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Newsletter

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SIPA'S TAKATOSHI ITO IN CHILE

Takatoshi Ito, a world-renowned professor of international and public affairs and associate director for research at Columbia's Center on Japanese Economy and Business, visited Chile in mid-August to participate in a series of academic events. The Santiago Center teamed-up with Fundación Chilena del Pacífico to host a round table discussion on the economic and financial outlook for Japan, the United States and Chile, which was attended by Columbia alumni, local intellectuals and economists who specialize in the Asia-Pacific region.

During his presentation, professor Ito discussed the current state of the Japanese economy and assessed the results and challenges of the policies implemented by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (known as "Abenomics"). He also referred to the global consequences of the recent devaluation of the Chinese currency. Regarding the prospects of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), a major trade agreement between 12 countries in the Pacific Rim currently being negotiated, he said he was optimistic that a final deal would be reached.

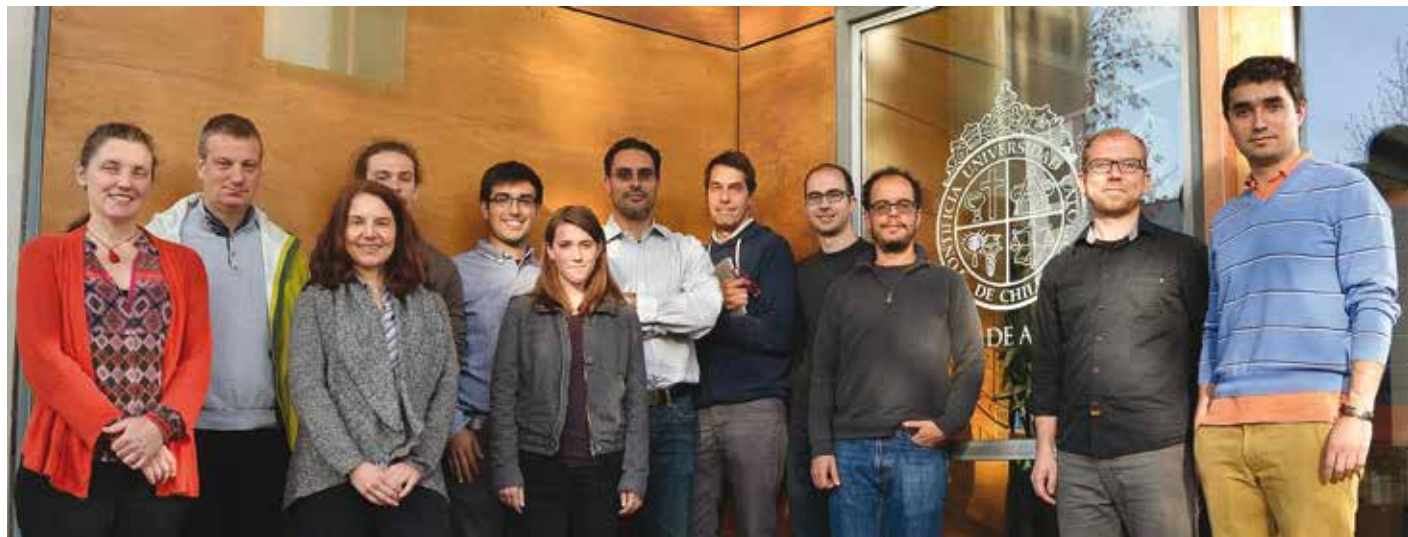
Ito, who joined Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs in 2015, served as a member of the Prime Minister's Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy. He also held senior positions in the Japanese Ministry of Finance and at the IMF, served as dean of the University of Tokyo's Graduate School of Public Policy and as professor at Japan's National Graduate Institute of Policy Studies.

CHILE'S MINISTER OF ENERGY ON CAMPUS

In a recent visit to New York, Chile's Minister of Energy Máximo Pacheco (pictured at right) gave a lecture at Campus to discuss Chile's current energy scenario, focusing on the opportunities for the development of renewable sources, including those based on solar, wind, geothermal and mini-hydro technologies. This event was hosted by Columbia Global Centers | Latin America (Santiago), the Latin American Students Association (LASA) and the Latin American Business Students Association (LABA).



COLUMBIA TEAM OF ASTRONOMERS VISITS CHILE



In May, a group of eleven faculty members and Ph.D. students from Columbia's Department of Astronomy met in Santiago with their counterparts at Universidad Católica's Astrophysics Institute in a joint workshop under the heading "Teaming Up to Prepare for the Next Decade in Time-Domain Astrophysics."

Among the Columbia faculty members who traveled to Chile were the Department's Chair Kathryn Johnston as well as Zoltán Haiman, David Schiminovich, Marcel Agüeros and Mary Putman. They were joined by six Columbia graduate students: Jeff Andrews, Andrew Emerick, Susan Clark, Dan D'Orazio, David Hendel, and Jose Zorrilla. Their hosts at UC included its Astrophysics' Institute Director, Gaspar Galaz.

