



NEUBAUER  
COLLEGIUM  
FOR CULTURE AND SOCIETY

*Report on Activities  
2013-2014*



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
CHICAGO

Cover:

On October 3, 2013, in celebration of the official launch of the Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society, internationally acclaimed artist William Kentridge delivered "Listening to the Image," a public lecture and performance on the practice and theory of making meaning in the studio. Focusing on his series of films created to accompany Franz Schubert's song cycle *Winterreise*, and with live accompaniment by special guests from Lyric Opera of Chicago, the lecture presented an expansive exploration of the relationship between sound and image. The following afternoon, Kentridge joined Neubauer Collegium Director David Nirenberg and South African writer, curator, and scholar Jane Taylor in a panel discussion on the "Virtues of Bastardy: Mixed Metaphors and Collaborations in the Studio."

Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society  
*Report on Activities 2013-2014*



# About the Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society

The Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society at the University of Chicago is an innovative approach to research on questions of high complexity and broad scope in the humanities and humanistic social sciences. Part research incubator and part institute for advanced studies, the Neubauer Collegium combines robust start-up support for new collaborative faculty research projects with a fellowship program designed to bring leading scholars from around the world for sustained collaboration with research teams at the University of Chicago. Launched in 2013 by the Division of the Humanities and the Social Sciences Division, the Neubauer Collegium is already making possible the pursuit of complex research questions that are beyond the scope of any individual scholar or discipline and facilitating the exchange of knowledge across disciplinary, institutional, and national boundaries.

## **Aims**

- To foster collaborative research on complex questions that transcend the scope of individual scholars or disciplines
- To be a global destination for scholarship in the humanities and social sciences
- To share emerging research, within and beyond the academic world

## **Activities**

The Neubauer Collegium provides comprehensive support for the development and pursuit of collaborative research projects led by UChicago faculty. Through an annual call for proposals, financial support is awarded to teams of UChicago faculty for projects lasting one to three years. Seed support of \$10,000-\$25,000/year encourages faculty to develop ideas at early stages of conceptualization by refining common research questions, establishing shared research goals, and creating new hybrid forms of scholarly exchange that bridge disciplinary practices. Major support is awarded to more advanced projects, with budgets ranging from \$50,000-\$100,000/year, enabling project teams to bring visitors into their collaborations, engage professional research assistance, create new data sets and research instruments, and share research findings through major conferences, publications, and art and multimedia exhibitions. The Collegium's director and advisory board, drawn from senior/highly accomplished UChicago faculty from across the Humanities and Social Sciences, help to identify, encourage, and advise potential collaborations, while the Collegium's administrative staff manages projects' research activities, supports Visiting Fellows, and helps accelerate the research start-up phase.





## From the Director

The Neubauer Collegium was launched last year with the goal of creating new opportunities for faculty in the humanities and social sciences to work together—with each other, with colleagues in other fields, and with leading researchers from around the world. The goal was motivated by two convictions, widely shared at the University of Chicago. The first is that many of the most important questions we want to ask about ourselves and about our world require multiple approaches and methodologies. The second is that many of these questions cannot be well addressed without understanding their social and cultural contexts. Both these convictions animate the Collegium's charge: to support faculty and students in their pursuit of collaborative approaches to complex questions.

Because those questions are many and diverse, the Collegium's programs need to be highly adaptable. In our first call for proposals, those fell into three general categories. The first is a Faculty Research Awards program to launch collaborative research initiatives that integrate scholarship across the humanities and social sciences and foster connections with scholars and practitioners in other fields. A Visiting Fellows program brings scholars from around the world for sustained collaboration with UChicago researchers in those projects. Finally, an active program of public lectures, symposia, exhibitions, and other activities provides opportunities for communication among scholars and extends the impact of that scholarship, across the academic world and beyond.

*In 2013–14 the Collegium hosted 13 long-term Visiting Fellows for collaborative residencies of one month to one year—support for intense collaboration uncommon in the humanities and humanistic social sciences—and brought more than a hundred scholars and artists for shorter visits to participate in the many conferences, workshops, lectures, and symposia we organized with our faculty research initiatives.*

The University faculty responded to the Collegium's inaugural call with ambitious research plans and new frameworks for collaboration. In 2013–14, the Collegium was able to support 17 of the 46 proposals it received for new faculty research initiatives. The projects range from one to three years in duration, and their inaugural-year activities are detailed in the pages of this report. Whether they are changing how we understand new forms of democratic governance or looking to the world's oldest writing systems to better understand the early rise of literature and education, studying Chinese historiographic conventions to illuminate how present-day intelligentsia construct Chinese nationalism, or opening new possibilities for digital media to improve adolescent health decisions, the Collegium's first cohort of research initiatives is not only producing new discoveries, but also creating new kinds of scholarly community and experimenting with new approaches to research and knowledge formation, communication, and preservation.



David Nirenberg  
*Founding Roman Family Director,  
Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society*

The Visiting Fellows component of the Neubauer Collegium is an important part of these efforts. The opportunity to engage leading practitioners from around the world has allowed many of our research teams to incorporate otherwise missing expertise into their projects, to build bridges between varied disciplinary perspectives, and to learn from different practices and methodologies emerging at other national and international research centers.

The Collegium also helped faculty pursue these goals through joint projects with the University's global centers in Paris, Beijing, and Delhi. The Collegium's global engagements extended far beyond the University's centers. Our inaugural research projects partnered with scholars in China, France, Germany, Iraq, Pakistan, Spain, Taiwan, and Turkey—building new data sets, interpreting ancient manuscripts, and collecting interviews. In all of these efforts, the Collegium's goal is make it possible for our collaborators to include in their work any scholar their research requires: bringing the world, so to speak, into collaboration with Hyde Park.

*By the start of Autumn Quarter, the Collegium will be supporting 30 research teams involving faculty from every discipline in the Divisions of the Humanities and of the Social Sciences, as well as faculty from Argonne National Laboratory, the Division of Biological Sciences, Chicago Booth, the Divinity School, the Law School, Pritzker School of Medicine, Chicago Harris, and the School of Social Service Administration.*

As we look ahead to 2014–15, we anticipate another year of exciting growth and discovery. In early 2015, we will open the doors of our new home at 5701 South Woodlawn. A short walk from the humanities and social sciences quadrangle, the Regenstein Library, and the Seminary Co-op Bookstore, the 1930s building is undergoing extensive renovation to preserve its historical character while creating flexible and technologically advanced meeting spaces, research facilities, and offices. Various sized conference and seminar rooms, larger galleries and convening spaces for public events, and a mix of private offices and open work spaces will allow for creative forms of collaboration and afford new opportunities for our faculty research teams and our Visiting Fellows to pursue their common intellectual projects.

Planning is already well underway for the 14 new collaborative faculty research projects that will come online in 2014–15. Some projects are transcending traditional research cultures and forming new communities of discourse, such as a project that brings security and science experts together with historians, anthropologists, and artists to retheorize questions of human security in light of the cumulative global effects of industrial activity. Others, such as a large-scale data analysis of neighborhood amenities using aesthetic interpretations, are blending hermeneutic and quantitative forms of understanding to create richer understanding of challenging and intractable problems, such as how consumption patterns influence social and economic development in postindustrial knowledge societies. Yet other projects are integrating humanistic forms of knowledge and reasoning within major new international research initiatives, whether through study of the growing problem of archaeological looting and the illicit trade of antiquities or a new research study on the social and cultural contexts that help explain the low uptake of a new public health insurance program in India.

And in 2014–15, we will expand on the strong partnerships we established in 2013–14 with the University's centers abroad. Major conferences are already planned for Collegium research initiatives at the Center in Delhi and the Center in Paris, while other multicenter, multidirectional exchanges are in progress as well.

In the pages that follow, you will learn more about our inaugural cohort of faculty research initiatives and the Collegium's innovative model of research in the humanities and social sciences. From jointly defining new research questions to negotiating various disciplinary values and intellectual commitments, from debating what constitutes valid and compelling evidence to creating new theoretical frameworks, these new collaborative forms of research are more than simply additive and interactive—they are achieving more pluralistic understandings of complex problems, with humanistic and social scientific knowledge and reasoning at the core. As you read through this report, we hope you share our enthusiasm about what's possible when faculty have the resources and opportunities to work together in the pursuit of their most ambitious ideas—wherever they may lead.

**David Nirenberg**

*founding Roman Family Director, Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society  
Deborah R. and Edgar D. Jannotta Professor, Committee on Social Thought and  
Departments of History and Romance Languages and Literatures*



# A Laboratory for Humanists

In 2013 the Divisions of Humanities and Social Sciences established the Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society, an innovative model for interdisciplinary research setting a new standard in the academy. Scholarship that extends past disciplinary boundaries is certainly not new to the University of Chicago: our institution is renowned for its variety of research centers and cross-disciplinary discussions among our faculty. But the Neubauer Collegium does more than just add to the conversation on campus. It reshapes how we approach, encourage, and support interdisciplinary work, offering the space, resources, and global institutional reach that can help faculty turn their most ambitious ideas and aspirations into sustained collaboration. We see the Neubauer Collegium as a laboratory for the humanities and humanistic social sciences—a gathering space where scholars from around the world can join with University of Chicago faculty to learn from one another and experiment collaboratively with new methods and ideas to address complex questions beyond the scope of any one scholar or discipline.

Under the leadership of David Nirenberg, the Deborah R. and Edgar D. Jannotta Professor of Social Thought and Medieval History, the first year of the Collegium has been a remarkable success. With the support of a founding \$26.5 million gift from Joseph Neubauer, MBA'65, and Jeanette Lerman-Neubauer, and the selection of 5701 South Woodlawn as its future home, the Neubauer Collegium is poised to become a major intellectual and physical destination on campus. In October 2013, we were pleased to announce a major gift from Emmanuel Roman, MBA'87, to support a named directorship for the Collegium. That same month, hundreds of campus and community members packed Mandel Hall for a public lecture delivered by internationally renowned artist William Kentridge, marking the official launch of the Neubauer Collegium.

The first cohort of faculty research projects—the centerpiece of the Collegium's work on campus—engages widely with big questions and broad topics. A group of classicists, archaeologists, and economists are using comparative economics from ancient societies to the present to create new forms of analysis and debate. This group is also interested in using new ways to collaborate and publish by hosting a series of public workshops and publishing their results in an electronic format for easier access. Another research team focuses on a different audience: teenagers. Crossing the fields of literature, technology, and public health, Game Changer Chicago Design Lab works with game designers and adolescents from neighboring communities to cocreate digital and nondigital games that positively impact social learning and health choices. And a group of faculty from Linguistics, Human Development, and Psychology are examining how physical actions, gestures, and sign language shape learning and creativity. These are just a small sample of the 17 collaborative projects sponsored by the Neubauer Collegium in its first operational year, each offering new directions for continued research.

