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The network of Columbia Global Centers that now span the world are promoting teaching, research, public outreach, and local and regional engagement in Jordan, Turkey, Tunisia, Kenya, Brazil, Chile, China, India and France. Through their extraordinary contributions to our University community, the Centers are fulfilling their promise, individually and collectively, and making Columbia a global university for the 21st century.

Lee C. Bollinger
President, Columbia University
The most pressing issues we are grappling with today – increasing political polarization, accelerating climate change, deepening inequality – are inherently global in nature. Understanding their impact, and formulating intelligent responses, is impossible without sustained engagement in and with the world.

This is precisely why the Columbia Global Centers were created ten years ago – to be deeply responsive to and integrated with issues of local, regional, and global significance. By allowing us to learn from and with the world, the Centers advance knowledge and its exchange, helping us to study significant questions and address the most urgent global challenges.

Safwan M. Masri
Executive Vice President for Global Centers and Global Development, Columbia University
The Santiago Center was officially launched in March 2012. Since then, it has organized more than 200 public programs, including lectures by Columbia University faculty members, conferences, workshops, film festivals, documentary screenings, book launches and architectural installations, both in Chile and on Campus in New York.

Through its activities, the Center addresses emerging topics and challenges such as population aging, the impact of robotization on the labor market, the challenges of digital transformation and policies on sexual harassment and gender violence in addition to other broader economic and social topics such as climate change, immigration and human rights. To all these issues, it brings a multidisciplinary approach, drawing on the knowledge and research of the numerous Columbia schools, centers and labs.

Most of the Santiago Center’s programs and research activities focus on key public policy issues that have important implications for both the advancement of knowledge and public debate in Chile, including the earth sciences and the environment, corporate governance, the future of journalism, education and astrophysics. In these and other areas, it seeks to promote joint research projects between Columbia researchers and their Chilean counterparts, supporting both inbound and outbound field and study trips.

In another key part of its work, the Center seeks to inform Chilean students and professionals about the degrees, courses and other opportunities offered by Columbia University in New York. Similarly, it helps in searching for research and internship opportunities in Chile for Columbia University undergraduate and postgraduate students.
The Santiago and Rio Centers share a Faculty Steering Committee (FSC), formed by experts on Latin America who provide insights and strategic consulting across a broad range of fields.

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**Nara Milanich**  
Associate Professor of History | Barnard College; Chair, Rio de Janeiro & Santiago Faculty Steering Committee

**Gustavo Azenha**  
Director | Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies; Director of Graduate Studies | Institute of Latin American Studies

**Walter Baethgen**  
Senior Research Scientist | International Research Institute for Climate and Society

**Guillermo Calvo**  
Director of the Program in Economic Policy Management | School of International and Public Affairs

**Cristiane Duarte**  
John P. Lambert, M.D., Associate Professor of Child Psychiatry | Columbia University Medical Center

**Nelson Fraiman**  
Professor of Professional Practice | Columbia Business School; Director | W. Edwards Deming Center

**Malo H. Hutson**  
Associate Professor of Architecture, Planning and Preservation; Director of the PhD in Urban Planning Program; Director, Project Development | Columbia World Projects

**Soulaymane Kachani**  
Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning | School of Engineering and Applied Sciences

**Paul Lagunes**  
Assistant Professor of International and Public Affairs | School of International and Public Affairs

**Ana Paulina Lee**  
Assistant Professor of Latin American and Iberian Cultures | Department of Latin American and Iberian Cultures

**Don Melnick (RIP)**  
Thomas Hunt Morgan Professor of Conservation Biology; Director, Center for Environment, Economy and Society | Department of Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology

**Richard Peña**  
Professor of Professional Practice | School of the Arts

**Rodrigo Soares**  
Lemann Professor of Brazilian Public Policy and International and Public Affairs | School of International and Public Affairs

**Ernest Sotomayor**  
Dean of Student Affairs | Graduate School of Journalism

**Mariana Souto-Manning**  
Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education | Teachers College

**Maria Uriarte**  
Associate Professor of Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology | Data Science Institute

**Gisela Winckler**  
Lamont Research Professor | Earth Institute
Santiago Advisory Board

The Santiago Center’s Advisory Board is composed of prominent academics, public figures, alumni and business leaders. It provides advice, ongoing leadership and counsel regarding the Center’s projects, activities and engagement with alumni and, in 2018, held two meetings, in March and December.

Verónica Cabezas (TC’10)
Professor of Education, Universidad Católica

Georges De Bourguignon (MBA/MIA’17)
Corporate Development Vice President, Quiñenco S.A.

Francisco Díaz (GSAPP’13)
Professor of Architecture, Universidad Católica

Diego Flores (MPA’12)
Head of the Protected Areas Department, Ministry of the Environment

Claudia Heiss (GSAS’03)
Head of Political Science, Institute of Public Affairs, Universidad de Chile

Andrea Insunza (JN’13)
Professor of Journalism, Universidad Diego Portales

Ann F. Kaplan (SW’72, BU’77)
Partner, Circle Wealth Management, and Columbia University Trustee

Paola Luksic
President, Luksic Foundation

Jenny Mager (MPA’12)
Head of the Mitigation and Emission Inventories Department, Ministry of the Environment

Daniel Matamala (JN’12)
Senior News Anchor, CNN Chile

Peter Morse
Chief of Staff to the Vice Chairman, Banco de Chile

Paula Pacheco (MPA’12)
Social Policy Expert, UNICEF Chile

Ricardo Riesco (LLM’05)
National Economic Prosecutor

Juan Somavía (IA’98)
Manager of External Affairs and Government Relations, Copper, Anglo American

Conrad Von Igel (MPA’07)
Managing Director, Anacleto Angelini Innovation Center, Universidad Católica
1. Paula Pacheco, Peter Morse and Verónica Cabezas.
3. Georges De Bourguignon, Karen Poniachik and Juan A. Somavia.
4. Francisco Díaz and Claudia Heiss.
5. Diego Flores and Jenny Mager.
6. Andrea Insunza and Daniel Matamala.
Santiago Center: Highlights of the Year

In 2018, Columbia Global Centers | Santiago continued to play a very active role in promoting debate over key public policy issues. Through its events and meetings with government agencies, think-tanks, local universities, media outlets and NGOs, the Center fostered dialogue in which, through visits from Campus, it was able to contribute new insights and expertise. At the same time, it supported a number of long-term projects, further strengthening its local partnerships and promoting research in areas where Chile faces challenges.

Highlights of the year included:

- A number of events and projects addressed the challenges of extreme weather events from a scientific and policy standpoint, ahead of the Santiago Climate Change Conference (COP 25) in December 2019.

- Different events, in Santiago and on Campus, examined the role of journalism and the issue of veracity and trust in information during the era of social media.

- An ongoing research project, sponsored by the President’s Global Innovation Fund, is examining Chile’s experience in disaster management and recovery and the lessons to be learned from it.

- For the first time, the Santiago Center held joint events with the Executive Education Program of Columbia Business School (CBS).

- With some 600 Columbia University alumni in Chile, the Santiago Center supported the creation of the Columbia Alumni Club Chile.

- The topic of corporate reputational risk was addressed through several conferences in the context of the center’s Corporate Governance series, held in association with the Columbia Law School’s Millstein Center for Global Markets and Corporate Ownership.
Columbia-Led Scientific Mission to Easter Island

Easter Island - or Rapa Nui - with its inscrutable carved stone figures has long fascinated researchers. How was this remote island, far out in the Pacific, peopled? How were the moai transported from the quarry where they were carved to their final position? And was it deforestation that led to the decline of its culture and society before the arrival of the first Europeans in the early eighteenth century?

