

FRANCE-STANFORD CENTER

2022 NEWSLETTER

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PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Jessica Riskin
Director

Christophe Laux
Associate Director

Isabelle Collignon
Program Manager

FROM THE DIRECTOR

I hope you and yours are healthy and well. After a one-year hiatus, I'm happy to be returning to old ways, including this newsletter. The past two years have been full of interesting new departures for the France-Stanford Center, and not only in the sense of the proverbial curse about living in interesting times. Despite the ongoing challenges of the pandemic, we again managed to bring together pioneering scholars from many fields, institutions, and stages of their careers and have been honored to sponsor research projects in various fascinating areas. These included the holy places of the Mediterranean and the Indian subcontinent, the bioarcheology of neolithic mortuary practices, the sustainable transitions of the Global South's socio-ecological systems, and many more. We are also proud to announce our inaugural [Two Cultures project](#), which took place in 2021-22, [The Constitution of Individuals and Groups in the Biological Sciences](#).



Jessica Riskin

Jean-Paul Gimon Director of the France-Stanford Center, Professor of History

As part of our fellowship program, graduate students and young scholars were able to conduct research on topics ranging from math encoding in the human brain, to how animals keep time annually, to letter-writing practices in 17th and 18th century France, to name just a few. We were thrilled at last to be able to send our undergraduate students to France this past summer! The internship program, now in its fourth year, is a great success and we received many applications this year. The program enables Stanford undergraduates to pursue research in France at institutions such as INSERM, the Gagosian Gallery, Sorbonne University, and the Ecole CentraleSupélec. We were pleased to send our first students to the Institut National d'Histoire de l'Art (INHA), the Forney Library, and the University of Montpellier, our most recent partner institutions.

(continued from page 1)

We are deeply grateful to these institutions in France for hosting our students during their summer internships.

We are also delighted to announce the creation of [three new student prizes](#), named for three people whose lives and careers spanned France and the United States, bringing French and American culture and society into dynamic conversation with one another: the Josephine Baker Honors Thesis Prize, the Louise Bourgeois Essay Prize for Masters-level and early Ph.D. students, and the James Baldwin Essay Prize for advanced Ph.D. students. We have also introduced two new short-term fellowships in collaboration with Stanford Libraries: the [Roxanne Debuissou Fellowship](#) for Stanford graduate students to work in the Roxanne Debuissou Collection on Paris History; and the [Gustave Gimon Fellowship](#) to support a visiting researcher in the Gustave Gimon Collection on French Political Economy. For more information on the Center, including a complete list of conferences and grant and fellowship recipients, I invite you to visit [our website](#).

Last but not least, I want to acknowledge and thank the members of our Executive Committee for generously providing their time, hard work, and invaluable expertise to make sure the Center's mission is fulfilled. We are extremely grateful to our colleagues at Stanford and in France, including the French Embassy in Washington, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the French Cultural Services in New York, the Office for Science & Technology in Washington, D.C., and the French Consulate in San Francisco.

Wishing you the best for the new academic year,
Jessica Riskin

CONFERENCES & LECTURES

CONFERENCES

The France-Stanford Center for Interdisciplinary Studies provides funding for scholarly conferences or workshops to be held at Stanford or at any French research institution. For more information, please visit our [website](#).

Priests' Wives and Concubines in the Medieval West (800-1200)



Fiona Griffiths, Department of History, Stanford University



Emilie Kurdziel, University of Poitiers, Poitiers, France

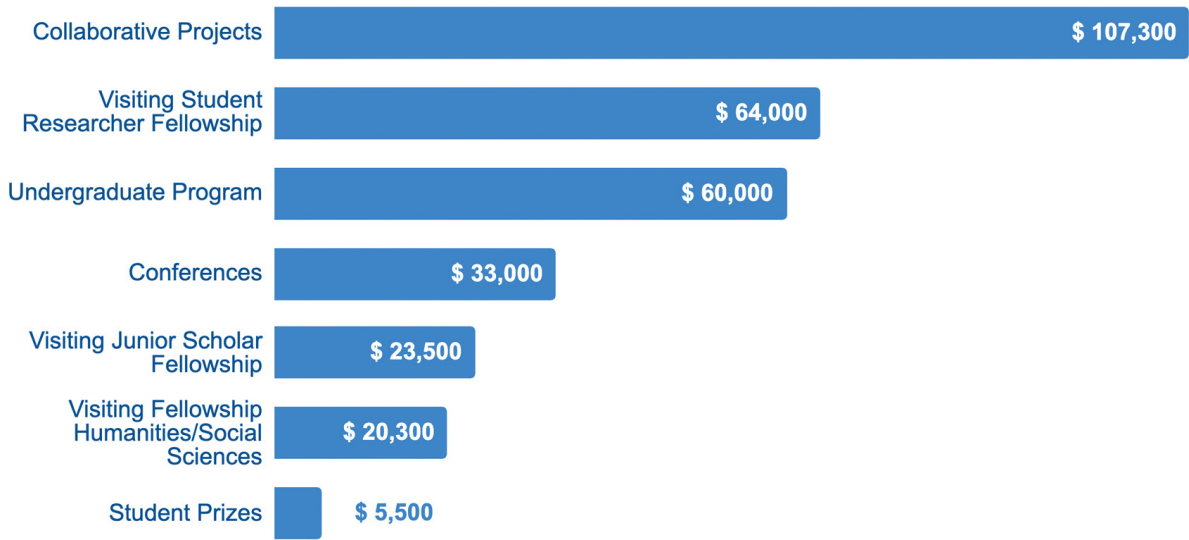
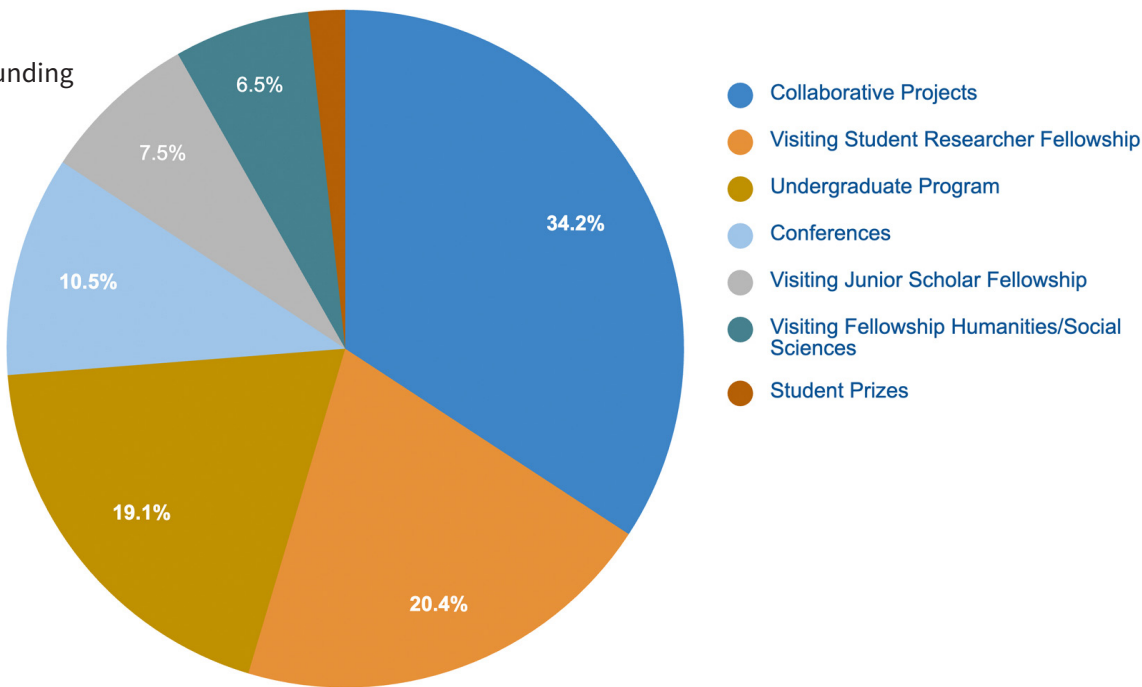
Our project focuses on clerical celibacy in its medieval context—the celibacy rulings of the eleventh century and their Carolingian precedents—examining the implications of celibacy not just for priests (as others have done), but for women, and particularly for priests' wives. In these linked workshops, we examine the celibacy movement from a gendered standpoint, investigating the effects on medieval communities and families of the movement to eliminate priests' wives. More broadly, our purpose is to excavate a history of clerical wives and concubines, whose erasure was fundamental to the emergence of the Latin Church as a single-sex hierarchy during the central Middle Ages.

Visit our [website](#) to see upcoming conferences and events, and to find out more information.

RESEARCH

The France-Stanford Center facilitates research between Stanford and French Institutions, across all disciplines. It provides funding to faculty, postdocs, young scholars, and students.

