



FRANCE-STANFORD CENTER

2018 NEWSLETTER

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PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Amalia D. Kessler*Director***Gérard Bonneaud***Associate Director***Isabelle Collignon***Program Manager*

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The France-Stanford Center for Interdisciplinary Studies aims to bridge the disciplines of the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, engineering, business and law, addressing historical and contemporary issues of significance for France and the United States from a broad range of perspectives. Its programs bring faculty members, researchers and students from across Stanford's departments and schools into contact with colleagues in France to explore issues of common intellectual concern, to advance collaborative research, and to foster interdisciplinary inquiry.

**Amalia D. Kessler**

*Lewis Talbot and Nadine Hearn
Shelton Professor of
International Legal Studies*

During academic year 2017-2018, the center funded a wide variety of collaborations between faculty and students based in French institutions and their counterparts at Stanford. Our fellowship programs, now entering their seventh year, are aimed at undergraduates, graduate students, postdoctoral scholars, and junior faculty from both France and Stanford. They have continued to prove successful, with a growing number of excellent applications submitted each year. As part of the center's ongoing efforts to develop these programs, we launched this year a new set of summer internships, enabling Stanford undergraduates to pursue research at the Ecole Centrale, INSERM and the Université Pierre and Marie-Curie.

This year, we supported two major conferences and some smaller workshops. The first conference was held at Stanford on "*What does brain-inspired computing have to do with brain?*" It brought together scholars from France, Stanford, and elsewhere in the United States to examine how recent brain-related

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DIRECTOR'S NOTE (CONTINUED)

discoveries can influence brain-inspired computing and to explore potentially new opportunities for brain-inspired computing, beyond today's target applications. The second conference, also held at Stanford University, was entitled "*Southern France and the Latin East in the 13th Century: Crusade, Networks, and Exchanges*." A deeply interdisciplinary gathering, the conference focused on thirteenth-century networks between Southern France and the Latin East, examining how the mobility of objects, art, architecture, and literature influenced mentalities of crusading. The France-Stanford Center continued its tradition of sponsoring the French Culture Workshop at Stanford, which brings together faculty and students from different disciplines, including French literature, history, comparative literature, and art history, to examine questions relevant to French culture and society from the modern period.

For more information, including a complete list of conferences and grant and fellowship recipients, please read our event highlights section: francestanford.stanford.edu.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to announce that, having served six years as director, I will be stepping down from the position. We have succeeded in implementing a range of exciting new initiatives and the center is on strong footing. It is a pleasure to welcome as the new director, Jessica Riskin, Professor of History of Science in the Department of History.

We very much look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events. Please join us!

FRENCH CULTURE WORKSHOP

We had a very busy year, organizing fourteen events, which each averaged about 15 people in attendance. We heard from scholars working on French Jesuits in India, the rise of the National Front, slavery in 18th-century France, Napoleon in Egypt, the *Compagnie des indes*, and French Jews fighting with the RAF. We hosted two book discussions, one on Stefanos Geroulanos' Transparency in Postwar France, the other on Ethan Kleinberg's Haunted History. And we co-sponsored a conference on "Art and Power: Patronage and Politics in Europe from the Old Regime to the Present," which featured a keynote by the *conseillère culturelle*, Bénédicte de Montlaur. Thanks to the France-Stanford fund, we brought two scholars from France to Stanford (Vincent Martigny and Rahul Markovits); a third, Antoine Lilti, had to cancel at the last minute.

The French Culture Workshop is also sponsored by the Stanford Humanities Center, the DLCL Research Unit, and The Europe Center. For more information, please visit the [French Culture Workshop website](#).

FRANCE-STANFORD CENTER 15TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT



In May 2018, the France-Stanford Center celebrated its 15th anniversary at Stanford. The event gathered past and current grant and fellowship recipients, as well as members of the French government and the broader Stanford community. Three past grant recipients presented their work on robotics and archeological exploration and Spinoza respectively. The France-Stanford Center also had the honor of welcoming Jean Tirole, President of the Toulouse School of Economics (TSE) and Nobel Prize Winner in Economics, who gave a lecture on "Science in the age skepticism toward expertise". To get a snapshot of the center's activities, please check out our promotional [video](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Emerging Electromagnetic and Radio Frequency Systems for Health Monitoring and Therapy

Winter 2019 – Stanford University

The study of electromagnetic (EM) waves negative effects on the human body has been of growing importance as wireless communication systems have become pervasive. Such studies have investigated the interactions between the human body and electromagnetic waves. This workshop aims at establishing a link between the medical field on one side and the EM science and engineering on the other side, for exploring propagation, communications, imaging, and emerging applications.

Legal Diffusion in the Late Medieval Church: Local Ecclesiastical Legislation in France and its Neighbors, 1215-1500

Spring/Summer 2019 – Stanford University

Throughout the later Middle Ages, bishops across western Christendom promulgated legislation to guide the clergy and instruct the faithful within their jurisdictions. Such local ecclesiastical law covered a vast range of topics, from the proper attire of Jews to the punishment of corrupt officials. By exploring the scope, mechanisms, rhythms, and limits of legal transfer between ecclesiastical jurisdictions, the workshop will shed new light on the role played by local legislation in advancing — or resisting — this centralizing effort.

