

France Chicago Center

University of Chicago

2023-2024
Annual Report

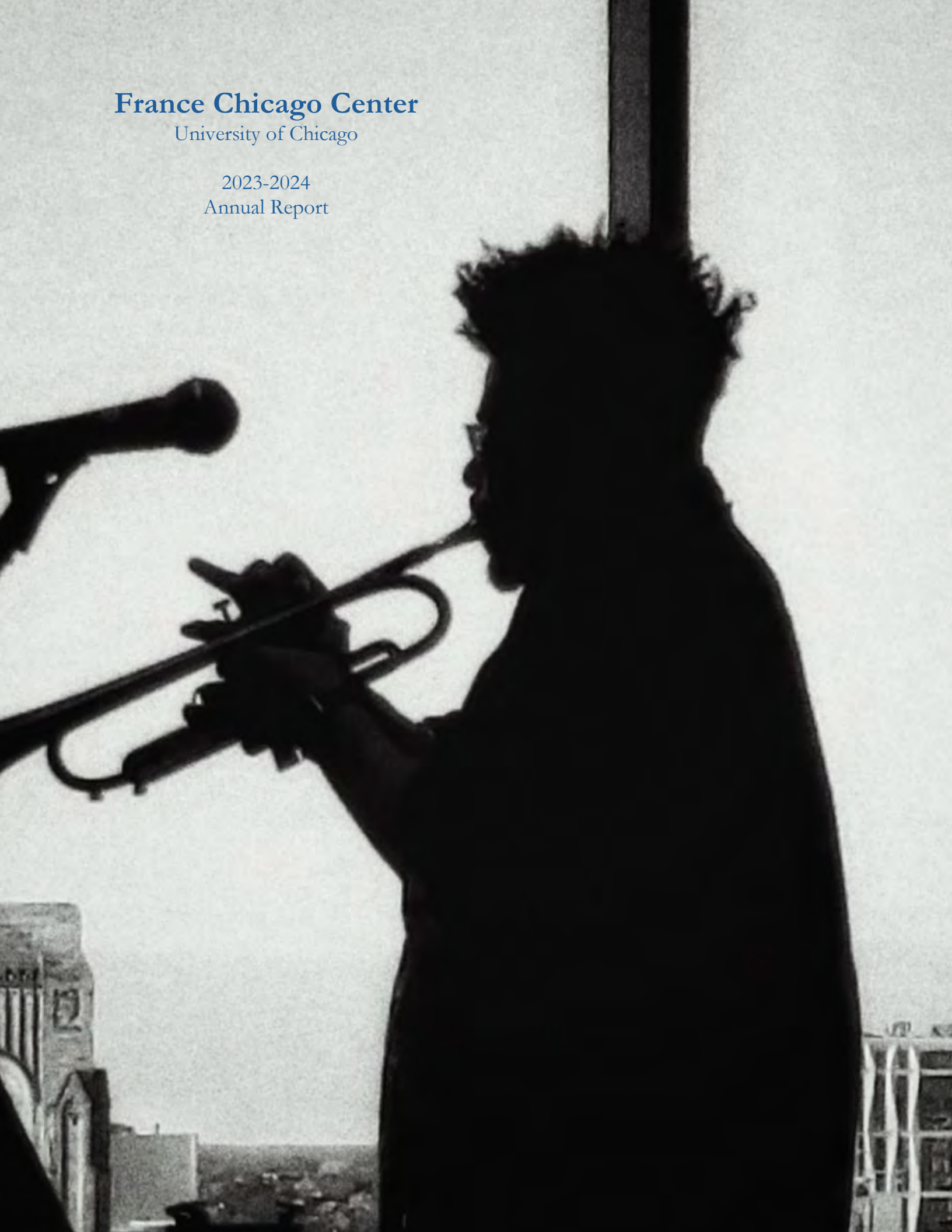




TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introductory Remarks	3
Reflections about (and by) Robert Morrissey.....	4
Larry Norman	
Yannick Tagand	
Robert Morrissey	
Spotlight on Two French Partner Institutions	8
Institut des Amériques	
Collège de France	
Student Mobility.....	10
Students in the College	
Students in the Graduate Divisions	
Students in the Professional Schools	
Impact Quotes	
The Human & Social Sciences.....	15
Visiting Scholars	
Colloquia & Public Lectures	
Interdisciplinary Workshop on France & the Francophone World	
Scenes from <i>La Nuit des Idées</i> 2024	
The Arts.....	20
Musical Performances	
Doc Films Collaboration	
Champs-Élysées Film Festival	
Campus Visit by Davy Chou	
Lovemusic Residency	
Opening Passages	
The Sciences	24
FACCTS	
CNRS Research Partnership	
Financial Summary	27
Appendix 1: 2024 FACCTS Program.....	28
Appendix 2: Student Mobility Reports.....	32

Cover: *Corey Wilkes, during the November 12 performance by The Bridge #2.6: Cancel Rescue Mission. (Photo by Florent Wattelier)*

Left to right: *Corey Wilkes, Justin Dillard, and Etienne Ziemiak (Photo by Florent Wattelier)*

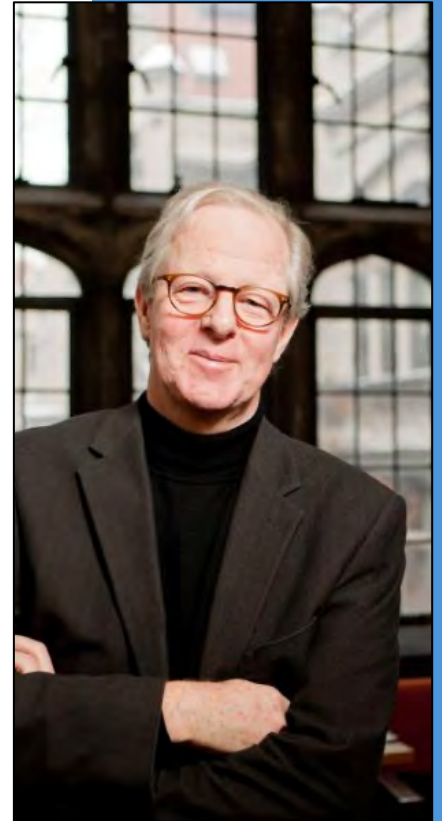
This year's annual report, like those published in years past, brings together descriptions of flagship initiatives, lists, tables, numbers, financial figures, and photographs in a way that we hope conveys the breadth of the France Chicago Center's work, the scope of our involvement, and the impact of our efforts both within and beyond the University of Chicago.

However, unlike annual reports published in the past, which typically begin with reflections offered **by** Robert Morrissey, these prefatory comments center **on** Robert Morrissey, who—after more than three decades of inspired and generous leadership at the helm of the France Chicago Center—stepped down from his role as Executive Faculty Director on June 30. He is leaving FCC (but not the University) to assume the fulltime faculty directorship of the International Institute for Research in Paris (IIRP), which will take its full form when the University's new John W. Boyer Center in Paris opens its doors this fall.

Robert Morrissey was the driving force behind the creation of FCC, an organization built through his vision, and that has expanded and developed because of his remarkable talents and creative energies. Rather than attempting to catalogue Robert's many contributions to the France Chicago Center, the pages that follow reproduce in print two sets of remarks spoken during a reception in Robert's honor on May 21, 2024. As you'll see, they provide glimpses into some of the highlights and convey the gratitude we feel for his commitment and leadership.

The first is a welcome offered by Larry Norman, who assumed the role of Executive Faculty Director of the France Chicago Center on July 1, 2024. The second is a *discours élogieux* imparted by Yannick Tagand, Consul General of France in Chicago, on behalf of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which has been an essential and steadfast partner of the France Chicago Center from our very inception. Following these two sets of remarks, Robert shares his own reflections on 31 years of service to the France Chicago Center.

We are honored to be the stewards of this organization, and we wish Robert the very best as he continues—now from the other side of the Atlantic—to foster dynamic links between the University of Chicago and France.



Larry Norman
Juan de Pablo
Sarah Hammerschlag
Stephanie Palmer
Jennifer Pitt
Paolo Privitera
Dan Bertsche

REFLECTIONS BY LARRY NORMAN

Let me begin by paraphrasing, or rather contorting, the famous line of Shakespeare's Marc Antony: We come here today to praise Robert Morrissey, not to retire him. After all, as he steps down from his leadership of the France Chicago Center, he is as busy as ever in his role as the Executive Director of the University of Chicago's new International Institute of Research in Paris (IIRP). But while Robert continues to dedicate himself to present and future ventures, let us take a moment to look back and celebrate all that he has accomplished at the helm of the FCC.

I first met Robert Morrissey nearly thirty years ago as I interviewed for a position at the University of Chicago. As he described, with his characteristic enthusiasm, the uniqueness of the University of Chicago, I remember being most impressed by the passion with which he spoke of the depth and breadth of the University's engagement with the scholarly communities and research institutions of France. Indeed, Robert had already co-founded the interdisciplinary seminar that evolved into what is now the Interdisciplinary Workshop on France and the Francophone World, the longest running of the 53 graduate workshops currently supported by the UChicago's Council on Advanced Studies. In 1993, under Robert's leadership, the faculty organizers of that workshop submitted a successful application to the French government's "Center of Excellence" program, which resulted in the creation of the "Chicago Group on Modern France." Building on this momentum, in 2001, and again under Robert's leadership, the University of Chicago completed a \$1-million matching grant offered by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Thus was born the France Chicago Center!

Over what is now more than two decades, the FCC's mission—to promote, facilitate, and catalyze fruitful scholarly, scientific and artistic exchange between the University of Chicago and France—has remained constant. What *has* changed, though, is the scope, depth, and impact of its activities. Started as a program principally based in the Humanities and Social Sciences, the FCC now reaches across nearly all of the Divisions and Schools of the university. To name just a few of the ever-widening initiatives the FCC has undertaken under Robert's watch, we might mention the

dynamic seed-fund program in the sciences known as FACCTS (France and Chicago Collaborating in the Sciences), the three-fold increase in investments in student mobility grants for research in France, and the creation of a wide array of strategic partnerships with leading French institutions such as the Collège de France, Université PSL (Paris Sciences & Lettres) and the Centre National de Recherche Scientifique (CNRS).



Time does not allow me to name the full plethora of such impactful initiatives. But at least as important as these individual activities and programs is the broader role that the FCC has played in building the University's fundamental institutional commitment to international engagement, witnessed, for example, by the creation of the John W. Boyer Center in Paris (of which Robert served as the Inaugural Faculty Director) and, most recently of the IIRP. Those who know the boundless intellectual interests and entrepreneurial energy of Robert Morrissey will hardly be surprised by the stunning accomplishments of the last decades. But let us admire them. *Chapeau!*

REFLECTIONS BY YANNICK TAGAND

It is with a certain emotion that we gather today to celebrate the departure of a remarkable figure, Professor Robert Morrissey, from the the leadership of the France Chicago Center.

In my capacity as Consul General of France, I am honored to stand before you to express our deepest gratitude for Professor Morrissey's unwavering commitment and invaluable contributions to fostering Franco-American relations, particularly in the realm of academia.

Professor Morrissey is a renowned researcher in Romance Languages and Literatures. His research sits at the confluence of literature, poetics, ideology, and politics, focusing on currents over the *longue durée*. With a passion for words as both expression and structure, he has played a pivotal role in the digital humanities, notably through his creation of ARTFL, which revolutionized the study of language and literature.

In addition to his academic work, Professor Morrissey has been a dedicated teacher, lecturing on authors such as Montesquieu, Rousseau, Chateaubriand, and Stendhal. His publications, including *Charlemagne and France: A Thousand Years of Mythology*, *Napoleon and the Economy of Glory*, and critical editions of Rousseau's works, have garnered acclaim and enriched our understanding of French culture and history.

His invaluable contribution to the understanding of French language and culture will continue unabated. But today we would like to take the time to celebrate an important milestone in his professional path at the head of the France Chicago Center and his contribution to the development of academic relations between UChicago and France.

Since its inception in 2001, the France Chicago Center has flourished, thanks in no small part to Professor Morrissey's visionary leadership. Revenue from the resulting endowment fund to which the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs was fortunate enough to contribute, combined with generous annual support from individual and

foundation sponsors, timely grants from various French Ministries, and annual support from Divisions and Schools within the University of Chicago, has provided the resources necessary for the France Chicago Center to pursue its ambitious mission.

Professor Morrissey's tenure as Director of the France Chicago Center has been nothing short of transformative. Under his leadership, the Center has tirelessly pursued its two-fold mission: to facilitate, promote, and foster stronger ties between University of Chicago students and researchers and their colleagues in France; and to increase awareness within the University of Chicago community of French culture, art, and thought.

Through a myriad of programs including conferences, workshops, public lectures, visiting professors, fellowships, travel grants, exchange programs, and various cultural, scientific, and outreach activities, Professor Morrissey has ensured that the France Chicago Center remains at the forefront of transatlantic collaboration and cultural exchange, serving as an indispensable partner to the Consulate of France and its cultural services.

Bidding farewell always comes with bittersweet feelings. Today, we have good reason not to let ourselves be carried away by nostalgia.

First, Robert's legacy is in good hands and will endure as a beacon of intellectual inquiry and transatlantic cooperation for years to come. We are very much looking forward to working with Larry Norman, whose dedication to scholarship and transatlantic collaboration precedes him, who is stepping into the role of Executive Faculty Director, bringing with him a wealth of experience and a passion for fostering academic exchange. We are also very grateful to Dan Bertsche, who will continue to serve as Administrative Director, ensuring the seamless operation of the Center's activities. We know we can count on them both to continue to carry forward the Center's mission.

Second, Robert's journey in fostering Franco-American relations is far from over. We will all benefit from his continued leadership in his new capacity as Executive Director of the International Institute of Research in Paris, which will be part of the John W. Boyer Center in Paris. In this new position, with the new facilities of the Center in Paris, I know we can count on him to provide renewed opportunities for academic exchange and cultural collaboration between France and the United States.