314K in Research Funding
10 Disciplines
18 Faculty
27 Students
6 Junior Scholars



COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH

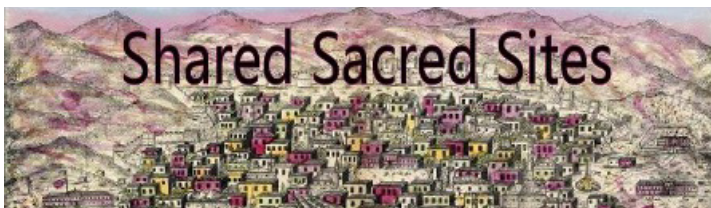
The France-Stanford Center sponsors high-quality collaborative research projects across all academic disciplines, to foster new linkages and deepen existing connections between French scholars and students and their counterparts at Stanford University. For more information, please visit our [website](#).

Sharing Holy Places. From the Mediterranean to the Indian Subcontinent

Anna Bigelow, Department of Religious Studies, Stanford University

Dionigi Albera, Institute of Mediterranean European & Comparative Ethnology, CNRS, Aix-en-Provence

We live in an age of racial, ethnic and religious tension. Our project produces an alternative narrative by asking why people cross religious boundaries, what social and cultural imaginaries make this possible, and what possible futures do these shared spaces suggest? Our goal is to document and analyze this understudied phenomenon by comparing such dynamics in the Mediterranean and South Asia. Though sharing sacred sites may seem especially unlikely for monotheistic traditions, in the Mediterranean world it is commonplace for followers of different religions to frequent the same shrines as a part of daily life, even in times of war. In South Asia, the sharing of sacred sites by both monotheists and multitheists has long characterized the devotional life of the region. This project brings together experts in these regions and promises to produce comparative analytics that will illuminate the dynamics of both antagonism and collective peace, thereby amplifying the productive potential of these models through academic conferences and research projects.



“With the help of one graduate and two undergraduate research assistants we researched various programs and settled on ARCGIS story map as the most conducive to our goals. Our hope is that the site will function as an interactive repository, database, and research tool, making a range of publications, images, videos and other materials available to scholars and other interested parties.”

— Anna Bigelow, Department of Religious Studies, Stanford University

The Multiplicity Turn: Theories of Identity from Poetry to Mathematics

Marisa Galvez, Department of French & Italian, Stanford University

Gabriel Catren, Laboratoire SPHERE, Université Paris Diderot, Paris



This project studies breakthroughs in our understanding of identity from medieval to contemporary times. In particular, we look at a shift from one-dimensional to multi-layered theories of identity, impacting disciplines as diverse as Physics, Logic, Mathematics, Literary Studies, Gender Studies, and Race and Ethnicity

Studies. To approach this transformation from a strictly interdisciplinary standpoint, we bring together researchers from the Division of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages (Stanford University) and the Laboratoire SPHERE – Sciences, Philosophie, Histoire (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Université Paris Diderot), among other peer institutions. By bridging the Humanities and the Sciences, we examine definitions of identity in different scholarly fields and said definitions’ impact on a wider cross disciplinary and cross-cultural history.

“We carried out three interdisciplinary events featuring eleven scholars working on fields as diverse as Philosophy, Anthropology, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Race and Ethnicity Studies, Social Justice, Mathematics, Performance Studies, Physics, and Literary Criticism. We are thrilled to report that each event attracted between 200 and 500 registrants.”

— Marisa Galvez, Department of French & Italian, Stanford University

Monitoring Therapeutic Cell Treatments Using Novel Nanoprobes

Heike Daldrop Link, Department of Radiology, Stanford University, Stanford University

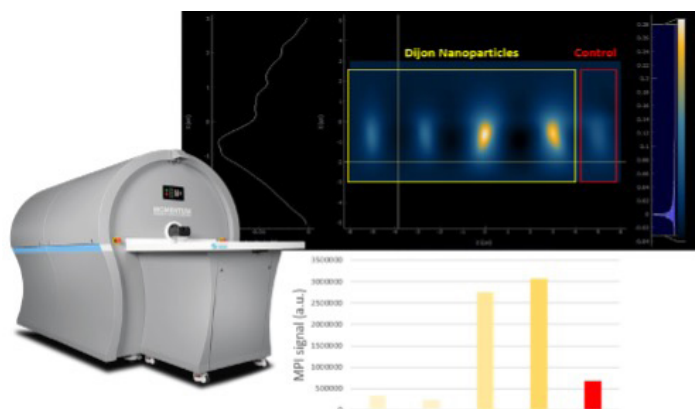
Lionel Maurizi, Laboratory ICB, CNRS, Dijon

Tissue regeneration through transplantation of therapeutic cells has the potential to revolutionize modern medicine. Therapeutic cells can migrate and differentiate to integrate into their biological environment. Despite great promises from preclinical applications, there are many open questions regarding successful approaches for tissue regeneration and safe applications of therapeutic cells in patients. Labeling therapeutic cells with imaging probes and tracking them with imaging technologies can answer these questions. However, previous translational imaging approaches for *in vivo* cell tracking had the main disadvantage of detecting only one imaging biomarker, which precluded multi-dimensional understandings of the fundamental mechanisms of cell therapy. We propose to solve this problem by testing innovative nanomaterials, which possess unique properties that make them detectable simultaneously by two medical imaging techniques. This will enable us to evaluate different factors, which may affect the efficacy of therapeutic cells. These multi-modality nanoprobes will be developed at Laboratory ICB (France) and then used to label stem cells at Daldrop-Link Lab (Stanford University). This project will allow, through bidirectional exchange of junior faculty and trainees, to conduct joint experiments, which take advantage of the complementary expertise of multidisciplinary researchers from the two labs providing critical input towards the fundamental advancement of cell therapies.



“Working in the Daldrop-Link Lab was a very interesting experience. Her group gathers chemists (like me), biologists and clinicians. I had the opportunity to exchange with many scientists from this group or from Stanford. It was very interesting to compare opinions and scientific backgrounds.”

— Lionel Maurizi, Laboratory ICB, CNRS, Dijon



Sustainable Transitions of Global South's Socio-Ecological Systems

Eric Lambin, Department of Earth Systems Science, Stanford University

Camille Jahel, CIRAD, Montpellier

Identifying ways to reduce or reverse natural resources depletion trends while maintaining population well-being is crucial in the current context of ecosystem deterioration resulting from human activities. In Africa, socio ecosystems are particularly exposed and their populations are the most vulnerable. This project aims to give insights into the levers and hurdles of sustainable transition of Africa's socio-ecosystems threatened by resource degradation, as well as their impacts on population livelihoods and their telecoupling effects in other places of the world. We are first conducting a meta-analysis of several cases of socio-ecological systems that reversed trends and engaged in a sustainable pathway. We then focus on two case studies from Stanford and French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (Cirad) projects to identify obstacles preventing a sustainable transition. The comparative approach enables the identification of generic patterns of levers, hurdles and impacts of sustainable transitions and those more specific to the local context. This interdisciplinary project co-led by a young researcher will forge a collaboration between Stanford and the CIRAD, and contribute to sustainable transitions in the Global South.

“We conducted a very successful research project and I developed a collaboration with Camille Jahel, which will probably lead to further joint research projects. We are still working on a draft article that has been tentatively accepted in a special issue of “Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B”, on “Bringing Nature into Decision-Making. Submission date is March 2023.”

— Eric Lambin, Department of Earth Systems Science, Stanford University

The Constitution of Individuals and Groups in the Biological Sciences: Implications of an Ecological Framework for Understanding Cancer

Deborah Gordon, Department of Biology, Stanford University

Thomas Pradeu, University of Bordeaux, CNRS, Bordeaux

Recent biological and biomedical research has featured the idea that living things are not “individuals” but collectives. Gordon and Pradeu examine this question, combining the perspectives of a biologist who studies collective behavior in ant colonies and other natural systems and a philosopher of science who studies the immune system and the microbiome. They offer a philosophical and scientific examination of the conditions under which something can be said to be an “individual” in the living world, and how, in certain circumstances, individuals function as a single collective, while collectives can function as biological individuals. Their investigation has led them to an important result: they propose an ecological framework to shed new light on cancer. Cancer biologists and medical oncologists often emphasize the heterogeneity of cancer, both at the inter-tumoral and intra-tumoral levels, but usually they do not connect these differences in the features of tumors to ecological differences, i.e., differences in the local microenvironments in which such tumors appear, grow, and disseminate. Gordon and Pradeu are continuing their collaboration by pursuing the implications of such an ecological framework for understanding cancer.

“I have learned about the philosophy of biology, the immune system, cancer biology, and the possibilities for collaboration between philosophers, biologists and medical researchers. This collaboration has provided connections to two fields outside of my own: philosophy of biology, and cancer research.”

