



THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO

**INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE
OF RESEARCH IN PARIS**
John W. Boyer Center in Paris

Annual **Report** 2023/24





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Housed within the John W. Boyer Center in Paris, the IIRP offers innovative possibilities for research, collaboration, and public-facing discourse between University of Chicago scholars and their partners around the world.

The IIRP supports and promotes the University's engagement throughout Europe, Africa, and the Middle East, fostering intellectual creativity and collaboration among students, scholars, alumni, artists, practitioners, and policymakers.

A message from **the Dean** of **the College**

Since 2003, the Center in Paris has served as an intellectual destination for our students, faculty, and alumni around the world. As the higher education system becomes increasingly competitive, the university has solidified its unique position as a global institution through the establishment of its global centers. In Autumn 2024, we will celebrate the opening of the University of Chicago John W. Boyer Center in Paris, which will open pathways for an even wider program of education and research, and in doing so will amplify the University's global impact and engagement.

An exciting new feature of the Center is the International Institute of Research in Paris (IIRP), which promotes our field-defining research with partners around the world. At the crossroads of Europe, Africa, and the Middle-East, Paris offers our researchers state-of-the-art facilities and robust staff support to advance international collaborations with academic, political, and scientific entities across this important geographic region.

As we embark on the first year of the new Center, we look forward to developing new opportunities for undergraduate research programs, visiting fellowships, and enhanced international partnerships. The College is proud to have founded and to continue to support this intellectual home in Europe for the UChicago community, and we look forward to the innovations that our students, faculty, and partners will bring to the IIRP.



Melina Hale

Dean of the College

William Rainey Harper Professor in Organismal Biology and Anatomy and the College
University of Chicago



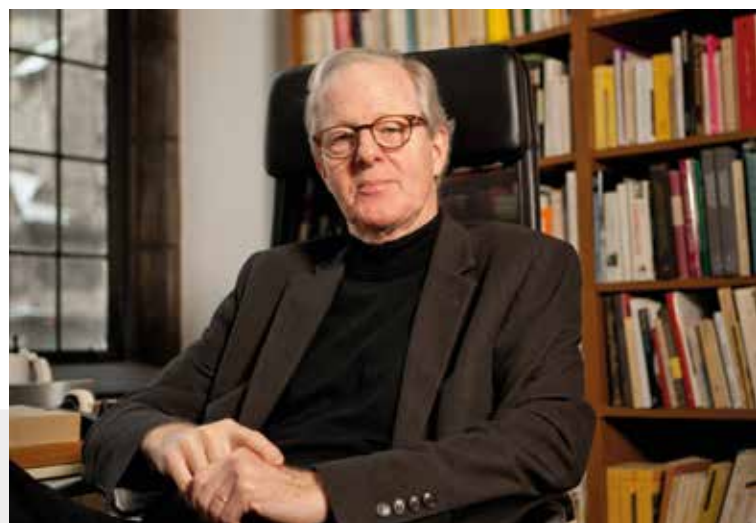
A message from **the Faculty Director**

I am delighted to welcome you to the IIRP, a unique and exciting place to do research at the University of Chicago. Since its founding in 1890, the University of Chicago has embraced a tradition of international partnership and collaboration. In 2003, the College opened its Center in Paris, which has served as a model for the other University global centers that followed. As the founding faculty director in Paris, I have seen how our Center has promoted partnerships and offered our faculty and students opportunities for teaching and research that would not otherwise be possible on the home campus.

With the opening of the new John W. Boyer Center in Paris and the establishment of the IIRP, we will offer our community and our partners a platform to further their research projects and to enhance the University's intellectual presence from a European point of view.

It is our aim to make of the IIRP a kind of home-away-from-home research facility welcoming all of our UChicago community members who find themselves in Paris. We will also welcome your research collaborators from our geographical area – Europe, the Middle East, Africa – who come to work and interact with you. We seek to provide a convivial facility with a unique UChicago sense of intellectual sociability, including opportunities to build connections through research workshops, events, and conversation over coffee or tea.

While we will have state of the art technology, we are also aware that many of our researchers will want to work with books or other printed source material. To this end, we have negotiated an agreement with the Sorbonne University Library that will allow you to order books from the Sorbonne Library and have them



brought to the Institute for your use on-site.