The 2014–15 cohort of Neubauer Collegium faculty research projects will continue the success of our first year, exploring topics from migration and material culture to humanism and the classics. Where else but in the collaborative structure of the Neubauer Collegium can one find anthropologists working together with scholars from economics, law, and business on the problems of health insurance in India? Where else could an interdisciplinary research team boldly aim to create a new “Chicago School” on the state, violence, and social control? And how would scholars from medicine, classics, and comparative literature investigate issues of end-of-life care if not for the Neubauer Collegium’s support? The 14 new research projects funded for the coming year demonstrate the Neubauer Collegium’s flexibility to accommodate scholars and methodologies from disciplines across campus.

There is no better home for the Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society than the University of Chicago, with its exceptional faculty long dedicated to the pursuit of complex questions and interdisciplinary innovation. This campus-wide venture gives our faculty and students the ability to plan projects on a scale that pushes the limits of inquiry even further, and in doing so reinforces the University of Chicago’s place at the forefront of humanistic research.

**Martha Roth**

*Dean, Division of the Humanities, and Chauncey S. Boucher Distinguished Service Professor of Assyriology, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations*

**Mario Small**

*Dean, Division of the Social Sciences, and Professor, Department of Sociology*







# The Anthropology of History

Current trends in postcolonial studies, indigenous archaeology, archaeological ethnography, and the anthropology/history border zone indicate the emergence of an as-yet unarticulated new research orientation: the anthropology of history. This project, conceived in collaboration with Charles Stewart (University College London), engages faculty and visitors in Anthropology, History, Philosophy, and Divinity to synthesize and theorize the comparative ethnographic and historical study of the diverse means by which people gain knowledge of the past. These are matters of



concern not only for numerous social science and humanities disciplines, but also for society more generally as the West begins to reflect upon the circumscribed operating sphere of its putatively universal truths and the concrete policy, legal, and cultural implications of acknowledging both non-Western historicizing practices and Western ways of relating to the past that do not conform to the standards or concerns of disciplinary history.

The project began in 2013 with a panel organized at the American Anthropological Association annual meetings on the subject “Beyond the Historic Turn: Toward an Anthropology of History”—something of a prelude to later interdisciplinary exploration of culturally varying modes of forging “past relationships” organized at the Neubauer Collegium. This was followed by an explicitly multidisciplinary conference in April at the Neubauer Collegium covering a wide range of topics: from creationists’ struggles with disciplined history, to accounts of collaborations with Native American groups in the context of the US Department of the Interior Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, to analyses of visceral experiences during encounters with the past and experiments at restaging/reliving the traumatic pasts of Civil Rights Era lynchings.

The 2013–14 activities are part of a larger effort to explore the possibilities of a synthesis of anthropological approaches toward human conceptions of “the past” and the ways in which these (including disciplined Western historiography) might be studied ethnographically and brought under a so-far inexistent conceptual and analytical framework.

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## UCHICAGO RESEARCHER

**Stephan Palmié**, Professor and chair,  
Department of Anthropology

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## EXTERNAL COLLABORATOR

**Charles Stewart**, Professor,  
Department of Anthropology, University  
College London

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## EVENTS

**November 20, 2013**

### Beyond the Historic Turn: Toward an Anthropology of History

Stephan Palmié and Charles Stewart organized the 2013 American Anthropological Association panel session. The panel discussed the idea that the “historic turn” of anthropology in the 1980s now calls for a further step, which involves moving from a historically minded anthropology to the anthropological investigation of practices analogous to and including our own contemporary conception of “the field of the historical” and the production of knowledge about it: the anthropology of history.

**November 25, 2013**

### Uncanny History: Temporal Topology in the Post-Ottoman World

Charles Stewart gave a talk in which he examined models for understanding history established according to principles and motivations other than those of post-Enlightenment historicism. He considered post-Ottoman and comparative ethnographic identify the logic by which the present retrieves the past.

**April 4–5, 2014**

### The Varieties of Historical Experience

Convened by Stephan Palmié and Charles Stewart, the Varieties of Historical Experience conference explored the various modes, aside from standard historiography, in which people establish relationships to the past. Topics included haunting and ghost hunting, historical reenactments, electronic simulations, feature films, and historical fiction.





# Audio Cultures of India: New Approaches to the Performance Archive

An exploration of how the methods of “big science” might elucidate and facilitate the humanistic understanding of music, speech, and other audio expressions, Audio Cultures of India deploys data mining and computational pattern analysis techniques common to the physical and biological sciences to seek new understandings of music, speech, and other audio expressions. Drawing on vast digital corpora already hosted at the University of Chicago Library, this project brings together



faculty and students from Music, Anthropology, the Computation Institute, Argonne National Laboratory, and the Library to identify and experiment with new methods for using scientific technologies to process large digital humanities databases. The dense performative culture that characterizes India presents an opportunity to attempt to develop a comparative framework for understanding historical interrelations in the aural world—a sound history of modern India.

An initial symposium, “Sound, Science, and History,” was held in September 2013, animated by two goals: an ontological assessment to

identify the many different forms constituting the audio record of South Asian history; and an epistemological examination of the nature of a culture of sound in India.

The recording of music was only the most obvious ontology of the audio; audio ontologies also form around media such as film, theater, and labor in private and public spheres. The transformation of sound to society leads to what we are considering as the epistemologies of audio culture.

The experience of listening results in very different social formations, from the most intimate spaces of prayer and sacred song to the globalization of Bollywood soundtracks as world music. Audio cultures also coalesce around the materiality of instrument building and the local and international patterns of exchange.

The project will continue with a major academic conference at the University of Chicago Center in Delhi scheduled for December 2014.

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## UCHICAGO RESEARCH TEAM

**Philip V. Bohlman**, Mary Werkman Distinguished Service Professor, Department of Music; associate faculty, Department of Germanic Studies; associate faculty, Divinity School

**Kaley Reid Mason**, Assistant Professor, Department of Music

**James Nye**, Bibliographer for Southern Asia and Director of the Digital South Asia Library, University of Chicago Library

**Laura Ring**, Assistant Southern Asia Librarian, University of Chicago Library

## EVENTS

**September 15-17, 2013**

### **Audio Cultures of India: Sound, Science, and History**

This workshop explored the scientific analysis of recorded sound and the instruments that produce sound, as well as related material artifacts such as texts, all with South Asia as the areal focus. Participants investigated how the methods of big science might elucidate and facilitate the humanistic understanding of music, speech, and other audio expressions.

#### *Participants included:*

**Elayaperumal Annamalai**, UChicago

**Shalini Ayyagari**, American University

**Philip V. Bohlman**, UChicago

**Michael Casey**, Indiana University  
Bloomington

**J. Stephen Downie**, University of Illinois  
at Urbana-Champaign

**Mark Katz**, University of North Carolina  
at Chapel Hill

**Rehanna Kheshgi**, UChicago

**Lars-Christian Koch**, Museum of  
Ethnology, Berlin; and University  
of Cologne

**Scott Landvatter**, UChicago

**Kaley Reid Mason**, UChicago

**Daniel Neuman**, University of California,  
Los Angeles

**Ameera Nimjee**, UChicago

**James Nye**, UChicago

**Poornima Paidipaty**, UChicago

**Sean Pue**, Michigan State University

**Laura Ring**, UChicago

**Hakizumwami Biralil Runesha**, UChicago

**Amanda Weidman**, Bryn Mawr College





# The Body's Role in Thinking, Performing, and Referencing

Since the Renaissance, many scholars have overlooked the formative role our bodies play in shaping our minds, ignoring the influence our movements have on our thinking and creative processes. But over the last several years, research in psychology, linguistics, and human development suggests it is difficult to disentangle the workings of our minds from our physical sensations. This research is producing a new way of thinking about embodied cognition and changing how we think about learning and performing. This three-year project explores the relation between action, gesture, and sign language in order to develop a more nuanced and theoretically motivated understanding of how our bodies impact our minds and the minds of others.



This project launched a new Center for Gesture, Sign, and Language at the University of Chicago designed to provide a home for collaborations between members of the Departments of Psychology, Linguistics, and Comparative Human Development and to catalyze new collaborations with scholars interested in the performing arts.

In 2013–14 the project designed a study that will use motion capture equipment to measure the spontaneous co-speech gestures people

produce, helping to gauge how precisely people's gestures mirror the actions on which they are based compared with how much they are influenced by ideas underlying the speech they accompany. Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow Peter Cook, an internationally recognized deaf storyteller, made video and motion capture recordings of a new story and a new poem in American Sign Language, and the project is developing transcription and coding procedures for analyzing the metrical structure and rhythm of these sign genres of performance. The project is also developing the computing infrastructure and protocols necessary to create an archive of video materials related to the study of gesture and sign language, and to enable broader analysis by making these data as widely available as possible.

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## UCHICAGO RESEARCH TEAM

**Sian Beilock**, Professor, Department of Psychology

**Diane Brentari**, Professor, Department of Linguistics

**Anastasia Giannakidou**, Professor, Department of Linguistics

**Susan Goldin-Meadow**, Beardsley Ruml Distinguished Service Professor, Department of Psychology and Committee on Human Development

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## VISITING FELLOW

**Peter Cook**, Associate Professor, Department of ASL-English Interpretation, Columbia College Chicago; 2013–14 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow

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*“The opportunity to work under the auspices of the Neubauer Collegium has established a foundation for empirical research that cuts across the Humanities and Social Sciences Divisions, and legitimizes joint research that spans psychology, linguistics, and comparative human development.”*

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#### EVENTS

**March 10, 2014**  
 Performance Narrative  
 in Storytelling

The Center for Gesture, Sign, and Language and the Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society presented a talk by Peter Cook examining how nonverbal methods of storytelling speak equally to both deaf and hearing audiences, whether a story is told orally or through sign language. Cook also demonstrated that leaving out nonverbal forms of communication diminishes the humanity of storytelling.





# Cinematics across Boundaries: A Collaborative Study of Montage

**C**inematics is an open-access, interactive website designed to collect, store, and process scholarly data about films. Launched in 2005 as a digital tool to facilitate the analysis of film editing, Cinematics already has grown into an interdisciplinary forum on experimental methods in cinema studies, used regularly by hundreds of researchers from around the globe. Yet, although Cinematics provides an intense environment for online trafficking of data and ideas, its future as a field in humanities depends on face-to-face gathering of regular Cinematics contributors and principal collaborators in statistics and cultural production, and a thoughtful study of its place in the field.



In 2013–14 the project brought two Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellows to campus. Daria Khitrova, a specialist in poetry and dance with more recent scholarship in film studies, joined the project to contribute knowledge about how other meter-driven arts such as music, poetry, and dance are understood through measurement. Michael Baxter contributed on

the use of state-of-the-art statistical analysis in modern film studies. Working together, the research team added new shot-length data for 26 films, focusing on films released by the Keystone studio (arguably, the fastest-cut movies from the 1910s). The project published the papers “Evolution in Hollywood Editing Patterns?” and “Further Comments on Evolution in Hollywood Film: The Role of Models,” offering alternatives to critical theory on cinema’s evolution, and other publications were authored for later publication in *Mise au point* and elsewhere. In March 2014, the project convened a conference to examine how digital tools and statistical approaches to film analysis can be integrated into the larger field of cinema studies.