Debate about these questions goes back decades. But now the island faces another more pressing question: are its main bodies of freshwater drying up because of anthropogenic climate change or is this the result of short-term climate variations that have happened before and will, therefore, right themselves?

In a bid to help answer this question, a team of scientists led by William D’Andrea, Associate Research Professor at Columbia University’s Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory (LDEO), traveled to Rapa Nui in March to work on a major research project about the island’s most important wetlands. The field team also included the LDEO’s Lorelei Curtin; Andrea Seelenfreund from Chile’s Universidad Academia de Humanismo Cristiano; Nicholas Balascio and James Van Hook from the College of William and Mary in Virginia; and Raymond Bradley from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

With the support of Ma’u Henua (the indigenous Rapa Nui community responsible for administering the island’s National Park), Chile’s Forest Service (CONAF), the Council for National Monuments (CMN) and Rapa Nui’s Technical Heritage Department, the team successfully collected sediment cores from the wetlands of the Rano Raraku quarry and the Rano Kau and Rano Aroi volcanic craters, recovering geologic records that may span up to 30,000 years.

As of December 2018, the samples were at the LDEO’s laboratories being analyzed for molecular evidence of past climate and environmental changes and, particularly, lipid biomarkers that can be used to quantify past changes in precipitation and identify human-landscape interactions. This may, in turn, provide an indication of whether the wetlands have dried up before and with what frequency.
Chile is considered a natural lab for researchers in several fields related to the earth sciences, including climate science, volcanology, glaciology, seismology and renewable energies. In 2018, building on its work in previous years, the Center held a number of public events featuring scientists, faculty members and researchers from the Earth Institute’s Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory (LDEO) and the Sabin Center for Climate Change Law. In addition, many Columbia University scientists continued to collaborate with Chilean counterparts in long-term research projects on these topics.

CLIMATE CHANGE
Climate change was very much to the fore of the Santiago Center’s Earth Sciences and Environment program in 2018 when it organized or participated in different events about its impact and mitigation in Chile and globally.

- In January, a delegation led by Gisela Winckler, Research Professor at the LDEO and Adjunct Professor at the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, traveled to Chile to participate in a workshop on “The Role of Dust in Climate Change: A Biogeochemistry Perspective”. The three-day workshop, which took place at Universidad Católica’s Coastal Marine Research Station in Las Cruces on the coast of central Chile, was organized by Past Global Changes (PAGE), an organization that supports research to improve forecasting of the climate and environment of the future. Winckler co-chaired the event together with Universidad Católica’s Fabrice Lambert and Cornell University’s Natalie Mahowald. Other Columbia University scientists attending the gathering included Jordan Abell and Elizabeth Shoenfelt, both graduate students at the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences (DEES), and Jennifer Middleton, a postdoctoral research scientist at the LDEO.

- From March through May, Mike Kaplan, Associate Research Professor at LDEO, worked in Punta Arenas, at the Centro de Investigación Gaia Antártica (CIGA) of Universidad de Magallanes. As well as teaching undergraduate and graduate students, he researched topics related to the geosciences, including Sub-Antarctic and Antarctic landscapes and how glaciers and climate changed in the past (paleoclimatology). Kaplan and his colleagues are seeking to understand the natural variability of glaciers and climate in Patagonia and Antarctica before human impacts began in the twentieth century.

Kaplan and Joerg Schaefer, also from the LDEO, in association with Chilean researchers and students, were subsequently awarded funding by the National Science Foundation (NSF) for a project on glacier sensitivity to past climate changes in central Chile and the far south of the country. Carly Peltier, a student with Columbia University’s Earth and Environmental Sciences PhD program, is also working on this three-year research project, which began in August 2018.

- Michael Burger, Executive Director of the Sabin Center for Climate Change Law at Columbia University Law School, visited Chile in mid-April to participate in a series of lectures, site visits and conversations on sustainability and climate change strategy with government officials, major private and state-run companies, students and scientists. While in the country, Burger visited Codelco’s El Teniente copper mine where he participated in a presentation on the company’s Responsible Copper Initiative, a plan to introduce transparency and environmental and social standards into the...
company’s supply chain. In addition, he gave a talk at the Santiago Center on “Climate Change Risks and Opportunities: What the Paris Agreement Means for Business” and was a keynote speaker at an internal workshop of the Chilean government’s inter-ministerial working group on climate change.

In August, Teresa Parejo, Affiliated Professor at Columbia University Law School’s Sabin Center for Climate Change Law and Associate Professor at Universidad Carlos III, Madrid, traveled to Chile to speak at a conference organized by Universidad de Chile’s Environmental Law Center, Chile’s Climate Science and Resilience Center (CR2) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The conference, entitled “Global Pact on the Environment, Human Rights and Constitution”, focused on the integration of local and international views on the Global Pact in the context of the Paris Agreement and the Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs). Other speakers included Xavier Mena, deputy representative of the Regional Office for South America of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights; Pilar Moraga, a researcher at (CR)2; Julio Cordano, Head of the Department of Climate Change of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Liliana Galdámez, a researcher at Universidad de Chile’s Human Rights Center.

2. Michael Burger teaching at Universidad del Desarrollo.
3. Pilar Moraga and Teresa Parejo.
4. Mike Kaplan, Joerg Schaef er and Carly Peltier.
During the year, Don Melnick - by whose passing in April 2019 we were deeply saddened - and Cristián Bonacic, a Professor at Universidad Católica’s School of Agronomy and Forestry Engineering, worked on a three-year multidisciplinary natural and social science project about the causes, consequences and prevention of wildfires in Chile. The project is supported by the President’s Global Innovation Fund (PGIF) and the Chilean government. It is focusing on the Araucanía Region of southern Chile and, in 2018, collected data on soil chemistry, plant physiology, plant-atmospheric interactions and the impact of the wildfires that have occurred on forest structure and reptile and small mammal communities. The initiative’s ultimate aim is to develop a fully implementable wildfire version of the Rainforest Standard (RFS), the world’s first fully integrated forest carbon credit standard, and apply it in the Araucanía Region.

In early April, Ajit Subramaniam, Research Professor at the LDEO, visited Chile to participate in the Latin American Remote Sensing Conference (LARS), the most important gathering of its kind in the region, at which he gave a keynote speech on “Remote Sensing of Aquatic Environments for Sustainability Challenges and New Technologies”. In his presentation, he explained how remote sensing - for example, with satellite sensors - can be used to analyze water quality and the effects of nutrient loading, suspended sediments and aquaculture.

In July, Vijay Modi, Professor of Mechanical Engineering at Columbia University and a member of the Earth Institute, visited Chile for a series of meetings and events related to energy infrastructure design and planning, solar energy, energy efficiency in agriculture and data analytics. During his visit, he gave a talk at the Santiago Center on the “Role of Energy Planning in a World with Low-Priced Wind/Solar: Implications for Grids, Buildings and Electric Mobility”, based partly on the experience of New York State. Modi pointed out that Chile’s solar capacity gives it a unique opportunity but the country also faces challenges similar to those of New York State because demand for electricity is concentrated in consumption centers, which are far away from the sources, and is also highest precisely when solar and wind supply is at its lowest.