At a time when Europe, with its unique connections to the Middle East and Africa, is proving to be ever more important in its relationship with the United States, the IIRP will support and promote the University's visibility throughout the region, fostering intellectual creativity and collaboration. It is my great pleasure to further this mission by inviting you – in this inaugural year – to become a member of the IIRP community, and I look forward to a full and fruitful inaugural year ahead.

Robert Morrissey

Benjamin Franklin Professor of French Literature, and the Committee on Interdisciplinary Studies in the Humanities
Faculty Director of the International Institute of Research in Paris
University of Chicago



Street view of the University of Chicago Center



IIRP Research Suite, with open work space & private offices



Lab Classroom



IIRP Research seminar room

IIRP Faculty Grant Program

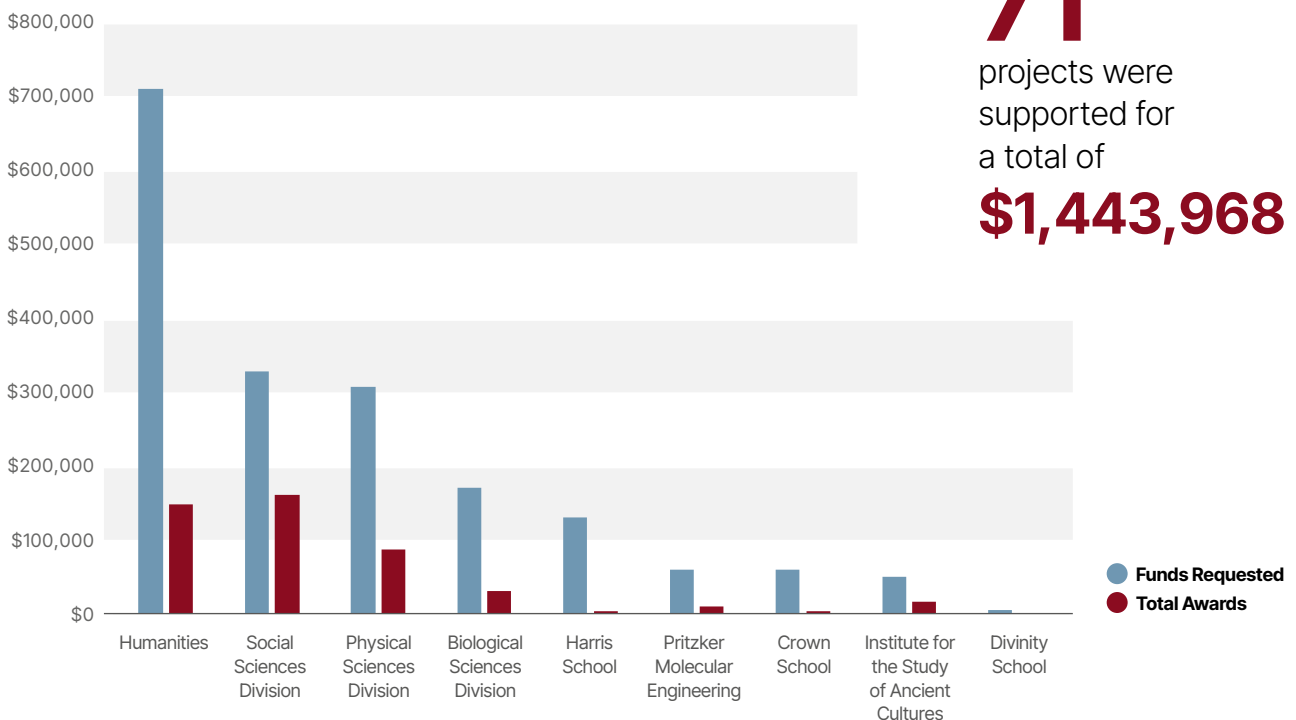
Through its faculty grant program, the IIRP supports creative and scholarly research activities in collaboration with communities and institutions across Europe, Africa, and the Middle East.

Funded by the Office of the Provost and the College with generous support from the Humanities Division, the Physical Sciences Division, the Social Sciences Division, and the Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering, this program offers seed funding for both short- and long-term projects led by University of Chicago faculty and their partners abroad.

Many of these projects have benefitted from matching funds from partners and several have led to major external funding opportunities for our faculty investigators.



