Group of scholars examines the risk of disruptions to complex global systems

An interdisciplinary group of Princeton University scholars working to understand better the nature of risk has been selected by the Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies (PIIRS) as its 2014-16 research community. The community, “Global Systemic Risk,” is comprised of 21 core faculty members from more than a dozen disciplines. It is designed to push this emerging field forward.

Funding from PIIRS, up to $750,000 over the three-year period, will support research, conferences, and course development.

The research community’s coordinator is Miguel Centeno, the Musgrave Professor of Sociology, a professor of sociology and international affairs, and chair of the Department of Sociology.

Centeno, whose work focuses on the creation and maintenance of collective order, explains global systemic risk as a result of the complex systems through which international transactions flow. Examples include globalized financial systems, energy exploration and production, electricity transmission, computer networks, health care, food and water supplies, transportation networks, and commerce.

The research community is concerned with the risk of emergent disruptions in global systems — like the weaknesses in interdependent financial institutions that led to the recent financial crisis — caused by the interaction of large numbers of autonomous agents.

“Tangible risks due to the interdependence of these massive global interactions and structures have grown exponentially since the 1970s, and they threaten global political, economic, and financial systems that affect citizens of every nation,” Centeno said.

In announcing the research community, PIIRS Acting Director Stephen Kotkin said, “It is thrilling to see the wide-angle, multidisciplinary research that PIIRS facilitates be applied to globalization, and not just to the wealth of benefits that interconnections generate but also to the risks.” Kotkin is also the John P. Birkelund ’52 Professor in History and International Affairs.

Engaging with colleagues in a variety of disciplines who are

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PIIRS continues to expand its global seminars initiative with courses being held for the first time in Azerbaijan and Switzerland, and new seminars in Greece and India. These courses focus on history, translation, literature and photography, and anthropology, respectively. A reprise of popular seminars held in Ghana (2013) and Ireland (2011) will round out the summer 2014 offerings. The six-week-long seminars are open to Princeton freshmen, sophomores, and juniors and are taught by Princeton faculty.

Applications are available online; the deadline to apply is Feb. 10, 2014.

For more information go to: www.princeton.edu/piirs/global-seminars.

Baku, Azerbaijan

“Islam, Empire, and Energy: Azerbaijan and the Modern World” takes place in Azerbaijan’s seaside capital, Baku — once a site of Zoroastrian worship, then a Muslim Khanate, next the center of world oil production at the dawn of the 20th century, and now once again a global energy hub. It explores Azerbaijan’s history from the arrival of the Turks from Central Asia through the present day.

The course will be taught by Michael Reynolds, an associate professor of history, and held from June 9 to July 18.

Accra, Ghana

“African Cities: Their Pasts and Futures” focuses on three Ghananian cities — Accra, Cape Coast, and Kumasi — and traces the development of these urban centers from the earliest times to the present. The seminar, which is being offered for the second time, also explores the complicated cultural encounters that have given the cities distinct identities. It will be taught by Simon Gikandi, the Robert Schirmer Professor of English, and held from June 9 to July 18.

Athens, Greece

“A Land of Light and Shadows: Modern Greek Literature and Photography” traces the rapport between literature and photography by looking closely at a number of literary and theoretical texts that differently address questions central to both literature and photography: the nature of representation, reproduction, memory, history, perception, and knowledge. This course will be taught by Eduardo Cadava, a professor of English, and held from June 16 to July 25.

In 2014-15, the community will support up to four visiting fellowships and postdoctoral associate positions. Activities planned for that year and for 2015-16 include a forum for doctoral candidates, a symposium where colleagues present ongoing research findings and where group members undertake joint writing projects, and the possible creation of a credit-bearing course. The full schedule of events can be found at www.princeton.edu/piirs/research-communities/global-systemic-risk.

The study of risk is an emerging discipline that has the potential to become an important and influential academic and policy field,” Centeno said. “We hope to create a cohesive and comprehensive framework to push it forward.”

Read the profile of Miguel Centeno featured on the PIIRS website at bit.ly/I82N5M.
Mysore, India
“Growing Up in India” focuses on Indian youth and raises the basic question: What is it like to grow up in India? It explores the interrelated factors that determine the organization of the Indian family; the beliefs and practices that turn children into social actors; and the place and experience of youth in Indian society, focusing on shifting family forms and rapid social change. It will be taught by Isabelle Clark-Decès, a professor of anthropology, and held from June 9 to July 18.