In July, Vijay Modi, Director of the Women in Energy Program at Columbia University’s Center on Global Energy Policy (CGEP), visited Chile for a series of meetings and events related to energy infrastructure design and planning, solar energy, energy efficiency in agriculture and data analytics. During his visit, he gave a talk at the Santiago Center on the “Role of Energy Planning in a World with Low-Priced Wind/Solar: Implications for Grids, Buildings and Electric Mobility”, based partly on the experience of New York State. Modi pointed out that Chile’s solar capacity gives it a unique opportunity but the country also faces challenges similar to those of New York State because demand for electricity is concentrated in consumption centers, which are far away from the sources, and is also highest precisely when solar and wind supply is at its lowest.

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Jully Meriño, Director of the Women in Energy Program at Columbia University’s Center on Global Energy Policy (CGEP), spoke at the “Energía + Mujer” conference held in Santiago in November. The conference sought to help narrow the gender gap in the energy sector and Meriño emphasized the importance of the content of girls’ education and of initiatives to raise the visibility of women in the sector.

The conference brought together representatives of international institutions, including the Clean Energy Education and Empowerment (C3E) Initiative, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the International Energy Agency (IEA) and UN Women as well as industry associations and the government. It was opened by Chile’s Energy Minister Susana Jiménez and Minister for Women and Gender Equality Isabel Plá.

1. Vijay Modi and Paula Estévez.
2. Susana Jiménez and Jully Meriño.
In Memoriam - Don Melnick

Columbia Global Centers | Santiago was deeply saddened by the passing on April 18, 2019, of Professor Don J. Melnick, Thomas H. Morgan Professor of Conservation Biology at Columbia University. Professor Melnick was closely involved with the Santiago Center, both as a member of its Faculty Steering Committee and through his work on a major wildfire research project in Chile, and, while celebrating his life, we also mourn his loss.

Professor Melnick joined Columbia University’s faculty in 1982, initially in the Department of Anthropology where his early work focused on the population genetics, social behavior, dispersal and evolutionary diversification of primates. During his research in some of the world’s most remote regions, he became increasingly concerned about the fate of primates in the wild, a concern that eventually expanded to all animals and habitats and led him, with support from The V. Kann Rasmussen Foundation, to spearhead the creation of Columbia University’s Center for Environmental Research and Conservation. Later, he helped create the Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology, and joined its faculty in 2001.

In basic and applied science, Professor Melnick used molecular genetics to investigate aspects of the ecology, behavior, evolution and conservation of vertebrates, from frogs to elephants, across regions from Central and South America to Asia and Africa. In environmental policy, he co-chaired the UN Millennium Task Force on Environmental Sustainability (2002-2005) and, through his research, contributed to real-world progress in tackling some of humanity’s most pressing environmental problems such as biodiversity loss and climate change.

Most recently, with a team of experts from different countries, he developed the Rainforest Standard (RFS), an innovative science-based financial mechanism to simultaneously protect forests, reduce carbon emissions, conserve biodiversity and improve the socioeconomic conditions of rural forest communities. Its application is the ultimate goal of the research project into the causes and prevention of wildfires on which he was working in Chile, together with scientists at Universidad Católica.

Professor Melnick is survived by his spouse, Mary Pearl, Dean of Macaulay Honors College, their two children and a grandson.
Corporate Governance

Since 2016, the Santiago Center has worked with Columbia Law School’s Millstein Center for Global Markets and Corporate Ownership and has hosted a series of workshops on “The Role of Directors in Creating Long-Term Value”. In 2018, further events in this series took place.

− In mid-March, the Santiago Center teamed up with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and EY to launch IndexAmericas in Chile. This Index assesses and recognizes the work of 100 publicly-listed companies operating in Latin America and the Caribbean that are leading the way on environmental, social and governance issues (ESG). At the launch, Bernardo Guillamon, Manager of the IDB’s Office of Outreach and Partnerships, spoke about the Bank’s commitment to sustainability and its reasons for engaging in this effort as well as the Index’s methodology and results. His presentation was followed by a panel discussion, chaired by Cristián Lefevre, CEO of EY in Chile, and including Juan Andrés Camus, President of the Santiago Stock Exchange; Rubén Alvarado, CEO of the Santiago subway, Metro S.A.; Axel Levêque, CEO of Engie Energía Chile; Cecilia Abati, Coca-Cola’s Manager for Corporate Sustainability in the Andean Region; and Karen Poniachik, Director of the Santiago Center.

− An event in mid-April, co-sponsored by the Santiago Center and Universidad Católica’s MBA Program, focused on the effects that corporate scandals can have on a company. The conference on “Reputational Risk: Lessons from Recent Corporate Scandals” was presented by Daniel Diermeier, Provost of the University of Chicago. The subsequent discussion was chaired by Karen Poniachik, the Center’s Director.

− In October, the Santiago Center hosted a second conference on reputational risk. It was addressed by Gabriel Cecchini, a leading Buenos Aires-based consultant on ESG aspects of business performance. He examined several examples of global companies that mishandled ESG factors and, as a consequence, faced negative publicity and damage to their reputation.

1. Bernardo Guillamon, Manager of the IDB’s Office of Outreach and Partnerships.
2. Gabriel Cecchini.
Since 2016, the Santiago Center has worked with Columbia University’s School of Journalism and the Journalism School of Chile’s Universidad Diego Portales (UDP) to offer a series of conferences and workshops on “The Future of Journalism”. In 2018, the following public events were held as part of this ongoing series.

- In May, Marina Walker, who directed the Pulitzer Prize-winning Panama Papers journalistic investigation, visited Chile for two days of workshops, lectures and press appearances. Walker is Deputy Director of the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ), the network of journalists and reporters that, for the past several years, has published investigations into matters such as tax havens and illicit money flows. Her master class was entitled “Panama Papers: How We Accomplished the Largest Journalistic Collaboration in History”.

  Walker told the audience, most of them students, to challenge the individualism and information-hoarding of past journalistic successes and to “take the risk to share”. She explained that collaborative journalism has certain rules: sharing of information is obligatory as is total confidentiality; publication is simultaneous; and editorial independence is expected, along with legal responsibility for publication.

- In a master class in September, Todd Gitlin, Chair of the PhD Communications Program of Columbia University’s School of Journalism, spoke about “Journalism, Social Movements and the Reshaping of the Public Sphere”. Gitlin’s visit to Chile coincided with the 50th anniversary of the emblematic student demonstrations at the 1968 Democratic Convention in the United States, organized by Students for a Democratic Society of which he was a leading member and, subsequently, the third president. In his master class, he talked about the threats to democracy and journalism posed by the current US President and the global rise of authoritarian figures.

  During his visit, Gitlin also participated in a panel on “Social Movements: From Molotov Cocktails to Twitter” organized by the Santiago Center in association with Centro de Estudios Públicos (CEP), a Santiago-based think-tank, and in a roundtable with local intellectuals where he talked about the impact of social movements on politics.
In October, journalists Andrea Insunza (JN’13), Paula Molina (Nieman’13) and Francisca Skoknic (SIPA’13) - creators of the first Chilean news chatbot, LaBot - presented their project at Columbia School of Journalism’s Tow Center for Digital Journalism in New York. They explained their motives for creating this instant messaging service that delivers information, simulating a conversation with followers on Telegram and Facebook Messenger. The journalists reviewed how LaBot had covered the 2017 presidential and congressional elections in Chile, using the techniques of investigative journalism and data journalism.

Scholarships for Course on Investigative Journalism

For the second consecutive year, the Santiago Center, in association with Columbia University’s School of Journalism, awarded two Chilean journalists scholarships to attend an investigative journalism course organized by the School of Journalism in conjunction with the Gabriel García Márquez Foundation for Iberian-American New Journalism (FNPI). The course took place in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, in March. The scholarships went to Michelle Carrere, an editor at the Mongabay Latam environmental news service, and Boris Bezama, who teaches investigative reporting at Universidad Santo Tomás in Santiago.
The Santiago Center has been extremely active in fostering discussion about matters that have an impact on Chile’s public policy agenda, including both international and local issues. In 2018, it organized the following activities in this field.

