Cover: The Mellon Projects at the Franke Institute

• “The Limits of the Numerical: Studies in Climate Change” (see pp. 6-7)
• “Algorithms, Models, and Formalisms” (see pp. 8-9)
• “Musical Pasts Consortium”

The background image for the “Musical Pasts Consortium” is the Neumann U47 microphone from Studio 2 at Abbey Road Studio.
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In my first year as Dean of the Division of the Humanities, it has been my privilege to work more extensively with the Franke Institute. As a longtime faculty member at the University of Chicago, I have always admired the interdisciplinary—and multidisciplinary—conversations the Franke creates, the student and faculty research opportunities it offers, and the general support of humanistic research and discovery on this campus it provides through sponsorships and assistance with conferences and lectures. This past year has only deepened my respect and appreciation for all the Franke does.

The Franke Institute is a place where ideas take shape, where researchers are challenged and encouraged by their colleagues, and where a serendipitous turn of phrase or thought from one scholar can shift the direction of another’s project. It is also a place that nurtures insightful publications—conference papers, articles, monographs, and so on—by giving them the opportunity to germinate through the Institute’s highly sought-after faculty fellowships that allow members of our faculty to complete their projects.

Intense debates proliferate regarding the humanities—about whether they are worthy of government support or a useful disciplinary focus for today’s students. This outside pressure has only made us more committed to the humanities as a centerpiece of the University of Chicago. The thriving presence of the Franke illustrates that we will continue to be a world-renowned center for humanistic research. The Franke Institute is a critical partner for the Division of the Humanities in our collective enterprise of humanistic inquiry. I look forward to helping that partnership flourish in the years to come.

Anne Walters Robertson
Dean, Division of the Humanities
The Plan was that I would be on research leave by now, for 2016-17 was meant to be my last year as Director of the Franke Institute. In my first official meeting with Dean Anne Robertson last summer, however, we looked ahead to the four major projects funded at the Franke by the Mellon Foundation, realizing none would wrap up by summer 2017, and concluded I had better postpone that leave for a year. The decision was a wise one because, by June 2018, we will have had a series of capstone events for each of these projects.

The Musical Pasts Consortium will hold its annual joint meeting at the Franke in late September 2017, with teams from Yale, Berkeley, and King’s College London coming to Chicago to address the topic of “Music, Techne, Memory.” A team of colleagues led by Martha Feldman has been busy planning this event through this past spring and summer. The Algorithms, Models, and Formalisms project has been steadily gaining steam. Adrian Johns and James Evans have been working hard to develop a series of events through the year, including a major conference in late April 2018 to be called “Beyond Code and Craft.” In Winter Quarter 2018, the Center for Disciplinary Innovation, home to our team-taught interdisciplinary Ph.D. seminars, will convene a plenary meeting of all interested participants over the years to reflect on the implications of their experiences in the CDI over its decade-long history. And finally our Climate Change group, involved in the consortium studying The Limits of the Numerical, is also in the midst of a big final year. Under the mentorship of co-PI Dipesh Chakrabarty, our talented postdocs, Liz Chatterjee and Greg Lusk, organized and hosted a productive meeting/conference in late June 2017 that included our partners at Cambridge University and UC Santa Barbara, and more events are in the works for later this year.

I am happy the Dean and I changed the Plan. I would not have wanted to miss any of this!

James Chandler
Director, The Franke Institute for the Humanities
Over the past nine years, the Center for Disciplinary Innovation (CDI) has provided faculty the opportunity to collaborate on over 50 unique team-taught, graduate courses across a variety of disciplines. Since 2012, the CDI has offered one to two courses per year with an inflection concerning Disciplines & Technologies.

COURSES, 2016-17

The Debt Drive: Philosophy, Psychoanalysis, Neoliberalism
Eric Santner, Germanic Studies
Aaron Schuster, Sandberg Institute, Amsterdam

Reason and Religion
Shadi Bartsch-Zimmer, Classics
Robert Richards, History

Related Lectures
On Descartes
Ada Palmer, University of Chicago

On Science and Islam
Ahmed El Shamsy, University of Chicago
Alireza Doostdar, University of Chicago

A Global Sonic History in 30 Objects
Philip V. Bohlman, Music
Lars Christian-Koch, University of Cologne

Related Lectures
Working as an Academic Analyst
Cecilia Lo, Academic and Scholarly Technology Services

Touring the Oriental Institute
Jean Nye, Oriental Institute docent

On Rockefeller Chapel
Elizabeth Davenport, Dean
Matthew Dean, Music Director
Thomas Weisflog, University Organist

Women's Rights, Cultural Nationalisms, and Moral Panics: Comparative Perspectives from Africa and India
Rochona Majumdar, South Asian Languages & Civilizations
Jennifer Cole, Comparative Human Development

The Discovery of Paganism
Clifford Ando, Classics
Claudia Brittenham, Art History

Ruins
Françoise Meltzer, Comparative Literature
Jas’ Elsner, Art History

Algorithms and Aesthetics
Sean Keller, IIT College of Architecture

Related Lectures
Touring the Thoma Art Foundation
Jason Foumberg, Curator

Studio Visit
Jason Salavon, Visual Arts
Since its creation, the CDI at the University of Chicago has been instrumental in supporting a consortium of centers for disciplinary innovation, fostering a partnership with humanities centers at Columbia, Cambridge, and Berkeley. 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.