— Deborah Gordon, Department of Biology, Stanford University

“Needless to say, the COVID-19 pandemic was a major obstacle to the realization of our research plans. Despite these challenges, we did manage to meet and collaborate intensively during that period. We decided to adapt to these unexpected and difficult conditions by focusing on one project, the one we found most original and promising, namely the adoption of an ecological framework to shed a new light on cancer.”

— Deborah Gordon, Department of Biology, Stanford University and Thomas Pradeu, University of Bordeaux, CNRS, Bordeaux

Advanced Diagnostics for Astrophysical Beam-Plasma Experiments in the Laboratory

Mark Hogan, SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, Menlo Park

Sébastien Corde, Ecole Polytechnique, Palaiseau

The new Facility for Advanced Accelerator Experimental Tests (FACET-II) is one of the only places in the world where the interaction between a high energy particle beam, accelerated by a conventional accelerator, and plasmas can be studied. This interaction is extremely relevant in several astrophysical scenarios in which streams of charged particles and plasmas interact with each other. For instance, it is known that plasma streaming instabilities arising under such conditions can generate a large amount of electromagnetic radiation and potentially play a role in the unknown origin of Gamma Ray Bursts (GRB), one of the most energetic electromagnetic events in the Universe. Being able to characterize the onset of these instabilities in a laboratory allows on the one hand to refine the astrophysical models in which these processes are relevant, and on the other hand to harness the intrinsic physical mechanisms to create new sources of energetic particles or electromagnetic radiation in laboratories.

“Thanks to the support from the France-Stanford Center, we’ve collaborated on the preparation of the first experiment (the E305 experiment) that aims at exploring the ultra-relativistic regime of the beam plasma instabilities and its potential application as a bright laboratory-based gamma-ray source.”

— Mark Hogan, SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, Menlo Park

“The project has been profoundly impacted by COVID restrictions. We have learned to work very efficiently across the Atlantic with regular zoom meetings, to design and plan our experiments. Yet our final travels to work on site and see each other in person during the last six months of the grant period were unforgettable. It was really great to get our first experimental observations from the electron beam going through our plasma after such a long and restricted preparation period, and it showed us how important these travels are for fruitful collaborations.”

— Sébastien Corde, Ecole Polytechnique

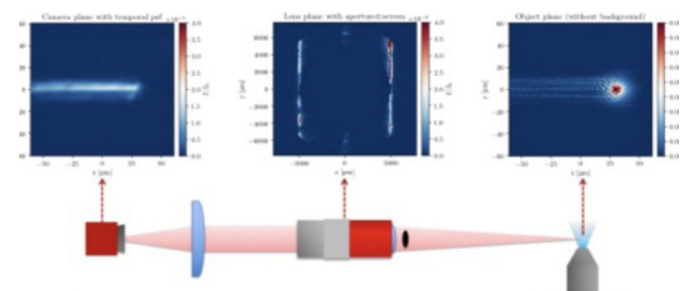


Figure 2: schematic representation of the high-resolution shadowgraphy diagnostic with synthetic (simulated) images

Ontology of the Medieval Image

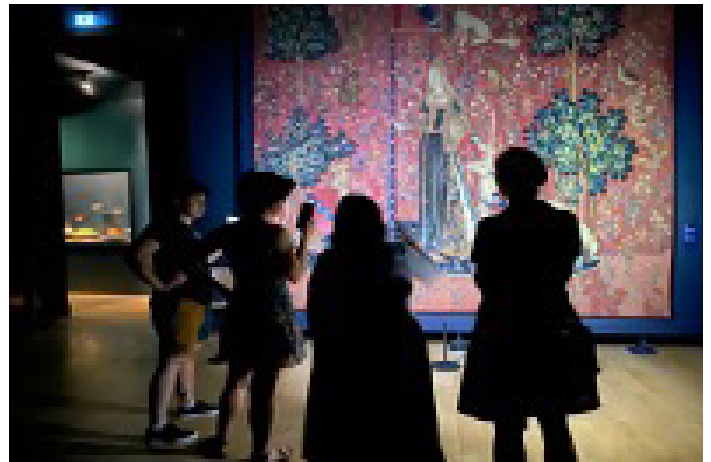
Bissera Pentcheva, Department of Art and Art History,
Stanford University

Isabelle Marchesin, Institut National d'Histoire de l'Art,
Paris

This collaborative team-based project focuses on the meaning of images in medieval culture as defined by Scripture, theology, and science; it analyzes iconography through epistemology uncovering the cultural and spiritual framework in which form operates. The French team, led by Isabelle Marchesin, at INHA has developed the platform working on Western medieval art. They have defined 35 concepts and 300 iconographical themes in which they have classified and analyzed 1500 artworks. The Stanford team of art historians introduced the Byzantine East, developing its own framework of concepts, themes and selection of artworks. The collaboration has a teaching and research components. The teaching included a Blockseminar. One week is dedicated to Byzantine art taught by Bissera Pentcheva and her team of Stanford Ph.D. students. Stanford will develop the syllabus, the list of concepts, and organize the teaching sessions. In the second week, the INHA team will focus on Western medieval art and training in digital humanities. They will share with the Stanford team how they have conceptualized and structured the online database and teach us how to use it and plug in our new entries on Byzantine art. The seminar and training will be conducted with objects from the Musée du Cluny, Louvre, and manuscripts from BnF.

“The grant allowed the Stanford team to work at the Bibliothèque Nationale and the Louvre, studying objects in situ. We also collaborated with the French team at the INHA and exchanged ideas, methods, and learned more how their Ph.D. and postdoc programs work. This form of networking with professors and students was extremely valuable for the Stanford team.”

— Isabelle Marchesin, Institut National d'Histoire de l'Art,
Paris



“Standing in front of the most valuable Byzantine manuscripts at the Bibliothèque Nationale de France and studying their miniatures was a precious gift and continuous source of inspiration.”

— Isabelle Marchesin, Institut National d'Histoire de l'Art,
Paris



“The Byzantine manuscripts we saw are so precious that many Byzantinists have not seen them in person. The special permissions we received were generous and unprecedented and we are deeply grateful for the trust and support we received at BnF and the INHA.”

— Isabelle Marchesin, Institut National d'Histoire de l'Art,
Paris

FELLOWSHIPS & INTERNSHIPS

UNDERGRADUATE FELLOWSHIP

The Undergraduate Fellowship Program funds Stanford undergraduate research and internships at French institutions. During the academic year 2021-22, the center awarded two fellowships. For more information on the Undergraduate Fellowship Program, please visit our [website](#).

2 Awarded Fellowships

Institut Pasteur • Chimie ParisTech



Kyle Lambert

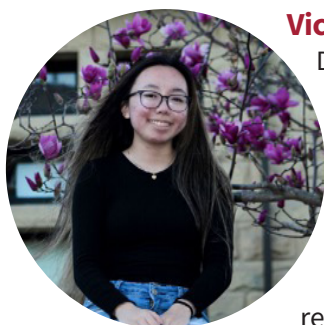
Department of Biology, Stanford University (2024)

Visiting Institution: Institut Pasteur, Paris, France

Elucidating the Physiology of Immune Activity at Brain Borders using RNA-seq and Immunohistochemistry Experiments

During my internship at the Institut Pasteur, I worked on a project focusing on the circadian regulation of the choroid plexus, one of the brain borders. My work involved analysis of transcriptomic data, imaging of fixed tissues and cells, design and preparation of CRISPR/Cas9-based genetic constructs for choroid plexus modification in mice. Through this internship, I pursued a more well-seasoned understanding of neuroimmunology, including knowledge about key cell types, pathways, and anatomical interfaces where the immune-brain interactions take place. Undeniably, this has provided me with a new lens to add breadth to my research back at Stanford.

“Thank you for your support in pursuing this endeavor— I am forever grateful for this experience!”
— Kyle Lambert



Victoria Le

Department of Chemistry, Stanford University (2024)

Visiting Institution: Chimie ParisTech, Paris, France

Use of Metal Complexes as Antiviral Agents against SARS-CoV-2

This past summer, I interned in Professor Gasser’s lab at Chimie ParisTech. I worked on the use of metal complexes as antiviral agents against SARS-CoV-2. I was assigned to aid a postdoc perform research on the synthesis of a metal compound. I aided in researching and reviewing papers to find procedures in order to synthesize the new compound. I also worked with new programs like ChemDraw and MestReNova to analyze NMR data to determine the synthesis product. Aside from the bulk of the internship, I generally helped around the lab, including discarding chemical waste properly. I also helped other members of the lab with their papers whenever they needed a native English speaker to review their grammar. I think one of the most significant things I learned is how to adapt to a new environment and culture. I am eternally grateful for this experience, and I appreciate your part in helping this experience come to life. I had never stepped foot in Europe before this past summer, and this internship was an incredible first experience in a new continent—I loved every moment of it.