RECENT CONFERENCES & VISITS

The France-Stanford Center for Interdisciplinary Studies (FSCIS) invites proposals for scholarly conferences or workshops to be held at Stanford or at any French research institution to address significant issues. In 2017–18, the center funded seven events and two conferences.

For more information on conferences/visits, please visit our [website](#).

View our [past conferences](#).

What does Brain-Inspired Computing have to do with Brain? Computing Inside the Brain versus Computing Inspired by the Brain

Fall 2017 – Stanford University

Brain inspired computing has become extremely important over the past few years. This conference brought together scientists from biology and neuroscience with those creating brain-inspired computing architectures in order to understand how recent brain-related discoveries can influence brain-inspired computing and also to brainstorm new opportunities for brain-inspired computing beyond today's target applications.

CONFERENCES & VISITS (CONTINUED)

Southern France and the Latin East in the 13th Century: Crusade, Networks, and Exchanges

Spring 2018 – Stanford University



The conference focused on thirteenth-century networks between Southern France and the Latin East. During this period, cultural heritage occurred through travelling crusader-poets, the movement of objects through plunder or diplomacy, Frankish aristocracy in the Latin East and intermarriage. The papers investigated how such exchanges shaped literary production, architecture in France and abroad, crusading iconography, and epigraphy in the Holy Land and Southern France.

"We are grateful for your support, which made the conference possible, and ensured that it was a rich and intellectually exciting experience for our faculty, guests, and students. We are delighted to have hosted this event at Stanford, and to have been able to showcase the richness and vitality of medieval research and teaching at Stanford."

– Marisa Galvez, Associate Professor, Department of French, Stanford University

The Society for Interdisciplinary French Seventeenth-Century Studies — Passages

Fall 2017 – Stanford University

Professor Laurence Plazenet from the Université Paris-Sorbonne presented a paper entitled "Le Bruit et la fureur: la chronique inouïe de Port-Royal as part of the panel on "Insults, Fury, and Vehemence / Injures, fureurs et véhémence II." This panel was part of the two-day 36th Colloque Annuel Société d'Etudes Pluridisciplinaires du 17ème siècle français organized by and held at Mills College and Stanford University in November 2017.



Muslims of France: Documentary Screening and Conversation with Director Karim Miské

Winter 2018 – Stanford University

Karim Miské, in conversation with Professor Cécile Alduy, presented his documentary on the history of Muslims in France starting in 1904 until today. The documentary tells the history of Muslims in France from 1904 to 2007.



Karim Miské in conversation with Cécile Alduy

Medieval Lyrics Course: Songs of Love and War

Winter 2018 – Stanford University

Eleven students, six former Bing Overseas Studies Program (BOSP) summer seminar students; ten graduate students from the Department of Music and the Department of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages; five affiliated faculty and administrators; and one musician from the Stanford community participated in a three-hour performance workshop. The objective of the workshop was to have the visiting musicians Gérard Zuchetto and Sandra Hurtado-Ròs perform and discuss troubadour lyric. The audience asked questions about why they performed a song in a certain way, about their medieval instruments, and about their knowledge of troubadours and medieval music.

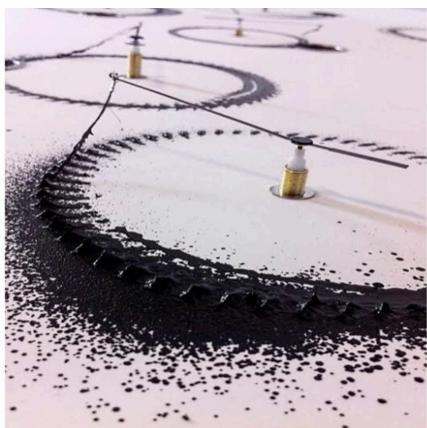


Sandra Hurtado-Ròs and Gérard Zuchetto performing

CONFERENCES & VISITS (CONTINUED)

Contemporary Visions of the Future

Winter 2018 – France



Margaret Cohen (Stanford)
Ella Elbaz (Stanford)
Amir Eshel (Stanford)
Vered Shemtov (Stanford)
Gisèle Sapir (CNRS-EHESS-CESSP)
Marielle Macé (CNRS-EHESS-CRAL)
Anne Simon (CNRS-CRAL)
Sadia Agsous (EHESS-CESSP)
Emmanuel Bouju (Rennes, IUF)
Smadar Sheffy (Curator)
Elana Gornel (TAU)
Kantuta Quiros (Le Peuple qui manque)
Aliocha Imhoff (Le Peuple qui manque)

Image:
Guy Goldstein, Few Moments (detail)
2016

The conference was in collaboration between Stanford University and universities in Paris and brought participants from Stanford, Paris Sciences & Lettres, and other French universities to discuss contemporary cultural visions of our future from global and local perspectives.

"This conference helped me be exposed to more perspectives about the study of the future in literature and art. We are publishing the collected articles from the conference. It was a huge success and we hope to continue the discussions and collaboration. Thank you!"

