DIRECTOR’S NOTE

The France-Stanford Center for Interdisciplinary Studies (FSCIS) aims to bridge the disciplines of the humanities, social sciences, sciences, engineering, business, and law, and address historical and contemporary issues of significance for France and the United States from a broad range of perspectives. Its programs connect faculty members, researchers, and students from across Stanford with colleagues in France, to explore issues of common intellectual concern, to advance collaborative research, and to foster interdisciplinary inquiry.

During academic year 2014-15, the center funded a wide variety of collaborations between scholars and students at French institutions and at Stanford. The center hosted numerous international visitors, including Gérard Araud, French Ambassador to the United States, and Eric Lebédel, former French Ambassador to Finland. So too, our newly launched fellowship programs, aimed at undergraduates, graduate students, post-doctoral scholars, and junior faculty from both France and Stanford, have continued to prove successful, receiving a record number

(continued on next page)
The French Culture Workshop brings together participants from different disciplines to examine questions relevant to French culture and society from the modern period (1650 to present). Topics of discussion include political and intellectual history, imperialism and colonialism, nationalism and national identity, immigration and minorities, gender, and francophonie.

The workshop is also sponsored by the Stanford Humanities Center, the DLCL Research Unit, and the The Europe Center.

For more information, please visit: https://dlcl.stanford.edu/groups/french-culture-workshop
THE HEAVY PHOTON SEARCH

July 2015

The France-Stanford Center sponsored its annual conference at the Institut de Physique Nucléaire d’Orsay in France.

The conference, which focused on the puzzling search for a heavy photon, had thirty-nine attendees from the USA and Europe, including fourteen graduate students and postdocs. We had very fruitful discussions, particularly with the European theorists invited. Many junior scientists (graduate students and postdocs) had the occasion to present their recent work and also hear the review talks from the more senior scientists. The diverse contributions made possible a very lively exchange between the attendees. “Overall, we feel that the conference was a success and extend our acknowledgments to the France-Stanford Center once again for their support,” said Raphaël Dupré of the Institut, who helped organize the conference.

WHY FRANCE AND THE EUROPEAN UNION STILL MATTER FOR THE UNITED STATES?

February 2015

Lecture by Eric Lebédel, French diplomat and former Ambassador to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and former Ambassador to Finland

Ambassador Lebédel considered the European Union’s role in confronting the challenges posed by recent events in the Middle East and Africa, a more assertive Russia, threats in the fields of proliferation and cyber space, and changing economic relations. He also examined how France can contribute—both intellectually and diplomatically—to a global realignment.

WHAT’S WRONG WITH FRANCE?

May 2015

Lecture by Laurent Cohen-Tanugi, International Lawyer

Mr. Cohen-Tanugi presented his new book, “What’s wrong with France?” (Grasset, 2015), in which he focuses on how and why globalization has shaken the core of what historically constituted France’s identity and excellence: its efficient state, the quality of its political class and civil service, its elitist meritocratic system, its intellectual leadership, its “social model”, its political culture, and its positioning and influence in Europe and the world.
STATE OF THE FRANCE-US RELATIONSHIP AND PRIORITIES FOR 2015
May 2015

Lecture by Gérard Araud, French Ambassador to the United States

More than 100 people attended the event with Araud, who was appointed Ambassador of France to the United States in 2014. The Ambassador, who has also held positions within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, talked about how France is grappling with rising terrorism and climate change. He said that France is undertaking both educational and law enforcement efforts aimed at taming the spread of radicalized Islamic youth in the country—but there is no easy solution. “Everything,” he said, “depends on the balance between civil liberties and law enforcement. We’re trying to adjust to this new threat.” Ambassador Araud also discussed the “unacceptable” problem of rising anti-Semitism in Europe, as well as France’s support for a global agreement on climate change.

Visit Stanford News for further information about this event.

