Appendix – Request for Proposals for the President’s Global Innovation Fund

An overview of the Columbia Global Centers

April 2015
Columbia Global Centers Overview

Since its inception in 1754, Columbia University has had a broad view of its place in the world. In recent decades, the University has greatly expanded its international presence, largely driven by the research of individual schools and faculty members. These activities have provided Columbia with a footprint on every continent, allowing for research and academic partnerships that have resulted in significant advances in fields ranging from the humanities to public health. In addition, we have among the largest numbers of international students of any major US university and an alumni base of more than 22,000 around the globe.

But, as President Bollinger has said, “The changing global landscape presents new challenges and opportunities that call for new forms of thought and action of the sort that universities can provide.”

The inauguration of the Columbia Global Centers, combined with a wide range of initiatives from a broad array of Columbia schools and programs, represents the next stage in Columbia’s evolution interacting in an increasingly interconnected and interdependent world. The university’s unique approach is about so much more than just having a presence in foreign countries. It is about connecting the local with the global, engaging others in global conversations, and creating opportunities to learn from each other. It is about transforming Columbia into a global university for the 21st century, one in which faculty base their research and students focus their learning wherever their intellectual interests take them, finding fellow scholars and students across the world. By moving beyond the common concept of branch campuses to a truly networked structure – which allows faculty and students to leverage research disciplines across the world and across the academic spectrum – Columbia is the world’s first truly global university.

“We’re talking about being in the world, learning with the world, learning from the world, bringing the world back on campus,” said Vishakha Desai, the university’s Special Advisor for Global Affairs, Professor of Professional Practice in the Faculty of International and Public Affairs, Special Advisor for Asia to the Executive Vice President for Global Centers and Global Development, and a member of the Faculty Steering Committee for Columbia Global Centers | South Asia. “But it not just about the world. It is about the way we think about the world.”

Not only can this next stage differentiate Columbia from its peers among elite research universities, it can initiate a new model for combining the best of the traditional organization of a modern university with the potential of a borderless university. The centers encourage new relationships across schools, institutes, and academic departments at Columbia. Attuned to the priorities and unique circumstances of its host region, each center leverages the University’s diverse intellectual capacities from across the undergraduate, graduate and professional schools, and pursues a set of university-wide core activities that evolves over time based on the active engagement of faculty and students.

The centers help increase international content in the classroom; supplement the curriculum with international study abroad, internship opportunities, and course offerings; provide resources needed to attract students from abroad; facilitate research opportunities for Columbia students and faculty on globally relevant, interdisciplinary topics; and provide a point of ongoing engagement for international alumni.
Mission

Functioning as a network, the global centers encourage teaching and research that require working across disciplinary boundaries, having a presence in multiple regions, and engaging non-Columbia experts and scholars from those regions. Some of the centers’ programs and research initiatives are country-specific, some regional, and an increasing number are multi-regional, even global. While the network is in its start-up phase, each center has started by building strong links with universities and institutions in its respective region. The long-term ambition is that many programs will have a global reach and involve multiple centers in the network engaged in truly global conversations.

In order to realize the promise of this new model for the University all central and global planning and programmatic efforts could align in a strategy such as the one we discuss here. This strategy can serve as a point of alignment for a group of activities that are, by design, disparate and opportunistic, but will certainly benefit from program coordination and message synchronization. Furthermore, having a coordinated and branded strategy will also position Center directors and University fund raisers to solicit large gifts more effectively from a wider circle of potential funders.

In keeping with this opportunity, we suggest the following broad mission for Columbia Global Centers:

*Columbia Global Centers promote and facilitate the collaborative and impactful engagement of the University’s faculty, students, and alumni with the world to enhance understanding, address global challenges, and advance knowledge and its exchange.*

This contribution will be driven by a network of actual and virtual centers around the world, with New York as the critical mass of faculty and student activity. The work of the global centers will involve all aspects of the Morningside campus and all our sites and relationships worldwide in order to create a new model for academic engagement with faculty, students, alumni and global communities.

Strategy

The Centers are the core of Columbia’s global strategy, which is to expand the university’s ability to contribute positively to the world by advancing research, learning, discussion, and discovery around the most important global issues through a truly global perspective. The pillars of research, programs, education and outreach form the foundation of the centers’ objective to lead the University’s global effort to create knowledge, provide solutions, and enhance learning by reaching out and connecting with others in the increasingly interdependent world.

The eight global centers – located in Amman, Beijing, Istanbul, Mumbai, Nairobi, Paris, Rio de Janeiro and Santiago – are nimble hubs that provide a foundation for students, faculty, affiliates, and alumni to explore academic opportunities. Because the centers do not have the structural rigidity of the branch campus, they allow the University to increase its global scope and enrich diversity of academic experience, while maintaining strong connections with the home campus. The centers achieve the following:
• Help increase international content in the classroom
• Supplement the curriculum with international study abroad, internship opportunities, and course offerings
• Provide resources needed to attract students from abroad
• Facilitate research opportunities for Columbia students and faculty on globally relevant, interdisciplinary topics
• Provide a point of ongoing engagement for international alumni

In several regions of the world, the centers are already making a significant impact. In the Middle East, the Amman Center has trained thousands of public school teachers through the Queen Rania Teacher Academy, in partnership with Teachers College. The Istanbul Center is working with the college to create a similar academy in Turkey. The centers in Europe, East Asia, and Latin America have hosted the Global Scholars Program, which offers Columbia undergraduates the opportunity to participate in a wide array of research projects abroad. In India, the Mumbai Center is leading a cross-network collaborative research project addressing global inequality across four broad categories: access, location, social factors, and income. The Beijing Center hosts the Urban China Initiative, a think tank to help China meet the challenges of urbanization. The Paris Center hosts Columbia’s largest contingent of study abroad students and launches this year the World Writers’ Festival this year, a celebration of international literature.

**Academic and Research Mission**

Columbia is, and has been for decades, deeply invested in international efforts. Throughout Columbia’s history—driven by icons like Nicholas Murray Butler—the University has expanded its vision and the scope of its efforts outside the United States, and to issues that affect the global community. Currently, a review of University documents shows program services, grant making, fundraising and investments in all corners of the populated world. The total University spending in international operations—not even including the tremendous investment associated with student activities that reflect a global perspective—is in the hundreds of millions of dollars each year, and is growing.

Most peer institutions with a commitment to an international presence have created offices or campuses that serve primarily one school (e.g., Harvard), are focused on only select locations (e.g., University of Chicago) or are creating degree-granting campus partnerships (e.g., Cornell, through the Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar).

In contrast, Columbia has undertaken a strategy that is both comprehensively global and has the potential to take advantage of emerging technologies. By establishing centers as opposed to fully developed campuses, Columbia has both the ability and the imperative to link centers with New York and with more remote research locations through virtual classrooms, online collaboration tools and more established technologies like video conferencing. Through the eight Global Centers, Columbia will have representation throughout the globe. And, while several of the centers emerged in part on the strength or leadership of a single program (e.g., Earth Institute), all are expressly intended to serve as a regional hub for a broad range of academic pursuits.
The Columbia Global Centers support faculty in a variety of ways. They are the base of several interdisciplinary research projects, the home of important student programming across our schools and colleges, and the catalyst for partnerships with academia across the world. In many ways, they are prepared to support faculty’s global ambitions, and to further their dialogue with stakeholders in the regions that matter to them.

**Impact on Columbia and the World through Partnerships**

The opportunity for the Columbia Global Centers to have substantial impact on critical issues facing the world is strong. Through our faculty, students and alumni, we have experience and capability to address virtually any issue that could reasonably be considered a global priority. Combined with the perspectives, research opportunities and partnership capabilities inherent in having a global network, the probability of impact on the fundamental questions of the world is closer than ever.

- The perspectives provided by a global network are significantly greater than those possible through individual satellite campuses or standalone centers. By enabling the collaboration of academic leaders and students from multiple global points of view—combined with the leadership of both the Morningside and Medical Center campuses—Columbia will be uniquely positioned to bring a multi-faceted approach to critical issues. *Imagine a yearlong series of regional programs and symposia on global immigration issues galvanized by the differing perspectives of Turkey, China, Europe and the United States, culminating in a world-wide conference that looks at the issue through regional and global lenses, and through the disciplines of law, economics, political science, linguistics and global health.*

- The research opportunities afforded to Columbia by a global network are outstanding. As opposed to a campus or programmatic structure, the global network allows for research to cross both disciplines and regional boundaries. By providing a location and services in each major region, the network will be instrumental in facilitating research applications and permits, coordinating research across schools and providing space for visiting researchers to consolidate and coordinate their work. *Imagine a global research effort into free press issues that synchronized and facilitated efforts by journalism, law, political science and sociology across the Middle East, China and South America.*

- The partnership potential of a global network is vastly greater than that of individual centers or campuses. By having a connected web of locations in proximity to regional resources that can be brought to bear on critical issues, students and faculty can access global leaders more easily than if they had no connected, physical presence in the region. *Imagine faculty and students from biology, global health, engineering, economics and the Earth Institute examining issues regarding clean water, in partnership with local academics in India, East Africa and China.*

In addition to the global center network’s impact on the world, it will have a profound impact on Columbia as an institution. By creating an environment in which the structures of a university can be both respected and challenged, the centers will help create even greater leverage of the unique resources of the university. The opportunity and imperative for faculty of different schools to collaborate to address major issues in a comprehensive way—without limitations
caused by existing or traditional geographic relationships—creates a mechanism for focused effort that is challenging today. This capability will help Columbia enhance its status as a top institution that consistently challenges itself to expand and improve the definitions of a modern university, and to become more global (and less “American”) in our view of the world.

The ramifications of this global strategy will also be profound for students, whose experience will be greatly enhanced. Not only will they benefit from the learning that is generated by the network, they will have the opportunity to experience the world laboratory that the centers will make available to them. While the student experience is already unique—because of Columbia’s history, the Core Curriculum and our location in New York, just to name a few reasons —the implementation of an integrated global strategy will further enhance it by creating an even greater opportunity for exposure to global opportunities and perspectives.

Among the issues that could be subjects of network-wide interest for faculty, students and donors to address through the evolving capabilities of the global centers are:

- Freedom of Expression and democracy
- Financial organizations and governance
- Global Health
- Inequality and justice
- The future of cities
- The future of higher education

**Governance and Leadership**

Each global center is led by a resident director who is either a Columbia faculty member or administrator or is a resident of the host country with ties to the University (such as an alumnus/alumnae). All directors have appropriate qualifications and significant experience in their assigned region.

Each global center is guided by an advisory board, which provides ongoing strategic leadership and counsel regarding the center’s activities and plans, and which supports the center’s networking and fundraising efforts. The advisory board helps support the center’s priorities and goals and also gives gravitas and credibility to its mission and work. To date, three of the eight global centers have functioning advisory boards: Amman, Beijing, and most recently, Istanbul. Plans are under way to establish boards for the remaining five centers.

Advisory boards are meant to be diverse, and to include prominent academics, public figures, and business leaders who typically have some kind of connection to Columbia University. There are no designated chairs for the advisory boards. The President and Vice President for Global Centers are *ex officio* members of all advisory boards. Board members serve a three-year term that is renewable. An advisory board meets on an annual basis and the meetings are chaired by the President or the Vice President for Global Centers. Each director is expected to maintain close contact with individual board members throughout the year. A board is thus managed and staffed by the relevant CGC director, who coordinates with the Director of Development for Global Centers, especially as it relates to board members who are prospects of the University.
In addition to advisory boards, the centers are each overseen by university-wide faculty steering committees that meet at least three times a year to review the center’s programming and future plans, and propose themes and ideas for new projects, activities, and collaborations. The committees also serve as anchors within the faculty community, and help ensure buy-in and collaboration with faculty across the range of Columbia departments and schools. The steering committees are chaired by a faculty member who is knowledgeable and has expertise in the country/region the center covers.

The global centers report to the Office of Global Centers in New York on all issues including programming, collaboration, administration, financials, policies and protocols, as well as compliance with Columbia and U.S regulations.
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Columbia Global Centers | East Asia

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Director Biography

JOAN KAUFMAN
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Joan Kaufman, MA, M.S., Sc.D., is the Director of the Columbia Global Centers | East Asia. She is a faculty member of the Department of Health Policy and Management at Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health. Previously, she was a lecturer in Global Health and Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School, principal and faculty affiliate of the Hauser Center for Nonprofit Organizations at Harvard’s Kennedy School, and a distinguished scientist and senior lecturer at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University, where she was teaching on health policy.

From 2008 to 2011, she was the associate director of Academics for the Masters in Science program in International Health Policy and Management, one of two Sustainable International Development master’s degree programs at the Heller School. Dr. Kaufman also worked in the China team leader for the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative from 2002 to 2012. Dr. Kaufman was the first UNFPA international program officer in China in the 1980s, and from 1996 to 2001 she was the Ford Foundation’s Gender Reproductive Health Program Officer for China, based in Beijing.


Kaufman holds a doctorate in public health from the Harvard School of Public Health, master’s degrees in Asian Studies and Health and Medical Sciences from UC Berkeley, and a BA cum laude in Chinese Studies from Trinity College. She has published widely on AIDS, reproductive health, gender, population and international health policy, emerging infectious diseases, and civil society and health with a focus on China.
Center Space

The Center is located in west Beijing’s tech-hub area, Zhongguancun, which is also known as China’s “Silicon Valley”. It is the country’s biggest high-tech park and home to dozens of leading Chinese and international internet and technology companies. The Center is adjacent to some of China’s top universities, such as Tsinghua University and Peking University, as well as geographically close to historic significant locations like the Summer Palace.

Located in a business suite, the two-floor facility features nearly 9,000 square feet of office space equipped to accommodate more than 20 employees and a 1,000 square feet event space floor with a multi-functional conference room equipped with video and audio systems. It is an ideal place for high-profile conferences, academic lectures, training programs, workshops, roundtable meetings, and alumni gatherings. Up the staircase from this area is the primary workspace, with 14 desks, six independent offices, a large seminar room, and a salon area.

Regional Dimension

Since the Center is based in Beijing, most of the programs and events are held in Beijing, China. However, the Center has good relationships with a number of local partners in various cities nationwide, including universities, academic institutions, government entities, NGOs, state-owned and private enterprises, social enterprises, media, etc., allowing us to able to reach out to the local community in other cities in China and other countries in East Asia region, and to expand its work beyond Beijing. The Center’s event space is also available to our partner institutions should the need arise. It is also available to serve as academic space for research and student programs at other local partner institutions for any joint programs with them.