Galway, Ireland
“Performing Irishness: Theater and Performance in Modern and Contemporary Ireland” explores a variety of Irish theater and performance forms. Students will study performance theory; explore the archives of Irish theater companies housed at the National University of Ireland; read drama; and learn about Irish language, music, and dance culture. The seminar’s last two weeks coincide with the Galway International Arts Festival, at which students will experience a variety of performances and meet with artists from all over the world. This course, offered for the second time, will be taught by Jill Dolan, the Annan Professor of English and a professor of English and theater in the Lewis Center for the Arts; and Stacy Wolf, a professor of theater in the Lewis Center for the Arts and director of the Princeton Atelier, and held June 16 to July 28.

Geneva, Switzerland
“Our Multilingual World: Regional and Global Responses to Linguistic Diversity” introduces the social and political approach to the study of language and a brief historical overview of multilingual societies, focusing on the Swiss example. Its main topics include the issues raised by linguistic diversity for international relations and international law; the language practices of international organizations; and the role of translation in a global society. It will be taught by David Bellos, a professor of French and Italian and comparative literature, and held from June 9 to July 18.

Connect with the PIIRS Global Seminars. Watch “Vision and Insight in Classic Japan,” a video from the 2013 seminar in Kyoto, or read the article “Into the wild: Global Seminar takes budding filmmakers to Kenya’s plains,” at www.princeton.edu/piirs/global-seminars.

Director’s Book Forum
PIIRS launched the 2013-14 Director’s Book Forum series with back-to-back events this fall.

The first, held Sept. 25, featured “The Itinerant Languages of Photography,” a book by Eduardo Cadava, a professor of English, and Gabriela Nouzeilles, a professor and chair of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese Languages and Cultures.


The aim of this yearlong forum is to provide opportunities for Princeton faculty working in international and regional studies to present their most recently published work to the Princeton community. The series will continue in Spring 2014.
Fung program engaged on campus

The Fung Global Fellows Program is active in 2013-14, its inaugural year, with its first cohort of fellows in residence at Princeton and a seminar series based on the theme, “Languages and Authority.”

The six international fellows, Adam Clulow, Helder De Schutter, David Kiwuwa, Priti Mishra, Brigitte Rath, and Ying Ying Tan, are focused on how languages interact with political, social, economic, and cultural authority. The seminar series, with events scheduled from October through May at 4:30 p.m. Thursdays in Burr Hall, features the fellows as well as invited speakers and discussants.

The Fung Global Fellows Program is directed by Michael Gordin, the Rosengarten Professor of Modern and Contemporary History and a professor of history.

Visit the Fung program website for the full schedule of events: www.princeton.edu/funggfp.

PIIRS taps 17 graduate fellows for 2013-14

Seventeen graduate students received PIIRS dissertation writing grants for 2013-14 and were selected as PIIRS Graduate Fellows. The fellowships are available to graduate students in any Princeton department who have reached Dissertation Completion Enrollment (DCE) status. The 2013-14 awards were as follows: full-year grant, $21,348.86, plus full DCE costs; a half-year grant, $10,692.43, plus full DCE costs; and a half-year grant, $10,692.43, plus half DCE costs.

2013-14 PIIRS Graduate Fellows

- Yael Berda, Sociology, “Colonial Legacy and Administrative Memory: The Legal Construction of Citizenship in Israel, India, and Cyprus”

Russian studies program renamed, expanded

With approval in spring 2013 from the Office of the Dean of the College, Princeton’s Russian studies program was renamed the Program in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies (REEES). In addition, undergraduates pursuing the REEES certificate of proficiency may now opt for one of two tracks.

The changes were initiated by the program’s director Serguei Oushakine, an associate professor of anthropology and Slavic languages and literatures, and endorsed by its executive committee. It is the second time the program’s name has been modified since the Program in Russian Studies was inaugurated in 1961. Both times the new moniker reflected geopolitical changes.

In 1991, after the collapse of the Soviet Union, the term “Eurasian” was added to the program’s title, said Oushakine, when the umbrella of Russia “looked culturally inappropriate and was historically incorrect.” The latest change reflects the past 20 years of postcommunist development, he said; countries of eastern and central Europe do not identify themselves as Eurasian and the field has developed around that notion.

Undergraduates pursuing an REEES certificate may now choose between two tracks — Russia and Eurasia (RES), and East European culture and society (EECS) — that cover the two separate geographic areas. The new EECS track offers an interdisciplinary approach to study of that region that includes the humanities and social sciences. It also has a language requirement.

