



NEUBAUER
COLLEGIUM
FOR CULTURE AND SOCIETY

Report on Activities
2014–2015



THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO



CREATING NEW COMMUNITIES OF INQUIRY

Through faculty research projects, a global fellows initiative, and exhibitions, the Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society explores novel approaches to complex human questions at the University of Chicago and beyond.



Report on Activities 2014–2015

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From the Director

The Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society is a new research institute within the University of Chicago that supports path-breaking intellectual collaborations. Our aim is to create a community of research communities, each exploring complex human problems in new and unusual ways. It took the University of Chicago—with its traditions of innovation, taking risks, pursuing thoughts wherever they might lead—to establish a special institution such as the Neubauer Collegium.

Research collaboration is not a fashion of the moment; it is a need that arises deep within thinking itself. Best understood, the humanities and social sciences are not the names of disciplines or areas of study; they are the names of different ways of thinking, of different habits of mind. Each can be said to be “seeking to understand the human condition and the world we inhabit,” but each approaches that project in a distinct manner. In the social sciences there is an effort to be scientific in a way that is nevertheless respectful of our humanity, but that requires particular forms of rigor, of trying to keep the inquiring subject at a non-contaminating distance from the object of inquiry. The emphasis is on formulating questions that allow themselves to be answered by gathering empirical data. On the basis of the evidence we may change our minds in all sorts of ways; we may formulate new policies and so on, but we are trying to do so on the basis of objective data. In the humanities, by contrast, in the best cases there is a wonderful convergence of subject and object of inquiry. Our creative thinking tends itself to shape the very thing we are thinking about: the human. We can feel this come alive—from the inside—whenever philosophical conversation lights up a problem; whenever a great literary critical essay brings a poem or play to life; whenever we are able to think about freedom freely. We achieve something wonderfully and remarkably human in the very activity of thinking what it means to be human.

That distinction drawn, it is time to blur it. For while these are importantly different postures of the mind, when it comes to an academic discipline, one posture may dominate, but there is often an undertow in the other direction. Our division of inquiry into disciplines will inevitably introduce some artificiality, even as it helps us clarify what we are thinking. We should, I think, have a deep respect for the disciplines as they have evolved, but the questions that make it worth learning the methods and theories of a discipline transcend any particular discipline. That is why it is always worth examining these principles from a pre-disciplinary point of view. This is not a reaction against disciplinary research; it springs from the recognition that great disciplinary practitioners thrive in an environment of robust conversations from different points of view. And, of course, disciplines, if they are to remain vibrant, need to be responsive to our emerging questions. Let the disciplines follow the demands of our inquiries, and not vice versa.



We can see this intellectual freedom at work in all Neubauer Collegium projects. At the end of the 2014–2015 academic year, we have already supported more than forty active research projects that involve over eighty principal investigators, not only from throughout the humanities and social sciences disciplines but also from the Medical School, Law School, the Biological Sciences Division, the Divinity School, Argonne National Laboratory, and the Harris School of Public Policy. Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellows come from around the world to join these projects. They include top scholars from the major universities, but also museum curators, public policy experts, artists, musicians, playwrights, and writers. Our new building at 57th Street and Woodlawn Avenue is alive with conferences, workshops, and seminars. We also host open-ended discussions drawing on researchers from all disciplines to formulate new research agendas, as well as to recognize important problems that are in danger of being overlooked. Our exhibition gallery has gained international recognition for its ability to integrate thought-provoking art exhibitions into the life of a research institute. In short, the Neubauer Collegium aims to facilitate creative, collaborative forms of inquiry that are free to go wherever thinking needs to go.

Jonathan Lear

Roman Family Director, Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society;

John U. Nef Distinguished Service Professor at the Committee on Social Thought and in Philosophy

A New Home



5701 S. WOODLAWN AVENUE

- Completed 1930; Architect: Denison Hull
- Original Owner: Meadville Theological School
- Purchased by University of Chicago: 2011
- Renovated 2015; Architect: Kliment Halsband
- Square Footage: 16,000

The Neubauer Collegium moves into a new building redesigned to foster intellectual creativity and collaboration

THE NEUBAUER COLLEGIUM FOR CULTURE AND SOCIETY REACHED A MILESTONE on April 20, 2015 when its permanent home opened at 5701 S. Woodlawn Avenue. The event was celebrated with remarks by University of Chicago leaders, a panel discussion featuring Neubauer Collegium Fellows, and the opening of the Neubauer Collegium's inaugural exhibition *No Longer Art: Salvage Art Institute*.

At the opening celebration, faculty, visiting scholars, and University leadership commented on the impact of the initiative even before the move into the building, and spoke to the promise held for collaboration on a global scale in the future. Between 2012 and 2015 the Neubauer Collegium has launched forty-two projects and hosted twenty-four visiting scholars from around the world.

Originally built in 1930, the Neo-Gothic building was renovated to embody and support the vision and ideals for collaborative research on complex human questions that guide the Neubauer Collegium. Its redesign facilitates the ambitious research of faculty and visiting fellows by providing individual as well as shared spaces for scholars from around the world to pursue new approaches to questions that cut across disciplinary boundaries. The building was designed to incubate research, to facilitate intellectual collaboration, and to engage a broader public in humanistic inquiry and discovery.

The University purchased the building in 2011, and retained Kliment Halsband Architects to undertake the specialized task of adapting, repurposing, and renovating the 16,000-square-foot historic space for 21st century research needs. The plan for adaptive reuse preserved many of the historic elements of the original building, including its distinctive limestone

façade, floor-to-ceiling wood paneling, staircases, and vintage light fixtures and fireplaces, while adding technologies to facilitate collaborative research. The building design attracts a larger public to the main floor gallery and the forum, an ideal space for conferences, seminars and public events. There is a seamless flow between individual and collaborative research processes in the three dedicated floors above, which include: a spacious reading room; a collaborative studio for workshops, brainstorm sessions, and project retreats; a state-of-the-art conference room; and, offices for eleven visiting scholars.



Exhibition Gallery

Neubauer Collegium Exhibitions present both historical and contemporary art in the context of the Neubauer Collegium's interdisciplinary research. Visual arts, media, and material culture are central to the intellectual life of the Neubauer Collegium, helping to rethink the meaning of art and the contributions it can make to scholarly inquiry.



Art Practice as Research Practice

NEUBAUER COLLEGIUM EXHIBITIONS are curated to meet a range of objectives. Some shows complement research projects supported by the Neubauer Collegium; others combine concerns common to multiple projects within a group exhibition; and still others offer a singular vision and voice that resonates with the alternative, collaborative research mission of the Neubauer Collegium. In its first year, programming has involved partnerships with the Gray Center for Arts and Inquiry; the Departments of Art History, Cinema and Media Studies, and Visual Arts; and the Chicago Architecture Biennial.

“The work we show will vary radically in topic and scope from exhibition to exhibition,” said Neubauer Collegium Exhibitions Curator Jacob Proctor, “but it will all demonstrate artistic practice as a vital form of humanistic

research. You may experience meticulously researched experimental filmmaking or a body of work by a historical character who is in fact a contemporary artistic construction. But, what you will always find is a creative, alternative space that speaks to the flexibility that an exhibition gallery can have not only at a research university, but within a major metropolitan center.”

Proctor joined the Neubauer Collegium team from the Aspen Art Museum in the winter of 2014, just as plans for the new building were underway. He was able to work closely with the architect and engineers to create a gallery that retains the Neo-Gothic character of the building, while incorporating high-tech electronics and modular walls that extend the gallery’s capacity to present wide-ranging, experimental exhibitions.





INAUGURAL EXHIBITION

No Longer Art: Salvage Art Institute

April 23–July 10, 2015

The Neubauer Collegium's inaugural exhibition, *No Longer Art: Salvage Art Institute*, opened on April 23, 2015. Originally organized by Elka Krajewska and Mark Wasiuta for the Arthur Ross Architecture Gallery at Columbia University, the exhibition highlighted 'salvaged' artworks that have been removed from circulation as a result of accidental damage.

Drawn from the art insurance lexicon, 'salvage' pieces are subject to a peculiar actuarial logic. Once "total loss" status has been declared and indemnification has been paid, salvage art is considered officially devoid of value. Its objects are cast into art's nether world, no longer alive for the market, gallery, or museum system, but often still relatively intact. This situation raises pressing questions: How are we to understand the value of this art, now that it has been removed from familiar practices of sale and purchase? And how are we to think about its fate in perpetual storage? The Salvage Art Institute began to address these questions by opening the inventory of "lost art" to scrutiny.

The Neubauer Collegium exhibition opening included a public conversation among art historians, artists, curators, collectors, and economists, which spurred a vigorous interdisciplinary debate on the question of how art is defined and valued in contemporary society. *No Longer Art* drew international attention to the gallery, and visitors included University of Chicago faculty and students, global arts leaders, and primary school students from the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools.

No Longer Art: Salvage Art Institute was presented at the University of Chicago by Neubauer Collegium Exhibitions in partnership with the Gray Center for Arts and Inquiry, with additional support from the Chicago Center for Contemporary Theory.

2015–2016 HIGHLIGHTS

Neubauer Collegium Exhibitions presented *Petra Andrejova-Molnár: Contribution and Collaboration* from September 16 to November 13, 2015 with support from the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts. As realized by artist Katarina Burin, the exhibition presented the work of the overlooked (in fact, fictional) modernist architect Petra Andrejova-Molnár. The exhibition highlighted the myriad ways in which historical movements and utopian ideologies are in a constant state of flux, while also creating a space of play around the myth of "the architect." The exhibition was presented as part of the inaugural Chicago Architecture Biennial, as was the exhibition of Victor Burgin's new video work *Prairie*, on view at the Neubauer Collegium from November 20, 2015 to January 29, 2016.





Director's Lectures



Eminent Speakers Lecture on Campus

THE DIRECTOR'S LECTURE SERIES EMBODIES the Neubauer Collegium's mission to invite major scholars working in the humanities and social sciences to campus to engage with faculty and students at the University of Chicago. The series strengthens the University's tradition of hosting the world's greatest intellectuals and provides a rare public opportunity on campus to focus on and integrate humanistic inquiry into complex human questions.

Emmanuel Saez, Professor in Economics and Director of the Center for Equitable Growth at the University of California, Berkeley, inaugurated the series in fall 2014 with the lecture "Income and Wealth Inequality: Evidence and Policy Implications." Saez's research focuses on tax policy and inequality from both theoretical and empirical perspectives, with special attention to the role of technology and globalization, education, government regulations,

and tax policy in explaining empirical findings. He is involved in several groups advocating for greater equality, including the World Top Incomes Database and the Equality of Opportunity Project. Kevin Murphy, George J. Stigler Distinguished Service Professor in Economics and the Chicago Booth School of Business, and William Sewell, The Frank P. Hixon Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus in Political Science and History, acted as commentators for the program.

Peter Cole, the MacArthur Foundation award-winning poet and translator, presented “The Poetry of the Influence Machine: On Translating One Self into Another” on October 22, 2014. Cole has translated works from Hebrew and Arabic, including *The Poetry of Kabbalah: Mystical Verse from the Jewish Tradition*. He is also a scholar of Judaic studies and comparative literature at Yale University. As part of his visit to campus, Cole read from his book, *The Invention of Influence*, an event co-sponsored by the Program in Poetry and Poetics, the John U. Nef Committee on Social Thought, and the Committee on Creative Writing. Rosanna Warren, the Hanna Holborn Gray Distinguished Professor in Social Thought, provided introductory remarks.

Quentin Skinner, Barber Beaumont Professor in Humanities, Queen Mary University, London, delivered a Neubauer Collegium Director’s Lecture on April 20, 2015, commemorating the opening of the Neubauer Collegium’s permanent home on campus, 5701 S. Woodlawn Avenue. In his talk, “How should we think about freedom?”, Skinner argued that the usual concept of individual freedom understood in negative terms as absence of interference or constraint is in need of qualification and

perhaps abandonment. Skinner argued that though freedom is our core political value, it is impossible to formulate a definition on which we can all agree. The reason is that the idea of freedom has a complex and contested history with too many strands to bring together into a unified concept. What we can do, Skinner argued, is to work out the history of the conflicts surrounding the concept, so we can make thoughtful decisions about what *living freely* should mean.

Already a highlight of the 2015–2016 academic year, Robert Alter gave a Director’s Lecture on October 8, 2015 on “The Challenges of Translating the Bible.” Alter spoke to a full house at Mandel Hall, including more than 350 first-year students from the College Core course, Human Being and Citizen. He spoke of the challenges of translating the Hebrew Bible when one wants to convey a sense of style, how to express in English the subtlety, compactness and precision of word choice, as well as the evocative use of Hebrew syntax. Alter’s lecture was part of the 125th Anniversary celebration of the University of Chicago.

On February 11, 2016, to coincide with the anniversary of Abraham Lincoln’s birthday, the Neubauer Collegium will welcome David Bromwich, Sterling Professor in English, Yale University, who will deliver a Director’s Lecture on Lincoln’s ideals and their legacy in contemporary America.

And on May 5, 2016, the world-renowned novelist Marilynne Robinson will speak on the legacy of Calvin’s thought.

Visiting Fellows 2014-2015

The Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society brings the world to Chicago through its Visiting Fellows Program. Leading international scholars, practitioners, artists, and policy makers are invited to come as Visiting Fellows to collaborate with faculty and students across disciplines, and to infuse inquiry at the University of Chicago with fresh ideas and new perspectives. Visiting Fellows may come to work directly with Neubauer Collegium research projects or to engage more broadly with the University community and beyond.