**FUTURE OF THE LABOR MARKET**

In January, Vegard Skirbekk, a Professor at the Robert N. Butler Columbia Aging Center, traveled to Chile to present his extensive research on the impact of robotization and automation on the labor market and analyze its implications for Chile. During a week-long visit, organized by the Santiago Center in partnership with Universidad Diego Portales (UDP), he participated in several public events, delivered lectures on this subject and led workshops for graduate students. The public events included a seminar on “Robotization and the Future of Work” in which Skirbekk gave the keynote address, followed by comments from Joseph Ramos, a Columbia alumnus and then Vice-Chair of Chile’s National Commission on Productivity, and María Olivia Recart, then Vice President of Corporate Affairs for the Americas at BHP.

**ROLE OF DEVELOPMENT BANKS**

Stephany Griffith-Jones, Financial Markets Program Director at the Initiative for Policy Dialogue (iPD), a Columbia University-based global network of economists and political scientists, visited Chile in January to present the main conclusions of a two-year research project. Led by Columbia University and co-directed by iPD’s Co-President, José Antonio Ocampo, the project studied the role of development banks in Germany, China, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru.

In a conference organized by the Santiago Center in association with Universidad de Chile’s School of Economics and Business (FEN), Griffith-Jones explained the contribution that development banks have made in terms of promoting economic development as well as the challenges they face today. Her presentation was followed by a panel discussion with Eduardo Bitran, then Executive Vice President of Chile’s Economic Development Agency (CORFO); Ricardo Ffrench-Davis, an economist at FEN; and Daniel Titelman, Director of the Economic Development Division of the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). The conference was chaired by Manuel Agosin, a Columbia alumnus who was then the Dean of FEN.

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1. Vegard Skirbekk
2. Stephany Griffith-Jones with Eduardo Bitran, Daniel Titelman, Manuel Agosin and Ricardo Ffrench-Davis.
Shamus Khan, Chair of Columbia University’s Department of Sociology, columnist and author of books on elite formation, inequality and influence, visited Chile in May to teach a master class on “The Economic and Political Power of the Elites”. The event was organized by the Santiago Center in association with Universidad Católica’s Sociology Institute and the Center for Social Conflict and Cohesion Studies (COES). According to Khan, meritocracy favors inequality because it rewards the outcomes of performance without taking into account the resources that went into generating those outcomes.

While in Chile, Khan held individual meetings with Chilean journalists and others interested in his work as well as giving a professional workshop for researchers at five institutions - Universidad Católica, Universidad de Chile, Universidad Alberto Hurtado, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and Argentina’s Universidad del Salvador - analyzing their work and laying the foundations for future research relationships between Chile and Columbia University.

Christopher Sabatini, a lecturer in International Relations and Policy at Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA), traveled to Chile in late May to participate in a series of events on Latin American politics. In a discussion with fellow political scientist Robert Funk, he talked about the polarization, populism and increasing decline in support for traditional political parties seen in different Latin American countries as well as the lack of enthusiasm for democracy among young voters.

Sabatini also gave a lecture on these topics at a gathering organized by Encuentros El Mercurio, the organization which co-sponsored his visit to Chile, and spoke at an academic event at Universidad de Chile’s Institute for Public Affairs where he was joined by the former Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS), José Miguel Insulza, for a discussion about the political outlook for Latin America.

In early September, three representatives of Chile Vamos, Chile’s center-right government coalition - Felipe Kast (Evópoli), Jaime Bellolio (UDI) and Diego Schalper (RN) - participated in a discussion about the identity, ideological stance and political and economic proposals of the new generation of leaders of the coalition’s main parties. The event was organized in association with Chile’s Harvard Alumni Club and Harvard’s David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies Regional Office. It was chaired by Isabel Aninat, a researcher at the Centro de Estudios Públicos (CEP) and a Columbia alumna (LLM’13).
THE MIDDLE EAST

In December, Saifwan Masri, Executive Vice President for Columbia Global Centers and Global Development at Columbia University, spoke about the future of the Middle East at a conference organized by the Santiago Center and chaired by the International Editor of the El Mercurio newspaper, Juan Pablo Toro. Masri is a globally recognized expert on the Middle East and the author of an acclaimed book, “Tunisia: An Arab Anomaly”, published by Columbia University Press in 2017.

In his talk, he provided a comprehensive overview of the historical roots and strategic alliances behind the region’s current challenges and opportunities, tracing its present instability to the 2003 invasion of Iraq and the country’s subsequent destabilization. Since then, he pointed out, the region has seen greater tensions between the Sunni and Shia denominations of Islam, the rise of ISIS and civil wars in Syria, Yemen and Libya. However, he added that younger generations offer greater hope for reconciliation.

Centenary of the Russian Revolution

At the beginning of 2018, the Santiago Center held the last of a series of eight talks to mark the 100th anniversary of the Russian Revolution. The series began in September 2017 and included talks on aspects that ranged from the Revolution’s deeper roots and links to broader global developments to its impact in Latin America and the role of the Red Army in the Second World War.

The final lecture, in January, focused on the last days of Stalin and was given by Joshua Rubenstein, a historian, international relations expert and human rights activist who has researched and written extensively on the Soviet Union.
In light of the educational challenges faced by Chile, the Santiago Center placed particular emphasis on this field in 2018.

- During a visit to Chile in January, Deanna Kuhn, Professor of Psychology and Education at Columbia University's Teachers College (TC), held a series of meetings with local education experts. Among her activities, she participated in a workshop on “Promoting Critical Thinking in the Twenty-First Century”, organized jointly by the Santiago Center and Universidad Católica (UC) and chaired by Verónica Cabezas (TC’10), Assistant Professor at UC’s School of Education and a member of the Santiago Center’s Advisory Board.

In another activity, Kuhn met with Fundación Oportunidad, a Chilean NGO that promotes education for vulnerable children. In this meeting, she shared her views on the best means to promote dialogue as the basis for argumentative reasoning skills and critical dialogue as well as discussing the role of technology in education.

- In March, Susan Fuhrman, the former President of Teachers College (TC), visited Chile as part of a “TC2U: Thanks a Million Tour” to celebrate the last of her 12 years at TC. During her visit, she spoke in “A Conversation on Educational Reform”, an event co-sponsored by Universidad Católica and the Centro Justicia Educacional, a Santiago-based academic think-tank. The conversation was followed by a reception for TC alumni in Chile.

- In mid-April, Verónica Cabezas (TC’10) visited Columbia University’s Teachers College (TC) to meet with faculty members and students working on education policy analysis, discuss recent reforms in Chile and explore ongoing collaboration between TC and different Chilean institutions. As well as teaching at Universidad Católica, Cabezas is a director of the Chilean NGOs, Elige Educar and Fundación Oportunidad and, while in New York, gave a talk on “Political Mobilization towards Effective Policy Advocacy: The Influence of Elige Educar in Chile’s Education Policy Reform”.

Left page
2. Safwan Masi and Jordanian Ambassador to Chile, Amer Al Majali.

Right page
1. Marcela Marzolo, Deanna Kuhn, Claudia Peirano and Alejandra Cortázar.
2. Verónica Cabezas and Susan Fuhrman.
− The current President of Teachers College (TC), Thomas Bailey, visited Chile in July. He is an education economist and one of the leading US authorities on community colleges and, while in Santiago, held a series of discussions on the challenges of technical-professional education in both the US and Chile. At Vertebral Chile, an association of professional and technical training institutes, he participated in a seminar on “The Dynamic Role of Higher Education for Employability and Professional Careers”. In addition, he visited Fundación Luksic, an NGO that works to improve teaching practices in Chilean schools.