REEES is an affiliate of PIIRS. Its website can be found at www.princeton.edu/res. Read about Serguei Oushakine at bit.ly/1e9FNRQ.
In early 2014, a series featuring PIIRS faculty associates speaking on key world issues will be launched at the Princeton Club of New York (PCNY). A collaboration between PIIRS and the PCNY, the series will be held at the club’s facilities at 15 W. 43rd St. in New York City.

Bernard Haykel, a leading expert on the Arabian peninsula, a professor of Near Eastern studies and director of the Institute for Transregional Study of the Contemporary Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia and of Princeton’s Oil, Energy, and the Middle East Project, will lead off the series with a talk on “Understanding the Arab Spring Uprisings” at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 5. Haykel’s current research focuses on Saudi Arabia and the Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

The second event, scheduled for Tuesday, March 5, at 6 p.m., will feature Thomas Christensen, the William P. Boswell Professor of World Politics of Peace and War, speaking on “The Challenges of a Rising China.” Codirector of Princeton’s China and the World Program, Christensen’s work focuses on China’s foreign relations, the international relations of East Asia, and international security.

A third event, not scheduled at press time, will be held in May. The series will continue in 2014-15.

Financial warfare topic of 2014 Cyril Black Book Forum

“Treasury’s War: The Unleashing of a New Era of Financial Warfare,” a book by Juan Zarate, senior adviser to the Washington, D.C.-based Center for Strategic and International Studies, will be the topic of the 2014 Cyril Black International Book Forum. The event, a discussion between the author and Princeton faculty members, will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2014, at 4:30 p.m., in Burr Hall, Room 219.

The book takes readers behind the scenes to explain the Treasury Department’s role in the war against the international financial network of rogue regimes, proliferators, terrorist groups, and criminal syndicates — strategy and capabilities designed and implemented by Zarate and a dedicated group of Treasury officials. Their work focused on the goal of isolating rogues from the legitimate financial system and helped shape an international financial environment in which the private sector’s bottom line dovetails with U.S. national security interests. “Treasury’s War” was published by Public Affairs in September 2013.
Visitors focus on range of issues, add to scholarship at PIIRS

Christiana Agawu, a sociologist with international development experience in education, health, and the environment, is a visiting lecturer with the Program in African Studies. This fall she is teaching AFS 303, “Social Structure in Africa: Responses to Socio-Political and Economic Forces.”

Yoshiro Baba, director of international and technical cooperation in the customs and tariff bureau of Japan’s Ministry of Finance, is a visiting professional specialist. His expertise is in capacity-building in the developing world, including policy development, strategic planning, and implementation.

Scott Barrett, the Lenfest-Earth Institute Professor of Natural Resource Economics at Columbia University, based in the School of International and Public Affairs, is a visiting research scholar with the research community “Communicating Uncertainty: Science, Institutions, and Ethics in the Politics of Global Climate Change.” He is also chair of the board of directors of the Beijer Institute. Barrett’s research focuses on global collective action in such areas as climate change, infectious diseases, and high seas fisheries.

Alexis Dudden, a professor of history at the University of Connecticut and a scholar of Japanese imperialism, is a visiting research scholar with the research community “Empires: Domination, Collaboration, and Resistance.” Her current project examines the modern history of Japan’s territorial disputes involving several groups of islands around the country’s main islands.

Matthew Erie, a legal anthropologist whose work examines the relationship between China and Islam, particularly from the late imperial period to that of the contemporary post-socialist nation-state, is a postdoctoral research associate with the research community “Empires: Domination, Collaboration, and Resistance.” His forthcoming book, “The Prophet and the Party: Shari’a, Islam, and China,” describes the practice of Shariah by Chinese Muslims.

Tulia Falleti, an associate professor of political science and a senior fellow in the Leonard Davis Institute for Health Economics at the University of Pennsylvania, is the 2013-14 “World Politics” visiting fellow. Her research interests include historical institutionalism and community participation with an emphasis in the health sector. Her articles on federalism, decentralization, authoritarianism, and qualitative methods have been published widely.

Leah Feldman, a visiting research associate with the research community “Empires: Domination, Collaboration, and Resistance,” recently earned a doctorate in comparative literature from the University of California, Los Angeles. Her dissertation explores Russian imperial and early Soviet orientalist literature and its responses in the works of the Muslim writers and thinkers of the Caucasus.