Networking and Contacts

The East Asia Center works with diverse local and regional universities, institutions, governments, NGOs, media, and enterprises in China. Our contacts include but not limited to the following:

- **Local, regional, and governmental partnerships**
  - Development Research Center, State Council
  - State Information Center
  - People's Bank of China
  - Ministry of Finance
  - Health and Family Planning Commission of China
  - Foreign Economic Cooperation Office, Ministry of Environmental Protection of China National Development and Reform Commission
  - State Administration of Quality Supervision and Regulation Department
  - Shanghai Municipal Department of Environmental Protection
  - Social Assistance Department, Ministry of Civil Affairs
  - China National Committee of Aging
  - U.S. Department of the Treasury, Embassy of the USA
  - Tianjin Municipal Government
  - Xianshuigu Township Government

- **Local and international NGOs and foundations**
  - Teach for China
  - The Sustainability Consortium
- World Economic Forum (Davos)
- Friends of Nature
- Chiheng Foundation
- Dandelion School for the Children of Migrant workers
- Roots & Shoots Beijing
- Greenpeace East Asia
- Eco Humanity Alliance
- Institute of Public and Environmental Affairs
- Shanghai Green Oasis Ecological Conservation and Communication Center
- Grassroots Community
- China World Peace Foundation
- The Nature Conservancy China Program
- United Family Healthcare
- Kai Feng Foundation
- Smart Agriculture Analytics
- Nature Resource Defense Council
- Ford Foundation
- Asia Foundation

- **Universities and colleges**
  - Tsinghua University
  - Peking University
  - Renmin University of China
  - Beijing Foreign Language University
  - Central University of Finance and Economics
  - Shanghai Jiaotong University
  - Beihang University
  - Beijing Normal University
  - Beijing University of Technologys
  - Beijing Medical University
  - Cheung Kong Graduate School of Business
  - Zhejiang University
  - Fudan University
  - China Foreign Affairs University

- **Academic institutes and think tanks**
  - Chinese Academy of Governance
  - Tsinghua-Brookings Institute
  - Antarctic Forum
  - China Council for International Investment Promotion
  - Beijing Normal University China Philanthropy Research Institute
  - Fung Global Institute
  - Chinese Economics 50 Forum
  - Peking University-Lincoln Institute
  - Shanghai Development Research Foundation
- Stanford Center at Peking University
- Chicago Center in Beijing
- Harvard Shanghai Center
- China Center for International Economic Exchanges

Sampling of past projects

I. On-Going Projects:

Academic Programs:

**Studio-X Beijing 2011-2014:** Studio-X Beijing is a local base for Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation (GSAPP)’s global network of advanced research laboratories aimed at exploring the future of cities. The Center works with GSAPP and Office of General Counsel to provide support and solutions to Studio-X Beijing on the issues arising from the following areas: personnel, contracts, budget, legal and accounting compliance review of their events, etc. In summer 2014, Studio-X Beijing hosted a group of GSAPP students for a “China Megacities Lab Summer Workshop 2014: Future of Museum in China”, led by Professor Jeffrey Johnson, Director of China Megacities Lab at GSAPP.

**Urban China Initiative (UCI), 2011-2014:** a research project aiming to establish a top-notch think-tank to help China meet the challenges of urbanization. On Dec. 2, 2013, the Center along with the initiative team held a one-day conference at Columbia University for principals and senior Chinese urban leaders working with the UCI, in order to bring together Columbia University's urban scholars, their Chinese counterparts, and representatives of the New York Mayor's Office, allowing them to share ideas about urban planning and design. On November 7, 2014, the forth UCI Annual Forum “China’s Urbanization: Vision, Strategy and Action” was held in Beijing. The new round of call for research will be announced in late November or December.

**Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) related collaboration:** The Center’s work on sustainability has included close collaboration and support to the SDSN led by Columbia University Professor Jeffrey Sachs (Director of the Earth Institute, Quetelet Professor of Sustainable Development, Professor of Health Policy and Management at Columbia University, and Director of the SDSN) and led locally by our Advisory Board member Professor Xue Lan at Tsinghua University, who is co-chair of the SDSN China Leadership Council. Over the last year, the Center has deepened our support to the SDSN, engaging both Columbia faculty and local speakers in an effort to discuss sustainable development issues with a focus on China’s most pressing problems at the Center.

**Case Study on China Air Pollution, 2014:** The Center supported the Case Consortium at Columbia University on a case study conducted on China’s air pollution.

Student Summer Programs:

**Global Scholars Program Summer Research Workshop, summer 2012-2014:** a summer program enabling Columbia undergraduates to conduct a six week in-country research study and workshop in subjects of international importance from a comparative perspective across several locations. The program in the summer of 2014 took Columbia undergraduates to travel and study in Berlin, Moscow, Ulan Bator, and Beijing the subject of “Contemporary Cities of Eurasia” from June 14 to July 13.
Presidential Global Fellowships 2014: This summer, twelve first-year students in Columbia College, The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science, and General Studies have received 2014 Presidential Global Fellowships. Three fellows came to China (Wina Huang, Neha Jain, and Andres Soto.)

Literature Humanities Reading Salon Symposium, summer 2013 and 2014: The Center hosted and co-organized a summer reading workshop series initiated by a group of Columbia College students, introducing the Literature Humanities core curriculum to some Chinese high schools and college students. In the summer of 2013, Symposium has held two programs in both Beijing and Shanghai, and it expanded to Hong Kong in 2014. A public seminar on the topic of "Decipher Columbia’s Core Curriculum" featuring Columbia Professor Richard Billows and scholars from universities in China was held at the end of July 2014 at the Center.

Internship Programs (including Columbia Experience Overseas), summer 2012-2014: In recent years, the Center has helped identify potential employers in China for students from the School of International and Public Affairs and undergraduates from Columbia Experience Overseas program run by the Center for Career Education. Selected Columbia students worked for institutions and companies like the World Economic Forum, Smart Agriculture, Teach for China, and United Family Healthcare over the summer.

School of Continuing Education: Summer Program for High School Students, summer 2015: The Center is working with the School of Continuing Education on a summer pre-college academic program for students entering grades 9 through 12 and freshman year of college which will take place in Beijing in the summer of 2015.

Grants:

The Sustainable Consortium (TSC)’s sustainable sourcing initiative in China 2014: The Center supports the evaluation work of TSC’s sustainable sourcing initiative in China. We are also discussing with TSC the plans for both short term and long term collaboration with Columbia University.

Beijing+20 Project: A grant was awarded to the Center from the Ford Foundation for work on women’s rights and empowerment in China - Beijing+20 Project - related to the 20th anniversary of the historic Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995 in Beijing.

Art Performance Program:

Guqin Theater: This is a series of four music performances to reflect the four seasons featuring the Chinese Guqin (a traditional Chinese instrument) player Wu Na, and her musician friends, titled “See through the Past, Gaze into Future—Guqin Theater: An Elegant Assembly.”

President Global Innovation Fund (PGIF) funded projects, 2013 and 2014:

The fund is designed to provide grants for those Columbia faculty members whose research will rely on the resources, facilities, and regional networks of one or more of the University's eight Global Centers for teaching or research activities.

PGIF 2013 (bold ones are underway)
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<tr>
<th>Name of PI</th>
<th>Title of Project</th>
<th>PI Affiliation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William Eimicke</td>
<td>Global Public Management</td>
<td>School of International and Public Affairs</td>
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<td>Nicola Twilley</td>
<td>Regional Foodshed Resilience: An Interdisciplinary and International Practicum</td>
<td>Graduate School of Arts and Sciences</td>
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<td>Julian Teitler</td>
<td>Columbia University Global Migration Network</td>
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<td>Sandro Galeo</td>
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<td>Shantanu Lal and Jeremy Mao</td>
<td>Children's Global Oral Health Initiative</td>
<td>College of Dental Medicine, College of Physicians and Surgeons</td>
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<td>Jan Svejnar</td>
<td>Strategies for Growth: The Changing Role of the State</td>
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<td>Sheena Iyengar</td>
<td>Global Leadership Matrix (GLeaM)</td>
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<td>Sheldon Pollock</td>
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<td>Kathleen Pike</td>
<td>Global Mental Health Research Consortium and Scholars Program</td>
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**PGIF 2014 (bold ones are underway)**

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<td>Pike, Kathy</td>
<td>Global Mental Health Research Consortium and Scholars Program</td>
<td>P&amp;S</td>
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<td>Sanchez, Pedro</td>
<td>Global Expertise to Feed the World: Planning and CGC Network on Sustainable Agricultural Intensification</td>
<td>Earth Institute</td>
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**Panels/Workshops/Seminars (2014):**

The Center hosts workshops or panels involving scholars from Columbia University, other top universities, companies, government entities, academic institutes, and NGOs on diverse topics.

1) Mailman School of Public Health Dean **Linda P. Fried** and a delegation of high-level academic leaders hosted workshops on public health needs of China at the Center in March 2014.

2) The Center hosted a public plenary titled “Learning Lessons from Sustainable Urbanization in China and Encouraging Progress through Sustainable Development Goals.” **Jeffrey Sachs**, director of the network and the Earth Institute at Columbia University, shared a discussion with leaders in sustainable urban development in China.

3) Barnard College President **Debora Spar** discussed gender inequity in contemporary American society in her new book “Wonder Women: Sex, Power and the Quest for Perfection.” The Center also supported the Barnard's Global Women’s Leadership Symposium in Shanghai in March, 2014.

4) Columbia Professor **Joseph Stiglitz** was interviewed by media personality Lan Yang, advisory board member of the Beijing Center. The Center co-organized a dinner event with Professor Stiglitz attended by other advisory board members and alumni.


6) Teachers College Professor Zhaohong Han talking about Trends in Second and Foreign Language Teaching.

7) Professor Richard A. Billows from Department of History discussing Columbia’s Core Curriculum and liberal arts education and its challenges, Earth Institute’s Executive Director Steve Cohen talking about environmental policy and the business of sustainability.

**II. Past Projects:**
Summer Palace Dialogue between Chinese and American Economists 2011: a high-impact China-U.S. economic conference in Beijing that involved leading economists and minister-level decision-makers from both countries.

Weatherhead Forum in Beijing 2011 & 2012 & 2013: a collaborative effort with Weatherhead East Asia Institute, aiming to increase Columbia faculty’s exposure to the local community through various lectures.

Antarctic Forum 2013: The Antarctic Forum is a non-governmental forum focusing on Antarctica, with the aim to build a unique platform and attract leaders from China and the world to discuss issues such as civilization, society, and environmental development. The Center is collaborating with the Antarctic Forum on this new South Pole initiative, launched by a group of businessmen, politicians, and academics in China, with Columbia University as the academic partner. It focuses on environmental protection and issues of the global commons related to the South Pole. An MOU between Columbia University and the Antarctic Forum was recently signed in New York. A second boat cruise to Antarctic in November 2013 will involve many Columbia faculty members working on polar science and international relations.

III. In Process/ Under Development

- Z Park (Zhongguancun High Tech Park) – SIPA, SEAS, CBS for executive education and internships
- Customized executive education program at the Center with CBS
- High School Program summer 2015 School of Continuing Education (confirmed and in planning stage)
- Teacher’s College ESL program summer 2015 (confirmed and in planning stage)
- China Scholarship Council MOU – Ph.D. fellowships to Columbia
- SDSN.edu offline programs
- Social Science Competition Program with ICProjects and Columbia University’s Interdisciplinary Center for Innovative Theory and Empirics (INCITE)
- Exploring new work on Regional Economic and Security issues – meetings with scholars in Shanghai and Beijing (Shanghai Jiaotong, Fudan, PKU, Carnegie Center)

Center Interests, Priorities and Thematic Focus

The Center’s research themes and programs are diverse. Major foci of the Center include urbanization, urban design and the future of cities, economics, sustainable development, public policies, international affairs, internet governance and social media, global education, environment health, public health, liberal arts, etc. The mission is to expand current programs, develop new initiatives as well as to work closely with the seven other global centers on issues of globalization and global learning. The Center has started by building strong links with universities and institutions in its respective region. The long-term ambition is that many programs will have a global reach and involve multiple centers in the network engaged in truly global conversations.
Paul LeClerc began his tenure as director of the Columbia Global Centers | Europe on July 1, 2012. LeClerc’s academic interests are Voltaire and the French Enlightenment. He received his M.A. and Ph.D. in French at Columbia University and wrote a dissertation on Voltaire that was awarded distinction. He is the author, editor and co-editor of six scholarly volumes, all published by the Voltaire Foundation of Oxford University. His foreign honors include the French Legion of Honor (Officier), the French Order of Palmes Académiques (Officier), and the Spanish Order of Isabel the Catholic (Commander), as well honorary doctorates from Oxford University and La Nouvelle Sorbonne. In 2004, LeClerc received the Columbia Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Dean’s Award for Distinguished Achievement and he holds honorary doctorates from nine American colleges and universities. In addition, President Bill Clinton named him to the President’s Committee on the Arts and Humanities.

Prior to joining the Columbia staff, LeClerc was president and CEO of the New York Public Library (1993-2011); president and professor of French of Hunter College, CUNY (1988-93); provost, academic vice president and professor of French, Baruch College, CUNY (1984-88); university dean for Academic Programs, CUNY (1979-84); instructor, assistant professor and associate professor of French, Union College (1966-79).

Throughout his career, LeClerc has been committed to international educational and cultural relations. He directed terms abroad for Union College students in France, was instrumental in creating the CUNY-Universities of Paris Exchange Program, the first large-scale exchange program between an urban US university system and a European counterpart, created exchanges between the Hunter College Master of Fine Arts program and the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris and between the Baruch College School of Business and the University of Paris-Dauphine, and organized landmark exhibits at the New York Public Library with European partner libraries.

LeClerc is presently chair of the advisory board of the Columbia Maison Française and a trustee of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the J. Paul Getty Trust, The Voltaire Foundation (Oxford University) and the Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation. He is an honorary trustee of the New York Public Library and past trustee of Union College, the National Book Foundation, and a variety of other non-profit educational and cultural organizations. He is married to Dr. Judith
Ginsberg, executive director of the Nash Family Foundation in New York City. They have a twenty-five year old son.

**Center Space**

The Center is located at historic Reid Hall in the Montparnasse district, which combines both artistic and business activities. The original structure, a former porcelain factory, dates back to 1745. An additional building, constructed in the early 20th century houses architectural studio space, a library, a large lecture hall (seats 200) and large conference room (seats 70), together with classrooms and offices. In addition, there are two one-story wooden structures used as classrooms or offices. The total usable square footage of all buildings is 23,000 square feet. The two gardens of approximately 9,000 square feet provide important social spaces in which students, faculty and visitors are nearly always to be found.

**Regional Dimension**

While the Center has not held programming in other countries per se, we have partners in numerous European cities such as Berlin, Leiden, London, and Rome. We also have partners in other French cities such as Aix-en-Provence, Bordeaux, Lyon, Marseilles, Poitiers, Reims and Rennes. There are numerous institutions both around the Center and in greater Paris with whom we have partnered on colloquia, lecture, and film series (École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Collège International de Philosophie, Institut de France, Collège de France, Universities of Paris IV and Paris I – Sorbonne, University of Paris VII, Sciences Po, etc.). Additional auditorium and conference space is available through our partner institutions and can easily be rented throughout Paris, should the need arise. It is also possible to establish academic space for research and student programs at other local institutions.

**Networking and Contacts**

The Center benefits from Reid Hall’s significant position in trans-Atlantic cultural relations, hosting, for more than a century, international conferences, undergraduate and graduate programs, scholarly events, and artistic exhibits and performances.

**Local, regional, and national government resources**

- Bibliothèque nationale de France
- The American Library in Paris
- Cultural Services of the American Embassy in Paris
- The Louvre Museum (auditorium and École du Louvre)
- Mona Bismarck American Center for Art and Culture
- France-Amériques
- Région Ile de France - Service du Livre
- Various cultural organizations (Arts Arena, La Dive Note, Textes & Voix, La Maison des écrivains, Tschann Librairie)
University and college partners

- École Normale Supérieure (MA programs)
- École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (MA programs and scholarly initiatives)
- University of Paris I, University of Paris IV, University of Paris VII (Columbia Undergraduate Programs in Paris and the Alliance program)
- Institut d’Études Politiques – Sciences Po (Columbia Undergraduate Programs in Paris and the Alliance Program).
- École des Hautes Études en Santé Publique (Masters in Public Health taught in collaboration with Columbia’s Mailman School of Public Health)
- École Nationale Supérieure d’Architecture (Architecture program)
- École Spéciale d’Architecture (Architecture program)
- American university programs in Paris: Smith, Hamilton, Dartmouth, Sarah Lawrence, Hollins, Vassar, Wesleyan, NYU
- University of Kent (Canterbury, England)

The Center is working on engaging other personal contacts or renowned local/regional institutions, such as:

Local, regional, and national government

- The Office of the Mayor of Paris
- The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Direction Régionale des Affaires Culturelles

Universities and colleges

- We hope to solidify our current partnerships and expand them to other areas of programming and events.