Comparison of Funds Requested vs Funds Awarded by Academic Division - 2024



Since 2022-23,

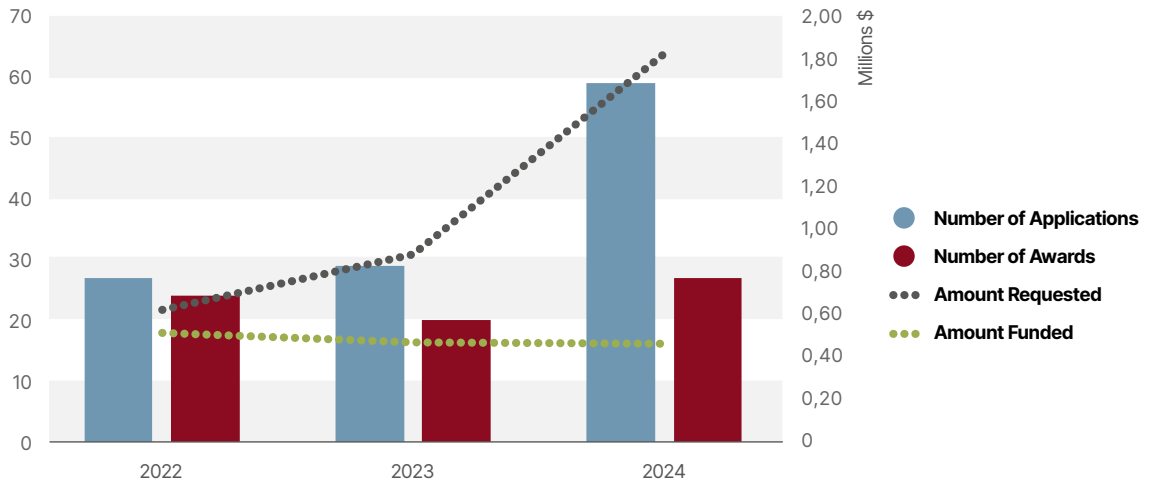
71

projects were supported for a total of

\$1,443,968

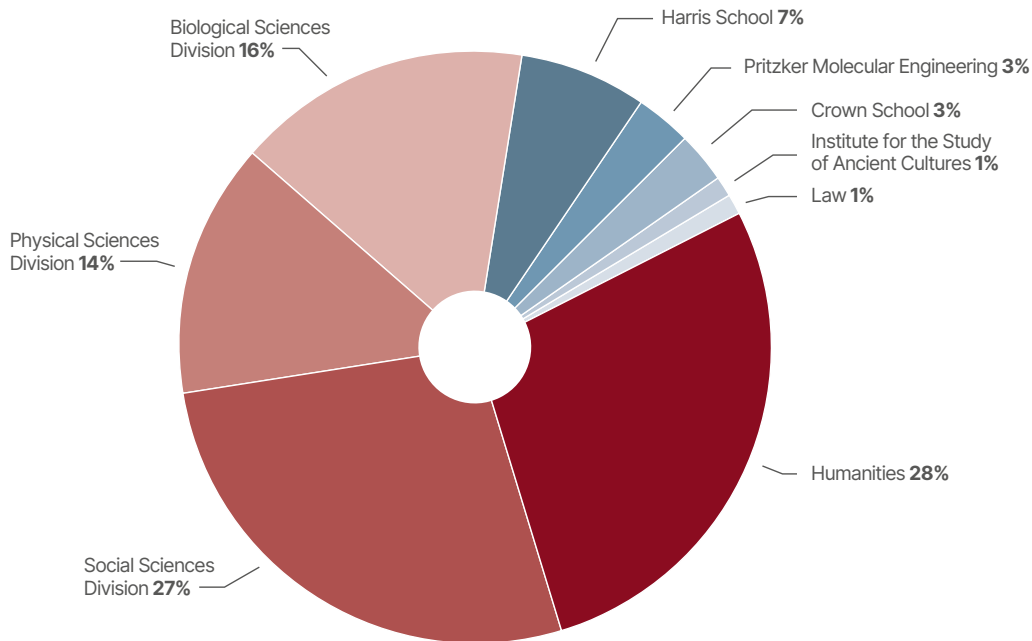


Number of Applications vs. Projects Supported by Year Including Total Amount Requested & Funded



This year, the IIPR Steering Committee received fifty-nine projects, doubling the number submitted last year. As a result, the Steering Committee had to make some very difficult choices. Of the 59 projects only 27 projects were funded and no project was fully funded. And this in spite of the very high quality of the projects submitted. It is our hope that IIPR's financial sources will grow and allow us to finance a greater number of projects.

