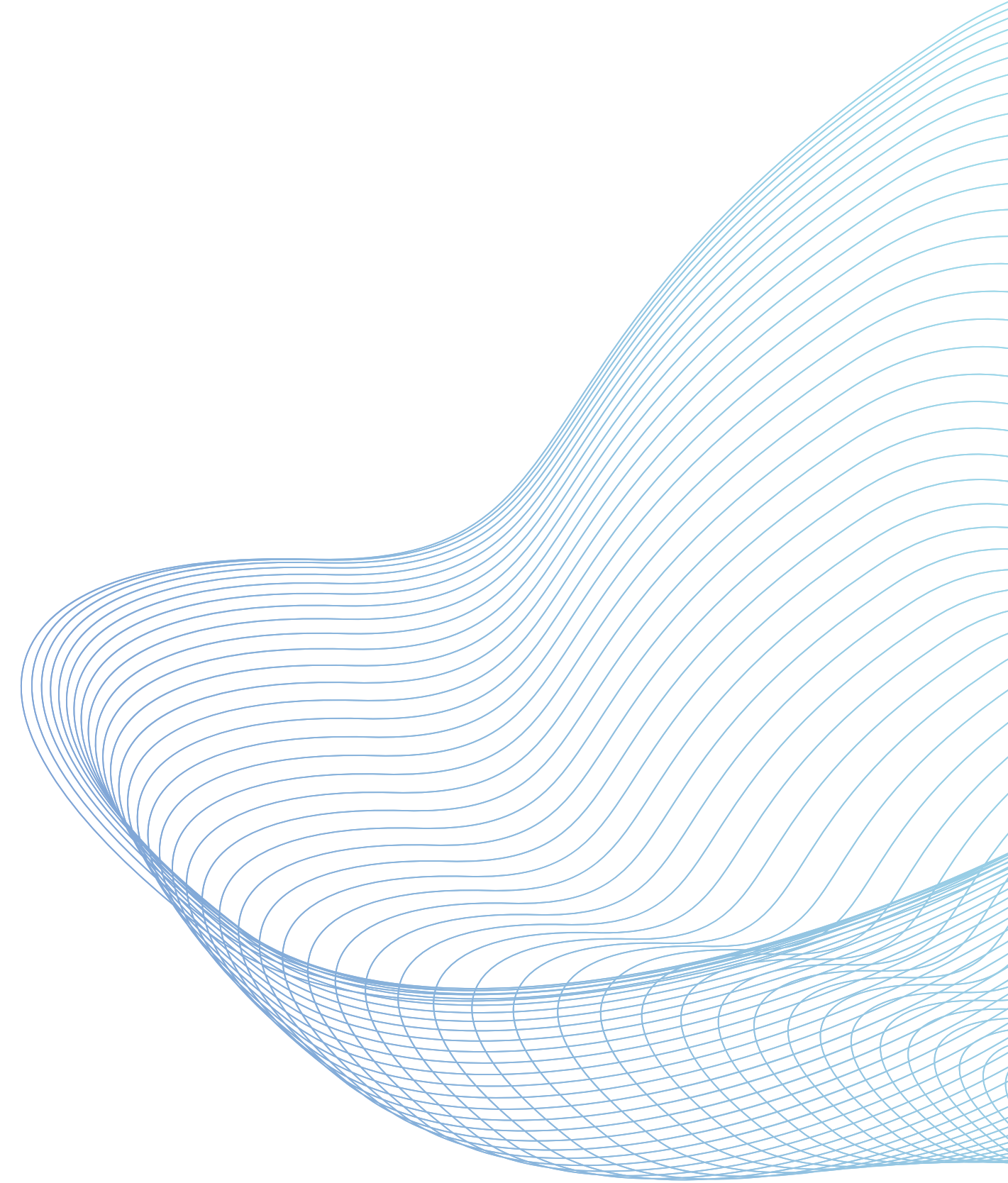


COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS | BEIJING

YEAR IN REVIEW

2023



A MESSAGE FROM WAFAA EL-SADR

*Executive Vice President for Columbia Global
University Professor of Epidemiology*



At Columbia Global, we firmly believe that for progress to occur in addressing major societal challenges, it will require coming together across geographic and institutional boundaries, united in mission and guided towards a common purpose. Our Global Centers, located in eleven major cities on four continents, are critical in this endeavor. They connect the university's scholars, researchers, and students with partners worldwide to address such challenges. How? By embracing curiosity, diversity of thought, global perspectives and catalyzing innovations. And through this achieve social impact that transforms lives and communities.