For more information about the CDI, please see: http://franke.uchicago.edu/cdi.html

COURSES, 2017-18

The Mediterranean Sea in Antiquity: Imperial Connections
James Osborne, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations
Catherine Kearns, Classics

From Baroque to Neo-Baroque
Rachel Galvin, English Language & Literature
Miguel Martinez, Romance Languages & Literatures

Exploratory Translation
Haun Saussy, Comparative Literature
Jennifer Scappettone, English Language & Literature

Phaedras Compared: Adaptation, Gender, Tragic Form
Larry Norman, Romance Languages & Literatures
David Wray, Classics

Guillotine/Barricade: Figures of History Across Media
Jennifer Wild, Cinema & Media Studies
TBA

Destruction of Images, Books, and Artifacts in Europe and South Asia
Olga Solovieva, Comparative Literature
Tyler Williams, South Asian Languages & Civilizations

The Art of Healing: Medical Aesthetics in Russia & the U.S.
William Nickell, Slavic Languages & Literatures
Michael David, Medicine

On the course, Women’s Rights, Cultural Nationalisms, and Moral Panics: Comparative Perspectives from Africa and India:
“Thanks to the course design as well as the student demographics, this course really offers a rich, comparative understanding of Africa and India. Connected as they are by their colonial past, a comparative reading of the women question in the context of these two regions reveals interesting facts about colonial rule, and the implication thereof to the postcolonial state.”
– Taimur Reza, South Asian Languages & Civilizations

On the course, A Global Sonic History in 30 Objects:
“Courses of such interdisciplinary character allow us to reach students from across the University, particularly Humanities, the Social Sciences, and Divinity. We have been able to push the boundaries of disciplines in ways we believe are innovative and creative. One additional advantage specific to our seminars has been the opportunity to experience pedagogical traditions from abroad.”
– Philip V. Bohlman, Music
The Franke Institute was awarded a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support a three-year international, interdisciplinary, and collaborative project entitled “Studies in Climate Change: The Limits of the Numerical.” The Franke hosts two, three-year postdoctoral scholars pursuing in-depth studies of the role numbers do and do not play in the humanistic understanding of environmental problems related to climate change. The umbrella project—“The Limits of the Numerical”—covers three main strands of social policy. In addition to the climate change strand at Chicago, there is a healthcare strand at Cambridge, and a higher education strand at the University of California at Santa Barbara.

**POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLARS**

**Elizabeth Chatterjee**

Liz’s Chicago research has two strands. As part of “The Limits of the Numerical” project, Liz examines the political deployment of numbers as rhetorical tools as much as rational calculations, with a special focus on numerical climate targets and populist “post-truth” numbers. She is also a specialist on South Asian politics, and works on both contemporary Indian energy policy and energy histories of Asia in the age of climate change. Liz was awarded a DPhil in International Development from the University of Oxford in 2015.

**Greg Lusk**

Greg’s research examines the impact of computer-aided reasoning on scientific inquiry, particularly when the results are used to support social decision-making. A central topic in his work is the epistemology of computer simulations, where he draws on philosophical approaches to metrology to analyze the status of simulation results. He has special interests in the role that values should play in the assessment of scientific hypotheses, and the normative questions that arise in the face of climate change. Greg earned his Ph.D. in History and Philosophy of Science from the University of Toronto in 2015.
Taken as a whole, “The Limits of the Numerical” explores some of the most pressing questions for the contemporary human sciences. What is the effect of the pervasive introduction of numerically based quantification into all aspects of social evaluation? When does the use of numbers work against the very values (such as precision, ease of communication) they are introduced to support? How do numbers as a system of evaluation clash with social values that cannot be so quantified?

2016-17 EVENTS

April 14
A Philosopher in the Land of Climate Science: Reports from the Field
Elisabeth Lloyd, Indiana University, Bloomington

May 25
Pascal’s Wager, Weitzman’s Dismal Theorem, and Climate Catastrophe
Michael Goldsby, Washington State University

June 26–29
Numerical Project Consortium Meeting
Keynote address: The Quantitative-Qualitative Tension in Guiding Social Policy
Pranab Bardhan, University of California, Berkeley

ASSOCIATED FACULTY

Fredrik Albritton Jonsson, History
Dipesh Chakrabarty, History
James Chandler, English Language & Literature
Michael Greenstone, Economics
Joseph Masco, Anthropology
Benjamin Morgan, English Language & Literature
Kathleen Morrison, Anthropology
Emily Lynn Osborn, History
Eric Slauter, English Language & Literature
The Algorithms, Models, and Formalisms Project supports research on the relationship between algorithmic techniques and academic disciplines. Building on the Disciplines & Technologies Project, this project continues the important work of understanding the nature, course, and consequences of the interaction between new technology and disciplinary practices, this time focusing on algorithms, models, and other formalisms.