Programming and Projects

Within the Global Centers network, the Paris Center is sui generis in at least two important ways. First, it is the only global center within the developed economies. Second, in contrast to the seven other Global Centers, all of which are a relatively new presence for Columbia University in their regions, Reid Hall has been running educational and research programs for the University since the mid-1960s. The decision taken in 2010 to designate Reid Hall as the Global Center for Europe is thus best seen as an evolutionary step in the history of a well-established academic center for francophone studies, at which thousands of Columbia College and graduate students, as well as scores of Columbia faculty, have had rich and meaningful educational and research experiences.

The academic programs currently active at the Center are:

Degree programs:

- MA in History and Literature (created in 2011)
• MA in French Cultural Studies (created in 1993), retitled MA in French Global Studies (2014)

Courses of study:
• Columbia University Undergraduate Programs in Paris, offered in fall, spring, and summer semesters
• The Shape of Two Cities: New York-Paris Program, a post-baccalaureate program in Architecture, offered in New York in the fall and in Paris in spring (created in 1994)
• School of the Arts summer program: graduate program in film studies, (created in 2011); undergraduate program in creative writing (created in 2011)

In addition to the above, colloquia, film screenings, concerts, lectures, and conferences are offered to not only the academic community but also a general public. Funding for these projects and events varies from programming funds offered by the CGC | E to foundation grants.

**Sampling of past projects**

**Winter School on Law and Finance**
Columbia Global Centers | Europe welcomed for the first time the Winter School on Law and Finance. Hosted by the Institute of New Economic Thinking and taking place from January 6-10 2014, this intensive course brought together students, post-docs, and researchers for a series of sessions on the relation between law and finance. Sessions were taught by Katharina Pistor, Columbia University, Brigitte Haar, Goethe University Frankfurt, and Dan Awrey, University of Oxford. The Winter School was followed by the Global Law in Finance Network’s annual workshop.

**The Future of the Liberal Order**
The Columbia Global Centers of Europe and Turkey joined together with the Transatlantic Academy for a roundtable event hosted in Paris at Reid Hall on the 27-28 of May 2014. The conference addressed a topic of major global significance, “Can the Liberal Order Survive in a Post Western World?” It did so by considering the prospects for the liberal order in the face of the rise of new, non-western powers, some of who are not democratic, and how and in which ways the West can maintain and broaden the core of the liberal order when it is losing in relative power.

**Shifting Notions of Social Citizenship: The “Two Wests”**
Can we imagine the perpetuation of democracy in the face of a transformed welfare state? Social scientists and historians from the United States and different European countries met to explore how the decline of the welfare state will affect present and future conceptions of citizenship and political participation. This workshop examined the impact of the widespread decline of the welfare state on long-standing claims to social citizenship, and considered the consequences of welfare state transformation for democratic participation in Europe and the United States. The workshop ran from June 11-13, 2014 at Reid Hall in Paris, with the support of the Department of Human Studies, University of Eastern Piedmont; the Center for the Study of Social Difference, Columbia University; the Department of History, Columbia University; and the Alliance Program, Columbia University. Sponsored by the Columbia | Blinken European Institute and the Interuniversity Center for European-American History and Politics (CISPEA).
Columbia University Summer Institute in Middle East/North African Studies (MENA)

This nine-week intensive study program offers a multifaceted introduction to the languages, history and culture of the Maghreb, emphasizing the region’s relations with the Middle East and France. The first month of the program takes place in Amman, where students study Arabic in the well-established Columbia Summer Arabic Language Program and begin a cultural seminar that examines the Maghreb through the lens of migration. After a one-week travel break, the program reconvenes in Paris. Students explore migration to, within and from North Africa as a key component of the region’s history, as a dimension of contemporary society, and as a context and theme of music, literature and film. The program runs in collaboration with Columbia Global Centers | Middle East (Amman).

Community-Building Program: History Department

Thesis students from the History Department working in the UK, France, Spain and the Netherlands convened at Reid Hall for a three-day community-building program that brought together various faculty, graduate students and friends of the department in Paris. Professors Susan Pedersen and Charly Coleman led this first edition of the program.

The Role of the State in Economic Growth in Europe

The financial crisis and ensuing recession brought about a sharp change in the activity and economic role of the state in many countries, blurring previously established demarcations between the roles and responsibilities of the public and private sectors, and challenging established strategies for growth and development. As the global economy gradually recovers from this great recession, the Center on Global Economic Governance has developed a series of three conferences to take place over three years (2014-2016) that will examine the changing role of the state in the economic models and growth strategies of distinct economic systems in Europe, Latin America, and Asia. The first conference took place in Paris at Columbia Global Centers | Europe and Sciences Po, and examined the changing role of the state, in response to both the economic crisis and Europe’s debt crisis, as well as its role in the continuing quest for growth. Co-Sponsored by: Columbia Global Centers | Europe, Alliance Program: École Polytechnique, Sciences Po, Panthéon Sorbonne University, and the International Economic Association.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network

In December 2012, Columbia’s Earth Institute, in partnership with the United Nations, sited the Secretariat of its new Sustainable Solutions Network at the Paris Center, presided by Executive Director Guido Schmidt-Traub. Launched by Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon in August 2012, it mobilizes scientific and technical expertise from academia, civil society, and the private sector in support of sustainable development at local, national, and global scales. Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs, director of the Earth Institute and special advisor to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, directs the Solutions Network. Laurence Tubiana, director of IDDRI and Professor at Sciences Po (France), and Xue Lan, professor and dean of the School of Public Policy and Management at Tsinghua University in China, co-chair the Leadership Council. Ted Turner, a global business leader, philanthropist and founder of CNN and the United Nations Foundation, is a founding member of the Leadership Council. The Network works closely with United Nations agencies, multilateral financing institutions and other international organizations, and will provide
technical support to a high-level panel formed to advise on the global development agenda beyond 2015, the target date for the Millennium Development Goals. It has established thematic groups to support global problem solving in critical areas such as poverty eradication, gender equality, universal access to healthcare, the transition to low carbon energy, and more resilient cities. Over the coming months, it will hold a series of regional meetings with heads of state, business leaders, scientists, researchers and academic experts in Nairobi, Paris, Berlin, Malaysia and Beijing.

Festival des Écrivains du Monde

This is the first major initiative of Paul LeClerc as the new director of the Columbia Global Center | Europe. The Festival was produced by Caro Llewellyn, whose past experience include producing the PEN Festival in New York for five years, the Centennial Festival of the New York Public Library in 2011, and the Sydney Writers' Festival. Organized in partnership with the Bibliothèque nationale de France, the first edition of the Festival brought 28 writers from 18 countries to Paris and Lyon from September 20 to 24, 2013, for a wide range of 30 public programs that drew 6,000 people. In 2014, the festival focused on Writers of India, and attracted more than 2,500 people who attended events in Paris Sept. 16 to 20. The festival also came to the Columbia University campus on Oct. 27, 2014, with a panel discussion: India Beyond Technology and Yoga: the Power of Literature in a Globalizing World. In addition to the events, each of the 14 participating writers in Paris contributed essays on the effects of globalization on cultural production and consumption. The essays will be published on the Columbia Global Centers website and with festival partners Bibliothèque nationale de France and The Caravan magazine.
Director Biography

Belay Ejigu Begashaw
beb2132@columbia.edu

Belay Begashaw is director of the Columbia Global Centers | Africa since January 2012. He joined the Earth Institute at Columbia University in January 2009 as senior agriculture policy specialist for eastern and southern Africa, and was appointed director of The Millennium Development Goals Center in August 2009.

Begashaw serves as associate director of the Earth Institute’s Tropical Agriculture and Rural Development Program, and has more than 20 years of experience in agriculture extension and rural development, ranging from a grass-roots development agent to the minister of agriculture for Ethiopia. Over the past three years, he has done extensive consulting work for several international organizations in the area of food security, poverty reduction and investment.

Begashaw earned his MPA degree from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, M.Sc. from University of Reading and a B.Sc. from Addis Ababa University, Almaya College of Agriculture. He holds a Ph.D. in agricultural policy from Texas A&M University where he is a Borlaug Fellow. Begashaw has served as a member and chair of several boards of trustees with national and international mandates, including International Live Stock Research (ILRI), Alamaya University, Ethiopian Agriculture Research System, Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute, the National Drug Administration the National Standard Organization, the National Food Reserve Agency and Ethiopian Radiation Agency.

Center Space

The Columbia Global Center | Africa is located in the prestigious and easily accessible area of Westlands, Nairobi. The compound is composed of two isolated buildings covering a space of 14,000 square feet. Its ideal location is quite convenient, as it is easy to access the city center as well as other key offices such as the United Nations complex and the American embassy. The location is quiet, serene and generally safe thus making the environment conducive for various activities to take place at the center.

Regional Dimension

Since the Center is based in Nairobi, many of the programs and events are held in Nairobi, Kenya. However, the Center through the Millennium Village Project has offices in six countries in East and Southern Africa: Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. Thus,
the Center has held programming meetings in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Mekelle, Ethiopia; Kampala, Uganda; Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; Tabora, Tanzania; Kigali, Rwanda; Blantyre, Malawi; and Kisumu, Kenya. It has also held programming meetings in West African countries. The Center has either staff or partners in all these cities. The Center has also worked in Chad, Mozambique, and Zambia this past year.

In Nairobi, the Center has access to a wide variety of larger auditoriums and conference centers, in part due to the headquartered presence of UNEP, UN-HABITAT and a number of other organizations that choose to have their regional office in Nairobi. The Center is partnering more and more with local institutions for research.

**Networking and Contacts**

**Local, regional, and national government**

The Nairobi Center works directly with local and regional governments in all countries in Africa. However, the six major countries in East and Southern Africa that the Center is directly involved with through the Millennium Villages include: Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania Rwanda and Malawi. The Center also works with three more countries in the dry lands project, namely: Djibouti, Somalia and South Sudan. For example, for the Millennium Village, Bar Sauri, in Western Kenya, the Center works with Gem district (local government) and Siaya County (county/regional government). The Center also works with the national government(s) on specific MDG-related issues, such as a particular health policy; for example, a nutrition policy for under-5 children. In the six countries, the Center has strong relationships with:

- Ministries of Local Government;
- Ministries of Agriculture;
- Ministries of Education;
- Ministries of Gender / Youth;
- Ministries of Health;
- Ministries of Environment;
- Ministries of Water and Irrigation;
- Ministries of Energy;
- Ministries of Infrastructure and Transport; and
- Municipalities

**Local and international NGOs and the UN**

The Nairobi Center works with a wide variety of international NGOs, such as the CGIAR (Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research) institutions (ILRI, ICRAF, CIAT, CYMMT etc), Heifer International, Elizabeth Glazer Foundation, the David & Lucille Packard Foundation etc. The Center is also engaged with numerous UN organizations and is currently working with the World Food Program, the World Tourism Organization, UNAIDS, UNICEF and UNFPA. The Center also works with local NGOs such as Red Cross in Kenya.

**Universities and colleges**

The Center works with major public, private and other local universities in the six countries, including Maseno University in Western Kenya, Nairobi University, Kenya, USIU-Nairobi, Kenya, Strathmore University in Nairobi, Kenya, University of Dar es Salaam and Tabora in Tanzania, Makerere and Mbarara in Uganda, Mekelle in Ethiopia and others. It primarily works
with schools and institutes of Columbia University but also with other Universities typically in partnership with Columbia. There is enormous scope for the Center as there has recently been a proliferation and registration of public and private universities and colleges across the region.

Engagement with other contacts and networks

The Nairobi Center will continue to strengthen its engagement with the local, regional and national governments in the above listed countries in East and Southern Africa. The AFSIS project that became effective from April 2013 will enable direct engagement in Nigeria, Ghana in West Africa in addition to Tanzania and Ethiopia in the east. Given its increasing emphasis on e-technology, the Center is likely to seek out partnerships with local and international NGOs that are also involved in e-technology solutions, such as Com-care for health service provision. It is also working towards strengthening engagement with local universities in these nine countries in east and southern Africa, as the expansion and establishment of universities in this region has been significant in the last few years.

Programming and Projects

I. On-Going Projects:

• The Nairobi Center’s major project is the Millennium Villages Project (MVP) that directly supports approximately half a million people in Africa. The project is actively operational in Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi and Rwanda. The Earth Institute (EI) of Columbia University is the main institute involved and has been for the last nine to ten years. The number of local staff are 40 at the Center. Besides the Earth Institute, the Center collaborates with faculty from the Mailman School of Public Health, the School of International and Public Affairs, the Earth Institute’s Center for International Earth Science Information Network, the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, a number of undergraduate schools, as well as the School of Medicine and Engineering School. The Center also engages with numerous local institutions in each of the above listed countries. Its main donors are private foundations and multilateral agencies.

• The Africa Nutritional Sciences Research Consortium PhD Graduate Training Project. The main institute involved is the Institute of Human Nutrition, Columbia University Medical Center. The local staff members and local institutions involved in the East African region are many, and include the University of Rwanda, University of Nairobi, Kenya Polytechnic University, Makerere University, The Nelson Mandela African Institute of Science and Technology, Arusha, Sokoeine University of Agriculture and others.

• Modi Labs IT Project with the School of Engineering. The number of local full time staff at the Center is two. Work is undertaken on cutting-edge IT solutions that feed into the Millennium Village Project (MVP) and other new evolving projects.

• The Africa Soil Information Service Project (AfSIS – http://www.africasoils.net) - the final proposal for Phase II (after Phase I and the Transitional Grant) was submitted at the end of August 2014 and the Gates Foundation have reverted positively. The main institute involved is the Earth Institute: The Agriculture and Food Security Centre and CESSEN have been actively involved during the first phase. The project is in its second phase, and the organizations invited to be involved are in the process of being determined, as are the number of staff that will be based at the Center and in the field. The project is operational in
Ethiopia, Tanzania, Ghana and Nigeria and the Transitional Grant will be completed at the end of 2014 and Phase II initiated.

- **15 Credit Tropical Biology and Sustainability course for Undergraduates jointly developed by Columbia’s Department of Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology (E3B) and Princeton Universities** that has been implemented in Kenya for a number of years and it is hoped will continue until 2018 whereupon a review will likely be timely. CGC | Africa in conjunction with E3B and Princeton have developed a discrete 3-week module on ‘Sustainable Development in Practice’ which has been approved by CU and will hopefully also soon be approved by Princeton and is to be unrolled for the first time in March 2015.

- **The United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN),** an initiative undertaken by Professor Jeffrey Sachs of the Earth Institute in collaboration with the Center is well underway. The Nairobi Center coordinated efforts to set up the platform, which brings together universities, the private sector, civil society and government to advance the sustainable development agenda in Africa. The regional SDSN network for the Great lakes regions that constitutes four countries, namely Rwanda, DRC, Congo Brazzaville and Burundi was launched in Kigali-Rwanda in July 2014. Prof. Sachs of EI, Ministers, University Chancellors and Research Heads from the respective countries and other civil society and development partners participated in the launch. The network for Kenya Tanzania and Uganda is still at a preliminary stage.