Projects by Division - 2022-2024



With demand continuing to outpace available funding, a major priority for the IIPR will be developing new revenue streams through philanthropy, joint-funding programs with strategic partners, and providing support for successful applications to domestic and international funding agencies (e.g., European Research Council, US federal and non-federal agencies, corporations, etc.).

IIRP Faculty Grant

COVID-19 Transmission, Testing, and Vaccination Dynamics within Migrant Worker Social Networks

“Funding for this pilot from the Research Institute at the Paris Center was instrumental in obtaining a \$350,000 NIH R21 award.”

The pilot study supported data collection in Athens, Greece, of Bangladeshi migrant workers concerning their experiences with COVID-19 and COVID-19 prevention. The pilot aided in developing a team which is now ready to start the full study, which will have a greater impact, as resources can focus on the main study objectives as opposed to infrastructure development and training support.

This developmental research characterizes the social and transmission networks of migrant workers in Greece as part of pandemic preparedness, to mitigate ongoing and future coronavirus epidemics among vulnerable populations in diverse contexts. We aim to better understand COVID-19 prevention, testing, treatment, seroprevalence and immunogenicity in order to address facilitators and barriers to COVID-19 prevention. Migrant workers comprise one of the foremost essential worker categories, are at increased risk of COVID-19 transmission and at the same time have some of the lowest rates of testing and vaccination. Understanding the potential transmission dynamics would help develop tailored interventions to limit the explosive transmission documented in the US and Europe. The study context and team are ideal for this proposal. Athens Greece is the entry point to the largest migrant population in the EU and Bangladeshi migrants are the second largest constituency. Although the target population is very specific, it represents an extremely important stream of global migration that connects two populous world regions, with salient epidemiological consequences for the entire globe.

Generous partners of this project include The University of Athens Hellenic Scientific Society for the Study of AIDS, Sexually Transmitted Infections and Emerging Diseases, Northwestern University, The National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAD an NIH institute & The University of Chicago Kiphart Center.



John Schneider
Professor of Medicine
Director, Global Health Programs
Professor of Medicine,
Epidemiology and Social Work
University of Chicago

New Directions in Fiction Studies

This two-year project aimed at developing the work of the International Society for Fiction and Fictionality Studies (ISFFS/SIRFF), which grew out of collaborations between the University of Chicago and the Université Sorbonne Nouvelle. The project places the IIRP at the heart of the Society’s scholarly network.

Our project comprised several components and outcomes, including: a) a co-sponsored multidisciplinary study day; b) a co-edited volume completed with the support of the IIRP; and a four-day seminar on “Degrees of Fictionality” held at the University of Chicago Center in Paris.

This project will continue with a follow-up conference on the same topic as the June seminar. It will take place at Kwansai Gakuin University, Japan, in October 2024 (organized by Akihiro Kubo and co-sponsored by Kwansai Gakuin University and the ASIFF).

“At the [Paris] Center, I find that there is a great deal of flexibility to plan and configure events - at varying scales, from workshops to larger conferences - in order to match the intellectual goals of a given project.”



—
Alison James
 Professor of French
 Department of Romance Languages
 and Literatures
 Division of the Humanities
 University of Chicago

—
Collaborators
 Generous support received from the IIRP, the Association for Studies in Fiction and Fictionality Studies (ASIFF), the FoReLLis research group at the University of Poitiers, and the *Maison des sciences de l’homme et de la société* at the University of Poitiers.

Building an International Multidisciplinary Network Towards Personalized Cancer Chronotherapy

This project aimed to activate and link research networks and set the groundwork for future international research projects funded by the National Institute of Health and other agencies on cancer chronotherapy. The project leaders will publish the workshop’s proceedings and are currently planning a third workshop given the great success of the previous two. The project has fostered international research collaborations and pilot studies both at UChicago and other universities.

“[The] staff at UChicago Paris Center was exceptional. They guided us through the entirety of the planning process and were on hand for everything on the days of the event.”



—
Esra Tasali
 Professor of Medicine; Director,
 UChicago Sleep Center
 University of Chicago

—
Collaborators
 University of Paris Saclay

Tropical Marxism

This conference brought together a variety of junior and senior scholars across disciplines such as history, anthropology, philosophy, political theory, and law to examine how anti colonial actors, intellectuals, and movements in the Global South theorized Marxism anew.