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## UCHICAGO RESEARCHER

**Yuri Tsivian**, William Colvin Professor, Department of Art History, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, Department of Comparative Literature, and Department of Cinema and Media Studies

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## VISITING FELLOWS

**Michael Baxter**, Emeritus Professor of Statistical Archaeology, School of Science and Technology, Nottingham Trent University, UK; 2013–14 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow

**Daria Khitrova**, Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Languages and Cultures, University of California, Los Angeles; 2013–14 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow

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## EVENTS

**March 1, 2014**

**A Numerate Film History?  
Cinematics Looks at Griffith,  
Sennett, and Chaplin  
(1909–1917)**

This one-day conference examined the possible promises—or traps—that emerge as a result of the encounter between century-old films and computational statistics. Conducted under the aegis of the Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society and cosponsored by the Film Studies Center, the conference featured presentations by UChicago Professors Tom Gunning (Cinema and Media Studies) and Yuri Tsivian and 2013–14 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellows Michael Baxter and Daria Khitrova.

## PUBLICATIONS

Mike Baxter, “Evolution in Hollywood Editing Patterns?”

[http://www.cinematics.lv/dev/  
Evolution\\_paper\\_for\\_Cinematics.pdf](http://www.cinematics.lv/dev/Evolution_paper_for_Cinematics.pdf)

Mike Baxter, “Further Comments on Evolution in Hollywood Film: The Role of Models”

[http://www.cinematics.lv/dev/Baxter\\_  
Cutting\\_and\\_cinematics.pdf](http://www.cinematics.lv/dev/Baxter_Cutting_and_cinematics.pdf)





# Game Changer Chicago Design Lab



**G**ame Changer Chicago (GCC) Design Lab is an initiative of the Center for Interdisciplinary Inquiry and Innovation in Sexual and Reproductive Health (Ci3) at the University of Chicago. Cofounded by Patrick Jagoda (Assistant Professor of English) and Melissa Gilliam (Professor of obstetrics/gynecology and pediatrics), GCC Design Lab creates workshops in which high school-age youth—recruited primarily from underserved schools on Chicago’s South Side—collaborate with faculty, staff, and fellows (undergraduate and graduate students in the humanities and arts) on digital stories, transmedia games, and new-media art projects. GCC Design Lab is both a maker-space and a research lab. As a maker-space, GCC Lab has a strong commitment to developing youth-led products, running game design workshops, and creating games for national and transnational dissemination. As a research lab, the project promotes continued work at the intersection of art, narrative, health, and technology with an eye to critical thinking and healthy social and emotional outcomes.

In 2013–14 the project refined strategies for practice-based research and overcoming barriers to cross-disciplinary collaboration. Through collaborative design and writing, the project developed a process to address such questions as: Can a digital game create empathy in young people? Can interactive narrative play change attitudes and behaviors regarding sexual violence? Can role playing increase civic engagement? GCC Lab has developed strong collaborations with Hive Learning Network organizations as well as many partners on the UChicago campus. In addition to work on a number of new and ongoing analog, video, and virtual reality games, 2014 also saw the launch of the Mobile Experiments Group, an initiative focused on the development of games for mobile platforms that have increasingly been adopted in recent years.

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## UCHICAGO RESEARCH TEAM

**Melissa Gilliam**, Professor of Obstetrics/Gynecology and Pediatrics, UChicago Medicine; Chief, Section of Family Planning and Contraceptive Research; Associate Dean for Diversity and Inclusion, Division of Biological Sciences; Director, Center for Interdisciplinary Inquiry and Innovation in Sexual and Reproductive Health (Ci3)

**Patrick Jagoda**, Assistant Professor, Department of English Language and Literature

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## EVENTS

### Summer 2013

#### Game Changer Chicago Design Lab: The Source

GCC Design Lab launched the Source, a five-week summer program for 140 high school youth combining game-based learning; skills in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); arts; civic engagement; urban issues; and digital badging. Participants were predominantly African American, came mostly from Chicago's South and West Sides, and 80 percent attended a Chicago public school. During the Source, young women were exposed to real-world applications of STEM. They attended workshops with career professionals in fields such as epidemiology, robotics, and circuit building. Each STEM topic was linked to social and health issues, such as reproductive health, youth violence, and bullying.

### February 4, 2014

#### Game Changer Chicago (GCC) Student Fellow Recruitment Open House

Ci3's GCC Design Lab held an open house to recruit a select number of new graduate and undergraduate students for its second cohort of Design Lab Fellows, starting in May 2014.

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## PUBLICATIONS

"Gaming the Humanities," *differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies* 25, no. 1 (2014): 189–215 (Jagoda P.)

"Fabulously Procedural: *Braid*, Historical Processing, and the Videogame Sensorium." *American Literature* 85, no. 4 (December 2013): 745–79 (Jagoda P.)

"Gamification and Other Forms of Play," *Boundary 2* 40, no. 2 (Summer 2013): 113–46 (Jagoda P.)





# Global Literary Networks

**G**lobal Literary Networks is a two-year digital humanities research project that examines the production, diffusion, and reception of literature on a macro-interpretative scale using tools of network analysis and network visualization. Combining large data sets, social scientific methods, and textual close reading, this project investigates the social dimensions of modernist literary history and aesthetics in the twentieth century by de-framing traditional literary categories—such as influence and dissemination—and introducing and adapting new categories from other disciplines. Using modernist poetry from the United States as the starting point, the project branches out to Japan, China, and Latin America to track the relation between modernist poetic activities in different national



contexts. The project brings together theoreticians and technicians from literary studies, sociology, computer science, statistics, and visual design to explore new approaches to the analysis, preservation, and presentation of “big data”; new-media platforms for processing, displaying, and disseminating digitally inflected work; and team-based scholarship.

Throughout 2013–14, the project developed a large digital corpus of modernist texts and bibliographic metadata and worked with programmers to design tools for text analysis. The project forged a partnership with the Shanghai Library to undertake a major digitization of Chinese literary and cultural

texts of the modern period, and collaborator Tom McEnaney secured a major grant from the Cornell University Library to vastly expand the scope of the Latin American side of the project. Together, these new data sources expand the corpus, bringing wider geographic and linguistic scope to the research.

In November, the project brought together experts of literary modernism, network analysis, network visualization, and database design for a two-day retreat to clarify a set of humanistic questions that could benefit from data-driven, social-scientific approaches and design a computational tool capable of isolating a single literary form (using haiku as a case study) and tracking its diffusion through a larger corpus of Anglo-American poetry. The methods worked out at the retreat became the basis for a longer research paper on the haiku meme currently being revised for publication. The public conference “Data as Critique” initiated a broader conversation with sociologists and other literary scholars about how new quantitative methods and new scales of evidence are changing the ways research is conducted in the humanities and social sciences.

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## UCHICAGO RESEARCH TEAM

**Hoyt Long**, Assistant Professor of Japanese Literature, Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations

**Richard So**, Assistant Professor, Department of English Language and Literature

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## EXTERNAL COLLABORATOR

**Tom McEnaney**, Assistant Professor, Department of Comparative Literature, Cornell University

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## EVENTS

**November 8-9, 2013**

### Global Literary Networks Fall Workshop

An intensive two-day workshop brought together specialists from several fields, including network visualization, network analysis, database design, statistical reasoning, and literary modernism.

*Invited participants included:*

**Jeremy Braddock**, Cornell University

**Peter Leonard**, Yale University

**Elijah Meeks**, Stanford University

**Scott Weingart**, Indiana University  
Bloomington

**May 9, 2014**

### Data as Critique: New Computational Approaches to the Study of Culture

This one-day conference brought together new scholarship on the history and sociology of global culture. The conference consisted of two sessions: one devoted to “networks” and the other focused on “texts.” Each session included three presentations, followed by a roundtable discussion led by two University of Chicago faculty.



*Participants included:*

**Michael Bourdaghs**, UChicago

**James Evans**, UChicago

**Frances Ferguson**, UChicago

**Jacob Foster**, University of California,  
Los Angeles

**Jennifer C. Lena**, Teachers College,  
Columbia University

**Hoyt Long**, UChicago

**Tom McEnaney**, Cornell University

**Andrew Piper**, McGill University

**Elizabeth Pontikes**, UChicago

**Richard So**, UChicago

**Dennis Tenen**, Columbia University

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*“The Data as Critique conference was a chance to exchange methodological notes, start a high-level conversation as to where the work of cultural historians and sociologists of culture might profitably intersect, and to think broadly about the epistemological assumptions of large-scale, data-driven approaches.”*



# Health and Human Rights in the Humanities: Building Capacity with Human Rights Principles

**T**his project aims to strengthen and consolidate an emerging program cluster on health and human rights by engaging faculty in the humanities and the Pritzker School of Medicine to address fundamental questions underlying the notion of health as a human right. Many things have been claimed to be a human right, a claim that indicates great moral significance, asserts heightened stakes, and calls for swift and decisive remedy. But which elements of health and health care qualify as a human right? Philosophers and practitioners approach these questions from distinct viewpoints. Through multiple campus discussions and a one-day conference during the 2014–15 AY, this project will seek greater precision on the application of human rights concepts to health and health care, including a philosophically grounded position on the question of who has the obligation to meet health care human rights.

During 2013–14, regular working group meetings expanded the project team to include Haun Saussy (Comparative Literature) and Brian Citro (International Human Rights Clinic, Law School). The committee initiated several research activities, from symposia on HIV in China and cholera in Haiti to codesigned curricula on Health and Human

Rights and on Healthcare and the Limits of State Action. In November 2013, Renslow Sherer (Medicine) met at the UChicago Center in Beijing with Cong Yali (director, Ethics Program at Beijing University) for a symposium on medical residency training at Peking Union Medical College and launched a partnership with Beijing University, Wuhan University, and Guangzhou University, including a new research survey on medical education at the four partner universities that will be used to reform curricula in medical schools in the human rights bases of courses in communication, ethics, and professionalism.