- **A nine person team from the Columbia University College of Dental Medicine, College of Physicians & Surgeons and the School of Nursing led by Prof Shantanu Lal visited Nairobi, Kenya in mid 2014.** They spent time at the University of Nairobi and entered into an MoU with the University’s School of Dental sciences on working together on education, training, capacity building and the increasingly important role of tele-dentistry. At the end of their week’s work, they conducted a tele-health and oral cancer screening workshop at the Columbia Global Centers | Africa where a variety of Kenyan students and practitioners were in attendance from the University of Nairobi Dental Schools of Dentistry, Medicine and Nursing and Kenya Medical Training College and the Government of Kenya Ministry of Health, Yala. The team completed their stay by visiting Nyumbani Children’s Home which caters for children with HIV/AIDs and tested their new equipment and tools while conducting a community based dentistry event.

- New and exciting collaboration with the **CU School of Arts** took off with Professor Richard Peña, a Professor of Film Studies at Columbia University and the former Director (1988-2012) of the New York Film Festival. In August 2014 he ran two programs in Nairobi on film. “Introduction to Film Studies” was a five-day workshop essentially for students and practitioners in the industry, whilst in the evenings, Professor Peña presented “A Panorama of Hollywood Cinema” for a wider audience. The 5-day workshop was full to capacity with 36 students while the evening program was received well by the general public.

- The **‘Sudan Dialogue for Marginalized Groups’** took place at the Center earlier in 2014 through Prof. David L. Phillips, the Director on Peace-Building and Rights at Columbia
University **Institute for the Study of Human Rights.** They brought together a delegation of 32 people - drawing from Sudanese thinkers and community leaders to discuss current conditions and explore cooperation in advancing Sudan’s progress. The dialogue sought to organize, empower and prepare the various groups from the Sudan region to shape events in Sudan, towards a comprehensive and just peace, stability, democracy, prosperity, equal opportunities and non-discrimination. It builds upon previous activities led by Columbia University since 2012 to facilitate dialogue between scholars, intellectuals, civil society leaders, and persons interested in Sudan.

**• Thinking Big: Women Empowerment Workshop** for women entrepreneurs by CU Business School. This was led by Professor Murray Low, Founder of the Entrepreneurship Program at Columbia Business School in New York. The objective of the workshop was to help “medium” sized firms ($330,000 annual turnover or more) that have achieved some level of success to grow - a potentially powerful lever for job creation. The focus was on the challenges of managing growth. The training was highly rated by all participants and there are plans to continue and expand such programs in order to reach out to more African business owners and entrepreneurs.

**• Students/Alumni.** We continue to support the [Kenyan Columbia Alumni Association](#), and have hosted a number of interns and students including a graduate pursuing her Masters from the [Mailman School of Public Health](#) who worked on the Community Health Workers Program and E-health based at CGC A for 3 months; another graduate from the [School of Social Work](#), who completed her internship with us on policy aspects of the Community Health Worker program, and visited the Millennium Village of Sauri and shadowed CHWs. Pulitzer funded Interns worked at Mayange Millennium Village, Rwanda on Sustainability, and Sauri Millennium Village, Kenya on managing bacterial wilt and spent some days at CGC A in early August. Another Pulitzer funded Intern worked on education in Ruhiira Millennium Village, Uganda. Other Interns joined the Millennium Villages to work on various projects later in the summer. The Center has a strong relationship with [SIPA](#) and places students annually at any/all of the Millennium Villages according to pairing up the need.

**• The Distinguished Lecture Series was launched at the Center in 2013.** It aims to extend the expertise and intellectual discourse at Columbia University to the wider Africa region. Lecture 1: Dr. Deqo Mohamed CEO of Dr. Hawa Abdi Foundation. Dr. Abdi was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2012. The lecture covered the success and challenges of establishing a hospital and providing health services in war-torn Somalia. Lecture 2: Prof Safwan Masri, Executive Vice President for Global Centers and Global Development, Columbia University, spoke on “The failure of education and the current state of the Arab world” at Strathmore University, Nairobi.

**President Global Innovation Fund (PGIF) funded projects, 2013 and 2014:**

The fund is designed to provide grants for those Columbia faculty members whose research will rely on the resources, facilities and regional networks of one or more of the University’s eight Global Centers for teaching and/or research activities.
**PGIF – Round 1 Winners, 2013**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contact Person and Department / School in CU</th>
<th>Proposal title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sheldon Pollock, Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies</td>
<td>Global Humanities Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shantanu Lal, College of Dental Medicine, College of Physicians &amp; Surgeons</td>
<td>Children’s Global Oral Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tilla S Worgall Columbia University, College of Physicians &amp; Surgeons Department of Pathology, Division of Clinical Pathology</td>
<td>Sphingolipids in Pediatric Brain Tumors</td>
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<td>Julien Teitler, School of Social Work Sandro Galea, Department of Epidemiology</td>
<td>Global Migration Network</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mahmood Mamdani Herbert Lehman Prof. of Govt. and Prof. of Anthropology, Dept. of Anthropology, MESAAS</td>
<td>Ifriqiyya Indian Ocean / Trans African Slavery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sheena S. Iyengar, S.T. Lee Professor of Business, Columbia Business School</td>
<td>Global Leadership Matrix</td>
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**PGIF – Round 2 Winners - 2014**

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<th>Contact Person and Department / School in CU</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wafaa El-Sadr</td>
<td>China's Aid to Africa: Achievements, Challenges and Opportunities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ira Deutchman, Arts &amp; Sciences, Humanities</td>
<td>Screenwriting and Creative Producing Workshops for CGC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Walter Baethgen, Earth Institute</td>
<td>Fostering a community of practice around drought information tools</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pedro Sanchez, Agriculture and Food Security Center, Earth Institute, CU</td>
<td>Planning a CGC Network on Sustainable Agricultural Intensification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dustin R. Rubenstein, Assistant Professor, Dept. Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology, Earth</td>
<td>Kenyan Undergraduate Immersion in Tropical Biology and Sustainability</td>
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Institute

| Jennifer Dohrn, Director, Office of Global Initiatives and WHO CC for Advanced Practice Nursing | Global Nursing Research Development Initiative |
| Stephen W. Nicholas, Professor of Population and Family Health at the Columbia University Medical Center | Children's Global Oral Health Initiative: An Adaptable Interdisciplinary Model for Chronic Health Care Management and Health Promotion |

**Center Interests, Priorities and Thematic Focus**

The Center currently has about 30 technical staff with a wide and varied skill set. They all have a development and MDG focus. The skill sets are intended to match the needs of achieving the Millennium Development Goals and generally reflect the focus of the 8 goals. For example, there is a strong health team with seven experts working in health as well as experts in food security, agri-business, education, gender, environment, water, infrastructure, monitoring and evaluation, IT, public policy and partnerships. Experts have different backgrounds but they have all worked in development.

The Center is interested and has developed a reasonable capacity to carry out research in sustainable development which includes economic growth and poverty reduction (health, agriculture, education), social inclusiveness (gender, job creation, skill developments), climate change and environment management and good governance. The Center is particularly keen on working on IT based applications and solutions.

The Center is prepared and able to handle simultaneous requests and programs. The Center is fully engaged and a proponent of Africa rising through research, teaching and project implementation.
Columbia Global Centers | Turkey

Center Launch: November 2011
Website: http://globalcenters.columbia.edu/istanbul
Address: Sıraselviler Caddesi No. 49; Yeni Hayat Apt. Flat 5; Beyoğlu, İstanbul
istanbul.cgc@columbia.edu – Facebook – Studio-X Istanbul – Twitter
A Look at Columbia Global Centers | Turkey with Center director Ipek Cem Taha (video):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5V23JjqUKto

Director Biography

IPEK CEM TADA
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Ipek Cem Taha is director of the Columbia Global Centers | Turkey since 2011. After completing her secondary education at Robert College in Istanbul, Ipek obtained her B.A. degree with honors in political science from Amherst College. She holds M.B.A. and M.I.A. degrees from Columbia University.

Ipek started her career in 1993 as an associate for Bankers Trust Company (now part of Deutsche Bank) in New York, in the International Capital Markets Group. She was a managing partner of Netwise between 1996-2007, an Internet company with multinational clients. Between 2005 and 2010, Ipek was producing and hosting “Global Leaders,” a television program on NTV networks, consisting of interviews with personalities such as Kofi Annan, Richard Branson and Madeleine Albright. Before creating Global Leaders, Ipek was a columnist for eight years at daily newspapers, including Milliyet and Sabah.

Ipek is founder and board member in several NGOs, including URAK (National Competitiveness Research Institute), KAGIDER (Women Entrepreneurs Association) and SAHA, an association that supports contemporary art. Ipek is also a trustee of Robert College in Istanbul and on the Advisory Board of Allianz Turkey. She is a former board member of the Strategic Advisory Council of the Marseille Center for Mediterranean Integration.

Elected an Eisenhower Fellow in 2003, Ipek also holds an Honorary Professorship from T.E.I. in Greece for her work in promoting friendship and cooperation between Greece and Turkey.

Center Space

Since its establishment in November 2011, the Istanbul Center has hosted 75 events, 11 deans and 80 faculty members from Columbia, as well as over 320 students. With Studio-X Istanbul’s launch in November 2013, there are now five full-time and three part-time staff working for the Center.
Collaborations on programs and events have been mounted with 15 different schools, departments and centers at Columbia University, through which least 17 partnerships with local partners have been facilitated by the Istanbul Center.

The Center occupies two venues in central Istanbul. The Center’s offices are located in Istanbul’s very central and historic district of Taksim square, on half a floor of a historic turn-of-the-century building characterized by its façade and high ceilings. The office space is 3,229 square feet and can be utilized in two distinct ways. One area can be dedicated to daily office work while the other (about 1/3 of the space) can be utilized for workshops, seminars and lectures for up to 30 people and receptions for up to 100 people. The Center could accommodate one or two faculty members or fellows working on a part-time basis.

The second venue houses Studio-X Istanbul, a 20,000 square feet multi-level space which has been equipped to host exhibitions, workshops and public events related to GSAPP’s global programs. The Istanbul Center frequently uses Studio-X Istanbul for larger events, such as lectures for over 100 participants.

In addition to the above, through existing connections with various counterparts, the Center has a very strong network in all of Turkey, with access to free or low rent university auditoriums and lecture spaces, as well as foundation venues with auditoriums. The Centers can also create partnerships with local institutions to provide academic space for research. Hotels are an additional venue option for events, though more costly.

**Regional Dimension**

Through various projects and events and in collaboration with the Columbia Global Centers | Middle East (CUMERC) in Amman, the Istanbul Center has developed relations with universities and non-governmental organizations in the region, in countries such as Greece, Lebanon, Cyprus, Armenia, Israel/Palestine, and Iraq. The Istanbul and Paris Centers have also collaborated with each other, co-convening a roundtable meeting on global geopolitical developments in Paris in May 2014. It is in the Center’s long-term strategy to continue working with both CUMERC and the Paris Center to broaden joint programming related to nearby regions, mainly the Middle East, Balkans, Black Sea, Caucasus, and the Eastern Mediterranean.

**Networking and Contacts**

- Local government, national government: very high levels including the President’s Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of National Education, Istanbul Mayor’s Office, Istanbul Public Health Directorate, and the Consulates of the US, Greece and the Netherlands.

- Local and international NGOs: UNDP Istanbul International for the Private Sector in Development, UN Global Compact, Global Relations Forum, Turkish Businessmen and Industrialists’ Association (TUSIAD), Atlantic Council, Open Society Foundation Turkey, Prague Freedom Foundation, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Turkey Office, Istanbul Policy Center at Sabancı University, International Crisis Group, European Stability Initiative, Peace Research Institute of Oslo Cyprus Center, Endeavor, Darussafaka, Education Reform Initiative, Mother Child Education Foundation (ACEV), Ashoka, Women’s Entrepreneurship Association (KAGIDER), Turkish Women’s International Network, Third Sector Foundation of Turkey (TUSEV), Istanbul Foundation for Culture
and Arts (IKSV), SALT, Anadolu Kultur, Hafiza Merkezi (Truth, Justice and Memory Studies Center), and Depo.

- Universities and Colleges: Boğaziçi University, Koç University, Bilgi University, Sabancı University, Istanbul University, Istanbul Technical University, Hacettepe University, Kadir Has University, and Bilkent University and others based on faculty interest and area of work (planned).

**Current and upcoming programming**

- The expansion of our **student programming** is a reflection of the growing demand from Columbia scholars and especially students who wish to enhance their global horizons through the unique learning experiences offered by the Columbia Global Centers. The Istanbul Center regularly hosts several visiting MBA and GSAPP groups throughout the year, while also organizing summer internships for SIPA students. For two years now, the Center has also organized events for incoming students and current undergraduate students.

  - Courses currently on offer in Istanbul for Columbia University students:
    - Byzantine Studies and Urban Mapping Summer Program with Professor Holger A. Klein: taught at Boğaziçi University since 2013 for Columbia and Boğaziçi students.
    - Global Seminar in Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, a Global Core course, with Professors Martha Howell and Karen Van Dyck: will commence in spring 2015 at Boğaziçi University, with Columbia and Boğaziçi students, as well as students from Greece.
    - Democratic Engineering with Professor John Huber: This summer course will commence in June 2015, targeting approximately 30 graduate students from Columbia and the region. This course is held in conjunction with the Columbia Global Centers | Middle East in Amman, and will be offered in Istanbul and Tunisia. This project is supported by the President’s Global Innovation Fund.

  - **The Istanbul Documentation Project**, led by Professor Holger A. Klein aims to create a digital platform for the virtual presentation of Istanbul's Roman, Byzantine, Ottoman and early Republican sites and monuments. As part of the project, Professor Klein has been teaching a summer course at Boğaziçi University since 2013 while a post-doc researcher is expected to join the Istanbul project team in 2015. The Istanbul Research Institute and the Archaeological Museum are key partners in this endeavor. This project is supported by the President’s Global Innovation Fund.

  - **Women Creating Change**: The Center has been pleased to place a special focus on gender issues through a collaboration with the Center for the Study of Social Difference. Professor Judith Butler led a workshop at the Center in September 2013 titled ‘Rethinking Gender, Vulnerability and Resistance,’ which was co-directed by Boğaziçi University scholar Zeynep Gambetti. This workshop engaged 15 scholars from the region and through parallel events, approximately 50 NGO leaders and activists from Turkey. The second workshop, ‘Women Creating Change: Mobilizing Memory for Action,’ took
place in September 2014 and built upon relationships and discussions that were initiated at a workshop held at the Santiago Center in December 2013. Professors Marianne Hirsch and Jean Howard directed the Istanbul program together with Professor Ayşe Gül Altınay of Sabancı University and Professor Diana Taylor of NYU. The Istanbul Center worked closely with the academic directors to produce a rich program of activities including an art exhibition titled ‘Mobilizing Memory: Women Witnessing,’ a series of public roundtables, theater performances and a gender-memory walking tour of downtown Beyoğlu. Along with the 35 scholars, artists, graduate students and activists from the US, Chile and Turkey who participated in the core workshop program, the associated events engaged a much wider segment of the academic community and general public.

- **Studio-X Istanbul** tackles crucial questions facing the future of Istanbul and other global cities through a series of inter-disciplinary projects by serving as a platform for architects, designers, urbanists, entrepreneurs and others concerned with urban issues. It is directed by architect Selva Gürdoğan and collaborates closely with other Studio-X locations particularly the Amman Lab. Studio-X regularly hosts studio projects led by GSAPP scholars and involving graduate students. Main projects focus on space and memory, historic preservation, settlement and migration (‘Architectures of Peace’ and ‘Echoing Borders’), sustainable transportation and inclusive, innovative urban planning.