2016-17 RESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR

Sean Keller

Sean Keller is Associate Professor and Director of History and Theory at IIT College of Architecture. During his University residency, Professor Keller taught a graduate seminar on Algorithms and Architecture. This graduate seminar explored questions raised by the use of algorithms, and similar systemic processes, in the arts. Students examined cases with and without electronic computation over the last century and in a range of disciplines, including architecture, painting, sculpture, music, and literature.

Additionally, Professor Keller gave a talk on “Architectural Algorithms” in the ‘Every Wednesday’ Luncheon Series at the Franke Institute, participated in the Algorithms roundtable event in May, and delivered a public lecture on “Architectural Automatisms.”
Over three and a half years, this project will fund nine residential scholars, twenty-eight short-term visitors, collaborative projects, and conferences.

2016-17 EVENTS

May 5
Automated Reason and Technological Consciousness
Luciana Parisi, Goldsmiths University of London

Algorithms, Capital, and the Common(s)
Tiziana Terranova, Università di Napoli ‘L’Orientale’

May 16
Algorithms: Aesthetics, Materialisms, and Politics Roundtable
Sean Keller, IIT College of Architecture
Luciana Parisi, Goldsmiths University of London
Tiziana Terranova, Università di Napoli ‘L’Orientale’

ASSOCIATED FACULTY

James Chandler, English Language & Literature
Lorraine Daston, Social Thought
James Evans, Sociology
Frances Ferguson, English Language & Literature
Patrick Jagoda, English Language & Literature
Adrian Johns, History
Karin Knorr Cetina, Sociology
Joseph Masco, Anthropology
Jason Salavon, Visual Arts
With no annual theme, yet with fourteen faculty and doctoral fellows, from nine Humanities departments and one from Social Sciences: how does the fellowship’s community develop and cohere? As each fellow presents his or her work-in-progress for discussion, serendipitous discoveries reveal coincident interests and issues in varied disciplinary contexts, geographies, and eras: performative argument in philosophy or in architecture; voice in tragedies, operas, written speeches, or inscriptions; vision in film montage, film rhetoric, or color perception; memory in saved documents, historical accounts, confessional memoirs, cross-cultural dialogues, or autobiographical manifestos.

**FRANKE FACULTY FELLOWS**

**James Conant,** Chester D. Tripp Professor of Humanities, Philosophy; *Why Kant is not a Kantian*  
My project seeks to show how a proper understanding of the structure of the *B Deduction*—the philosophical lynchpin of Kant’s *The Critique of Pure Reason*—reveals its aim to be one of making sense of our capacities for sensibility and understanding in the light of each other.

**Daniel Desormeaux,** Professor, Romance Languages & Literatures; *The First Haitian Historians’ Account of the Making of a Free Black Republic*  
I explore a new class of intellectual “deputies” who emerged on the international arena to become the voice of the unique black nation after 1804.

**Ghenwa Hayek,** Assistant Professor, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations; *Carrying Africa, Becoming Lebanese: Emigrant Anxiety in Lebanese Culture*  
My project examines the ways in which emigration has been figured in Lebanese cultural production from the nineteenth century to the present.

**Robert Kendrick,** Professor, Music and Romance Languages & Literatures; *Fruits of the Cross: Passiontide Music Theater in Habsburg Vienna*  
My book traces sacred operas performed at a replica of Christ’s Tomb at the seventeenth-century Austrian court, in their devotional, intellectual, and musical context.

**Wei-Cheng Lin,** Associate Professor, Art History; *Performative Architecture of China*  
I investigate the performative potential of China’s architecture—its ability to actively engage us by structuring and shaping our spatial senses and imagination—throughout history.

**Sarah Nooter,** Associate Professor, Classics; *The Mortal Voice in the Tragedies of Aeschylus*  
My book argues that voice is a vehicle for conveying the fragility of mortal existence in Greek literature generally and Aeschylean tragedy particularly.

**Michael Rossi,** Assistant Professor, History; *The Rules of Perception: Color Science in the United States, 1831–1931*  
This book examines the origins and meanings of turn-of-the-century habits of aesthetics, politics, and perception in the United States through a grounded history of theories of color.

**Yuri Tsivian,** William Colvin Professor, Art History, Cinema & Media Studies, and Slavic Languages & Literatures; *Montage: A History of Theory and Practice*  
To explain montage historically is to explore the kaleidoscope of its changing identities and uses—as a philosophy, language, visual music and, not least, as a storytelling skill.
FRANKE DISSERTATION-YEAR FELLOWS

Rebecca Crisafulli, Doctoral Candidate, Romance Languages & Literatures; *Sincerity and Social Transformation in the Work of Louise d’Épinay*

I argue that eighteenth-century French philosopher Louise d’Épinay’s autobiography is an educational manifesto in disguise.