Profile: David Armitage and Joyce Chaplin

Making History

As part of its Visiting Fellows initiative, the Neubauer Collegium provided support for the visits of a pair of historians who have been at the forefront of some of the most exciting developments in intellectual history in recent decades. David Armitage and Joyce Chaplin have contributed important scholarship to areas ranging from Atlantic to global to environmental history.

Well-positioned to enliven conversations already taking place at the University of Chicago, Armitage and Chaplin collaborated with existing partners and developed new relationships with scholars at the University that will lead to future collaborations. They were invited by Neubauer Collegium Fellow Jennifer Pitts, Professor in Political Science.

While on campus, Pitts worked closely with Armitage, Lloyd C. Blankfein Professor in History, Harvard University. His scholarship on global history was shared with faculty and students at the University of Chicago in a range of workshops and public lectures that included historians, political theorists, literary theorists, and classicists. The collaborations that began during his visit continue to produce new scholarship.

Chaplin, James Duncan Phillips Professor in Early American History, Harvard University,

completed a large body of written work while in residence. Her activities included a lecture at the Scherer Center for the Study of American Culture and participation in a roundtable on environmental history.

The Neubauer Collegium's support for Visiting Fellows is unique on campus, providing rare opportunities for focused intellectual pursuit within a collaborative structure.





Visiting Fellows 2014-2015

DAVID ARMITAGE



David Armitage is the Lloyd C. Blankfein Professor in History at Harvard University. His research is at the forefront of recent scholar-

ship in intellectual history. He is currently completing an edition of John Locke's colonial writings and co-editing a collection of essays on the law of nations in global history.

FRANÇOISE BOTTÉRO



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

Françoise Bottéro is a Research Fellow at the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), Center for Linguistic Research on East Asian Languages (CRLAO) in Paris. As a specialist of the history and analysis of the Chinese writing system from antiquity to modernity, Bottéro explores the particularities of the Chinese script related to its semantico-phonetic nature, such as graphic variants or tabooed characters. Her book, *Sémantisme et classification*, addresses the history and development of the original classification system of the characters into "radicals." She has also studied the earliest Chinese theories on the script and the invention of writing in China.

FRANCESCA BRAY



Knowing and Doing: Text and Labor in Asian Handwork

Francesca Bray is Professor in Social Anthropology at

The University of Edinburgh. She is an anthropologist and historian of technology and gender, of agricultural systems, and of technical skills. While most of her research has been on imperial China, she uses comparative insights from China to illuminate the politics of technology in the contemporary world.

MATHIEU CAESAR



Mathieu Caesar is the Maître Assistant, Medieval

History at the University of Geneva. His research explores communes and their administration in the late medieval period, focusing on the city of

Geneva and the small towns of the duchy of Savoy. His interest in European urban factions and their political languages during the 15th and 16th centuries uses an in-depth analysis of Geneva's factional struggles on the eve of the Reformation (1513–1536) to reveal the ideological motives of partisanship and the urban political society. He is a member of the editorial board of the glossary on medieval taxation.

JOYCE E. CHAPLIN



Joyce Chaplin is the James Duncan Phillips Professor in Early American History at Harvard University.

She explores the intersection of humans and nature, including subjects in early American history, intellectual history, the history of science, and environmental history.

LIU DONG



History, Philology, and the Nation in the Chinese Humanities

Liu Dong is Professor in Chinese and Philosophy and

Vice Dean of the *Guoxue yuan* (Academy of Traditional Chinese Learning) at Tsinghua University, Beijing. He is the founding editor of *Zhongguo xueshu* (China Scholarship), the first peer-reviewed academic journal in China for humanities and social sciences.

XIE SHAOBO



History, Philology, and the Nation in the Chinese Humanities

Xie Shaobo is an Associate Professor in English at

University of Calgary. Focusing particularly on twentieth-century literary theory, Xie Shaobo has research and teaching interests in postcolonial theory and literature, neo-Marxism, cultural studies, globalization, Chinese-Canadian literature, and Chinese modernity.

WANG MIN'AN



History, Philology, and the Nation in the Chinese Humanities

Wang Min'an is Professor in International Literature

at Beijing Foreign Studies University. He has published interpretive books in Chinese on the work of Roland Barthes, Michel Foucault, and Nietzsche. He is the author of many essays of commentary on literature, the visual arts, and Chinese urban popular culture.

BARBARA VINKEN



Thinking through Tropes: Figures of Thought and the Political Imaginary

Barbara Vinken is a Professor in French and Comparative

Literature at LMU Munich, Germany. Her main areas of research are Italian and French Renaissance, the French Novel from the 18th to 20th century, the Italian Novel of the 19th and 20th centuries, reception of antiquity, deconstructive feminism, theories of comparative literature, and fashion theory. Her most recent book, *Angezogen. Das Geheimnis der Mode*, was shortlisted for the Prize of the Leipzig Book Fair 2014.

LISA ONAGA



Knowing and Doing: Text and Labor in Asian Handwork

Lisa Onaga is an Assistant Professor in History at the

School of Humanities and Social Sciences at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. Her research interests consider the interplay of craft, technical, and scientific practices, knowledge production, and interspecies relations in the histories of bioscience, modern Japan, and the environment.

GE ZHAO GUANG



History, Philology, and the Nation in the Chinese Humanities

Ge Zhaoguang is Director of the National Institute for

Advanced Studies in the Humanities at Fudan University, Shanghai. His work includes studies of Daoism and Buddhism in the mid-imperial period, and the two-volume *History of Chinese Thought: Knowledge, Thought and Belief*. His scholarship raises questions of the nation and the meaning of "China."

Faculty Research Initiatives

The Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society holds an annual competition for the very best collaborative humanistic research projects on complex questions led by University of Chicago faculty. There are no limits to the kinds of questions that can be asked. Collaborators may come from any discipline, art or science, and may include other institutional partners. In addition to providing funding support, the Neubauer Collegium works closely with project leaders as they pursue research questions along trajectories that often evolve in unanticipated directions during the life of a given project.



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New Projects Launched in 2015–2016

Climate Change: Disciplinary Challenges to the Humanities and the Social Sciences

NEUBAUER COLLEGIUM FELLOWS

Fredrik Albritton Jonsson, Associate Professor in History and the College

Benjamin Morgan, Assistant Professor in English Language and Literature

Emily Osborn, Associate Professor in History and the College

Deep History

NEUBAUER COLLEGIUM FELLOWS

Fredrik Albritton Jonsson, Associate Professor in History and the College

Emily Osborn, Associate Professor in History and the College

COLLABORATOR

Daniel Lord Smail, Professor in History, Harvard University; 2015–2016 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow

Economic Analysis of Ancient Trade: The Case of the Old Assyrian Merchants of the 19th Century BCE

NEUBAUER COLLEGIUM FELLOWS

Alain Bresson, Robert O. Anderson Distinguished Service Professor in Classics and the College; Associate Member in History

A. Kerem Coşar, Assistant Professor in Chicago Booth School of Business; Assistant Professor in Economics, Stockholm School of Economics

Ali Hortacsu, Ralph and Mary Otis Isham Professor in Economics and the College

David Schloen, Associate Professor of Syro-Palestinian Archaeology, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations; Associate Faculty in Divinity

Gil Stein, Professor of Archaeology, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations; Director, Oriental Institute

Historical Semantics and Legal Interpretation

NEUBAUER COLLEGIUM FELLOWS

Alison LaCroix, Robert Newton Reid Professor in Law and Government; Associate Member in History

Jason Merchant, Professor in Linguistics; Deputy Dean for Languages and Instruction

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

NEUBAUER COLLEGIUM FELLOWS

James Conant, Chester D. Tripp Professor in Humanities, Philosophy, and the College

Robert B. Pippin, Evelyn Stefansson Nef Distinguished Service Professor in Social Thought, Philosophy, and the College

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

Administrative Classification and Economic Exchange in the Long 18th Century

NEUBAUER COLLEGIUM FELLOWS

Paul Cheney, Associate Professor in History and the College

Fredrik Albritton Jonsson, Associate Professor in History and the College

Michael Rossi, Assistant Professor in History and the College

COLLABORATOR

Loïc Charles, Professor in Economics, University of Paris 8 Saint-Denis; 2015–2016 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow

Open Fields: Ethics, Aesthetics and the Very Idea of a Natural History

NEUBAUER COLLEGIUM FELLOWS

Justin Richland, Associate Professor in Anthropology and the College

Jessica Stockholder, Raymond W. & Martha Hilpert Gruner Distinguished Service Professor in Visual Arts

Alaka Wali, Curator and Applied Cultural Research Director, The Field Museum; 2015–2016 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow

The Past for Sale: New Approaches to the Study of Archaeological Looting

NEUBAUER COLLEGIUM FELLOWS

Lawrence Rothfield, Associate Professor in English Language and Literature and Comparative Literature

Gil Stein, Professor of Archaeology, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations; Director, Oriental Institute

COLLABORATOR

Morag Kersel, Assistant Professor in Anthropology, DePaul University; 2015–2016 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow

The Problem of the Democratic State in U.S. History

NEUBAUER COLLEGIUM FELLOWS

James Sparrow, Associate Professor in History and the College; Master, Social Sciences Collegiate Division; Associate Dean, College; Deputy Dean, Division of the Social Sciences

Elisabeth Clemens, William Rainey Harper Professor in Sociology and the College

Transmission of Magical Knowledge in Antiquity: The Papyrus Magical Handbook

NEUBAUER COLLEGIUM FELLOWS

Christopher A. Faraone, Frank Curtis Springer and Gertrude Melcher Springer Professor in Humanities and the College

Janet Johnson, Morton D. Hull Distinguished Service Professor of Egyptology, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations

David Martinez, Associate Professor in Classics, the Divinity School, and the College

Richard Neer, William B. Ogden Distinguished Service Professor in Art History, Cinema and Media Studies, and the College

Sofia Torallas Tovar, Associate Professor in Classics and Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations



Open Fields: Ethics, Aesthetics and the Very Idea of a Natural History

The Open Fields project is creating a new community of inquiry around the question of what a natural history museum should be. Justin Richland, Associate Professor in Anthropology, and Jessica Stockholder, Raymond W. & Martha Hilpert Gruner Distinguished Service Professor in Visual Arts, along with Alaka Wali, Curator of North American Anthropology at the Field Museum and a current Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow, are exploring how art, law, and ethnography address the future of natural history museums worldwide. How is a natural history museum to face up to its historical legacies? How should one display the material culture of devastated cultures? How is one to collect the contemporary art of indigenous peoples and integrate it into the larger collections?

As a first step, the research team brought together major contemporary Native artists from the Pacific Northwest and East Coast, contemporary





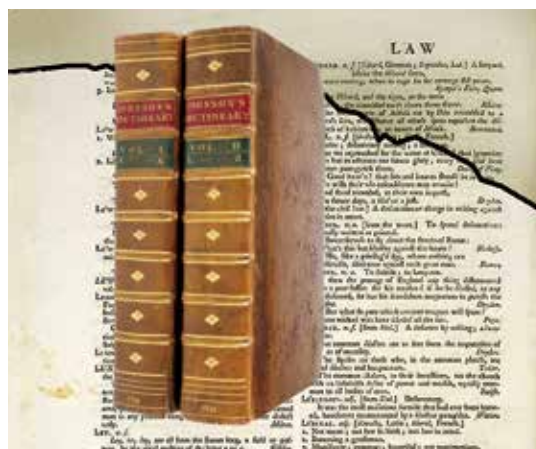
artists working at the University of Chicago, curators of museums throughout the city, anthropologists, and Native rights lawyers. Their aim was to investigate how to preserve and exhibit in ethically responsible ways the cultural legacies of indigenous peoples. This inaugural meeting, held in fall 2015, set the stage for the project to research questions concerning the status of indigenous cultural property rights, both material and intellectual. The Open Fields project will also investigate the relationship between the demands of academic research and the ethical, religious, and aesthetic commitments of indigenous peoples. The team will curate a collaborative, multi-institutional series of exhibits exploring the nexus of art, identity, territory, and law. Neubauer Collegium Exhibitions, which presents both historical and contemporary art through the lens of scholarly inquiry, will be the home to the first of these nationwide exhibitions.

Historical Semantics and Legal Interpretation

Alison LaCroix, Robert Newton Reid Professor in Law and Government, and Jason Merchant, Professor in Linguistics, are developing a new

interdisciplinary field at the intersection of law and linguistics. Their project, Historical Semantics and Legal Interpretation, looks at how these two fields have become intertwined due to the increased interest of legal scholars and the courts in the original intent of the U.S. Constitution's framers. While words and phrases change meaning over time, the text of laws does not. In the attempt to understand and interpret basic texts such as the U.S. Constitution, LaCroix and Merchant argue that contemporary jurists rely too heavily on historical dictionaries that offer only a partial perspective. To understand properly how language was used in the past, it must be examined in a more nuanced and comprehensive context. Only then, according to LaCroix and Merchant, can legal thinkers come to a better understanding of what was meant by phrases such as "keep and bear arms."

Using the vast collection of historical texts available through Google Books, LaCroix and Merchant hope to develop online tools that will allow judges, clerks, and legal scholars to study in a more rigorous and sophisticated way how language and meaning have changed over the past two centuries. The project promises to change the way legal interpretation is conducted.