This past year has been challenging for so many. Communities are suffering through extreme heat, unseasonable hurricanes, earthquakes, and flooding. Democracies are under threat across the globe. According to the Economist's Democracy Index, this is the 16th consecutive year of decline in global freedoms, with a decline in the number of fully democratic countries. Alarming, too, is the dramatic increase in displaced populations, many due to wars, climate disruptions and economic despair—reaching new heights.

Yet, in the midst of such overwhelming challenges, there are reasons for hope, as Columbia faculty, students and staff work hand-in-hand with partners around the world advancing inquiry and pursuing solutions together. Our Global Centers embody this ethos.

We see this exchange occurring between experts on economic growth who gathered in Paris to examine the role of the state following the financial crisis. It emerges again through collaborations between researchers in Mumbai, who are investigating barriers to water access. A similar spirit of cooperation connects scholars in Beijing and Africa as they analyze China's growing health aid to the continent. And it is at the heart of disaster management workshops convened in Santiago, bringing together leaders to share lessons learned and plan stronger responses to future catastrophes. Through partnerships like these across our Global Network, Columbia is fostering new dialogues and driving innovative solutions to global challenges.

What follows in this year-end review is more than a catalog of our yearly achievements. It's a testament to creativity, commitment and partnership. I invite you to delve in, draw inspiration.

ABOUT COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS | BEIJING



Columbia Global Centers | Beijing is part of a network of 11 global centers of Columbia University in the City of New York, one of the world's leading academic institutions. For over a decade, the Beijing Center has served as a regional hub in East Asia, creating spaces for dialogue, collaboration, and knowledge exchange between Columbia and China's top academics and leaders, contributing to solutions for global challenges and fostering cross-cultural understanding.

Through research projects, academic collaborations, and immersive learning opportunities, the Beijing Center supports more than 1,000 Columbia faculty, students, scholars, and alumni each year in promoting intellectual engagement, fostering collaboration, and contributing to the advancement of knowledge and networks in diverse fields.

We are part of Columbia Global, which brings together major initiatives from across the university to advance knowledge and foster global engagement to address complex global challenges. As of July 2023, Columbia Global comprises the Columbia Global Centers, Columbia World Projects, the Committee on Global Thought, and the Institute for Ideas and Imagination.

OUR VISION

To serve as a vibrant global gateway for knowledge creation, intellectual exchange, and research collaboration between Columbia University and scholars, students, and institutions in China and throughout East Asia.

To foster cross-cultural understanding, advance academic excellence, and address global challenges through interdisciplinary approaches.

OUR MISSION

Regional Base

Enabling Columbia's academic community to interact on a local level with students, faculty, and alumni

Facilitator

Encouraging collaboration across academic disciplines, regionally and globally with faculty and students

Lever

Leveraging Columbia's superb research capabilities to initiate China-focused projects on a variety of issues