- The **Historical Dialogue and Reconciliation Project**, spearheaded by Professor Elazar Barkan of the Institute for the Study of Human Rights, is platform for scholars and practitioners in the region to exchange knowledge and practices of historical memory, dialogue and reconciliation. The Center is partnering with a human rights organization, the Truth, Justice and Memory Center, in this endeavor along with several other NGOs from Turkey, Israel, Palestine, Lebanon, Cyprus and Armenia. Together we mount thematic workshops and plan to launch an annual summer program to provide capacity building in strategies related to historical reconciliation, conflict resolution and memory studies.

- **Press freedom and freedom of expression** have been the focus of several programs at the Istanbul Center. Columbia Global Centers | Turkey and the Columbia Global Centers | Middle East co-convened the ‘Workshop on Geopolitical Developments and Press Freedoms in the Middle East and Turkey’ in September 2013, which featured President Lee C. Bollinger, Professor Safwan Masri, Dean Steve Coll, former Dean Nicholas Lemann of the School of Journalism and distinguished global and regional experts on Turkey and the Middle East. The Istanbul Center also organized a regional training program for students of media and journalism on the theme of freedom of expression in August 2014, with lectures given by Professor Anya Schiffrin from SIPA and ProPublica. The program is expected to continue in 2015.

- The **United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network**, an initiative undertaken by Professor Jeffrey Sachs of the Earth Institute, was launched in Turkey in June 2014. The Istanbul Center coordinated efforts to set up the platform, which brings together universities, the private sector, civil society and government to advance the sustainable development agenda in Turkey. The university-led network is hosted by
Boğaziçi University and is expected to focus on climate change, energy and sustainable cities.

- The Istanbul Center has been developing a long-term **collaboration with the School of the Arts** with Professor Ira Deutchman, Chair of the School of the Arts Film Program. Koç University and several alumni of the School of the Arts worked with the Center to develop a series of widely-attended events in March 2014, including a lecture to students, a public roundtable and a workshop on pitching for emerging filmmakers. Programs will continue in 2015 through support received by the President’s Global Innovation Fund for screenwriting workshops.

- **Programs with the Mailman School of Public Health** were initiated following the visit of Dean Linda Fried and several public health scholars from Mailman in October 2013. Through a project supported by the President’s Global Innovation Fund, which was led by Prof. Wafaa El-Sadr and Prof. Miriam Rabkin, Turkish public officials and scholars were involved in a workshop on non-communicable diseases held at the Amman Center.

- In addition to those already described above, the Center provides support to **President’s Global Innovation Fund projects** led by Professor Zainab Bahrani (Mapping Mesopotamian Monuments); Professor Victoria de Grazia (De-Provincializing Soft Power: A Global-Historical Approach); Professor Julien Teitler and Professor Sandro Galea (Columbia University Global Migration Network); and, Professor Sheena Iyengar (Global Leadership Matrix). All these projects involve collaborations with other global centers.

**Center Interests, Priorities and Thematic Focus**

A core priority is to further expand course offerings for Columbia students that could imaginatively integrate a cross-disciplinary and multi-site approach to topics such as: contemporary urban studies, the politics of memory and/or gender studies.

Thematic priorities for the Istanbul Center:

- Democracy and human rights form a major theme as related to historical understanding, memory and accountability in the transition from conflict to sustainable peace; culture and cultural diversity; and pluralism, freedom and inclusion.

- Gender equality and women’s empowerment, including women’s leadership, gender and conflict resolution and women in the economy.

- Development issues such as public health challenges; sustainable development related to climate change, renewable energy and cities policies and approaches to addressing refugees and migration.

- The future of global cities with Istanbul as a key spoke of engagement through topics such as architecture, urbanization, preservation, public health and sustainable development.
• Freedom of expression and journalism, inclusive of research and training.

Additional areas of interest include:

• Innovation, leadership, finance and entrepreneurship.

• Foreign policy and international relations, especially focused on Transatlantic Relations (US, Turkey, EU); Turkey and the region (Middle East, EU, Central Asia); energy corridors surrounding Turkey.

• Capacity building efforts, through executive education and professional development opportunities across different fields (government officials, business professionals, educators and researchers).

A key priority is to enhance the intellectual profile of the Center through hosting research projects and fellows whose work can make a discernable impact on issues of importance to the local and regional context, particularly in the areas identified above. The Center aims to further contribute to its local and regional context through outreach and capacity building efforts. Engaging Columbia students in the global agenda and enhancing Turkish studies on campus are other important priorities for the Istanbul Center. It is also in the Center’s long-term strategy to broaden programming that engages the nearby regions of the Middle East, Balkans, Black Sea, Caucasus, and the Eastern Mediterranean.
Director Biography

KAREN PONIA CHIK
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Karen Poniachik is director of the Columbia Global Centers | Latin America based in Santiago, Chile. She was Chile’s minister of mining between 2006 and 2008, a time during which she chaired the boards of directors of state-owned companies Codelco, Enap and Enami. From March 2006 to March 2007, she also served as minister of energy. Currently, she is a member of the corporate boards of directors of E.C.L, British American Tobacco Chile, and Maersk Container Industries San Antonio as well as of the Chilean-American Chamber of Commerce.

Poniachik was Chile’s special envoy to the OECD in charge of the country’s accession process to the Organization, which was successfully completed in January of 2010. Previously, she served as executive vice-president of Chile’s Foreign Investment Committee (2000-2006); and as director of Business and Financial Programs at the Council of the Americas in New York (1995-2000). Poniachik graduated as a journalist from Universidad Católica de Chile (1987) and holds a Master’s degree in International Affairs from Columbia University (1990).

Center Space

The Center was launched on March 2012 with an initial focus on programming in Chile. During first years of operation, the Santiago Center has developed relations with several local academic institutions, authorities and non-governmental organizations. Staff has been working with a vast network of prestigious universities in Santiago, especially with Universidad Católica (UC), Universidad de Chile (U.Ch) and Universidad Diego Portales (UDP). The Center has signed MoU’s with them to promote the exchange of faculty, students and specific programs (internships, joint research, etc.). Most of activities has been held in the auditoriums and conference rooms of these universities, promoting the participation of their faculty and students. The space of the Center is a 70m2 office space, located at the Flacso building, in the same street as many other international organizations (ILO, ECLAC, UNDP). Harvard’s Rockefeller Center also has its office the same building. There is an auditorium available for occasional events that can host up to 100 people, which has been used to hold recruitment sessions, panel discussions and small workshop meetings.
Regional Dimension

Most of the center’s operations are based in Santiago, with occasional visits to other Chilean Regions, especially when the topic of study requires so. It is the case of Solar Energy projects, when researchers travel north, or in the case of the Template Rainforests studies, when they travel south.

Networking and Contacts

- **Local, regional, and national government**
  - Ministry of Health
  - Ministry of Education
  - Ministry of Environment
  - Ministry of Energy
  - Ministry of Economy
  - CORFO (Chilean Economic Development Agency)
  - CNIC National Council for Innovation and Competitiveness
  - CONICYT (MoU ensuring scholarships for PhD Chilean students accepted by CU).
  - SENAMA (Chilean Aging Services)
  - National Congress
  - INDH (National Institute for Human Rights)
  - Fundación Chile

- **Local and International NGOs**
  - Fundación Ciencia y Vida
  - Biomedical Neuroscience Institute (BNI)
  - Endeavor
  - NEXOS (Association of Chilean Scientist in the USA)
  - National Association of Architecture
  - Comunidad Mujer
  - Museo Interactivo de la Memoria
  - Museo Interactivo Judío de Chile

- **Universities and Colleges**
  - Universidad de Chile
  - Universidad Católica
  - Universidad Diego Portales
  - Universidad del Desarrollo
  - Universidad Adolfo Ibañez

Sampling of current and past projects

- **Columbia's Climate Change Scientist, Walter Baethgen, participated in a Symposium entitled "Coping With Droughts" (PGIF awardee).**

Because of Chile’s geography, we can identify a huge diversity of climate conditions, ranging from the arid north to the rainy south. Recognizing the importance of international collaboration to the development of effective drought information tools and the critical need for these tools in
an increasingly water-stressed world, the Santiago Center has supported the International Research Institute for Climate and Society IRI to bring to Chile the experts who developed a climate forecasting systems to improve the planning process for organisms coping with drought in the Latin American region.

During November 19-21 2014, Walter Baethgen, head of the Regional and Sectorial Research Program and leader of the Latin America and the Caribbean program in the IRI at the Earth Institute, participated in this Experts Symposium.

- Chile-Columbia Fund

A total of eight projects, ranging from a study of urban reconstruction after the February 2010 earthquake in Chile to research into titin, a protein that plays a key role in muscle elasticity, received grants of up to US$30,000, thanks to the Chile-Columbia Fund. This Fund, created by Columbia University and the Chilean government's National Commission for Scientific and Technological Research (CONICYT), aims to foster long-term ties and exchanges between Columbia and Chilean universities. A total of 27 proposals were presented, from 9 different Schools at Columbia University which reflects the potential that Columbia University has to engage in joint work with Chilean universities.

Teams awarded Chile-Columbia Fund Grants 2014

1. Julio Fernández, professor of biological sciences, Columbia University; and Victoria Guixe, professor of biology, Universidad de Chile: Degradation of titin at single molecular level.

2. Clara Irazábal, assistant professor of urban planning, director of the GSAAP Latin Lab, Columbia University; and Mario Marchant, assistant professor, Department of Architecture, Universidad de Chile: Learning from 27F–A comparative assessment of urban reconstruction processes after the 2010 earthquake in Chile.

3. Darby Jack, assistant professor of environmental health sciences, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University; and Dante Cásares, director of the Environmental Health Program, Universidad de Chile: Collaborating to quantify the health benefits of clean biomass combustion in Chile.

4. Don J. Melnick, Thomas Morgan Professor and Director of Conservation Biology, Columbia University; and Cristián Bonacic, associate professor and director Department of Ecosystems & The Environment, Universidad Católica de Chile: Building a natural and social science collaboration to implement a new innovative science-based model for long-term sustainable development of Chile's temperate rainforests.

5. Christian Pop-Eleches, associate professor, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University; and Francisco Gallego, associate professor of Economics, Universidad Católica de Chile: Parental interventions for home computers in Chile.

6. Ursula Staudinger, Robert N. Butler Professor of Sociomedical Sciences and director of the Aging Center, professor of psychology, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University; and Esteban Calvo, director of the Master in Public Policy, Universidad Diego Portales: When does retirement optimize health? Causal effects of retirement timing on health outcomes and healthy behavior of older Americans and Chileans.

7. Miguel Urquiola, associate professor of economics and international and public affairs, Columbia University; and Alejandra Mizala, professor of industrial engineering and academic director, Center for Advanced Research on Education, Universidad de Chile: K-
12 and higher education in Chile: School size and college reputation.

8. Gabriel Weintraub, Sidney Taurel Associate Professor of Business, Columbia University; and Marcelo Olivares, assistant professor of industrial engineering, Universidad de Chile: Public procurement mechanisms – From practice to research and back again.

- **Waste Management for Latin America under the Director of the Earth Engineering Center of Columbia University, Nickolas Themelis (PGIF awardee).**

  The transition from non-regulated disposal of solid wastes to Sustainable Waste Management (SWM) is a major and pressing environmental issue for all urban centers. With cities expanding their boundaries every year and economic development accompanied by ever increasing generation of solid wastes, the collection and disposal systems that were once sufficient need to be updated by better means for recycling, composting, energy recovery and sanitary landfilling that conserve resources and land and also reduce the risk of contaminating water and air. And Chile is not the exception, which is why the visit of Professor Nickolas Themelis was so impactful.

  In a joint workshop held by the Santiago Center and Universidad del Desarrollo (UDD) in Santiago in September 2014, presentations and discussion on four pre-feasibility case studies conducted by EEC in Buenos Aires-Argentina, Valparaiso-Chile, Toluca-Mexico and Montevideo-Uruguay introduced the audience into the world of Waste to Energy projects expecting it to be an ongoing discussion for Latin America. Alex Godoy, Director of the Sustainability Management at UDD was positive about thinking of future projects and in working together with professor Themelis. That is why, after the workshop, professor Themelis met with important authorities and discussed relevant problems for the country under energy and innovation topics. After visiting the Ministry of Energy, a more research oriented meeting was held at SERC (Solar Energy Research Center) where the main topic was professor’s experience in turning waste into energy.

- **Seminar on Forest Carbon Credit Standard**

  Donald J. Melnick, Columbia University's Thomas Morgan Professor of Conservation Biology and Director of the Center for Environment, Economy and Society (CEES), was in Chile to start work with Universidad Católica on a project for the sustainable development of Chile's temperate rainforests. This is one of eight projects being implemented with the support of the Columbia-Chile Fund created by Columbia University and the Chilean government's National Commission for Scientific and Technological Research (CONICYT) to foster long-term ties and exchange between Columbia and Chilean universities.

  On May 26, 2014, Columbia Global Centers | Latin America (Santiago) hosted a seminar, attended by representatives of local companies, government institutions and NGOs, about the Rainforest Standard (RFS), a carbon credit standard for forest conservation developed by Columbia University and several South American partners. After initially focusing on tropical rainforests at the Amazon, it is now looking to expand its application to temperate forests such as those found in Chile.

  Both Professor Melnick and Professor James Warfield, Deputy Director of CEES, spoke at the seminar. Melnick's project with Universidad Católica envisages the implementation of at least one RFS demonstration project in Chile.
Nobel Scientists at an “open to public” conference and an exclusive conversation for business people, scientists and opinion leaders in Santiago

Six top international scientists, including three Nobel laureates, visited Chile in January 2014 to participate in the Transformative Minds Conference organized jointly by the Santiago Center, Universidad de Chile’s Biomedical Neuroscience Institute (BNI), of the Millennium Science Initiative, the National Commission for Scientific and Technological Research (CONICYT), the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Ecosystem Program of the Chilean Economic Development Agency (CORFO) and the National Senate. The Transforming Minds Conference, which took place in the ex-Congress building in Santiago and was attended by a packed audience that included leading local scientists, politicians and students, sought to highlight the importance of public investment in science and technology.

Among the visiting scientists, three were from Columbia University:

- Dr. Charles Zuker, professor of biochemistry and molecular biophysics and neuroscience at Columbia University and a member of the US National Academy of Sciences;
- Dr. Richard Axel, Nobel Prize winner in Physiology / Medicine 2004 for his discoveries of odorant receptors and the organization of the olfactory system; professor of biochemistry and molecular biophysics and of pathology at Columbia University;
- Dr. Tom Maniatis, chairman of the Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biophysics at Columbia University. Pioneer of the biotechnology industry; among his many awards, he was the recipient of the 2012 Lasker Award in Medical Sciences;
- Dr. Torsten Wiesel, Nobel Prize winner in Physiology / Medicine 1981 for his discoveries concerning information processing in the visual system; former president and professor emeritus of Rockefeller University;
- Dr. Cornelia Bargmann, investigator at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and member of the US National Academy of Sciences. Among her many awards, she was the recipient of the 2012 Kavli Prize in Neuroscience;
- Dr. Susumu Tonegawa, Nobel Prize winner in Physiology / Medicine 1987 for his discovery of the genetic mechanism that produces antibody diversity; professor of biology and neuroscience investigator and director of Howard Hughes Medical Institute at MIT.