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## UCHICAGO RESEARCH TEAM

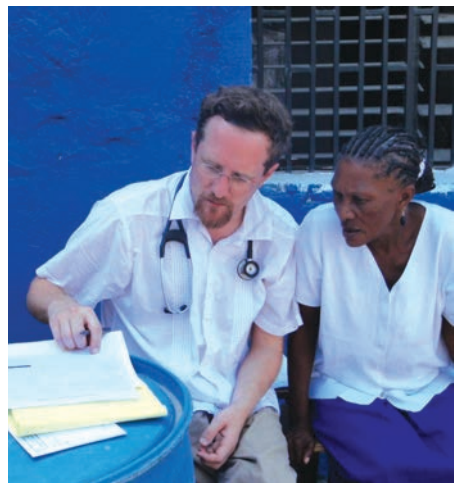
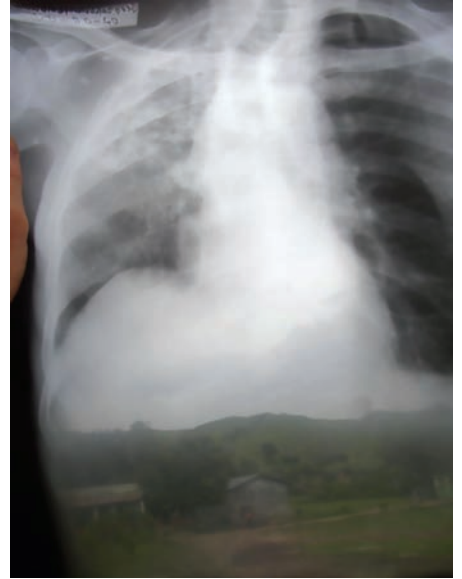
**Daniel Brudney**, Professor, Department of Philosophy; associate faculty, Divinity School; associate faculty, MacLean Center for Clinical Medical Ethics; co-chair, Human Rights Program

**Susan Gzesh**, Executive Director, Human Rights Program

**Evan Lyon**, Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine

**Renslow Sherer**, Professor, Department of Medicine

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# History, Philology, and the Nation in the Chinese Humanities

**H**istory writing in China often strikes US readers as nationalistic and therefore “out of step” with Euro-American common practice. Our assumption is rather that the historiographic conventions differ, and require a reading that engages, as do Chinese humanists, with philosophical questions drawn from both Chinese and non-Chinese traditions. Among the profound, long-term social particularities of the Chinese intelligentsia are an appreciation of philology and a ready circulation among disciplines usually kept separate in our academy: history, aesthetics, and metaphysics. We locate the maximal contrast in styles of understanding history in the currently influential scholarly movement known as “New National Studies” (Xin Guoxue). By engaging Chinese scholars through an ongoing series of short-term visiting scholarships, this project will sharpen our understanding of humanities and social scientific research being conducted in China today and help UChicago scholars reflect on the protocols and implicit frontiers of their own arguments.

The group of six participants gathered at the UChicago Center in Beijing in September 2013 for several days of small-group discussion about the questions that would guide the first of the project’s three years, culminating in a half-day public event attended by about 40 interested scholars (including graduate students) from neighboring universities. Then, from May to June 2014, Liu Dong, Ge Zhaoguang, Xie Shaobo, and Wang Min’an were Visiting Fellows at the Neubauer Collegium for sustained collaboration with the UChicago sponsors, taking as their theme the problem of “the nation.” What is a nation, in the various

historical and cultural traditions we can call upon? How far back, historically, and how deep, culturally, do differences in the conception of the nation go? At each weekly meeting, one of the principals took responsibility for examining a key text and positioning it in relation both to its original setting and to present-day debates.

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## UCHICAGO RESEARCH TEAM

**Judith Farquhar**, Max Palevsky Professor, Department of Anthropology and Committee on Conceptual and Historical Studies of Science

**Haun Saussy**, University Professor, Department of Comparative Literature

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## VISITING FELLOWS

**Ge Zhaoguang**, Director, National Institute for Advanced Humanistic Studies, Fudan University, Shanghai; 2013–16 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow

**Liu Dong**, Professor, Chinese and Philosophy, and vice dean, Academy of Traditional Chinese Learning, Tsinghua University, Beijing; 2013–16 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow

**Wang Min’an**, Professor of International Literature, Beijing Foreign Studies University; 2013–16 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow

**Xie Shaobo**, Associate Professor, Department of English, University of Calgary; 2013–16 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow

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## EVENTS

May 27, 2014

### History Writing and the Nation in Chinese and Euro-American Perspectives

UChicago Professors Judith Farquhar and Haun Saussy, along with University of Chicago China scholars and visiting scholars from Beijing, Shanghai, and Calgary, met to discuss the following questions: How does the writing of history construct a collective present? Do historiographical and interpretive traditions in Chinese and European languages appropriate the past in different ways? What objects, archives, or places constrain and configure collective memory? What frictions appear as we translate one civilization's history into another's? Each of the six members of the research team presented a case study in historical writing and discussed the comparative implications of reading history as a cultural process.



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*“Prior to the start of this project, the research group had not collaborated before, and the collaborative habits were not familiar to many of the participants’ scholarly practices. In this first year of a three-year project, much attention was given toward considering how various approaches to scholarship and writing should be modified to foster genuine cross-fertilization between several styles of humanistic historiography, to produce a lasting collaborative sphere between Chinese and North American scholars that has, in the past, been very difficult to achieve in the face of many differences of language, scholarly culture, and national agenda.”*



# Iraq's Intelligentsia under Siege: 1980–2012

**T**hree decades of war and external pressure in Iraq have led to the decimation of its university system and its intellectuals. What does it mean to be a scholar at war? Is humanistic inquiry during wartime possible? How has this downfall of Iraq's domestic university-level intellectual class—professors and university researchers—affected the country's social, military, and political spheres? These questions form the core of a yearlong analysis of Iraq's intellectual landscape since the start of the Iran-Iraq War in 1980, carrying the narrative through the sanctions period and 2003 invasion to the present day.

The destruction of Iraq's academic class has been an underreported yet grave phenomenon that holds serious implications for the country's—and the region's—future. This project represents an effort to capture this history through first-hand accounts, by interviewing Iraqi university professors and researchers in Iraq and in diaspora, to establish an audio archive of these stories at the University of Chicago Special Collections Research Center, and to publish an analysis on the demise of Iraq's intellectual class.

In August 2013, the research team met in Istanbul with five Iraqi professors who, over the coming months, would form the interview team. Over an intensive weeklong workshop, participants refined goals for the interviews with intellectuals in Iraq, ranging from how to encourage participation of female professors in Iraq to protocol for collecting informed consent, from strategies for maintaining confidentiality (both in Cloud-based file transfer and in long-term archiving of the transcribed and translated interviews) to developing a shared ethics framework that would guide the scope of interview content.

Despite the rapidly escalating security challenges over the months that followed, the project's interview team collected 90 oral histories with professors in Iraq. In a context in which direct commentary on current events is dangerous, many of the interviewees presented an image of an academic culture that used poetry readings, political clubs, and criticisms of neighboring countries that share political characteristics with Iraq—a vibrant, if sometimes indirect, intellectual class. From these interviews, several articles are already in progress, targeting both academic and popular outlets.

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#### UCHICAGO RESEARCH TEAM

**Orit Bashkin**, Professor of Modern Middle Eastern History, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations

**Tom Ginsburg**, Leo Spitz Professor of International Law, Ludwig and Hilde Wolf Research Scholar, Professor of Political Science, and deputy dean, Law School

**Matthew Schweitzer**, Dean's Scholar; research assistant, Department of History (principal research assistant)

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#### EXTERNAL COLLABORATORS

**Sawsan Al-Assaf**, Peace Building-Academy for the Middle East, Beirut, and Barcelona; former Senior Lecturer, University of Baghdad

**Saad N. Jawad**, Senior Visiting Fellow, Middle East Centre, London School of Economics and Political Science; former Professor of Political Science, University of Baghdad

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## EVENTS

**October 23, 2013**

### Lessons from the US War in Iraq: 10 Years after the Invasion

A panel discussion addressed the issue of the lasting legacy of the Iraq war, 10 years later. What went wrong? What went right? What lessons should be gleaned from the conflict? And what impact will the war have on the long-term prospects for the people of Iraq—and for US interests in the region?

This event was presented by the UChicago Institute of Politics and co-sponsored by the University of Chicago Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society, the Center for International Studies Norman Wait Harris Fund, and the Committee on International Relations.

### *Participants included:*

**Peter Slevin** (moderator), journalist; Associate Professor, Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications, Northwestern University

**Ali Adeeb Al Naemi**, Iraqi journalist and former news editor, *New York Times* Baghdad Bureau

**James Jeffrey**, former US ambassador to Iraq

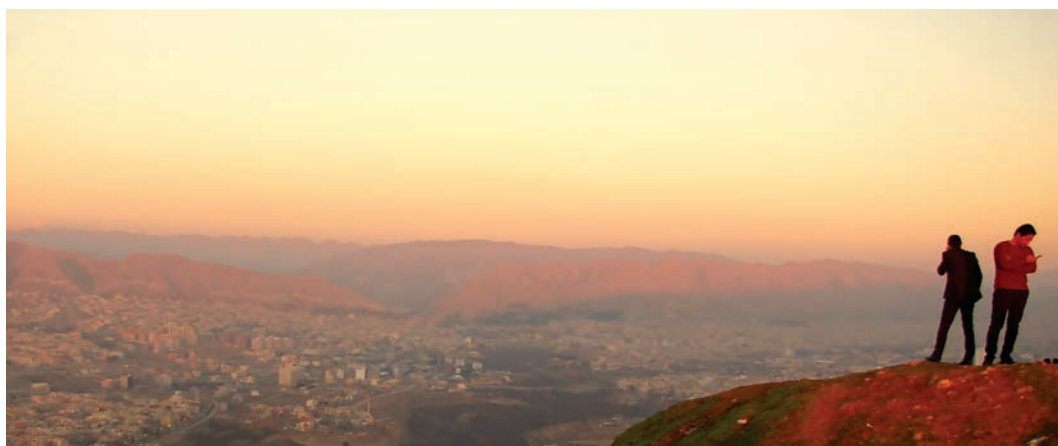
**Peter Mansoor**, retired US Army colonel; Associate Professor and General Raymond E. Mason Jr. Chair in Military History, Department of History, Ohio State University

**Kenneth Pollack**, author and former CIA intelligence analyst

**Emma Sky**, former political adviser to US General Ray Odierno

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*“None of this work would have been possible without the vision of the Neubauer Collegium, which took a chance on a project that did not fit conventional academic categories. As our academic project comes to fruition over the next couple years, we hope to show that this was a bet worth making.”*





# Material Matters

Since Pablo Picasso's inclusion of printed oilcloth and rope in his *Still Life with Chair Caning* (1912), and Marcel Duchamp's mounting of a bicycle wheel on a stool for his first assisted readymade (1913), the diversity of materials used in art has exploded. Nothing, perhaps, distinguishes twentieth-century art more from prior art than its materials. Yet their significance—if, when, and how these materials matter and what they mean—has not been seriously addressed in art history. Such an effort entails, for example, considering a material's exact scientific makeup, its nature as shapeable matter or found commodity, its historical and cultural meanings or transcendence thereof, its tactile as opposed to merely visual appeal or use, its manner of being worked, its existence in time and possible demise, its function in shaping and withdrawing monetary or cultural value, and its very role in shaping the identity and definition of art. This surprising lacuna results most obviously from the peculiar conjunction of discipline-specific and interdisciplinary expertise required to address these issues.