“Thank you again for your support in this opportunity!”
— Victoria Le

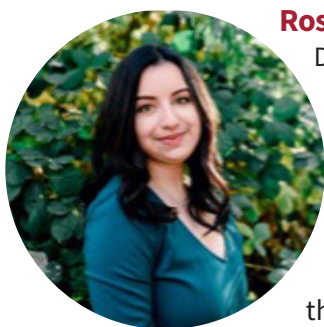
FELLOWSHIPS & INTERNSHIPS

UNDERGRADUATE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The France-Stanford Center for Interdisciplinary Studies sponsors undergraduate internships with leading French-based institutions during the summer through the [Global Studies Internship Program](#). For more information, please visit our [website](#).

9 Awarded Internship

Ecole CentraleSupélec • INSERM • Sorbonne University • Gagosian Gallery • Institut National d'Histoire de l'Art (INHA) • University of Montpellier • Forney Library



Rosa Martinez

Department of Neurobiology, Stanford University (2024)

Visiting Institution: Ecole CentraleSupélec, Process Engineering and Materials Laboratory, Gif-sur-Yvette

A Potential Relationship Between Photoperiods and the Growth of Microalgae

The rate of photosynthesis has the potential to be manipulated by using varying levels of light availability and different techniques of cultural dilution. However, while the effects of variable access to sunlight on the photosynthetic activity of plants are well understood, such effects on the photosynthetic activity of microalgae have not yet been fully

explained. To identify the effects of varying access to photosynthesis, we quantified the effects of varying the amount of artificial light available to microalgae cultures of different dilutions and then analyzed their levels of absorbance. For this, we used the microalgae *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii*, commonly found in freshwater, damp soil, the sea, and even snow, having the ability to survive in many environments. We observed a possible relationship between absorbance and growth, between artificial light availability and absorbance values. Our findings suggest that manipulating the density of microalgae cultures can have a positive effect on their growth rates.

*“Taking our discoveries into consideration, our results indicate a possible relationship between photosynthesis and the growth of *C. reinhardtii* algae, as well as a correlation between the dilution of the culture samples and the growth of *C. reinhardtii*.”*

— Rosa Martinez



FELLOWSHIPS & INTERNSHIPS



Mateo Massey

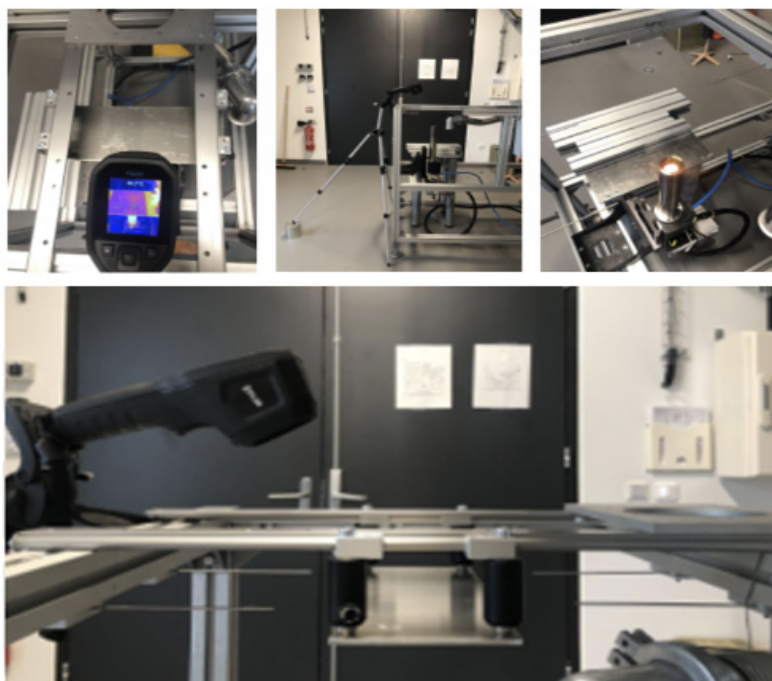
Department of Engineering Physics, Stanford University (2023)

Visiting Institution: Ecole CentraleSupélec, Non-Equilibrium Plasma Laboratory, Gif-sur-Yvette

CubeSat Mission to Test Space Debris Disintegration During Atmospheric Re-entry

I interned on the Plasma Team of the EM2C lab at CentraleSupélec during summer 2022. The lab is currently working on a CubeSat mission to test space debris disintegration during atmospheric re-entry. In order to design the CubeSat payload, the Plasma Team seeks to run ground test experiments on the plasma torch, which mimics the conditions of atmospheric re-entry. I designed an experimental platform for the torch and tested samples on the Jet Air Heater. This work sets the stage for testing debris directly on the Plasma Torch. I started my internship by taking a deep dive into plasma physics literature. Professor Christophe Laux's thesis was a very valuable resource. I learned about the importance of thermal and chemical equilibrium, the vibrational and rotational states for molecules, and factors that cause wavelength broadening. The section on current spectroscopy methods for plasma was particularly helpful for understanding how various observational tools in the lab were used.

Experimental Setup



Lucy Chae

Department of Classics/Urban Studies, Stanford University (2024)

Visiting Institution: Forney Library, Paris

Forney Library Internship

"I want to thank the France-Stanford Center for giving me the opportunity and financial means to work at Forney and stay in Paris this past summer. It was undoubtedly an experience that taught me a lot – just navigating a foreign country in itself was challenging, but my level of French improved tremendously during my eight weeks here. I learned the importance of risk-taking, and the importance of communication in a professional environment."

— Lucy Chae

FELLOWSHIPS & INTERNSHIPS



Carlson Marquez

Department of Human Biology, Stanford University (2023)

Visiting Institution: INSERM, Chromosome Biology & Dynamics Group, Paris

Chromosome Mobility and DNA Repair after DNA Damages

This summer, I worked at INSERM for eight weeks in Paris, France. I worked in the Fabre Lab at INSERM which is a biology lab that investigates chromosome mobility and DNA repair after DNA damages. DNA damages occur frequently which can often be fatal to organisms, especially with the presence of double-strand breaks. Organisms have different DNA repair mechanisms to fix damages to the DNA. When cells detect DNA damage, DNA repair pathways and checkpoints are activated to allow repair to ensue. Additionally, there is an increase in the diffusion of damaged chromatin to search for homology and achieve genome stability (Garcia Fernandez & Fabre, 2022). However, there is little known about the mechanisms of local and global mobility due to damage. In this project, we used *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* to mutate the SMC5 protein and measure the mobility of the chromosomes.

“The plasmid that we are verifying before we can transform our yeast cells to create our desired mutation. Nde1 is the restriction enzyme that was used.”

— Carlson Marquez

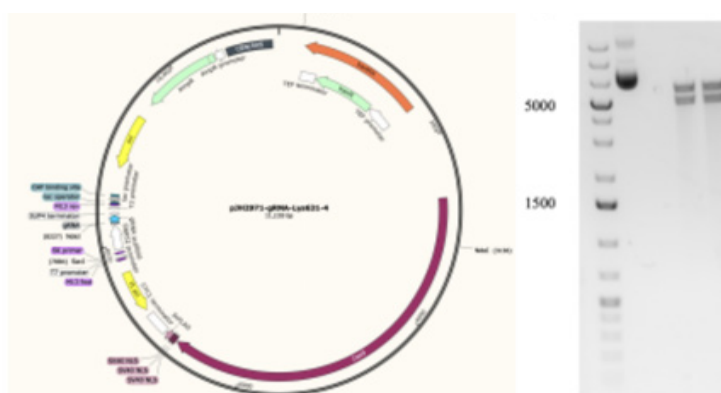


Figure 1. Ensuring the plasmid validity using restriction enzymes.



Catherine Rogers

Department of Bioengineering, Stanford University (2022)

Visiting Institution: INSERM, Chromosome Biology & Dynamics Group, Paris

INSERM Internship

The research project I worked on was designed to study the role of DAXX on TE heterochromatin in mESCs. Two TEs were selected: LINE1 and MERV13. Based on previous work, three variants of LINE1 were used: LINE1-TF, LINE1-ORF1, and LINE1-ORF2. LINE1-TF consists of the Af monomeric repeats of LINE1, which act as a promoter. LINE1-ORF1 and LINE1-ORF2 consist of the two open reading frames (ORFs) in LINE1; they include the sequences necessary for retrotransposition (although in mouse, most LINE1 elements can no longer retrotranspose). Each of these ORFs can initiate transcription, but LINE1-ORF2 is more conservative than LINE1-ORF1. My role in the project was to create transcription activator-like effectors (TALEs), to create a non-toxic version of the TET1CD gene, extract RNA from transfected cells, make complementary DNA, and perform quantitative PCR.

“Participating in this internship has transformed my understanding of pre-implantation embryogenesis, the molecular mechanisms associated with heterochromatin organization and structure, and France’s culture, society, and politics. This internship was one of the best experiences of my undergraduate education!”