ENLIGHTENMENT AND REVOLUTION SEMINAR
February 2015

With the generous assistance of the France-Stanford Center, the Seminar on Enlightenment and Revolution—a Geballe Research workshop focusing on the very long eighteenth century—was able to host two distinguished scholars from France last year. In December, Frédéric Ogée, professor of English at the Université Paris Diderot, gave a talk to a group of 30 graduate students and faculty on the notion of identity in the portraiture of William Hogarth and the biographical novels of Laurence Sterne. In February, Patrice Gueniffey, professor at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales and the leading French historian of the revolutionary and Napoléonic age, attracted one of the Seminar’s largest audiences, a group of 45 students, faculty members, and visitors from a range of disciplines. Drawing from his acclaimed biography of Napoléon, Gueniffey’s talk focused on the particular importance of Napoléon’s campaign in Italy in 1796-1797 in his rise to power.

The France-Stanford Center invites proposals for scholarly conferences or workshops to be held at Stanford or at any French research institution. They should address significant issues of common interest to scholars from France and Stanford, and particularly, but not exclusively, those subject to differences of disciplinary or interdisciplinary approach in or between the two countries.

For more information on conferences/visits, please visit: http://francestanford.stanford.edu/conferences
In the spring of 2014, the France-Stanford Center executive committee selected the grant recipients for academic year 2014-15. Among twenty-three proposals received, eight were selected in the following fields: natural and applied sciences, engineering, medicine and computational biology.

The France-Stanford Center sponsors high quality collaborative research projects likely to foster new linkages and deepen existing connections between French scholars and students and their counterparts at Stanford University. Priority is given to projects with the potential to develop new collaborations involving junior researchers, and to those leading to collaborative work on interdisciplinary issues.

For more information on collaborative research projects, please visit: http://francestanford.stanford.edu/collaborative_projects
Téo Lamiot
Department of Political Science/Department of French, Stanford University
Visiting Institution: Sciences Po Bordeaux

A meeting at the US embassy prompted me to look into a new narrative about the evolution of French foreign policy in sub-Saharan Africa since the end of the Cold War. Now, I am incorporating this angle into my previous research with visits to the Sciences Po library and browsing government documents. Before I returned to the US, I discussed the project with French academics and policymakers.

Elise Johnson
Department of Science, Technology and Society, Stanford University
Visiting Institution: De Galluchat, Paris

Since the emergence of haute couture, Paris has conceived the world's greatest fashion design innovation. However, as fashion innovation becomes increasingly technology-driven, Silicon Valley is carving out its own role in fashion. The results (particularly in wearable technology) are less than fashionable. The technology needs to find aesthetic and the Parisian-based luxury fashion brands are well positioned to provide it. How can a dialogue be created between Paris and Silicon Valley in the emerging fashion-tech space?

Rhadika Bora
Department of French and Italian, Division of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages, Stanford University
Visiting Institution: Bibliothèque Nationale de Paris

This summer, thanks to the France-Stanford Center, I was able to travel to Paris for two months to research Moroccan and Algerian immigrant literature and history at the Bibliothèque Nationale, the Musée de l'Histoire de l'Immigration, and the Institut du Monde Arabe. The materials I found at these institutions helped me to further my research with their wealth of information on the history of immigration in France as well as on Moroccan and Algerian cultures more broadly. I am very grateful to the France-Stanford Center for permitting me to travel to Paris for my research; my work on my senior honors thesis has benefited greatly from this trip.
HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES FELLOWSHIP

Last summer, the center hosted two visiting scholars from the Université Paris Sorbonne, Paris, for its Humanities and Social Sciences Fellowship. Antoine Gournay’s research focused on the history of Chinese architecture. Christophe Perrin, who is writing a book about German philosopher Martin Heidegger, spent his time working closely with Professor of Religious Studies Thomas Sheehan.

Antoine Gournay
Université Paris Sorbonne, Paris
Visiting Department: Department of Art and Art History, Stanford University

I was able to visit Stanford’s Department of Art and Art History as a Visiting Scholar for seven weeks in 2015 with a grant from the France-Stanford Center. My research field is the history of Chinese architecture and the art of gardens and landscape architecture. Visiting Stanford allowed me to access the collection of rare Chinese printed books at the Stanford East Asia Library. This visiting scholar fellowship also provided an opportunity to develop collaborative research between Stanford and the Sorbonne in the field of art history and Chinese art studies and we hope that it will bear fruit in the future in the shape of further collaborative ventures.