One of the project's main undertakings in 2013–14 was a material investigation of Wolf Vostell's *Concrete Traffic* (1970), a monumental sculpture of great art historical significance that is part of the University of Chicago's campus art collection. This involved the examination of archival materials—including a previously unknown 16mm film of the making of *Concrete Traffic*—held at the Getty Research Institute in Los Angeles, the Archives of American Art in Washington, DC, the Vostell Archive in Malpartida, Spain, the Zentralarchiv des Internationalen Kunsthandels in Cologne, Germany, and the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, where the sculpture was created. Project scholars also located and interviewed key

individuals involved in the initial fabrication of *Concrete Traffic*.

With assistance from Matthew Tirrell, Pritzker Director of the Institute for Molecular Engineering and dean of the faculty of Molecular Engineering, who has joined the project's advisory board, and from conservation scientists at Northwestern University, an assessment is under way to test the applicability of nano-technology as part of a conservation plan for *Concrete Traffic*, a preliminary version of which has been presented to the newly formed Committee on Campus Art Work.

Christine Mehring (Art History), in collaboration with fellow UChicago faculty Bill Brown (English, Visual Arts) and Jessica Stockholder (Visual Arts), drafted a proposed institutional rationale for public art on the UChicago campus, which is slated for publication on the Critical Inquiry website in conjunction with Theaster Gates and W.J.T. Mitchell's 2014–15 Neubauer Collegium project Art and Public Life.

Material Matters is undertaken in partnership with the Richard and Mary L. Gray Center for Arts and Inquiry.

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## UCHICAGO RESEARCH TEAM

**Alice Kain**, Campus Art Coordinator,  
Smart Museum of Art

**Christine Mehring**, Professor and chair,  
Department of Art History

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## VISITING FELLOW

**Christian Scheidemann**, Senior Conservator  
and President, Contemporary Conservation  
Ltd., New York; 2013–14 Neubauer Collegium  
Visiting Fellow

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## EVENTS

**October 18, 2013**

### Concrete Traffic—Workshop 2

The second of three workshops on the process of returning Wolf Vostell's public sculpture *Concrete Traffic* (1970) from offsite storage to the UChicago campus. Participants continued the discussions started at the first workshop (held on June 6, 2012) concerning the meanings of concrete as an artistic material and began to develop plans for the structural stabilization, conservation, and eventual siting of the sculpture.

**May 16, 2014**

### Concrete Traffic—Workshop 3

In the last of three workshops to inform the future care and treatment of *Concrete Traffic* (1970), a team of experts from across a broad spectrum of professional fields gathered to assess the structural integrity of the work and to determine a plan for its stabilization and conservation.

*Participants included:*

**Bill Brown**, UChicago

**Joshua Freedland**, Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc., Chicago

**Alice Kain**, UChicago

**Elka Krajewska**, Salvage Art Institute, New York

**John Lawler**, Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc., Northbrook, IL

**Christine Mehring**, UChicago

**Stephen Murphy**, Richard Driehaus Collection, Chicago Vintage Motor Carriage

**James O'Hara**, School of Art, Northern Arizona University

**Jacob Proctor**, UChicago

**Chris Rockey**, Rockey Structures LLC, and Illinois Institute of Technology

**Christian Scheidemann**, Contemporary Conservation Ltd., New York

**Lisa Zaher**, UChicago

**May 19, 2014**

### Christian Scheidemann Lecture

In collaboration with the Open Practice Committee in the Department of Visual Arts, Visiting Fellow Christian Scheidemann presented a public lecture on his practical experience and philosophical engagement with the conservation of works of contemporary art that employ unconventional materials.

The event was cosponsored by the Neubauer Collegium, the Open Practice Committee, the Department of Art History, and the Department of Visual Arts.



## PUBLICATIONS

Christine Mehring's article "Material Matters: Wolf Vostell's Concrete" was accepted for publication in the 2016 special issue of *Art History* devoted to "Material Practice and Critical Consciousness in Postwar European Art, 1946–1971."



# Signs of Writing: The Cultural, Social, and Linguistic Contexts of the World's First Writing Systems

**S**igns of Writing is a three-year research project designed to investigate, from a comparative and interdisciplinary perspective, the cultural and social contexts and structural properties of the world's oldest writing systems. Particular emphasis is placed on the four primary, or pristine, writing systems from Mesopotamia, China, Egypt, and Mesoamerica, looking at the similarities and differences in the archaeological and paleographic records across regions and the psycholinguistic processes by which humans first made language visible. Organized broadly around the linguistic, social, and cultural contexts of early writing, the project examines a broad range of topics, including the origins and structure of writing systems; the relationship between speech and writing; reading and cognition; the adaptation of writing systems and bilingualism; scribal transmission and education; literacy; the materiality and archaeological contexts of writing; and the rise of literature. Taking a comparative approach, the project aims to not only shed light on individual written traditions and writing systems, but also to contribute substantially to the ongoing discussions surrounding the nature of written language, its relationship to speech, and the linguistic and cultural processes by which writing evolved.

Project activities in 2013–14 revolved primarily around laying the intellectual, collaborative, and logistical foundations for the following two years. The year began with a series of biweekly organizational and exploratory meetings in Autumn Quarter with interested faculty and academic staff. These were followed, at the end of that quarter and in Winter Quarter, by informal and formal presentations on a variety of topics of cross-cultural interest to the study of writing systems, including presentations by visitors David Lurie (Columbia University) and Alex de Voogt (American Museum of Natural History).

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## UCHICAGO RESEARCH TEAM

**Edward Shaughnessy**, Lorraine J. and Herrlee G. Creel Distinguished Service Professor in Early Chinese Studies, Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations; Director, Creel Center for Chinese Paleography

**Christopher Woods**, Associate Professor of Sumerian, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations

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EVENTS

**October 21, 2013**

Hearing the Image, Squaring the Circle:  
China Learns to Write

Edward Shaughnessy, UChicago

**February 5, 2014**

The World's First Data Storage System?  
New Light on an Administrative Device from  
the Dawn of Writing in the Ancient Near East  
Christopher Woods, UChicago

**February 21, 2014**

Toward a General History  
of Writing: Thinking with  
Innis and Gelb

David B. Lurie, Columbia University

**February 24, 2014**

Sub-Saharan Scripts and Their  
System of Writing: Two Centuries  
of Transmission

Alex de Voogt, American Museum  
of Natural History, New York





# The State as History and Theory

**A**s the state's role has diminished in the face of privatization and globalization, from multiple directions there has been a resurgence of interest in forms of governance and organized power that do not resemble the unified sovereign state that is at the center of dominant scholarly traditions of political analysis and theory. This wave of empirical inquiry and theoretical debate is visible across history, sociology, and political science, spurring multiple forms of cross-disciplinary collaboration. This project aims to fuse these collaborations toward a focused and generative debate on the state as history and theory.



What is necessary is a reconciling of the realistic institutional paradigm predominating in the scholarship on the state with the requirements of everyday politics and democratic political theory—in short, a theory of the democratic state.

The academic year 2013–14 mobilized disparate scholarly networks and focused them on the problems at the center of the project, yielding several completed as well as in-progress manuscripts, some of which have already been accepted for publication. It also sustained several public and private manuscript-centered events supporting these, ranging from intimate manuscript workshops to a highly publicized lecture by an eminent scholar, several coordinated panels at the November 2013 Social Science History Association meeting, and a major on-campus conference aimed at pulling together a new synthesis of the field in a landmark edited volume. Less tangibly but perhaps more essentially, the project succeeded in fostering intellectual growth and innovation for individual participants and for the collaborating group as a whole.

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## UCHICAGO RESEARCH TEAM

**Elisabeth Clemens**, William Rainey Harper Professor and chair, Department of Sociology

**Bernard Harcourt**, Professor, Department of Political Science; Julius Kreeger Professor of Law

**James Sparrow**, Associate Professor of US History, Department of History

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## VISITING FELLOW

**Stephen Sawyer**, Stephen Sawyer, Associate Professor and chair, History Department, American University of Paris; 2013–14 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow

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## EVENTS

**May 15–17, 2014**

### Many Hands of the State

This three-day conference brought together sociologists, political scientists, legal scholars, and historians for a collective retheorization of the democratic state while retaining the historicized

and contextualized treatments that have proliferated in the last few decades. It featured many speakers from across the country and abroad and was hosted by UChicago Professors Elisabeth Clemens, Bernard Harcourt, and James Sparrow; Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow Stephen Sawyer; Ann Orloff (Northwestern University); and Kimberly Morgan (George Washington University).





# The Voice Project

**T**he Voice Project was initiated in 2013–14 by an interdisciplinary group of faculty members at the University of Chicago keen to explore how voice has come to serve as the vector of numerous questions—philosophical, theoretical, medial, and material—that have pressed on current-day disciplines in the humanities and social sciences, including performance studies, film and media studies, philosophies of language and the body, phenomenology, gender studies, psychology, literary studies, anthropology, biology, and neuroscience. Over the last 20 years, these questions have formed part of a broader tendency away from textual orientations and metaphysical philosophies toward the material and embodied nature of voice. They have also swept in new media and technologies that have profoundly affected artistic expression, our sense of living in our bodies, and our attempts to measure, fix, and stabilize them. This project aims to refine a long-term research agenda to develop new engagements with voice that encompass equally theories and practices of voice and put them into productive dialogues.

The Voice Project did most of its work in a faculty seminar that met three times in spring of 2013 and then 13 times in AY 2013–14. The project initially focused on confronting a challenge that the voice is understood very differently depending upon the disciplinary perspective from which it is considered, and the most important work during its initial months consisted of building communicative bridges between disciplinary and interdisciplinary traditions that have had little ability to talk to one another about voice, specifically in developing ways to put high theory and vernacular practices into dialogue. These faculty seminars launched a wide-ranging,

sustained, interdisciplinary investigation into the voice, exploring it from the standpoints of cinema studies, philosophy, musicology, psychoanalysis, and literary studies. Key mediators in this effort have been technologies of voice (e.g., the perspicuous vocal mechanisms and timbres of given speakers and singers), its historical and physical contingencies, its dislocations (voices thrown, channeled, ventriloquized, or shifted through medical interventions), its ownerships and ways of being owned, and its uncanny effects.