OUR STRATEGIC GOALS



To Enrich the International
Research Network



To Enhance Global Learning



To Generate Social Impact

OVERVIEW

From August 2022 to August 2023

PROGRAMS

56

FACULTY

40

FACULTY WHO VISITED THE CENTER

12

STUDENTS

1,440

IN-PERSON PARTICIPANTS

1,377

ONLINE PARTICIPANTS

27,394

PARTNERSHIPS WITH COLUMBIA SCHOOLS, OFFICES, AND RESEARCH CENTERS

Columbia Engineering

Columbia Climate School

Columbia Law School

Columbia Business School

Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

School of International and Public Affairs

School of Professional Studies

Teachers College

Weatherhead East Asian Institute

Columbia University Press

China Center for Social Policy

Tamer Center for Social Enterprise

Center for Climate Systems Research

C.V. Starr East Asian Library

Center on Chinese Education

Hong Yen Chang Center for Chinese Legal Studies

International Students and Scholars Office

Columbia University Asian Faculty Association

SOCIAL MEDIA IMPACT

From August 2022 to August 2023

100,000+
FOLLOWERS

6
CHINESE & ENGLISH SOCIAL MEDIA
PLATFORMS

1,819,559
VIEWS

108,391
LIKES & SHARES



LONG-TERM PROGRAMMING



LONG-TERM PROGRAM

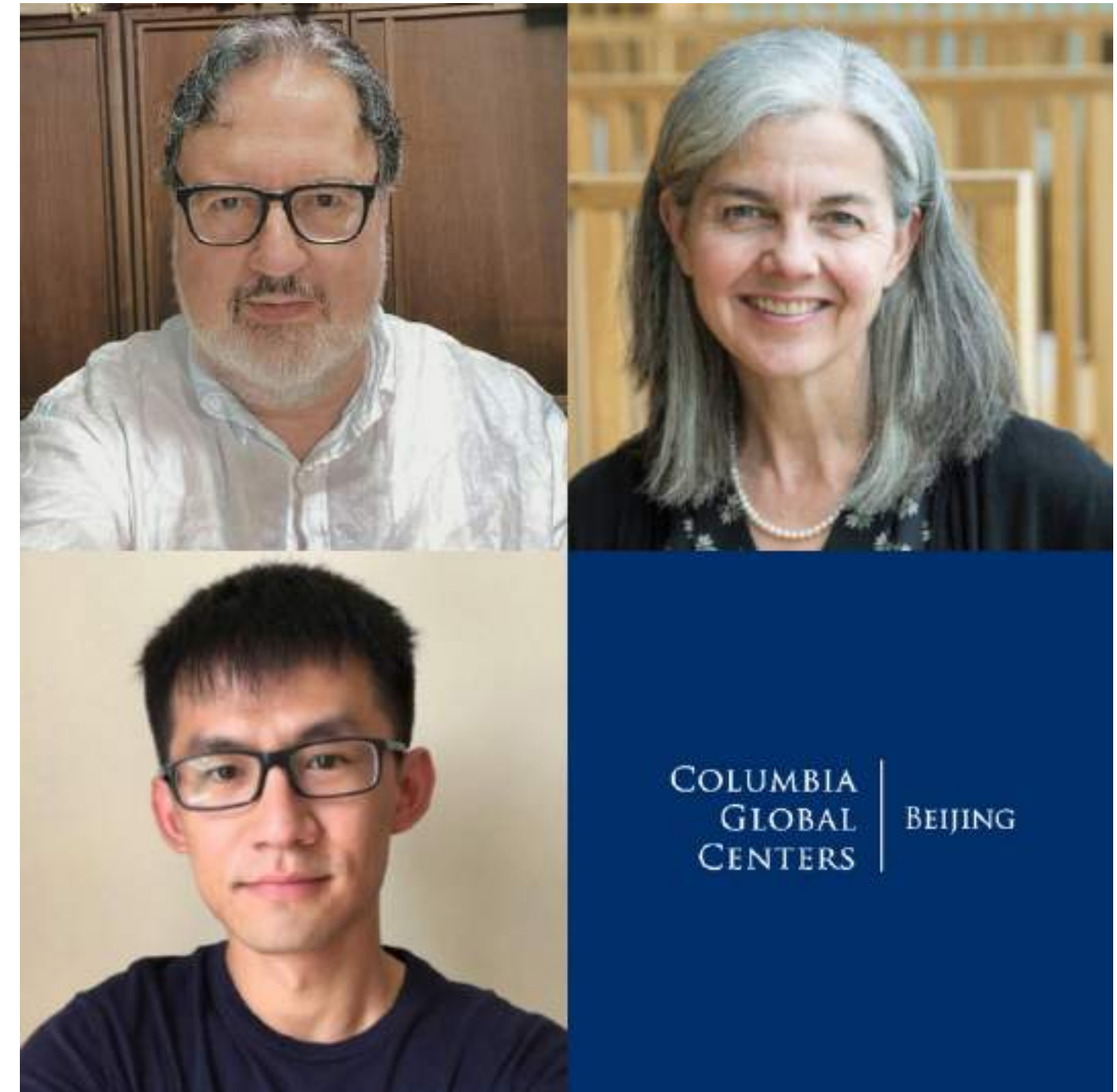
Scholar-in-Residence Program in Beijing

The Beijing Center offers Columbia's faculty, researchers, and doctoral students opportunities to engage in interdisciplinary interaction or research-related programs with their counterparts in China to expand their research, teaching, and learning footprints and international researcher network.