On behalf of the French government and the people of France, I extend our heartfelt thanks to Professor Robert Morrissey for his exemplary leadership, scholarship, and friendship.

Thank you, Professor Morrissey, for your profound impact and unwavering dedication.

Bon vent et bonne chance dans vos futures entreprises parisiennes.

Et maintenant, cher Robert, je vous laisse la parole,

Merci beaucoup



Photo from the May 21 reception. From left to right: Yannick Tagand, Larry Norman, and Robert Morrissey. (Photo: Sylvie Bendier)

REFLECTIONS BY ROBERT MORRISSEY

The France Chicago Center has brought me immense joy practically throughout my whole academic career. It intertwined two of my most fundamental passions: my love for France, its literature, its culture, its history, its people and my love for the University of Chicago in its structural uniqueness, its tradition of interdisciplinarity and, above all, its intellectual intensity.

The roots of this enterprise go a long way back. It all started out as a workshop put together by my dear friend and colleague, Jan Goldstein, as well as Keith Baker and myself, along with the eminent French historian of the French Revolution, François Furet. When Keith left Chicago for Stanford (unforgivable!), he would be succeeded

by Colin Lucas, who, in turn, would be succeeded by Colin Jones. The title of the France-Chicago graduate workshop has varied over time. But it has always been a fantastic intellectual adventure and is now the oldest continuous graduate workshop at the University.

But back to FCC's origins. It was at this time—in the early 1990's—that France launched its first program of university “Centers of Excellence”, and we were invited to participate in this program. This gave us a modest budget to invite in major French scholars to speak at the university. Slowly, we began to raise money from local major industries.

I remember one visit of François Furet and myself to the headquarters of Square D, a big circuit-breaker manufacturer. François was a quintessentially French intellectual. Seeing him sitting in the office of the president of Square D, listening to him describe—with all the trappings of middle American English—the manufacturing of circuit breakers was indeed a first, I am sure, both for the president of Square D and for François.

At any rate, one thing led to another and, working with the University administration, we finally decided to raise an endowment. To start off, France made a substantial gift of 1 million dollars as a challenge grant with the University committing to raise a like amount.

The basic idea behind the new France Chicago Center was that its activities would extend beyond the Humanities and Social Sciences to cover all the disciplines. Bob Zimmer who was then Vice-President for Research was in that first cohort of directors as was, of course, Jan Goldstein. All in all, there have been 17 different faculty members that have served as directors. Many of them are here today.

As Executive Director, working with these faculty members has been incredibly gratifying. They have always given freely of their time. And if there was one thing that was enjoyable for all of us it was that we were giving away money—money to support projects from across the whole University. Reading the project proposals submitted by faculty from all the Schools and Divisions gave me, and all of the Directors, an incredibly privileged overview of the breadth and depth of research and creative activities at this institution. And that, for me, was the truly magical aspect of the France Chicago Center.

This enjoyment would come to be shared and enhanced by a group of supporters dubbed “Les Confrères”, who would later step forward to donate generously their time and financial support. My interactions with the Confrères over the years has been another source deep gratification.

But none of all this would have been possible without the energy, creativity, and talent of one truly wonderful human being, our Associate

Director Dan Bertsche. Dan is truly the person without whom none of this would have happened. In addition to his talents as an administrator and to his ingenious budgetary insights and solutions, he also has a sense of loyalty, a taste for life, laughter and... for good wine. He has been a wonderful friend and partner.

I would just like to express my deepest gratitude to all these folks as well as to my colleagues in the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures and the Deans of the Divisions who have contributed regularly—year after year—to make the France Chicago Center the success that it has been.

Many of the activities funded by the FCC have gone on to be funded by the International Institute for Research in Paris of which I have the honor of being the inaugural Director. The IIRP will be part of the new John B. Boyer Center in Paris which, with its rich set of undergraduate programs will be what John—with whom I have had the great pleasure of having as a colleague, a dean, and, above as a friend—and I had always hoped it would be: a true reflection of the University of Chicago in all its rich and rigorous diversity.

People often ask me what the difference is between the France Chicago Center and the International Institute of Research in Paris. Well, for one thing, one is in Chicago and the other is Paris. But, more than that obvious difference, the IIRP—and the Boyer Center in general—have a truly European vocation, with a geographical footprint extending through the Middle East and Africa. It is not, then, a center in France as much as a center in Europe. And this is very logical in as much as France together with Germany constitute what might be called the “locomotives” of the creation of the European Union, which Jacques Delors famously described as “unidentified political object.”

On the one hand, then, I have the joy and the challenge of putting into place the IIRP, while, on the other, I also have the joy of leaving the France Chicago Center in the best of hands.

SPOTLIGHT ON TWO FRENCH PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

INSTITUT DES AMÉRIQUES

Three years ago, the France Chicago Center initiated a memorandum of understanding between the University of Chicago and the Institut des Amériques (IdA), a research consortium that brings together over one thousand faculty and researchers at 50 institutions in France who study the Americas through a transnational and transdisciplinary lens. This agreement established the framework for a series of exchanges and created a new International Hub (pôle international) based at the University of Chicago, one of only four in the United States and one of only 14 in the western hemisphere.

On June 30, 2024, the first French graduate student hosted by the University of Chicago through this agreement, **Adam Bigache**, completed his three-year term as coordinator of the “UChicago Hub.” During the first two years of his term—fall 2021 through spring 2023—he was based in Chicago researching and writing a dissertation that highlights the feminist and transnational dimensions of the Harlem Renaissance and focuses on the work of Jessie Fauset, who edited *The Crisis* from 1919 to 1926. He also organized several public academic colloquia related to his research, including a daylong conference entitled *Modernism in the Black Transatlantic* in November 2022. Last year, Adam continued his dissertation research on our Paris campus while laying the groundwork for a major IIRP-funded (and IIRP-hosted) international symposium entitled *The Dynamics of Black Diaspora in the Transatlantic* that will take place in the winter of 2025.

As Adam moves out this role, we prepare to welcome **Aurore Boutet**, whose selection was the result of a nationwide search that generated a pool of more than a dozen applicants, and who will begin her three-year

affiliation with the University of Chicago this fall. Ms. Boutet is a Ph.D. student at the Sorbonne University and a historian of the American welfare rights movement. In her capacity as coordinator of the UChicago Hub, she will organize a set of public activities while pursuing dissertation research under the mentorship of Gabriel Winant. She is looking forward to participating in the intellectual life of the History Department and to forging links through various graduate workshops, academic centers (CSRPC, Karla Scherer Center), and the Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice. In addition to the archival resources that she plans to consult in Chicago, she will also be taking short research trips to Milwaukee and Detroit, two cities that are also central to her research.

“We highly value our collaboration with the University of Chicago,” states Claire Bourhis-Mariotti, Professor of African American Studies at the University of Paris 8, who manages the UChicago Hub for the Institut des Amériques. “It offers our students unique opportunities to spend two years in Chicago, with a third year at the John W. Boyer Center in Paris in an exceptional environment. This provides them with an invaluable gateway to the Midwest and creates ideal conditions for candidates to strengthen connections between the Institut des Amériques and the University of Chicago, while advancing their doctoral research.”



Two IdA student coordinators of the UChicago Hub:
Adam Bigache, 2021-24 (left), Aurore Boutet, 2024-27 (right)

COLLÈGE DE FRANCE

In 2007, with financial support from the Florence Gould Foundation, the France Chicago initiated a modest pilot program that would bring to the University of Chicago a limited number of faculty members from the Collège de France for 7- to 10-day visits. While in Chicago they participated in the activities of a host department, engaged with faculty and students in formal and informal settings, and gave high-profile lectures to UChicago audiences.

This pilot initiative exceeded all expectations—with nearly a third of the current Collège de France faculty having visited Chicago by the winter of 2020. Indeed, at the start of the decade, the UChicago-Collège de France partnership had expanded to include: regular eastbound visits by UChicago faculty members (28), major two-day jointly organized transatlantic colloquia (2), collaborative scientific research undertaken with support of the FACCTS Program (5), internship placements of UChicago neuroscience undergraduates in Collège de France-affiliated laboratories (8), and yearlong and quarter-long fellowships at the Collège de France awarded to UChicago Ph.D. students in all disciplines (12).

Although most of these activities were temporarily paused during the pandemic, the pace of westbound visits has now returned to previous levels. This year, FCC organized and helped fund the weeklong Chicago residencies of: **Dominique Charpin**, with Hervé Reculeau (NELC, ISAC) as his faculty host; **Denis Duboule**, with Ed Munro (Molecular Genetics & Cell Biology) as his faculty host; and **Anne Cheng**, with Haun Saussy (East Asian Languages & Civilizations) as her faculty host. Next year, FCC will help bring to Chicago **Luigi Rizzi**, with Chris Kennedy (Linguistics) as his faculty host, and **Esther Duflo**, with Stéphane Bonhomme (Economics) as her faculty host.

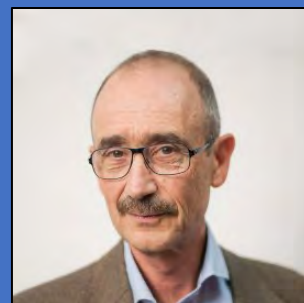
[UChicago departments that wish to host a Collège de France faculty member through this program may submit expressions of interest to the France Chicago Center (fcc@uchicago.edu) on or before January 15.]

Eastbound faculty visits have resumed as well, with UChicago's **Salikoko Mufwene** (Linguistics, 2023) and **Bảo Châu Ngô** (Mathematics, 2020 and 2024) holding yearlong international professorships at the Collège de France. Three other UChicago faculty members—**Daisy Delogu** (RLL), **Jennifer Pitts** (Political Science) and **Haun Saussy** (EALC)—have also lectured at the Collège de France during the past year.

In September 2024, this partnership will take on yet another dimension with the implementation of a new Marguerite Young Researchers Program, which will support the travel costs and living expenses of up to two UChicago Ph.D. students conducting month-long dissertation research in Paris under the mentorship of a Collège de France faculty member. (Application deadline: Nov. 15, 2024, for residencies in 2025.)



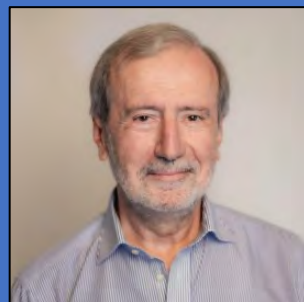
Dominique Charpin, Mesopotamian Civilizations, April 2024



Denis Duboule, Evolution and Development of Genomes, May 2024



Anne Cheng, Intellectual History of China, May 2024



Luigi Rizzi, General Linguistics, October 2024



Esther Duflo, Poverty and Public Policy, May 2025

STUDENT MOBILITY

FCC is committed to ensuring that promising and deserving University of Chicago students at all levels and in all disciplines have resources they need to engage directly with France and the Francophone world in ways that enrich their scholarship, improve their language proficiency, and further their academic and professional goals. For this reason, the France Chicago Center works closely with a broad array of institutional partners¹, and invests considerable resources and administrative energies to assure that such opportunities remain available to our students.

In 2023-24, through FCC student mobility initiatives 23 students received fellowship and travel grant support totaling over \$90,000, allowing them to pursue a wide range of research, language study, and internship activities. A list of these students and their activities can be found below and in the pages that follow.

STUDENTS IN THE COLLEGE

Tuba Balta received a Neuroscience Internship Support Grant in the amount of \$6,000 to conduct a summer research internship at the Institut Jacques Monod in Paris under the supervision of Nikos Konstantinides.



Photograph preserved at the Archives de Paris of a model wearing a gown by French fashion designer Paul Poiret. Photo by Stephanie Strotter.

Asaf Lebovic received a Neuroscience Internship Support Grant in the amount of \$6,000 to conduct a summer research internship at the Collège de France in Paris under the supervision of Fekrije Selimi.

Navid Mazidabadifarahani received a François Furet Travel Grant in the amount of \$3,000 to conduct thesis research on youth movements within the French Communist Party at Departmental Archives of Seine-Saint-Denis.

Noah Rizk received a Neuroscience Internship Support Grant in the amount of \$6,000 to conduct a summer research internship at the Collège de France in Paris under the supervision of Jean-François Brunet.

Dana Silvian received a Neuroscience Internship Support Grant in the amount of \$6,000 to conduct a summer research internship at the Collège de France in Paris under the supervision of Isabelle Brunet.

Eliza Wiener received a Neuroscience Internship Support Grant in the amount of \$6,000 to conduct a summer research internship at the Collège de France in Paris under the supervision of Laurent Venance.

¹ Partners include: The French Ministry of Higher Education and Research, Career Advancement, The Division of the Social Sciences, The Department of Neurobiology, The Harris School of Public Policy, EHESS, and Sciences Po.



STUDENTS IN THE GRADUATE DIVISIONS

Jessie Alperin, a Ph.D. student in Art History, received a François Furet Travel Grant in the amount of \$3,000 to support research on her qualifying paper, which focuses on aspects of drawings by Émile Gallé, conducted at the Musée des Arts Décoratifs in Paris.

Arwa Awan, a Ph.D. student in Political Science, received a François Furet Travel Grant in the amount of \$3,000 to conduct archival research at IMEC (located near Caen) and to participate in a conference on Tropical Marxisms at the University of Chicago Center in Paris.

Laudine Carbuccia, a Ph.D. student from Paris, came to Chicago through the Sciences Po Exchange Fellowship Program, where she conducted research in early childhood policy at the Harris School.

Alexis Chavez, a Ph.D. student in Anthropology, received a François Furet Travel Grant in the amount of \$3,000 to support his ethnographic research and interview with local community members involved in inter-religious dialogue in Marseille.

Camille Cordier, a Ph.D. student at the University of Lyon, who received a \$4,000 scholarship to study at the University of Chicago in the spring quarter under the mentorship of Paul Cheney.

Jennifer Harris, a Ph.D. student in Art History, received a Sciences Po Exchange Fellowship in the amount of \$14,000 to support her research at the Institut des Etudes Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po).

Nida Paracha, a Ph.D. student in Anthropology, received a François Furet Travel Grant in the amount of \$3,000 to support her dissertation research efforts and in-person interviews, and to assist integration with networks of European scholars.