Andrew Inchiosa, Doctoral Candidate, English Language & Literature; *Found among the Papers of the Early Republic*

I gather together some of the manuscripts that people saved in the early U.S., from authors’ private memoirs to the freedom papers of former slaves.

Thomas Kelly, Doctoral Candidate, East Asian Languages & Civilizations; *Substantive Marks: Object Inscription in Early Modern China*

My project analyzes changing practices of engraving literary writing onto decorative art objects in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century China.

“I found the year to be a productive one, and the environment of the Franke Institute to be stimulating and conducive to good work. My fellow fellows—and the indispensable staff—were terrific companions with whom to think.”

– Michael Rossi

FRANKE FELLOWS, 2016–17

Top row, left to right: Yuri Tsivian, Andrew Inchiosa, Wei-Cheng Lin, Adhira Mangalagiri, Michael Rossi, Thomas Kelly; Bottom row, left to right: Branden Kosch, Daniela Licandro, Sarah Nooter, Robert Kendrick; Not pictured: James Conant, Daniel Desormeaux, Ghenwa Hayek, Rebecca Crisafulli
Branden Kosch, Doctoral Candidate, Classics; 
*Reading Demosthenes*

My dissertation explores the difficulty involved in reading Demosthenes’ orations, as opposed to hearing them presented in the Athenian Assembly or law courts.

Daniela Licandro, Doctoral Candidate, East Asian Languages & Civilizations; *“I Must Confess': Life Writings and the Culture of Jiantao in Modern China”*

My dissertation examines the connection between practices of self-criticism and the proliferation of life narratives in socialist and post-socialist China.

Adhira Mangalagiri, Doctoral Candidate, Comparative Literature; *Twin Souls: Colonial Violence in China-India Literary Encounters (1900-1947)*

I conduct a comparative study of colonial-era Chinese and vernacular Indian (Hindi/Urdu) literatures, exploring violence and antagonism.

**AFFILIATED DISSERTATION-YEAR FELLOWS**

Initially, catered lunches bring these doctoral fellows from various Humanities departments together at the Franke Institute for discussions of their works-in-progress, and the collectivity they create and generate brings them back: “a sense of community among scholars who were all at the same stage yet from other departments,” and “the unique format of academic discussion”—“a ‘test audience’ of non-specialists.” The group developed the “camaraderie” of “careful readers” with “genuine, constructive ideas,” among “different approaches and theoretical background that other disciplines can offer.” Especially since the affiliated fellows are each in the “final stage of the dissertation process,” the “sense of structure provided by these meetings was extremely helpful,” helping to improve arguments in chapters—especially theoretical ones—as well as to refine conference papers.

Suleyman Dost, Doctoral Candidate, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations; *The Arabian Qur’an: A Theory Towards Peninsular Origins*

I identify the religious, historical, and linguistic context of the Qur’an’s origins by drawing comparisons between the lexical and thematic components.

Abigail Fine, Doctoral Candidate, Music; *Objects of Veneration: Music and Materiality in the Composer–Cults of Germany and Austria (1870–1930)*

I explore the devotion to composers as quasi-saints in the nineteenth century.

Mollie McFee, Doctoral Candidate, Comparative Literature; *Aspirational Nations: Language, Intimacy, and the Twentieth–Century Caribbean*

I study the relationship between neoimperialism and cultural projects undertaken by Caribbean governments that made use of vernacular languages.

Carmen Merport, Doctoral Candidate, English Language & Literature; *Ripped from the Pages of Life: Sensation and Banality in Postwar American Photonarrative Art*

My dissertation explores the work of politically engaged artists interested in the mass cultural aesthetic that developed in and around *Life* magazine after World War II.

Patrick Morrissey, Doctoral Candidate, English Language & Literature; *Naïve Modernism*

My dissertation considers the significance of childhood and play in the work of three modernist poets: William Carlos Williams, Gertrude Stein, and Lorine Niedecker.

Katrina Powers, Doctoral Candidate, Romance Languages & Literatures; *What Was She Wearing? Looking at Susanna in Golden Age Spain*

My work examines gendered violence and audience identification in portrayals of the biblical figure Susanna in early modern Spanish theater and poetry.
AFFILIATED DISSERTATION-YEAR FELLOWS, 2016-17

Top row, left to right: Abigail Fine, Aleksandar Uskokov, Carl Shook, Paul Vadan, Jordan Schonig
Bottom row, left to right: Dan Wang, Mollie McFie, Carmen Merport, Margot Browning, Associate Director

Jordan Schonig, Doctoral Candidate, Cinema & Media Studies; *Cinema's Motion Forms: Inscribed Motion and the Problems of Film Theory*
I explore how the aesthetics of cinematic motion has presented problems for film theory, and I propose a phenomenological method that examines movement as form.

Carl Shook, Doctoral Candidate, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations; *The Origins and Development of Iraq's National Boundaries, 1918-1932*
I analyze imperial exigency, state territoriality, and the role of transnational Bedouin tribes in the formation of the Iraq-Nejd and Iraq-Syria boundaries.