The fall 2023 cohort includes faculty members and Ph.D. students who gained invaluable access to local research resources and connections and obtained collaborations with top academics in China.

Recent scholarly projects include:

- ***Translations of Ancient Greek Philosophical Text into Chinese*** — Wolfgang R. Mann, Professor of Philosophy
- ***Modern Tibetan Literature in China*** — Luran Hartley, Director of the Modern Tibetan Studies Program
- ***Interactions Between Chinese Film Aesthetics and Philosophical Traditions*** — Tenggeer Hao, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures



[Learn more here](#)

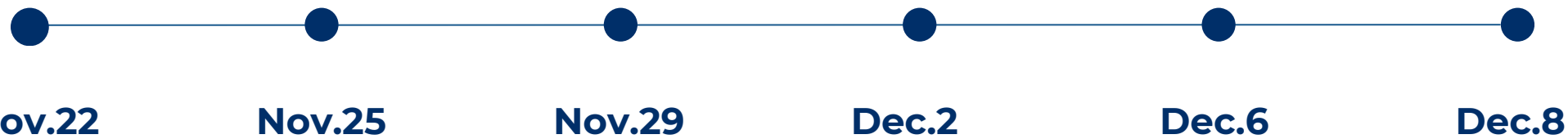
LONG-TERM PROGRAM

Scholar-in-Residence Program in Beijing

Translations of Ancient Greek Philosophical Text into Chinese — Wolfgang R. Mann, Professor of Philosophy

Project Overview:

- *Facilitated brief translation workshops of an ancient Greek philosophical text, aligning with Mann's commitment to fostering interdisciplinary exchange and scholarly dialogue*
- *Organized a reading series that met six times, for about two hours each, at the Beijing Center, creating an inclusive environment for Mann to engage with graduate students from Peking University and Renmin University*
- *Fostered a climate conducive to impactful cross-cultural learning and research collaboration*



LONG-TERM PROGRAM

Scholar-in-Residence Program in Beijing

Modern Tibetan Literature in China — Lauran Hartley,
Director of the Modern Tibetan Studies Program

Project Overview:

- *Reconnected and engaged with local writers and scholars after a long hiatus*
- *Fostered new connections and collaborations with Chinese literary and scholarly figures*
- *Worked towards reviving and facilitating culture exchange programs between Beijing institutions and relevant U.S. partners*
- *Conducted research to update and refine findings related to Tibetan literature*
- *Developed and modified course materials for the upcoming teaching of "Survey of Tibetan Literature" on the Morningside campus in Spring 2024*



LONG-TERM PROGRAM

Scholar-in-Residence Program in Beijing

Interactions Between Chinese Film Aesthetics and Philosophical Traditions — Tenggeer Hao, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures

Project Overview:

- Co-organized a hybrid panel, "Image and Thought: Film-Philosophy as a Possibility," featuring distinguished scholars from Columbia University and Peking University and an award-winning filmmaker to delve into the interactions between film aesthetics and philosophical traditions, recognizing cinema as a site where a great deal of philosophical thinking happens today

“Engaging with scholars of Chinese films and film philosophy and connecting with professionals in the Chinese film industry provided me with invaluable insights and enriched my research.”
Tenggeer Hao



LONG-TERM PROGRAM

Fellowship for Change: Youth Social Innovation

In line with Columbia University's commitment to global engagement and social impact, as well as the growing demand for social innovation education that fosters personal growth and social responsibility, the Beijing Center has collaborated on a year-long fellowship program designed for high school students in China who exhibit strong desires to initiate transformative changes.

Through a dynamic curriculum that combines academic rigor with applied skills and hands-on experience, fellows will engage with scholars and industry leaders, collaborate with peers to research complex social and environmental issues, and formulate and implement solutions addressing root causes to create a sustained impact that inspires others.

The program goes beyond learning. It also focuses on action, reflection, and the relentless pursuit of innovation for the greater good.