Above: The French National Archives in Pierrefitte-sur-Seine, where Jeanne Sorin conducted PhD dissertation research.

Right: Documentation consulted at the French National Archives. Both photos by Jeanne Sorin.

Niklas Plaetzer, a Ph.D. student in Political Science, received an EHESS Exchange Fellowship in the amount of \$14,000 to support his research at EHESS, meet with important scholars in the field, and broaden understanding of understanding of the French historiography of 19th-century republican cosmopolitanism.

Kelsey Rooney, an Ph.D. student in Anthropology, received a François Furet Travel Grant in the amount of \$3,000 to support her research on French overseas activity in Senegal (and the surrounding coastal regions) between 1588 and 1810 at the Archives nationales d'outre-mer (ANOM) in Aix-en-Provence.

Jeanne Sorin, a Ph.D. student in Economics, received a François Furet Travel Grant in the amount of \$3,000 to support her research at the French National Archives, in Pierrefitte-sur-Seine on “coordination policy” as it pertains to railroad transportation in the early and mid 20th centuries.

Stephanie Strother, a Ph.D. student in Art History, received a François Furet Travel Grant in the amount of \$3,000 to support her research on the Atelier Martine, which was conducted at several libraries, archives, and museums both in and outside of Paris.

Soline Vennetier, a PhD candidate in Paris, came to Chicago under the auspices of the EHESS Exchange Fellowship Program to conduct dissertation research in the Department of Comparative Human Development.

*Right: IMEC
(Institut
Mémoires de
l'édition
contemporaine)
near Caen, where
Arwa Avan
conducted
summer research*



Below: Kelsey Rooney and Université Cheik Anta Diop Masters student, Youssou Ndour, head out to collect sonar data in Senegal. Photo by Stephanie Sterling.



STUDENTS IN THE PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS

Olga Bednarek, an A.M. degree student at the Crown Family School and a dual-degree student with the Harris School of Public Policy received an FCC Internship Support Grant in the amount of \$6,000 to conduct a 6-month internship at UNESCO in Paris.

Katsuki Ishimaki, a master's degree student at the Harris School of Public Policy, received an Internship Support Grant in the amount of \$6,000 to conduct a summer internship at the International Energy Agency in Paris.

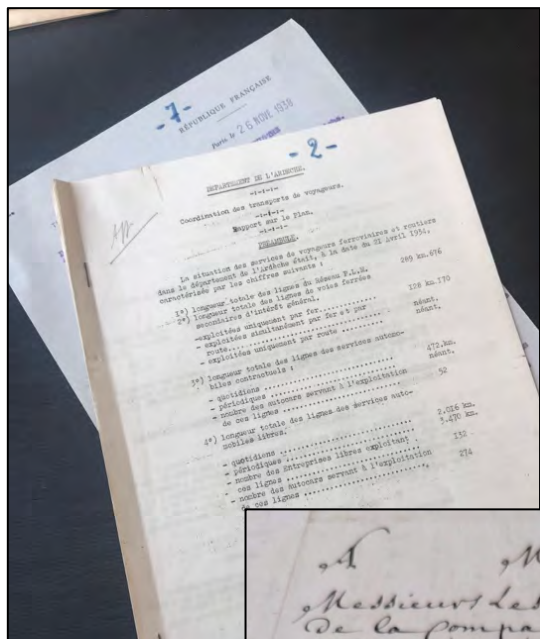
Angelika Lewis, an AM degree student at the Crown Family School, received an FCC Internship Support Grant in the amount of \$4,000 to conduct a summer internship at the *Savane des Esclaves* in Martinique and to conduct interviews with Gilbert Larose, who founded the educational and research institution under the auspices of the French Embassy in the US.

Nathalia Maya, a master's degree student at the Harris School of Public Policy, received an FCC Internship Support Grant in the amount of \$6,000 to conduct a summer internship at the OECD in Paris, where she helped map and analyze LGBT-inclusion policies in OECD member countries.

Jonas Talandis, a student at the Pritzker School of Medicine, received a François Furet Travel Grant in the amount of \$3,000 to meet with co-authors, participate in physician focus group management and support, and participate in rounds in primary care and infectious disease at three different hospitals in the Paris area.

Below: 18th-century letters from the Compagnie royale du Sénégal in the Archives national d'outre mer regarding trade in Western Africa. Photo by Kelsey Rooney.

Left: Early 20th-century archival material on train schedules consulted by Jeanne Sorin



Right: The seal on a letter from the mid-18th century in the Archives national d'outre mer regarding trade around Senegal. Photo by Kelsey Rooney.

IMPACT QUOTES

Excerpted from final reports submitted by students who received an FCC fellowship and travel grant.
All final reports are reproduced in full in Appendix 2

“Without doubt, the professional contacts I made (professors and curators) were a highlight of the trip and will continue to serve me well over the course of my dissertation. Each person with whom I met offered a wealth of suggestions for further archives, books, and scholars to consult and very generously offered to remain in touch with me and to be of further assistance as needed.”

Stephanie Strother
Ph.D. student in Art History

“...spending time at the archives and digging into policy notes, laws, reports, minutes of municipal councils, etc. was extremely insightful and shed light on aspects of my research not often discussed in the Economics discipline.”

Jeanne Sorin
Ph.D. student in Economics

“During my time in Martinique, I gained not only a better historical and contextual understanding of the people currently inhabiting the island, but also learned about the ways neighboring islands like St. Vincent (where my maternal grandmother is from) were involved in enslaved and indigenous peoples’ struggles for liberation.”

Angelika Lewis
A.M. student at the Crown Family School

“The highlight of my experience was viewing drawings by Emile Gallé and Emile Reiber in the archives at the Museum des Arts Décoratifs. I was free to look at the drawings all morning long—and was able to take detailed notes about each of them. I discovered important elements of the drawings that I had not noticed before, including the use of layering of watercolor and the use of empty space. A majority of the drawings have not been digitized, so they were only accessible by visiting the museum.”

Jessie Alperin
Ph.D. student in Art History

“Spending the summer in Paris with the generous support of the François Furet Travel Grant allowed me to become intimately acquainted with the city of Paris, its archives, and its surroundings, which has greatly helped me in pursuing research directions relevant to my thesis.”

Navid Mazidabadifarhani
B.A. student in History

“[During my internship at the OECD], I acquired invaluable insights into inclusive policies across various contexts and identified best practices for antidiscrimination in European countries that could be adapted for different minority groups in this region.”

Nathalia Maya
MA student at the Harris School

“My time in Paris has profoundly enriched my understanding of the French historiography of 19th-century republican cosmopolitanism, which will shape my research for years to come... Access to rare documents at the BNF and discussions with French colleagues, including Professor Hayat and doctoral students at EHESS, have significantly contributed to the evolution of my research.”

Niklas Plaetzer
Ph.D. student in Political Science

“My trip to France was intellectually generative in ways that I did not imagine it would be. The conference that I helped organize and participated in and the archival work were critical in broadening my intellectual horizons and deepening the focus of my research. They also enabled interactions with Europe and France-based scholars working around my research interests, which provided a new perspective on my work, and [will] enrich my research going forward.”

Arwa Awan
Ph.D. student in Political Science

THE HUMAN & SOCIAL SCIENCES

FCC's activities in the human and social sciences are as broad as they are diverse. The pages that follow summarize FCC-supported and organized initiatives (visiting scholars, colloquia, public lectures, workshops, and *La Nuit des Idées*—a major collaboration with the French Office of Cultural and Artistics Services at the Consulate of France in Chicago) that took place during the 2023-24 academic year.

VISITING SCHOLARS AND AUTHORS

Daniel Benemouzig (Sciences Po), September 2023, hosted by Jeanne Marsh (Crown Family School, CHAS).

Robin Mitchell (University at Buffalo), October 2023, hosted by the Interdisciplinary Workshop of France and the Francophone World (RLL).

Mohamed Sarr (Contemporary Author), November 2023, hosted Khalid Lyamlahy (RLL).

Henri-François Désérable (contemporary author), November 2023, hosted by Alison James (RLL).

Justine Lévêque (Champs-Élysées Film Festival) November 2023, hosted by Sylvie Goutas, Etienne Labbouz, and Alice McLean (RLL).

Radhika Koul (Claremont McKenna College), February 2023, Hosted by Larry Norman (RLL).

Rafe Blaufarb (Florida State University), February 2024, hosted by the Interdisciplinary Workshop of France and the Francophone World (RLL).

Jennifer Tamas (Rutgers University) February 2024, hosted by Pauline Goul (RLL).

John D. Garrigus, (University of Texas, Dept. of History), April 2024, hosted by Paul Cheney (History).

Dominique Charpin (Collège de France), April 2024, hosted by Hervé Reculeau (NELC, ISAC)

Nele Ziegler (CNRS), April 2024, hosted by Hervé Reculeau (NELC, ISAC).

Anne Cheng (Collège de France), May 2024, hosted by Haun Saussy (Comparative Literature).

Constance Debré (Author), May 2024, hosted by the Renaissance Society.

Yann Robert (UIC), May 2023, hosted by hosted by the Interdisciplinary Workshop of France and the Francophone World (RLL).



Top: Dominique Charpin (Collège de France) on April 17, 2024
Above: Islands of Scale Conference. April 19, 2024

COLLOQUIA & PUBLIC LECTURES

2023 University of Chicago-Sciences Po Workshop on Health Policy Innovation and Reform, a two-day workshop organized by Jeanne Marsh (Crown Family School) and Daniel Benemouzig (Sciences Po). September 21-22, 2023, at the Crown Family School for Social Work, Policy, and Practice.

The Wear and Tear of a World, a Journey through Iran, with the author, François-Henri Désérable in conversation with Alison James (RLL). Nov. 13, 2023, Classics Building.

“African Writers & the Politics of Literary Recognition,” a lecture by Madeline Bedecarré (Bowdoin College). January 9, 2024, in Wieboldt #205.

“The Not-So-Simple *nomination des choses*: Pastoral, Place, and Paratexts in Senghorian poetry,” a lecture by Amber Bal (Cornell University). January 12, 2024, in Wieboldt #205.

“Ousman Sembène and the Drums of Interpellation,” a lecture by Akrish Adhikari (Princeton University). January 16, 2024, in Wieboldt #205.

“Croaking Frogs and Singing Youth: When the Francophone Novel Meets Sèga Engagé,” a lecture by Nikhita Obeegadoo (University of British Columbia). January 19, 2024, in Wieboldt #205.

17th Century France and the Question of Modernity, a lecture by Radhika Koul (Claremont McKenna College). February 15, 2024, at 12:00 noon, in Wieboldt Hall #205.

The Night of Ideas, organized by the Office of Cultural and Artistic Services at the Consulate of France in Chicago. February 28, from 5:00 pm to 10:00 pm at the Architecture Foundation downtown.

Reading Consent: The French Canon through the Female Gaze, a lecture by Jennifer Tamas (Rutgers University). February 29, at 4:30 pm, at the Franke Institute for the Humanities.

Tropical Marxism: Rethinking Marxism in the Shadow of Empire, a two-day conference organized by Jennifer Pitts (Political Science). March 1-2, 2024, at the University of Chicago’s John W. Boyer Center in Paris.

Atelier Franco-Américain, one-day *journée d’étude* organized by Pauline Goul. March 20 at the Newberry Library.

Epigraphic Discoveries in Southern Iraq, 2015-2023, a lecture by Dominique Charpin (Collège de France). 7:00 pm at the Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures (ISAC).

Islands of Scale: Forms of Globality in the French Antilles, a one-day conference organized by Paul Cheney (History). April 19, 2024, in the John Hope Franklin Room in the Social Sciences Research Building.

Judaism and the Politics of Minority Identity: The Case of Post-war France, a lecture by Sarah Hammerschlag (Divinity School). May 2, 2024, in the Swift Hall Third Floor Lecture Room.

Discussion with French author, Constance Debré. May 21, 2024, in Classics #110.

Around Henry Threadgill, a one-day conference organized by Alexandre Pierrepont. May 22, 2024, at the University of Chicago’s John W. Boyer Center in Paris.

Montesquieu in Asia/Asia in Montesquieu, a panel discussion with Anne Cheng (Collège de France) and Haun Saussy (NELC). May 30, 2024, at 4:00 pm in the Social Science Research Building’s Tea Room (#201).

Albert Béguin, littérature et résistance, a two-day conference organized by Françoise Meltzer and Thomas Pavel. June 6-7, 2024, at the University of Chicago’s John W. Boyer Center in Paris.

Lilian Giraudon, Fragments polyphoniques, a two-day workshop organized by Léon Pradeau (RLL). June 13-14, 2024, at the University of Chicago’s John W. Boyer Center in Paris.

ISLANDS OF SCALE: FORMS OF GLOBALITY IN THE FRENCH ANTILLES

KEYNOTE BY
JOHN D. GARRIGUS

PANELS FEATURING
PAUL CHENEY
CAMILLE CORDIER
OLIVER CUSSEN
DEIRDRE LYONS
RACHEL SARCEVIC-TESANOVIC
RACHEL TILS

FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 2024, 9:00AM-6:00PM
JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN ROOM, 1126 E. 59TH ST.

SPONSORED BY
**THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY, THE FRANKE INSTITUTE FOR
THE HUMANITIES, THE CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES,
THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF RACE, POLITICS, AND CULTURE,
THE FRANCE CHICAGO CENTER, AND THE COMMITTEE ON
ENVIRONMENT, GEOGRAPHY AND URBANIZATION**

INTERDISCIPLINARY WORKSHOP ON FRANCE & THE FRANCOPHONE WORLD

Robin Mitchell (University at Buffalo, Department of History and Africana and American Studies) presented her paper entitled “Suzanne Simon Baptiste Louverture, A Microbiography: The ‘Wife of’ and Other Such Nonsense.” October 6, 2023, in the John Hope Franklin Room, SSRB

Nicholas O’Neill (UChicago, Department of History) presented his paper entitled “Scientists, Spies, Artisans, and the State: (Re)Inventing Porcelain in France.” October 13, 2023, in Rosenwald #301

Arthur Clement (UChicago, Department of History) presented his paper entitled: “Instituting the Sciences of Religion as Reinforcement to the Laïque Social Bond.” November 3, 2023, in Rosenwald #301.