Christophe Jaffrelot, research director at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) and a professor at Sciences Po, Paris, is a Council for International Teaching and Research Global Scholar affiliated with the Program in South Asian Studies. His research interests focus on the politics of India and Pakistan and include theories of nationalism and democracy, mobilization of the lower castes and untouchables in India, the Hindu nationalist movement, and ethnic conflicts in Pakistan.
Jon Krosnick, the Fredrick O. Glover Professor in Humanities and Social Sciences; a professor of political science, communication, and psychology; a social science senior fellow at the Woods Institute; and director of the Political Psychology Research Group and the Summer Institute in Political Psychology at Stanford University, is a visiting research collaborator with the research community “Communicating Uncertainty: Science, Institutions, and Ethics in the Politics of Global Climate Change.” His research focuses on how the American public’s political attitudes form, change, and shape thinking and action.

Ezra Markowitz is a postdoctoral research associate with the research community “Communicating Uncertainty: Science, Institutions, and Ethics in the Politics of Global Climate Change.” His research centers on the intersection of psychology, public policy, morality, human well-being, and environmental sustainability with a focus on the psychological factors that influence public engagement with climate change.

Benjamin Miller, a professor of international relations at the School of Political Sciences and head of the International M.A. Program in Peace and Conflict Management at the University of Haifa, is the Israel Institute visiting fellow and a visiting professor of politics. His work in international relations focuses on explaining patterns of international conflict and cooperation and the sources of war and peace.

Inderjeet Parmar, a professor of international politics at City University London and chair of the U.K.-based Arts and Humanities Research Council Obama Research Network, is a visiting research scholar with the research community “Empires: Domination, Collaboration, and Resistance.” His research interests include the history, politics, and sociology of Anglo-American foreign policy elites of the past 100 years.

Frederick Smith, a professor of Sanskrit and classical Indian literature at the University of Iowa, is the Stewart Fellow in South Asian Studies and a visiting professor of the Council of the Humanities. His work includes studies of texts and performances of Vedic sacrificial ritual from antiquity to the present, studies of religious experience in India, the writings of Vallabhacarya, and the epic “Mahabharata.”

Caspar van den Berg, a lecturer at the Leiden University Institute of Public Administration, is a visiting fellow with the Program in Contemporary European Politics and Society. His research centers on political-administrative relations in cross-national comparative perspective, Europeanization, and legitimacy questions.

Elke Weber, the Jerome A. Chazen Professor of International Business, Earth Institute Professor, and a professor of psychology at Columbia University, is a visiting research collaborator with the research community “Communicating Uncertainty: Science, Institutions, and Ethics in the Politics of Global Climate Change.” Working at the intersection of psychology and economics, her expertise is in behavioral models of judgment and decision making under risk and uncertainty.
To unsubscribe, send an email to PIIRS@princeton.edu.

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C A L E N D A R
For a complete list of PIIRS and other Princeton University international studies–related events, go to www.princeton.edu/piirs/news-events/events.

DECEMBER 2013

**Deadline.** PIIRS Undergraduate Fellowships. Applications from juniors due Dec. 13. For details, go to www.princeton.edu/piirs/funding/undergraduate.

JANUARY 2014

**Deadline.** Henry Richardson Labouisse ’26 Prize. Applications from graduating seniors due by 5 p.m. Jan. 2, in Burr Hall, Room 323. For details, visit www.princeton.edu/oip/fellowships/major-awards/labouisse.

**Deadline.** PIIRS Conference Fund Proposals. Applications from faculty due Jan. 17. For information, go to www.princeton.edu/piirs/funding/faculty/conference-fund.

FEBRUARY 2014


**Deadline.** 2014 Global Seminars. Applications from freshmen, sophomores, and juniors due by 5 p.m. Feb. 10. For details, go to www.princeton.edu/piirs/global-seminars.

MARCH 2014

**PIIRS at PCNY.** Thomas Christensen, William P. Boswell Professor of Peace and War and director of the China and the World Program. Princeton Club of New York. 6 p.m., March 5, 15 W. 43rd St. For information, call 212-596-1200.


APRIL 2014

**Deadline.** PIIRS Conference Fund Proposals. Applications from faculty due April 15. For more information, go to www.princeton.edu/piirs/funding/faculty/conference-fund.


MAY 2014

**Conference.** "Treasury’s War: The Unleashing of a New Era of Financial Warfare" (2013). Author Juan Zarate. 4:30 p.m., Feb. 12, Burr Hall, Room 219.

**Deadline.** PIIRS Research Communities Preproposals. Applications from faculty due Feb. 17. For more information, go to www.princeton.edu/piirs/funding/faculty/research-communities.


**Deadline.** 2014 Global Seminars. Applications from freshmen, sophomores, and juniors due by 5 p.m. Feb. 10. For details, go to www.princeton.edu/piirs/global-seminars.