By the end of the conference, new collaborations were already in the works. There is a tentative plan to organize a smaller workshop on Tropical Marxism with a narrower focus in the history of political thought, which may result in an edited volume. Julian Go and Kevin Pham began to plan a co-authored article on Marx in Vietnam and Vietnam in Marx.

“We [...] took advantage of a critical mass of scholars interested in the topic who are based in Paris universities, for both participants and audience. Several of our participants based in Paris [...] observed that the conference provided a forum for conversations that are rare in French universities [...]”

In December 2023, the IIRP and the Neubauer Collegium signed an MoU to strengthen their collaboration. Both institutions committed to working together on projects that could benefit from their respective expertise in Chicago and in Paris. Out of this partnership, a project on Reproductive Healthcare amongst several promising projects have started to take shape.



Jennifer Pitts

Professor, Department of Political Science and the John U. Nef Committee on Social Thought

Collaborators

In addition to the staff at the UChicago Paris Center, the project benefited for the generous support of the Chicago Center for Contemporary Theory and the Pozen Family Center for Human Rights.



Grant Research



Julie Chor

Associate Professor, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Biological Sciences Division.
University of Chicago

Ashish Premkumar

Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Biological Sciences Division.
University of Chicago

Reproductive Healthcare

Drs. Chor and Premkumar conducted both clinical and research site evaluations with multiple teams at Necker Enfants du Maladies Hospital (NEMH), Trousseau Hospital (TH), Port Royal Hospital (PRH), and Sorbonne University (SU). The work done was a strong first step towards building longstanding relationships with research and clinical facilities around Paris.

Moving forward, Drs. Chor and Premkumar have short- and long-term plans to expand this project. Within the next three years, they plan to: a) improve Chicago-Paris collaboratives for the provision of abortion care, b) improve Chicago-Paris collaboratives for fetal therapy, and c) coordinate conferences focused on the future of reproductive health, with particular attention to reproductive autonomy and parenting in the U.S. and European countries. Over the next five to ten years, they plan to establish an inter- and trans-continental think tank focused on multidisciplinary approaches to reproductive health.



Lab Classroom

In Residence at the IIRP

In addition to supporting the research projects of UChicago faculty, the IIRP hosts visiting scholars from around the world, strengthening our partnerships and enabling the development of a more inclusive, interactive community.



—
Adam Bigache
 PhD Student, English
 Institut des Amériques Fellow

“During my stay at the IIRP, I was able to meet and interact with a rich community of scholars and students, and to attend a variety of conferences, workshops, and various scientific events. To me, this dynamic scholarly life has been one of the highlights of my experience there. Among other things, it has allowed me to reconsider my own approach to my research work, and to contextualize it within the larger context of African American and diasporic studies. I feel particularly privileged to have been able to contribute to this dynamic scholarly life through the organization of a conference in November 2022. Moreover, the planning of this event has allowed me to meet and interact with many young researchers, discussions that proved exceptionally rich and meaningful, and have deepened my understanding of my own research subject.”



—
Angeline Gragasin
 MFA Cinema Arts – Screenwriting (Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema, CUNY Brooklyn College)
 BA Interdisciplinary Studies in the Humanities (UChicago)

Writer, filmmaker, and artist who makes narrative, documentary, and hybrid films, as well as social practice and participatory art projects.

“My time as an artist-in-residence at the UChicago IIRP was productive and meaningful. The staff were welcoming and courteous, going above and beyond to facilitate my research and help me navigate the French academic sector. An invaluable component to my residency was auditing an intensive language course at the Boyer Center, which accelerated my proficiency and complemented my immersion. I am very thankful for the IIRP’s generosity and support, especially considering the unorthodox nature of my research project (a narrative film).”

Jean-Jacques Cadet

Professor of Philosophy, *École Normale Supérieure de l'Université d'État d'Haïti* (Port-au-Prince)

After participating in the Tropical Marxism conference organized by Professor Jennifer Pitts (Political Science), Professor Cadet was unable to return to Haiti due to the state of emergency that was declared in Port-au-Prince. With support from the Center in Paris, IIRP, and the Pozen Center, Professor Cadet was able to remain in Paris and continue his research.

Funding from the Pozen Center supported a talk by Professor Cadet in Professor James Sparrow's course on Human Rights. Professor Cadet engaged College students on the current crisis in the larger context of the history of democracy in Haiti. He spoke both as a scholar of political philosophy and the history of democratic thought and practice in Haiti, and as a first-hand witness to the events of recent years that led to the March crisis, and the students responded with engagement and excellent questions.