− In November, Nick Wasserman, Assistant Professor of Mathematics Education at Teachers College (TC), participated in the first Regional Conference of the International Group for the Psychology of Mathematics Education (PME) in South America, which was held in the city of Rancagua in central Chile. The event on “Understanding and Promoting Students’ Mathematical Thinking” brought together the mathematics education communities of South America and the PME to share research and build collaboration networks. During his visit, Wasserman also traveled to Santiago and Valparaíso to meet with faculty members at four local universities and discuss possible future collaboration.

− The Santiago Center is collaborating with the We Learn Access program, implemented by Fundación Oportunidad in partnership with the US Embassy in Chile to offer advanced English training to high school students in central-northern Chile’s Elqui Valley. In November, as part of the two-year program’s celebration of the completion of its first year, Alex Godoy-Faúndez, Director of Universidad del Desarrollo’s Center for Research on Sustainability and Strategic Resource Management (CISGER) and a Research Associate at Columbia University’s Earth Engineering Center, gave a series of presentations for the students, their parents and teachers about protection of the environment. The presentations, in English, related to the situation in the Elqui Valley as well as ways in which the children can help, for example, to combat global warming.
Culture and the Arts

As in previous years, the Santiago Center placed particular importance on fostering access to the arts and arts-related events.

− In 2018, Chilean students were able to participate for the first time in the literary translation workshop Word for Word, launched in 2011 by Columbia University’s School of the Arts. Founded by Professor Binnie Kirshenbaum, the former Chair of the School of the Arts Writing Program, it takes the form of a course held every spring semester, hosted by the Literary Translation program. The four graduate students attending the course in 2018 were from Universidad Diego Portales (UDP). Chile is the fifth country to participate in this program, along with Brazil, France, Germany and Italy.

− Elizabeth Hess, a Professor at the Shakespeare/Chekhov Laboratory of the Theater Department of Columbia University’s Barnard College, visited Santiago in October to lead a workshop on “Acting and Being: Explorations in Embodied Performance” at a conference of the Women Playwrights International (WPI), which was organized with the collaboration of the Santiago Center. Hess’s work brings together Western theater traditions with Eastern practices such as yoga and related performance disciplines such as puppetry. While in Santiago, she also headed a workshop at Universidad Católica (UC) on “How to Transform Social Emergencies in Artistic Creations”. The workshop, which focused on the exploration of various performance techniques and how to address current social problems through the body, involved corporal exploration and collective creative work based on texts about social issues such as gender violence and migration.

− In December, Wellesley College’s Marjorie Agosin - also a poet, human rights activist and literary critic - launched her book “The Flowering Tree” during a family workshop held at the Biblioteca de Santiago. The book, with illustrations by Francisca Yáñez, refers to topics related to migration, inclusion and diversity and seeks to empower children and young people on values such as tolerance, acceptance and appreciation of differences in intercultural contexts, as well as to promote dialogue about migration in families, classrooms and communities. After Agosin’s account of her own family history, which is described in the book, parents and children attending the event were invited to create their own flowering tree with artwork materials, thinking of what they would take with them if they were forced to leave their place of birth.

1. Word for Word program.
2. Elizabeth Hess at the Embodied Performance workshop at Universidad Católica.
3. Launch of The Flowering Tree at Biblioteca de Santiago.
Architecture and Urban Development

In early August, the Santiago Center co-sponsored a symposium on the urban and architectural policies implemented by the Pinochet dictatorship in Chile’s capital city between 1977 and 1990, including the addition of thousands of hectares for urban development on the periphery of the city. The event was also supported by the Santiago Research Cell, created in 2013 by a group of alumni from the Columbia Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation (GSAPP) in a bid to develop a new type of GSAPP Global Network node.

The conference, which was curated by architectural historian and Columbia alumnus Daniel Talesnik (PhD Columbia’16), comprised four panels: Public and Consumption Spaces, Disciplinary Discourse, Architecture, and Housing Policies. A total of 16 faculty members from Universidad Católica, Universidad de Chile, Universidad Diego Portales, Universidad Andrés Bello and Universidad de Las Américas participated in the event.

This event was followed in October by the visit of Kersten Geers, a Professor at GSAPP, who was the main guest at the 2018 version of the annual international workshop held by Universidad San Sebastián’s School of Architecture in Santiago. During the week-long event, Geers led 12 teams of undergraduate students from different Chilean and overseas universities in the design of a 1-km building whose aim was to address the notions of landscape and infrastructure in different parts of Chile.

During his visit, Geers also gave a lecture on “Architecture without Content” and, in another public event, held a conversation entitled “Simple Observations” with GSAPP Professor Enrique Walker.

1. Kersten Geers at the workshop.
2. Liliana de Simone.
As has become tradition, a number of leading Chilean figures traveled to New York in 2018 to participate in on-campus events.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND COMPETITIVENESS IN LATIN AMERICA

Five Chilean companies participated in the 2018-2019 version of the Columbia Business School’s Entrepreneurship and Competitiveness in Latin America (ECLA) program, which targets entrepreneurs from mid-sized Latin American companies seeking to become more competitive in today’s global environment. This was the fifth version of the ECLA program, which is led by the Business School’s Professor Nelson Fraiman. It comprised six modules: January 3-12 (on Campus), March 12-16 (study trip to Scandinavia), April-July (online), August 13-17 (on Campus), September-December (online) and January 7-11, 2019 (on Campus).

The Chilean companies, which ranged from a pet store to an innovation accelerator and from a nutrition supplement business to a manufacturer of mechanical components for the mining industry, were TiendaPet, INNSPIRAL, Nutraline, Rivet and Khipu. Another 15 companies from Argentina, Cuba, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Uruguay, Spain and Mexico also participated in the program, along with representatives from the global entrepreneurship movement Endeavor.

FINANCE MINISTER LARRAÍN SPEAKS AT SEMINAR

On April 23, Chile’s Minister of Finance Felipe Larraín visited Campus in New York to participate in a seminar on “Fostering Growth and Sustainable Development in Chile”. He spoke about Chile’s economic outlook, focusing on the government’s strategy to restore growth, foster job creation and address the fiscal deficit as well as its plans for attracting foreign direct investment, improving the country’s sovereign ratings and promoting sustainable development.

The seminar was organized by the Sanford C. Bernstein & Co. Center for Leadership and Ethics, the Business School’s Student Leadership and Ethics Board, the Latin American Student Association (LASA) of the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) and the InBest Chile organization. It was chaired by Jeffrey Sachs, Director of Columbia University’s Center for Sustainable Development and co-author with Larraín of the book “Macroeconomics in the Global Economy” (1993).

Larraín’s visit to Campus was one of the many activities of the “Chile Day” event in New York, which was organized by InBest, a private non-profit organization of the main players in the Chilean stock market.
In September, María José Contreras, a Chilean performance artist and Associate Professor at Universidad Católica’s Arts School, was one of the speakers at the symposium “What We Can Do When There’s Nothing to be Done”, organized by Columbia University’s Center for the Study of Social Difference (CSSD). The symposium was held to celebrate the tenth and fifth anniversaries of the foundation of the CSSD and the Women Creating Change project, respectively.