— Catherine Rogers

FELLOWSHIPS & INTERNSHIPS



Marielle Baumgartner

Department of Symbolic Systems, Stanford University (2024)

Visiting Institution: Sorbonne University - Computational & Quantitative Biology, Paris

Protein-Protein Interactions

The purpose of my internship was to, in effect, pursue a recent publication from the Institut Pasteur alleging that already being infected by one virus and then catching another virus can reduce the symptom load of the second virus. The laboratory wanted to then investigate this claim and more specifically try to find possible viruses that may have this property so that wet laboratories can more targeted and specifically investigate and pursue whether this claim of the Institut Pasteur is the reality. As the laboratory is a dry laboratory and computer science and mathematical modeling based, the idea was to investigate this using machine learning. It is clear that proteins interact in humans. The main reasoning behind how viruses may interact and reduce one another's symptoms in humans is that the viruses' proteins must interact. There are a number of machine learning programs and software already in existence and quite a few more being developed that intend to model and test whether proteins have an interaction.



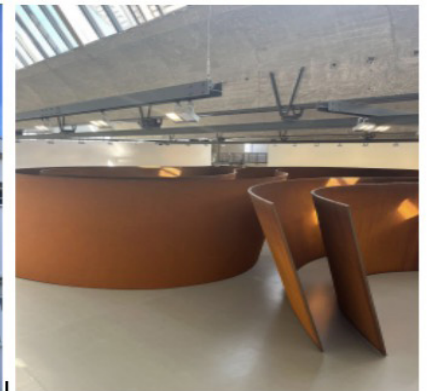
Isabel Benak

Department of Art History, Stanford University (2022)

Visiting Institution: Gagosian Gallery, Paris

Gagosian Gallery Internship

I interned at Gagosian Gallery in Paris this summer. I spent the most time at the base gallery on rue Ponthieu, the largest Gallery space. At Ponthieu, there was a show on Christo's early work and a group show on abstraction called *Abstract Dissonance*. I also spent time at the gallery on rue Castiglione, a smaller exhibition space with only one show on view. This space exhibited sculptures by the artist Tatiana Trouvé. I also visited the gallery at Le Bourget (a repurposed plane repair hangar used for large-scale exhibitions), where Richard Serra's *Transmitter* was on display. A project I worked on was compiling an art market report on Helen Frankenthaler's early work. One of the sales associates had a painting from 1964 that they wanted to sell, so they asked me to put together a visual of the artist's lot performance based on the creation period. I used Artnet's database to look at auction results throughout Frankenthaler's career and used the data I found to create a graph showing how many works and how much total the artist's work sold for at auction. The sales associate can use the visual to persuade a buyer that purchasing this painting is a good investment. I collected art market data for some of Warhol's paintings as well, in preparation for a show of his polaroids that will take place at rue de Castiglione this fall.



Photographs of *Transmitter* by Richard Serra at Gagosian Le Bourget

"My day-to-day tasks at the gallery involved sending media review emails to the gallery staff, managing shipping and deliveries, and monitoring press for any mentions of the gallery and its artists."

— Isabel Benak

FELLOWSHIPS & INTERNSHIPS



Adelaide Madary

International Relations & French, Stanford University (2025)

Visiting Institution: Institut National d'Histoire de l'Art (INHA), Paris

Institut National d'Histoire de l'Art Internship

This past summer, I had the wonderful opportunity to work as an intern at the Institut National d'Histoire d'Art (INHA) in Paris. INHA is a research institute that funds several different art history research projects. I was placed with the project titled *Collectors and Dealers of Asian Art in France 1700-1939*. This project began five years ago in 2017, and its main objective is to create an online open access database with information pertaining to the project's topic. The database, which will be published in October 2022, will include a large variety of biographical articles about notable collectors, detailed information about the collections that they amassed, and related photographs. Together with a team of six other researchers, some of whom were graduate students in art history and others in the digital humanities, I worked on finishing the final steps of creating the database. One of my main responsibilities was proofreading articles that had already been translated from French into English.



"Prior to this internship, I only had very limited exposure to the academic field of art history. The new knowledge that I gained about this field of study came not only from my daily tasks, but also from the many conversations that I shared with my colleagues. My French language skills have significantly improved, and I gained confidence in my ability to enter a new work environment while speaking a foreign language. I now have a better idea about what humanities research, specifically art history research, looks like. I am very grateful to have received this grant. Thank you for such a wonderful experience!"

— Adelaide Madary



Liana Keesing

Department of Electrical Engineering, Stanford University (2023)

Visiting Institution: University of Montpellier, LIRMM, Montpellier

LIRMM Internship

This summer, I worked in Montpellier, France at the Laboratoire d'Informatique, de Robotique et de Microélectronique de Montpellier (LIRMM) performing research on using explainable AI to optimize cache microarchitecture. My days at the lab were spent running cache simulations and experimenting with new microarchitectures that I'd only heard about in my classes at Stanford. The other interns in the lab were engineering students from schools across France, and they made the internship incredible for me--after work, we'd hang out at the beach, go rock climbing, and explore the gorgeous city of Montpellier.

"The experience shaped my plans for the future significantly: I'm already planning a trip to France for this December to visit all my new friends again, and I'm starting to consider graduate schools and careers based in Europe."

— Liana Keesing

FELLOWSHIPS & INTERNSHIPS

VISITING STUDENT RESEARCHER FELLOWSHIP

The Visiting Student Researcher Fellowship is available to graduate students affiliated with a French institution who are interested in pursuing a course of research at Stanford, and to Stanford graduate students interested in undertaking research or pursuing an internship at a French institution. For more information, please visit our [website](#).

9 Awarded Visiting Student Researcher Fellowships

Applied Sciences • Engineering • Humanities & Arts • Theater & Performance Studies • Law



Luis Bergolla

Stanford Law School, Stanford University

Visiting Institution: HEC Paris, Jouy-en-Josas

Dealing With Experts: A Case Study of a Global Evidentiary Practice

This project focused on the role of expert witnesses in international arbitration cases administered under the rules of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)—the world’s preeminent international arbitration institution. In recent years, international arbitration has been criticized for defaulting on its promise to deliver a dispute resolution mechanism that is cost and time efficient. My research is bound to assess the utility of expert witnesses in international arbitration and whether the employment of experts is among the causes that undermine the efficiency paradigm of arbitration. Through observations of real-life international arbitration case files, I described the ways in which arbitrators interact with the experts’ specialized testimony. Using survey experiments, I empirically assessed the effect that partisan bias has on expert testimony and how biased testimony affects the outcome of arbitral awards.

“Hosted at the ICC Paris Headquarters, this study is afforded a unique opportunity to evaluate the prevalence and impact of international non-binding instruments and bias mitigation devices that have been designed to guide the ethical aspects of the professional practice of experts and other arbitration stakeholders.”

— Luis Bergolla



Lazare Lubek

Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris

Visiting Department: Department of Music, Stanford University

Grisey’s Espaces Acoustiques: at The Frontier Between Perception and Experiment

During my time at Stanford, I studied the limit that is present in Grisey’s *Partiels*, by observing the perception aspects that Grisey uses in his music. I had the opportunity to familiarize myself with cognitive sciences notions like computational analysis, and neuroplasticity, which I linked through my research on *Partiels*. Thanks to the course of musical computational analysis I have been able to use Sonic Visualiser as a tool for it, then I have been able to use studios at CCRMA to make some experiments on sound hearing. My research has been led by exploring the process of reproducing the spectrum in its physical nature, and the way we hear the evolution of the sound, through two interpretations. The aspects of the sounds we have been studying made clearer some aspects of Grisey’s style in *Partiels* that uses works from psychoacoustics. Time is presented in Grisey’s piece with very precise indications, thus even if values of notes are relative and can be subjected to interpretation, there is very little modification in the tempo through the two interpretations that we have seen. The most changes in the tempo between the two versions are due to the number of reprises between the parts written *Ad libitum*, this being subjected to how much the interpreter chooses to stay on those notes.

FELLOWSHIPS & INTERNSHIPS



Charles Blanluet

CentraleSupélec, Gif-sur-Yvette

Visiting Department: Department of Mechanical Engineering, Stanford University

Electric-Fields-Enhanced CRISPR-Cas13a to Detect SARS-CoV-2 in Less Than 20 Min

My project focused on CRISPR enzymes (the subject of the 2020 Nobel Prize in Chemistry) to develop new and optimized methods to detect Sars-CoV-2 RNA. More specifically, I used CRISPR enzymes to discriminate between Sars-CoV-2 SNPs (single point mutations of the viral target). To this end, I developed a protocol and a MATLAB code to identify kinetic constants of CRISPR enzymes activated with different SNP-targets. I complexed the LbCas-12-a CRISPR enzyme with a guide RNA, to allow the enzyme to specifically bind to the complementary target of the guide, a step called the activation of the enzyme. Once activated, the enzyme indiscriminately cleaves the reporters mixed in the solution, which generates the fluorescent message read by the thermocycler. To sum up, the more the target is recognized by the CRISPR enzyme, the more the enzyme is activated, and the more fluorescence is read.