Audio Cultures of India: New Approaches to the Performance Archive

2013–2015

Sound, music, and the arts comprise one of the most critical areas of exchange between the West and South Asia. From the colonial encounter to the formation of modernity, the West has repeatedly turned to South Asia to “sound the past.” Through use of data mining and computational pattern analysis techniques common to the physical and biological sciences, the Audio Cultures of India project investigates how methods of big science might elucidate and facilitate the humanistic understanding of music, speech, and other audio expressions.

Drawing on a vast digital corpora already hosted at the University of Chicago Library, the project has brought 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 has served as an ideal model for using these technologies to develop a comparative framework for understanding historical interrelations in the aural world—thus producing a sound history of modern India.

A symposium held in September 2013, “Sound, Science, and History” achieved 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 transformation of sound to society leads to what the team considers 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.

In the second year of the project, an international workshop, “Sounding the Audio Moment: Collaboration, Sound Collection, Technology Applications,” was held at The University of Chicago Center in Delhi. The workshop involved South Asian, North American, and European participants from the sciences, technology, humanities, and social sciences. Roundtables and discussions contributed to the team’s pilot



investigation of the scientific analysis of the relationship between recorded sound, instruments, music, and other audio expressions.

As with the Chicago workshop, the Delhi meeting generated suggestions for the next phases of the research initiative, including a plan for cross-disciplinary collaborative work with collections and technological applications. Next steps of the project will include training in the creation of metadata, digitization, and computational analysis, and an exploration of prospects for generating and disseminating collective endeavors, including an exhibition, a scholarly conference on emergent lines of research, and an exhibition publication.



NEUBAUER COLLEGIUM FELLOWS

Philip Bohlman, Ludwig Rosenberger Distinguished Service Professor of Music and the College; Associate Faculty in Germanic Studies and the Divinity School

Kaley Reid Mason, Assistant Professor in Music

James Nye, Bibliographer for Southern Asia, University of Chicago Library

Laura Ring, Cataloger and Assistant Southern Asia Librarian, University of Chicago Library

COLLABORATORS

Rehanna Kheshgi, PhD Candidate in Ethnomusicology

Lars-Christian Koch, Director of the Berliner Phonogramm-Archiv

Ameera Nimjee, PhD Candidate in Ethnomusicology

EVENTS

September 16 – 17, 2013

Audio Cultures of India: Sound, Science, and History

The University of Chicago

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.

December 8 – 9, 2014

Sounding the Audio Moment: Collaboration, Sound Collection, Technology Applications

The University of Chicago Center in Delhi

This workshop was attended by representatives from universities, libraries, archives, and other institutions worldwide who participated in roundtables, special presentations, and discussions to further the project's goals.



Cinemetrics across Boundaries: A Collaborative Study of Montage

2013–2015

Cinemetrics, an open access, interactive website designed to collect, store, and process scholarly data about films, was launched in 2005 by Yuri Tsivian as a digital tool to facilitate the analysis of film editing. With support from the Neubauer Collegium, Tsivian brought Daria Khitrova, a specialist in poetry and choreography, and Michael Baxter, a statistician, to the University to collaborate on methods to advance the new field of cinemetric studies. Their partnership has enabled Tsivian to expand the conversation around how data-based research can elucidate the arts, showing how quantitative elements can offer new insights into cinema's past and future.

Since the project began in 2013, the team's collaboration has resulted in a new infrastructure for the international community that includes a set of common terms, a pool of shared ideas, and a plan for ongoing dialogue and investigation. The cinemetrics website, which continues to publish data for scholars around

the world interested in the quantitative study of film, has now grown into a global interdisciplinary forum on experimental methods in cinema studies. Through use of the published data, for example, scholars have been able to further analyze the relationship between scene length across genres and in a historical context.

In Winter 2014 the team hosted the conference "Numerate Film History? Cinemetrics Looks at Griffith, Sennett and Chaplin (1909–1917)." In spring 2015, the first international scholarly conference on the subject of cinemetrics as a method, "Cinemetrics across Borders," was held at the Neubauer Collegium.

A publication authored by Baxter, Khitrova, and Tsivian, "Exploring Cutting Structure in Film, with Applications to the Films of D. W. Griffith, Mack Sennett, and Charlie Chaplin," was released digitally in August 2015 by *Digital Scholarship in the Humanities*.



NEUBAUER COLLEGIUM FELLOW

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

COLLABORATORS

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

Daria Khitrova, Assistant Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures; Director of Undergraduate Studies, Harvard University; 2013–2014 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow

EVENTS

April 30 – May 3, 2015

Cinematics across Borders

Neubauer Collegium, The University of Chicago

The conference brought together fifteen participants from six countries and six different fields: the film industry, experimental psychology, film history, pedagogy, computer science, and statistics. Some of the conference participants had corresponded for nearly a decade before meeting in person at the conference.





Global Literary Networks

2013–2015

Global 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.

The project has brought 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,” and to develop new-media platforms for processing, displaying, and disseminating digitally influenced work.

By combining analysis of large data sets, the use of social scientific methods, and techniques of close textual reading, Neubauer Collegium Fellows Hoyt Long and Richard So are able to investigate the social dimensions of modernist literary history and aesthetics in the 20th century. This process has included de-framing more 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 a starting point, the project has employed linkages between authors, texts, and publications to track the relation between poetic activities in different national (Japan, China, and Latin America), transnational, and comparative contexts.

Building partnerships with scholars across disciplines has been as integral to the project’s success as building a technical infrastructure and knowledge base to facilitate data-driven work.

Expanding on the Neubauer Collegium’s seed support for the project, Long and So are working closely with the University of Chicago Knowledge Lab and Computation Institute to build an extensive corpus of literary material that captures the scientific knowledge expressed in U.S. cultural texts, primarily novels. This next iteration of the project has resulted in the formation of the Chicago Text Lab, co-directed by Long and So, which will serve as a base of operations for ongoing work in cultural analytics at the University of Chicago.



NEUBAUER COLLEGIUM FELLOWS

Hoyt Long, Associate Professor in Japanese Literature, East Asian Languages and Civilizations

Richard So, Assistant Professor in English Language and Literature

COLLABORATOR

Thomas McEnaney, Assistant Professor in Comparative Literature, Cornell University

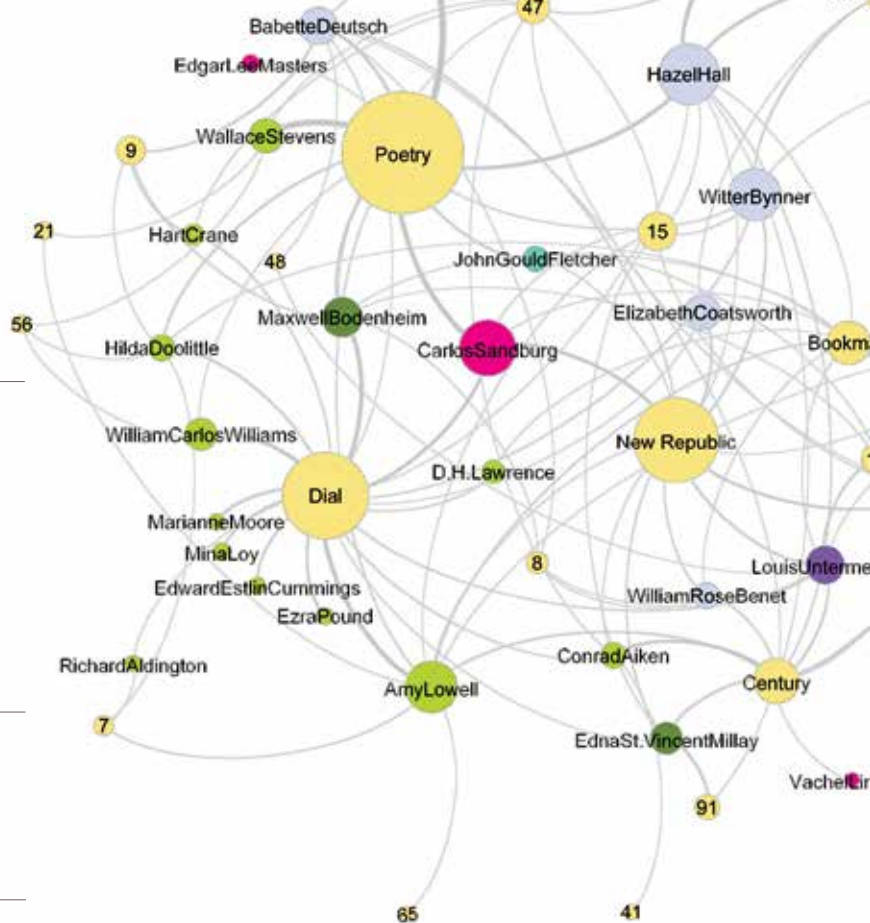
EVENTS

December 5 – 6, 2014

Development Retreat

The University of Chicago

Scholars with advanced technical expertise in the areas of text analysis and literary or cultural history were invited to participate in this exploratory workshop in which they were given a set of intellectual problems to work out using modernist poetry data. Participants were then invited to use Long and So's data to address their own research questions. This workshop format proved to be a successful collaborative model for humanistic scholarship.



May 22 – 23, 2015

Cultural Analytics: Computational Approaches to the Study of Literature and Culture
Neubauer Collegium, The University of Chicago

This event brought together faculty and graduate students working at the intersection of literary studies and applied computational analysis for a sustained discussion of the methodological challenges and opportunities afforded by new digital and data-driven tools and techniques. Scholars who specialize in a range of literatures and periods worked to galvanize the formation of a “cultural analytics” sub-field for textual studies. Participants included members of the Stanford Literary Lab, the Northeastern Viral Texts Lab, and the Princeton Center for the Digital Humanities.



The State as History and Theory

2013–2015

The state's role has diminished in the face of privatization and globalization. There has been a corresponding resurgence of broad interest in forms of governance and organized power that does not resemble the unified sovereign state as described in political analysis and theory. This wave of empirical inquiry and theoretical debate is visible across the fields of history, sociology, and political science, spurring various forms of cross-disciplinary collaboration. This two-year Neubauer Collegium project aims to fuse these collaborations toward a focused debate on the state as history and theory, with the premise that the scholarship on the state needs to be better reconciled to the requirements of everyday politics and democratic political theory—in short, the need for a 42 new theory of the democratic state.

A core component of The State as History and Theory project involved bringing alumnus Stephen Sawyer, AM'97, PhD'08, back to the University of Chicago from the American University of Paris (AUP) as a Visiting Fellow for the 2013–2014 academic year to collaborate with Elisabeth Clemens, Bernard Harcourt, and James Sparrow. The project's multi-day "Many Hands of the State" conference in spring of 2014 convened an international group of scholars to collectively discuss the need to advance theorization of states while retaining the historicized and contextualized treatments that have proliferated in the last few decades.

In a major development for the project in its second year, Sawyer received funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to pursue the creation of the Center for Critical Democracy Studies at AUP. The Center, which launched in fall 2015, will serve as the

institutional hub for the *Tocqueville Review*, for which Sawyer is now the Head Editor, and Clemens, Sparrow, and project collaborator William Novak hold positions on the editorial board. In June 2015, its special issue, "Beyond Stateless Democracy," featured an editorial by Sawyer announcing the new center, with articles by Harcourt, Sawyer, Sparrow, and Novak that were products of The State as History and Theory project.

In 2014–2015, activities focused heavily on the dissemination of project results through numerous invited lectures and publications. A grant from The University of Chicago Paris Center facilitated the spring 2015 convening of an international group of Anglophone scholars for a symposium on "The American State in Trans-Atlantic Perspective," which included the presentation of recent work on benevolence (Clemens) and the democratic state (Sparrow, Sawyer, Novak) that emerged out of their Neubauer Collegium project.

Additional new work of the team—on the contracting state (Clemens) and the problem of emergency in the democratic state (Sparrow, Sawyer, Novak)—was presented at the spring 2015 conference "States of Exception in American History" at Cambridge University. The conference was the first of a series of rotating conferences on the history of the state, now called the Consortium on the History of State and Society (CHOSAS), another direct outcome of the Neubauer Collegium The State as History and Theory project. The second meeting of the CHOSAS collaboration will be held in spring 2016, hosted by Clemens and Sparrow as part of their Neubauer Collegium project, *The Problem of the Democratic State in U.S. History*.

PUBLICATION

Boundaries of the State in US History

Edited by James T. Sparrow, William J. Novak, and Stephen W. Sawyer. The University of Chicago Press. 2015.

NEUBAUER COLLEGIUM FELLOWS

Elisabeth Clemens, William Rainey Harper Professor in Sociology

Bernard Harcourt, Isidor and Seville Sulzbacher Professor in Law; Director, Columbia Center for Contemporary Critical Thought, Columbia Law School

James T. Sparrow, Associate Professor in History and the College; Master, Social Sciences Collegiate Division; Associate Dean, College; Deputy Dean, Division of the Social Sciences

COLLABORATOR

William J. Novak, Charles F. and Edith J. Clyne Professor in Law, University of Michigan

Stephen W. Sawyer, Associate Professor in History, The American University of Paris; 2013–2014 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow





Working Group on Comparative Economics

2013–2015

Coalescing around shared research interests in comparative economics of societies from ancient times to the modern period, the Working Group on Comparative Economics brought together faculty from Classics, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Anthropology, Economics, History, Political Science, and the Chicago Booth School of Business for a two-year program of activities.