– Vered Shemtov, Senior Lecturer, Taube Center for Jewish Studies, Stanford University

Book Launch: Karen Offen

Spring 2018 – Stanford University

Karen Offen of the Clayman Institute for Gender Research at Stanford presented her two recently published books *The Woman Question in France, 1400-1870* (Cambridge University Press, 2017) and *Debating the Woman Question in the French Third Republic, 1870-1920* (Cambridge University Press, 2018).



Global 1968

Spring 2018 – Stanford University

This international and interdisciplinary conference brought scholars from Stanford, France, Europe and the United States to discuss the 50th anniversary of May 1968, and the intellectual, political, social, sexual and artistic history of these events.

"We are most grateful for the support of the France-Stanford Center."

– Elizabeth Marcus, Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, Stanford University

Sexuality in Morocco and the Maghreb: An Absolutely Central Question to Society

Spring 2018 – Stanford University

Leila Slimani presented her latest book, *Sex and Lies in Morocco*, about the way women in Morocco live in what Slimani describes as "sexual misery", unveiling the taboo of Muslim women's sexuality in North Africa. She was in conversation with Professor Cécile Alduy, from the French and Italian Department.



Leila Slimani with Stanford students and Marie-Pierre Ulloa, Lecturer, Department of French, Stanford University.

COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

The France-Stanford Center sponsors high quality, collaborative research projects across the full range of academic disciplines. In 2017–18, the center funded six proposals.

For more information on collaborative research projects, please visit our [website](#).

Novel Theranostic Agents for Imaging in the Near-infrared II Region for Photodynamic Therapy

Hongjie Dai, Department of Chemistry, Stanford University

Gilles Gasser, Chimie ParisTech, PSL Researcher University, Paris, France

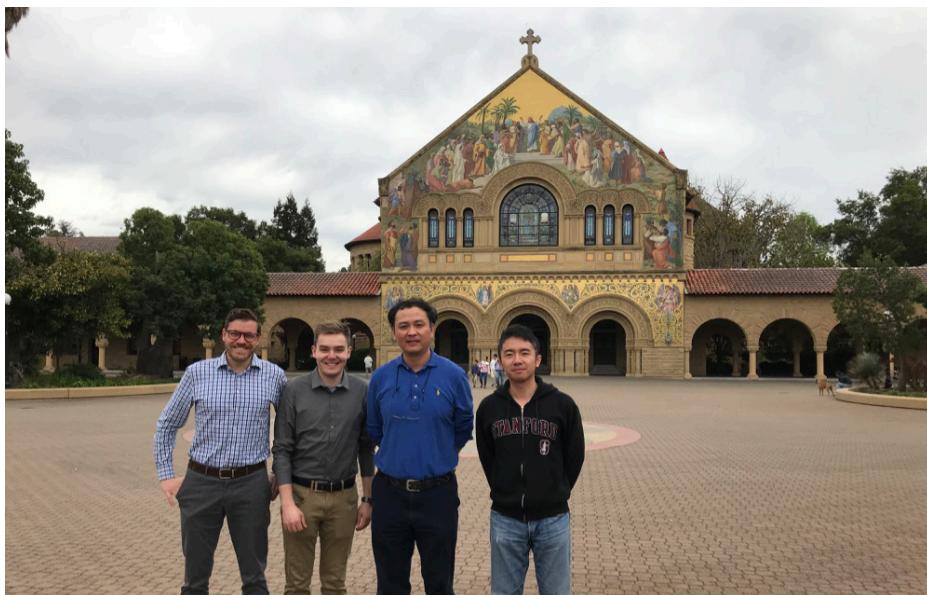
In the search for an alternative approach to chemotherapy against cancer, Photodynamic Therapy (PDT) has proven to be an effective treatment technique. PDT used a chemical compound called photosensitizer (PS), which is injected intravenously. When the PS reaches the tumor (generally after a few hours), a physician activates it with a non-harmful laser. The combination of PS and light instantly generates toxic molecular species that kill the tumor. Advantages of PDT over other therapies are its low side effects and its short post-operative recovery (hours or days rather than weeks for chemotherapy).

PDT is approved in several countries, including the USA and France, to treat certain types of cancer (i.e. prostate or head and neck cancers). About ten PSs have reached the market since 1993. Because all are from the same chemical family, they share the same drawbacks, among other prolonged photosensitivity. For up to 10 weeks following treatments, patients must nearly completely avoid contact with light/sun.

In this project, Dai and Gasser rendered the PS more selective to cancer cells by attaching novel PSs to nanomaterials known to accumulate in tumors. This will therefore lessen the prolonged period of light sensitivity for patients.

"This was a great moment in my career to be able to come to one of the most prestigious universities in the world and to discuss with such a great scientists. Many thanks for funding us!"