"I am very grateful to the France Stanford Center for the support it has provided to my discovery of the American biotech research environment. This experience made me realize just how crucial research and engineering skills are to bring life-changing solutions in the stimulating field I aspire to work in. Thank you!"

— Charles Blanluet



Luc Houriez

CentraleSupélec, Gif-sur-Yvette

Visiting Department: Department of Mechanical Engineering, Stanford University

Development of a Light-Speed Neural Network Using a Plasma Metamaterial Device

Neural networks have long fascinated scientific communities, serving as an elegant approach to machine learning modeled on our understanding of the human brain. Their increasing sophistication has led to the near ubiquitous role of machine learning – from transportation management to medical diagnostics to the voice recognition powering virtual assistants. The expansive reliance on machine learning now calls for radical thinking to address the ever-greater demand for computational power and speed. This research project with the Stanford Plasma Physics Lab (SPPL) seeks to develop a novel, physical neural network using plasma rods with the ability to process information at the unprecedented speed of light, eclipsing any current computer powered neural network. This project marks another exciting collaboration between Stanford's SPPL and CentraleSupélec, two institutions at the vanguard of plasma research.

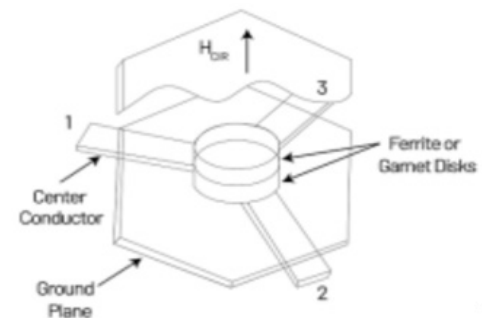


Figure 6: Circulator Diagram

"My stay in the Fall of 2021 at the SPPL allowed me to collaborate with brilliant students and mentors on exciting projects and experiments at the edge of our understanding. From running high fidelity simulations on Stanford's cluster to building test platforms in the lab and analyzing collected data, I've learned much over the past months and I am immensely grateful to all who have made and continue to make my stay at the SPPL possible."

— Luc Houriez

FELLOWSHIPS & INTERNSHIPS



Utku Asuroglu

Department of Music, Stanford University
Visiting Institution: IRCAM, Paris

IRCAM Coursus

It was an honor to have been selected for the France-Stanford Center Visiting Student Researcher Fellowship to carry out my research in technology and music at the Institute for Research and Coordination in Acoustic/Music, the world's largest research center dedicated to both musical expression and scientific research in Paris. I participated in IRCAM's year-long intensive Coursus intensive program which included a daily class schedule from 9am-5pm, in close proximity to Cité internationale des Arts. I had the opportunity to acquire real, technical autonomy with a number of computer programs as academic classes focused on IRCAM software such as Max, OpenMusic, Modalys, AudioSculpt, and Spat. I experienced hands-on studio classes, workshops on composition and improvisation with electronics, meetings with the institute's research teams and guest composers in addition to individual supervision by the educational team (Simone Conforti, Jean Lochar, Gregoire Lorieux, Mikhail Malt, Sebastien Naves) and the composer associated with the Coursus, Thierry De Mey. Throughout Coursus, I worked on a compositional project which was presented at Centre Pompidou. A place which garners the attention of hundreds of artists from around the world every year and attracts the most prestigious ensembles and composers.

"The fellowship helped me financially which gave me more time to focus on my work."

— Utku Asuroglu



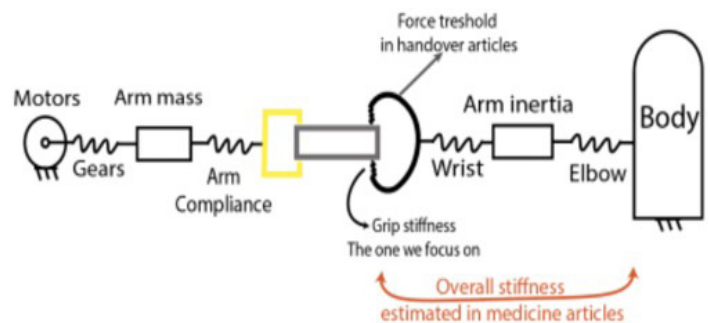
Etienne Chassaing

CentraleSupélec, Gif-sur-Yvette
Visiting Department: Department of Computer Science, Stanford University

Robot Behavior During Human-Robot Object Handover

During my stay at Stanford, I worked with Prof. Salisbury on a Human-Robot Interaction project (HRI). The project was focused on robot-to-human handovers, i.e. when a robot is passing an object to a human. In the literature the problem has already been addressed in a very simple way: look at the force in the z-direction, and release it when it becomes greater than the weight of the object. But this method is not natural for the human, a person must pull up the object to make the robot release. Some papers also propose to use a complex sensor to perform the interaction. Our method is based on an interesting and simple human phenomenon. Our limbs all have tremors, for example when one grasps a pen at its edge, one can see the other edge oscillating. That's the reason why even blindfolded; one can detect if someone else is grasping it. That's the idea we tried to apply to the robots. Thus, our robot performs small circular movements to feel the stiffness of the human.

Summary diagram:



"Our goal is to identify a more precise method, perceived as more natural, and less sensitive to external disturbances."

— Etienne Chassaing

FELLOWSHIPS & INTERNSHIPS



Radhika Koul

Department of Comparative Literature, Stanford University

Visiting Institution: Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris

The Drama of our World: Spectator and Subject in Medieval Kashmir and Early Modern Europe

My dissertation is a comparative study on characterizations of the subject, the poet and the dramatic spectator in long-tenth century Kashmir and long seventeenth-century France and England. I argue that while cultural critics continue to credit Descartes, Pascal, and Shakespeare with a dramatic, high stakes “turn” to the thinking subject that is seen to characterize modernity, the work of Kashmiri thinkers such as Utpaladeva and Abhinavagupta foreshadowed many of these key points of departure in the history of conceptualizing selfhood and consciousness. Paralleling the so-called “birth” of aesthetics in Europe in the eighteenth century, the Kashmiris had a long tradition of being nuanced theorists of affect, particularly in the context of reading poetry and dramatic spectatorship. That such similarity in questions and themes occurred in the absence of any historical contact between these cultures raises hopes that the similarities in their thought speak to fundamental aspects of the human mind. The dissertation therefore creates a multilingual conversation between the thinkers of these two periods, who wrote in French, Latin, English and Sanskrit, in the hopes of engendering many more multilingual conversations today.



Emre Daglioglu

Department of History, Stanford University

Visiting Institution: Bibliothèque Nubar de l'UGAB, Paris

Silk-made Capitalism in the Late- 19th-Century Ottoman Empire

“Silk-made Capitalism” simply explores how capitalism had come into existence in the late Ottoman Empire by focusing on sericulture mainly rebuilt by a European creditors-led institution, the Public Debt Administration. The Public Debt Administration was granted in 1881 collecting tax revenues of certain imperial monopolies including silk to repay the huge defaulted foreign debts of the empire. In other words, with five thousand officers -much more than the Finance Ministry- in its all these networks it became the backbone of the imperial finance and capitalism in the Ottoman Empire. For this research, the France-Stanford Center has supported my initial archival visit in the *Bibliothèque Nubar de l'UGAB* in Paris. The library's collections have been never utilized by historians for scholarship on capitalism in the Ottoman Empire. However, I was able to locate many primary and secondary sources -previously unpublished documents, untapped periodicals and highly important books- related to Armenian involvement in the Ottoman sericulture.

“I am very grateful to the France-Stanford Center for helping to finance this research. I believe that this sponsorship added to the outreach of the center as a platform addressing the importance of thinking about a global history that bridges various human and non-human actors. This project also paved new ways of collaboration with a new institutional partner to advance research in a not-often visited repository of under examined collections.”

— Emre Daglioglu

FELLOWSHIPS & INTERNSHIPS



Suhaila Meera

Department of Drama, Stanford University

Playing Children: Statelessness & the Performance of Childhood

Thanks to the generous support of the France-Stanford Center, I was able to follow the last three weeks of Good Chance Theatre's traveling art festival *The Walk* as fieldwork for my dissertation "Playing Children: Statelessness and the Performance of Childhood." *The Walk* features a 12-foot-tall puppet of a 9-year-old Syrian refugee girl, Little Amal, who traveled from Gaziantep, Turkey to Manchester, UK in search of her mother. The most significant France-related aspect of my research took place in and around Calais, as Amal returned to the Jungle, the infamous migrant city that made international headlines in 2015-16. France remains an important touchstone in both discourse and decisions around the refugee situation in Europe, particularly with regards to unaccompanied children.