Quarterly symposia addressed themes that included the structure of economic firms, taxation, long-distance trade, the forms and uses of money, and the economics of slavery. These public meetings, which included top scholars from around the world, were designed to clarify core conceptual and empirical issues necessary to further promote cross-disciplinary faculty research in the field of economics.

The activities of the working group provided the opportunity to test the common conceptual framework of New Institutional Economics (NIE), an economic perspective that has its roots in two articles by Ronald Coase, Clifton R. Musser Professor Emeritus in Economics. NIE attempts to extend economics by focusing

on the social and legal norms that underlie economic activity from the perspective of various political, religious, and economic institutions. In its first year of activities, the working group applied this conceptual framework to business organization; and in its second year it investigated the organization of bound labor.

Positions that emerged from the group's investigation of bound labor included the idea that the global environment is decisive, and that a mix of technological, political, and global economic factors shape the forms of the organization of labor. The working group determined that the approach of comparative economics is productive, and that it is possible to build a common cross-disciplinary framework for the analysis of institutions.

NEUBAUER COLLEGIUM FELLOWS

Alain Bresson, Robert O. Anderson Distinguished Service Professor in Classics and the College; Associate Member in History

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

Richard Hornbeck, Professor of Economics and Neubauer Family Faculty Fellow, Chicago Booth School of Business

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

David Schloen, Associate Professor of Syro-Palestinian Archaeology, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations; Associate Faculty in Divinity



EVENTS

October 10, 2014

**Consent, Contract, and Bound Labor
in a Comparative Perspective**
The University of Chicago

Focused on bound labor, Julie Saville, Associate Professor in History; Walter Scheidel, Dickason Professor in Humanities, Classics, and History, Stanford University; and Paul Freedman, Chester D. Tripp Professor in History, Yale University, confronted institutional solutions in three different economic contexts: Antiquity, the Middle Ages, and the Modern Period.

February 20, 2015

**Bound Labor in a Comparative Perspective:
From Ancient Mesopotamia to the 21st Century**
The University of Chicago

Why have individuals throughout history implemented bound labor when their environments offered many other methods for exploiting the work force? The concept of path dependence can only provide a partial answer to this question. In this symposium, Alain Bresson, Robert O. Anderson Distinguished Service Professor in Classics, and Suresh Naidu, Assistant Professor in Economics, Columbia University, built on analyses developed in their very different terrains of Ancient Greece and the American South, respectively, to explore new lines of research for the question of bound labor in history and society.

May 8, 2015

**Hunger Games: Labor Contracting from
Mesopotamia to Rome**
Neubauer Collegium, The University of Chicago

The cultures of the ancient world, from Mesopotamia to the Late Roman Empire, provide



an exceptional diversity in terms of forms of exploitation of the labor force. War, razzias, and massive enslavement of foreign populations are the infamous characteristics of this world. Violence is always part of the picture, but hunger and economic pressure were often the primary factor in the creation of a bound work force. This symposium addressed three different situations: Mesopotamia, Archaic and Classical Sparta, and the Late Antique Roman world. It provided an opportunity to compare three very diverse situations and to address fundamental questions on the exploitation of the workforce well beyond the case of ancient cultures.



Working Group on Political Theology

2013–2015

There are many reasons for the recent re-emergence of scholarly interest in political theology, or the relationship between theology and politics. On the research side, there is the concern that the theoretical subordination of politics to a service function for markets deprives human beings of their potential to shape their future in collaboration with others. Impetus to revisit political theology also comes from the realm of global politics, in which it is clear that, although interest in political theology waned within the academy, it waxed as an ideology and practice on the world stage. The Working Group on Political Theology was formed to address the academic side of these concerns by investigating the orientation of politics to guiding values and by identifying enduring historical influence of theological ideas on political concepts and the formation of political institutions.

Comprehensive critical examination of political theology is possible only through a collaboration of specialists across the disciplines. The Working Group on Political Theology was initiated by six faculty members in Classics, Sociology, and Political Science to bring together researchers working on issues of political theology in various fields, historical epochs, and cultural settings.

In its first year, the group convened a series of meetings that brought together University of Chicago faculty and visiting scholars to examine the orientation of politics to guiding values and posit whether there has been an enduring historical influence of theological ideas on political concepts and the formation of political

institutions. Participants included faculty members from Classics, Political Science, Sociology, Anthropology, Divinity, Germanic Studies, and English.

In fall 2014, the working group hosted an international conference that was met with strong interest from the campus community and beyond. The conference served as a catalyst for new and ongoing relationships between more empirically-focused ethnographers and historians, and scholars working predominantly in a tradition emphasizing the deep interpretation of an established corpus of texts.

NEUBAUER COLLEGIUM FELLOWS

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

Andreas Glaeser, Professor in Sociology and the College

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

John McCormick, Professor in Political Science and the College

Omar McRoberts, Associate Professor in Sociology and the College

Lisa Wedeen, Mary R. Morton Professor in Political Science and the College; Co-Director, Chicago Center for Contemporary Theory

EVENTS

December 6, 2014

Beyond Political Theology? Authority, Community, and the Absolute The University of Chicago

The conference brought together scholars from the Indian Subcontinent, the Middle East, Europe, and North America who are exploring political theology from a wide variety of disciplines. The historical and geographical spread ranged from the 20th century U.S. and the interwar and postwar periods in Western Europe, to the contemporary Middle East, Renaissance Europe, and Moghul India. The animating question of the conference was: Is it thinkable, and/or desirable, in face of the historical record and the recent resurgence of political theologies in various fundamentalist movements, to organize political life in a community without references to some form of an absolute, be that a secular figure such as a human essence, or a nation, or some divinity? This includes considerations of similarities and differences between various cultural and historical expressions of “political theology.”





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

2013–2016

Since Descartes, 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 process. But more recent research in psychology, linguistics, and human development suggests it is difficult to disentangle the workings of our minds from our physical sensations, producing a new way of thinking about embodied cognition and changing how we think about learning and performing.



Led by Sian Beilock, Diane Brentari, Anastasia Giannakidou and Susan Goldin-Meadow, the 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. With support from the Neubauer Collegium, the research team launched the Center for Gesture, Sign, and Language (CGSL), resulting in increasing scholarship around embodied cognition.

Public activities have included numerous workshops focused on how the movements of our bodies—gestures, gazes, etc.—represent our thoughts. Psychologists, linguists, experts on human development, as well as performing artists, have joined in these collaborations.

During the second year of this three-year project, work on three studies has continued: Embodied Cognition: Gesture and sign in relation to action; Reference: Gesture and sign in relation to indexical pointing; and Performance: Gesture and sign in relation to storytelling.

One of the key components of the third study has involved using motion-capture equipment to measure the spontaneous co-speech gestures people produce. This research helps gauge how people's gestures mirror the actions on which they are based. It also helps us understand how much the gestures are influenced by ideas underlying the speech they accompany. Peter Cook, an internationally recognized deaf storyteller and Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow, partnered with the team to explore the use of gesture in both spoken and signed languages through the medium of storytelling and poetry. Together they are developing an analysis system to pinpoint the places where deaf and hearing storytellers use the same genre of structures in their stories, though in different ways. This will help us to better understand how gesture works along with language to convey our ideas. The archive they develop from this path-breaking research will be made available to researchers worldwide.



NEUBAUER COLLEGIUM FELLOWS

Sian Beilock, Professor in Psychology;
Vice Provost for Academic Initiatives

Diane Brentari, Professor in Linguistics and
the College; Co-Director, Center for Gesture,
Sign, and Language

Anastasia Giannakidou, Professor in
Linguistics and the College; Co-Director,
Center for Gesture, Sign, and Language

Susan Goldin-Meadow, Beardsley Ruml
Distinguished Service Professor in Psychology;
Co-Director, Center for Gesture, Sign, and
Language

COLLABORATOR

Peter Cook, Associate Professor in
ASL-English interpretation, Columbia College,
Chicago; 2013–2014 Neubauer Collegium
Visiting Fellow

EVENTS

June 10–12, 2015

**The Spatial Grounding of Learning:
Action, Gesture, and Language**
The University of Chicago

This two-day conference was sponsored by the National Science Foundation's Spatial Intelligence Learning Center, hosted by the University of Chicago's CGSL, and organized by Susan Goldin-Meadow along with Daniel Casasanto, Assistant Professor in Psychology, and Nora Newcombe, Professor in Psychology, Temple University. Nine internationally-known scholars presented papers that discussed new ways of leveraging language, action, gesture, and space to promote learning. The conference was attended by more than forty faculty, graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows.

September 29, 2015

**Joshua Monten and Company: Performance
and Conversation**
The University of Chicago

Expanding its focus from primarily verbal performance genres—storytelling and poetry—to include dance, the CGSL has recently begun to collaborate with Joshua Monten's dance company based in Zurich, Switzerland. Monten's choreography involves narrative, gesture, and sign language, offering two research opportunities: exploring the types of meanings that are best communicated in dance via body postures, spatial arrangement, and movement; and, developing a notation system that can scale up from sign/gesture notation to dance, and vice versa. The studio performance by Joshua Monten and Company and conversation with the artists and faculty from the CGSL was presented by the Gray Center for Arts and Inquiry in partnership with the CGSL.



The Game Changer Chicago Design Lab

2013–2016

In 2012, Neubauer Collegium Fellows Melissa Gilliam and Patrick Jagoda founded The Game Changer Chicago (GCC) Design Lab with funding from the Neubauer Collegium. The GCC Design Lab has pioneered the use of new media, digital storytelling, and traditional games to frame issues of sexual, reproductive, social, and emotional health for urban youth. Games developed in the GCC Design Lab, an inaugural project of the Neubauer Collegium, have proven so effective that over the last three years the Lab has developed into an established transdisciplinary center, an experimental arm of the University of Chicago's Center for Interdisciplinary Inquiry and Innovation in Sexual and Reproductive Health (Ci3).



The game-based learning model used in the GCC Design Lab provides a platform to research the link between new media design and creating on the one hand, and sexual and reproductive health outcomes on the other. In its pursuit of finding effective ways to empower vulnerable youth to improve their own health, the Lab's work has bridged distinct disciplines, impacting the fields of digital media studies, public humanities, game-based education, and applied science.

A key strength of the GCC Design Lab is its graduate and undergraduate student fellows, as well as high school youth fellows from the local community, who, along with researchers and

staff, represent a range of capacity and expertise that includes computer game design, creative writing, comparative literature, film and media studies, sociology, and visual art.

With support from the Neubauer Collegium, the GCC Design Lab established a process for comprehensive inquiry and intervention design that includes gathering input from community partners and policy makers, in addition to pursuing the recognized standards for excellence in academic research. The team created a pipeline of production, research, and distribution of projects that stretches across genres of analog, video, and alternate reality games, and includes collaborative partnerships with multiple audiences and thought leaders.

Having developed and tested a robust Chicago-based model for reproductive health intervention, GCC researchers are fostering collaborations with investigators in Delhi, India, to take their work on games into urban settings internationally. Domestically, they formed Resilient Games Studio, LLC in May 2015 to distribute their digital and analog games to high schools and organizations around the country.

This work has attracted not only media attention but also additional funding sources. In March 2015, the MacArthur Foundation awarded the GCC Design Lab \$1 million over two years, and in July 2015, the NIH granted the investigators a five-year, \$1.2 million Science Education Partnership Award (SEPA). The five-year interdisciplinary project will investigate gameplay and game design as a way to enhance the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields for minority groups. Using the Lab's "Hexacago Health Academy," the team will explore a game-based approach to engaging youth in health and science.



NEUBAUER COLLEGIUM FELLOWS

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

Patrick Jagoda, Assistant Professor in English Language and Literature

PARTNERS

On campus, the GCC Design Lab works in varying capacities with the Computation Institute, the Office for Community Engagement, Chapin Hall for Children, the Urban Education Institute, the Center for Health and Social Sciences, the Center for Elementary Math and Science Education, the Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality, the Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture, the Institute of Politics, the Institute for Translational Medicine, the Section of Family Planning and Contraceptive Research, the Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts, the Richard and Mary L. Gray Center for Arts and Inquiry, the Arts|Science Initiative,

and GlobeMed, a student-led organization committed to social justice and global health.

Off campus, the GCC Design Lab has developed strong collaborations with a network of youth serving organizations in Chicago via The Hive Learning Network, including but not limited to the YMCA's Black and Latino Achievers Program, Global Girls, Digital Youth Network, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and Scenarios USA.

PROJECTS

A Day in the Life

A single-player, role-playing game that situates the player in the everyday world of a high school student, this game uses interactive storytelling and decision-making to work through social and emotional health issues within a larger social, political, and economic context.

S.E.E.D.

A five-week alternate reality game that explored new media literacies, social justice issues, and STEM learning with sixty-nine youth, primarily from the South Side of Chicago.



History, Philology and the Nation in the Chinese Humanities

2013–2016

China's historical self-understanding is distinct from that of other contemporary cultures. In contemporary Chinese consciousness and history-writing, the nation acts as a protagonist and center of reference in ways that most American or European scholarship of the present day would find strange. In addition, the discipline of history in China is deeply informed by humanistic texts, particularly ancient texts, and the related discipline of philology. These two factors together create opportunities for ethnography and literary studies to approach history as practiced in China as a distinctive object of study.