Aleksandar Uskokov, Doctoral Candidate, South Asian Languages & Civilizations; *The Role of Upanishadic Sentences in Early Advaita Vedanta: The Origin of an Idea*
I investigate the origin of the important idea of mahavakya or great utterance in the Hindu philosophical school of Advaita Vedanta.

Paul Vadan, Doctoral Candidate, Classics; *Communal Risk in the Hellenistic Age*
My dissertation explores the decision-making processes of ancient cities in Asia Minor.

Dan Wang, Doctoral Candidate, Music; *Scenes of Feeling: Music and the Imagination of the Liberal Subject*
I examine how feeling became such a central part of intimate and political forms of identity in the West.
Selected by the Governing Board of the Franke Institute for the Humanities, the fourteen incoming Franke Fellows hail from eight departments in the Humanities, and one department in the Social Sciences:

**FRANKE FACULTY FELLOWS**

**Margareta Ingrid Christian**, Assistant Professor, Germanic Studies; *Aesthetic Environments: A Cultural History of Air Around 1900*

**Marco Garrido**, Assistant Professor, Sociology; *City of Squatters and Villagers: Spatial Fragmentation and Political Polarization in Metro Manila*

**Patrick Jagoda**, Associate Professor, English Language & Literature; *Experimental Games*

**Michael Kremer**, Mary R. Morton Professor, Philosophy; *Getting Things Right: Gilbert Ryle on Knowledge*

**Susanne Paulus**, Assistant Professor, Oriental Institute and Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations; *Comparative Studies of Kassite Archives: A Legal, Economic, and Social History of Babylonia (1350–1150 BCE)*

**Zachary Samalin**, Assistant Professor, English Language & Literature; *The Masses Are Revolting: Victorian Culture and the Aesthetics of Disgust*

**Salomé Aguilera Skvirsky**, Assistant Professor, Cinema & Media Studies; *The Aesthetic of Labor: Craft, Industry, and Service Work in Latin American Cinema*

**Megan Sullivan**, Assistant Professor, Art History; *After Mondrian: Abstract Art and the Challenge of Development in South America*

**FRANKE DISSERTATION COMPLETION FELLOWS**

**Chloe Blackshear**, Doctoral Candidate, Comparative Literature; *Between the Figure and the Text: David Stories in Late Twentieth-Century Prose*

**Anne Feng**, Doctoral Candidate, Art History; *Water, Ice, Lapis Lazuli: Aquatic Imagery in Medieval Buddhist Art and Architecture*

**Jake Fraser**, Doctoral Candidate, Germanic Studies; *Irreversible: Kleist, Kafka, and the Present’s Past*

**Zachary Loeffler**, Doctoral Candidate, Music; *Speaking of Magic: Musical Enchantments in Modernity*

**Jessica Mutter**, Doctoral Candidate, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations; *Conversion and Religious Identity in Early Islamic Syria*

**Amy Stebbins**, Doctoral Candidate, Germanic Studies and Cinema & Media Studies; *Theater of the Turn: Critical Performances at the Volksbühne am Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz 1992–2017*
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 eighteenth 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.

2016-17

October 5
Patrick Jagoda
Associate Professor, Departments of English Language & Literature and Cinema & Media Studies
*Game Experiments (or: Playful Ways to Design Serious Research Interventions)*

March 1
Geoffrey R. Stone
Edward H. Levi Distinguished Service Professor of Law
*Sex and the Constitution: The Road to Roe*

May 10
Darby English
Carl Darling Buck Professor of Art History
*The Painter and the Police*

2017-18

November 8
Deborah L. Nelson
Chair and Professor, Department of English Language & Literature
*An Unsentimental Education: Arbus, Arendt, Didion, McCarthy, Sontag, Weil*

March 7
To be announced

May 2
To be announced

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: @UChiFrankeInst
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 twenty 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

**Susan L. Burns**, History
*Mental Healing and Masculinity in Japan*

**Philippe Desan**, Romance Languages & Literatures
*Montaigne’s Life*

**Tom Gunning**, Cinema & Media Studies
*The Magical Roots of the Virtual*

**Mark Hansen**, Political Science
*The Problem of Trump*

**Gabriel Lear**, Philosophy
*Plato on the Invention of Aesthetic Pleasure*

**Mark Miller**, English Language & Literature
*The Medieval Split Subject*

**Richard Neer**, Art History
*Gaming the Rules of Art in Seventeenth-Century Paris*

**Jennifer Pitts**, Political Science
*Critical Histories of International Law*

**Joel M. Snyder**, Art History
*Being Riven: André Bazin and Ontology*

**Kenneth W. Warren**, English Language & Literature
*Seeing Through (and in) the Novel*

Emily Austin  Jessica Baker  Matthew Boyle
NEW FACULTY

Emily Austin, Classics  
*Grief in Homer*

Jessica Baker, Music  
*Being too Fast*

Matthew Boyle, Philosophy  
*Rationality and Self-Understanding*

Jennifer Iverson, Music  
*Electronic Music in the Post-War Era*

Catherine Kearns, Classics  
*Clickbait Climate History*

Thomas Pashby, Philosophy  
*Time and Chance*

John Wee, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations  
*Mesopotamian Planets and Star Maps*

VISITING SCHOLARS

Sean Keller, IIT College of Architecture  
*Architectural Algorithms*

Lars-Christian Koch, University of Cologne  
*Prisoner of War Camp Recordings*

Aaron Schuster, Sandberg Institute  
*The Mysteries of Las Meninas*

COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

Elizabeth Chatterjee, Political Science  
Greg Lusk, Philosophy  
*Numbers and Climate Change*
Big Problems Curriculum in the College

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. For more information, please see bigproblems.uchicago.edu.