Alison James (UChicago, Department of Romance Languages & Literatures) presented her paper entitled “Biofiction Against History.” November 10, 2023, in Rosenwald #015

Peadar Kavanagh (Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Romance Languages & Literatures) presented his dissertation chapter entitled: “Relation curieuse de l’Île de Bornéo: Fontenelle’s Curious Response to the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes (1685).” December 8, 2023, in Rosenwald #015

Léon Pradeau (Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Romance Languages & Literatures) presented his dissertation chapter. January 26, 2023, in Rosenwald #015.

Leila K. Blackbird (Ph.D. Candidate, Department of History) presented her dissertation chapter entitled: “Baptized Only with Fear and Trembling”: French Settler Colonialism in the Lower Mississippi Valley, 1682-1729.” February 2, 2024, in Cobb Hall #319.

Rafe Blaufarb (Florida State University, Professor, Department of History) led a lecture/discussion entitled “Cahiers de doléances.” February 16, 2024, in the Social Sciences Tea Room, SSRB #201.

Jennifer Tamas (Rutgers University, Associate Professor, Department of French) presented her paper entitled “Peut-on encore être galant?” March 1, 2024, in the Social Sciences Tea Room, SSRB #201.

Yuting Cai (UChicago, PhD Student in Romance Languages & Literatures) presented a dissertation chapter entitled: “Living Among Things: The Intersubjective Poetics of Francis Ponge in *Le parti pris des choses*.” April 5, 2024, in the Social Sciences Tea Room, SSRB #201.

Michèle Lowrie (UChicago, Andrew W. Mellon Distinguished Professor in Classics and in the College) and **Barbara Vinken** (Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich, Professor of Comparative Literature) led a discussion on their paper entitled: “Carmen: Law and Sacrifice in *Merimée* and *Bizet*.” April 12, 2024, in the Social Sciences Tea Room, SSRB #201

Lou Gargouri (UChicago, PhD Candidate in Romance Languages and Literatures) presented her dissertation chapter entitled: “Unlocking and Overcoming Family History through Embodied Testimonies in *Gardiennes* by Fanny Cabin.” May 3, 2024, in the Social Sciences Tea Room, SSRB #201.

Yann Robert (UIC, Associate Professor of French) presented his paper entitled: “The September Massacres: From Vigilantism to Social Banditry.” May 17, 2024, in the Social Sciences Tea Room, SSRB #201.



SCENES FROM THE NIGHT OF IDEAS

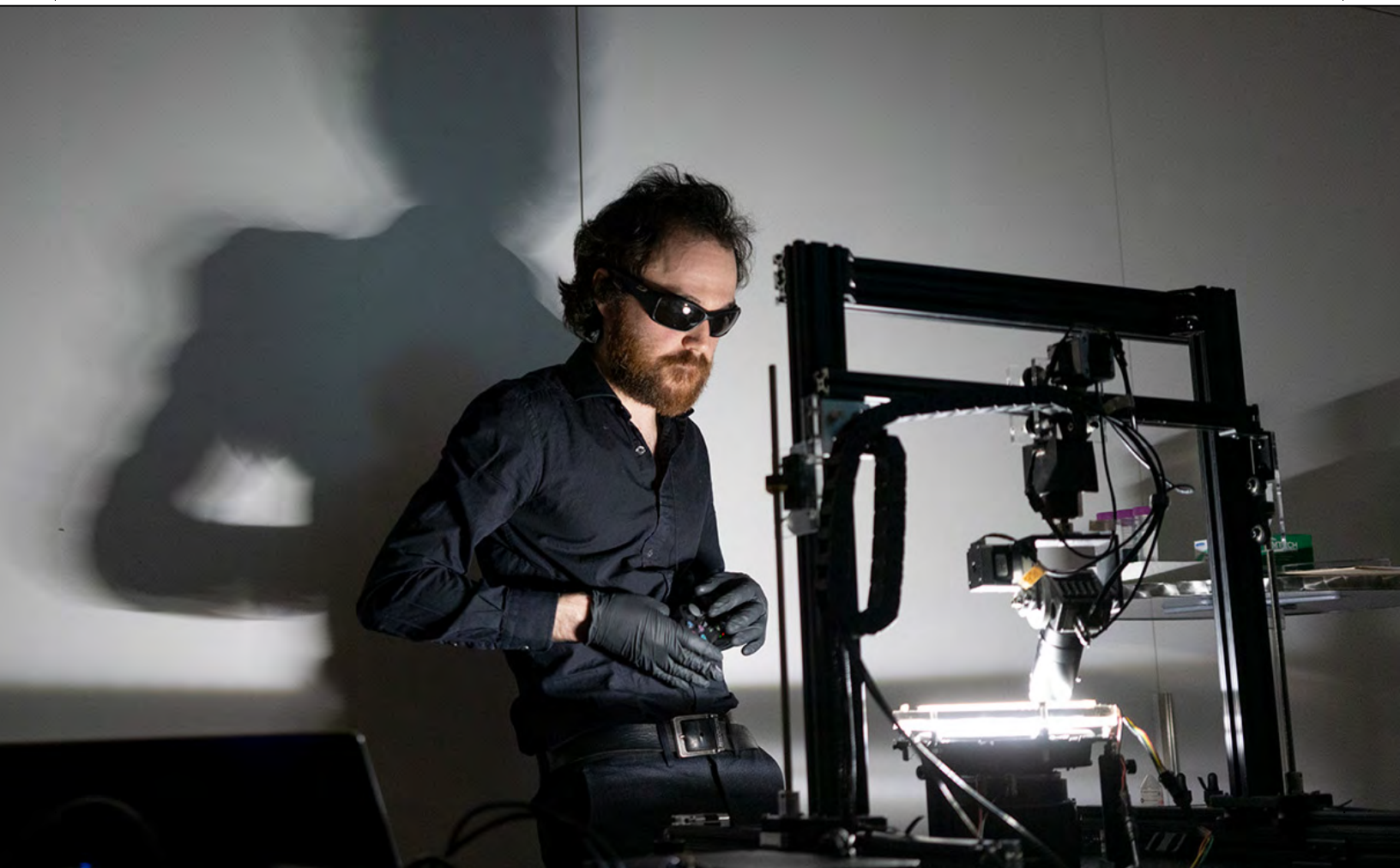
Top left: Exhibition Systems by ChartierDalix, Villa Albertine Resident in fall 2023

Top right: Staged reading of Back Home, a play about a pan-African intergenerational family living in South Shore

Left: The Ball Theater (CRESSON lab and Studio MUOTO)

Below: Water Organoids. Baudoin Saintyves (UChicago) performing.

(All photos by Julien Chatelin)



THE ARTS

In addition to promoting intellectual and scholarly exchange, FCC is also committed to fostering a dynamic UChicago artistic environment with a distinctly French flavor and to increasing awareness within our community of France's many contributions in the arts. To that end, working with our many partners, FCC organizes and sponsors a range of artistic programming and events. Our activities in this area during the 2023-24 academic year are summarized below.



*Le Consort in concert at the Logan Center for the Arts on January 9, 2024.
(photo by Yuanjian Liu)*

MUSICAL PERFORMANCES

A Journey Through the Baroque Period, the Chicago premier of the Paris-based early music ensemble, Le Consort. Organized in conjunction with UChicago Presents. January 9, 2024, at the Logan Center Performance Hall.

CHIMEFest: lovemusic, a performance by a collective of musicians specialized in new music based in Strasbourg, France of works by Hosiem, Gísladóttir, Luck, Eimermacher, Bird, and Languillat. February 2, 2024, at the Logan Center Performance Penthouse.

The Bridge, #2.6: Cancel Rescue Mission, a performance by Corey Wilkes (trumpet, electronics), Quentin Biarreau (tenor saxophone, synthesizer), Justin Dillard (keyboards), and Etienne Ziemniak (drums). November 12, 2023, in the Performance Penthouse at the Logan Center for the Arts.

The Bridge: #2.10 a performance by Nick Mazarella (alto saxophone), Céline Rivoal (accordion), Tim Stine (guitar), and Sylvain Lemêtre (percussion). April 17, 2024, in the Performance Penthouse at the Logan Center for the Arts. This performance was preceded by a public workshop led by Nick Mazarella for student members of the University of Chicago jazz ensembles.

DOC FILMS COLLABORATION

Americans in Paris: After the Dance

Programmed by Etienne Labbouz

Paris—the City of Light—has been a beacon for expats following the steps of those who exalted it as the cradle for artistic and intellectual expansion, among which the birth of cinema was included.

When twirling cheek to cheek, France and the U.S. outshine the silver screen. Josephine Baker shuffled her “*danse sauvage*,” Gene Kelly tapped his tap, and Marlon Brando tangoed with (an exploited) Maria Schneider. A mesmerized audience hungry for American-touched entertainment was introduced to commercial musicals, erotic exoticization, and subjugation—all posing as liberation and progress.

The twist this series puts on the topic aims to account for that moment when the lights go up, the music stops, the rose tint fades, and it’s time to face your dance partner. Unlike the problematic films referenced above, it seeks to recount the lesser-told narratives of characters who were twice outsiders—as Americans in Paris and as marginalized citizens.

In this series, films from the long decolonizing ‘60s and the globalized 21st century inform each other about the evolution of issues of class, race, and gender as evils of the Western world. Did Jane Fonda and Audrey Hepburn lead the way for Kristen Stewart and Kirsten Dunst to unravel the meshes of their identity, their socio-political duty? Is the romance and glamour of Paris still driving Americans toward a devouring passion, dancing them to the end of love? At whose expense, and at what cost, came the freedom that African Americans James Baldwin and Melvin Van Peebles sought in Paris? Come find out, and bring all the Emilys you know.”

Stills from Trouble Every Day (above), and from Charade (below)



Charade (1963)

Stanley Donen

113 minutes, 35 mm, March 19, 2024

Paris Belongs to Us (1961)

Jacques Rivette

141 minutes, DCP, March 26, 2024

Meeting the Man: James Baldwin (1970)

Terence Dixon, 26 minutes, DCP and

The Story of a Three-Day Pass (1976)

Melvin Van Peebles, 87 minutes, DCP

April 2, 2024

Simon Killer (2012)

Antonio Campos

105 minutes, DCP, April 9, 2024

Marie Antoinette (2006)

Sofia Coppola,

123 minutes, DCP, April 16, 2024

Where Are You, Polly Maggoo? (1966)

William Klein,

101 minutes, DCP, April 23, 2024

Personal Shopper (11016)

Olivier Assayas

105 minutes, DCP, April 30 and May 3, 2024

Trouble Every Day (2001)

Claire Denis,

101 minutes, 35 mm, May 7, 2024

Tout va bien (1972)

Jean-Luc Godard and Jean-Pierre Gorin

96 minutes, DCP, May 14, 2024





CHAMPS-ELYSEES FILM FESTIVAL

With leadership from Sylvie Goutas, Etienne Labbouz, and Alice McLean, the France Chicago Center worked with the French Language Section, the Humanities Collegiate Division, The French Club, and the Cultural Services of the French Consulate in Chicago to assure the success of the 5th annual UChicago Champs-Élysées Film Festival, which took place from November 3-8, 2023. This year's festival featured:

- an opening event with screenings of two medium-length films—*Les Chenilles* and *Mimide Douarnenez*, followed by Q&A led by Justine Lévêque (Nov. 3)
- a presentation on French culture and cinema by Justine Lévêque for students in two sections of French 201 and one section of French 206 (Nov. 6)
- a public screening of 7 short films, listed below, followed by a raffle, Q&A led by Etienne Labbouz, and voting for the Chicago Prize for best short film (Nov. 8)
- Conferring of the Chicago Prize (\$750) for best short film to Anne Steffens for *Shake-up*.

Later in the quarter, directors of the two short films that ranked highest in the voting (Anne Steffens and Sarah-Anaïs Desbenoit) participated in 30-minute Zoom sessions with students in Sylvie Goutas's French 206 section.

Les Chenilles, Michelle & Noel Keserwany (30 min)
Mimide de Douarnenez, Sébastien Betbeder (39 min)

Shake Up, Anne Steffens (21 min)
La Saison pourpre, Clémence Bouchereau (10 min)
Phalène, Sarah-Anaïs Desbenoit (19 min)
Pacific Club, Valentin Noujaïm (24 min)
Adieu les copains, Lawrence Valin (13 min)
L'Esquisse, Tomas Cali (9 min)
Christopher at Sea, Tom CJ Brown (20min)

Stills from 5 of the 7 short films screened on November 8, 2023.
From top to bottom, L'esquisse, Christopher at Sea, La Saison Pourpre, Phalène, and Shake Up

CAMPUS VISIT BY DAVY CHOU

In conjunction with Villa Albertine, and in partnership with the Office of Cultural and Artistic Services of the Consulate of France in Chicago and Doc Films, the France Chicago Center hosted director Davy Chou on the UChicago campus on February 14-15, 2024. In conjunction with this visit, his critically acclaimed film, *Return to Seoul*, was screened at Max Palevesky Cinema, followed by a Q&A session with the director.

LOVEMUSIC RESIDENCY

The France Chicago Center was a major sponsor of the Chicago the weeklong residency by lovemusic, a Strasbourg-based chamber music collective specializing in contemporary classical music. The residency, organized and facilitated by David Bird, included extended workshops and rehearsal periods that provided UChicago students with hands-on experience and feedback on their compositions and instrumental practices. They also conducted student composer workshops and delivered lectures in both undergraduate and graduate composition classes, including MUSI 261: Introduction to Composition and MUSI 341: Graduate Composition Seminar. As a public capstone to this residency, they showcased their electroacoustic repertoire at CHIME Studio's CHIMEFest concert on February 2, 2024, and at a public concert on February 7, 2024, that featured the premieres of five new compositions by graduate and undergraduate students.