Neubauer Collegium Fellows Judith Farquhar and Haun Saussy partnered with four prominent Chinese scholars in a three-year collaboration studying the different mapping of disciplines between the U.S. and China. The aim of their Neubauer Collegium project is to shed light on the deep organizing principles of the two countries' ways of doing



scholarship, and even on their national self-understandings.

In July 2015, the group met regularly in Paris to present concepts, texts, and projects to each other. These events stimulated considerable challenging conversations, pushing the team's various projects to converge on a few themes. Full expression and exploration of this newly-opened common ground is expected to emerge in the team's third year of collaborative work.



NEUBAUER COLLEGIUM FELLOWS

Judith Farquhar, Max Palevsky Professor in Anthropology and the College; Committee on Conceptual and Historical Studies of Science

Haun Saussy, University Professor in Comparative Literature, the John U. Nef Committee on Social Thought, East Asian Languages and Civilizations, and the College

COLLABORATORS

Liu Dong, Professor in Chinese and Philosophy and Vice Dean, Academy of Traditional Chinese Learning, Tsinghua University, Beijing; 2013–2016 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow

Wang Min'an, Professor in International Literature, Beijing Foreign Studies University; 2013–2016 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow

Xie Shaobo, Associate Professor in English, University of Calgary; 2013–2016 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow

Ge Zhaoguang, Director, National Institute for Advanced Humanistic Studies, Fudan University, Shanghai; 2013–2016 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow

EVENTS

July 16, 2015

History, Philology, and the Contemporary: Comparisons from/to China

The University of Chicago Center in Paris

The public colloquium held at The University of Chicago Center in Paris was well-attended by local scholars. Formal papers were produced (for eventual publication) and presented by the six project Fellows, with full translation arranged between English and Chinese.





Material Matters

2013–2016

Scholars are beginning to comprehend how profoundly the use of and regard for materials divides contemporary art from the art of the past. Sculptures in the University of Chicago's Public Art Collection served as the starting point for Neubauer Collegium Fellow Christine Mehring to launch an investigation into the significance of materials for 20th century art. Through a focus on the conservation stage in the life of these sculptures, Mehring and her team of collaborators, including renowned New York-based conservator Christian Scheideman, are able to approach the comprehensive history of the artworks, investigating not only the materials used in them (what was used; why it was used), but also exploring the imperatives and ethics involved in restoring the works to their original form.

The project leverages the Neubauer Collegium's resources for collaborations in the visual arts, including its exhibition gallery. Core to the project is the material investigation and conservation of Wolf Vostell's (1932–1998) sculpture *Concrete Traffic*. Vostell created the work as an "event sculpture" for a 1970 exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago, encasing a 1957 Cadillac in concrete and "parking" it on a downtown lot. Mehring's team has been working to restore *Concrete Traffic* as part of what has grown into a broader initiative in public art at the University. Having examined archival materials—including a previously unknown 16mm film of the making of *Concrete Traffic*—steps were taken to begin the complex set of tasks required to restore the sculpture. An extensive condition report on the surface of the concrete was completed, and first steps toward its restoration were initiated. In 2016 the piece will be placed in a new site on campus, a conspicuous parking spot in a University garage.

This choice reflects the original challenging spirit of the Fluxus movement while also serving the needs for conservation.

A second component of the project involved the Neubauer Collegium Exhibition *No Longer Art: Salvage Art Institute*, co-curated by Elka Krajewska and Mark Wasiuta, with Jacob Proctor (See p. 8). This exhibition addressed the project's questions of materiality and value head on, assembling a corpus of works declared by the art insurance company AXA to have no value because of physical damage. Works by Rauschenberg, Koons, Warhol and others were placed on moveable dollies in the gallery, so that visitors could curate the show for themselves in real time, again in keeping with the spirit of the Fluxus movement.

The third focus for Material Matters is a community-based restoration program focused on work by international artist Buky Schwartz (1932–2009), whose disassembled sculptural pieces are currently placed on 60th Street and Cottage Grove Avenue in Hyde Park. This component emerged as an opportunity after the project had launched, as a means to further explore the public engagement dimensions of the investigation of material and value. Abandoned on land that has been declared contaminated, the two untitled sculptures are the focus of a collaboration among the Neubauer Collegium, the University's Arts + Public Life initiative, the Office of Civic Engagement (OCE), and community partners. The aim is both to generate dialogue exploring aesthetic values, as well as to determine how to reconfigure the sculptures and preserve them. Open to the public, community conversations were hosted in partnership with OCE on June 5 and July 22, 2015, facilitating a dialogue on how public art can animate public spaces.



NEUBAUER COLLEGIUM FELLOW

Christine Mehring, Professor in Art History and the College

COLLABORATORS

Bill Brown, Karla Scherer Distinguished Service Professor in American Culture, English Language and Literature, and Visual Arts; Deputy Provost for the Arts

Elka Krajewska, President and Founder, Salvage Art Institute, New York

Christian Scheidemann, Senior Conservator, Contemporary Conservation Ltd., New York

Amanda Trienens, Principal Conservator, Cultural Heritage Conservation LLC, New York

CONSULTANTS

Laura D'Alessandro, Head, Conservation Laboratory, Oriental Institute; Stephen Kelley, Structural Engineer and Architect, Oak Park, Illinois; Roger Machin, Director, Methods and Materials, Chicago, Illinois; Stephen Murphy, Curator, Restoration Specialist, Chicago Vintage Motor Carriage, Chicago, Illinois; Chris Rockey, Principal Structural Engineer, Rockey Structures, LLC, Oak Park, Illinois; Anna Weiss, Campus

Art Coordinator, Smart Museum of Art;
Lisa Zaher, Research Associate

EVENTS

April 23, 2015

No Longer Art: Salvage Art Institute
Exhibition Opening and Panel Discussion
Neubauer Collegium Exhibitions,
The University of Chicago

April 24, 2015

Salvage Art Symposium 2.0
The University of Chicago

Experts from across the University of Chicago attended this symposium on the value, valuation, and death of art. Participants included the curators of the original *No Longer Art* exhibition, Elka Krajewska and Mark Wasiuta, Director, Arthur Ross Architecture Gallery, Columbia University, along with Ivan Moskowitz, Associate Professor in Pathology; Canice Prendergast, W. Allen Wallis Professor in Economics; Jessica Stockholder, Raymond W. & Martha Hilpert Gruner Distinguished Service Professor in Visual Arts; Bill Brown, Karla Scherer Distinguished Service Professor in American Culture; Fiona Rose-Greenland, Research Director, The Past for Sale project; and Jacob Proctor, Curator, Neubauer Collegium.



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

2013–2016

Signs 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—as well as the psycholinguistic processes by which humans first made language visible.

the materiality and archaeological contexts of writing; and, the rise of literature.

Taking a cross-civilizational as well as cross-disciplinary approach, Neubauer Collegium Fellows Edward Shaughnessy and Christopher Woods seek to understand the linguistic and cultural processes by which writing evolved. They aim not only to shed light on written traditions and writing systems, but also to contribute to our understanding of the nature of written language and its relationship to speech.

Through hosting a series of international symposia (Chicago, Beijing, and Paris), the project has drawn together University of Chicago faculty with scholars from around the world specializing in Mesopotamian, Chinese, Egyptian, and Mesoamerican writing and symbolic systems, as well as linguists focusing on written language.

A volume or volumes of essays deriving from the conferences is planned for the conclusion of the project in 2016.

NEUBAUER COLLEGIUM FELLOWS

Edward Shaughnessy, Lorraine J. and Herrlee G. Creel Distinguished Service Professor in Early Chinese Studies and the College; Director, Creel Center for Chinese Paleography

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



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; writing systems' adaptation to bilingualism; scribal transmission and education; the development of literacy;

COLLABORATOR

Françoise Bottéro, Research Fellow at the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), Center for Linguistic Research on East Asian Languages (CRLAO) in Paris; 2014–2015 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow

EVENTS

November 8–9, 2014

Autumn Conference

The University of Chicago

Twenty-two internationally recognized authorities from Europe and the U.S. presented papers on all four of the civilizations where writing developed independently: Mesopotamia, Egypt, China, and Mesoamerica. Papers were also presented on the secondary adaptation of writing (two in second-millennium B.C. Anatolia, and one each on Korea and Japan), along with “A Computational Model of the Discovery of Writing,” a theoretical model of how a new writing system might develop, presented by Richard Sproat, Google Labs.



June 26–27, 2015

Summer Conference

The University of Chicago Center in Beijing

Thirty-five scholars participated in two days of meetings at The University of Chicago Center in Beijing, co-sponsored by the Center and the Neubauer Collegium and held in partnership with Fudan University in Shanghai. Following the two days, Fudan University invited all participants to travel from Beijing to Shanghai to continue discussions (June 29–30). These Beijing and Shanghai meetings featured nine different international sinologists, as well as four Chinese scholars who work on ancient Mesopotamia and Egypt. Almost half of the conference participants also took part in the November 2014 conference at the University of Chicago, providing the opportunity to probe even more deeply into related questions.





The Voice Project

2013–2016

The Voice Project was initiated by an interdisciplinary group of faculty members at the University of Chicago keen to explore how voice has come to serve as the unacknowledged vector of numerous questions—philosophical, theoretical, media-focused, and material—that have pressed on current-day disciplines in the humanities and social sciences. While interest in the voice is shared by scholars in many



disciplines (performance studies, film and media studies, philosophies of language and the body, phenomenology, gender studies, psychology, literary studies, anthropology, biology, and neuroscience, to name a few), over the last 20 years research has tended away from textual orientations and metaphysical philosophies and toward the material and embodied nature of voice. New media and technologies have profoundly affected artistic expression, and transformed our sense of living in our bodies, as well as our attempts to measure, fix, and stabilize physical forces connected to the voice. The Neubauer Collegium Voice Project aims to develop a means of communicating across disciplines with conversations that link theory and practice.

In spring 2013, The Voice Project initiated a faculty seminar to facilitate such focused conversations between theory and praxis, scholars,

and different kinds of creative and professional practitioners working in voice. The work of initial meetings 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 theory.

The seminar raised novel questions about voice that challenge metaphysical and often universalizing presumptions about it—in the case of East Asian studies and anthropology by provincializing the Euro-American discourse on the voice, and in the case of Classics by tracing the linguistic and historical roots of this figurative understanding of voice. These 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. As a model, The Voice Project's faculty seminar format has provided participants with a rare intellectual space to collaborate in concentrated sessions across disciplines, engaging deeply with this emergent topic while also developing the intellectual partnerships necessary to move the field forward.

Mladen Dolar, Senior Research Fellow in Philosophy at the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, and the primary theorist of voice today, has been a regular participant in the seminar from the start. In 2013, the project hosted Dolar in residence at the University of Chicago, during which time he also collaborated closely with faculty and students as a visiting professor in Germanic Studies. Dolar returned to campus in fall 2015 as a respondent for the project's culminating event, "A Voice as Something More: An International Conference."

The conference was well attended by faculty and students from across campus and also attracted attendees from universities across the country. A highlight of the conference was the keynote address, “Vowels/Consonants: The Legend of a “Gendered” (Sexual) Difference Told by Cinema,” delivered by renowned film theorist and composer Michel Chion. Chion spoke to a full house at the University of Chicago Film Studies Center.

NEUBAUER COLLEGIUM FELLOWS

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

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

COLLABORATORS

Seth Brodsky, Assistant Professor in Music

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

Thomas Gunning, Edwin A. and Betty L. Bergman Distinguished Service Professor in Art History, Cinema and Media Studies, and the College

James Lastra, Associate Professor in Cinema and Media Studies, English Language and Literature, and the College

David Levin, Addie Clark Harding Professor in Germanic Studies, Theater and Performance Studies, and the College; Director, Gray Center for Arts and Inquiry

Sarah Nooter, Associate Professor in Classics and the College

Jessica Peritz, Graduate Research Intern, The Voice Project; PhD Candidate in Music

Marcelle Pierson, PhD Candidate in Music

Steven Rings, Associate Professor in Music; Director of Graduate Studies

Neil Verma, Visiting Assistant Professor in Radio/Television/Film, Northwestern University School of Communication

EVENTS

November 20–22, 2015

**A Voice as Something More:
An International Conference**

Neubauer Collegium, The University of Chicago

Topics ranged from recorded sound, Jamaican popular singing, ventriloquized voice, screaming, ownership and essentializing of voice, singing versus speaking, Chinese voice theory, vocal mimicry, poetic voice, opera, voice in Japanese kabuki, and cinematic voice, among other approaches. French film theorist and composer Michel Chion served as the keynote speaker, with Slovenian philosopher Mladen Dolar as a conference respondent.



Art Scenes: An International Perspective

2014–2015

In postindustrial data-driven societies in which symbols increasingly supplant physical objects, it is arguable that new concepts about consumption and lifestyle are needed to better capture how people think, work, and live. To that end, this project employs a concept of Scenes that combines aesthetics with tools and methods from the social sciences to analyze arts and culture in nine different

countries. To examine how people's aesthetics inform their consumption, Scenes uses a broad spectrum of data, including 40,000 U.S. zip codes, censuses, electronic yellow pages, citizen surveys, and information about physical facilities and the people who behave as consumers/participants.

Project collaborators come from disciplines including sociology, musicology, comparative literature, political science, economics, psychology, and history; and their studies include Scenes in Canada, Spain, France, Korea, Japan, China, Poland, and Germany. Building this body of international research into a coherent concept for use for humanistic and social science analysis has been the main work of Neubauer Collegium Fellow Terry Nichols Clark and his collaborator Daniel Aaron Silver. Last year, with support from the Neubauer Collegium, they invited key Scenes participants to the University of Chicago to present work to date, including seven monographs. *Scenes*, a forthcoming book documenting this research, will be published by the University of Chicago Press.

