Wisdom:
“I definitely took a deeper, broader perspective to this topic than I do to most academic topics. I had practice synthesizing across domains (philosophy, social/cognitive psychology, neuroscience, economics, human rights).”

“Inequal Exchange in the World Language System”

“Hierarchy of the Global Language System”

“The world language hierarchy (adapted from Graddol, 1997)” by Jqho1 - Own work.

“The World Language Hierarchy”

“Hierarchy of the global language system (adapted from de Swaan, 2003)” by Jqho1 - Own work.
The Institute sponsors conferences on interdisciplinary topics in the humanities, including themes and issues drawn from the social sciences, that are co-sponsored with University of Chicago centers, departments, workshops, and divisions, as well as with other institutions. During 2014-15, the Institute co-sponsored eighty-two conferences, lectures, and other events.

**CONFERENCES**

**October**
- Interplay
- Is Health Care a Human Right?
- Islamicate Studies Symposium
- Ismaili Studies Conference

**November–December**
- “All Out in the Streets”: The American City and Photographic Media, 1960-1980
- Concussions, Comotions, and Other Aesthetic Disorders
- The Human and the Divine
- Unsuspending Disbelief: The Subject of Pictures

**January–February**
- Rhythm as a Trans-Disciplinary Concept
- Madame de Staël and the Woman Question: et la question féminine
- Merits of the Book: Buddhist Manuscript Traditions Across Asia
- Muslim Thinkers and Questions of Epistemology in the History of Science

**March**
- 12th Annual South Asia Graduate Student Conference: South Asian Mobilities
- Neoliberal Frontiers: Language and Political Economy Revisited
- there is no repetition: mathias spahlinger at 70 – symposium

**April**
- What Can Performance Philosophy Do?
- Renaissance Poetry and the Material Turn
- Repurposing Magic: A Colloquium in Eight Lessons

**May**
- Is Health Care a Human Right?
- Ismaili Studies Conference

**June**
- What might a joint consideration of performance and philosophy be good for, and how do the two fields treat concepts of action? One session combined a history of ballet told through movement, with a formal paper on rhythm and thought, followed by a performance lecture on improvisation and philosophy that invited audience members to move around the space.

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**CO-SPONSORS for EVENTS**

- At the University of Chicago
  - 18th- and 19th-Century Cultures Workshop, African Studies Committee, Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophy Workshop, Annenberg Fund of the Center for Jewish Studies, Arts Council, Art/Science Initiative, Center for the Art of East Asia, Center for East Asian Studies, Center for East European and Eurasian Studies, Center for Interdisciplinary Research on German Literature and Culture, Center for International Relations, Center for International Studies, Center for Late American Studies, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Center for the Study of Ancient Religions, Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality, Center for the Study of Race, Culture, and Politics, Central Asian Studies Society, Central Eurasian Studies Committee, Central European Workshop, Chicago Center for Contemporary History, Chicago Center for Jewish Studies, Chinese Studies Committee, Committee on Conceptual & Historical Studies of Science, Council on Advanced Studies Workshops, Creative Writing Program, Critical Inquiry, Delhi Center, Divinity School, Diversity Students Association, Early Modern Workshop, Film Studies Center, Morris Fishbein Center for the History of Science and Medicine, France Chicago Center, Gender Studies Program, Global Voices Program, Richard and Mary L. Gray Center for Arts and Inquiry, Julie and Parker Hall Endowment for Jazz and American Music, Norman Wait Harris Fund, Hispanic and Latin-American Studies Program, Humanities Divinity Office, Humanities Divisions Graduate Student Council, Humanities Division Visiting Committee, International Student Advisory Board, International Studies Program, Islamic Studies Workshop, Japanese Studies Committee, Late Antiquity and Byzantium Workshop, Lichtstern Fund, Logan Center for the Arts, Lumen Christi Institute, Martin Marty Center for the Advanced Study of Religion, Mass Culture Workshop, Medieval Studies Workshop, Middle East History and Theory Workshop, Middle Eastern Studies Students Association, John U. Nef Committee on Social Thought, Neuhaus Center for Culture and Society, Nicholas Center for British Studies, Office of the President, Office of the Provost for the Arts, Office of the Reynolds Club and Student Activities, Oriental Institute, Paris Center, Political Theory Workshop, Pozen Family Center for Human Rights, Project on Language, Program on the Global Environment, and History, and Political Theory, Renaissance Society, Rhetoric and Poetics Workshop, Schuck Reven Fund for Cinema & Media Studies, Sarah Toliver Center for the Study of American Culture, Semiotics Workshop, Slavic Colliguum, Smart Museum, Social Sciences Division, Social Theory Workshop, Society of Fellows, Southern Asian Studies Committee, Spanish Graduate Students’ Committee, Student Arts Community, Student Government, Theater and Performance Workshop, UChicago Arts, University of Chicago Press Journals Division, Bernard Weisburd Memorial Fund, Western Mediterranean Culture Workshop
CONFERENCES, cont.