OPENING PASSAGES

FCC was a major sponsor of *Opening Passages*, an ambitious multi-site photography exhibition that featured works by 10 photographers, each responding in their own way to Chicago and Paris. The central exhibition was held at the Chicago Cultural Center (downtown), with satellite exhibits at Build Chicago (West Side), the Experimental Station (South Side), the Salt Shed (Goose Island) and 6018 North (Edgewater). The exhibit ran in the spring and summer of 2024.



THE SCIENCES

FACCTS

FACCTS (France and Chicago Collaborating in the Sciences), France Chicago Center's flagship program in the sciences, offers seed-grant funding ranging from \$7,500 to \$50,000 in support of teams of scientists in Chicago and in France. In this way, the program encourages their collaborative research by funding their early-stage efforts. Since the program's inception in 2008, FACCTS has received 364 applications and disbursed 219 awards totaling \$3,731,617. Because of the role that graduate students play in conducting research, FACCTS is also a major driver of transatlantic student mobility, facilitating research stays conducted by more than 150 Ph.D. students working in partner host labs. FACCTS-sponsored research expands and deepens networks between the University of Chicago and a host of institutions in France, has generated more than 500 joint publications, and has resulted in more than \$50,000,000 in subsequent federal funding secured. Our 2024 call for proposals generated 29 applications, 16 of which received grant support commitments totalling \$402,750. See Appendix 1 on page 25 for more information.

Michael Glotzer (Molecular Genetics & Cellular Biology) and **Anne Royou** (University of Bordeaux, CNRS, IBGC, UMR 5095) received a \$15,000 grant in support of their collaboration entitled "Mechanistic Dissection of Asymmetric Cell Division."

Paschalis Kratsios (Neurobiology) and **Berangère Pinan-Lucarre** (University of Lyon1, INSERM U1314, CNRS UMR5284) received a \$20,000 grant in support of their collaboration entitled "Dissecting the Molecular Mechanisms of Synapse Formation in the Nematode *C. Elegans*."

Margaret Gardel (Physics, Molecular Engineering and Molecular Genetics and Cell Biology) and **Aleksandra Walczak** (ENS Paris, CNRS) received a \$50,000 grant in support of their collaboration entitled "CNRS-UChicago Collaborations to Catalyze Leadership of Biological Physics Community."

Aaron Calderon (Mathematics) and **Anton Zorich** (Institute of Mathematics Paris Diderot (Jussieu)) received a \$8,250 grant in support of their collaboration entitled "Surfaces, Ribbon Graphs, and Counting Problems."

Nick Feamster (Computer Science) and **Francesco Bronzino** (ENS Lyon, CNRS) received a \$15,000 grant in support of their collaboration entitled "Generative AI Techniques for High-Fidelity Network Traffic Traces."

Ian Foster (Computer Science) and **Loris Marchal** (ENS Lyon, CNRS) received a \$14,000 grant in support of their collaboration entitled: "Smart Scheduling in Serverless Environments: Unveiling the Role of Data in Performance and Resilience."



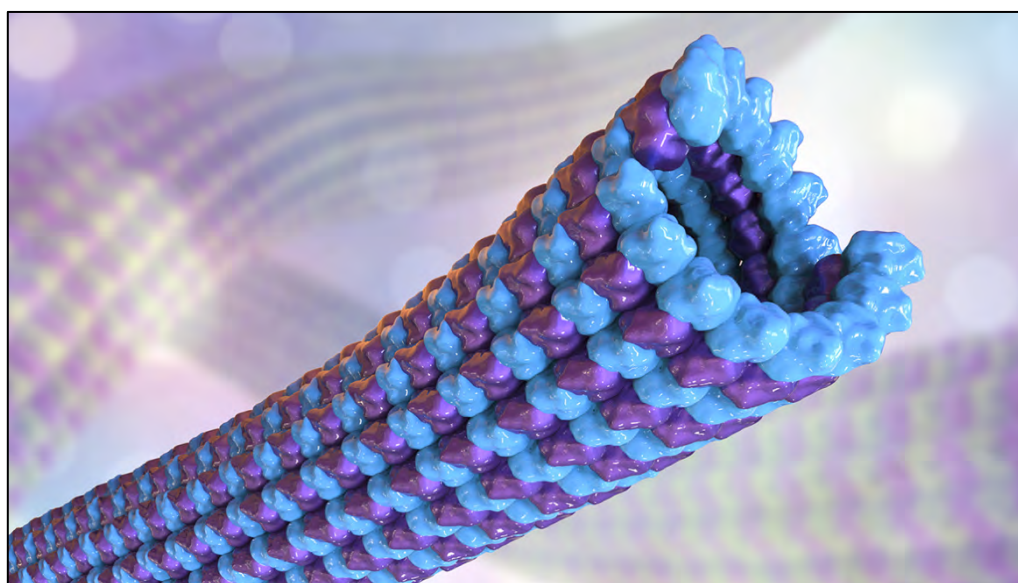
FACCTS-Recipient, Margaret Gardel, in her laboratory

Peter Littlewood (Physics) and **Benoit Fauque** (Collège de France, Institut de Physique, CNRS, JEIP) received a \$15,000 grant in support of their collaboration entitled “Can We Understand the Mechanism for Superconductivity in SrTiO₃ ?”

Harley Katz (Astronomy & Astrophysics) and **Karl Joakim Rosdahl** (CNRS, Centre de Recherche Astrophysique de Lyon) received a \$20,000 grant in support of their collaboration entitled “Simulating Cosmic Dawn.”

Gregory Voth (Chemistry) and **Delphine Muriaux** (University of Montpellier, CNRS) received a \$17,500 grant in support of their collaboration entitled “Integrated Multiscale Modeling and Experimental Imaging Applied to Viral Evolution.”

Junchao Zhang (Argonne) and **Pierre Jolivet** (Sorbonne Université, CNRS, LIP6) received a \$40,000 grant in support of their collaboration entitled “PETSc for Exascale Computing on Aurora and Beyond.”



A computational model of a cellular microtubule generated by the Voth laboratory.

Edwin Kite (Geophysical Sciences) and **Nicolas Mangold** (CNRS-LPG, (Laboratoire de Planétologie et Géosciences) received a \$17,000 grant in support of their collaboration entitled “Reading the Records of an Ancient Planetary Climate Transformation using Mars Rovers, Mars Orbiters, and Models.”

Daniel Abraham (Argonne) and **Arnaud Demortière** (University of Picardie, Jules Verne, France.) received a \$40,000 grant in support of their collaboration entitled “Visualizing Metal Deposition and Dissolution Processes in Anode-Free Lithium Batteries using Operando X-ray and Microscopy Techniques.”

Liantao Wang (Physics) and **Raffaele-Tito D’Agnolo** (l’Ecole Normale Supérieure, CEA, IPhT, Saclay) received a \$20,000 grant in support of their collaboration entitled “Cosmological Solutions to the Hierarchy Problem, and their Experimental Tests.”

Alexandra Worden (Geophysical Sciences) and **Anne-Claire Baudoux** (Station Biologique de Roscoff, Sorbonne University) received a \$36,000 grant in support of their collaboration entitled “Biological Mechanisms Behind Export of Abundant Open-Ocean Phytoplankton to the Deep Sea.”

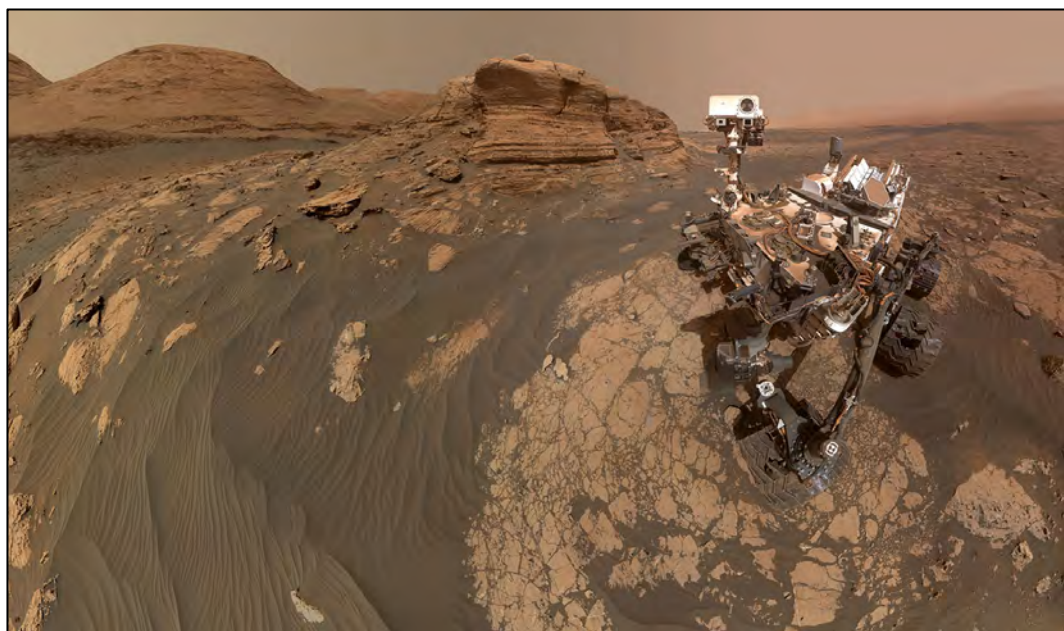
Heinrich Jaeger (Physics) and **Severine Atis** (CNRS, Institut Pprime, Section 10) received a \$25,000 grant in support of their collaboration entitled “Training in Soft Adaptive Networks in the Presence of Hydrodynamic Stresses.”

Raphael Cervantes (Fermilab) and **Patrice Bertet** (CEA Saclay) received a \$20,000 grant in support of their collaboration entitled “Photon Counting in a Magnetic Field to Accelerate Axion Dark Matter Searches.”

Ahmed Farghaly (Argonne) and **Frédéric Jaouen** (CNRS, Institute of Molecular Chemistry and Materials Sciences of Montpellier) received a \$30,000 grant in support of their collaboration entitled “Accelerated Discovery of Metal Aerogel/MOF Cathode and Anode Catalysts for Fuel Cells and CO₂ Electrolyzers: A High-Throughput Approach.”

See Appendix 1 on page 25 for more detail on each project.

Self-portrait by the Curiosity rover on the surface of Mars (NASA/JPL/MSSS). FACCTS recipient Edwin Kite is a Participating Scientist on the Curiosity rover science team.



CNRS RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP

As part of its ongoing commitment to deepening relations between the University of Chicago and the CNRS, The France Chicago Center provides a mobility stipend to one UChicago PhD student participating in the activities of a host lab in France undertaken under the auspices of the UChicago-CNRS Research Partnership.

In the context of this commitment, this year FCC supported the partnership between **Junhong Chen** (PME) and **Arlette Vega**

Gonzales (LSPM, CNRS) that focuses on water decontamination techniques by providing transatlantic travel funding to UChicago Ph.D. student, **Yuqin Wang**, for her various research stays at the Laboratoire des Sciences des Procédés et des Matériaux in Villetaneuse in France. FCC will continue to provide similar support over the next two years.

As part of the agreement, CNRS is financing French Ph.D. student, **Rendy Prastiko**, during his various research stays in the Chen lab on the UChicago campus.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY¹

REVENUE

Endowment Revenue ²	\$170,400
Unrestricted Support from University of Chicago Units ³	\$52,000
Programmatic Support from University of Chicago Units ⁴	\$198,300
Programmatic Support from National Laboratories ⁵	\$99,500
Programmatic Support from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs ⁶	\$20,000
Programmatic Support from the French Ministry of Higher Education & Research ⁷	\$41,600
Programmatic Support from Private Donors ⁸	\$92,500
Total.....	\$674,300

EXPENDITURES

Student Mobility ⁹	\$90,500
Collaborative Research in the Sciences (FACCTS) ¹⁰	\$395,200
Scholarly Visits and Events ¹¹	\$97,400
Initiatives in the Arts ¹²	\$39,200
Outreach ¹³	\$7,500
Administrative Expenses ¹⁴	\$49,800
Total.....	\$679,600

¹ This financial summary was finalized prior to the end of fiscal year 2024. For that reason, some figures are based on projections. All figures are rounded to the nearest hundreds.

² FCC endowment value as of 3/31/24 was \$3,499,9360. The payout formula is determined by the University of Chicago Board of Trustees.

³ This figure includes unrestricted support from the Harris School of Public Policy, the Division of the Humanities, the Division of the Social Sciences, the School of Social Service Administration, and the Divinity School.

⁴ This figure includes contributions from units in support of: FACCTS, The Collège de France Exchange initiative, The UChicago-Bridge collaboration, conference support, the EHESS Exchange Fellowships, and the Workshop on Interdisciplinary Approaches to France and the Francophone World.

⁵ Includes contributions to FACCTS-supported initiatives by Argonne National Laboratory and Fermilab National Accelerator Laboratory.

⁶ A financial contribution from the Office of Sciences and Technology at the French Embassy in support of FACCTS

⁷ For support of FCC's student mobility initiatives (\$21,000) and FACCTS (\$19,100)

⁸ Includes contributions to the FACCTS program by members of FCC's Support Council in the Sciences (Confrères).

⁹ Included in this figure are: 5 fellowships (\$35,500), 9 Research Travel Grants (\$27,000), and 10 Summer Internship Support Travel Grants (\$28,000). Excludes all student mobility funded through the FACCTS Program.

¹⁰ See appendix 1 for more detail

¹¹ 15 visiting scholars; 7 colloquia; 13 graduate workshop sessions; 11 public lectures. Excludes visiting researchers funded through the FACCTS program

¹² Includes support of the Iovemus residency (February), the performance by Le Consort (January), the Americans-in-Paris Doc Films collaboration (spring quarter), Champs-Élysées Film Festival-Chicago (November), the UChicago-Bridge Collaboration (November and April), the campus visit by Dany Chou (February), and the city-wide photo exhibition Opening Passages

¹³ Support of Night of Ideas 2024 (February)

¹⁴ Includes salary and benefits for 1 half-time administrator, 2 student workers, and supplies, services, and business travel costs.