NEUBAUER COLLEGIUM FELLOW

Terry Nichols Clark, Professor in Sociology

COLLABORATOR

Daniel Aaron Silver, Assistant Professor in Sociology, University of Toronto



The concept emerged for us as a solution to a specific research problem. Our question was: how and why do amenities—operas, art galleries, restaurants and the like—influence community and urban development?"

— DANIEL SILVER, TERRY NICHOLS CLARK, *The Power of Scenes*

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

2014–2015



The Neubauer Collegium's Health and Human Rights in the Humanities project has engaged philosophers, medical ethicists, practicing and teaching physicians, and students to address fundamental questions underlying the notion of health as a human right. As part of the discussions, physicians at the University of Chicago Medicine have met specifically to discuss how to incorporate human rights principles into medical education in the U.S., Haiti, China, and Uganda.

Recent activities include the March 2015 Communication, Ethics, and Professionalism in Medical Education Reforms Conference at the Peking University Health Sciences Center in Beijing organized by Neubauer Collegium Fellow Renslow Sherer. The conference was sponsored by the Neubauer Collegium in partnership with The University of Chicago Center in Beijing, the Institute for Medical Humanities at Peking University, and the Wuhan University Medical Education Reform Project at the University of Chicago. The purpose of the meeting was to bring together medical educators and humanities faculty from across China to discuss new trends and developments in medical school curricula related to communication, ethics, and professionalism. Participants shared new survey research into medical school curricula in these areas from Beijing, Wuhan, and Guangzhou, with a comparison to the curriculum in Chicago, and with an examination of the content of these curricula for common elements of human rights, social justice, and the humanities.

In partnership with the Pozen Family Center for Human Rights (PFCHR), the project has expanded to an ongoing Health and Human

Rights Committee, which has already convened a conference, symposia, and numerous speaker panels. In addition, a course that developed out of the project attracted students from sixteen different majors or schools in its first year and will be taught again in winter 2016 as a result of high demand.

NEUBAUER COLLEGIUM FELLOWS

Daniel Brudney, Professor in Philosophy;
Associate Faculty in Divinity and the MacLean
Center for Clinical Medical Ethics

Susan Gzesh, Executive Director, Human
Rights Program

Evan Lyon, Assistant Professor in Medicine

Renslow Sherer, Professor in Medicine

EVENTS

October 10–11, 2014

Is Health Care a Human Right?

The University of Chicago

The symposium, presented in partnership with the Pozen Family Center for Human Rights, brought together University of Chicago faculty, physicians, and students, physicians from Haiti and from other U.S. institutions, and members of the general public to explore whether there is a general right to health care. Driving questions included, “How is the right to health care defined?” and “Who has the obligation to provide and protect this right?”. At a subsequent physician round-table held at The University of Chicago Medicine, participants discussed the incorporation of human rights principles into medical education in the U.S., Haiti, China, and Uganda.



The Living Mortal Project

2014–2015

The Living Mortal Project was established to address what Neubauer Collegium Fellows Jesse Soodalter and Monica Malec have identified as “a crisis in mortality-awareness.” They are exploring the disconnect between western medical practice and the needs among those dying and their families. The project aims to identify the factors that account for this crisis in unawareness, and to posit an informed strategy for remedy.



Soodalter and Malec, both practicing medical doctors, argue that an overarching discussion of mortality has been largely lost to the purview of medicine. Contemporary western medicine granulates, concretizes, and renders down enormous and unpalatable truths into a series of digestible sub-facts: diagnoses, lab results, scans, molecular analyses, treatment plans, and treatment responses. In effect, this functions as a species of denial for clinicians and patients alike. Medicine is increasingly the primary locus of death in contemporary culture, and yet its language is designed to be inadequate to describe death except as a series of particularist processes.

Project leaders gathered primary qualitative research on cancer patients’ experiences using archival data and launched an innovative series of interactive workshops to incorporate the broad range of disciplinary perspectives required to address this very human problem. The workshops included input from areas not usually assimilated into medical research (visual arts, poetry, song) in pursuit of new, synthetic ways of thinking and talking about death. As part of the project’s goals to consider curricular training, leaders incorporated their research findings into a medical co-curricular elective course series in the spring that introduced students to the project’s research explorations of mortality and further tested the methodology developed. Providing a unique perspective to students, the course included a weekly gallery talk led by artist Ika Haiduk, a reflective reading session facilitated by Malec and Malynne Sternstein, Associate Professor in Slavic Languages and Literatures, and a cemetery walk led by Michael Rossi, Assistant Professor in History and the College.

Next steps for the project include the development of a clinical intervention to improve end-of-life discussions between clinicians, patients, and their communities, and a longitudinal assessment of the effectiveness among the intervention’s participants in discussing death and end-of-life issues with their patients. Long term goals for the project include developing this approach into a formal curricular offering that will be disseminated to medical schools nationally.

“I found that the times when I did connect with patients and their families around death and the end of life, and was able to help them find their way to a “good” death, were far and away the most satisfying experiences that I have had in medicine.”

— JESSE SOODALTER

NEUBAUER COLLEGIUM FELLOW

Monica Malec, Assistant Professor in
Medicine

Jesse Soodalter, Fellow in Hematology/
Oncology, Medicine

EVENTS

November 2014 – May 2015
Workshop Series
The University of Chicago

Four public workshops held over the academic year attracted faculty and students from schools and programs across the University, including numerous areas of the Humanities and Social Sciences Divisions, the Harris School, the School of Social Service Administration, the Divinity School, the Medical School, and the Biological Sciences Division, as well as members of the Chicago community and cultural institutions such as the Field Museum and the Museum of Contemporary Art. Participants ranged in age from 10 to over 80 years old.





Thinking through Tropes: Figures of Thought and the Political Imaginary

2014–2015

A trope is a turn. In the rhetorical tradition it can be a turn of speech or a turn of thought. Tropes of self-sacrifice, suicide, conversion, the exile, the founder, the internal enemy, and their ilk structure the social and political imaginary across traditions. They change over time, but come back in surprisingly resilient forms. One of the great challenges in scholarship and pedagogy alike is to negotiate strategies for linking thought at the minute level of philology with the maximalist level of thinking about politics, culture, and the social bond across the history of ideas. The Thinking Through Tropes project is an unusual effort to navigate the pull of maximalist on minimalist thinking in humanistic research, while tracing tropes across the divides of genre, discipline, and time itself.

Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow Barbara Vinken spent Winter Quarter 2015 at the University of Chicago to collaborate with Neubauer Collegium Fellow Michèle Lowrie in leading a faculty seminar devoted to exploring new methods for tracing figurations over the *longue durée*. Questions addressed included the difference between a trope and a motif, the relation between the figures of thought described by the classical rhetorical tradition and persistent cultural figurations, and whether the standard repertory of tropes still visible in 19th century literature has become unintelligible today.

The participants in the seminar, largely from the University of Chicago, represented a wide range of national literatures and traditions of political thought. Co-led by Lowrie and Vinken, the seminar involved Shadi Bartsch-Zimmer, Helen A. Regenstein Distinguished Service Professor in Classics; Robert Bird, Associate Professor in Slavic Languages and Literatures; Terry Nichols Clark, Professor

in Sociology; Paul Keyser, independent scholar in Ancient Science; Florian Klingner, Assistant Professor in Germanic Studies; Boris Maslov, Assistant Professor in Comparative Literature; John McCormick, Professor in Political Science; Robert Morrissey, Benjamin Franklin Professor in French Literature; Justin Steinberg, Professor in Italian Literature; and Rosanna Warren, Hanna Holborn Gray Distinguished Professor in Social Thought.

The group's comparative methodological analysis will lead to a book organized around different structures of figuration or other forms of textual interaction that create intellectual lines over time and across cultural transitions.

Other immediate benefits of the seminar were greater clarity about method, and the opportunity to think collectively about a potential methodological statement. During her visit, Vinken spent time working with Lowrie on chapters of the book they are co-authoring, *Civil War and the Republic to Come*. And, Lowrie fortuitously was able to work with Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow David Armitage, Lloyd C. Blankfein Professor in History, Harvard University, who was in Chicago in spring 2015 to collaborate with Neubauer Collegium Fellow Jennifer Pitts, Professor in Political Science.

NEUBAUER COLLEGIUM FELLOW

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

COLLABORATOR

Barbara Vinken, Professor in Romance and Comparative Literatures, Ludwig Maximilians University, Munich; 2014–2015 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow



Neubauer Collegium Fellows Theaster Gates and W. J. T. Mitchell have collaborated on the Art and Public Life project to work through some of the most advanced thinking on ideas about publics and their relation to questions of community, politics, society, culture, and the arts. Together with scholars and students from the humanities and social sciences, and artists from the University of Chicago and beyond, the project has asked in both historical and theoretical contexts: What is a public? What is the role of real and virtual space, architectural design, and technical media in the formation of publics? And most centrally, what role can and do the arts play in the emergence of various kinds of publics?

NEUBAUER COLLEGIUM FELLOWS

Theaster Gates, Jr., Professor in Visual Arts and the College; Director, Arts + Public Life

W. J. T. Mitchell, Gaylord Donnelley Distinguished Service Professor in English Language and Literature, Art History, and the College

EVENTS

October 4, 2014

Art and Public Life: Opening Symposium
Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts,
The University of Chicago

Nine artists, curators, critics, and activists convened for an open discussion of the conditions and possibilities for art and public life in our time. The event was attended by students, faculty, and members of the South Side community.

October 13, 2014

Crowds and Publics
The University of Chicago

Jodi Dean, Professor in Political Science,
Hobart and William Smith Colleges

October 20, 2014

What are Artworks for in a Networked Time?
The University of Chicago

Patrick Jagoda, Assistant Professor in English
Language and Literature



Photo: Banksy



Engineered Worlds: Living Post-Nature

2014–2016

Bringing together experts in science studies, geography, anthropology, history, and security, the Engineered Worlds project offers a significant re-theorization of global security in light of the cumulative environmental effects of industry.

As industrial practices increase, the question of impact on long-term environmental sustainability gains greater urgency. Understanding the scale of the issue and its complexities requires crafting new approaches and re-evaluating the longstanding nature-culture binary that has shaped science studies and cultural anthropology.



In response, the Engineered Worlds project is convening new communities to evaluate how industrial practices “engineer” or “design” ecologies—intentionally and unintentionally.

In fall 2015, Neubauer Collegium Fellow Joseph Masco brought collaborators Jake Kosek, Michelle Murphy, and Tim Choy to campus to convene a conference on the large-scale environmental effects of industry. The conference brought together interdisciplinary scholars working on the co-production of society and nature today to contemplate the kind of social theory needed to evaluate planetary-scale ecological changes that have differential effects for both populations and localities.

In question were the ethnographic commitments of anthropology, with its historical focus on locality; the environmental problems that emerge on long-time scales and impact cumulative planetary processes such as climate change; and, the concepts of security, precariousness, and progress that inform the contemporary practices of consumption that drive ecological change.

In addition to creating a holistic, multi-disciplinary theory, the impact of Engineered Worlds is already being felt in the next generation of scholars. Graduate research now underway includes several international projects on big data, security technologies, and visualization. Another direct outcome of the project is an active student-led independent working group focused on the intersection of science studies and the environment.