Christophe Perrin
Université Paris Sorbonne, Paris
Visiting Department: Department of Religious Studies, Stanford University

My stay at Stanford was planned to be able to talk with Professor Thomas Sheehan on the exact nature of Martin Heidegger’s questioning after a distance dialogue. Thanks to many conversations with him during four months, I managed to fully measure the identities such as the differences in our respective readings of the German thinker and to progress in the gathering of the scientific materials, which I need to write a new monograph: Heidegger, l’extraphilosophe. Moreover, we worked together on the translation, in French, of one of his articles: “Emmanuel Faye: the Introduction into Philosophy of Fraud?” as well as on the start of my series in Zeta Books: “Heidegger Research,” while also laying the foundation for another future collaboration.

Christophe Perrin was interviewed by Fundit regarding his fellowship. More information: http://fundit.hypotheses.org/183
Nina Miolane  
INRIA, Sophia Antipolis  
Visiting Department:  
Department of Statistics,  
Stanford University

I spent the 2015 spring quarter at Stanford in the Department of Statistics, where I worked with my sponsor, Professor Susan Holmes (Stanford), and my advisor, Dr. Xavier Pennec (INRIA), in the continuation of the FSCIS collaborative project. The generative model is now well defined, together with a set of possible estimators of the mean shape. Some estimators were already present in the literature, but are now interpreted using our geometric statistical framework; some estimators are new. We are currently studying the properties of these estimators to provide a comparison. This last step is crucial for the applications in personalized medicine: which estimator of the mean spine should one use, and in which situations?

Dimitri Bouche  
IRCAM, Paris  
Visiting Department: Department of Music, Stanford University

Thanks to the France-Stanford Center, I worked at the Center for Computer Research in Music and Acoustics (CCRMA) of Stanford University from February to May 2015. My research is focused on providing tools for composers for integrating dynamic compositional processes in musical scores. During my visit, I was able to give a colloquium where I presented my project to the CCRMA students and researchers. I also initiated collaborations with both researchers and Ph.D. students.

Gabriel Billings  
Department of Physics,  
Stanford University  
Visiting Institution: Université Paris Diderot, Paris

I visited the Laboratoire Matière et Systèmes Complexes of Paris Diderot University, working with Professor Atef Asnacios. While there, I used a device developed in his lab, called a microplate rheometer, to measure the mechanical properties of bacterial cells. We found a number of interesting phenomena which seem to suggest that bacterial cells have fundamental mechanical differences from mammalian and plant cells.

Claudia Liuzzza  
Department of Anthropology,  
Stanford University  
Visiting Institution: UNESCO, Paris

I was granted a FSCIS Visiting Student Researcher Fellowship support to pursue the international archival component of my research, which took place at the archives of the UNESCO headquarters in Paris, France. My archival research aimed at supplementing and deepening the organizational ethnography I have undertaken during the past five years at UNESCO World Heritage Committee sessions, and during two research internships at UNESCO. Ultimately, the archival research I have undertaken at the UNESCO archives, which was possible with the FSCIS, has helped me to better position my investigation and progress with my dissertation writing in the coming academic year.
Emmanuel Destenay  
Université Paris IV Sorbonne  
Visiting Department: Department of History, Stanford University

I would like to express my utmost gratitude to the France-Stanford Center for awarding me a Visiting Scholar Fellowship without which it would have been impossible to conduct this comparative study on the demobilization of disabled American and French WWI ex-servicemen. At the Hoover Institution, I found crucial information on the return of disabled soldiers to California. The collection of rare books at the Lane Medical Library helped me compare my findings with studies published by wartime surgeons on the re-construction and re-education of disabled ex-servicemen in North America and Western Europe. Under the mentorship of Professor David Kennedy, I will be conducting further research on that subject and am preparing an article on the support of American philanthropic societies for Belgian and French orphans during the First World War. During this two-month stay at Stanford University, I wrote one article that has recently been accepted for publication in the internationally recognized peer-reviewed journal *Revue Historique*, and sent two others for consideration in leading journals.