APPENDIX 1

Summary of FACCTS application pool and award recipients by discipline, list of partner institutions, and abstracts of collaborations supported

Total FACCTS Applications Received	29
Applications from Faculty Members in the Physical Sciences (PSD)*	15
Applications from Faculty Members in the Biological Sciences (BSD)*	5
Application for Multidisciplinary Initiative (PSD, BSD, PME)	1
Applications from Researchers at Argonne National Laboratory (ANL)	5
Application from Researchers at Fermilab National Accelerator Laboratory (FNAL)	3
 Total Funding Requested	 \$833,333
Total Requested by PSD Faculty	\$370,350
Total Requested by BSD Faculty	\$143,000
Multidisciplinary Initiative (PSD, BSD, PME) IRC Discovery	\$60,000
Total Requested by Researchers at ANL	\$190,000
Total Requested by Researchers at FNAL	\$69,983
 Total Number of FACCTS Grants Awarded	 17
Recipients in PSD	10
Recipients in BSD	2
Recipient of Multidisciplinary (PSD, BSD, PME) Award	1
Recipients at ANL	3
Recipient at Fermilab	1
 Total Funding Allocated to FACCTS Projects in 2024	 \$402,750
Allocated to Projects in PSD	\$187,750
Allocated to Projects in BSD	\$35,000
Multidisciplinary Initiative (PSD, BSD, PME) through IRC Discovery*	\$50,000
Allocated to the ANL-Based Projects	\$110,000
Allocated to the Fermilab-Based Project	\$20,000
 Average Amount of Each Request	 \$28,736
Average Amount of Each Award	\$23,691
 Contributions of FACCTS Partners & Stakeholders	
Argonne National Laboratory	\$110,000
Members of the France Chicago Center Support Council in the Sciences (<i>Confrères</i>)	\$68,750
Office of the Provost of the University of Chicago	\$30,000
Division of the Physical Sciences	\$30,000
Division of the Biological Sciences	\$30,000
France Chicago Center	\$25,000
Pritzker School for Molecular Engineering	\$25,000
French Ministry of Higher Education, Research, and Innovation	\$21,500
Office of Science and Technology at the Embassy of France in Washington	\$20,000
Fermilab National Accelerator Laboratory	\$20,000
Office of Science, Innovation, National Laboratories, and Global Initiatives (SING)	\$15,000
PSL University	\$7,500
Total	\$402,750

PHYSICAL SCIENCES

Biological Mechanisms Behind Export of Abundant Open-Ocean Phytoplankton to the Deep Sea

Chicago PI:Alexandra Worden (Geo. Sci.)
PI in France:Anne-Claire Baudoux
Award Amount:\$36,000

Abstract: Marine algae are responsible for ~half of global primary production and the fate of the algal biomass produced by this uptake of CO₂ is a key factor in regulating the biosphere. Here, we will explore how viruses infecting abundant picoprasinophyte algae (cells $\leq 2 \mu\text{m}$) influence carbon sequestration and the global carbon cycle. Leveraging the remarkable diversity of picoprasinophytes housed at the Roscoff Culture Collection and viral isolates possessed by Baudoux and Worden, we will investigate biological impacts of infection on hosts, including cell adhesion and aggregation, essential factors for export of tiny cells—i.e., sequestration—and further examine these using Worden’s ongoing field programs. Collectively, our studies will illuminate the cellular biology and microbiome interactions behind export of widespread green algae to the deep sea.

This collaboration is supported in full by the Horwitz-Barreto Charitable Fund as part of the Confrères initiative.

Generative AI Techniques for High-Fidelity Network Traffic Traces

Chicago PI:Nick Feamster (Comp. Sci.)
PI in France:Francesco Bronzino
Award Amount:\$15,000

Abstract: Datasets of labeled network traces are essential for a multitude of machine learning (ML) tasks in networking. Synthetic network traces can augment existing datasets, yet existing techniques typically produce only aggregated flow statistics or a few selected packet attributes. These approaches are ineffective when model training relies on having features that are only available from packet traces. This shortfall manifests in both insufficient statistical resemblance to real traces and suboptimal performance on ML tasks when employed for data augmentation. We propose to develop generative artificial intelligence (AI) models to generate high-resolution synthetic network traffic traces. Our goal is to develop network traffic traces that have high statistical similarity to real data and improve ML model performance over current state-of-the-art approaches (e.g., GAN-based approaches).

Smart Scheduling in Serverless Environments: Unveiling the Role of Data in Performance and Resilience

Chicago PI:Ian Foster (Comp. Sci.)
PI in France:Loris Marchal
Award Amount:\$14,000

Abstract: Serverless computing is a new cloud-based computing model that enables users to submit programming functions to a cloud provider for execution without knowledge of the computing infrastructure used for execution. Serverless platforms deployed in federated environments work without central scheduling: they let the user decide where each function should run. This ease of use comes at a cost, however: load imbalances, lack of resiliency, and increased latency. We propose to create a new multi-objective scheduler for federated serverless platforms that will address the need to schedule workloads with many short-duration functions, manage data replication and placement, and consider resilience as a first-class goal. The scheduler will minimize workload execution time and improve resilience by using models of function performance, system saturation, and data locality.

Training in Soft Adaptive Networks in the Presence of Hydrodynamic Stresses

Chicago PI:Heinrich Jaeger (Physics)
PI in France:Severine Atis
Award Amount:\$25,000

Abstract: The project aims to identify coupling mechanisms between hydrodynamic stresses, adaptive network structures and growth dynamics. This unexplored direction in soft matter could lead to tailored mechanical responses and memory effects. By controlling network topology and fluid properties, we will develop artificial model systems with training properties reminiscent of biologically inspired systems. The outcomes have potential applications in the development of metamaterials that can be trained via fluid flow and elastic deformation. The interdisciplinary collaboration involves experts in hydrodynamics, biophysics, granular media, complex fluids mechanics, and robotics from the CNRS in France and the Jaeger Lab in the U.S. It proposes to extend its results to outreach efforts including public conferences as well as performances bridging physics, biology, and arts to engage a broader audience.

Simulating Cosmic Dawn

Chicago PI: Harley Katz (A & A)
PI in France: Karl Joakim Rosdahl
Award Amount: \$20,000

Abstract: The recent launch of the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) has revolutionized our understanding of the early Universe. Representing one of the largest single investments in astronomy (~\$10 billion), JWST can peer deeper into the Universe than ever before, opening a new frontier to study the properties of the first stars to form after the Big Bang. Much of the information about the first stars is encoded in the spectral signatures produced by the stars and the surrounding gas that they illuminate. Interpreting these spectral signatures represents a key theoretical challenge. The goal of this project is to combine JWST with a new generation of state-of-the-art numerical simulations to address the fundamental question of: when and how were the first stars and galaxies born?

Reading the Records of an Ancient Planetary Climate Transformation using Mars Rovers, Mars Orbiters, and Models

Chicago PI: Edwin Kite (Geo. Sci.)
PI in France: Nicolas Mangold
Award Amount: \$17,000

Abstract: Mars' surface records an ancient wet-to-dry transition: the largest known environmental catastrophe. The Mars Perseverance rover recently detected a late uptick in paleo-discharge just before the final dry-out at Perseverance's field site. Does this change in fluvial regime represent a local, regional, or global phenomenon? Is the environment recorded by the Jezero delta similar to other deltas on Mars? We will use orbiter data analysis, rover ground truth, and hydrologic and climate models to definitively solve this question. Our team combines a modeling-focused research group at UChicago that also does some data analysis, with particular expertise in Early Mars, and a world-leading Mars data analysis research group at LPG/CNRS.

This collaboration is supported in full by the Horwitz-Barreto Charitable Fund as part of the Confrères initiative.

Can We Understand the Mechanism for Superconductivity in SrTiO₃?

Chicago PI: Peter Littlewood (Physics)
PI in France: Benoit Fauqué
Award Amount: \$15,000

Abstract: SrTiO₃ is an insulating compound that when lightly doped with electrons – at the level of a single

added carrier in a million atoms – becomes a robust superconductor. It is the most dilute superconductor known. It is also on the verge of a structural instability to a state that has a macroscopic electrical polarization. The failure to order has been speculated to be due to quantum fluctuations of the material dipoles. Recent experimental and theoretical work by the proposal partners has revealed the origin of these strong fluctuations in the insulating phase, and we will now combine forces to study the doped compounds – experimentally in Paris, and with the theory component led by Chicago.

This collaboration is supported in equal parts by Daniel Weissbluth through the Confrères initiative and by the PSL University through a broader agreement linking the University of Chicago with PSL.

Integrated Multiscale Modeling and Experimental Imaging Applied to Viral Evolution

Chicago PI: Gregory Voth (Chemistry)
PI in France: Delphine Muriaux
Award Amount: \$17,500

Abstract: HIV-1 virus assembly relies on the Gag polyprotein. Self-assembly of 2000-3000 Gag proteins occurs at the plasma membrane to form a new virion. The Gag protein is linked to the plasma membrane on one side by the specific interaction of its matrix domain (MA) with PI (4,5) P2 lipids, and on the other side by its interaction, thanks to the nucleocapsid domain (NC), with the viral genomic RNA. The objectives of this project are on the virological side to identify key Gag-IRSp53 protein interaction domains that facilitate this process and to understand their kinetics of interaction during viral formation. On the computational side, the goal is to explain the experimental results through an underlying molecular-scale description, by directly connecting with the experimental data.

Cosmological Solutions to the Hierarchy Problem, and their Experimental Tests

Chicago PI: Liantao Wang (Physics)
PI in France: Raffaele-Tito D'Agnolo
Award Amount: \$20,000

Abstract: In our quest to uncover the fundamental laws of nature, a major challenge is to explain the array of vastly different scales. The mass of the Higgs boson is a major problem in this category. A second, more glaring, problem is the size of our universe, controlled by dark energy. Decades of theoretical efforts, using tools such as symmetries, have failed to yield an explanation. Here, we pursue a new direction. The origin of the Higgs mass is to be found in the early Universe and is tightly

connected to other important ingredients for its evolution, such as dark energy. We focus on ways of testing these ideas at upcoming experiments, including a suite of unique signals at terrestrial experiments, and through cosmological observables.

Surfaces, Ribbon Graphs, and Counting Problems

Chicago PI:Aaron Calderon
 PI in France:..... Anton Zorach
 Award Amount:..... \$8,250

Abstract: This project will investigate startling similarities between counts of three different types of mathematical objects: simple geodesics on hyperbolic surfaces, metric ribbon graphs, and square-tiled flat surfaces. The applicant proposes to visit the co-applicant, as well as a number of other experts in France, for a 3 to 4-week period to exchange ideas and begin collaboration. It is also proposed to bring the co-applicant and another France-based expert to Chicago, both to continue this exchange of ideas and to give seminars exposing recent and ongoing research on these phenomena.

This collaboration is supported in full by Daniel Weissbluth through the Confrères initiative

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Mechanistic Dissection of Asymmetric Cell Division

Chicago PI:Michael Glotzer (MGCB)
 Key Individual in France:Anne Royou
 Award Amount:.....\$15,000

Abstract: Cell division relies on the contractile property of an actomyosin ring anchored at the cell equator. The constriction of the ring generates a cleavage furrow, which partitions the cellular content into two daughter cells. This fundamental process requires the activity of the small GTPase Rho1 and its activator, the GEF. How the spatial control of Rho1 activity ensures robust cell division in a multitude of cell types with specific constraints is unclear. This proposal will address this question by combining the use of an optogenetic tool generated by the Glotzer lab and the use of *Drosophila* GEF mutants generated by the Royou lab to manipulate Rho1 activity in live neuroblasts and epithelial cells and analyze the consequences on cell division and tissue integrity.

Dissecting the Molecular Mechanisms of Synapse Formation in the Nematode *C. Elegans*

Chicago PI:Paschalis Kratsios
 PI in France:Bérangère Pinan-Lucarre
 Award Amount:\$20,000

Abstract: Synapses are specialized sites of cell communication that connect neurons in vast networks, thereby controlling every animal behavior. During development, synapses must be built at the right time and place, and with remarkable precision between specific cell types. Synapse formation critically relies on the activity of cell adhesion and secreted molecules, called “synapse organizers”. To date, a limited number of synapse organizers have been identified, and the transcriptional mechanisms that dictate when and where s organizers should be produced remain largely unknown, in part due to the inherent complexity of vertebrate nervous systems. This collaborative proposal leverages the specific strengths of the nematode *C. elegans* to study new synapse organizers that may play critical roles in the human brain.

IRC-DISCOVERY

CNRS-UChicago Collaborations to Catalyze Leadership of Biological Physics Community

Chicago PI:Margaret Gardel (BSD/PSD/PME)
 PI in France:Aleksandra Walczak
 Award Amount:\$50,000

Abstract: Over the past decade, FACCTS has facilitated numerous (~10) pairwise collaborations between UChicago and France-based researchers to establish nodes of excellence and international prominence in this rapidly developing field of Biological Physics. A recently funded center award at the UChicago, the Center for Living Systems (CLS), is a unique opportunity to build cohesive international leadership of ~30 research groups split evenly between Chicago and France. CLS requests FACCTS funding to establish international leadership of the Biological Physics communities at UChicago and France by: (1) mobility support for 4 new collaborations (including 1 team of junior faculty) of teams that have not previously received FACCTS funding and (2) mobility support for 2025 workshop in 2025 for ~50 CLS-France researchers to build a plan for forthcoming years.