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## UCHICAGO RESEARCH TEAM

**Martha Feldman**, Mabel Greene Myers Professor of Music and the Humanities, Department of Music

**David Levin**, Addie Clark Harding Professor, Department of Germanic Studies, Department of Cinema and Media Studies, and Committee on Theater and Performance Studies; Director, Gray Center for Arts and Inquiry

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## UCHICAGO PROJECT COLLABORATORS

**Seth Brodsky**, Assistant Professor of Music and the Humanities

**Daniel M. Callahan**, Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Music and the Humanities

**James Chandler**, Barbara E. & Richard J. Franke Distinguished Service Professor, Department of English Language and Literature; Department of Cinema and Media Studies; Director, Franke Institute for the Humanities; Co-Director, Scherer Center for the Study of American Culture

**Xinyu Dong**, Assistant Professor, Department of Cinema and Media Studies

**Frances Ferguson**, Ann L. and Lawrence B. Buttenwieser Professor, Department of English Language and Literature

**Tom Gunning**, Edwin A. and Betty L. Bergman Distinguished Service Professor, Department of Art History, Department of Cinema and Media Studies

**James Lastra**, Associate Professor, Department of Cinema and Media Studies, Department of English Language and Literature

**Gabriel Richardson Lear**, Professor, Department of Philosophy

**Sarah Nooter**, Assistant Professor, Department of Classics

**Marcelle Pierson**, PhD candidate in music history and theory, Department of Music; graduate research intern, The Voice Project

**Steven Rings**, Associate Professor, Department of Music

**Neil Verma**, Harper-Schmidt Fellow, Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts, and Collegiate Assistant Professor, Division of the Humanities

**Candace Vogler**, David B. and Clara E. Stern Professor and chair, Department of Philosophy

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

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#### EXTERNAL COLLABORATOR

**Mladen Dolar**, Senior Research Fellow, Department of Philosophy, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

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#### EVENTS

**October 19, 2013**

**How to Hear an Unheard Voice: Explorations in Improbable Listening**  
Humanities Day presentation by Martha Feldman



In the absence of sound, interior listening mediated by imagination, intellect, memory, wonder, desire, and virtually involuntary physical impulses helps us imagine voices we cannot hear. This talk examined how these can be deployed in conjunction with hard acoustic and anecdotal evidence in an effort to recover something of the lost voices of castrated male singers, who from the sixteenth through nineteenth centuries laid the foundations of Western art singing.

**March 13, 2014**

**Graduate Conference on “Voice: Subjective, Material, Abstract”**

Martha Feldman and Steven Rings presented on “Inside Out: The Voice Interior of Jeff Buckley” at a conference cosponsored by the Departments of Music and Germanic Studies at the University of Chicago.

**May 2–3, 2014**

**Symposium on the Voice**

Workshop presentations were given by Nina Eidsheim (University of California, Los Angeles), James Q. Davies (University of California, Berkeley), as well as Martha Feldman and David Levin. The Department of Music also held a colloquium with guest Richard Leppert (University of Minnesota) speaking about “Phonography and Operatic Fidelities (Regimes of Musical Listening, 1904–1929).”



# What Are Arab Jewish Texts?

## Texts and Questions of Context

**T**his project, organized by Orit Bashkin in partnership with Walid Saleh from the University of Toronto, explores how Jewish political thought and literature were transformed in the medieval and modern periods as a result of their interactions with Muslim and Arab cultures. Organized around themes of the Arab Jewish imaginary, printed Arab Jewish cultures, and construction of the Arab Jewish self, the collaboration engaged historians and literary scholars, novelists, and poets from the United States, Europe, and the Middle East in an intensive three-day conference in March 2014 with the goal of publishing an anthology of translated and original works of literature by, and about, Jews who lived in Muslim societies, and examining whether such a collection and the categories the conveners proposed make sense in the state of the field of Middle Eastern studies today.

The conference covered both the medieval and modern periods, thus problematizing narratives of rise and decline, and the definitions of certain periods as “golden ages.” Participants discussed a series of key texts written by Jewish intellectuals

and translated by the participants. The texts discussed included travel narratives, translations of the Bible into Arabic, Geniza documents, works of medieval literary theory, and texts reflecting the Arabic genres that Jewish authors mimicked, altered, and hybridized within their literary creations. Other participants looked at works of Jewish journalists in Arabic, short stories, and cinematic works to reflect on notions of Arab Jewish subjectivities and the interactions of their authors with Muslim and Christian friends, colleagues, and fellow intellectuals.

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### UCHICAGO RESEARCHER

**Orit Bashkin**, Professor of Modern Middle Eastern History, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations

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### EXTERNAL COLLABORATOR

**Walid Saleh**, Associate Professor, Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations and Department for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto

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## EVENTS

**March 4–6, 2014**

### Arab Jewish Texts Conference

This three-day conference explored how Jewish political thought and literature were transformed in the medieval and modern periods as a result of their interactions with Muslim and Arab cultures.

*Participants included:*

**Orit Bashkin**, UChicago  
**Ross Brann**, Cornell University  
**Hillel Cohen**, Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
**Jonathan Gribetz**, Rutgers University  
**Hanan Harif**, Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
**Benjamin Hary**, Emory University

**Galit Hasan-Rokem**, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

**Uri Horesh**, Northwestern University

**Martin Jacobs**, Washington University in St. Louis

**Roxani Margariti**, Emory University

**Chana Morgenstern**, Brown University

**Walid Ahmad Saleh**, University of Toronto

**Zainab Saleh**, Haverford College

**Mati Shemoelof**, Israeli writer and editor

**Deborah Starr**, Cornell University

**Ronny Vollandt**, Freie Universität Berlin

The conference was funded by the Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society with support from the Franke Institute for the Humanities, the Center for Jewish Studies, and the Center for Middle Eastern Studies.



# Working Group on Comparative Economics

**E**merging around a coalescence of research interests in the comparative economic analysis of historical societies from ancient times to the modern period, the Working Group on Comparative Economics brings together faculty from Classics, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Anthropology, Economics, History, Political Science, and the Booth School of Business for a two-year program of activities. Monthly faculty meetings, quarterly visiting lecturers, and an annual conference address themes of shared interest in comparative economics, including the structure of economic firms, taxation, long-distance trade, forms and uses of money, and the economics of slavery. Activities are designed to clarify conceptual and empirical issues in a way that will promote and enrich cross-disciplinary faculty research and quickly disseminate results through e-publication of a new working paper series.

In 2013–14, the project convened a series of workshops addressing one question: that of the “Boundaries of the Firm,” a locus classicus of the New Institutional Economics theory for the modern “capitalist” world. Organized around this common concern, the workshop series broke with traditional boundaries between disciplines, bringing together people who, given the high degree of specialization required for disciplinary research, commonly do not talk to each other. When does a social organization resort to the firm system (i.e., to a system based on a vertical hierarchy of command internal to the organization)? And when does it resort to contract (i.e., to an egalitarian form of relationship, where two partners decide on their mutual obligations on a free basis)? Are the two systems exclusive of each other, in the modern world? And is this approach in “firm” or “contract” relevant for societies other than that of the modern era?

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## UCHICAGO RESEARCH TEAM

**Alain Bresson**, Robert O. Anderson  
Distinguished Service Professor, Department of Classics

**David Schloen**, Associate Professor of Syro-Palestinian Archaeology, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations

**E. Glen Weyl**, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics

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## EVENTS

### The Boundaries of the Firm: A Comparative Approach 2013–14 Workshop Series

This yearlong series of workshops explored the boundaries of the “firm” as a concept useful for analyzing the various historical forms in which economic production and distribution have been organized and coordinated.

### November 6, 2013 Organizations Past, Present, and Future: A View from Organizational Economics

Robert Gibbons (Massachusetts Institute of Technology); with shorter presentations by Cam Hawkins (UChicago) on “Transaction Costs, Professional Associations, and the Organization of Manufacturing Enterprises in the Roman World” and Gary Herrigel (UChicago) on “Global Quality Manufacturing.”

**November 20, 2013**

**Firms, Friends or Family? Organizing  
a Business in Ancient Rome**

Koen Verboven (University of Ghent);  
with shorter presentations by Paul Cheney  
(UChicago) on “The Allocation of Capital:  
Technical Efficiency versus Strategic Autarky  
on the Eighteenth-Century Sugar Plantation”  
and Glen Weyl (UChicago) on “Narratives  
and Signaling at Work.”

**December 4, 2013**

**What Could It Mean to Talk about the  
Theory of the Firm in Historical Context?**

Charles F. Sabel (Columbia Law School);  
with shorter presentations by Matthew Stolper  
(UChicago) and Ioana Marinescu (UChicago)  
on “Economic Development and the  
Formalization of Work in the Modern World.”

**January 29, 2014**

**The Domestic and Institutional Economy:  
A View from Mesoamerica**

Kenneth Gale Hirth (Pennsylvania State  
University); with a shorter presentation by  
Alessandra Voena (UChicago) on “Land Rights  
and the Agricultural Firm-Household in  
Rural Zambia.”

**February 19, 2014**

**The Clan and the City: Sustaining  
Cooperation in China and Europe**

Avner Greif (Stanford University); with a  
shorter presentation by Ken Pomeranz  
(UChicago) on “Corporate Villages?  
Property Rights and Community Membership  
in the Late Imperial and Twentieth-Century  
Yangzi Delta.”

**March 5, 2014**

**‘We must correspond with the slaves in  
order to gather news’: Slavery and Agency  
Inside the Nineteenth-Century Saharan  
Commercial House of ‘Isa b. Hmida  
al-Ghadamisi in Timbuktu**

Bruce Hall (Duke University); with a shorter  
presentation by William Sewell (UChicago)  
on “The Ecology of Firms in the Eighteenth-  
Century Lyonnais Silk Industry.”



**April 15, 2014**

**The Boundaries of the Firm Symposium**

This symposium presented talks on the role of  
the global environment in the definition of  
institutions based on three different dossiers.  
Jessica Goldberg (University of California, Los  
Angeles) presented “Reconsidering Risk and  
the ‘Maghribi Traders’: Business Organization  
and the Economy in the Eleventh-Century  
Mediterranean”; Ulrike Malmendier (University  
of California, Berkeley) presented “The  
Evolution of Organizations in Ancient Rome:  
The Political and Legal Environment”; and  
Aldo Musacchio (Harvard Business School)  
presented “New Varieties of State Capitalism.”



## Working Group on Political Theology

Scholarly literature suggests two reasons for the recent reemergence of political theology across the social sciences and humanities, challenging what many thought was an outdated modality of inquiry. The first is a growing concern that the practical and theoretical subordination of politics to a service function for markets, which goes hand in hand with an isolation of individuals, deprives human beings of their potential to shape their future in collaboration with others. The second is a suspicion that the research orientation of much contemporary social science remains beholden to a positivist epistemology that can describe and analyze what already exists and thus (at least unwittingly) supports the subordination of politics by underplaying the creative potential of human beings to reimagine more satisfying lives in the company of others. Political theology promises to address these concerns by wondering about the orientation of politics to guiding values and by searching for enduring historical influence of theological ideas on political concepts and the formation of political institutions. This project brings faculty from Classics, Political Science, Sociology, Anthropology, Divinity, Germanic Studies, and English Language and Literature together with invited visiting scholars for biweekly workshops to define and refine a coherent agenda for a long-term, trans-disciplinary research project on political theology.