NEUBAUER COLLEGIUM FELLOW

Joseph Masco, Professor in Anthropology
and the College

COLLABORATORS

Jake Kosek, Associate Professor in Geography,
University of California, Berkeley

Michelle Murphy, Professor in History,
University of Toronto

Tim Choy, Director and Associate Professor
in Science & Technology Studies,
University of California, Davis

EVENTS

April 29, 2015

**Gardening in the Human Park:
Earth in the Anthropocene**
The University of Chicago

Michael Light, Landscape Photographer

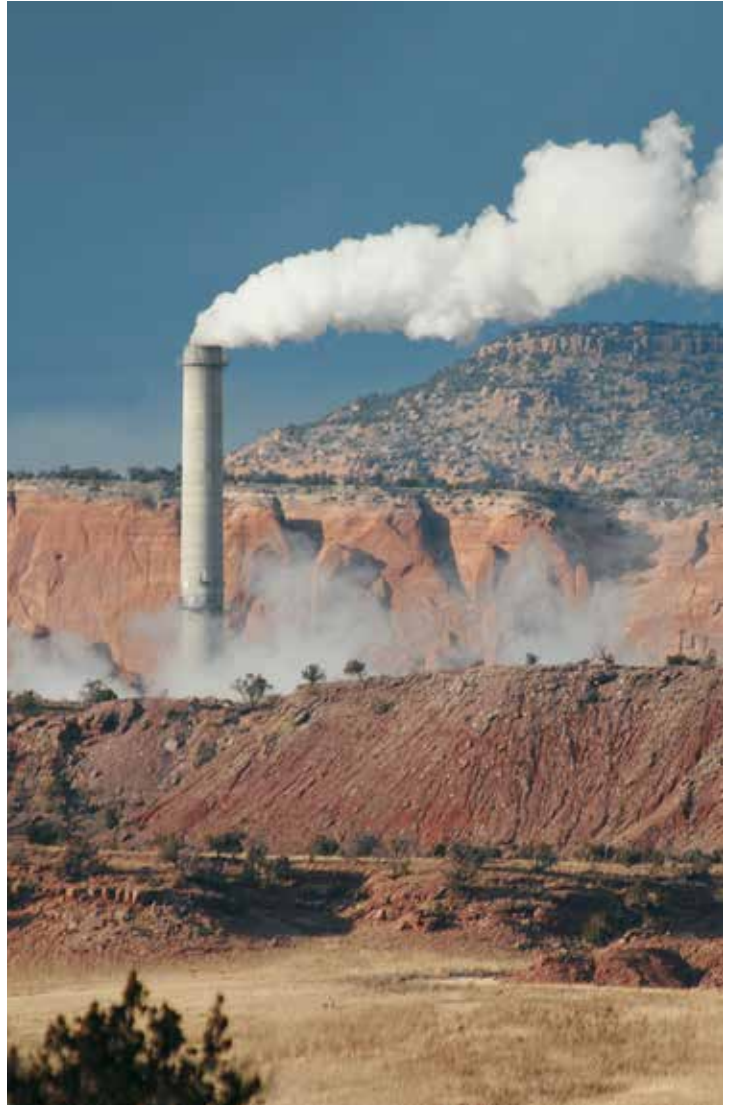
Presented in partnership with the Arts,
Science, and Culture Initiative

June 4, 2015

Seeing Through Data
The University of Chicago

Laura Kurgan, Associate Professor, Graduate
School of Architecture, Preservation, and
Planning, Columbia University;
Director, Spatial Information Design Lab

Presented in partnership with the Arts,
Science, and Culture Initiative





The Changing Social and Rhetorical Foundations of Florentine Republicanism

2014–2016

With the shift in balance of the world's population toward cities, the need to understand the origins and nature of urban data in all its complexity has never been more urgent. Neubauer Collegium Fellow John Padgett has built a unique data set of social networks among approximately sixty-thousand Florentines over two centuries, permitting new understandings of the tumultuous political history of Florentine republicanism over the period 1350–1530. This illuminates the nature of urban polities themselves. Exploring both social-network and rhetorical perspectives, the project unites social science with humanistic analysis in a single integrated database. This will make possible new modes for analyzing the evolution of public discussion and debate in Western Europe before the Enlightenment.

An early result of the project, which also has won funding from the National Science Foundation, has been the donation of the enormous Monte delle Doti data set on 25,000 marriages from 1425 to 1535. As just one example of its extraordinary value, this gift from Tony Molho, Emeritus Professor, European University Institute, has the potential to double the number of women detectable in the Florentine Republic data set. When integrated, it will lay the foundation for an ongoing Florentine research community data set that will make possible new levels of urban family, political, and network analysis.

In addition to overseeing the larger endeavor, Padgett's specific contribution is to uncover the origins of practical political discourse as

it evolved over time. Furthering the existing political theory literature, this research analyzes demographic, tax, and voting data, as well as transcribed and coded speeches to track the discourse of actual political elites dealing with real-life problems. Over the past year, the work of Padgett's collaborator, Katalin Prajda, postdoctoral fellow in Political Science, has produced a volume of transcribed public speeches unique to the period in their detail and accuracy, which provides an important new primary source for scholars and specialists.

The project's international team includes Italian researchers Francesco Bettarini and Claudia Tripodi working in the Archivio di Stato di Firenze. Richard Goldthwaite, Professor in History, Johns Hopkins University, has served as an ongoing consultant. Next steps for the project are to concentrate research on the 1494–1512 Machiavelli Period and focus on the computational aspects of the linguistic archeology.

NEUBAUER COLLEGIUM FELLOW

John Padgett, Professor in Political Science

COLLABORATORS

Niall Atkinson, Neubauer Family Assistant Professor in Art History and the College

John Goldsmith, Edward Carson Waller Distinguished Service Professor in Linguistics, Computer Science, and the College

John McCormick, Professor in Political Science and the College





Humanism, the Classics, and the Historical

2014–2016

This project seeks to dismantle the traditional division between Classics and Renaissance Studies by establishing a dialogue. At the heart of this exchange is the topic of humanism, the endeavor during the early modern period in western history to bring back an idealized past that was based on an inspired misreading of Graeco-Roman antiquity in all its texts, artifacts, and imagined values.

Over the course of a two-year colloquium, Neubauer Collegium Fellows Boris Maslov and Rocco Rubini, along with a group of other classicists and scholars of the Renaissance, are exploring questions such as: Why is history foregrounded or occluded in different cultural and ideological milieus? How has an obsession with classical antiquity molded the more

how can reflecting on the overlapping histories of Classics and Renaissance studies elucidate their potential for impact in an age of digital humanities?

With a capstone conference in spring 2016, colloquium participants (University of Chicago faculty, visitors, and graduate students) are working toward a new, wider definition of literature as any kind of discourse that is aware of its historically constituted formal properties, including historiography. In this sense, disciplines of literature—rhetoric, philosophy, philology, literary critical theory—generate historically-constituted truths and cross-historical collectives. While the impetus for cultural reproduction through literature is often attributed to Renaissance humanism, the Humanism, the Classics, and the Historical project attempts to redefine and renew this concept of humanism for the present.

NEUBAUER COLLEGIUM FELLOWS

Boris Maslov, Assistant Professor in Comparative Literature

Rocco Rubini, Assistant Professor in Italian Literature, Romance Languages and Literatures, and the College

EVENTS

December 4–5, 2014
Autumn Conference
The University of Chicago

The first workshop of the conference, “History: A view from the Russian empire, 1861–1917,” was co-led by Ilya Kliger, Associate Professor in Russian and Slavic Studies, New York University, and Caspar Meyer, Lecturer in Classical



recent past and, indeed, our present? What have different epistemological practices (philology, rhetoric, philosophy) and literary forms (epic, drama, dialogue) deriving from the Graeco-Roman world contributed to our self-understanding of our place in historical time? In what sense should humanism still be part of our notion of the Humanities? And,

Archaeology, Birkbeck, University of London. The sessions focused on literature (and, more broadly, culture) as central to theoretical reflection on the nature of history, and the emergent nonsynchronous theories of historical time in selected texts by Yuri Tynianov and Mikhail Bakhtin.

In the second workshop of the conference, “Politics, or the Arts of Making History,” participants explored the significance of ancient political thought and praxis in the work of Machiavelli and Hobbes, one of the central topics in the study of reception of the Classics. Co-led by Victoria Kahn, Professor in Comparative Literature, UC Berkeley, and Kinch Hoekstra, Chancellor’s Professor in Political Science and Law, UC Berkeley, participants discussed Machiavelli in *The Prince*, and the dialogue between Thucydides and Hobbes.

May 1–2, 2015

Spring Conference

The University of Chicago

The spring conference was dedicated to a redefinition of historical humanism through a review of recent developments in Petrarchan scholarship (Petrarch being considered the “father of humanism”) and Heideggerian scholarship (Heidegger usually being credited with the influential notion of “anti-humanism”). The first session, “Rhetoric: Redefining Petrarchan Inquiry,” was co-led by Kathy Eden, Chavkin Family Professor in English, Columbia University, and Nancy S. Struever, Professor Emerita, Johns Hopkins University, Humanities Center.

The second session was co-led by Paul Richard Blum, T.J. Higgins Chair in Philosophy, Loyola College, Maryland, and Francisco J. Gonzalez, Professor in Philosophy, University of Ottawa.





Infrastructures for the Comedic

2014–2016

The comedic pokes fun at inelastic seriousness and inserts the threat of inappropriateness into painful scenes. Yet the study of the comedic is underdeveloped in contrast to the study of tragedy and catastrophe.

Is serious study of the comedic possible? Is it even advisable? Neubauer Collegium Fellows Lauren Berlant, Zachary Cahill, and Catherine Sullivan launched *Infrastructures for the Comedic*, a two-year project aimed at building pedagogic, critical, and aesthetic infrastructures through which the comic can be engaged as a scene of disturbance, a regime of corporeal technique, and a particular mood within aesthetic form.

The project's COMLAB has supported a new Comedy Central seminar, numerous visiting lecturers, and two public conferences to address the following questions: What consequences do bodily habits and formal conventions have for the comic? What are the binding and liberating functions of format, genre, and archetype for the experience of mood, pleasure, and laughter?

How do social ecologies of production contribute to these scenes? How do particular media, such as painting, theoretical writing, or performance shift the comic encounter with pleasure and aggression?

To further explore the comedic through performance, Sullivan has focused her work on somatic pedagogies that might inform a description of the corporeal dimension of the comedic. The group engaged in a Feldenkrais session and will continue to work with somatic knowledge such as the Alexander Technique, the Bioenergetics of Wilhelm Reich and Alexander Lowy, and other systems derived from the practice of theater and dance. These techniques have helped to provide some sense of pedagogies that allow for the self-study of the nervous system to help describe the aspect of the comic that is within and between bodies.

Building on the project's work to date, the collaboration will focus next on a study of comic forms in the spheres of art, entertainment, and their interactions.



Komar & Melamid's "Elephant Art Academy" in action, Lampang, Thailand, 1999. Photo: Jason Schmidt, courtesy of Vitaly Komar.

“Comedy has the ability to blur distinctions, not only between theory and practice or the functional and malfunctional, but the relation between subject and object.”

— LAUREN BERLANT, ZACHARY CAHILL, AND CATHERINE SULLIVAN



NEUBAUER COLLEGIUM FELLOWS

Lauren Berlant, George M. Pullman
Distinguished Service Professor in English
Language and Literature

Zachary Cahill, Lecturer and Open Practice
Committee Coordinator in Visual Arts

Catherine Sullivan, Associate Professor in
Visual Arts

EVENTS

October 30, 2015
Painting and Its Humors
The University of Chicago

The symposium examined painting as a site of theoretical improvisation and artistic slapstick in an effort to create alternate itineraries for

thinking about what a work is, what artists do, and aesthetic experience. Sessions were purposefully held in three locations, the Neubauer Collegium, the Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts, and The Revival comedy club, to reflect the topics of Painting, Its, and Humors.

December 10–11, 2015

Comedy, an Issue
Neubauer Collegium, The University of Chicago

This workshop conference, in advance of a special edition of *Critical Inquiry* called, “Comedy, an Issue,” took up law, literature, cinema, TV, stand-up, opera, jokes, and performance media—including a laughing machine. Papers addressed why the pleasures of comedy can be so radically disturbing and its disturbances so full of acid and pleasure, and how those generic tendencies affect its appearance as aesthetic form.



People and Things on the Move—Migration and Material Culture

2014–2016

Migration and material culture have profoundly shaped societies and cultures across the globe in the modern era. In order to better understand both the dynamics of migration and the historical transformation of material culture in the modern era, Neubauer Collegium Fellows Leora Auslander and Tara Zahra organized an ambitiously scaled workshop for academics (including advanced graduate students) and practitioners working at the intersection of migration and material culture in any region of the world from the 18th century to the present.



Rooted in history, the topic is nevertheless timely. More than one hundred twenty-five scholars applied from around the world to participate in the multi-day workshop, which was limited to twenty-two invitations. Participants included curators, historians, anthropologists, and sociologists working in the United States, Europe, and Israel. Their analysis of the relationship between people and things in motion revealed new perspectives on both migration and material culture.

For scholars of migration, examining material culture reveals new insights into the emotional and affective dimensions of migration by examining sources beyond the written and spoken word; helps scholars to understand the

material impact of migration for both sending and receiving countries; and, offers insights into the construction and transformation of diaspora communities and cultures.

For scholars of material culture, the workshop was an opportunity to focus on things-in-motion in ways that were distinct from the conventional understanding of commodity flows. Rather than analyzing the movement of things apart from the people who make, sell, and buy them, the workshop focused on the simultaneous movement of people and things, as well as on the shifts in political boundaries around things. This way of thinking about things and people in motion generates new knowledge about the ways that objects act in different contexts, the role of objects as stimulants and repositories of memory, and the movement of things, people, and political boundaries that shape the meanings borne and created by material culture.

In its final year, the team plans to produce an edited volume from a selection of work presented at the conference. As part of the project's larger collaborative process, authors will participate in a series of coordinated revisions and a final workshop with the goal of producing a coherent set of articles that speak directly to the project's themes and goals, and which may influence the global dialogue about migration and immigration.



NEUBAUER COLLEGIUM FELLOWS

Leora Auslander, Arthur and Joann Rasmussen
Professor in Western Civilization, European
Social History, and the College

Tara Zahra, Professor in East European History
and the College

EVENTS

May 14–16, 2015

People and Things on the Move
The University of Chicago

Two dozen scholars from four continents and
five disciplines came together for this workshop
to explain how the experience of migration
changes, and is changed by, the things that people
bring with them and those they leave behind.





Knowing and Doing: Text and Labor in Asian Handwork

2014–2017

Handwork—broadly construed to include farm work, construction, as well as other crafts and skills that produce material objects—relies on forms of knowing in order to train the hand to perform the work. This knowing may be tacit or explicit, individually embodied or widely shared. The patterns and conventions that fix the processes by which work is accomplished are considered as though it were text. Text in this sense has several forms, including gestural, visual, verbal, and written.

Much of the research on handwork in western scholarship addresses European societies. For Asia, the data is extensive, but research is fragmented along disciplinary, regional, and temporal lines. To further this research and contribute to building a new field in this area, this three-year Neubauer Collegium project, led by Neubauer Collegium Fellows Jacob Eyferth and Donald Harper, is examining the interaction of knowing and doing, text and labor, in pre-modern and modern societies in Asia extending from Japan to the Near East, offering new perspectives for comparison with existing Europe-based studies.