During their visit, these six scientists participated in a breakfast entitled From Science to Business, organized by Columbia Global Centers | Latin America (Santiago), and chaired by Dr. Zuker, in which they met with local businesspeople, opinion leaders and policymakers to discuss issues that ranged from the importance of investment in science and technology and, particularly basic science to the social, cultural and economic impact of science and technology, strategies for engaging the private sector and the general community in scientific endeavor and the role of philanthropy in supporting scientific research.
Columbia-UDP Public Policy Meetings

Taking advantage of CU faculty’s visit to Chile, the Center has been jointly organizing a series of talks with Universidad Diego Portales (UDP). The first meeting was organized with the Public Policy Institute at UDP on January 7, 2013 with Teacher’s College Professor Henri Levin, who gave a lecture on labor adaptability. The second event was organized during the visit of Mailman’s School of Public Health Dean Linda Fried on January 8 2013. The meeting was entitled “Economic and Social Consequences of Global Aging” and was organized as a panel discussion with four speakers: Dean Linda Fried; Rosa Kornfeld, director of the Chilean Aging Services (discussing the national aging policy); Joaquin Vial, member of the Board of the Central Bank of Chile and former head of Chile’s National Budget Office (discussing the economic consequences associated with population aging); Esteban Calvo, director of the Master in Public Policy-UDP.

The Third Public Policy Meeting was held on October 28, 2014, where Thomas Trebat, director of Columbia Global Centers | Latin America (Rio de Janeiro), talked about Brazil's economic situation, the country's future in the light of its recent presidential election and the impact that the new government on domestic and foreign policy. In addition, Ernesto Ottone, director of the Globalization and Democracy Program, gave a keynote talk about Latin America's challenges in the context of globalization.

The fourth meeting will be held in January 8, when Professor Ursula Staudinger Director, Butler Columbia Aging Center, Robert N. Butler Professor of Sociomedical Sciences and Professor of Psychology; Director, Robert N. Butler Columbia Aging Center, with other two renowned speakers will discuss experiences about aging and well-being, offering tools to move toward a world where longevity benefits people of all ages.

Center Interests, Priorities and Thematic Focus

The Center’s area of focus is largely determined by the needs of the country. After the last Advisory Board meeting on June 26, 2014, the Santiago Center agreed to focus on the following topics for the period: Public Health, Energy Policy, Gender Issues, Sustainability, Educational Reform and Fundraising Opportunities in Chile.
Columbia Global Centers | South Asia Center

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Center Space
CGC | South Asia is located in Nariman Point, the city's premier business district. The Center is housed on the 11th floor of Express Towers, a prominent office building in Nariman Point that is home to several financial institutions, McKinsey & Company, and the Indian Express newspaper. We have a total area of approximately 2,500 sq. ft. The Center has a small conference room that can accommodate about 15 people.

Regional Dimension
The Center has not held any significant events in other cities/countries to date, aside from a few alumni gatherings in Delhi and Bangalore that were planned and executed at hotels by the alumni chapters in the respective cities. The Center's Health and Education projects currently operate in five rural districts across India. The project work is done in collaboration with state and local government in each site.

In Mumbai, the Center has access to the Studio X facility where larger events and workshops have been held (Studio X has a capacity of approximately 70-80 people). In addition, the Center has held events at the Trident Hotel located across the street from the Center. The Trident has several event rooms with capacities ranging from 50-200 people.

Networking and Contacts

• Local, regional, and national government

The Model Districts Health and Education Projects work closely with local and state governments in Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and Jharkhand. In addition, the projects regularly engage officials from National Rural Health Mission, run by the Ministry of Health, and Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), the government’s universal education program.

• Local and international NGOs

The Model Districts Health Project was commissioned and has recently completed a set of research papers for UNICEF-India. Additionally the Center has engaged with the following organizations: WHO, WFP, Gates/Mannah Project, IKEA Foundation, Aditya Birla Group, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI); University of Mumbai and its affiliate colleges; and the Rishi Valley Institute for Educational Resources (RIVER).
• **Universities and colleges**

The Center has worked closely with the HR College of Commerce and Economics, University of Mumbai to increase local student participation in Columbia programs in Mumbai. 6 HR College students participated in, and greatly enhanced the success of the Global Scholars Program that took place in Mumbai in July 2012. In addition, the Center has engaged the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Jnanapravaha (Center for study of Indian Art, Aesthetics, Criticism and Theory), and the Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS).

**Other personal contacts or renowned local/regional institutions that the center is working towards engaging:**

• Local, regional, and national government: informally, Bajpai serves as an advisor to the Prime Minister of India and to several of his cabinet ministers, including Health and Family Welfare.

• Local and international NGOs: we have ties and work with The Aditya Birla Foundation; UNICEF; Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; and the IKEA Foundation.

• Universities and colleges: University of Mumbai and its affiliated colleges; Tata Institute of Social Science (TISS)

**Current and upcoming programming**

**Model Districts Health Project**

The Model Districts Health Project (MDHP) is a joint initiative between the Earth Institute, Columbia University and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. Its goal is to demonstrate which health and nutrition interventions are required to narrow policy-practice gaps in the National Rural Health Mission in five regionally representative districts across India. The project’s strategy is to target interventions and additional public health spending at the intersection of the six building blocks of health systems strengthening (infrastructure, data management, governance, financing, supply chain management, and frontline health worker capacity) and five areas along the continuum of care for mothers and children (antenatal care, safe delivery, immediate postnatal care, early childhood development and nutrition, and routine and sick child care). The MDHP scale-up model is supported by a robust baseline and monitoring and evaluation plan, pilot interventions at the block level, growth and expansion to the district level based on learning exchanges within and across districts, and finally national level scale-up through policy adaptation and replication.

Faculty involvement: Jeffrey Sachs (Earth Institute), Sonia Sachs (Earth Institute), Joanna Rubinstein (Earth Institute) and Ranu Dhillion (Earth Institute).

Staff involvement: twelve, including Project Director Nirupam Bajpai

Local institutions: State and local governments of, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and Jharkhand, National Rural Health Mission (Ministry of Health)

Funding source: IKEA Foundation

**Model Districts Education Project**
The Model Districts Education Project (MDEP), Access to Achievement is a collaborative, 5-year, demonstration project of the Columbia Global Centers | South Asia, the Government of India, and key stakeholders in primary education in India. The project draws on the experience to date of the Center’s Model Districts Health Project and on current scientific evidence and models of best professional practice to develop, implement and evaluate a high quality, cost-effective, scalable program of primary education in two rural districts. This is a unique project that brings together faculty and students from five different schools/departments at Columbia University: Teachers College; the School of Social Work; the Dental School; the Department of Nutrition of the Columbia Medical School and the Earth Institute.

The Model Districts Education Project aims to improve the quality of primary education in rural India by developing and testing an evidence-based model that is “locally owned and operated” yet is readily transferable to other locales. The project has two specific aims, each with discrete, measureable outcomes: to improve the quality of student learning and to lower grade repetition and dropout rates.

MDEP has been launched in two districts - Morigaon, Assam and Medak, Andhra Pradesh.

In the past one year, the project studied and analysed the status of primary education in the selected districts. The team focussed on developing solutions to contextual educational problems, researching on local practises and international innovations that could provide relevant insights to be applied. This led to developing three working papers on in-service teacher training, curriculum planning and implementation in the selected districts. One of the models that the team has been keenly researching is the Multi-Grade-Multi-Level (MGML) model of pedagogy.

Faculty involvement: Kavita Ahluwalia (College of Dental Medicine), Monisha Bajaj (Teacher's College), Denise Burnette (School of Social Work), Radhika Iyengar (Earth Institute), Dr. Wahida Karmally (College of Physicians & Surgeons), Doug Ready (Teacher's College)

Staff involvement: five, including Project Director Nirupam Bajpai

Local institutions: State and local governments of Assam and Andhra Pradesh, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)

Funding source: IKEA Foundation

**Distinguished Lecture Series**

The Distinguished Lecture Series was launched in Mumbai in March 2012. It aims to extend the expertise and intellectual discourse at Columbia University to the South Asia region. The Columbia Global Centers | South Asia invites prominent Columbia University faculty to Mumbai to speak on topics relevant to the region. The series showcases the intellectual breadth of Columbia University faculty’s expertise across disciplines and departments. In addition, the series provides a venue for Columbia parents and alumni in India to hear directly from faculty about their current research and other pressing issues.

Lecture topics range from literature and the arts to the hard sciences. Since its inception in 2012, the series has featured faculty from the Department of South Asian Studies, the Department of Anthropology, the School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia Law School, Barnard College, etc.

The Distinguished Lectures organized by the Center till date are,
• ‘Scholars and Spies: Worldly Knowledge and the Predicament of the University’ by Professor Nicholas Dirks, the former Executive Vice President for Arts and Sciences
• ‘The U.S. Elects a President: What to Expect on Election Day and What to Expect Upon Inauguration’ by Professor Kenneth Prewitt, Carnegie Professor of Public Affairs at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs
• ‘Radical Democracy in India by Professor Partha Chattarjee, Professor of Anthropology at Middle Eastern, South Asian and African Studies.
• "What is Indian Knowledge Good For?" by Professor Sheldon Pollock, the Arvind Raghunathan Professor of South Asian Studies

Funding source: Gift from CU parents Czaee and Suketu Shah; the Aditya Birla Group

Public Programming

The Center organized talks, discussions by Columbia faculty at Studio-X, and a panel discussion in collaboration with the Columbia Alumni Association of India. Recent events include:

• Discussion on “Land: Between the "Formal" and the "Informal”” by Prof. Katharina Pistor and Prof. Anupama Rao on March 19, 2014 at Studio-X.
• Talk on “The Art of Choosing” by Prof Sheena Iyengar on June 17, 2014 at Studio – X
• Lecture on “India in the Age of Sustainable Development” on July 3, 2014 at India International Centre, New Delhi
• Lecture on ‘Sustainability, Public Private Partnership and Big Data’ by Prof. William Eimicke on August 11 at Studio-X
• The Center collaborated with the Chazen Institute of International Business to organize a lecture on, ‘How to Be True to Yourself: The Practice of Authenticity in Life and Leadership’ by Prof Hitendra Wadhwa on October 13 at Studio – X
• In collaboration with the Columbia Alumni Association of India and the University initiative’s ‘Women Creating Change,” the Center organized a panel discussion on, ‘Women Leaders in Changing India’ moderated by Dr. Vishakha N. Desai. The panellists were:
  o Anjali Bansal ’97SIPA, Managing Director, Spencer Stuart India,
  o Sheela Patel, Director, Society for the Promotion of Area Resource Centers (SPARC)
  o Falguni Nayar P: ’12CC, Founder and CEO Nykaa.com

The event was held at the Four Seasons Hotel in Mumbai on October 30, 2014.

SEE – U Program

In conjunction with the Earth Institute Center for Environmental Sustainability (EICES), the Columbia Global Centers | South Asia offered the Summer Ecosystem Experience for Undergraduates Program (SEE-U) in India in 2014. It is a five week program that commenced on May 31, 2014 and continued until July 5, 2014. Ten undergraduate students from Columbia enrolled in the program that focussed on the Western Ghats in India. A regional partner organization, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, based in Bangalore partnered to provide logistical and field support.
Faculty involvement: Shahid Naeem and Meghna Agarwala

Staff involvement: three

Funding Source: Earth Institute Center for Environmental Sustainability

**Columbia Experience Overseas (CEO) Program**

The Columbia Overseas Program designed by the [Columbia University Center for Career Education](#) aims to provide a multi-cultural professional experience to students by collaborating with the network of Global Centers. The Center coordinates the program by being the primary contact point for the students in India, orienting them to the local milieu and supporting in the identification of interning organizations and alumni mentors.

**Governing Access to Essential Resources**

"Governing Access to Essential Resources" is a multidisciplinary project by the Center on Global Legal Transformation at Columbia Law School focusing on those resources that are indispensable for human life, including land, water and forests. To start the project in Mumbai, Columbia Global Centers | South Asia appointed a Research Assistant exclusively for this project. The first Roundtable took place in Mumbai on the 21st and 22nd of March 2014. It was entitled "Financialization, Organizing Voice, and Rescaling Boundaries: The Case of Land and Water Management in India." The Roundtable brought together a small group of experts in academia, policy and advocacy from Universities and Think Tanks across India, United States and Turkey. The Roundtable took place with the goal of re-thinking and reframing ongoing debates about managing access to land and water in India and beyond. Specifically the Roundtable looked at the transformative effect of three major trends observed in India, but also elsewhere: The financialization of resource management, the reorganization of voice, and the rescaling of boundaries analyzed through the lens of infrastructure projects. A Global Think- in for students in Mumbai and in Bangalore was held jointly with the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS). The project is now at its second stage which is geared towards contextualizing the theoretical framework developed through workshops conducted around the world.

**‘Slumification’ in Mumbai: Policy, Process, and Interventions**

The study by Anupama Rao, Barnard College, considers the state of the ‘housing question’ in Mumbai and the impact of engagement by diverse social actors and policy initiatives. It examines the effect of urban planning, real estate markets and government policy in shaping new paradigms of urban development and housing. It compares two distinctive patterns of land acquisition, housing construction and service provision across,

a) The settlement and social patterns of select Mumbai slums, especially in the M Ward, which has seen the largest number of slum redevelopment projects in the past decade, and

b) The rise of housing colonies in peri-urban areas constructed by private developers

**Presidents Global Innovation Fund Projects**

*Regional Food shed Resilience* - The project focuses on a comparative regional food shed analysis involving New York, Rio de Janeiro, Beijing, and Mumbai since these re-present four of the fastest growing megacities of the world. It aims to demonstrate the importance and value of regional food shed analysis as a pathway to more sustainable, healthy, productive, and resilient
urban bioregions. The Mumbai Cneter was engaged in identification of environmental challenges in Mumbai as they pertain to food production, facilitated institutional partnerships, and reached out to local academia.

**Global Oral Health** - The project focuses on utilization of affordable technology such as Teledentistry to reach millions of underserved populations, global health externships that deliver basic oral and general health care to remote areas and sustainability training for rural mid-level healthcare providers. This project launched in Kenya and will work with the Mumbai Center in the coming year.

**Global Mental Health** - The project focuses on improving the classification of mental disorders globally by advancing the essential research required to develop the WHO ICD-11 classification of mental and behavioral disorders. It aims to expand the ICD-11 network and research agenda to generate the largest and most diverse consortium and database in global mental health. The Mumbai Center is engaged in coordinating a global mental health conference and regional symposium in 2015.

**Global Public Management Project** - The project focuses on developing comparative case studies of public systems, public structures, governance structures and institution building elements across different national contexts pertaining to India, China and Brazil. The Mumbai Center was engaged in developing an India country study covering the public sector, public institutions and the Maharashtra state agencies. The Global Center has been involved in building new relationships with regional stakeholders in India to facilitate the production of audio-visual case studies in areas related to health, education, and public management. The Global Center supported the ‘Big Data’ project by contacting and facilitating interactions with senior civil servants in Mumbai as well as in Delhi. The Global Center was further involved in networking with local organizations working with schools to facilitate Dr. Brian Perkins’ study on School Climate.

**Global Humanities Project** - The project would initiate a global conversation on the state of the humanities in different regions to deliberate on the loss of humanities knowledge. The Mumbai Center was engaged in hosting a conference on ‘State of World’s Humanities Capacity’ with participation by scholars from Africa, the Arab world, South Asia, and China.

**Ifriqiyya: The Indian Ocean and Trans-African Slavery Networks** - The project has launched a new network of research, drawing together scholarship on trans-Saharan and trans-Indian Ocean African slaveries. It aims to evolve an innovative comparative study of modern and pre-modern slavery. The Mumbai Center has secondary affiliations with the project.