– *Gilles Gasser, Chimie ParisTech, PSL Research University, Paris, France*



Gilles Gasser and students, Stanford University

COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS (CONTINUED)

Low Temperature Growth and Layer Transfer of Two-Dimensional Materials

Eric Pop, Department of Electrical Engineering, Stanford University

Léa Di Cioccio, CEA-Leti, DCOS, Silicon Components & Heterogeneous Integration, Grenoble, France

The discovery of graphene and its astonishing properties has given birth to a new class of two-dimensional (2D) materials so named because, as with graphene, they can be thinned down to single layers only one to three atoms thick. This particular feature grants 2D materials unique physical and chemical properties such as transparency, flexibility, and extreme sensitivity to stimuli, making them very attractive for electronic and photonic applications such as high performance bendable electronics, optoelectronic and spintronic devices, sensors, electrodes and nanocomposites. Naturally, 2D materials have become the focus of worldwide research in the past 10 years. Currently, work is ongoing to develop 2D materials in large dimensions, at low temperatures and to transfer 2D materials onto different substrates to make them suitable for industrial applications. A very promising 2D material is MoS₂, with ongoing work both at Leti and Stanford developing, characterizing and modeling MoS₂ growth and transfer processes to understand the governing physical principles involved. This project created a strong synergy between Leti and Stanford on the subject of 2D materials to move this fast evolving class of materials into the next generation of electronic devices.

"This grant gave us the opportunity to collaborate with world-class LETI researchers, and to visit their facilities. It was also a good opportunity for educating Stanford graduate students in cross-Atlantic, interdisciplinary collaborations. The collaboration led to publications in IEEE or applied physics journals."

– Eric Pop, Department of Electrical Engineering, Stanford University



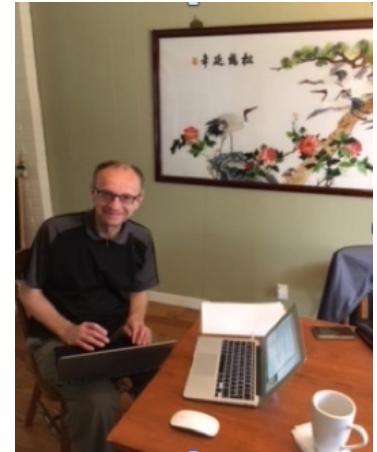
Graduate students on Eric Pop's team

The Mathematics of Language Universals

Arto Anttila, Department of Linguistics, Stanford University

Giorgio Magri, CNRS, Université Paris 8, UPL, Paris, France

Linguists are divided on the question of language universals and language diversity. Some have argued that the grammars and sound systems of the world's languages exhibit striking similarities, down to minute details, even when the languages are not historically related, suggesting an explanation for this universality in terms of our shared cognitive mechanisms. Others have instead



Arto Anttila, Department of Linguistics, Stanford University

underscored language diversity, arguing that languages differ in puzzling ways, suggesting that there may not be any limits to possible human languages and that the observed shared properties are just accidents of history. The project "The Mathematics of Language Universals" studies models that have been proposed to account for universal similarities across languages. The goal is to establish a new approach to linguistic universals that derives candidate universals from categorical and stochastic linguistic models through sophisticated mathematical analysis of the structure of these models and validates the resulting predictions on empirical linguistic data. The approach brings together mathematical, computational, theoretical, and empirical linguistics and promises to shed new light on the contentious question of the place of language in human cognition.

"The collaboration has so far produced two conference presentations (New York, Salt Lake City) and two co-authored papers (2018, submitted), the latter with a graduate student co-author. Perhaps most importantly, the project has produced software for the automatic extraction and visualization of language universals from formal linguistic models."

– Arto Anttila, Department of Linguistics, Stanford University

COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS (CONTINUED)

“L’Amérique comme une mode”: Constructing an Image in the 18th Century Atlantic. A New Look at French Perceptions of the New World and America

Jack Rakove, Department of History, Stanford University

Bertrand Van Ruymbeke, Université Paris 8, Paris, France

This collaborative project sought to explore Franco-American relations in the eighteenth century, particularly from 1763 to 1789, from two angles. First collaborators looked at prize-winning contests offered by French Académies in the 1780s on the perceived impact of the discovery and colonization of the New World and on the predicted impact of the American Revolution. These contests offer a unique view on mainstream opinion in Enlightenment France as dozens of memoirs were submitted to the Académies throughout the kingdom. Second, Rakove and Van Ruymbeke looked at the French published opinions on the Anglo-American crisis and the birth of the United States particularly the French perceptions and analyses of the States constitutions via their translation into French. Much has been written on French views of the 1787 Federal constitution but little on the States constitutions, what the French called “les républiques américaines.”

The Role of Non-Native Earthworms in the Terrestrial Bioaccumulation of Mercury at Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve

Elizabeth Hadly, Department of Biology, Stanford University

Jérôme Mathieu, Institute of Ecology & Environmental Sciences, Université Pierre & Marie Curie, Paris, France

California’s geology, mining history and atmospheric deposition have led to an accumulation of the toxicant mercury in the Bay Area, with troubling implications for human and environmental health. Although mercury is well studied in aquatic ecosystems, little work has focused on the terrestrial pathway. The challenge is to determine how and where mercury is made bioavailable from soil to other organisms. It is known that decomposition, as performed by earthworms, should make mercury more bioavailable to other organisms. This project assessed the role of earthworms in mercury cycling of terrestrial ecosystems using Stanford’s Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve. Collaborators compared the relative roles of native and non-native earthworms in making mercury more accessible to other species. They also spatially modeled the earthworm contribution to mercury dynamics in order to identify hot spots of mercury release in soils in Jasper Ridge Reserve and its environs.