Participants in the project's first workshop, "Text and Labor in Chinese Agriculture," held in May 2015, included historians, archaeologists, and anthropologists working on South, East, and Central Asia, from prehistoric times to the present. The project brought Francesca Bray, a leading historian of East Asian technology, and Lisa Onaga, a historian of modern Japanese science and technology, to campus as Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellows in spring 2015 to participate in the workshop and collaborate with University of Chicago faculty and students more broadly.

In 2015–2016, the project will focus on South Asia, China, and Japan, with Visiting Fellows Dagmar Schäfer, Director and Professor at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science (MPIWG), and Annapurna Mamidipudi, PhD Candidate, Maastricht University. Together, the scholars will host an exploratory public symposium in May 2016 aimed at clarifying concepts and refining research questions specific to Text and Labor in Asian Manufacture.

In May 2017 Harper and Eyferth will hold the final Text and Labor symposium of the project, focusing on transportation and construction.



NEUBAUER COLLEGIUM FELLOWS

Jacob Eyferth, Associate Professor in Modern Chinese History, East Asian Languages and Civilizations, History, and the College

Donald Harper, Centennial Professor in Chinese Studies, East Asian Languages and Civilizations, and the College

COLLABORATORS

Francesca Bray, Professor in Social Anthropology, The University of Edinburgh; 2014–2015 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow

Lisa Onaga, Assistant Professor in History, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore; 2014–2015 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow



EVENTS

May 16–17, 2015

Text and Labor in Asian Agriculture

Neubauer Collegium, The University of Chicago

Faculty and graduate students from East Asian Languages and Civilizations, South Asian Languages and Civilizations, Anthropology, and from other institutions from across the U.S. engaged in panel questions focused primarily on grain cultivation. A methodological result of the conference was facilitating historians and philologists to learn about the approaches (palaeobotany, paleoecology, computer modeling, GIS) employed by archaeologists and anthropologists, and vice versa. An interesting outcome of the conference was the difference in the approaches of East Asianists and South Asianists; being able to draw on a much more extensive written record, China specialists appeared to be more text-centered and state-centered in their questions than South Asianists.



The Past for Sale: New Approaches to the Study of Archaeological Looting and the Illicit Trafficking of Antiquities

2014–2017

The last few decades have seen a burgeoning global demand for antiquities at a time when governments in many archaeologically-rich countries have weakened, withered away, or even failed. The existing system of cultural heritage protection laws, international conventions, and governmental practice is in dire need of updating to meet the challenges of the era.

To spur new research-based understanding and policy thinking, Neubauer Collegium Fellow Lawrence Rothfield, along with Gil Stein, Director of the Oriental Institute, organized a yearlong workshop designed to clarify the general features of illicit antiquities markets. Through a comparative study of antiquities looting in distinct regional contexts, the researchers were able to explore variations in cultural, social, and political milieux in which looters, traffickers, and collectors operate.

The project aims to combine empirical research with input from practitioners and to provide economists and policy experts with information for modeling the illicit antiquities market. Such analytical tools can be used for policy creation and post-conflict rebuilding in weakened or recovering states across the globe, with the goal to prevent the destruction of archaeological sites and cultural landmarks by looters.



The project draws on archaeologists, anthropologists, art historians, social scientists, public policy experts, and legal scholars from around the world. In February 2015, the team organized a major two-day conference, “Archaeological Looting: Realities and Possibilities for New Policy Approaches,” that brought ten of the world’s leading scholars in this field to compare case studies on the organization of looting networks operating in Cambodia, Vietnam, Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Yemen, and the Persian Gulf. More than seventy University of Chicago faculty, students, and engaged community members attended the conference. In March 2015, the team hosted a conference on protecting India’s cultural heritage at The University of Chicago Center in Delhi that brought researchers and policy makers together to discuss contemporary threats to India’s ancient cultural heritage.

Near the end of the first year of the project, the situation for cultural heritage in Iraq and Syria worsened considerably. Extensive looting of archaeological sites and ISIS-initiated destruction of heritage sites called for a robust response from the scholarly community. Through the support of the Neubauer Collegium, The Past for Sale team was able to engage actively with this issue. Using the ideas and methods honed during the first year of the project, the team participated in national and international policy discussions in Egypt, New York, and Washington, DC. One outcome of this activity is MANTIS (Modeling the Antiquities Trade in Iraq and Syria). Led by Stein and Research Director Fiona Rose-Greenland, MANTIS combines archaeological and economic data and analytical methods to project the scope and value of the illegal trade in antiquities from the Islamic State.

The team will host archaeologist Morag Kersel as a 2015–2016 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow. During Kersel's time on campus, she will collaborate with faculty and students involved in The Past for Sale project and will also complete a book manuscript on trade in Holy Land artifacts.

NEUBAUER COLLEGIUM FELLOWS

Fiona Rose-Greenland, Research Director,
The Past for Sale project

Lawrence Rothfield, Associate Professor in
English Language and Comparative Literature

COLLABORATOR

Morag Kersel, Assistant Professor in
Anthropology, DePaul University;
2015–2016 Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow

Gil Stein, Professor of Archaeology,
Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations;
Director, Oriental Institute

EVENTS

February 27–28, 2015

**Archaeological Looting: Realities and
Possibilities for New Policy Approaches**
The University of Chicago

Theft of artifacts and artworks from archaeological sites represents a tragic, growing percentage of crimes against art. This conference brought together leading authorities to tackle these key questions: Who loots, and why? What is the impact of looting on objects, archaeological contexts, and nearby communities? How can we take steps to protect ancient art?



March 16–17, 2015

**The Past for Sale: Protecting India's
Cultural Heritage**

The University of Chicago Center in Delhi

This conference brought together anthropologists, archaeologists, art historians, and cultural heritage scholars and activists to discuss contemporary threats to India's ancient cultural patrimony. Papers covered a range of empirical cases and considered both current approaches and potentially beneficial interventions into the field of cultural heritage protection and study. The conference focused in particular on the processes that lead to artifacts and artworks being sold on the international market without legal authorization.



The State, Violence, and Social Control in the Contemporary World

2014–2017

In a departure from macro-historical studies of state power, Neubauer Collegium Fellows Benjamin Lessing, Paul Staniland, and Forrest Stuart have found a local understanding of the relationship between governments and the citizens they seek to rule using ethnography, archival research, interviews, historical narratives, and texts. Their investigations are revealing how authorities (from prime ministers to police officers) evaluate political threats, create social structures, and construct categories of legality and criminality. The work has the potential to illuminate politics and society in the contemporary world in ways that are more deeply informed by an empirical knowledge of ethnography and historical patterns.

To bridge regions, methodologies, and disciplines, Lessing, Staniland, and Stuart are studying interactions between states and criminal organizations in Latin America, policing and social control in urban America, and violence and state building in post-colonial South Asia. Ultimately, through a series of collaborative workshops and a culminating conference, the project has built the foundation for a “Chicago School” on the state, violence, and social control. The Neubauer Collegium’s support was critical to enabling the researchers to bring together scholars from different disciplines to collaboratively define a common research agenda.

NEUBAUER COLLEGIUM FELLOWS

Benjamin Lessing, Assistant Professor in Political Science and the College

Paul Staniland, Assistant Professor in Political Science and the College

Forrest Stuart, Assistant Professor in Sociology and the College

EVENTS

May 15, 2015

The Ideas Incubator Workshop
The University of Chicago

The workshop was designed to help define regions of intellectual and thematic overlap in the researchers’ work, map a unified research trajectory, and build community among top graduate students across disciplines.







Subjectivity in Language and Thought

2014–2017

Linguists and philosophers have each traditionally examined the role of language and thought as a medium for representing (and misrepresenting) objective facts about the world. However, language is also an important tool for sharing subjective perspectives with others; linguistic and mental content are more than descriptive. In this light, traditional distinctions between linguistics and philosophy reveal the possibility for openings, intersections, and collaboration. Philosophical attempts to understand the nature of normative thoughts and reasoning will gain new tools, and linguists will find new insights into the nature of linguistic meaning.

To advance the discussion and exploration of subjectivity and normativity in language and thought, Neubauer Collegium Fellows Christopher Kennedy and Malte Willer have organized a large-scale collaboration between linguistics and philosophy scholars, the first of its kind to focus on this topic.

Over the past year, Kennedy and Willer co-sponsored a meeting with the Workshop in Linguistics and Philosophy to explore the connections between subjectivity and modality. The one-day event was one of the few meetings in the United States to bring linguists and philosophers into a direct and productive conversation. It attracted researchers from the

U.S. and Europe, generating national and international interest in the Subjectivity in Language and Thought project.

As part of their project's aims to train the next generation in collaborative work on shared core concepts, Kennedy and Willer also co-taught a sequence of two interdisciplinary graduate seminars on subjectivity in language and thought, further advancing the discourse and strengthening the cross-disciplinary exchange between faculty and students in the Departments of Philosophy and Linguistics.

The project hosted extended visits for Peter Nathan Lasersohn, Professor in Linguistics and Philosophy, University of Illinois, and Kjell Johan Sæbø, Professor in Literature, Area Studies and European Languages, University of Oslo, each a leader in this new area of research. The project plans to involve three more visiting scholars in the coming year, from University of California, Berkeley, New York University, and Universitat Pompeu Fabra.

NEUBAUER COLLEGIUM FELLOWS

Christopher Kennedy, Professor in Linguistics and the College

Malte Willer, Assistant Professor in Philosophy and the College



COLLABORATORS

Chris Barker, Professor in Philosophy,
New York University

Peter Nathan Lasersohn, Professor in Linguistics
and Philosophy, University of Illinois

John MacFarlane, Professor in Philosophy,
University of California, Berkeley

Louise McNally, Professor in Linguistics,
Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona

Kjell Johan Sæbø, Literature, Area Studies and
European Languages, University of Oslo

EVENTS

April 22, 2015
Subjectivity and Modality Conference
The University of Chicago

This day-long conference, co-sponsored with the Workshop on Linguistics and Philosophy, explored the connection between modality and subjectivity in natural language. Cleo Condoravdi, Consulting Associate Professor, Stanford University, and Alda Mari, Research Director, Ecole Normale Supérieure, were keynote speakers at the event, which drew researchers from the United States and Europe.



Unpacking the Value of Health Insurance in India: Fostering Dialogue Amongst Methodologies

2014–2017

This project is part of a larger initiative designed to address the unique opportunity afforded by the Indian government's creation of its first large-scale public health insurance program, which will eventually provide coverage to over three hundred million people in India falling below the poverty line. India's version of a larger global trend toward providing public health insurance, Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY), is being closely studied by Neubauer Collegium Fellow Anup Malani to determine the value of health insurance in low-income countries. As part of that initiative, twelve thousand households drawn from the districts of Gulbarga and Mysore in Karnataka are currently participating in a large-scale survey. The Unpacking the Value of Health Insurance in India project adds critically important ethnographic analysis to the survey's quantitative measures, with the goal of better understanding the impact of insurance on the self-reported health and financial status of low-income households.

By combining ethnography with different methodologies to measure a broader range of outcomes, Malani, along with Neubauer Collegium Fellows Anuj Shah and Alessandra Voena, will arrive at a more comprehensive understanding of whether and why health insurance achieves certain impacts. Specifically, project researchers will determine why some people choose not to use health insurance even when it is offered to them without monetary cost—a question that has vexed quantitative research, which can measure the choice but not the reasons behind it. What a more ethnographic approach adds to this measure is

consideration of the socio-cultural, as well as the economic context that informs individual choice. Choices are embedded in the reciprocal and hierarchical relations between household members of different ages, gender identities, and gender roles, a dynamic which purely empirical surveys do not capture.

In addition to developing productive disciplinary dialogue among economists, ethnographers, and medical and cultural anthropologists, this project will yield concrete data for governments to better calculate cost-effective interventions into health care. Among questions being addressed are, first, what is the appropriate timing for an intervention? For example, is it effective to spend money on health *before* a health crisis occurs? Second, how are we to understand choice architecture? That is, what other financial factors do families consider when making decisions about health care investments?

The first phase of ethnographic investigation, conducted in Mysore and Kalaburgi (formerly Gulbarga) from November 2014 through January 2015, investigated the relationship between persons, their households, and the health care system. It started the process of explaining the economic impact of health insurance, while informing debates in social anthropology and medicine, and provided an essential ethnographic perspective on the quantitative survey data, productively reframing the quantitative evidence in a larger cultural context.

Going forward, the team will conduct a second phase of the field survey and host a workshop designed for the medical anthropology research community.



NEUBAUER COLLEGIUM FELLOWS

Kosuke Imai, Associate Professor in Politics and the Program in Statistics and Machine Learning, Princeton University

Anup Malani, Lee and Brena Freeman Professor in Law; Professor in Medicine

Anuj Shah, Assistant Professor of Behavioral Science, Chicago Booth School of Business

Alessandra Voena, Assistant Professor in Economics and the College

COLLABORATORS

Gabriella Conti, Assistant Professor in Applied Health Research and the School of Life and Medical Sciences, University College London

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

Cynthia Kinnan, Assistant Professor in Economics, Northwestern University

Vani Kulkarni, Postdoctoral Associate, Urban Ethnography Project, Yale University

Ramanan Laxminarayan, Vice-President, Research and Policy, Public Health Foundation of India





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