ARGONNE NATIONAL LABORATORY

Accelerated Discovery of Metal Aerogel/MOF Cathode and Anode Catalysts for Fuel Cells and CO₂ Electrolyzers: A High-Throughput Approach

Chicago PI: Ahmed Farghaly (Argonne)
PI in France: Frédéric Jaouen
Award Amount: \$30,000

Project Summary: Transitioning to clean and sustainable energy economy requires high-performance, cost-effective electrocatalysts for fuel cells and CO₂ electrolyzers to overcome limitations of current catalysts. To tackle this challenge, we propose a high-throughput approach to discover high-performance aerogel and metal-organic-framework (MOF) catalysts. This Chicago-France collaboration leverages Argonne's high-throughput synthesis expertise and ICGM's characterization capabilities to create diverse libraries of aerogel/MOF catalysts. Argonne will host French researchers/students. Argonne's automated high-throughput platforms will synthesize and screen a library of catalysts with varying compositions and structures. ICGM's ex situ and operando techniques will identify structure-activity relationships, guiding the development of better catalysts. This project is expected to develop superior catalysts, establish a sustained Chicago-France collaboration, positioning both teams for larger funding, and contribute to a clean and sustainable energy future.

Visualizing Metal Deposition and Dissolution Processes in Anode-Free Lithium Batteries using Operando X-ray and Microscopy Techniques

Chicago PI: Daniel Abraham (Argonne)
PI in France: Arnaud Demortière
Award Amount: \$40,000

Project Summary: Anode-free lithium batteries have the potential to deliver energy densities > 500 Wh/kg and can significantly extend the driving range of electric vehicles. In these batteries, lithium ions are plated onto a metal foil current collector during charge and stripped off the foil during discharge. The objective of this proposal is to uncover the underlying mechanisms responsible for nucleation, growth, and dissolution of lithium-ions that occur during battery cycling using operando synchrotron X-ray and electron microscopy techniques. The battery-chemistry development, electrochemical characterization, and X-ray measurements will be conducted at Argonne while the operando electron microscopy studies will be conducted at the University of Picardie. The project will provide partnering opportunities for junior researchers to enhance collaboration and solve the technical challenges.

PETSc for Exascale Computing on Aurora and Beyond

Chicago PI: Junchao Zhang (Argonne)
PI in France: Pierre Jolivet
Award Amount: \$40,000

Project Summary: Solving partial differential equations (PDEs) is of fundamental importance in science and engineering, however it requires both sophisticated software and powerful computers in practice. PETSc, a widely used math library developed at Argonne, provides scalable solutions to applications modeled by PDEs. Nowadays, exascale computers (with a speed over 10¹⁸ FLOPS/sec.), like Aurora at Argonne and Jules Verne in France, all use graphics processing units (GPUs) to provide their main compute power. This is a big departure from traditional machines solely using central processing units (CPUs). Scientific software like PETSc is undergoing dramatic changes to adapt to this trend. We propose to enhance the PETSc interface to MUMPS and HPDDM (two important solvers used by PETSc and developed in France) for these supercomputers.

FERMILAB

Photon Counting in a Magnetic Field to Accelerate Axion Dark Matter Searches

Chicago PI: Raphael Cervantes (Fermilab)
PI in France: Patrice Bertet (CEA Saclay)
Award Amount: \$20,000

Project Summary: Dark matter remains a mystery, and axions are a compelling dark matter candidate. Axion searches employ haloscopes consisting of a microwave cavity inside a magnetic field, where the magnetic field converts axions into detectable photons. Superconducting quantum sensors are used to detect these faint axion signals, but their sensitivity is limited by the Standard Quantum Limit (SQL). Photon counting with superconducting qubits can mitigate the SQL. However, they are challenging to implement due to their degradation in strong magnetic fields. In collaboration with CEA Saclay, we propose implementing itinerant single microwave photon counters that can exist outside the magnetic field. This would be transformative for axion dark matter experiments, allowing them to scan the parameter space faster by more than a factor of 1000.

APPENDIX 2

Reports submitted by students who received fellowship and travel grant support
from the France Chicago Center



Stephanie Strother
Ph.D. student, Art History
Sept. 22 - Oct. 12, 2023
Paris, Chelles, Lyon

My trip to France enabled by the Francois Furet travel grant proved to be extremely productive and valuable for my dissertation research. I consulted the collections of a number of libraries, archives, and museums, including the Bibliothèque Forney, Archives de Paris, and Bibliothèque nationale de France in Paris, the Musée Alfred Bonno in Chelles, and the Bibliothèque Diderot in Lyon. At the Musée Alfred Bonno I met with curator Christian Charamond, who proved to be very knowledgeable about the workshop at the center of my dissertation (Atelier Martine), and who offered his assistance for future research needs.

I also met with several scholars of women's arts education in France, who provided invaluable guidance for research related to the first chapter of my dissertation. They included Professor Rebecca Rogers (Université Paris Cité), Professor Emertus Renaud d'Enfert (Université de Picardie Jules Verne), Professor Emeritus Michelle Zancarini-Fournel (Université Claude Bernard Lyon), and Professor Marianne Thivend (Université Lumière Lyon). I plan to remain in contact with them following the trip and to continue to consult them as my work progresses.

Without doubt, the professional contacts I made (professors and curators) were a highlight of the trip and will continue to serve me well over the course of my dissertation. Each person with whom I met offered a wealth of suggestions for further archives, books, and scholars to consult and very generously offered to remain in touch with me and to be of further assistance as needed. The trip was also extremely valuable for my research, as it allowed me to spend time in new collections and archives. In each instance I found materials and sources directly related to the subject of my dissertation that I did not know existed. For example, at the Archives de Paris I discovered a photographic archive that contained hundreds of photographs of Paul Poiret fashions and Atelier Martine textiles and decorative screens. I have never seen several of the Atelier Martine patterns/objects anywhere else and would not have known that they existed if I had not consulted this resource.



Jeanne Sorin
Ph.D. student, Economics
July 28 – Aug. 13, 2023
Paris

During my trip to Paris, I spent a significant amount of time at the French National Archives, in Pierrefitte-sur-Seine. As mentioned in the proposal, I was targeting specific references on railroad transportation in France during the XXth century, with a focus on the “coordination policy” that started in the 1930s. I was able to consult and digitize the following documents (see proposal for more details): 19810629, 19820029, F/14/15495-F/14/15642, 19830104/1, and 19830104/90. Among these documents, the last set of references (19830104) contained the most insight, as it designated département-level documents, discussions, plans, and maps related to the coordination policy. Since the county-governments were in charge of the implementation of the policy, access to these local documents is key to understanding the implementation features.

I was also able to meet with several researchers (geographer historians) who previously digitized the data on the evolution of the French railroad during the XXth century, which is at the core of the quantitative analysis I am conducting. These encounters were very fruitful, as we were able to discuss both the data itself, and the context in depth. I informed them on my approach to analyze the impact of rail closure, based on the economic geography methodology, where we leverage models to discipline spillovers when a node of a transportation network is affected.

The intellectual and professional contribution of this trip was twofold. First, spending time at the archives and digging into policy notes, laws, reports, minutes of municipal councils, etc. was extremely insightful and shed light on aspects of my research not often discussed in the Economics discipline. More precisely, these documents contained an overwhelming amount of information and details on the policy I am studying. While these details are helpful to better understand the policy as a whole, they may also be distracting and lead us on the endless and hazardous enterprise of incorporating all these details into the quantitative model at the core of this analysis. I had not faced this subtle balancing act before and am very grateful for the lessons learnt.

Second, as mentioned above, I was able to meet with several researchers (geographer historians) who previously digitized the data on the evolution of the French railroad during the XXth century, which is at the core of the quantitative analysis I am conducting. As a result of this discussion, I have joined a group of researchers working on a book on Historical Transport Networks – Europe 1500-present, targeted to quantitative historians and geographers.



Nida Paracha
Ph.D. student, Anthropology
Aug. 1 – Sept. 5, 2023
Paris, Amsterdam, Netherlands

This grant was a blessing for me, it allowed me to meet psychoanalysts (Sylvia Lippi), anthropologists (Emilia Sanabria) as well as energy healers (Laurie Thorpe, Vivian Rosenthal) and scientists (Araud Delorme, Cedric Cannard, and Peter Bancel) in Paris. My conversations with them have allowed me to already present my work at a psychoanalysis conference by the Association for the Psychoanalysis of Culture & Society that took place in New York City in October and have helped structure the dissertation chapter called 'Entanglement as Method' that I am writing now. The scientists I met guided me towards archives; psi-open data, at Cambridge University UK and the Parapsychology Laboratory Records (1893-1984), Duke University. Additionally, they connected me with energy research being conducted in the Netherlands, one of them also taking me to one of the laboratories so that I could connect with scientists, form a relationship, and potentially use the laboratory as an ethnographic site – the site of this laboratory is currently under construction and moving and so it is not clear where this research will be located.

While this was all very helpful, I was unfortunate to not have been able to meet two of the faculty members, Emmanuelle Loyer and Guillaume Piketty, from the Science Po who I had hoped to work with as they were both on summer break - however we have begun an online conversation which will hopefully prove fruitful.

This grant was useful in helping me build a community of practitioners and interlocutors in Paris but also across Europe and I am very grateful for the opportunity, and I hope that I will visit again soon, deepening my relationships. The various groups of people I met and the interdisciplinary conversations I was able to have have been very useful in helping me construct the argument for the chapter I am currently writing. Specifically, I was able to explore my dissertation's central idea of 'entanglement' from across a range of disciplines and different types of practitioners - this has enriched my understanding of the subject material and has also allowed me new ways to think about how I trace and create this object.



Jonas Talandis
Medical School student
June 19 – July 25, 2023
Paris

I met with my co-authors Drs. Jean-Michel Molina, Margaux Monnet, and Victoria Manda. I shadowed their work, interviewed and recruited patients to the study, gained valuable professional and cultural experience, and completed 2/3 of the physician focus groups for the project (the first was done before my arrival). I also analyzed 2/3 of the focus group transcripts during my stay, while the third I completed upon my return. I worked at three locations: Lariboisière Hospital, St. Louis Hospital, and the Centre de Sante Richerand. Here, I interviewed patients in both primary care and infectious disease. I also rounded in the infectious disease unit. In my conversations with patients, I was able to gain insight for the purpose behind the project and offer patients the opportunity to participate in our patient survey.

Although language study was not a primary goal of my stay, I certainly learned a good amount of French, and I still keep up my practice through media consumption and reading.



Nathalia Maya
Harris School student
July 1, 2023 – Sept. 26, 2023
OECD Internship
Paris

I contributed to updating the report "Over the Rainbow? The Road to LGBTI Inclusion," which was launched in 2020. Specifically, my main accomplishment was to map and analyze LGBT-inclusive policies in all OECD member countries, primarily concerning training for police officers, migration officials, and human resources staff in both public and private sectors. This mapping will serve as a new component of the report.

I broadened my knowledge of minority groups to a more international perspective by studying countries beyond Latin America. Additionally, I acquired insights into inclusive policies across various contexts and identified best practices for antidiscrimination in European countries that could be adapted for different minority groups in this region. Furthermore, I expanded my network throughout this learning process.



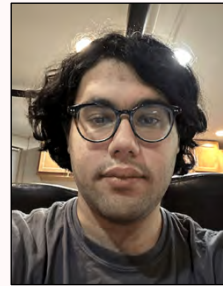
Jessie Alperin
Ph.D. student, Art History
June 19 – Aug 18, 2023
Paris

With the generous funding of the François Furet Travel Grant, I traveled to Paris to continue my research on my Art History qualifying paper entitled “Les Formes Suggestives”: Émile Gallé’s Drawings as Intimate, Imaginative, and Poetic Environments. The trip was a tremendous success and allowed me to discover new material for my project, make connections with museums and scholars, and prepare my essay for publication. Most of my time was spent at the Musée des Arts Décoratifs in Paris. Both the Museum staff and the librarians were extremely helpful and welcoming. I was able to meet with multiple curators and given the emails of others—one curator even gave me a tour of the galleries featuring the work of Gallé and another arranged to show me Gallé works and the work of associated artists in storage. The Librarians shared with me portfolios of collected designs that Gallé most likely saw in Paris, as well as their vast collection of Japanese books and prints that the artist may have seen as well. The viewing of Japanese collections furthered my theory that Gallé’s drawing practices were in conversation with nineteenth-century Japanese drawings that were circulated in France, just as much of Gallé’s work was brought to Japan. In fact, I also discovered that many of the drawings are models for glassware that are in Japanese collections.

I also visited the archives of Musée d’Orsay where I was able to view Gallé’s own writing, notes, photographs, and drawings. It was critical to view these materials closely as new elements came to light that I had not noticed from the digital photographs. I learned that the watercolors are often layered, applied with varying consistencies and textures, and that the artist employs empty space and uses these small bits of paper to create a glistening effect where the drawing evokes the quality of glass. Viewing them up close also allowed me to spend time reading the many annotations that are included in the drawings. I also learned that Gallé employed a photographic practice that supplemented the drawings and were even used to inspire them. Since returning, I have edited my paper accordingly and submitted it for publication. These findings will both aid with my current paper and spark further projects dealing with Gallé’s work. I am especially grateful for the François Furet Travel Grant as these discoveries and experiences were only possible in person and in the presence of the objects themselves.

The most significant ways I benefited from my time in Paris was viewing artworks closely in person and meeting with curators at the Musée des Arts Décoratifs. I made significant progress on my research project due to both the generosity of the François Furet Travel Grant and the staff at the Musée des Arts Décoratifs. The highlight of my experience was viewing drawings by Émile Gallé and Emile Reiber in the drawing archives at the Museum. I was free to look at the drawings all morning long, looking at them on my own and taking detailed notes about each of them. I discovered

important elements of the drawings that I had not noticed before, including the use of layering of watercolor and the use of empty space. A majority of the drawings have not been digitized, so they were only accessible by visiting the museum. I also met with curators and museum staff who recommended research material for my project, including various books, primary sources, and objects in their collection. Another highlight of my time was when one of the curators took me through the nineteenth-century collections and gave me a tour of the objects on display. This allowed me to understand my project within a broader context of nineteenth-century decorative arts while intimately looking at the drawings allowed me to focus my research on particular details and nuances within the artworks.