Virtual-Reality Enabled Molecular Visualization for Structural Biology

Michael Levitt, Department of Structural Biology, Stanford University

Marc Baaden, Laboratoire de Biochimie Théorique, CNRS, Paris, France

Biomolecules such as proteins interact with one another to ensure our cells’ good health and functioning, and as such, the 3D atomic structure of these interactions is an important target of biological and pharmaceutical research. The recent developments in virtual reality (VR) technology set the stage for a new generation of molecular visualization and analysis tools. Consequently, this international team of researchers used VR to bring an intuitive and immersive user interface to very powerful computational chemistry algorithms. Levitt and Baaden put molecular structures in the hands of expert scientists — literally — and let them make use of their chemical and biological intuition to study the fundamental building blocks of life.

“The grant came at just the right time, when we had many good ideas but not enough support to bring them to life. Thanks to the FSCIS grant we were able to realize one of them and this has since served for follow-up grant applications and shaping future plans. We have a first short paper almost ready to submit (to Bioinformatics). A more in-depth study may be finalized next year. Thank you for your support!”
— Marc Baaden, CNRS, Paris

FELLOWSHIPS

Undergraduate Fellowship

The Undergraduate Fellowship Program funds Stanford undergraduate research and internships at French institutions. During academic year 2017-2018, the center awarded five fellowships.

For more information on the Undergraduate Fellowship Program, please visit our [website](#).



Sonia Gonzalez

Department of French, Stanford University (2018)

Visiting Institution: Banijay Studios, Paris, France

"I interned at Banijay Studios France in Paris where I worked on providing script coverage and creating TV pitch decks. I have always wanted to work in France in a manner that would allow me to put my French and film majors to use. This grant felt like the only opportunity that would allow me the experience. As a French and film major, I was thrilled to find a position as an intern at a TV production company. I have learned about not only the workings of a TV production company, but about its workings on an international scale."

On a more personal note, I have learned about what it means to adapt to a foreign culture where the language spoken is not your mother tongue. It has been challenging, but absolutely rewarding. This experience has only confirmed that I would love to continue working in TV/film, and if granted the experience, I would be more than thrilled to continue working in France as it is the epicenter of a dynamic film culture."



Mirae Parker

Department of Physics, Stanford University (2018)

Visiting Institution: Ecole Centrale, Non-equilibrium plasma group, Gif-sur-Yvette, France

"I participated in a plasma physics research internship at CentraleSuperlec -an engineering/science university to the southwest of Paris. My work involved measuring the spectra of air plasmas in the 160-240 nm range (important for designing space reentry vehicles) as well as processing the data and comparing it to theoretical predictions. I majored in physics at Stanford, and physics/physics research was a big part of my experience there. As I neared graduation however, I found that I wanted to expand my understanding of the physics community."

The internship at CentraleSuperlec seemed like a great opportunity to do that. I had always been interested in France as well and I personally think you get to know a country much better if you can live there for a while rather than just visit. The FSCIS fellowship thus seemed like a good opportunity to expand my horizon on both fronts. I wasn't looking for much from it professionally - but rather as an opportunity to reflect/learn before I began my Ph.D. studies."

FELLOWSHIPS (CONTINUED)

Undergraduate Fellowship (continued)



Victoria Toli

Department of Symbolic Systems, Stanford University (2020)

Visiting Institution: Ecole Centrale, Process Engineering Lab, Gif-sur-Yvette, France

“For my FSCIS fellowship, I worked at EcoleCentrale’s Life Sciences Laboratory. Over the course of my six-week internship, I coded a program (written in C++ and Python) that utilizes image analysis algorithms and logistic regression to predict whether a cell will divide in the next X hours. It currently classifies cells as growing or not with 97% accuracy allowing for predictive analysis, which was not previously used in the laboratory. What drew me to the FSCIS fellowship is my love for the French culture. Professionally, I learned how it is to lead my own project with minimal supervision, and how to ask for help from people more senior than me when necessary.”



Luke Sturm

Department of Mathematical & Computational Science, Stanford University (2019)

Visiting Institution: Université Pierre & Marie Curie, Paris, France

“I was developing a model to understand protein-RNA subject interactions. The lab I worked in had already developed ways to predict protein-protein and protein-DNA interactions, so I was building on a lot of already accomplished work. I read papers, gathered a dataset, curated the dataset, studied the 3D structures of proteins, and ran a series of tests and statistical analysis to build a protein-RNA interaction prediction model. In the end, I finished the summer with promising results and helped put together a plan for the next steps of the analysis.

The most important thing from the summer was working with people from all over the world and gaining their perspectives. Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to do research in France this summer. As a rising senior studying applied mathematics with a huge interest in the synergy of biology and mathematics, getting to work in a computational biology lab was a perfect way to spend my summer. I not only got to apply what I have been learning in school, but I also got to contribute to research and understand what it would be like to do a Ph.D. Because I am a senior thinking about what to do after college, this has been particularly valuable to me and will definitely help advise my future.”