On the academic outcomes of Jean Jacques's activities in Paris: *"It has contributed to my textbook work and to policy reform efforts in the United States. Eventually, I expect that it will lead to an edited volume."*



American Studies Program

Tocqueville Conference



Organized in partnership with the Karla Sherer Center for the Study of American Culture with generous funding support provided by Amy and Paul Carbone “New Perspectives on Constitution in the Era of Revolutions,” held on May 16 and 17, 2024 and organized by Linda Garbaye, Hugo Toudic, and Bertrand Van Ruymbeke, brought together a multidisciplinary group of experts at an important moment for contemporary constitutional practice and interpretation and in an inspiring historical setting to discuss the shared origins, early impact, and lasting legacies of the first wave of constitution-writing at the end of the eighteenth century.

Meeting at the Château de Tocqueville in Normandy, where Alexis de Tocqueville completed the second part of *Democracy in America* and composed *The Old Regime and the French Revolution*, participants from the disciplines of history, political science, philosophy, literature, and law engaged in a series of compelling talks and conversations that helped establish a common set of priorities for future engagements and a template for future programs. The speakers, moderators, and audience ranged from PhD students to emeritus professors, and they converged in Normandy from universities across France (Aix-Marseille, Caen-Normandy, Paris Cité, Paris Nanterre, La Rochelle, Sorbonne, Toulon) and the United States (Boston University, UChicago, Notre Dame, Penn, Stanford, USC).

Coming in the fall of 2025 History and the Foundation of the Separation of Powers

Where did our modern ideas about the separation of political powers—the proper balance between legislative, executive, and judicial roles and responsibilities—come from? How were those ideas transformed into practice and how have those practices evolved over time? We propose to assemble a set of experts for an international, multidisciplinary, multisite event to address one of the key legal and political issues of our own time by reflecting on the philosophical foundations of modern ideas of separation of powers in eighteenth-century Europe, on the implementation of some of those ideas in revolutionary America, and on the contests and disputes that have arisen from the age of Montesquieu to the present. The conference will be organized in part by Allison Lacroix (Law School and History) and Will Howell (Political Science and Harris/Public Policy), will feature scholars of history, law, political science, and philosophy, and will include events at the Paris Center as well as in the vicinity of Montesquieu’s estate near Bordeaux, where the French political philosopher first set the terms we have used and debated over the past three centuries.

Looking Ahead for Quantum

Quantum Physics Workshop and the public presentation of Quantum Casino



David Awschalom

Liew Family Professor of Molecular Engineering and Vice Dean for Research and Infrastructure at the Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering
University of Chicago

Recent years have seen accelerated progress in the development and use of quantum materials and systems for both fundamental science and nascent technologies. To maintain this momentum and foster interdisciplinary collaborations, a workshop open to the public will be held on November 20-23 at the Boyer Center in Paris. It will focus on uniting specialists from the Chicago and France but will also broadly involve others from Europe and North America.

Most of the invited participants are affiliated with the French CNRS, CEA, Argonne National Laboratory, the University of Chicago, universities across Western Europe, and the Chicago area. The CNRS is the institution highly represented among the guest speakers, emphasizing a strong partnership through this workshop and forging future collaborations. Quantum research is designated as a priority research area (PEPR) in the France 2030 plan, and the CNRS has been heading these efforts.

After the workshop, the Center will host a one-day public event to introduce quantum technologies through game play. The University of Chicago's STAGE Lab at the Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering has created the Quantum Casino, a suite of interactive games that explore how cooperative and competitive game play can afford everyone a better understanding of quantum physics. Interactive experiences will be offered through a "Quantum Photo Booth", with entangled qubits provided through a collaboration with IBM.

We aim to make this workshop and public event a yearly activity, alternating between Paris and Chicago, to sustain long lasting exchanges of ideas and collaboration. We hope that the partnership with the Boyer Center and IIRP will be long-lived, both within the context of this workshop and for the many collaborations it will foster.