FEEDBACK FROM STUDENTS

On the course, Alternate Reality Games: Theory and Production:
“It’s opened my interest to a new emerging field of trans-media experiences with immense potential to affect the world in creative and socially driven ways.”
“It offered a critical and theory-based exploration of my own creativity and ability to produce a complex project that I haven’t gotten so far.”

On the course, Art and Human Rights:
“If I had to choose a single course as the best one I’ve taken in college, Art and Human Rights would win hands down. It was a deep dive into considering and practicing the intersection of art and human rights, which I know will inform my academics, personal, and professional pursuits for years to come.”

On the course, Jews and Christians in the Middle East:
“It’s given me a much better understanding of interfaith relations in the Middle East in a historical and modern setting, both in real-life and in theory.”
“It’s made me more aware of history behind politics of the Middle East, and it’s made me more careful/self-aware around efforts to use scholarship to support political points.”

On the course, Anxiety:
“It’s given me a better understanding of the psychoanalytical landscape of anxiety and the way people have theorized it.”
“I gained a much more thorough understanding of anxiety and how it relates to capitalism.”

On the course, Biology and Sociology of AIDS:
“It has increased my knowledge of the history and present circumstances surrounding the HIV epidemic in the US and around the world. It has enhanced my cultural competence about the LGBTQ community and HIV+ people, specifically about how stigma affects their access to healthcare.”

On the course, Inequality: Origins, Dimensions, and Policy:
“Hands-down, it was my favorite class at UChicago. It exposed me to a wider variety of perspectives on inequality more effectively than a single-lecturer class could have done, and it just felt like what I always expected college classes would be. That is, full of discussion about relevant issues with intelligent people.”
“Overall, I feel like I have a much better understanding of the questions which surround the issue of economic inequality in the USA. I am a much more informed consumer of inequality-related news, and much better participant in discussions of the phenomenon.”
COURSES, 2016-17

Alternate Reality Games: Theory and Production
Patrick Jagoda, Cinema & Media Studies
Heidi Coleman, Theater & Performance Studies

Anxiety
Malynne Sternstein, Slavic Languages & Literatures
Anne Flannery, Oriental Institute

Art and Human Rights
Mark Bradley, History
Leslie Buxbaum-Danzig, Theater & Performance Studies

Biology and Sociology of AIDS
Harold Pollack, Social Service Administration
John Schneider, Medicine

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

Inequality: Origins, Dimensions, and Policy
Allen Sanderson, Economics

Jews and Christians in the Middle East
Orit Bashkin, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations
Angie Heo, Anthropology & Sociology of Religion

Understanding Wisdom
W. Clark Gilpin, Divinity School
Anne Henly, Psychology

COURSES, 2017-18

Biological and Cultural Evolution
Salikoko Mufwene, Linguistics
William Wimsatt, Philosophy

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

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

Michael Greenstone, Economics
John Deutch, Chemistry (MIT)

Inequality: Origins, Dimensions, and Policy
Allen Sanderson, Economics

Medical Ethics: Central Topics
Dan Brudnemy, Philosophy

The Nuclear Age
Deborah L. Nelson, English Language & Literature

In the course on Inequality: Origins, Dimensions, and Policy, offered in winter 2017, UChicago faculty contributed lectures on wide-ranging topics:

- History: “Inequality: The Long View”
- Law: “Ideas Underlying Taxes and Inequality,” “The Law and Inequality”
- Medicine: “The 30 Million Words Project,” “Reproductive Justice & Inequalities in Adolescent Health”
- Political Science: “Equal Voice”
- Public Policy: “Political Economy and Inequality,” “International Inequality – Rise of the Global Middle Class”
- Sociology: “Social Inequality”
Events, 2016-17

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 other institutions. During 2016-17, the Institute co-sponsored eighty-one conferences, lectures, and other events.