[Learn more here](#)

1

Year Fellowship

3

In-Person
Learning Summits

4

Core Competencies
Investigate, Innovate, Implement, Impact

10

Online
Coaching Sessions

15

To 17 Years Old

20

Selected Fellows
with Full Scholarship

LONG-TERM PROGRAM

A Demo Camp to Engage Potential Fellowship Applicants

From April 14 to 16, the Beijing Center hosted the 2023 Venture for Change Summit.

Among a significant number of teams of applicants, this 2.5-day intensive boot camp convened 16 groups of more than 100 Chinese middle and high school students to develop their social venture ideas and practice in a series of pitches before competing in the final presentation in front of a panel of scholars, business professionals, and social action experts.

The Summit includes six highlights:

- Lectures and seminars led by social innovators and industry leaders
- Mentorship sessions
- Formal roadshows
- Workshops
- 40k+ RMB seed funding
- Columbia community engagement

[Learn more here](#)



LONG-TERM PROGRAM

Career Education Program

The Beijing Center prioritizes the career development of Columbia students and recent graduates. Throughout the year, we host virtual career fairs during the recruitment seasons, an industry insights series, and a bi-weekly job column. These initiatives assist Columbia young professionals in obtaining a full-time job or internship through the Beijing Center's partner networks, as well as gaining insights into the current job market and the skills needed to succeed.



4 Virtual Career Fairs
2 Alumni Career Panels



780+ Students



55+ Positions



70+ Companies



12 Alumni Speakers



4 Schools

Columbia Engineering, Columbia Business School, Columbia GSAS, Columbia SPS





LONG-TERM PROGRAM

Columbia Startup Accelerator in China (CSAC)

The Beijing Center answers the call of Columbia's Fourth Purpose initiative, which seeks to advance human welfare and confront the great challenges of our time. We do this by leveraging the scientific research capabilities of the University and promoting their realization within the Columbia community in the region we serve.

Our business incubation program, CSAC, is committed to building an exclusive network for young entrepreneurs across the globe to showcase their business ideas and venture practices and catalyze their business growth and success through a range of programs and activities, including accelerator camps, entrepreneurship salon series, roadshows and demo days, and mentorship sessions.

Recent events and programs include:

- *ESG Stand-Up Comedy: Join Entrepreneurs Who Will Make You Think and Laugh*
- *Women Who Startup Demo Day*
- *Information Session For CSAC Spring 2023 Accelerator Camp*
- *CSAC Spring 2023 Accelerator Camp (Three Weeks)*

LONG-TERM PROGRAM

Columbia Startup Accelerator in China (CSAC)

30

Startups participated in the three-week accelerator camp

35

Women entrepreneurs presented their innovative ideas

5

ESG entrepreneurs and practitioners shared their stories

50+

Founders and investors attended the CSAC Startup Talk

[Learn more here](#)



ZIXIANG ZHAO

SEAS'21'22

Founder of CircleNet

“The CSAC accelerator camp has expanded my horizon on how different demographics approach entrepreneurship.”



HANXIANG WANG

GS'21

Founder of Majoris Energy

“Running a startup is hard, and CSAC was launched so that students and alumni starting businesses in China can connect and get help.”



RUICHENG YAO

PH'24

Co-founder of To You Travel AI

“CSAC is an important bridge for entrepreneurial exchange between China and the United States. The program has provided us with an excellent platform and assistance in transforming scientific research results further.”

LONG-TERM PROGRAM

Understanding China in Comparative Perspective Series

This special series features lectures, discussions, and other events with world-class scholars and experts on China-related topics in political science, literature, history, urbanization, film, economics, and more. It provides students, faculty, and community members with an opportunity to understand today's China on a deeper level in an international and global context.