**Global Migration Network** - The project focuses on establishing an international network of scholars concerned with the health consequences of migration worldwide. It further aims at developing a digital knowledge platform on the theme and organizing a global conference. The Columbia Global Centre at Mumbai has been engaged in identifying thematic local and regional scholars to build a scholarly network, planning and co-ordinating communication platforms including conference planning. The Center identified a scholar from a regional Mumbai based organization, the Indian Institute of Population Studies, to engage in the network.
Center Interests, Priorities and Thematic Focus

The Center began with a focus on social sectors - education and health. Its two key research projects (described in some detail above) in these areas are each five-year long; comprehensive in scope; fully funded and engage CU faculty from diverse schools/institutes. The education project, for instance, brings together faculty from TC; the School of Social Work; the Earth Institute; the school of Dental Medicine and the Department of Nutrition of the Medical School. The Center has no senior staff except the director, but its researchers hold MPH, MPA, or MSc degrees mostly from U.S. and U.K. universities and three of them are CU alumni, including a current doctoral student from TC. The Center is prepared to handle various simultaneous requests/programs.

In 2014, the key priority for the Center is to put together programming that will help substantially increase student traffic through the Center. In this regard, the Center developed the Summer Ecosystems Experiences for Undergraduates (SEE-U) curriculum for India for summer 2014. SEE-U India will take place again in summer 2015.

In 2015, the Center aims to engage faculty and alumni in more substantial ways. To this end, the Center organized a panel with the Columbia Alumni Association and Women Creating Change Initiative on “Women Leaders in Changing India” on October 30, 2014. There are plans to hold an additional panel on a similar theme in another city in India in 2015. Among other projects, the Center is working with Professor Akeel Bilgrami and the CAA to organize two lectures and a one-day conference on the theme of “Gandhi in his Time and Ours” for 2015.
Columbia Global Centers | Latin America (Rio de Janeiro)

Center Launch: March 2013
Website: http://globalcenters.columbia.edu/riodejaneiro
Address: Rua Candelária, 9, 3o Andar, Centro, Rio de Janeiro, 20091-020 Brazil
Other links: Facebook – Twitter – riodejaneiro.cgc@columbia.edu

**Director Biography**

**THOMAS TREBAT**

tt2166@columbia.edu

Thomas J. Trebat is the Director of the Columbia Global Centers | Latin America (Rio de Janeiro). He is the former Executive Director of the Columbia University Institute of Latin American Studies and of the Institute’s Center for Brazilian Studies.

Trebat joined Columbia in 2005 after a lengthy career on Wall Street dedicated to economic research on Latin America. In addition to his administrative duties at Columbia, he taught courses on the Latin American economy and on Brazil as an adjunct professor at SIPA. Tom has a Ph.D. in economics from Vanderbilt University and is also a member of the Council of Foreign Relations. His book, “Brazil’s State-owned Enterprises: A Case Study of the State as Entrepreneur,” was published by Cambridge University Press.

**Center Space**

The Center functions in 3,000 square feet of newly renovated office space in a beautiful Art Deco building in the heart of Rio’s historic downtown. The space features an attractive classroom which can comfortably seat 30 persons. The Center is minutes from the downtown airport, close to all transportation options, and walking distance to churches and public places of enormous historic importance. It is on the third floor of a 14-storey building that is the headquarters of the Commercial Association of Rio de Janeiro. One of its neighbors in this building is the Brazilian counterpart of the U.S. Council on Foreign Relations. The Center’s landlord provides, on a space available basis, the free use of two large auditoriums capable of seating 100-150 persons. It also has other rooms available to in this iconic building, many with views of the beautiful Bay of Guanabara.

**Regional Dimension**

The Center has held programming events in São Paulo and also in Fortaleza in the Northeast of Brazil. Its partners outside of Rio include the University of São Paulo, Fundação Getúlio Vargas (SP), INSPER (in São Paulo), the Lemann Foundation, and the Universidade de Fortaleza. The Center firmly intends to develop close working relations with a large number of Brazilian universities, including UNICAMP (University of Campinas) and the Universidade de Brasília, in order to accommodate interests of Columbia University faculty and researchers. Center staff are
highly confident that many, probably most, Brazilian universities would have space available to accommodate Columbia researchers provided that the research project attracts support from local Brazilian faculty.

**Current and upcoming projects**

- Columbia SIPA first Master’s degree in public administration (Global EMPA) starting in Brazil in 2015
- Columbia School of the Arts programs in TV Writing, Film Directing and Film Curating
- Columbia Law School project on mediation and capital markets law
- Columbia Teachers’ College Project on training teachers to work in school in violence-prone areas of Rio
- Columbia SIPA BRIClab project (Brazil and other emerging markets)
- Columbia Picker Center project to provide advanced executive training in public administration to Brazilian civil servants
- Columbia in Rio summer program of Department of Latin American and Iberian Studies and Global Programs
- President’s Innovation Fund projects in Brazil
- FAPERJ (Rio de Janeiro’s Funding Agency for Research) Funds between universities based in the state of Rio de Janeiro and Columbia faculty
- Columbia Engineering School Master’s Program and Sciences without Borders
- Mailman School project in Public Health and Urban Planning in Rio das Pedras (in collaboration with Studio-X)
- Columbia Global Debates launch of videos recorded in 2013

**Center Interests, Priorities and Thematic Focus**

Throughout the almost two years of existence, the Rio Center has explored collaborations with different schools in various areas and themes of interest, being open to faculty, students and local partners. The Rio Center is currently committed to implementing the first Master program in public administration – through the Global EMPA program with SIPA, which has a high demand and need in the Brazilian context, but has also invested greatly in other areas of humanities, liberal arts, sciences and global themes of interest to the network and to the public, such as global freedom of expression, public health, environment and sustainability. These are themes of enormous importance in Brazil and also themes which engage the strengths of the Columbia faculty.

Tom Trebat, the Director of the Rio Global Center, has 40 years of experience in Brazil, taught about the Brazilian economy for seven years at SIPA, and was the Executive director of the Center for Brazilian Studies at Columbia University. Staff in the Rio center will be able to take on simultaneous programs and requests by utilizing our network of contacts in Brazil to the utmost.
Columbia Global Centers | Middle East

Center Launch: March 2009
Website: http://globalcenters.columbia.edu/amman
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Director Biography

SAFWAN M. MASRI

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Professor Masri is Executive Vice President for Global Centers and Global Development at Columbia University. As an ambassador for Columbia, he cultivates relationships with Columbia alumni and with international leaders, essential to the continued development of a global Columbia. In this role, he helps coordinate various University-wide global initiatives, and works to extend Columbia’s reach to match the pressing demands of our global society.

Professor Masri is responsible for the development of an expanding network of Columbia Global Centers, located in Amman, Beijing, Istanbul, Mumbai, Nairobi, Paris, Rio de Janeiro and Santiago. The Centers promote and facilitate the engagement of faculty, students, and alumni with the world, address global challenges, and advance knowledge and its exchange. He has been Director of the Columbia Global Centers | Middle East since its founding in 2009. He has been a member of the Columbia Business School faculty since 1988 and was appointed Vice Dean in 1993, a position he held for thirteen years.

He was Visiting Professor at INSEAD in 1990 and 1991, and has also held teaching positions at Stanford University and Santa Clara University. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Engineering from Purdue University in 1982; his Master of Science in Industrial Engineering also from Purdue in 1984; and his Ph.D. in Industrial Engineering and Engineering Management from Stanford University in 1988. Professor Masri was honored with the Singhvi Professor of the Year for Scholarship in the Classroom Award in 1990, the Robert W. Lear Service Award in 1998, and the Dean’s Award for Teaching Excellence in a Core Course in 2000. He has also been honored with the 2003 American Service Award from the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee.

Professor Masri is Founding Chairman Emeritus of King’s Academy and of the Queen Rania Teacher Academy, Trustee of International College, Trustee of the National Children’s Museum in Jordan, Director of Endeavor Jordan, Director of the Luxury Education Foundation, and member of the advisory boards of the School of Business and the Gerhart Center for
Philanthropy and Civic Engagement at the American University in Cairo. He has also served as Advisor to Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah, and as director of the Arab Bankers Association of North America, Aramex, and the Nuqul Group.

Professor Masri’s scholarly interests include education reform in the Middle East, and contemporary Arab geopolitics and society. His area of academic expertise has been in operations management, with a focus on supply chain management. He has consulted and written on change management and operational efficiency in banking and finance.

**Center Space**

Columbia Global Centers | Middle East is headquartered in Amman in the residential area of Dabouq. It is a stately, two floor, 47,000 square foot building with an interior courtyard. The building contains an auditorium, multiple conference rooms, nearly a half-dozen classrooms, and staff offices. The Columbia schools that have been most active have been dedicated office space on the second floor. For example, to support the programming and offerings of the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation (GSAPP), the Center has dedicated part of an upstairs wing to GSAPP’s Amman Lab, which includes a studio, conference room, and faculty office. The Center also has videoconferencing capabilities that can be configured to classrooms, conference rooms, or the auditorium depending on program needs. In addition, the grounds include an adjoining teaching annex, which has several lecture halls that hold roughly 40 people each, in addition to a set of breakout rooms.

**Regional Dimension**

The Center has close ties with partners in Beirut, Ramallah, Jerusalem, Abu Dhabi and Cairo. In Beirut, we work closely with the American University of Beirut. The Center also works closely with Birzeit University near Ramallah, and the American University in Cairo. Additionally, the Center maintains ties with several NGOs in these cities. The Center hosts visiting scholars and fellows and has also worked with the Institute of International Education’s Scholar Rescue Fund, which coordinates placements for Iraqi academics to pursue their research and study.

**Networking and Contacts**

- **Local, regional and national government partners**
  
  **Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC):** The Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD) collaborates closely with MoPIC to tackle the challenges of sustainable development in Jordan. MoPIC has also supported the Jordan Social Work Education for Excellence Program (JSWEEP) since its initiation.

  **Ministry of Social Development (MoSD):** The Ministry is one of the partners in JSWEEP, which is dedicated to building a strong social work profession in Jordan. MoSD is also the main partner for the Community-Family Integration Teams (C-FIT) which aims to replace institutional reliance with community-based interventions.

  **Greater Amman Municipality (GAM):** The Graduate School of Architecture, Preservation, and Planning (GSAPP) has worked with GAM on a number of initiatives including the Advanced Studio Course Knowledge City: Information Infrastructure.

  **Ministry of Education (MoE):** The Queen Rania Teacher Academy (QRTA) offers its capacity building programs directly to the Ministry of Education educators and supports the
MoE in reviewing and developing educational policies. QRTA’s programs for school leaders and teachers respond to pressing MoE educational needs.

**Ministry of Health (MoH):** The Public Health Program has had discussions with the MoH on priority areas of collaboration. MoH has participated in the Center’s roundtable discussion: “Jordan: Successes and Challenges in Public Health”, and participated in the Center’s working group meetings on the development of programming and research on non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

**Local and international NGOs**

The Center has collaborated extensively with a range of NGOs locally and regionally on their programs. Included below are the organizations that we have collaborated with by program.

Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD): The Institute has worked with the following organizations in capacities such as policy support, developing case studies, and partnering on projects: Jordan River Foundation, Royal Health Awareness Society, Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature, and Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development.

Regional: Regional Partnership on Culture and Development, Family Health International (FHI 360), Cairo, King Hussein Foundation, Tomorrow’s Youth Organization, Family Development Foundation.

Jordan Social Work Education for Excellence Program: Jordan River Foundation, Queen Rania Family and Child Center and the National Council for Family Affairs work in partnership with the Center on this program.

Community-Family Integration Teams (C-FIT): C-FIT is a multi-year partnership with the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD), UNICEF, the judicial system, and NGO partners, Columbia University School of Social Work (CUSSW), and Columbia Global Centers | Middle East. C-FIT is considered to be a significant turning point in the child welfare and juvenile justice system in the kingdom. The C-FIT intervention model includes community based non-governmental organizations that are well established and have a long-standing history in providing services to the target populations. The NGOs are the Family Guidance and Awareness Center in Zarqa, and the Family and Childhood Society in Irbid.

Public Health: The Center worked with UNRWA, UNICEF, Royal Health Awareness Society, and WHO.

Festival), Michael Turner (UNESCO), Tafeeda Jarbawi (Director General, Welfare Association).

Queen Rania Teacher Academy: **Arab League Educational, Cultural & Scientific Organization (ALECSO):** ALECSO has identified the QRTA as the institution to host and manage the Arab Program on Teacher Policies and Teacher Professional Development. **Regional English Language Office (of the US Embassy in Amman, English Language Fellow Program)** has partnered with QRTA and Madrasati to conduct English language training in remote areas of Jordan. **The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO):** The overall objective of the QRTA’s partnership with UNESCO is to support the Government of Jordan in providing quality education to the Syrian refugees. The project will be developed, in conjunction with the Ministry of Education Educational Training Center and UNESCO Jordan.

- **Universities and colleges**
  
  Jordan University of Science and Technology (Public Health, GSAPP – Studio-X Amman Lab), American University of Beirut (Public Health, Institute for Sustainable Development and Amman Lab), American University of Cairo (Public Health, Institute for Sustainable Development Practice), The University of Jordan (C-FIT, Institute for Sustainable Development, GSAPP, School of the Arts), Al Balqa Applied University (C-FIT), German Jordanian University, American University of Sharjah, Bezalel Academy of Art and Design, Birzeit University, Bartlett School of Architecture (GSAPP – Studio X Amman Lab), London Architectural Association (GSAPP – Studio X Amman Lab), The University of Helsinki, the Department of Teacher Education (QRTA)

**Other personal contacts or renowned local/regional institutions that the center is working towards engaging:**

- **Local and international NGOs**
  
  - Public Health: Ahsan Jamil (director of the Aman Foundation, Karachi, Pakistan). Dr, Umayya Khammash (Juzoor, Ramallah).

  **The Center is also engaging with the following regional collaborations:** Arab Council for Social Science Research, Issam Fares Institute (AUB), Carnegie Middle East Center, and the Seventeenth World Congress was organized in partnership with Economic Research Forum, Fung Global Institute, International Development Research Centre, Centre for International Governance Innovation, Institute for New Economic Thinking, African Innovation Foundation, King Abdullah II Fund for Development, Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences, and Japan International Cooperation Agency.

- **Universities and colleges**
  
  The Public Health Program at Columbia Global Centers | Middle East engaged American University of Beirut (AUB), Al Quds University, Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST).
Sampling of projects

The Center regularly organizes and hosts conferences and seminars. Previous ones include:

- **Global Thinkers Forum – Women in the MENA: Power and Creativity** (October 2012) - The Center hosted the Global Thinkers Forum 2012, along with other organizations in Amman this coming October.

- **Urban Planning Book Workshop** (March 2012): Convening of urban planners and architects to compile a book addressing the theoretical concepts in urban planning and political science on the issues of democratic and inclusive urban planning in the Middle East.

- **Case Studies on Innovation and Entrepreneurship**: In order to address the quasi-absence of fundamental data of the private sector in Jordan, particularly innovation-minded entrepreneurship, the Center has been working with the World Bank (WB) and Korea Development Institute (KDI) on a research activity entitled “Cases on Innovation: Studies on the Jordanian Experience.” The work provided valuable case material for courses on entrepreneurship, input lessons from the private sector, and the Jordanian government’s policymaking on innovation. This study is assisting the Jordanian Higher Council of Science and Technology (HCST), the Royal Scientific Society and other partners in Jordan to strengthen the national innovation policy effort.