**CONFERENCES**

**October**

The Limits of Empire in Ancient Afghanistan

Habitation: Literature and Architecture

Vernacular Practices Across East Asia

Opening Up the Indexicality of the Image, Again

From Quantitative to Qualitative Analysis: New Perspectives on Research in Social History

Justice at Work

Evil? The Bad, the Ugly, and the Depraved in Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophy

International Conference on Strategies and Conflicts of Authority and Power in Golden Age Theater

OCLC Member Forum

Slavery and Visual Culture

Seeing Movement, Being Moved: An Exploration of the Moving Camera

Linguistic and Other Cultural Exchanges Across Brazilian History

**November–December**

China, Art History: New Orientations – in Honor of Wu Hung

Irreverence and the Sacred

The Cultural Legacy of Ludovico Ariosto’s *Orlando Furioso*

Untold Futures: Speculation, Redemption, Disappointment
Meaning, Metaphor, and Maimonides

January
Concepts of Aesthetic Form
Racing the International: From Bandung to Durban: Social Movements at the Threshold of the Global Color Line

February
Skepticism as a Form of Philosophical Experience
14th Annual South Asia Graduate Student Conference: Materials in Focus
Down to the Hour: Perspectives on Short Time in the Ancient Mediterranean

Eastern Mediterranean Seminar on “Papyri and History”
Racing the International: Tracing a Black Feminist International

March
In the Shadow of the Grand Tour: Object Narratives and Cultural Resonances in Britain (17th–19th Centuries)
Rights Research in Central Asia: Challenges, Insights
Thought and Action in the Renaissance
Mobilizing Gender: Secularism, Nation, and Remaking Europe

April
Centennial Brooks: A Tribute Celebration
 Intellectual Revolution at the University of Chicago
Racing the International: Globalizing Racial Capitalism

CO-SPONSORS for EVENTS
At the University of Chicago
African Studies Workshop, Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophy Workshop, Arts, Science & Culture Initiative, Campus and Public Art Program, Center for the Art of East Asia, Center for East Asian Studies, Center for East European and Russian/Eurasian Studies, Center for Identity + Inclusion, Center for Interdisciplinary Research on German Literature and Culture, Center for International Relations, Center for Latin 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, Politics and Culture, Chicago Center for Contemporary Theory, Chicago Center for Jewish Studies, Chicago Tamil Forum, Chicago Theory and Models Workshop, Committee on Central Eurasian Studies, Committee on Chinese Studies, Committee on South Asian Studies, Council on Advanced Islamic Studies, Council on Advanced Studies Workshops, Divinity School, Divinity Students Association, Film Studies Center, The France Chicago Center, French Club, Global Engagement, Global Voices Series, Graduate Council, Richard and Mary L. Gray Center for Arts and Inquiry, Julie and Parker Hall Endowment for Jazz and American Studies, Norman Wait Harris Fund, Humanities Dean’s Office, Humanities Division Graduate Student Council, Humanities Visiting Committee, Institute of Politics, Islamic Studies Workshop, Lichtstern Fund for Anthropology, Linguistics and Philosophy of Language Workshop, Logan Center for the Arts, Martin Marty Center for the Advanced Study of Religion, Mass Culture Workshop, Medieval Studies Workshop, Middle Eastern History and Theory Workshop, Middle Eastern Studies Students’ Association, John U. Nef Committee on Social Thought, Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society, Nicholson Center for British Studies, Office of Civic Engagement, Office of the President, Office of the Provost for the Arts, Oriental Institute, Paris Center, Philosophy and Literature Workshop, Poetry and Poetics Workshop, Political Theory Workshop, Pozen Family Center for Human Rights, Program on the Global Environment, Renaissance Society, Rhetoric and Poetics Workshop, Chuck Roven Fund for Cinema & Media Studies, Karla Scherer Center for Study of American Culture, Semiotics Workshop, Slavery and Visual Culture Working Group, Slavic Colloquium, Smart Museum of Art, Social Sciences Division, Social Theory Workshop, Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts, Special Collections Research Center, Stevanovich Institute on the Formation of Knowledge, Student Fine Arts Fund, Student Government, Theater and Performance Studies, Theory and Practice in South Asia Workshop, UChicago Arts, UChicago Urban, Bernard Weissbourd Memorial Fund, Western Mediterranean Culture Workshop

(Cont. on page 22)
CO-SPONSORS for EVENTS

External Co-sponsors


Faculty Organizers

Anthropology, Art History, Cinema & Media Studies, Classics, Comparative Literature, English Language & Literature, Germanic Studies, Linguistics, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations, Philosophy, Romance Languages & Literatures, Slavic Languages & Literatures

At the Franke Institute:

The Adelyn Russell Bogert Fund supports activities involving the arts. This year, the Bogert Fund co-sponsored six events:

- China, Art History: New Orientations – in Honor of Wu Hung
- Concrete Happenings
- Fact and Fiction – Creation, Forms, Boundaries
- Seeing Movement, Being Moved: An Exploration of the Moving Camera
- Slavery and Visual Culture lecture series
- Writing and Picturing in Post-1945 Asian Art

Disciplinas, Indisciplinas: Second Chicago Graduate Conference in Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Studies

Music and Moral Being in South and Central Asia

Hebrew Literature in Europe: Translation on the Line between Germany and Israel

Social History and Ancient Documents: Egypt from Alexander to Islam

Querelles des femmes, or the Long History of Feminism

Trauma and Melodrama: Emotions in the Public Sphere

Writing and Picturing in Post-1945 Asian Art

Civil War: Discord Within

Syncretism and Hybridity in Chinese Religious History

Medieval Futures: A Colloquium on Anticipation, Prognostication, Speculatio in Britain

May

Racing the International: American Empire

The 32nd Annual Middle East History & Theory Conference

Symposium: Fluxus | Film

Gender and Power in the Middle Ages

Decolonizing Architecture

Shi’i Studies Symposium: Shi’ism and Governance

Scripts and Scripture: Writing and Religion in Arabia, ca. 500-700 C.E.