Charlotte Dolez  
Sciences Po Paris  
Visiting Department: Department of Political Science, Stanford University

During my stay at Stanford, I enjoyed a very stimulating and interesting work environment. This enabled me to make significant progress on my project “How do underprivileged and poor people relate to politics and public policy? A quantitative and qualitative comparison between Belgium, France and the United States.” By studying the literature in political science and sociology and by talking with researchers, I identified precisely and developed the three main research questions and the hypotheses of my project. During my stay, I especially focused on the construction and the carrying out of my qualitative fieldwork, which consisted of interviews with people at non-profits.

Michał Wrochna  
Université Paris Sud XI, Paris  
Visiting Department: Department of Mathematics, Stanford University

My research stay at Stanford University was marked by an ongoing exchange of ideas from the theory of partial differential equations and physics, aimed at unraveling the mathematical concepts underlying quantum theories on curved backgrounds. Thanks to numerous captivating discussions and special seminars, I learned novel global approaches that turned out surprisingly well-adapted to problems barely accessible otherwise. It was thanks to the remarkable open-mindedness of Stanford mathematicians that all those pieces could be put together, resulting in a glimpse into exciting new physics beyond space-time horizons.

For more information on the Visiting Junior Scholar Fellowship Program, please visit: http://francestanford.stanford.edu/fellowships/visiting_student_researcher
The Center’s annual executive committee meeting took place on May 8, 2015, at Stanford. Present at the meeting were:

- **Amalia Kessler**, Stanford University
- **Gérard Bonneaud**, CNRS/Laboratoire de Physique Nucléaire et des Hautes Energies, Paris
- **Bernadette Bensaude-Vincent**, Université Paris I Panthéon Sorbonne
- **Gilles Delcourt**, French Consulate
- **Jeffrey Feinstein**, Stanford University
- **Mark Granovetter**, Stanford University
- **Robert Gray**, Stanford University
- **Christophe Laux**, Ecole Centrale Paris
- **Bénédicte de Montlaur**, Cultural Counselor, French Embassy, New York
- **Minh-Hà Pham-Delègue**, Scientific Counselor, Science and Technology Mission, French Embassy, Washington, DC
- **Chiara Sabatti**, Associate Professor of Health Research and Policy as well as Statistics (by courtesy), departments of biostatistics and statistics, Stanford University

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Directorship**

- **Amalia Kessler**, Jean-Paul Gimon Director of the France-Stanford Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, Lewis Talbot and Nadine Hearn Shelton Professor of International Legal Studies, and Professor of History (by courtesy)

- **Gérard Bonneaud**, Associate Director, France-Stanford Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, Directeur de Recherche Emerite CNRS, Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris

**French Members**

- **Bénédicte de Montlaur**, Cultural Counselor, French Embassy, New York
- **Bernadette Bensaude-Vincent**, Professeur des Universités, Université Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne
- **Gérard Bonneaud**, Deputy Director, CNRS, Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Stanford University (SLAC)
- **Alain Israël**, Directeur de Recherche Emerite CNRS, Institut Pasteur, Paris—Membre de l’Académie des Sciences, France
- **Christophe Laux**, Ecole Centrale, Paris

**Stanford Members**

- **Cécile Alduy**, Associate Professor of French, Department of French and Italian, Stanford University
- **Jeffrey A. Feinstein**, M.D., M.P.H., Associate Professor of Pediatrics, and Bioengineering Director (by courtesy), Pediatric Cardiology Fellowship Program
- **Robert Gray**, Lucent Technologies Professor in Communications and Networking, Emeritus Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering, Stanford University
- **David Laitin**, James T. Watkins IV and Elise V. Watkins Professor, Department of Political Science, Stanford University
- **Jessica Riskin**, Associate Professor, Department of History, Stanford University
- **Chiara Sabatti**, Associate Professor of Health Research and Policy as well as Statistics (by courtesy), departments of biostatistics and statistics, Stanford University