Recent events include:

- *Who Fights for Reputation: the Psychology of Leaders in International Conflict*
- *Chinese Connections at Columbia: Untangling Mysterious "Dean Lung" Stories and Century-long Chinese Imagination*
- *"Villagers in the City": Chinese Migrant Youth Amidst Urbanization*
- *Education and the Commercial Mindset*





SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT

SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT

Prospective Students



- **Columbia Engineering** Information Session in Beijing
- An Evening with **Columbia Climate School**: Pre-College & Graduate Program Information Sessions
- **Columbia Climate School** Master of Science in Sustainability Science Program Information Session

SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT

Students, Alumni, and Friends

- Columbia Leadership Asia Trip: **GSAPP** in Beijing
- **Columbia GSAS** Statistics Alumni Networking Gathering in Beijing and Shanghai
- **SPS** Actuarial Science Program Alumni Gathering





FACULTY ENGAGEMENT

FACULTY ENGAGEMENT



Columbia Law School
2023 Alumni Reunion

Benjamin L. Liebman

Robert L. Lieff Professor of Law
Director of the Hong Yen Chang Center for
Chinese Legal Studies
Faculty Advisory Committee Chair,
Columbia Global Centers | Beijing



Book Talk for "Leveling the Learning Curve"

Soulaymane Kachani

Senior Vice Provost
Professor of Industrial Engineering and
Operations Research



STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Sean Lee, CC'23: I am deeply indebted to the Beijing Center's constant encouragement and unwavering support

The magic of the Global Centers has been about dissolving barriers across cultures based on kindling dialogue that champions a multiplicity of perspectives. Opportunities to connect with scholars from around the world beyond Morningside Heights have undoubtedly sharpened my world views on a wide range of topics, from sustainability to entrepreneurship to being a global citizen.

The Global Center in Beijing has played a pivotal role in empowering me to realize my own career aspirations. One summer, I expressed interest in learning about entrepreneurship and investments. The Beijing Center subsequently helped me secure a highly coveted internship at MiraclePlus (formerly Y Combinator China), which was a transformative experience as I stood at the forefront of technological frontiers in fields such as emerging climate technology and artificial intelligence. More recently, as I was exploring options for graduate school, the Beijing Center also became a critical resource in connecting me with administrators and alumni from programs I was applying to.

[Read the full article here](#)



STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Yunzhe Nie, CC'23: The Columbia Global Centers have enriched my journey in ways I never could have imagined

When I embarked on the endeavor of starting the Columbia China Forum, the local network provided by the Global Center in Beijing proved invaluable. With their support, I was able to establish connections and collaborate with influential individuals and organizations in the country. The Beijing Center's countless experiences in organizing large-scale conferences and programs have also helped me as I launched the forum for the first time, allowing me to build meaningful relationships and make a tangible impact within the Chinese community.

During the challenging times brought about by the pandemic, I found myself fortunate to have access to the dedicated WeWork sites in Beijing through the University Initiative for International Students launched by the Columbia Global Centers. These spaces provided a sanctuary where I could continue my work and engage in meaningful discussions with fellow students, professionals, and thought leaders.

[Read the full article here](#)