Friction and the City: Convergence, Divergence, and Transformation in the Urban Realm

Fact and Fiction: Creation, Forms, Boundaries

Subjectivity in Language and Thought

The 53rd Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistics Society
Chicago Tamil Forum: Poesis/Politics of Language and Place in Tamilagam

The State of Islamic Heritage

June

The Philosophy of Howard Stein and Its Contemporary Interest

Slavery, Freedom, and the Making of Modern Brazil

LECTURES / WORKSHOPS / DISCUSSIONS

October

Justice in the Service of Equality

Christiane Taubira, former Minister of Justice, France

Doubly Neglected: Orthodox Women Monastics in the Balkans

Milica Bakić-Hayden, University of Pittsburgh

November

The Minority Paradox: Blackness in France

Pap Ndiaye, Institute of Political Studies in Paris

Fragments of Art, Fragments of Life: African Art in and out of Context

Constantine Petridis, Art Institute of Chicago

January–February

Dialogue: Design as Pedagogy

Robert Somol, University of Illinois at Chicago

Orit Halpern, Concordia University, Montreal

Picturing the Emergence of the Emancipatory Subject and the Formation of the Black Nation in Seventeenth-Century Spain

Carmen Fracchia, Birkbeck, University of London

Why Poland Matters

David Ost, Hobart and William Smith Colleges

(Cont. on page 24)
March–April

The Sacrificed Body in Yugoslav and Post-Yugoslav Film
Tatjana Aleksic, University of Michigan

How to Get the Nobel Prize in Literature
Sara Danius, Permanent Secretary of the Swedish Academy

How Skin Color became a Racial Marker? The Contribution of Art in the Eighteenth Century
Anne Lafont, University of East Paris/Marne-la-Vallée

In Praise of Zeman

The President’s Body and Other Missing Matters: Conspiracy Culture in Cyprus
Lisa Davis, Princeton University

Excavating Contemporary Capitalism: Toward a Critique of Extraction Writ Large
Sandro Mezzadra, Western Sydney University

May

Between Realism and Materialism: The New Adventures of Critical Theory
Catherine Malabou, Kingston University London

The Biological and the Symbolic
Catherine Malabou, Kingston University London

Are There Still Traces?
Catherine Malabou, Kingston University London

The Limits of Sovereignty as Responsibility
Adom Getachew, Department of Political Science

Africa, the Last Cement Frontier: From Crisis to Prosperity?
Julie Soleil Archambault, Concordia University, Montreal

EXHIBITS/FILMS/PERFORMANCES

October

Lecture and Screening of Francofonia (2015)

November

Bridge #7: Performance and Roundtable Discussion

February

Film Screening: Whose is This Song? (2003)
Age of Delirium (2011): Film Screening and Conversation on the 25th Anniversary of the Dissolution of the Soviet Union
David Satter, American Journalist and Rhodes Scholar

April–May

Conservation Conversation

Kosovo in Documentary and Film: War, Rape, and Its Effect on Local Society

The Bridge #13

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For 2017-18, the Governing Board of the Franke Institute has awarded fourteen 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**

Arts and the Nuclear Age

Found in Time: Lost Artists of the Post-War Soviet Union

Music in Context: Perspectives on Ancient Greek Tragedy

Not Reading

Our Dance is Turned into Mourning

Revisiting Comala: Centenary Perspectives on the Work of Juan Rulfo

Shaping Phonology: In Honor of John Goldsmith

Sixtieth Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association

Tenth International Congress of Hittitology

**SPRING**

Beyond Francophone Slavery

Indological Connections Between Chicago & Paris II

Paul Claudel: The World is One

Renaissance Workshop Lecture

**WINTER**

Religion, Gender and Sexuality
GOVERNING BOARD

Michael Bourdaghs  
*East Asian Languages & Civilizations*

Maud Ellmann  
*English Language & Literature*

Rochona Majumdar  
*South Asian Languages & Civilizations*

Christine Mehring  
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Emily Lynn Osborn  
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*Romance Languages & Literatures*

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Peter Kim  
*Project Assistant*

Patrick Doyle  
*Project Assistant*

Top row: Mai Vukcevich, Harriette Moody  
Bottom row: Margot Browning, Rachel Drew, Bertie Kibreah
Upcoming events for the Mellon Projects at the Franke Institute

Techne, Body, Memory
Musical Pasts Consortium (Chicago meeting)
September 29-30, 2017

Visiting Speaker Series
The Limits of the Numerical: Studies in Climate Change
January-June, 2018

Beyond Code and Craft
Algorithms, Models, and Formalisms conference
April 27-28, 2018