"I had the opportunity, while in Calais, to visit the site of the former Jungle, which has since been demolished by the French authorities. The grass has grown over, and the only remaining traces of the once vibrant camp is graffiti that says "The Jungle," "No Border No Nation," and "Hope Sweet Home.""

— Suhaila Meera



FELLOWSHIPS & INTERNSHIPS

VISITING JUNIOR SCHOLAR FELLOWSHIP

The Visiting Junior Scholar Fellowship is available to junior scholars from Stanford and from France seeking a research visit either in a French Institution or at Stanford. For more information, please visit our [website](#).

4 Awarded Visiting Junior Scholar Fellowships

Physics & Computer Science • Medicine • Natural Sciences



Shixuan Liu

Department of Chemical & Systems Biology, Stanford University

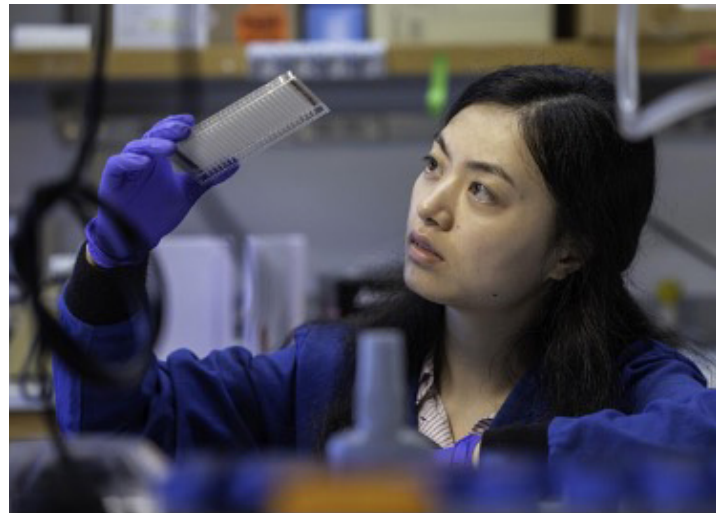
Visiting Institution: Musée National d'Histoire Naturelle, Brunoy

How Animals Keep Time Annually: Molecular Mechanisms of The Seasonal Rhythm

In nature, it is common to see seasonal changes in animal morphology and behavior. For example, squirrels and bears hibernate in winter; many birds migrate seasonally; and a wide range of animals from frogs to sheep mate and reproduce only during a fixed breeding season. These seasonal rhythms are adaptations of the animals to seasonally changing environment and are vital for animal survival. Previous research has long suggested that the seasonal rhythms are controlled by an internal biological clock, but to date the identity of this hypothetical clock still remains unknown. This project aimed to identify the molecular and cellular mechanisms underlying the animal seasonal clock through a highly interdisciplinary collaboration between Stanford University and the French National Museum of Natural History. Using a small seasonal primate, the mouse lemur, as the model organism, we are combining proteomic, metabolic, and single-cell transcriptomic profiling to search for the molecules and cells that show seasonal patterns.

"I have always been interested in quantitative biology. My Ph.D. work focused on understanding molecular pathways that control cell cycle dynamics using quantitative microscopy. For my postdoctoral research, I wanted to apply this systems biology approach to understand molecular interactions at an organismal level."

— Shixuan Liu



Liu has helped lead an international effort to create a molecular cell atlas for the mouse lemur, a public resource which she hopes will advance the ability of researchers around the world to use this valuable model organism to better understand the evolution and function of the primate brain.



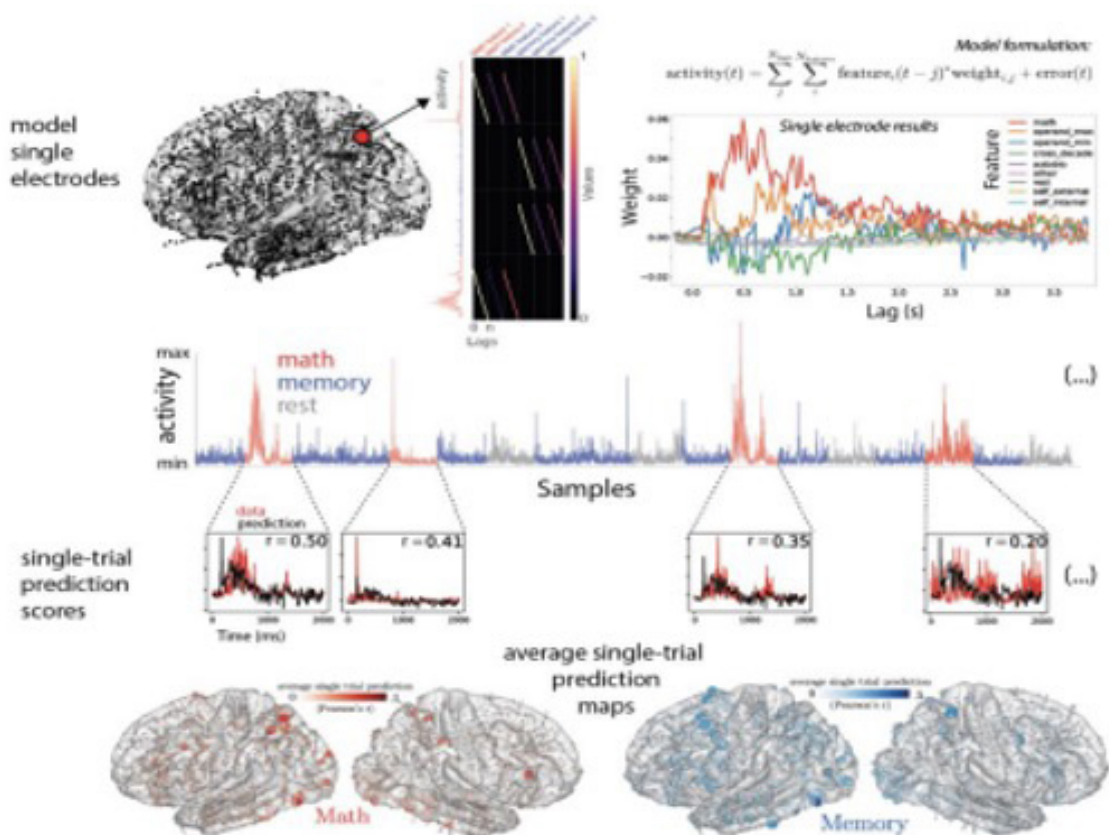
Pedro Pinheiro-Chagas

Department of Neurobiology & Neurological Sciences, Stanford University

Visiting Institution: Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris

Math Encoding in the Human Brain

To understand the brain basis for human cognition and behavior, one needs to characterize how different brain regions work collectively in service of a given task. Past studies in humans and non-human primates have provided important information about regional activations during arithmetic processing. In the past few years, studies using intracranial electroencephalography (iEEG) have provided several novel findings that are advancing our understanding of the spatiotemporal dynamics of processing in the human brain. In the current project, we leveraged the power of the iEEG method in direct electrophysiological recordings from an unprecedented large number of sites across a relatively large number of human subjects. The overarching goal of the present study was to obtain novel information about the arithmetic features computed by different regions of the brain during a mental calculation.



FELLOWSHIPS & INTERNSHIPS



Alejandro Alvarez Laguna

Ecole Polytechnique, Palaiseau

Visiting Department: Department of Aeronautics & Astronautics, Stanford University

High-Moment Simulations for Low-Temperature Plasmas

This collaboration with Professor Hara and his research group had the financial support of the France-Stanford Center. The work was focused on the numerical and theoretical study of low temperature plasmas. In particular, we aimed at studying the transport in plasma discharges with high order moment models. These types of models are tailored to represent conditions far from thermodynamic equilibrium, through the resolution of higher-order velocity moments of the kinetic equation. During this visit, we proposed a novel model that extends the fluid equations for lowly-collisional conditions, where the kinetic effects are important. Similarly, we have proposed novel numerical methods and numerical setups where we can benchmark our models against kinetic simulations. The project involves different disciplines: applied mathematics, computational science and physics. In addition, a numerical setup reproducing a low-pressure ICP discharge has been proposed in order to compare the new models to kinetic simulations. Different PhD candidates from both LPP and PDML have been involved in the collaboration and in production of the presented results. We believe that the models can be extended for different applications, in particular to other partially-ionized plasmas such as those found in the scrape-off layers in magnetically-confined fusion plasmas as well as in space plasmas.



“The work that has resulted from this collaboration was presented at the 75th Annual Gaseous Electronics Conference in two oral presentations. It is foreseen the publication of these results in two different journal articles. Similarly, it is expected to continue this fruitful collaboration in the future as a long-term collaboration where students and researchers of both institutions will be involved.”