Tara Shannon

Department of Bioengineering, Stanford University (2019)

Visiting Institution: INSERM, Chromosome & Materials Laboratory, Paris, France

“I worked in a research lab under France’s National Institute of Health and Medical Research (INSERM) in Paris. I was assigned a Ph.D. advisor, who helped me realize my own research project. The lab specializes in studying DNA damage in yeast cells, and they currently use an enzyme that can make precise DNA breaks. However, currently, there is no way to stop the enzyme from persistently damaging the DNA after the cell repairs it. My project was to create a system that under certain conditions can degrade the enzyme. To accomplish this, I learned many different lab techniques such as western blotting, drop tests and dynamic analyses. After seeing the opportunity to work in a bioresearch lab in Paris, I was excited about the potential to broaden my scientific education and develop practical workplace skills while having the opportunity to be immersed France’s culture and language. Thank you so much for the opportunity you gave me. It truly impacted my life in an everlasting way.”

FELLOWSHIPS (CONTINUED)

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. During academic year 2017-2018, the center awarded eight fellowships.

For more information on the Visiting Student Researcher Fellowship Program, please visit our [website](#).

Sébastien Brisbois

Université de Strasbourg, Strasbourg, France

Visiting Department: Center for Spatial & Textual Analysis, Stanford University

“My research for the FSCIS fellowship was about automated text recognition for medieval manuscripts. I applied to the FSCIS fellowship because it was open to master degree students as well and because it was encouraging inter-disciplinary projects. Also, Stanford has a research hub dedicated to Digital Humanities, and they agreed to host me. This project was my first experience on a digital project in history and also in a research laboratory dedicated to Digital Humanities. Beyond my project and what I knew about this research field, I discovered a great variety of projects, new methods and also tools that can help the student or the researcher. For me the FSCIS fellowship was the opportunity to develop a project in Digital Humanities. I definitely will integrate this research into my master degree dissertation and I would like to keep using digital tools for my future researches in medieval history. My stay at Stanford also allowed me to discover an academic system different from what I have experienced so far.”



Edward Barnet

Department of History, Stanford University

Visiting Institution: EHESS, Centre de Recherches Historiques, Paris, France

“My work examines homo musicus, or the musical conception of the human being that informed how physicians and natural philosophers in 17th and 18th century Europe understood the functions of life.

Beginning in the 17th century, natural philosophers increasingly refused any recourse to hidden causes and abstract metaphysical principles: all natural phenomena were to be explained according to simple mechanistic principles, intended to account for empirical observation. Yet the fundamental processes of life lay necessarily beyond the research of the physician’s gaze, or the anatomist’s scalpel, thereby creating an epistemic gap, to be filled by hypothesis and conjecture.”



Lisa Bolz

Université Paris Sorbonne/CELSA, Paris, France

Visiting Department: Department of Communication, Stanford University

“Within the two months at Stanford University I was able to write a part of my final Ph.D. thesis. I had the possibility to meet some scholars in digital humanities who gave me some advice for my research and I had the chance to exchange with them on digital methods. I was grateful for the opportunity to ask all my questions on “R” to the staff at the Green Library and to discuss with researchers of the CESTA. I deepened my knowledge in digital methods and learned more about interdisciplinary cooperation, American research culture and educational system. I learned a lot about the differences between American and European journalism. The fellowship allowed me to spend time at one of the best and well-known university. It will certainly help me for my future career. I was invited to attend a round table as an expert on digital communication history at the annual conference of the International Communication Association. I would like to thank all the people who made my stay at Stanford University possible. It was truly an exceptional experience.”

FELLOWSHIPS (CONTINUED)

Visiting Student Researcher Fellowship (Continued)

Alberto Comparini

Department of French & Italian, Stanford University
Visiting Institution: Université de Nice, Département d'Italien, Nice, France



"My Summer research in France was very productive for different reasons: first, I was able to edit, expand, complete, and finally submit my dissertation; second, the French environment allowed me to develop and significantly improve my French oral and written skills; third, by working everyday with my tutor, Professor Sensini, I learned how to think and write for a different audience (French), which would be an incredible asset that I will use in my future applications; finally, this temporary collaboration with Professor Sensini has become more than that: we eventually started thinking about a post-doc project on 'literary dialogues' and also about further collaborations in the fields of classics reception between Italy and France, as well as further investigations on the presence of Jean-Paul Sartre and Albert Camus' works and thought in Italian culture. I would like to thank the France-Stanford Center for Interdisciplinary Studies for the intellectual and economical support. This fellowship has been very important for both my Ph.D. and my upcoming career as a scholar in Europe; without the France-Stanford Center support, my life would have taken a different path."

Adrien Guénégo

Toulouse University Hospital, Toulouse, France
Visiting Department: Department of Neuro-imaging & Neuro-intervention, Stanford University



"I worked on multimodal brain imaging to improve the reliability in characterizing and managing acute stroke syndrome. I did this work with the neuroradiology department and the stroke center. I investigated the relation between stroke topography and clinical outcome, and in particular the relation between the brain lesion topography and cognitive impairment leading to dementia and disabilities. It was a very interesting and important topic. It is going to be a major asset for my academic career as I was able to learn new techniques, meet new people. We are working on getting a first publication in a clinical journal. I did not have any grant or financial help from my country or hospital. Furthermore the possibility to get a grant from a famous and prestigious institution like the France-Stanford Center was a marvelous opportunity and I thank them again. I would like to thank the France-Stanford Center for its support."