The main activity of the project in 2013–14 was a series of eight faculty seminars to discuss papers by six of the working group participants and two invited visitors and to define an agenda for a major academic conference scheduled for December 2014 on the theme “Beyond Political Theology.” The global resurgence of religiously motivated politics has challenged the “enlightened” conclusion that public life would increasingly be organized along nonreligious lines. Theophilic critics charge that the promise of liberation offered by secular politics has reduced human beings to economic pawns and thwarted their potential to shape a substantively fulfilling future in collaboration with others. Conversely, defenders of the enlightenment narrative contend that fundamentalisms of any stripe not only inhibit cooperation across communities with distinct identities, but also unleash forces that corrode salutary modern institutions. The recurrent apotheosis of apparently secular social forms has shown the difficulty of banishing appeals to some form of absolute from the political realm. Is the citation of transcendent authority in whatever form always potentially threatening to collective decision making? Or can we (should we?) arrive at mutual accommodations between political theology and democratic community?

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UCHICAGO RESEARCH TEAM

**Clifford Ando**, David B. and Clara E. Stern Professor of Classics, History and the Law School; Co-Director of the Center for the Study of Ancient Religions

**Julie Cooper**, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science

**Andreas Glaeser**, Professor, Department of Sociology

**Michèle Lowrie**, Professor, Department of Classics

**William Mazzarella**, Professor, Department of Anthropology

**John P. McCormick**, Professor, Department of Political Science

**Omar McRoberts**, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology

**Paul Mendes-Flohr**, Dorothy Grant Maclear Professor of Modern Jewish History and Thought, Divinity School; associate faculty, Department of History

**Eric Santner**, Philip and Ida Romberg Distinguished Service Professor in Modern Germanic Studies, Department of Germanic Studies

**Eric Slauter**, Associate Professor, Department of English Language and Literature; Director, Scherer Center for the Study of American Culture

**Lisa Wedeen**, Mary R. Morton Professor, Department of Political Science; Co-Director, Chicago Center for Contemporary Theory





# A Worldwide Literature: Jāmī (1414–1492) in the Dār al-Islām and Beyond

**T**his project aimed to develop a long-term research agenda capable of approaching transformative intellectual trends in the postclassical Muslim tradition by studying the reception of the works of polymath ‘Abd al-Rāḥman Jāmī (1414–92), one of the most widely read authors in the Eurasian continent between his lifetime and the early modern period. Ambitious in its theoretical aims and grounded in creative philological approaches, this project endeavored to provide answers to crucial questions largely neglected by Islamic historiography.

The vernacular Islamic literary traditions that emerged from the Balkans to Indonesia in the ninth to fifteenth centuries occasioned a flourishing of translations, adaptations, and commentaries, together forming a corpus diverse in theme and literary style. Within this context, to provide a comprehensive analysis on the impact of Jāmī’s work and reception required gathering together a team of scholars capable of addressing the diverse disciplines encompassed in the oeuvre. A November 2013 conference at the University of Chicago Center in Paris launched a collaboration between scholars that, over the months that followed, developed a comprehensive bibliography of Jāmī’s manuscripts held around the world and engaged in collective analysis of the texts, facilitated in part by the project’s new online collection of digitized manuscripts with indices and concordances. A workshop at the University of Chicago in May 2014 brought the analyses into sharper focus, enabling participants to gather feedback from faculty and student attendees and refine their analyses, which will be published in the series *Handbuch der Orientalistik* (HdO, Brill, fall 2015) as a handbook on the diffusion and reception of Jāmī’s work, marking an

important contribution to new methodological approaches toward a cultural history of South Asia that transcends longstanding boundaries between “classical” or “high” traditions, and “low” traditions usually associated with the realm of the vernacular.

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## UCHICAGO RESEARCH TEAM

**Thibaut D’Hubert**, Assistant Professor,  
Department of South Asian Languages and  
Civilizations

**Alexandre Papas**, Research Fellow, National  
Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), Paris

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## EVENTS

**November 14–15, 2013**

**A Worldwide Literature: Jāmī (1414–1492)  
in the Dār al-Islām and Beyond**

An international conference hosted  
at the Chicago Center in Paris and the  
Collège de France.

*Participants included:*

**Muzaffar Alam**, UChicago

**Hamid Algar**, University of California, Berkeley

**Thibaut D’Hubert**, UChicago

**Eve Feuillebois**, Université Sorbonne  
Nouvelle—Paris 3

**Rebecca Gould**, Yale-NUS College, Singapore

**Ayesha A. Irani**, University of Toronto  
Mississauga

**Ralph Kauz**, University of Bonn

**Alexey A. Khismatulin**, Institute of Oriental  
Manuscripts, Russian Academy of Sciences,  
St. Petersburg

**Justine Landau**, Institute of Iranian Studies,  
Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna

**Franklin Lewis**, UChicago  
**Chad G. Lingwood**, Grand Valley State University  
**Paul Losensky**, Indiana University Bloomington  
**Mohamad Nasrin Nasir**, Islamic Science University of Malaysia  
**Luther Obrock**, University of California, Berkeley  
**Ertuğrul Ökten**, Sabancı University, Istanbul  
**Alexandre Papas**, CNRS, Paris  
**Ryan Perkins**, University of Oxford  
**Francis Richard**, Bibliothèque Universitaire des Langues et Civilisations, Paris  
**Florian Schwarz**, Institute of Iranian Studies, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna  
**Sunil Sharma**, Boston University  
**Yiming Shen**, University of London  
**Marc Toutant**, Centre d'Études Turques, Ottomanes, Balkaniques et Centrasiatiques, Paris/École Française, Tashkent  
**Mikko Viitamäki**, University of Helsinki/École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris  
**Paul Wormser**, Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales, Paris

The conference was sponsored by the Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society, the University of Chicago Center in Paris, the Centre d'Études Turques, Ottomanes, Balkaniques et Centrasiatiques, and the CNRS Joint Research Unit Mondes Iranien et Indien.

**April 1, 2014**  
 Writing Trans-Regional Intellectual History and the Rediscovery of Early Modern Indo-Persian Philology

Workshop participants presented and discussed the development of a handbook on the conception and reception of the oeuvre of polymath, 'Abd al-Rāḥman Jāmī and introduced a new online corpus of South Asian commentaries on Jāmī's works. Presenters included Thibaut D'Hubert (University of Chicago), Alexandre Papas (CNRS, Paris), and Sunil Sharma (Boston University).



Courtesy of the Bnf - Jāmī, *Tuhfat al-ahrar*, Bnf supp. persan 547, fol. 17.



# Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellows

## Michael Baxter

2013–14 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow,  
**Cinemetrix across Boundaries:  
A Collaborative Study of Montage**



Mike Baxter is Emeritus Professor of statistical archaeology in the School of Science and Technology at Nottingham Trent University and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London. His interest in statistics in archaeology arose from a marriage between what began as a leisure interest in archaeology and the subject of his university studies, statistics. This culminated in two years working full-time in archaeology after completing his PhD before returning to the statistical fold. About 80 of his more than 100 publications are in the field of statistical archaeology, including two books. His recent interest in cinemetrix stems from two periods of enforced convalescence. The first involved watching a lot of silent films, reawakening an earlier interest in the subject; the second involved reading a lot of books about silent film. In the course of the latter, he was fascinated to discover that statistics could be applied to quantified data derived from film and that it had a name: cinemetrix. He has subsequently written several papers on the subject, contributing to discussions on the Cinemetrix website about such applications.

## Mathieu Caesar

2013–15 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow



Mathieu Caesar is Maître Assistant in medieval history at the University of Geneva and a member of the editorial board of the multilingual

*Critical Glossary on Medieval Taxation*. In recent years, his research interests were centered on communes and their administration in the late medieval period, focusing on the city of Geneva and the small towns of the duchy of Savoy. He has treated these topics in his recent articles and PhD dissertation (published by Brepols under the title *Le pouvoir en ville*). As a 2013–15 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow, in collaboration with the Swiss National Science Foundation, Caesar is undertaking new research on European urban factions and their political languages during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Dealing with a large variety of archival sources, including approximately 50 criminal trials involving some 150 people, this study aims to examine the ideological motives of partisanship and the urban political society through the in-depth analysis of Geneva's factional struggles on the eve of the Reformation (1513–36). On March 3, 2014, Caesar presented his research to the University of Chicago's Early Modern Workshop.

## Peter Cook

2013–14 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow,  
**The Body's Role in Thinking, Performing,  
and Referencing**



Peter S. Cook is Associate Professor in the Department of ASL-English Interpretation at Columbia College Chicago and an internationally known deaf performing artist whose work incorporates American Sign Language, pantomime, storytelling, acting, and movement. Cook worked at Columbia from 1993 to 1998 and began working again in the Department of ASL-English Interpretation full-time in 2006. Since 1986, Cook has traveled extensively, both nationally and internationally, with

Flying Words Project partner Kenny Lerner to perform their ASL poetry and promote ASL literature. He has appeared on *Alive from Off Center's* "Words in Your Face" and *United States of Poetry* (PBS), both of which were produced by Emmy Award winner Bob Holman. Cook has been featured nationally in numerous festivals and was invited to the White House to join the National Book Festival. Internationally, Cook has worked with deaf storytellers/poets in Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and Japan.

### Issam Eido

2013–14 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow



During the 2013–14 academic year, Issam Eido was a Visiting Instructor of Islamic studies and Arabic in the University of Chicago

Divinity School. Eido's research focuses on the Qur'an in late antiquity, Hadith studies, and Sufi and Arabic literary and poetic studies. A 2010 PhD graduate of Damascus University, he also served that institution from 2010 to 2012 as Lecturer in the Department of Qur'anic Studies and History of Islamic Sciences. In 2012 he was a Fellow of the Europe in the Middle East/Middle East in Europe research program at the Forum Transregionale Studien in Berlin. During his tenure as a Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow, with support from the Institute of International Education Scholar Rescue Fund, Eido prepared and delivered three public lectures at the University of Chicago. He also published two new articles and presented additional lectures at the University of California, Los Angeles and Washington and Lee University.

### Ge Zhaoguang

2013–16 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow,  
**History, Philology, and the Nation in the Chinese Humanities**



Ge Zhaoguang is the founding director of the National Institute for Advanced Humanistic Studies at Fudan University, Shanghai.

His work includes many studies of Daoism and Buddhism in the mid-imperial period and the two-volume synthesis *An Intellectual History of China*. He has been a Global Scholar at Princeton University, among other appointments and honors. His scholarship raises questions of the nation and the meaning of "China." Ge Zhaoguang is one of four Visiting Fellows involved in Judith Farquhar and Haun Saussy's Neubauer Collegium project, History, Philology, and the Nation in the Chinese Humanities.

### Daria Khitrova

2013–14 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow,  
**Cinemetrics across Boundaries:  
A Collaborative Study of Montage**



Currently Assistant Professor in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at Harvard University, Daria Khitrova

during the 2013–14 academic year was Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Languages and Cultures at the University of California, Los Angeles. A specialist in poetry and dance, Khitrova recently has focused on the application of metrical analysis to film

editing and on the interaction between arts, media, and social practices. She is completing a book on Russian poetry in the Golden Age and its role in the daily life of contemporary readers. Her next major project will consider arts across media: words and movements in ballet; choreography and film art; and montage and its part in what Viktor Shklovsky termed the “cinema of poetry.”