May
- Color in the Early Modern Atlantic World

30th Annual MEHAT Conference
- Thinking the Greeks: A Conference in Honor of James M. Redfield
- Dante’s Political Theology
- Disciplines, Technologies, and Algorithms
- Cities and Spectacle in Modern Brazil
- Characterizing Astrology in the Medieval Islamic World
- Language in Daghestan
- Text and Labor in Asian Handiwork
- Sun Ra: Astro Black Mythology and Black Resistance Symposium
- Photography in East Asian Art

June - August
- Experimental Pragmatics
- The New Ancient Legal History
- Pragmatism and Sociology

Lectures / Workshops / Discussions

October
- The Cultural Politics of German-Jewish Hermeneutics, 1750-1950
- How to Make a Smart Museum: The Museum Proposition
- On the Conceptual Incoherence of Human Rights
  Peter de Bolla, University of Cambridge
- To Write or to Rewrite in Carolingian Latin Culture: The Stakes of a Narratological Approach to Alcuin’s Writings
  Christiane Voegard-Cosme, New Sorbonne University
- Ukraine in Flames
- What Money Wants: An Economy of Desire
  Noam Yuran, Tel Aviv University
- Marginalia, Corrections, and Rewritings as a Source for the Social History of Early Medieval Heresy
  Warren Peze, Panthéon-Sorbonne University

November - December
- Biblical Inspiration: Using Motifs from the Bible in Modern Literature
  Zeruya Shalev, Author
- Arts, Agency, and Creativity
- Legitimation Crisis? On the Political Contradictions of Financialized Capitalism
  Nancy Fraser, The New School for Social Research
- Scribes as Performers: Evidence from the Hebrew Bible and the Ptolemaic Papyri of Homer
  Ray Person, Ohio Northern University
  Jonathan Ready, Indiana University

January - February
- Backlash in East-Central Europe: What Happened to the Promise of 1989
  John Feffer, Institute for Policy Studies
- Boundless Informant: Digital Surveillance in the Post-Privacy Era
  Joseph Mazo, University of Chicago

(Cont. on page 22)
The Franke Institute for the Humanities

Cicero, Renaissance Humanism, and Modern Receptions of Ancient Philosophy
Clara Averay-Ayuyu, Université de Rouen

Greetings the Dead: Managing Solitary Existence in Japan
Anne Allison, Duke University

The Unpublished Republic
Karen Sanchez-Eppler, Amherst College

March
The Act of Participating

Workshop on Thought and Religion in China from the Perspective of Manuscript Culture, 4th Century BCE to 10th Century CE

April
The Aftershock of the Armenian Genocide: Armenian Communities in Turkey, Syria, and Lebanon after 1915
Lerna Ekmekçioğlu, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Keith Watenpaugh, University of California, Davis
Nicola Migliorino, Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane

The Technology Question
Peter Sanvic, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art
Deborah Seid Howes, University of Chicago
Tiffany Holmes, School of the Art Institute of Chicago

The Origins of Dislike: A Genealogy of Writerly Discontent
Amit Chaudhuri, University of East Anglia

The Global Supply Chain of Ready-Made Dreams
Winnie Wong, University of California, Berkeley

The Fatimid Caliphate and Its Non-Muslim Subjects
Paul Walker, University of Chicago

Threshold to the Sacred: The Ark Door of Cairo’s Ben Ezra Synagogue
Amy Landau, Walters Art Museum

Multiculturalism and Christian Art in Old Cairo
Tasha Vorderstrasse, University of Chicago

Dahai and Singapore: Asian Diasporics, Global Logistics, Company Rule
Engseng Ho, Duke University

Monkey Business: Contemporary Writing from Japan
The Intellectual Legacy of Sir Christopher Bayly: A Conversation

May - June
The Material Turn in Cairo Genizah Research
Marina Rustow, Johns Hopkins University

From Fustat to Cairo: The Many Meanings of ‘Old Cairo’
Donald Whitcomb, University of Chicago

Pursuit of Authority in Post Nineteenth-Century Iraq
Ahmed Shkeirachi, Shahid Beheshti University

July
A Corpus-Based Approach to Building Ontology of an Endangered Language

EXHIBITS / FILMS / PERFORMANCES

November
The Bridge #6

For more information about any of the events mentioned, please see franke.uchicago.edu.

Events, 2015-16

For 2015-16, the Governing Board of the Franke Institute has awarded twenty-six grants to faculty members and graduate students for events on widely ranging topics, including the ones listed below. For information about these events throughout the year, please see franke.uchicago.edu.

AUTUMN
A Voice as Something More
Bridge #3: (The Turbine) Jazz Performance & Roundtable Discussion
CineVardaPhoto
City/Cité: A Transatlantic Exchange
Empires of Faith: Comparativism, Art, and Religion in Late Antiquity – India to England
Fiction/Non-Fiction: The Uses and Truths of Literature
In Conversation: Thomas Hirschhorn & Yasmil Raymond on the Gramsci Monument
Individual and Community in Urban Upheavals: Hellenistic and Roman Asia Minor
Living and Leaving the Japanese Empire
Martin Buber: Philosopher of Dialogue
Revolution in Concepts of Form
Symbolic Everyday Lives: New Directions in the Research of Vijayanagara
Words Unofficial: Gossip, Circulations, Mediation
Xenophobia and Alterophobia in Pre-Modern Ottoman Lands

WINTER
Dying in South Asia
Found in Translation
In Empire’s Long Shadow: Modern Constructions of Central Eurasia, 1900-1941
Where Literature Begins: The Practice and Poetics of Multilingual Address

SPRING
The Acquisition and Transmission of Knowledge
The Czech New Wave: Proximity, Historicity, Automaticity
Gender, Publics, and Panics in the Global South
Haiti, Beyond Commemorations – New Perspectives
Islam and Regimes of Evidence
Sites of South Asian Studies
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