Amina Annane

Université de Montpellier, Montpellier, France
Visiting Department: Stanford Center for Biomedical Informatics Research, Stanford University



"I am a fourth year Ph.D. student in computer science at the Laboratory of Informatics, Robotics and Microelectronics of Montpellier (LIRMM). In spring 2018, I worked on biomedical ontology matching at Stanford. Indeed, the volume of data in biomedicine is constantly increasing. A key aspect to address biomedical data integration and semantic interoperability is the use of terminologies and ontologies as a common denominator to structure biomedical data and make them interoperable. Being at Stanford for two months was a very nice experience, a dream that has been realized. I met inspiring researchers such as Mark A. Musen, and I had the chance to assist to several interesting talks. Visiting Stanford University was a great experience that made me more confident and ambitious! Discussions that I had with the BMIR researchers inspired me. Indeed, I came back with several ideas that will help me succeed in my scientific career. I would like to thank the France-Stanford Center, the BMIR team for their invitation and hospitality and my supervisors for having supported my application."

FELLOWSHIPS (CONTINUED)

Visiting Student Researcher Fellowship (Continued)



Geneviève Robin

Ecole Polytechnique, Centre de Mathématiques Appliquées, Palaiseau, France
Visiting Department: Department of Statistics, Stanford University

"For my FSCIS fellowship, I spent four months in the department of Statistics of Stanford University. I worked on the implementation of a statistical method to analyze aggregated data. During my stay at Stanford, I implemented an open source software, and performed experiments to assess the performance of the method. The particular subject, implementing statistical methods for hospital data, was of interest to me because it combined interesting mathematical and computational topics with an application that is important for me: using data analysis to improve patient care. My experience at Stanford was fruitful both scientifically and personally. I had the opportunity to discuss my topic with top statisticians, and to get feedback from them. My stay at Stanford was very productive, and resulted in an article now submitted to one of the best journals in statistics. The FSCIS fellowship will very likely be a crucial point in my young academic career. It enabled me to produce research results that I could not produce in France, and I believe this will make my Ph.D. dissertation much more convincing."



Magali Ferro

Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Mines, Gardanne, France
Visiting Department: Geballe Laboratory of Advanced Materials, Stanford University

"I applied for the FSCIS fellowship to be able to start a collaboration with Professor Heilshorn as she is an expert in cell-matrix interaction, a parameter I wanted to include into my blood brain barrier in vitro model. I learned a lot about scientific thinking and project design through personal and general meetings. I discovered a new research area that deserves to be included into my Ph.D. Thanks to this fellowship I got the opportunity to visit a center of excellence, which improved my scientific approach. It was an amazing occasion to work on cell-matrix interaction with a reference person, raising a deep interest in this field. It was a rewarding professional and personal experiment. Hopefully the review with Professor Heilshorn should be published at the end of the year 2018. I would like to thank the France-Stanford Center for giving me this opportunity."

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. In 2017-2018, the center funded seven fellowships.

For more information on the Visiting Junior Scholar Fellowship Program, please visit our [website](#).



Daniel S. Joyce

Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, Stanford University
Visiting Institution: Université Claude Bernard, Lyon, France

"For this research I traveled to Lyon, France. I worked at INSERM with experts in light sensing, sleep, and physiology. In this project we looked to evaluate how the color of light can influence affective judgments. I learned the challenges of working to tight time frames. I believe it made me a better researcher as I can now manage my time better to be more efficient and productive. It has allowed me to pursue research interests that I would not have been able to do at Stanford."

FELLOWSHIPS (CONTINUED)

Visiting Junior Scholar Fellowship (Continued)

**Karim Ouaras**

Université Paris XI,
Paris,
France Appliquées,
Palaiseau, France
*Department of
Mechanical
Engineering, Stanford
University*

"I did experiments in the Stanford Plasma Physics Lab concerning the characterization of low temperature plasma using terahertz spectroscopy. I applied to the fellowship in order to work with Professor Cappelli at Stanford with whom we share a common interest on the characterization of plasma using terahertz spectroscopy method. Also, this was the opportunity to initiate a real and strong collaboration between the CNRS and Stanford University on plasma physics topics. That experience was really great in several ways. I discovered a complete different manner of working. Research in the United States is somewhat different than France. It allowed me to strengthen my ability to adapt. I also really appreciated the fact that my hosted professor gave me access to all the facilities to build my own experiment. He let me do the research I wanted to do but he always gave me his opinion and helping me with new ideas. It was the perfect collaboration. This experience will provide me with a better chance to obtain a permanent position at the CNRS. Also, it allowed me to build a strong collaboration with Stanford and especially with Professor Cappelli with who we already plan to work together in the future. We plan to write and publish a paper on the following months. Thanks a lot for giving me this opportunity."