Since 2013, Contreras has participated in Women Mobilizing Memory, a working group of the CSSD that brings together artists, writers, social activists and scholars and uses gender as an analytical lens through which to explore women’s acts of witness and testimony in response to socially imposed vulnerability and historical trauma. In her talk at the symposium, she discussed the recent uprising of feminist movements in Chile, characterizing it as a “feminist tsunami” and examined the methods of feminist activism seen during some of the massive demonstrations and occupations of universities that took place in Chile in 2018.

In October, Chilean journalist Daniel Matamala (JN’12), a Senior News Anchor at CNN Chile and a member of the Journalism School Alumni Board 2018-2019, was invited by the Santiago Center and the Latin American Student Association (LASA) to speak on Campus about the relationships of Chilean citizens with the political, economic and business elite.
Trust in Journalism. Alejandra Matus, a Chilean investigative journalist and Weiss Fellow for Visiting International Scholars at Barnard College, gave a talk in October about the evolution of fake news and the responsibility of journalists in the digital age. She traced the origins of fake news back to the Spanish-American War and discussed the erosion of trust in traditional journalistic institutions and how journalists can regain that trust. Matus acknowledged that, despite the power of journalism to effect change at the highest levels of government, consumption of media - especially print media - is declining for reasons that go beyond the rise of fake news. She attributed this to a general trend of mistrust in the Internet age and stressed the importance of restructuring journalism to make it more accessible to a populace that spends less time than ever reading.

Chilean Economy. In October, Rodrigo Aravena, Chief Economist at Banco de Chile, gave a talk at Columbia Business School (CBS) about the Chilean economy, looking particularly at the outlook for growth, investment and job creation. The talk, organized by the Latin American Student Association (LASA), was attended by Chilean students in New York.
In 2018, Chile once again received numerous visits from Campus, confirming the growing interest of Columbia faculty and their Chilean counterparts in collaborative research and other joint initiatives. The visits included:

- In January, Noel Capon, a Professor of International Architectural Marketing at Columbia Business School (CBS), spoke at an event held by the Santiago Center in association with Universidad de Chile’s School of Economics and Business (FEN). He talked about the challenges of marketing in the twenty-first century and how this has changed in response to factors that include globalization, technological changes, innovation in products and services, increased competition, price pressures and organizational evolution, discussing examples of companies that have been impacted by these changes such as Kodak and Barnes & Noble in the US.

- In April, Columbia University’s Professor Martin Chalfie, who shared the 2008 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for the discovery and development of the green fluorescent protein (GFP), traveled to Chile to participate in Festival Puerto de Ideas, a major public event featuring scholars, scientists and researchers from around world that took place in the city of Antofagasta in northern Chile. During his visit, he also met with a group of young local scientists in a gathering organized by the Santiago Center and hosted by Alex Godoy-Faúndez, Director of the Center for Research on Sustainability and Strategic Resource Management (CiSGER) at Universidad del Desarrollo (UDD) and a Research Associate at Columbia University’s Earth Engineering Center.

- In June, Marianne Hirsch, the Columbia University professor known for developing the concept of postmemory, once again visited Chile to participate in several events. They included the colloquium “Postmemory: Conversations on Human Rights and Migrations” hosted by the Santiago Center in conjunction with Universidad de Chile, at which the topics discussed included the ways in which memories of violent histories can be mobilized for better futures. Postmemory is defined as the relationship of the ‘generation after’ with the personal, collective and cultural trauma of those who came before. Hirsch explained that feminism has an important role in memory studies because it also involves retrieving forgotten or suppressed stories. During her visit, Hirsch, who is Director of Columbia University’s Center for the Study of Social Difference (CSSD), also spoke at a two-day seminar, organized by Universidad Católica (UC), on “The Future of the Past” and participated in workshops and roundtable conversations at UC’s History Department.

- In July, Alonso Martinez, a Senior Lecturer at Columbia Business School (CBS), gave a talk in Santiago on “Emerging Economies at a Turning Point”, organized by the Santiago Center and Universidad de Chile’s School of Economics and Business (FEN). In his talk, he stressed that emerging markets are changing and, in upcoming decades, the challenges and opportunities for those seeking to do business there will also change.
In August, Columbia University History Professor Pablo Piccato gave a keynote speech at the first Chilean Conference on Law and Society. The two-day event, which brought together some 40 scholars from around Latin America, was organized by the Chilean Law and Society Studies Group and sponsored by the Santiago Center, Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez (UAI), Universidad Alberto Hurtado (UAH) and Universidad Diego Portales (UDP) and was held in Viña del Mar. In his talk, Piccato discussed the historical reasons for the failure of Mexico’s judicial system to address violent crime, and how Mexicans have reacted and pursued truth and justice through alternative means outside the state.

In October, Columbia University’s María Victoria Murillo, a Professor of Political Science and International and Public Affairs, was the keynote speaker at the XIII Chilean Political Science Congress. During the opening ceremony of the event, which is considered the country’s most important gathering of the year in this discipline, Murillo gave a lecture on the weakness of institutions in Latin America, indicating that this can be the result of a strategic choice by political actors, rather than of deficient design. Her visit to Chile was sponsored by the Chilean Political Science Association and the Center for Social Conflict and Cohesion Studies (COES).

In November, Roosevelt Montás, Director of the Center for the Core Curriculum at Columbia College, visited Chile to give a presentation on the importance of multidisciplinary training in the liberal arts for all university degrees, and how this directly influences the future of society in forming critical minds and competent citizens. Speaking at Chile’s Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez (UAI), with which Columbia University has a collaboration partnership, Montás talked about what he believes the liberal arts and liberal education should encompass, as opposed to education understood primarily as preparation for work.

Following his presentation, the Santiago Center’s Director Karen Poniatich participated in a roundtable discussion, moderated by María José Naudon, Director of General Education at UAI’s Liberal Arts School, about the importance of training Chilean professionals in the liberal arts. Other participants included Luis Hernán Cubillos, Co-Founder of Egon Zehnder Chile; José Luis del Río, President and CEO of Inder; and Gonzalo Larraguibel, Partner at Virtus Partners.

Another visitor to Chile in November was Jane Waldfogel, Compton Foundation Centennial Professor for the Prevention of Children and Youth Problems at Columbia University’s School of Social Work and Co-Director of the Columbia Population Research Center (CPRC). She participated in the international seminar “Public Policies in Family and Childhood: Lessons from International Experience”, organized by the Santiago Center in association with the Centro Justicia Educacional and Universidad Católica’s Public Policy Center. One of the key examples referred to by Waldfogel was the UK’s success in reducing child poverty.

While in Santiago, Waldfogel also visited Fundación Oportunidad where she discussed the results of her research in different parts of the world and spoke about current challenges and future issues in early childhood policies.

In November, Chile’s BCI Bank invited Xavier Sala-i-Martin, a Professor of Development Economics at Columbia University and Chief Economic Advisor to the World Economic Forum (WEF), to give the keynote speech at its IX Annual Conference, “Competing with AI: New Business Models”. Sala-i-Martin was joined by another keynote speaker, Minister Gonzalo Blumel, Secretary-General to Chilean President Sebastián Piñera, to analyze how current trends in the digital age impact competitiveness.

Katherine Keyes, Associate Professor of Epidemiology at Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health, traveled to Chile for the launch of the Society and Health Research Center of Universidad Mayor at which she gave a talk on “Trends in Alcohol Consumption and Mental Health among Adolescents: Lessons from the United States Experience”. Her visit took place as part of the “Building Healthy Societies” exchange program, a collaboration between Columbia University, the Santiago Center and Universidad Mayor that supports academic exchange opportunities and collaborative research projects.