### **Liu Dong**

2013–16 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow,  
**History, Philology, and the Nation  
in the Chinese Humanities**



Liu Dong is Professor of Chinese and philosophy and vice dean of the Academy of Traditional Chinese

Learning at Tsinghua University, Beijing. He is also founding editor of *Zhongguo xueshu* (China Scholarship), the first blind-peer-reviewed academic journal in China for humanities and social sciences. His many books include studies of anti-aesthetics, Max Weber, Lu Xun, and Karl Jaspers, an introductory textbook on Chinese culture for Chinese undergraduates, as well as translations of Ludwig Wittgenstein and Jacques Gernet. Liu adopts a reflective, multidisciplinary approach to the problem of defining, rather than assuming, an entity known as “China.” Liu Dong is one of four Visiting Fellows involved in Judith Farquhar and Haun Saussy’s Neubauer Collegium project, History, Philology, and the Nation in the Chinese Humanities.

### **Celia López Alcalde**

Autumn 2013 Neubauer Collegium  
Visiting Fellow



Celia López Alcalde is Assistant Professor in Latin philology and a member of the Institute of Medieval Studies

at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. Her PhD activities, finished in 2012, focused on the study of both philosophical and religious polemical texts produced in Spain in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, writings mostly produced in the Crown of Aragon. As a Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow, with support from the Consortium for Advanced Studies in Barcelona Fellows Program, Lopez conducted research into interfaith dialogue and religious polemics between Jews and Christians in the end of the thirteenth century, through the study of the complete body of anti-Jewish texts by polymath Ramon Llull (1232–1316).

### **Birgit Mersmann**

Winter–Spring 2014 Neubauer Collegium  
Visiting Fellow



Birgit Mersmann is Professor of non-Western and European art at the international Jacobs University in Bremen, Germany. She cofounded the

recently established research network Art Practice and Art Theory in the Age of Global Migration. In 2013 she was Visiting Fellow at the Humanities Research Centre of the Australian National University, where she analyzed the emergence of new urban

museums in Asian global cities. During her time as a Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow, Mersmann prepared a new publication titled “Framing Global Art History: A Transdisciplinary Approach,” a theoretical and methodological essay that aims to conceptualize a new global art history from a transcultural and transdisciplinary perspective. On June 3, 2014, in collaboration with the Department of Art History, Department of Visual Arts, and the Visual and Material Perspectives on East Asia Workshop, Mersmann presented the public lecture “Global Dawning: The Gwangju Biennial Factor in the Making and Marketing of Contemporary Asian Art.”

### Stephen Sawyer

2013–14 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow,  
**The State as History and Theory**



Stephen Sawyer (AM’97, PhD’08) is Associate Professor and chair of the History Department at the American University of Paris, where he also founded the Urban Studies program and cofounded the History, Law, and Society program. A specialist in urban studies and political history, Sawyer has published widely in leading journals including *Les Annales*, the *Journal of Modern History*, *European History Quarterly*, and the *Tocqueville Review*. He is associate editor for the English version of *Les Annales* and a member of the journal’s editorial board. Sawyer’s translation of Michel Foucault’s lectures, *Wrong-Doing, Truth-Telling: The Function of Avowal in Justice*, edited by Fabienne Brion and UChicago Professor Bernard Harcourt, was recently published by University of Chicago Press. He is completing two book

manuscripts on the intersection of local and international scales in the construction of the modern state.

### Christian Scheidemann

2013–14 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow,  
**Material Matters**



A leading conservator of contemporary art, New York–based Christian Scheidemann has built his expertise on art made from nontraditional materials. A scholar who, in his publications, draws on his art historical training, intellectual breadth, and conservation experiences, Scheidemann is also a practitioner in the sense that he restores art, halts or slows its aging process, or advises not to intervene, but also in the sense that he consults and collaborates with artists who work with unusual materials. As part of the two-year Neubauer Collegium project *Material Matters*, Scheidemann visited the University of Chicago for a series of workshops and other activities related to the evaluation, interpretation, conservation, and eventual resiting of Wolf Vostell’s public sculpture *Concrete Traffic* (1970) on the University of Chicago campus.

### Wang Min’an

2013–16 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow,  
**History, Philology, and the Nation in the Chinese Humanities**



Wang Min’an is Professor of international literature at Beijing Foreign Studies University, where he teaches literary and social theory. He has published interpretive books in Chinese on the work of Roland Barthes,

Michel Foucault, and Friedrich Nietzsche and is the author of many essays on literature, the visual arts, and Chinese urban popular culture. Between 1997 and 2006 he was an editor at the Chinese Social Sciences Press, where he shepherded into publication a number of innovative projects in the humanities and social sciences. His recent books include *Technologies of the Senses* (Gan'guan jishu), *The Factory of Images* (Xingxiang gongchang), and *Modernity* (Xiandaixing). Wang Min'an is one of four Visiting Fellows involved in Judith Farquhar and Haun Saussy's Neubauer Collegium project, History, Philology, and the Nation in the Chinese Humanities.

Interdisciplinary Studies (Tsinghua University, Beijing). Xie Shaobo is one of four Visiting Fellows involved in Judith Farquhar and Haun Saussy's Neubauer Collegium project, History, Philology, and the Nation in the Chinese Humanities.

### **Xie Shaobo**

2013–16 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow,  
**History, Philology, and the Nation in the  
Chinese Humanities**



Xie Shaobo is Associate Professor of English at the University of Calgary. Focusing particularly on twentieth-century literary

theory, he has research and teaching interests in postcolonial theory and literature, neo-Marxism, cultural studies, globalization, Chinese Canadian literature, and Chinese modernity. His recent publications include *Cultural Politics of Resistance and Globalization and Indigenous Cultures*, a special issue of *ARIEL: A Review of International English Literature*. Recent publications on theories of translation (“Translating Modernity towards Translating China”) and on the “Chinese Enlightenment” engage questions of China’s particular contemporaneity. Xie is a senior editor of *ARIEL* and serves on the editorial boards of the Intellectual Library (Beijing) and the Center for Translation and





# Report on Major Gifts

**J**oseph Neubauer (MBA'65) and **Jeanette Lerman-Neubauer's** \$26.5 million gift in support of the Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society is among the largest in support of the humanities and social sciences in University of Chicago history. For Joseph Neubauer, the Collegium represents "an investment in human capital and an investment in what makes this University distinctive. It's really designed to create a natural platform for the University's scholars to cross disciplinary boundaries to consider the complicated multidimensional problems of everyday life." Neubauer held senior positions at PepsiCo and Chase Manhattan Bank before becoming CEO and chairman of Aramark, where he continues to serve as chairman today. He is currently vice chairman of the University's Board of Trustees, on which he has served since 1992, as well as chairman of the board of the Barnes Foundation in Philadelphia. "We want to see what humanists and social scientists can do when they are encouraged to and have the resources to set their sights on questions beyond their discipline," says Neubauer.

The founding gift to the Neubauer Collegium is the latest in a series of efforts on the part of the Neubauer family to support UChicago faculty and to spark creative and collaborative approaches to the highest pursuit of knowledge. In 1994 the family established the Neubauer Family Chair in Entrepreneurship and Finance, the first at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. The Neubauer Family Foundation provided \$10 million to support graduate students in the Division of the Humanities as well as in Chicago Booth

in 2002. "The humanities program at the University is one of the great treasures of American education. It is the heart of a liberal education," Joseph Neubauer said at that time. The Neubauer Family Assistant Professor Fellows program, which was established in 2007, provides five years of research funding and guaranteed leave time for 20 outstanding early-career, tenure-track assistant professors. The Neubauer Collegium brings Joseph Neubauer and Jeanette Lerman-Neubauer's total support for the University to more than \$65 million.

"Any time there has been a flowering of civilization, it is because great ideas have been tested, shared, and disseminated widely," says Jeanette Lerman-Neubauer, remarking on the founding gift to the Neubauer Collegium. Lerman-Neubauer founded the marketing and communications firm J.P. Lerman & Co. and is a former vice president of communications for Time Warner. She is a trustee of Brandeis University, where she received her bachelor's degree in 1969, and she also sits on the boards of the Jewish Museum and the Metropolitan Opera, both in New York.

The collaborative, interdisciplinary work of the Neubauer Collegium was further bolstered by a major gift to the University from philanthropist **Emmanuel Roman** (MBA'87). In recognition of this support, the University named the directorship of the Neubauer Collegium for the Roman family. In October 2013, David Nirenberg was named the first Roman Family Director of the Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society.

Roman said he was thrilled to support the Collegium's research because "the humanities and social sciences play a fundamental role in shaping our understanding of our world, and it is essential that we continue to support and shape the future of these fields. I have great faith in the University's leadership, as well as in my friend David Nirenberg's vision for the Neubauer Collegium and for humanistic research."

Roman is CEO of Man Group. Born in France, he lives in London with his wife, Barrie Sardoff Roman, and their two daughters.

An additional major gift of \$3 million from the **Earl and Brenda Shapiro Foundation** established the Brenda M. Shapiro Fund to support the exploration of questions related to the arts, media, and environment at the Neubauer Collegium. The fund is intended to cultivate a culture of innovative and collaborative research within these fields, encouraging work that might be beyond the scope of individual researchers, departments, or disciplines.

In 2008 members of the Shapiro family—Earl, who passed away shortly afterward, Brenda, and their children, Matthew, Benjamin, and Alexandra—made a \$10 million gift to the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools. In September 2013, the school opened Earl Shapiro Hall, a landmark addition to the Laboratory Schools' Early Childhood Campus. The Shapiros have been longtime supporters of arts and culture in Chicago. Brenda Shapiro is a Life Member of the Visiting Committee to the Division of the Humanities at the University of Chicago and a Life Trustee of the Art Institute of Chicago.



## Building Update

Work has begun on the adaptive reuse of a historic seminary located at 5701 South Woodlawn Avenue, which the University of Chicago is renovating to house the Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society. The University purchased the 16,000-square-foot building in 2011 and hired Kliment Halsband Architects to undertake a renovation to reflect and support the Neubauer Collegium's mission. The extensive renovations of the 1933 Neo-Gothic building will respect and preserve the historic character of the neighborhood

and the building while creating dynamic new spaces for the Neubauer Collegium. A mix of individual offices and open work spaces for Visiting Fellows, conference rooms and various-size meeting spaces for active collaboration, and larger convening spaces and galleries for exhibitions and public events will create new opportunities to promote collaborative research, experiment with new forms of interaction, and pioneer new efforts to share emerging research with broader publics, within and beyond the University. The renovation is expected to be complete in spring 2015.







# 2013–2014 Faculty Advisory Board

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Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society  
1100 East 57th Street | Chicago, Illinois 60637  
[neubauercollegium.uchicago.edu](http://neubauercollegium.uchicago.edu)