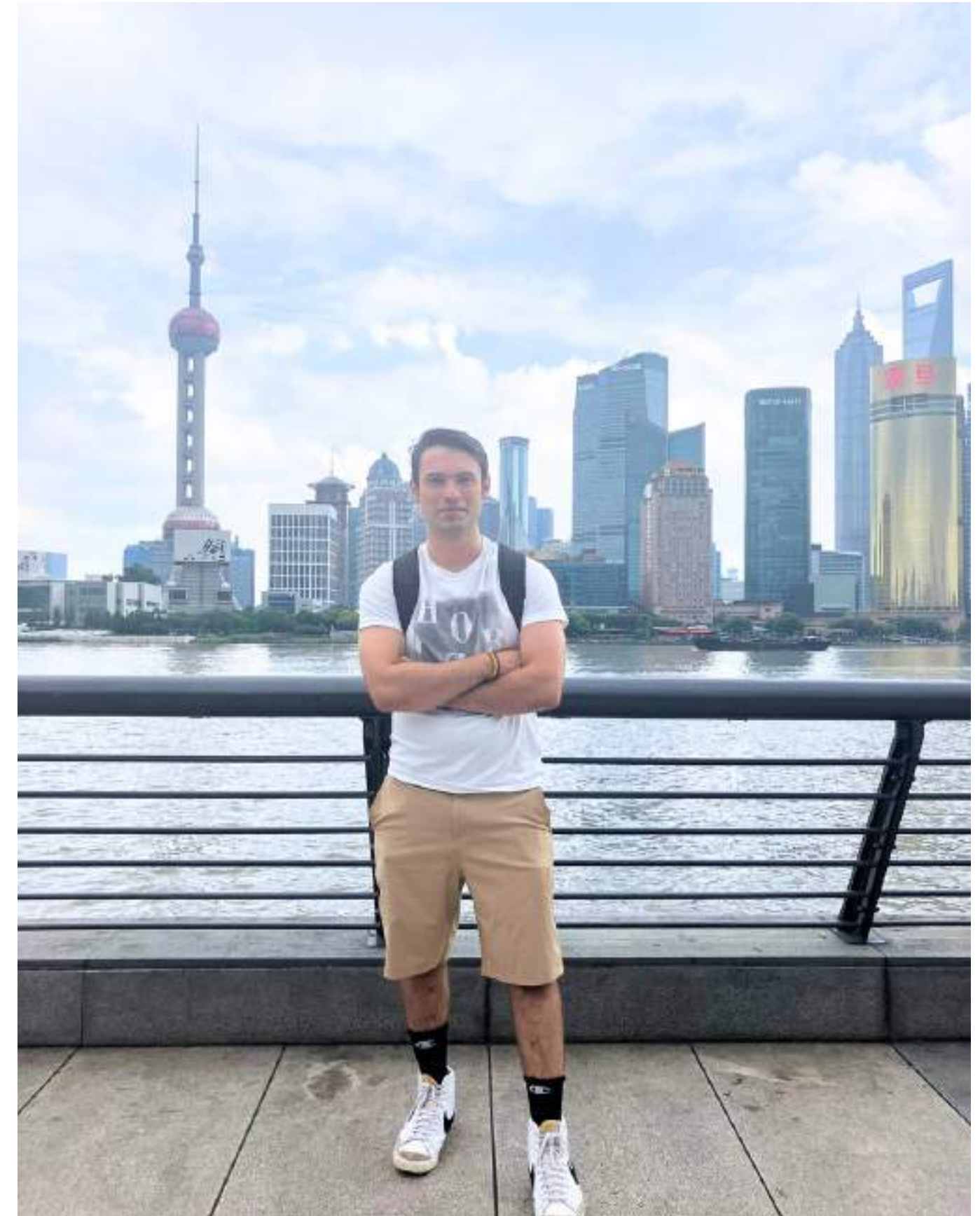
STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Lucas Aramburu, CC'23: My internship experience in China is life-changing

The big learning experience for me here in China has absolutely been understanding the different business and office cultures of a Chinese company. I'm lucky that pretty much all of my colleagues are Chinese. Not only has that been a great opportunity for me to improve my language abilities, but it's also been an opportunity for me to understand how things are done here, immerse myself in the culture, and find new ways to connect with what I'm interested in, which is the sustainable technology field. Being able to apply the skills that I learned at Columbia in a new global context, not just in a cultural sense but also in a technical and professional sense, has been a great opportunity for me to learn and grow.

The most interesting thing for me so far has been that I was able to go to Changsha upon the recommendation of the Beijing Center. I was invited to speak on the Youth Entrepreneurship and Leadership panel at the Asian Development Bank's Asia-Pacific Forum on Low-carbon Development, where I was able to connect with people and speak about something I am passionate about.

[Watch here](#)



STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Skyler Standridge, CC'25: My summer abroad journey sheds new light on U.S.-China relations

Coming to China this summer to study abroad and study Chinese gives me great opportunities to meet like-minded Chinese university students and talk about my research interest in U.S.-China relations. We've been able to discuss relevant topics and issues and also share our perspectives. It's given me new opportunities to think a bit more about the different perspectives they bring to the table as well as think about my own perspectives in a new light. Without coming to China to experience that in a Chinese language environment, I would never have been able to have those conversations in depth.

I reached out to the Beijing Center, and they've been so accommodating and wonderful. The Beijing Center helped me get set up with a SIM card and Alipay and gave me an amazing orientation and a welcome to Beijing. While I've been in Beijing, they've also hosted the incoming student events, where I was able to talk about my experience at Columbia and meet many new friends. That was really great!