— Alejandro Alvarez Laguna



Pierre Seners

Hôpital Fondation A. de Rothschild/INSERM, Paris

Visiting Department: Stanford Neuroscience Health Center, Stanford University

Predicting Brain Infarct Growth During Interhospital Transfer for Acute Stroke

Strokes that are caused by blockage of large blood vessels by clots are the most disabling. Despite new highly effective clot removal therapies, stroke-related disability remains substantial, because of brain damage (infarct) that progressively occurs in the time-period before clot removal. This time period can be long especially if patients need to be transferred from a community hospital that does not have the capability to provide the clot removal therapy to a comprehensive stroke center that does. Limiting infarct growth during this time-consuming transfer is a major challenge to reduce post-stroke disability. To this end, predicting patients at high risk of fast infarct growth during the transfer, to be included in future neuroprotection trials, is the essential first step. My project aims to predict, based on brain imaging data obtained in the community hospital, infarct growth during interhospital transfer.

FELLOWSHIPS & INTERNSHIPS

VISITING FELLOWSHIP IN THE HUMANITIES/SOCIAL SCIENCES

The Visiting Fellowship in the Humanities and/or Social Sciences is open to scholars from Stanford and from France who have completed a Ph.D. no more than three years from the date of applying for the fellowship and who hold a tenure-track/permanent position, postdoctoral scholars and lecturers. For more information, please visit our [website](#).

2 Awarded Visiting Fellowships in the Humanities and/or Social Sciences



Chloe Edmondson

Stanford Introductory Studies, Thinking Matters, Stanford University

Visiting Institution: EHESS, Centre de Recherches Historiques, Paris

Letter-Writing Practices in 17th and 18th-Century France

My grant from the center was in affiliation with the École des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales at their Centre de recherches historiques, sponsored by Professor Antoine Lilti. I dedicated my three months in France to archival research in the national libraries of Paris, as well as professional and intellectual activities, which allowed me to expand my academic network in France. The objective of this project is to rethink the evolution of 17th and 18th-century letter-writing practices in France through an interdisciplinary approach that combines literary studies, cultural history, and media theory. My research charts the emergence of practices for building a socially-oriented persona through letters, and traces how letter-writers used these practices to present themselves in society to their social networks, from the court society of 17th-century France through the Enlightenment. The research for this project relies heavily on analysis of letter-writing manuals, autograph letters, and epistolary novels in the holdings of the Bibliothèque nationale de France.



Christian Galdón

Paris 1/Paris 8 University, Paris

Visiting Department: Department of Iberian and Latin American Cultures, Stanford University

The Sada Archive and Genetic Criticism Project

Daniel Sada is one of the most complex writers in the landscape of Latin American literature. Often compared to Joyce for his linguistic experimentation and rigorous attention to form, he has produced over 15 works of poetry, short stories and novels, leaving behind a plethora of genetic materials, the study of which will allow us to better understand his creative process, in all its specificity, and the dynamics of his poetics. The aim of this project is to relocate the Sada archive to Stanford University and to proceed with the comprehensive study of its contents, with the goal of publishing a monographic work on the author and organizing an international colloquium, which will broaden the attention given to this author worldwide.

“My research experience at Stanford University has been more than satisfactory. The aim of “The Sada Archive and Genetic Criticism Project” was to relocate the Sada archive to Stanford University and to proceed with the comprehensive study of its contents. Both objectives are in the process of being achieved. Indeed, Stanford University is in negotiations with the Sada family to acquire the author’s manuscript holdings, and a monographic study on the subject will soon be published in the prestigious Revista Iberoamericana.”

— Christian Galdón

STUDENT PRIZES

The center is delighted to announce the creation of three new student prizes, named for three people whose lives and careers spanned France and the United States, bringing French and American culture and society into dynamic conversation with one another: the Josephine Baker Honors Thesis Prize, the Louise Bourgeois Essay Prize, and the James Baldwin Essay Prize. For more information, please visit our [website](#).

Josephine Baker Honors Thesis Prize

2021 (Inaugural Prize)

2022



Max Smith

Department of International Relations/
Department of French, Stanford
University (2021)

*“Wine to Whiskey: The
Transformation of the American South
through French Culinary Practices”*



Nova Meurice

Department of Comparative
Literature, Stanford University
(2022)

*“Le Cri Écrit: Voice, Art, and the
Archive in Assia Djebar’s
L’Amour, la fantasia”*

Louise Bourgeois Essay Prize

2021 (Inaugural Prize)

2022



Sonya Schoenberger

Department of History, Stanford
University

*“Law, Empire and Radioactive Risk:
Landscapes of Rights and Redress
in the Nuclear Pacific”*



Katherin Yu

Department of French & Italian,
Stanford University

*“Flux of Ethical Responsibility
between Character and Camera
in the New Wave Running Shot”*

James Baldwin Essay Prize

2021 (Inaugural Prize)

2022



Radhika Koul

Department of Comparative Literature,
Stanford University

*“Postcolonial Comparisons
Between France and Kashmir: A
Study in Method”*



Phoebus Cotsapas

Department of French & Italian,
Stanford University

*“Consoling les Vrais Athées:
Diderot and the Problem of the
Afterlife”*



Johannes Junge Ruhland

Department of French & Italian,
Stanford University

*“The Practice of Debate in
French Literature Before
Machaut”*

ROUNDTABLE BOOKTALKS



“Before Trans: Three Gender Stories from Nineteenth-Century France”

Roundtable discussion with author **Rachel Mesch**, Professor of French and English, Yeshiva University

A fascinating exploration of three individuals in fin-de-siècle France who pushed the boundaries of gender identity. Before the term “transgender” existed, there were those who experienced their gender in complex ways. *Before Trans* examines the lives and writings of Jane Dieulafoy (1850–1916), Rachilde (1860–1953), and Marc de Montifaud (1845–1912), three French writers whose gender expression did not conform to nineteenth-century notions of femininity.

Event co-sponsored by [*The Clayman Institute for Gender Research*](#) and [*The Program in Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies*](#) at Stanford University.



“Writing Occupation: Jewish Emigré Voices in Wartime France”

Roundtable discussion with author **Julia Elsky**, Associate Professor of French, Loyola University Chicago

Among the Jewish writers who emigrated from Eastern Europe to France in the 1910s and 1920s, a number chose to switch from writing in their languages of origin to writing primarily in French, a language that represented both a literary center and the promises of French universalism. But under the Nazi occupation of France from 1940 to 1944, these Jewish émigré writers—among them Irène Némirovsky, Benjamin Fondane, Romain Gary, Jean Malaquais, and Elsa Triolet—continued to write in their adopted language, even as the Vichy regime and Nazi occupiers denied their French identity through xenophobic and antisemitic laws.

Event co-sponsored by the [*Department of French and Italian*](#), in the [*Division of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages*](#), Stanford University.



“The Spirit of French Capitalism”

Roundtable discussion with **Charly Coleman**, Associate Professor of History, Columbia University

How did the economy become bound up with faith in infinite wealth creation and obsessive consumption? Drawing on the economic writings of eighteenth-century French theologians, historian Charly Coleman uncovers the surprising influence of the Catholic Church on the development of capitalism.

Event co-sponsored by the [*Department of History*](#), the [*Department of French and Italian*](#), in the [*Division of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages*](#), Stanford University.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The center's annual executive committee meeting took place on Monday, June 20, 2022 in Paris.

Executive Committee Membership

Stanford Members

Arto Anttila, Associate Professor of Linguistics, Department of Linguistics, Stanford University

Mark Cappelli, Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Stanford University

Richard Thompson Ford, George E. Osborne Professor of Law, Stanford Law School, Stanford University

Marisa Galvez, Associate Professor of French, Department of French and Italian, Stanford University

David Rosenthal, Professor of Pediatrics (Pediatric Cardiology) at the Lucile Salter Packard Children's Hospital

Paul Sniderman, Fairleigh S. Dickinson, Jr. Professor of Public Policy, Department of Political Science, Stanford University

French Members

Bernard Dujon, Emeritus Professor, Pierre and Marie Curie University and Institut Pasteur, Member of the French Academy of Sciences

Gaëtan Bruel, Cultural Counselor of the French Embassy in the United States, New York

Mireille Guyader, Counselor for Science and Technology, Office for Science and Technology at the Embassy of France in the United States, Washington, DC

Christophe Laux, Professor, CentraleSupélec, Gif-sur-Yvette

Reynald Pain, Director, Institut National de Physique Nucléaire et de Physique des Particules,

Stéphane Tirard, Professor, History of Science, University of Nantes, Nantes

Leadership

Jessica Riskin, Jean-Paul Gimon Director of the France-Stanford Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, Professor of History

Christophe Laux, Associate Director

Isabelle Collignon, Program Manager