1. María Victoria Murillo.
2. José Luis del Río and María José Naudon.
3. Roosevelt Montás.
5. Katherine Keyes.
6. Xavier Sala-i-Martin.
Sharing Columbia University’s Policies on Sexual Harassment and Gender Violence

In July, Suzanne Goldberg, Executive Vice President of the Office of University Life at Columbia University, traveled to Chile to share the University’s experience on diversity, inclusion and sexual respect, its commitment to fostering an environment that is free from discrimination and harassment and its policies and protocols on diversity and inclusion. Goldberg is one of the foremost US experts on gender and sexual equality and is Co-Director of the Center for Gender and Sexuality Law at Columbia Law School.

During her visit, she participated in more than a dozen meetings with government officials, local university provosts and deans, business leaders, alumni, faculty members, students and feminist activists. They included Chile’s Minister for Women and Gender Equality Isabel Plá and Ignacio Sánchez, Ennio Vivaldi and Harald Bayer, presidents of Universidad Católica, Universidad de Chile and Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez, respectively, as well as the CEOs and heads of Human Resources of a number of leading Chilean companies.

Goldberg also spoke at an event co-hosted by the Santiago Center and Santiago’s GAM Cultural Center, which was attended by more than 300 people, and participated in a roundtable discussion with key leaders of the feminist movement. At another meeting, she discussed the experience of Twentieth Century Fox and other US companies that have faced complex gender-related situations as well as teaching a training course for the District Attorney’s Unit on Human Rights, Gender Violence and Sexual Crimes.

1. Suzanne Goldberg in Chile speaking about Columbia University’s Sexual Respect Initiative.
2. Suzanne Goldberg with Provost Ignacio Sánchez (Courtesy of Comunicaciones UC).
3. Suzanne Goldberg with Minister Isabel Plá.
4. Suzanne Goldberg with José De Gregorio.
IV. EDUCATION EXCHANGES

In collaboration with local partners, the Santiago Center has developed and facilitated a number of academic and professional training programs for Columbia University students. They are geared mostly to graduate and PhD students but some undergraduates have also undertaken fieldwork in Chile through Study Abroad programs. In addition, the Center fosters visits to Campus by Chilean students as a means of gaining experience in their chosen field.

− In January, 26 Columbia Business School (CBS) students traveled to Chile for a ten-day backpacking expedition in Patagonia. The expedition was led by Michael Morris, a Professor at both the CBS Management Division and Columbia University’s Psychology Department. He was accompanied by instructors from the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS). The trip, held for the fifth consecutive year, teaches outdoor skills, sustainable environmental practices and decision-making approaches in challenging situations. It is part of the global immersion programs offered by the Jerome A. Chazen Institute for Global Business, which serves as the hub for the international activities of CBS.

− Emily Sandford, a graduate student at Columbia University’s Astronomy Department, spent the month of January in Santiago working with Universidad Católica’s Professor Andrés Jordán, an expert on the observation of transiting exoplanets and a member of the HATSouth Exoplanet Survey team. She was the fifth Columbia student to participate in the University’s astrophysics exchange program with Universidad Católica, a program sponsored by the President’s Global Innovation Fund (PGIF). Under this program, two Columbia University astronomy undergraduates, Yasmeen Asali and John Staunton, also spent three months (June-August) at Universidad Católica’s Astrophysics Institute.

− Regine François, a junior studying Sociology and Sustainable Development at Columbia University, spent four months in Chile (February-June) under a Study Abroad program on Social Justice, Cultural Identity and Community Development, organized through the University’s Global Program and Fellowship Center. Her research took place in Santiago and focused on immigration and its impact on construction of the Chilean identity.

1. Frits Paerels with Yasmeen Asali and John Staunton.
2. Columbia Business School (CBS) students on a 10-day backpacking expedition in Chilean Patagonia.
− Yasmin Butt, an undergraduate rising senior at Columbia University in Psychology and Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies, spent four months in Chile (February-June) participating in a Study Abroad program focusing on public health, indigenous customs, community welfare and empowerment. Her work was mainly based in the city of Arica in northern Chile, but she also spent time in Santiago and traveled south to Temuco.

− Charlotte Abrams and Lynn Phan Vo, both graduate students at Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health, spent two months (mid-May to mid-July) in Chile at Universidad Mayor’s new Society and Health Research Center. Their work focused on the impact of labor market automation on workers’ mental health and was supervised by Esteban Calvo, a faculty member of both the Mailman School and Universidad Mayor.

− Sulema Arellano, a junior at Barnard College, spent the July-December semester studying Latin American literature, translation and linguistics at Universidad Católica in Santiago under the Chilean Universities program of the Institute for Study Abroad.
In 2018, two Chilean students traveled to New York to further their studies and/or research:

- Loreani Noguera, a biochemistry student preparing her undergraduate thesis under the supervision of Dr. Susan Bueno at Universidad Católica’s School of Biological Sciences, spent three months at the Prince Lab of the Columbia University Medical Center (CUMC). Since 2011, Alice Prince, Professor of Pediatrics at Columbia University’s College of Physicians and Surgeons and head of the Prince Lab, and Dr. Bueno have been working together on research projects related to respiratory infections.

- María Toyos, a PhD student in paleoceanography from Chile’s Universidad de Concepción, spent two months (June-August) at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory (LDEO) under the supervision of Research Professor Gisela Winckler.

2. María Toyos.
In line with its emphasis on promoting research initiatives that address Chile’s challenges, the Santiago Center supported a number of special long-term projects in 2018, related principally to the medical sciences, protection of the environment and, in an issue that is particularly important for Chile, response to natural disasters.

- In July, Columbia University’s Irving Medical Center (CUMC) signed an academic and research collaboration agreement with Universidad del Desarrollo (UDD), the Clínica Alemana-UDD School of Medicine and UDD’s Institute of Sciences and Innovation in Medicine (ICIM). In the first of many expected activities to lead, five Columbia University faculty members and researchers traveled to Santiago in November, joining over 150 health professionals from around the world in the symposium “Primary Immunodeficiencies and Immune Dysregulation: From Translational Immunology to Personalized Medicine”. The event focused on diagnosis and state-of-the-art management of diseases caused by genetic defects in the immune system that result in recurrent or severe infections or in exacerbated immune responses in the form of autoimmunity or immune dysregulation.

- The Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment (CCSI) - a joint center of Columbia Law School and the Earth Institute - and Dinámica Plataforma, a Santiago-based stakeholder engagement consultancy firm, launched a social intervention project in the Huasco Valley of northern Chile’s Atacama Region. It involves working with local communities to build consensus about the environmental, social and economic impact and scope of NuevaUnión, a greenfield copper and gold mining project being developed by Canadian companies, Teck and Goldcorp. The project is to be evaluated under the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As part of the project, Nicolas Maennling, a Senior Economic and Policy Researcher at CCSI, traveled to Chile in June to hold a workshop with the municipal government’s technical team where he presented a diagnosis of Huasco’s positioning with respect to the SDGs. During his visit, he also met with representatives of civil society.

In parallel, the stakeholders, including the local authorities, the area’s indigenous peoples and other local residents, worked to build a shared vision of the province’s future and a roadmap for its sustainable development. In December, a first meeting of the stakeholders was held in the town of Freirina at which a draft of the roadmap was presented for discussion.
In November, Malo Hutson, Associate Professor of Urban Planning at Columbia University’s Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation (GSAPP), and the GSAPP’s Urban Community and Health Equity Lab organized a workshop in Santiago on “Disaster Management and Post-Disaster Recovery: Lessons and Challenges for a Resilient Chile”. This workshop was part of a broader academic research project into Chile’s experience in responding to natural disasters, sponsored by the Columbia President’s Global Innovation Fund (PGIF), with additional support from the Lab’s partners, the Santiago Center, the Centro de Estudios Urbanos Territoriales (CEUT), Universidad Católica del Maule and Universidad de Chile’s Housing Institute (INVI).