[Watch here](#)



STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Kennedy Zhang, GSAS'23: An Intellectually Stimulating and Personally Fulfilling Internship at the Beijing Center

When I was in Beijing, I used to walk past the Beijing Global Center on my way home. As a high school senior, I could only dream of the honor of working for the Center. Thus when I received this internship offer, I felt incredibly privileged. I am filled with gratitude towards Columbia Global for this precious opportunity.

This internship has incentivized me to uncover different dimensions of Columbia previously unbeknownst to me. I have been fortunate to connect with some fantastic Columbia faculty and alumni entrepreneurs. In terms of working tasks, I've been given projects to work on independently and the opportunity to contribute my ideas to the team. This has been a great learning experience for me, as I've been able to see how my work can have a tangible impact on the Center's business incubation program. Additionally, the Beijing team has been very accommodating and supportive regarding meeting times and task assignments, and I feel comfortable asking for questions, help, or guidance when needed. Their generosity has minimized the impacts of time zone challenges throughout my internship experience.

[Read the full article here](#)



STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Support Student-led China Initiatives

- **Columbia China Forum**, organized by Columbia undergraduate students
- **Annual Columbia China Summit**, organized by the Greater China Society of Columbia Business School and the Greater China Initiative of Columbia SIPA
- **Columbia China Psychology Forum**, organized by the International Students Psychology Association of Teachers College
- **Annual Urban China Forum**, organized by the Urban China Network of Columbia GSAPP

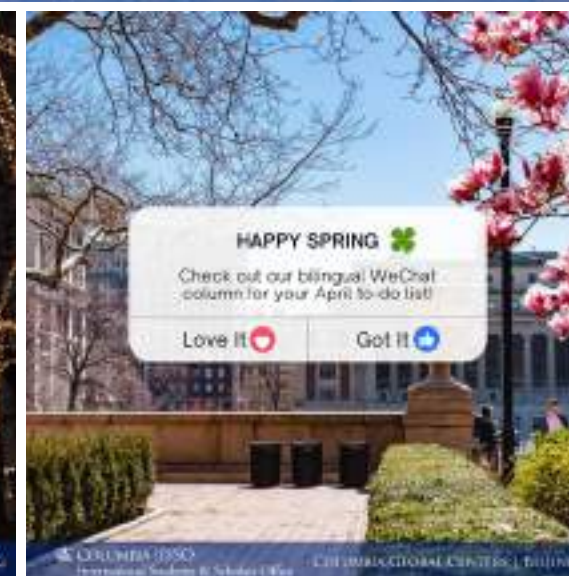
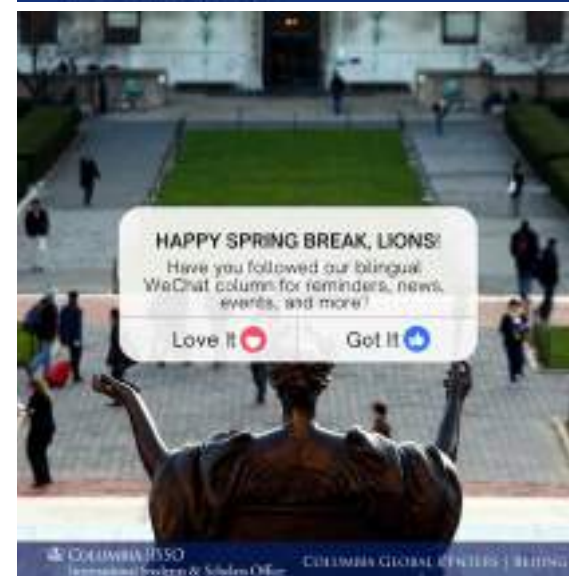


STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

International Students



- *Columbia Undergraduate Class of 2027 Bonding Event*
- *Welcome Event for Teachers College Incoming Students*
- *University-wide International Students Welcome Event*
- *Graduation Celebration in Beijing*



STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

CGCBeijing x ISSO Monthly Bilingual WeChat Column

- The Beijing Center launched ISSO's first bilingual Chinese-English WeChat column and published 24 issues since January 2021
- Articles gained over 20,000 views in total and more than 500 likes by students and parents
- One of the most liked contents on the Center's WeChat
- The Column also facilitates real-time conversations and Q&As with students and parents

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