**Andrei Pesic**

Department of French, Stanford University
*Visiting Institution: Ecole Normale Supérieure,
Paris, France*

"I spent four weeks in Paris researching in the Archives Nationales and the Bibliothèque Nationale de France. I was searching for legal quarrels between the different Parisian theater companies in the eighteenth century to learn about the conceptual language that they used to justify their existence and, often, try to stamp out their competitors. This will form the basis of an article (and possibly longer) project on the introduction of economic vocabulary into debates about the arts during the age of Enlightenment. I applied to the FSCIS fellowship because it was crucial for me to spend a month researching in the archives to uncover unpublished correspondence and administrative memos to complement the research I had done on printed sources. I had pushed the research as far as possible at Stanford, and needed to go to Paris to pursue the project further. It also allowed me to consult with colleagues in Paris who provided me with invaluable assistance in my research. It has provided me with the material for an article that will bridge my first book on concerts in the age of Enlightenment with my next research project on the history of economic thought. It was crucial to have funding to make an open-ended search in the archives. I am very grateful to the France-Stanford Center for the opportunity to spend a month in Paris, which allowed me to work on a project that I would not otherwise have been able to pursue."

**Stacy Malaker**

Department of Chemistry, Stanford
University
*Visiting Institution: Université de Lille,
Villeneuve d'Ascq, France*

"I was interested in learning more about French culture, the workplace, and the language. The subject matter is tangentially related to my own work, hence why I was interested in it. It's given me a lot of ideas for things I can do in my own lab. It also will likely result in a paper (or more!) from the original research performed in the laboratory. I learned a lot about French culture. I tried a lot of very smelly cheeses, tasted a lot of delicious wines. I found that they are much more relaxed about work, and generally enjoy quite a few bank holidays."

FELLOWSHIPS (CONTINUED)

Visiting Junior Scholar Fellowship (Continued)



Emma Puighermanal

Institute of Functional Genomics,
Montpellier, France
*Visiting Department: Department
of Neurosurgery, Stanford
University*

"In my lab in France, I used molecular and imaging techniques to characterize the different types of neurons present in the striatum. Thanks to the FSCIS fellowship I used ground-breaking techniques to study how those different types of neurons connect to other brain areas and control different behaviors. I wanted to have an experience abroad — especially in such a high-powered and successful scientific environment like the one at Stanford University. I had an amazing experience. I am actually considering the possibility of coming back for my second post-doc. This fellowship has also given me the chance to network with scientific leaders in my field. I got valuable feedback on my scientific projects and advice that will benefit my career. More broadly, I hope that the project I worked on at Stanford is the start of a fruitful, long-term collaboration between my lab in France and Dr. Jun Ding. The fellowship helped me finalize a major project I started during my postdoc in France and will likely lead to a publication. We expect to submit a manuscript in the next few months. It was perfect! I recommend it to everybody."



Giacomo Mantovan

EHESS (CEIAS), Paris, France
*Visiting Department:
Department of Anthropology,
Stanford University*

"I applied for this fellowship in order to work with Professor Thiranagama who, like myself, is a specialist on the Sri Lankan civil war, which is to say on Tamil militancy. My aim was to prepare my dissertation for publication. Professor Sharika Thiranagama, suggested that I prepare the table of contents of my manuscript and start by writing the most important chapter of the book. I wrote this chapter as a paper to be submitted to a top American anthropological journal. I learned how to write an article for a top American journal. Such journals require a great deal of work compared to other publications. Professor Thiranagama stressed the importance of the state of the art, and of engaging with other scholars working on similar topics. My work at Stanford has been very useful for my academic output: now I know better how to write a paper for a prestigious journal and I have more ideas on how to prepare my dissertation for publication. I believe that my stay has been important for the development of my career."



Mohamed Saleh

Toulouse School of Economics, Toulouse, France
Visiting Department: Department of Economics, Stanford University

"During my stay at Stanford, I was engaged in a number of research projects. In a joint project with Jean Tirole (Toulouse School of Economics) titled Taxing Identity: Fiscal Policy and Conversions in Early Islam, I examined situations in which the government taxes certain groups of the population based on their identity, in order to induce group members to comply via losing their identity. I also worked on an article titled, Slavery and the Cotton Boom in Nineteenth-Century Rural Egypt. In this article, I analyzed the impact of the boom in cotton prices that occurred due to the American Civil War in 1861-1865 on the introduction of agricultural slavery in cotton-growing districts in rural Egypt. I started a number of collaborations while at Stanford. The first is with Salma Mousa (PhD student, Stanford Political Science) and examines the impact of the growth of European schooling in the second half of the nineteenth century and the early twentieth century. The second is joint with Ragui Assaad (University of Minnesota) and Thomas Ginn (PhD student, Stanford Economics), where we investigate the effect of the influx of Syrian refugees in Jordan on the educational outcomes of Jordanian youth. The third project is joint with Cihan Artunc (Arizona) in which we examine non-Muslim minorities' access to capitulations in nineteenth-century Egypt."

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The center's annual executive committee meeting took place on Friday, May 4, 2018 at Stanford University.

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

Jeffrey A. Feinstein, Dunlevie Family Professor of Pulmonary Vascular Disease and Professor by courtesy of Bioengineering at the Lucile Salter Packard Children's Hospital, 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 Laitin, James T. Watkins IV and Elise V. Watkins Professor of Political Science and co-director of Immigration Policy Lab, Stanford University

French Members

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

Yves Frénot, 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

Bénédicte de Montlaur, Cultural Counselor of the French Embassy in the United States, New York

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

Paul-André Rosental, Professor, Centre d'Etudes Européennes et de Politique Comparée, Sciences Po Paris

Leadership

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

Christophe Laux, Associate Director

Isabelle Collignon, Program Manager