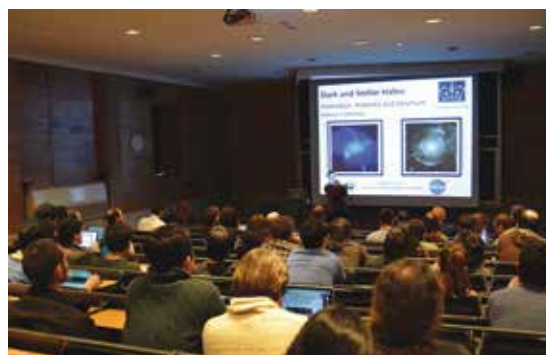
The Columbia team presented its work and engaged in working sessions to exchange research results and deepen their collaboration efforts. In addition to talks on topics ranging from instrumentation to binary black holes, the workshops featured a number of breakout sessions to discuss, among other things, possible exchanges for undergraduate and graduate students, opportunities for post-doctoral researchers at both institutions, and potential joint proposals.

"I think the more interesting results will be over the medium-to-long term, as both sets of astronomers have an opportunity to jointly explore new areas of interest," said Agüeros. "In astronomy we tend to measure success in terms of the numbers of papers published, and it would be great if in a few years we can see a handful of them co-authored by Columbia and UC colleagues," he added.

This visit was financed by the Columbia President's Global Innovation Fund (PGIF). In addition to stressing their eagerness to increase collaboration, both teams discussed potential activities related to the arrival of the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope to Chile in 2020.



Valerie Dekimpe, Marcel Agüeros
& David Schiminovich



Kathryn Johnston's Presentation



Daniel D'Orazio & Zoltán Haiman

CHRIS EMDIN'S OUTSTANDING PRESENTATION AT EDLAB 2015

In July, Teachers College's Christopher Emdin, a world topmost STEM and HipHopED expert, visited Chile to participate in Fundación Chile's Ed Lab2015. Among many activities, he gave a public lecture in Santiago, taught a master class at Universidad Católica de Valparaíso and led several workshops for Chilean teachers and principals from vulnerable schools. He also discussed his work with Chilean authorities in education and visited Fundación Luksic's team in charge of promoting education for low-income students.



Chris Emdin at Fundación Luksic

At Universidad Católica de Valparaíso he explained the paradigm behind his successful educational model and described the methodology he uses to teach sciences and mathematics using music, in particular rap and hip-hop. All his presentations were acclaimed by the different audiences not only due to the revolutionary innovations that Emdin is introducing in the classrooms but also because of his entertaining and amiable style.



Chris Emdin at Fundación Chile

CHILEAN STUDENTS GOING TO COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

For the fourth year in a row, Columbia Global Centers | Latin America (Santiago) teamed up with EducationUSA, a US Department of State-supported global network of advisory centers, to offer a Pre-Departure Orientation Session for students who will begin studies in the United States this year.

A representative of the US Consulate in Santiago answered questions about student visas, while an official of Chile's National Commission for Scientific and Technological Research (CONICYT) talked about the State-funded scholarship program.

This year, 21 Chileans students were awarded Becas Chile scholarships for master's studies at Columbia while two obtained PhD grants.



Some of the students accepted for the Fall 2015 Semester: Silvia Arias, Sergio Rojas, Daniela Cruzat, Cristián González, Martina Tueber, Ana Cristina Canales and Jaime Gacitúa

HEAD OF CENTER FOR THE CORE CURRICULUM VISITS CHILE

In early June, Professor Roosevelt Montás, Director of Columbia's Center for the Core Curriculum, travelled to Chile to participate in a series of internal events organized by Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez (UAI). He taught a seminar targeting faculty members of UAI's School of Liberal Arts and School of Government aimed at analyzing and comparing the teaching of liberal arts both in Chile and the United States. He explained the genesis and basics of Columbia's Core Curriculum, reviewed its programs and went over the methodology used in its design.



Professor Roosevelt Montás and Lucía Santa Cruz, member of the board of Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez

LECTURES ON ART MANAGEMENT

Martin Vinik, Adjunct Professor of the Art Administration Program at Teachers College, visited Chile to participate in a joint-workshop and conference with Universidad Católica's School of the Arts. His two public presentations drew more than 200 attendees including managers from artistic and cultural organizations, students, faculty, policy-makers and government officials.

During his presentations, Vinik shared many useful tips on financial management, strategic planning and fundraising for the arts. One of the topics he developed during one of his lectures was what he called "the obsession of human beings with enormous artistic spaces used as theaters, museums, monuments and other iconic arts organizations, to the point when the buildings from the outside are as attractive to potential tourists as they are useless to the institution's purposes in the inside." He specifically mentioned the case of a theater in Dallas, TX, where the scenario was so big they had no show that could be held there.