Accompanying Hutson at the workshop, Jonathan Sury from the National Center for Disaster Preparedness of Columbia University’s Earth Institute gave a keynote talk on “Predictors of Disaster Recovery and Building Child-Focused Community Resilience”.

After a first panel of the workshop, which focused on the role of new technologies in disaster preparedness, resilience, response and relief efforts, a second panel examined the effects that disasters have in terms of social trauma and the relocation of communities. The third panel turned to the challenges of coordinating and financing relief efforts and included Columbia alumna Magdalena Gil, an Adjunct Assistant Professor at Universidad Católica’s Sociology Institute, who spoke about her multidisciplinary approach to risk assessment and post-disaster management, based on identifying key decision-makers. The final panel explored methods of reconstruction from a resiliency perspective, considering infrastructure improvement, adaptation to climate change and sustainable development.

In a further stage of the project, a group of ten GSAPP students joined Hutson and María Garcés, a recent Urban Planning graduate and new Associate, in a visit to Chile in March 2019 to gather additional information about Chile’s experience in managing disasters and recovery processes, looking particularly at the case of the 2017 wildfires in central-southern Chile.

1. Malo Hutson and Jonathan Sury.
2. Workshop on Disaster Management and Post-Disaster Recovery.
3. Jordan Harris and Bernardita Paul.
In 2018, the Santiago Center broke new ground by holding its first two joint events with the Executive Education Program of Columbia Business School (CBS). Both events took place in May, with the first focusing on the tools women can use to advance their professional careers while the second addressed the challenges that businesses and executives face in adapting to the digital era.

The difficulties women can face in claiming achievements and ensuring that their contribution is recognized were among the issues addressed in the first workshop, led by Jennifer Goez, who heads CBS’s Women in Leadership Executive Education Program. This workshop, which was attended by Chilean women executives, board members, entrepreneurs, heads of non-profit organizations and Columbia alumni, also examined society’s expectations as regards ambition, the fear of disappointing others and role models, with Goez identifying and discussing 12 habits that can hamper a woman’s professional development. Goez is Director for Learning Solutions in Executive Education at CBS and is also responsible for the overall administration and performance of the flagship Advanced Management Program.

In the second workshop, “Transform Your Business to Compete in the Digital Age”, David Rogers of CBS’s Faculty of Executive Education talked about the five domains in which traditional companies need to rethink their underlying assumptions (customers, competition, data, innovation and value), stressing that digital transformation is about leadership, strategy and new ways of thinking, rather than about technology. Rogers, who is the bestselling author of “The Digital Transformation Playbook: Rethink Your Business for the Digital Age”, gave the audience of local executives and entrepreneurs examples of how global companies have both succeeded and failed in this process such as Netflix and Blockbuster, respectively. He also discussed disruptive business models and set participants practical exercises related to the five key domains.
1. David Rogers.
2. Jennifer Goez and Sofia Cecchi.
3. Myriam Gómez and Jessica López.
4 and 5. The workshop on Transform Your Business to Compete in the Digital Era.
In January 2018, a group of Columbia University alumni, with the support of the Santiago Center, founded the Columbia Alumni Club Chile. With a ten-member executive committee, chaired by Graciela Ibáñez (JN’08), it is one of a hundred such clubs around the world and receives support from the Columbia Alumni Association in New York. In 2018, it organized a number of interesting activities.

- In March, a group of alumni visited Santiago’s new Metro subway line, Line 6, in a guided tour led by School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) alumnus Vladimir Glasinovic, a former member of the company’s Board. He explained the technology used in the new 15-kilometer, 10-station line, which is controlled remotely.

- In September, the Club visited Santiago’s Violeta Parra Museum where they were able to learn about the life and work of the Chilean songwriter, folklorist, ethnomusicologist and visual artist. The event concluded with a happy hour on the terrace of the Luciano K Hotel.

- In October, the Club organized its first annual reception at which it presented leading local economist Joseph Ramos (CC’59, SEAS’60, SIPA’64, GSAS’68) with the first Outstanding Columbia University Alumnus award. During the event, which was attended by more than 100 alumni, Alvaro Saieh, Chairman of Chile’s Corp-Group, who is also an art collector, spoke about his passion for New York City and his relationship with the Metropolitan Museum and The Shed arts center.

- In December, members of the Club organized a gathering at the Quilapilún Park in Colina on the outskirts of Santiago. The event, led by alumnus Juan Somavía (IA’98), included a tour of its botanical garden with its more than 200 species of endemic Chilean Mediterranean-climate flora.
In October, 80 Chilean students attended a happy hour held on Campus, organized by the Santiago Center in association with the Columbia Alumni Club Chile. The students, at least half of whom were women, are studying for graduate degrees at many different schools, including SIPA, Law, Business, SEAS, the Arts, GSAPP and Journalism as well as Teachers College.
Columbia Alumni in the News

In April, Ximena Vial, (MA in Museum Anthropology ’16) received a special award from Chile’s Ministry of Cultures, Arts and Heritage for her Master’s thesis on “The Silences Shaping the Memory of the Mapuche in the National History Museum of Chile”.

In August, Andrés Osorio (MPA-EPM’18) was selected as Director of the new Office of Productivity and National Entrepreneurship (OPEN), created by the Chilean government as part of the Economy Ministry.

A ranking, published in November by the El Mercurio newspaper and Mujeres Empresarias, a private-sector organization, identified four Columbia University alumni as among Chile’s 100 most influential women. They are Gracia Dalgalarrando (SIPA’15), Founder and General Manager of WoomUp, a networking and mentoring platform for professional women; Isabel Aninat (LLM’13), a researcher at the Centro de Estudios Públicos, a think-tank; Florencia Torche (GSAS’04), a social scientist who specializes in demography, stratification and education; and María Angélica Zegers (LLM’04), Founder and Executive President of Impact Chile, a foundation that seeks innovative solutions for complex social problems.

In December, President Sebastián Piñera announced the appointment of Ricardo Riesco (LLM’05), a member of the Santiago Center’s Advisory Board, as head of Chile’s National Economic Prosecution Service (FNE), a key part of the country’s anti-trust institutions.
Information Sessions

For the sixth consecutive year, the Santiago Center teamed up with EducationUSA, a US Department of State-supported global network of advisory centers, to offer a Pre-Departure Orientation Session for students beginning their undergraduate and graduate studies at Columbia University in 2018. The workshop was also open to students going to other colleges and universities in the United States, including Harvard and MIT.

In addition, the Santiago Center co-organized an MBA information session in August and a session on the MPA in Economic Policy Management in December. In the case of the MPA, Columbia University alumni, prospective students, policymakers and economists were invited to an event at which Patricia C. Mosser from the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) and Luis Felipe Céspedes, a former Chilean Economy Minister, provided insights into this one-year program which focuses on providing policymakers and professionals with the skills to effectively design and implement economic policy. David Caughlin, Associate Director of the program, also spoke about other Master’s degrees offered by SIPA.

Chilean Students at Columbia University

In the last few years, the flow of Chilean students traveling to New York for undergraduate, graduate or doctoral studies at Columbia University has increased considerably.

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Source: International Students & Scholars Office (ISSO), Columbia University.
VIII. Our Partners

The Santiago Center has built and consolidated a network of local partners with whom we implement joint programs and organize events, to extend the reach of our work.