Chicago-Tohoku Quantum Alliance, July 30 and 31, 2024, Tohoku University, Sendai, Japan

IIRP Partner Connections



Faculty Grant Projects 2024-2027

Ahmed, Osman	Biological Sciences Division	Genicular Artery Embolization for the treatment of Mild to Moderate Osteoarthritis of the Knee
Bates, John M	Biological Sciences Division	Using Museum Collections to Uncover the Evolution and Demography of the European Goldfinch
Chishti, Maliha	Harris School	Women Mobilizing for Peace in the MENA region
Davey, Kevin	Humanities	Foundations of Mathematics in Paris and Chicago
Ferguson, Andrew	Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering	Data-driven, low-dimensional, and generative models for molecular and materials discovery and design
Guyot-Sionnest, Philippe	Physical Sciences Division	Infrared nanomaterials for innovative sensing and imaging
Hillis, Faith	Social Sciences Division	CEERES Summer Seminars
Post, Tina	Humanities	Movement Theory Lab @ Performing Arts Forum
Sereno, Paul	Biological Sciences Division	Developing Laboratory and Research Capacity in Niger for World-Class Archaeological and Paleontological Patrimony
Zarychta, Alan	Crown School	Frontline Health Workers and Responsive Health Service Delivery for Syrian Refugees in Turkey
Lessing, Benjamin	Social Sciences Division	The New Triangle Trade: Transnational Crime and Illicit Trade Flows in Africa, Europe, and the Americas

Mason, Peggy	Biological Sciences Division	Neurobiology of fatigue
Shevell, Steven	Social Sciences Division	How Can Rapidly Fluctuating Signals from the Eye Result in Stable Human Vision?
Eakin Moss, Anne	Humanities	Endangered Film Archives in Eastern Europe
Ford, Anton	Humanities	Material Intentionality
James, Alison	Humanities	Problems and Practices in Contemporary Life Writing
Katz, Harley	Physical Sciences Division	Pushing the frontier of cosmological simulations of galaxy formation
Keysar, Boaz	Social Sciences Division	To Listen or to Read? Investigating the Impact of Language Modality on Decision Making
Letinsky, Laura	Humanities	On connecting global histories of (art)photography
Moss, Kenneth	Social Sciences Division	Working Group on the Israeli and Palestinian Crisis and its Futures
Norman, Larry	Humanities	Graduate seminar research sessions at IIRP: Humanities Division and Divinity School Partnership
Privitera, Paolo	Physical Sciences Division	Searching for Dark Matter under the Alps: DAMIC-M "headquarters" at the Boyer Center/ IIRP in Paris
Slauter, Eric	Humanities	The American Program and AMERICA 2026 at the University of Chicago Center in Paris
Soroush, Mehrnoush	Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures	AI-Assisted Archaeological Remains Detection (A3RD) Hackathon
Stokes, Susan	Division	Democratic Solutions Gatherings
Wedeen, Lisa	Social Sciences Division	Revolutionary Disappointment
Yang, Da	Social Sciences Division	Toward Understanding Spatial Organization of Convective Clouds



IIRP Leadership



Guillaume Bal
Professor, Departments of Statistics and Mathematics and Committee on Computational and Applied Mathematics, Physical Science Division
University of Chicago

Steering Committee



Robert Morrissey
Benjamin Franklin Professor of French Literature, and the Committee on Interdisciplinary Studies in the Humanities
Faculty Director of IIRP and Chair of the IIRP Faculty Steering Committee
University of Chicago



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William Eckhardt Distinguished Service Professor
Computer Science
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Adom Getachew
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Maria Melissa Guarte
Senior Administrative and Research Coordinator, IIRP
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David Awschalom
Liew Family Professor of Molecular Engineering and Physics
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University of Chicago



Alison James
Professor of French
Department of Romance Languages and Literatures
Division of the Humanities
University of Chicago



Ariel Kalil

Daniel Levin Professor
Harris School of Public Policy Studies and
the College Director, Center for Human
Potential and Public Policy
Co-director, Behavioral Insights
and Parenting Lab
University of Chicago



Ashish Premkumar, M.D., Ph.D.

Assistant Professor
Section of Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Biological Sciences Division
University of Chicago



Susan Stokes

Blake Distinguished Service
Professor of Political Science
Faculty Director, Chicago Center
on Democracy
University of Chicago



David Levin

Alice H. and Stanley G. Harris Jr.
Distinguished Service Professor in
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Catherine Pfister

Professor
Department of Ecology & Evolution
Division of the Biological Sciences
University of Chicago



James Sparrow

Associate Professor of History,
the Conceptual and Historical Studies
of Science, and the College
University of Chicago



Sarah Walter

Senior Associate Dean for
International Initiatives
ex officio
University of Chicago



THE UNIVERSITY OF
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**INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE
OF RESEARCH IN PARIS**
John W. Boyer Center in Paris