- **International Economic Association’s Seventeenth World Congress**: The IEA World Congress is aimed to promote the interaction of prominent economists, academics and policymakers towards gaining a truly world perspective on economy-related issues and challenges of global importance. The global center in Amman worked closely with the International Economic Association and in particular with Joseph Stiglitz, University Professor at Columbia and now former President of the IEA, to spearhead the effort to bring this key event to Jordan.

- **Debating the ‘Woman Question’ in the New Middle East**: The Center held a two-day workshop on “Debating the ‘Woman Question’ in the New Middle East: Women’s Rights, Citizenship, and Social Justice” in Amman on May 3-4, 2014. A conference report summarizing key issues discussed was put together by Lila Abu-Lughod, Joseph L. Buttenwieser Professor of Social Science, Department of Anthropology at Columbia University, and Susanna Ferguson, PhD Student in the History Department at Columbia University.

- **International Prize for Arabic Fiction**: The International Prize for Arabic Fiction (IPAF) is a literary prize in the Arab world which aims to recognize excellence in contemporary Arabic creative writing, and promotes the readership of high quality Arabic literature internationally, through the translation and publication of winning and shortlisted novels in other major languages. The Center hosted the opening of IPAF on February 9, 2014.

**Institute for Sustainable Development**: The Institute for Sustainable Development was launched by Columbia Global Centers | Middle East in December 2010 in conjunction with the Earth Institute (EI) at Columbia University. The Institute serves as an innovative institutional mechanism for mobilizing international expertise and experience, while building local capacity to help achieve sustainable development in the region.
**Capacity Building and Executive Education:** In an effort to build a cadre of well-informed development practitioners in Jordan, the Institute has trained over 500 practitioners, since its inception, on core practices of sustainable development and other specialized areas identified as national and regional priorities. The practitioners represent over 30 national governmental and non-governmental organizations, in addition to three regional and international organizations.

**Advanced Educational Opportunities:** The Institute has been working with the Earth Institute at Columbia University and the University of Jordan to develop a high-caliber Master of Public Administration in Development Practice (MDP) program. The MDP program intends to contribute to human capacity building in the area of sustainable development, and to provide technical support and policy guidance to public and development institutions at both the national and regional levels. The first semester of the MDP program will commence in 2014.

**Impact of Population Growth and Climate Change in Lebanon and Egypt on Water Scarcity, Agricultural Output and Food Security:** The Institute was awarded a grant by Family Health International (FHI), through the Regional Partnership for Culture Development Program (RPCD), to conduct a research study titled “Impact of Population Growth and Climate Change in Lebanon and Egypt on Water Scarcity, Agricultural Output and Food Security”. The research project looked into the changes in water availability and agriculture production as a result of the changes in climate change and population growth in chosen areas in Egypt and Lebanon. The research project was produced in collaboration with Desert Development Center at the American University in Cairo (AUC), the Faculty of Agriculture and Food Science with the Climate Change and Environment Program in the Arab World from IFI at American University of Beirut (AUB), and the Climate Change and Environment in the Arab World Program of the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs at AUB.

Faculty and institutes involved: The Earth Institute: Jeffrey Sachs, director. Center on Globalization and Sustainable Development, The Earth Institute: Glenn Denning, director; Andre Correa d’Almeida, coordinator for Executive Education; and administrative staff.

- Columbia University Faculty participating in the delivery of the Capacity Building Component: Kye Baroang, Kirsten Lundberg, Vijay Modi, Prabhjot Singh.
- Local staff and institutions engaged: three local staff members ensure the quality and continuity of ISDP’s ongoing programs.

**Public Health:** In coordination with the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University, the Center’s Public Health provides technical support to stakeholders in the health sector and develops training and capacity building programs for public health professionals in Jordan and throughout the Middle East. The most recent programming include:

- **Nutrition in Emergencies:** The Columbia Global Centers | Middle East organized its first intensive public health training course on February 3-7, 2012, which aimed to develop a basic knowledge of best practices, tools, and national and international standards on emergency responses in nutrition. The course involved lectures and
workshops considering theoretical frameworks for understanding, measuring, analyzing, and addressing the prevalence of malnutrition in emergency situations, as well as practical insights and knowledge sharing from facilitators and participants. The training workshop was conducted in collaboration with MSPH and was adapted from its “Food Nutrition and Livelihoods” course to provide a regional focus. The course also included sessions on conducting rapid and sectoral surveys, breastfeeding and other feeding options for children, and the control of disease outbreak; providing a holistic framework for managing nutrition in emergencies.

• **Public Health Leadership Training:** The Center hosted Alastair Ager, Executive Director of the Global Health Initiative and Professor of Clinical Population and Family Health at MSPH. Professor Ager discussed and adapted the syllabus of planned public health leadership training workshop, and met with UNICEF and UNRWA representatives. He led a roundtable discussion to establish a regional public health initiative with key national and regional stakeholders. The Center also held the public health leadership training, which was titled: “Tools and strategies for Managing the Development of Public Health Programming in the Middle East.” Participants took part in an intensive six-day training session on designing, implementing and evaluating public health programs addressing the emerging preventative priorities in the region.

• **Confronting Non-communicable Diseases in Middle East and Turkey** – The President’s Global Innovation Fund research project titled: “Confronting Non-communicable Diseases in Middle East and Turkey” hosted their first training workshop at the Center on January 19 to 20, 2014. The workshop brought together Columbia University faculty, partnering faculty from Turkey, and NCD experts and stakeholders from Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine.

• **Global Mental Health Research Consortium and Scholars Program** – The Global Mental Health Research Consortium and Scholars Program is a President’s Global Innovation Fund (PGIF) research project led by Executive Director and Scientific Co-Director, Global Mental Health Program at Columbia University, Kathleen Pike. The consortium consisted of a semi-annual meeting of the World Health Organization’s leadership team responsible for field testing of the mental health chapter of the 11th revision of the International Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems. The Consortium took place during the week of April 6 and concluded in a one day symposium on Thursday April 10, held at the Center.

• Faculty and institutes involved: The Mailman School of Public Health’s Global Health Initiative, Professor Alastiar Ager, Dr. Jamie Eliades, Kathleen Pike, and Wafaa El-Sadr

Local staff and institutions engaged: At least four Columbia Global Centers | Middle East staff members were engaged in organizing the training; in addition to Dr. Rima Afifi and Dr. Samer Jabbour from the American University of Beirut.

**Jordan Social Work Education for Excellence Program (JSWEEP):** In collaboration with the Columbia School of Social Work (CUSSW), the Center hosts programs that work to professionalize the practice of social work in Jordan, and one of its primary elements is a set of skill-building workshops. JSWEEP is a partnership among the Center, CUSSW, Jordan’s Ministry of Social Development and other entities to create a cadre of social work professionals
who can lead effective governmental and non-governmental social welfare organization is Jordan. It delivers a set of skill-building workshops, including specialized courses focusing on adolescent care, family violence, and management training. In addition, four cohorts of Jordanians completed the Masters of Science program in social work at Columbia University.

**Community-Family Integration Teams (C-FIT):** The Community-Family Integration Team (C-FIT) program is a multi-year partnership with the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD), UNICEF, the judicial system, and NGO partners, Columbia University School of Social Work (CUSSW), and Columbia Global Centers | Middle East. C-FIT is considered to be a significant turning point in the child welfare and juvenile justice system in the kingdom. The program was established with the guidance and support of Associate Professors from CUSSW including: Robin Gearing, Michael MacKenzie, and Graig Schwalbe. The program, directed by Dr. Rawan Ibrahim, launched Jordan’s—indeed the region’s—formal family-based therapeutic alternatives to institutional placements for children in need of substitute care and youth in conflict with the law. Other member of the team include: Shadi Bushnaq, Clinical Director, Dr. Faleh Hussaini, Quality Assurance Officers from MoSD, Waleed Al Shatat, Counseling Psychologist at Jordanian Psychological Association.

**Studio-X Amman Lab:** Studio-X serves as a platform for experimental research and design in architecture, and as an interface for GSAPP students and faculty to collaborate with students, scholars and professionals from Amman and the region. By establishing partnerships with local and regional institutions, Studio-X provides the space for activities that range from engaging the most urgent and practical questions to opening up philosophical or artistic explorations – from informal events hosted in a single evening to multi-year research projects with dedicated teams. Recognizing the city’s crucial role in the region, Studio-X provides a stage for public events (lectures, seminars, symposia, and exhibitions), and research (workshops, studios).

- Funding and duration: GSAPP and Columbia Global Centers | Middle East, launched in 2009.
- Faculty and institutes involved: Amale Andraos, Andrew Dolkart, Craig Konyk, Craig Buckley, Felicity Scott, Frederic Levrat, Jennifer Broutin, Jyoti Hosagrarah, Kamal Farah, Mark Wasiuta, Phillip Anzalone.
- Local staff and institutions engaged: Nora Akawi, curator. German Jordanian University, American University of Sharjah, Bezalel Academy of Art and Design, Birzeit University, Bartlett School of Architecture, London Architectural Association, The University of Helsinki, Jack Persekian (the Palestinian Museum, Al Ma’mal Foundation), Rasha Salti (Toronto International Film Festival), Michael Turner (UNESCO), Tafeeda Jarbawi (director general, Welfare Association).

**Arts Program:** In partnership with Columbia’s School of the Arts (SoA), the Center hosts a series of programs in the arts, from creative writing to photography and film workshops. The Center is currently planning a film and visual fine arts course, which will be open to interested individuals in the region.

**Teacher Training:** The Columbia Global Centers | Middle East continues to be deeply engaged in the work of the Queen Rania Teacher Academy (QRTA), which the Center helped establish pre-dating its own official launch in March 2009. QRTA is an independent Jordanian institute.
committed to advancing teacher education and policy deliberation throughout the Middle East region, and was established under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah and in partnership with Teachers College (TC), through its relationship with the Center. QRTA was established to improve public education in Jordan by providing high-quality professional development training programs for government school teachers and administrators.

- QRTA is funded by the Jordanian Ministry of Planning and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and supported by Jordan’s Ministry of Education, the partnership is dedicated to improving teacher practice in classrooms, strengthening the national curricular initiative, and building capacity in schools and key institutions to support a culture of continuous instructional improvement.
- Through its multiple programs and networks, QRTA has reached more than 18,000 school teachers and educators to date, and continues to help reshape and advance the landscape of teaching and public education in Jordan and the region.
- Due to the growing number of training programs offered, QRTA identified the importance of impact assessments and is therefore working closely with The Consortium for Policy Research in Education (CPRE) to document the activities conducted in support of the networks and their impact on practice, policy, and performance. The documentation focuses on the use, adaptation, and sharing of the practices, lessons, units, and tools acquired or developed through network activities, in order to allow for any improvement of services, as well as to track the design and enactment of the school network strategy and the use of new practices and their sustainability over time.
- Local institutions involved: Jordan Education Initiative, Madrasati Initiative, Ministry of Education, Queen Rania Al Abdullah Award for Distinguished Teachers, The International Academy, USAID, Public Action for Water, Energy and Environment, and University of Jordan.

**Visiting Scholars and Fellows Program:** The Program is a unique element of the Center that hosts visiting scholars and fellows to pursue their own projects, which focus on a range of disciplines. The Program welcomes all research areas, but is particularly interested in research that focuses on issues of priority for Jordan and the region. In addition, scholars contribute to the intellectual vitality of the Center by hosting conferences, discussions, and seminars.

**Onsite Learning Programs for Full-Time Students:** Onsite learning is strongly advocated in the mission of the Columbia Global Centers | Middle East and the facilities available allow the Center to hold numerous onsite-training programs, particularly over the summer. Among the programs held is the Summer Ecosystem Experiences for Undergraduates Program, the Columbia Experience Overseas Program, the Summer Arabic Language Program, and the Summer Design Workshop.

- Middle-East/North Africa Summer Institute in Amman and Paris: In conjunction with Columbia’s Office of Global Programs, the Center held the fifth offering of the annual Arabic language program in May-August 2014. The program, renamed this year as the Middle East/North Africa Summer Institute, was headed by Taoufik Ben-Amor, Gordon
Gray Jr. Senior Lecturer in Arabic Studies, Madeleine Dobie, Associate Professor of French, and Emmanuelle Saada, Associate Professor, Director of Graduate Studies, and Director of the Center for French and Francophone Studies. 25 Columbia undergraduate and graduate students enrolled this year, with 13 of them traveling onto Paris for a second half of the course focused on the North African dialect. Three of the students enrolled in the program were Presidential Global Fellows. The expansion of this summer’s program was made possible through funding from the Presidents’ Global Innovation Fund.

- Summer Ecosystem Experiences for Undergraduates (SEE-U) Program: SEE-U is a five-week education program intended to provide Columbia undergraduates with a global understanding of ecology and environmental sustainability, and the opportunity to conduct fieldwork in unique natural settings. The Program is designed by the Center for Environmental Research and Conservation (CERC) at the Earth Institute and Columbia College and is offered at a number of sites around the world. The Center implemented the pilot program in the summer of 2011 and has turned into an annual summer program.

- Columbia Experience Overseas (CEO): CEO Amman is an internship program that offers Columbia University undergraduates high-quality internships developed through alumni and employer partnerships by the Center for Career Education (CCE). Launched in partnership with the CCE in 2011, CEO Amman created internship opportunities for 9 interns in 2012 in a diverse array of fields, including publishing, hospitality, community development, consulting and pharmaceuticals. The program is now in its fifth year, and will be held from June-August of 2015.

Speaker Series

- The Center hosts regular public lectures for members of the community to engage with scholars and provide them with the opportunity to learn about a wide range of topics, from economics, to public policy, to the arts. Recent speakers include Paul Salopek, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and National Geographic Fellow, Sheena Iyengar, Inaugural S.T. Lee Professor of Business at Columbia Business School, Gayatri Spivak, University Professor at Columbia University, Yezid Sayigh, a senior associate at Carnegie Middle East Center in Beirut, Lisa Anderson, president of the American University in Cairo; Naomi Tutu, human rights activist and daughter of Archbishop Desmond Tutu; Thomas Friedman, best-selling author, three-time Pulitzer Prize winner, and New York Times columnist; and Rashid Khalidi, Edward Said Professor of Arab Studies at Columbia University; among numerous others.

IEA Seventeenth World Congress

- In collaboration with the International Economic Association (IEA), the Columbia Global Centers | Middle East hosted in Jordan the IEA’s Seventeenth World Congress on June 6-10, 2014 at the King Hussein Bin Talal Convention Center in the Dead Sea. The Congress was held under the patronage of Their Majesties King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein and Queen Rania Al Abdullah, and aimed to promote the interaction of prominent economists, academics and policymakers towards gaining a truly world perspective on economy-related issues and challenges of global importance.


*Center Interests, Priorities and Thematic Focus*

Since its founding, the Amman Center has launched and upheld programs and research initiatives in crucial areas such as sustainable development, public health, social work, teachers’ education, among others. And while many of these continue to be at the crux of its work and mission, the Center’s positioning and proximity to events that continue to sweep through the region present new opportunities to study, learn from, and perhaps even contribute positively to the developments that are taking place. Building on the “Egypt and Turkey: Comparative Perspectives on Democratic Transitions” session that the Amman Center co-organized with the Istanbul Center in late 2011, the Center held a roundtable session in Cairo in early 2013 with leading journalists and activists, and held a one-day conference in Istanbul in the fall of 2013 on press freedom issues in the context of regional geopolitical developments in the Middle East and Turkey, in addition to continuing to be engaged in conversations and academic dialogues regarding democratization, press and freedom of expression issues, the current state of affairs, and the region’s future.