Navid Mazidabadifarahani
Undergraduate, History Major
June 2 – Sept. 17, 2023
Paris

While in Paris, I was able to visit the Departmental Archives of Seine-Saint-Denis. In these archives, I was able to find important documents on the history of the French Communist Party, and particularly its youth movement. These archival documents helped shape the contours of my thesis project, allowing me to better understand the roots of contemporary left wing youth politics in France. In addition, I was able to conduct a series of interviews with youth interlocutors from the Nouveau parti anticapitaliste and other organizations on the French left. These interviews allowed me to better understand how young protesters in Paris form community. More generally, I was able to conduct ethnographic observations at protests across the region, allowing me to understand the lived experience of protest in the Parisian context. In addition, I was able to take French language classes at the B2 level at the Cours de civilisation française de la Sorbonne, which greatly enhanced my understanding of spoken French and allowed me to effectively conduct interviews. I found that the classes I took improved my reading comprehension, which was helpful in the archives and continues to be helpful as I conduct secondary research and gave me a real comfort in using French with interlocutors and as a language of daily life.

Overall, spending the summer in Paris with the generous support of the François Furet Travel Grant allowed me to become intimately acquainted with the city of Paris and its surroundings. This acquaintance has greatly helped me in pursuing research directions relevant to my thesis. Moreover, this was my first opportunity to conduct ethnographic research; being situated in Paris for an entire summer allowed me to conduct ethnography in serious depth. It was also my first time conducting research in physical archives. The summer I spent in Paris has helped me realize that I want a career studying Francophonie.



Angelika Lewis
Crown Family School student
July 15 – Sept. 2, 2023
La Savane des Esclaves
Martinique

During my time in Martinique, one of the highlights of my visit was speaking with, and formally interviewing, Gilbert Larose, the creator of La Savane des Esclaves. Whether talking over dinner with his family, or during a machete lesson while gardening, I learned quickly that while not a traditional scholar in the academic sense, he was absolutely a historian, an educator, and a memory preservationist. His work, whether passed down orally, in the form of videos, or in his books (which have been translated to languages like Creole and adapted for children) expresses the complex history of the island, and includes the pre-colonial experiences of indigenous Arawak and Carib communities. What I found particularly important in his work, was the unique interplay between historical events and the land as a bustling ecosystem. This outdoor space felt like a combination of a botanical garden and a history museum. Mr. Larose not only educated visitors, including myself, about dates and historical facts, but also knowledge and traditions passed down from his ancestors, including the medicinal uses of plants and herbs, and how to work with, and not just take from the land. Plants that were historically cultivated by enslaved people, like tobacco, cotton, and sugar cane were purposefully grown on the land, in addition to herbs that indigenous communities used to treat ailments like mosquito born illnesses, food poisoning and sunburn.

During my time at La Savane des Esclaves, I interacted with visitors who were traveling from places like Canada, China, Germany, France, and neighboring islands, and I eventually learned to greet and orient them to the museum entirely in French, unless English was requested. By the end of my time there, most of the staff, including myself, were able to welcome guests at the entrance, explain the length and content of the introduction video, point guests to restrooms, etc. in English and French.

During my time in Martinique, I gained not only a better historical and contextual understanding of the people currently inhabiting the island, but also learned about the ways neighboring islands like St. Vincent (where my maternal grandmother is from) were involved in enslaved and ingenious peoples' struggles for liberation. Additionally, witnessing, and experiencing firsthand the transformational act of slowing down and connecting with nature expanded the way that I think about a decolonized view of social work. Through ancestral traditions and wisdom, people (BIPOC specifically) are reminded of the necessity of co-existing with our planet in ways that many Western societies have forgotten in the wake of industrial, and technological "revolutions."

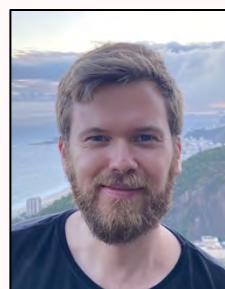


Kelsey Rooney
Ph.D. student, Anthropology
Sept. 11 – Dec. 14, 2023
Aix-en-Provence, Dakar

During my stay in Aix-en-Provence between September 14 and October 3, I was able to spend eleven days perusing the original documents within the Archives nationales d'outre-mer (ANOM). I focused intensively on the colonial C6 subseries, which records the French overseas activity in Senegal and the surrounding coast between 1588 and 1810. While there, I was able to delve deeply into the earlier sections of the archives, skimming for mentions about African maritime workers and maritime traditions. There was a plethora of information, much of which I'm still going through. While the documents are available on microfilm, the reader was broken and I was able to handle the originals.

The time I spent in the archive was formative to understanding the earlier eras of my project, as the archaeological record is not as detailed. After Aix-en-Provence, I went to Senegal to continue working on the field aspect of my project. There, we started the maritime survey, which was moderately impacted by some of the information within the documents. Fieldwork is ongoing, as is the fuller translation and analysis of the archival material I was able to collect.

I was also able to meet with and network with maritime archaeologists and conservators in nearby Marseille, forming several professional connections, notably with Dr. Madicke Gueye. Since we work on contemporaneous projects in Senegal, we were able to discuss the archives as I worked through them, which was incredibly helpful. I also spent time figuring out how the archive was organized and talking with other scholars about their project, which helped me identify other series that may be beneficial as my project evolves.



Niklas Plaetzer
Ph.D. student, Political Science
April 8-Sept. 1, 2024
EHESS Exchange Fellowship
Paris

My time in Paris has profoundly enriched my understanding of the French historiography of 19th-century republican cosmopolitanism, which will shape my research for years to come. Close contact with Professor Prochasson at EHESS, Professor Hayat at Sciences Po, and participation in the republicanism conference in Venice were particularly influential. These experiences broadened my perspective on

varieties of plebeian republicanism during the 1840s-70s as well as the methodological innovations in the "social history of political ideas" (*histoire sociale des idées politiques*), an emerging field in French intellectual history. My archival research on Claude Lefort as well as on 19th century primary sources, particularly writings by ecologist Eugène Huzar, has been crucial. In my dissertation on plebeian internationalism, I now plan to write a chapter on Huzar's 1857 proposal for elected "planetary aediles" with veto power over sovereign states in environmental matters. Access to rare documents at the BNF and discussions with French colleagues, including Professor Hayat and doctoral students at EHESS, have significantly contributed to the evolution of my research. Finally, as a political theorist, I would also like to note that it has been a reinvigorating experience to witness the mobilization of civil society and left parties in response to the surprising announcement of legislative elections this month. With the rise of the extreme right and the impressive level of mobilization among democratic forces during the last weeks, I am returning to Chicago with a renewed sense of urgency for my work on international solidarity in the history of political thought.

In the remaining two and a half months of my stay in France, I plan to continue my work in the Lefort archives and meet again with Professor Prochasson at EHESS and Professor Hayat at Sciences Po. On May 24, I will attend a one-day political theory workshop on populism at CEVIPOF at Sciences Po, where I will reconnect with colleagues from the Venice conference, including Camila Vergara. Additionally, I will consult papers at the municipal archives of Chatillon to research the 'Association of Workers of All Professions and All Countries,' co-founded by textile worker Désirée Véret in 1849. I also plan to consult unpublished drafts on the theory of international institutions by socialist republican Constantin Pecqueur at the archives of the Assemblée Nationale. These archival visits are already scheduled to take place before the end of June; I will then continue my dissertation writing here in Paris until my return to Chicago on September 1.

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legislative elections this month. With the rise of the extreme right and the impressive level of mobilization among democratic forces during the last weeks, I am returning to Chicago with a renewed sense of urgency for my work on international solidarity in the history of political thought.



Alexis Chavez

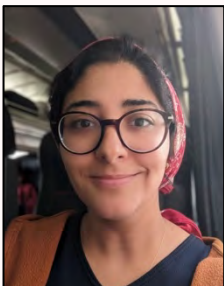
Ph.D. Student, Anthropology
July 14, - Nov. 3, 2023
Marseille

I conducted ethnographic research during my stay in Marseille. I conducted over 20 formal and lengthy interviews (accompanied by several informal conversations) with Marseille locals. With the Pope performing mass in Marseille, the city organized "Les Rencontres Méditerranéennes 2023," which consisted of a series of daily events taking place from September 17 to 24. I attended multiple events centered on inter-religious dialogue as well as the history of different religious communities in Marseille. For example, I attended an event focused on the multi-confessional prayer space that was created at the Institute Paoli-Calmettes. This involved learning about how the spaces was created and how people of different religious backgrounds (Christians, Muslims, Jews, and Buddhists) viewed the space as patients and workers at the hospital. During this time, I got the chance to converse with local community members involved in inter-religious dialogue in Marseille. I also attended an event where we visited a mosque, a historical church, and a Buddhist temple - all located in Marseille's northern neighborhoods. I learned about the history of each respective site and had the chance to hear testimonies from the adherents of each religion. Les Rencontres Méditerranéennes also held photo exhibitions showcasing the diversity of the city. I visited the following exhibitions: "Ciao Italia ! Ces immigrés italiens qui ont fait la France," "Boulevard National : au-delà des clichés," and "Parentalités en exil." The photo exhibitions did well tell the history of people living in precarious conditions in Marseille. In some instances, I had the chance to talk to the curator of the exhibition.

I also participated in excursions organized by "Marseille Autrement." I particularly attended excursions explaining the history of Italians in Marseille, architecture in the Roy d'Espagne neighborhood, the role that Surrealism played during the WWII, and the history of abandoned industrial sites in Marseille's northern neighborhoods in relation to the history of immigration. The excursions lasted about 4 hours and it was a beneficial experience because I had the chance to converse with locals who were either born in Marseille or had been living there for a long time. I often asked them about the history of the city from their perspective as well as how it has changed both in terms of its urban layout but also in terms of its reception to diverse communities. During two of my excursions, I had the chance of meeting two professors who gave me helpful advice for my research project. Those professors are Daniel Pinson, who I talked with about the

history of Marseille's northern neighborhoods in relation to questions of segregation and Stéphane Mourlane, who I talked with about the intersection of prejudices against Italians and secularism.

Studies of France that focus on Muslims have tended to be situated in Paris, which is often taken to be a representative of the entirety of France. My research in Marseille sought to answer two questions: 1) What are the differences between Paris and a Mediterranean port city like Marseille? While I had read the literature on regionalism in France and the emphasis that Marseille has a different immigrant history that is heavily linked with the Mediterranean, I began to ask myself: 2) If there is a difference between Paris and Marseille (which many local and academics emphasize) in terms of its different history of immigration and religion, how much does this difference hold in the present with the advent of globalization and the government centralization? What I learned during my ethnographic research is that while Marseille has a unique history with Comorans, Italians, and a unique approach to questions of diversity and "living together," the policies made in the name of "universalism" by the central government have taken away some of Marseille's uniqueness. Marseille locals (of all backgrounds), however, often remain attached to Marseille being radically different - as not being part of France. This discourse of being radically different does allow local organizations to open new doorways to making Marseille more inclusive for immigrant and religious communities.



Arwa Awan
Ph.D. Student, Political Science
Feb. 26 – March 9, 2024
Paris, Caen

Thanks to this grant, I was able to accomplish two goals. One was to take part in a conference in Paris which I organized with Professor Jennifer Pitts titled "Tropical Marxism: Rethinking Marxism in the Shadow of Empire." The conference brought together around 20 scholars from all over the world to discuss the trajectory of Marxism in the Global South and was attended by a sizeable public audience in person and virtually; apart from being an important event in its own right, the lively discussions and paper contributions it featured also advanced my own thinking and dissertation research (especially since the conference idea stemmed from one of my dissertation chapters). I also presented my own work at this conference and was able to benefit from excellent feedback that is going to help me as I turn my dissertation into a book in the coming years.

Secondly, I spent a few days doing archival research at IMEC located near Caen where I found some very helpful materials for my research. IMEC houses the Frantz Fanon archives as well as the archives of the French Catholic thinkers Emmanuel Mounier, both of whom are important figures in

my project which traces the influence of Marxist ideas of alienation in Francophone anticolonial thought mediated via European interlocutors such as Mounier. In the archives, I found some helpful unpublished notes by Mounier that explicitly discuss Marx's theory of alienation and I was also able to find the original French copies of Fanon's lesser-known writings (especially a particular lecture he gave at the University of Tunis in 1959 which engages explicitly with Marx's ideas of labor and alienation). I was also able to get a hold of some writings and publications within North Africa and the Caribbean which engaged and commented on Fanon and various aspects of his writings after his death. These documents will help me historically situate Fanon and map his wider intellectual universe.

My trip to France was intellectually generative in ways that I did not imagine it to be. The conference and the archival work were critical to broadening my intellectual horizons and deepening the focus of my research. They also enabled interactions with Europe and France-based scholars working around my research interests which provided a new perspective on some of the things I work on, resulting in recommendations for readings, knowledge of related work being done, etc., which is going to enrich my research going forward. I also benefitted from the (dangerously) plenty opportunities to buy books in French on the topics that I work on, some of which can be hard to access here.

Katsuki Ishimaki

Harris School
July 3 – Aug. 16, 2023
International Energy Agency
Paris, France

I participated in a 6-week internship at the IEA headquarters in Paris from July 5 to August 15, 2023. I was assigned to Renewables Integration and Secure Electricity, whose main mission is to advocate for grid management and electricity security in the era of mass deployment of renewable energy. During my internship period, the entire department was working on an ad-hoc special report on grid management, and my mission during the period was to research and write a part of the special report, specifically the part on cyber security, and to provide a commentary on cyber security in power infrastructure (a column that appears irregularly on the IEA website). The special report can be found on the following website, where my name is credited. The commentary, for which I was the main author, will be published soon.

Although I had a relatively long career in energy policy before entering Harris, I had little experience in electricity policy. So, coming into contact with topics such as renewable energy policy and grid management was a learning experience in itself. In addition, as one of my goals during my study at Harris is to learn a method to apply EBPM methodology to energy administration, it was very meaningful to be involved in the analytical end of the work at the IEA, which is one of the world's top think tanks in the energy field, and learn a part of the methodology and know-how of quantitative analysis methods in the energy field. In addition, it was an irreplaceable asset to have made strong connections with colleagues of various nationalities and backgrounds.

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