DISCUSSION ON STIGMAS TOWARDS MENTAL ILLNESS

Two faculty members from Columbia's School of Social Work, Dr. Ellen Lukens and Dr. Leopoldo J. Cabassa traveled, to Chile to participate in a one-day seminar on stigma toward mental illnesses held in conjunction with Universidad de Chile's School of Public Health. They were accompanied by Dr. Helle Thorning from Columbia's Department of Psychiatry. Dr. Jaime Sapag and Dr. Franco Mascayano, from Universidad Católica and Universidad de Chile, respectively, also spoke at the conference. In addition, the Columbia team participated in a workshop to discuss challenges and best practices on this topic at Universidad de Valparaíso's School of Psychology.

LÁPIZ DE MINA FESTIVAL FEATURES COLUMBIA'S KELLY STUART



Columbia Global Centers | Latin America (Santiago) sponsored the third version of a women's play-writing festival entitled "LáPiz de Mina." The event was held in conjunction with Chile's National Council for Culture and the Arts, the Gabriela Mistral Cultural Center and the local chapter of the British Council. It brought together distinguished female playwrights from Chile and abroad and coincided with the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the award of the Nobel Prize in Literature to Chile's poet Gabriela Mistral. "LáPiz de Mina" was created two years ago as a new platform to increase Chilean female playwrights' visibility in a context where the share of theatrical production by women is exponentially lower to that of men's. The festival sought to create a meeting point for female playwrights to discuss and diffuse their work.

Among many activities, Stuart led a formative workshop on dramatic composition where she taught techniques for creative writing. She also participated at a colloquium with other activists to discuss the influence of arts in transcending history. Other events included dramatized readings, the staging of distinguished female playwrights from Chile and abroad, as well as the presentation of the work created by three female playwrights from the Royal Court Theatre in Chile.



Dr. Leopoldo J. Cabassa



Dr. Ellen Lukens

OPTIMIZING ONLINE MARKETS



Gabriel Weintraub

In early July, Gabriel Weintraub, Sidney Taurel Associate Professor at Columbia Business School, taught a course on economics and optimization of online marketplaces at Universidad de Chile's School of Ingeniería Industrial. Weintraub provided an overview of recent research that improves understanding of online markets focusing on how market operators should design them, taking into account their operational details as well as their engineering and technological constraints.

He reviewed topics of general interest for online/platform markets such as two-sidedness, pricing, auctions, reputation systems, matching, and search. He also discussed issues arising in specific online markets such as e-commerce (e.g., eBay), online labor markets (e.g., Upwork), and internet advertising (e.g., Google).

CENTER AT ECONOMIC FORUM



Gisele Feldman and Professor Joseph Stiglitz

The World Economic Forum (WEF) hosted its Latin American annual meeting on May 6-8 in Riviera Maya, Mexico. The Santiago Center's Program and Communications Officer, Gisele Feldman, attended the gathering and participated in discussion sessions on Gender Equality, The Pacific Alliance, and Poverty and Development.

One of the highlights of the meeting was a lecture by Columbia Professor and Nobel Prize Winner (Economics 2001), Joseph Stiglitz, who stated that "Inequality is a matter of choice... It has to do with the rules and the policies we put together." Professor Stiglitz spoke in representation of the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) as well as of the Initiative for Policy Dialogue (IPD), sharing his views about how structural reforms can advance equality in Latin America.

ON CAMPUS: CELEBRATING 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF MISTRAL'S NOBEL PRIZE

Chile's Gabriela Mistral (1889 - 1957) was a poet, educator and the first Latin American to be awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature, in 1945, for her poetry. She was a visiting professor at Barnard College from 1930 to 1931. On Wednesday September 9, Chilean professor Soledad Falabella, member of the Women Mobilizing Memory group, hosted by the Center for the Study of Social Difference at Columbia, will speak on Mistral's intellectual contributions on gender, sexuality, human rights, education, land reform and native people. The lecture will include readings of Mistral's poems in Mapudungún and Spanish by Mapuche poet María Hueñuñir and Chilean actress Mabel Farías, accompanied by Francisco Huichaqueo's visual art.

Barnard College's Archives and Special Collections houses the Gabriela Mistral Collection, which includes correspondence, notebooks, drafts and poems. The anthology primarily consists of items from Mistral's archive that have been digitized onto microfilm. Additionally, it contains materials about her time at Columbia University, along with items relating to the transfer of her library to the Barnard Archives.



Gabriela Mistral

SUCCESSFUL GATHERING OF CHILEAN ALUMNI



The latest gathering of Columbia University alumni in Chile took place on July 29 at Santa Pizza restaurant in Santiago's Providencia district. Organized by María del Pilar Duarte (Law School), Graciela Ibáñez (Journalism School) and the New York-based Columbia Alumni Association (CAA), with the support of Columbia Global Centers | Latin America (Santiago), it was attended by alumni from different programs across different generations. At the event, it was agreed that more such activities should take place in order to facilitate networking among Columbia University graduates and strengthen their ties.



Angie Armer, Pilar Duarte and Andrés Lyon



Conrad Von Igel and Valerio Cecchi



María Eugenia Rivera, Benjamín Echeverría,
Ignacio Menchaca, Catalina Spencer and Alexander Hazbun



Olimpia Lira and Brena Sena