Research Community on “Science, Institutions, and Ethics in the Politics of Global Climate Change” Is a First for PIIRS

Interdisciplinary Group to Receive up to $750,000 in Funding

The first research community to receive funding from the Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies under a major interdisciplinary initiative announced in January 2011 has begun to coalesce. The group, “Communicating Uncertainty: Science, Institutions, and Ethics in the Politics of Global Climate Change,” is composed of 16 faculty members representing nine departments and three programs or projects and is poised to establish Princeton University as a leader in this developing field.

The research community, whose members work in disciplines ranging from engineering to political philosophy, will receive up to $750,000 from PIIRS over three years to support research, course development, and conferences. It will examine issues of uncertainty with respect to global climate change and other international environmental problems from the perspectives of natural, social, and political science with the aim of improving the capacity to discuss and weigh related policy prescriptions. The community launched its activities in the 2011–12 academic year.

“Communicating the state of the science of international environmental problems has proven very difficult,” said Robert O. Keohane, a professor of public and international affairs in Princeton’s Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and the research community’s first-year coordinator. “Our goal is to understand the intended meaning of expert judgments by groups such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, how these groups communicate their findings, and how these findings are viewed by publics, and thereby contribute to policy discussions.”

The way in which scientists represent uncertainty, Keohane explained, differs from how members of the public view it. “Scientists routinely seek to estimate the degree of uncertainty of their inferences,” he said, “but when members of the public hear that the science is uncertain, they are inclined to think that policy changes should wait until the uncertainty is entirely resolved. Unfortunately, on issues such as climate change, by the time the uncertainty is resolved, it may be too late to act effectively, or inordinately expensive to do so.”

Issues of communicating uncertainty emerged prominently in the fall 2010 semester among members of a luncheon discussion group convened by Keohane and Robert Socolow, a professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering and codirector of the Carbon Mitigation Initiative at the University. The group was composed of Princeton scholars who work on issues related to climate change. The new research community builds on this initial group, extending it further and providing resources for its activities and development.

According to PIIRS Director Mark Beissinger, “The research community initiative is intended to bring faculty and students together across disciplines in ways that they ordinarily might not interact, in order to engage important issues within international and regional studies. The politics surrounding climate change represents one of the critical issues facing our global

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Five Global Seminars to Be Offered in 2012

Opportunity Appeals to Faculty and Students

The Global Seminars program will offer five six-week courses in the summer of 2012 in Brazil, Greece, Japan, Poland, and Turkey. The new courses bring the total of summer study-abroad seminars supported by the initiative over its six-year history to 25, and reflect an increasing interest among Princeton faculty in this unique teaching and learning experience. The Global Seminars provide an unparalleled opportunity for faculty and undergraduates to investigate a topic in the location central to it with guest lectures by local scholars and artists who contribute their expertise and perspectives. In addition to coursework and excursions, the seminars include a community service component and daily language instruction.

Student interest in the seminars also continues to grow. In 2011, approximately 220 undergraduates submitted applications to five seminars. The Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies expects that number to increase in 2012. Applications are available online; the deadline to apply is February 13, 2012.

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

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

“History, Culture, and Urban Life: Rio de Janeiro and the Imaginary of Brazil” explores various representations of Rio—in fiction, photography, painting, and poetry, among others—while examining perspectives from urbanism and the social sciences. Focusing on intersections between modernization projects and cultural production since the late 19th century, this interdisciplinary seminar asks: What are some of the competing visions for Rio’s future? How have different plans for the city been fulfilled or frustrated? How can these developments be understood in a global context? It will be taught by Bruno Carvalho, assistant professor of Spanish and Portuguese languages and cultures, and held at the Pontifícia Universidade Católica from June 18 to July 27.

Kraków, Poland

“Polish Jews in the 20th Century—Before, during, and after the Holocaust” investigates the variety and richness of Jewish social, political, and community life in Poland in the context of World War II. On the eve of the war, Poland’s 3.5 million Jews were the second-largest population of Jews in the world; by war’s end they made up over half of all Holocaust victims. The seminar includes multiday study trips to Warsaw, small towns in the area once known as Jewish Galicia, and the Auschwitz concentration camp. For two weeks in July, it coincides with the International Festival of Jewish Culture, and festival offerings will be incorporated into the curriculum. The course will be taught at Jagiellonian University from June 11 to July 20 by Jan Gross, the Norman B. Tomlinson ’16 and ‘48 Professor of War and Society and professor of history.

Istanbul, Turkey

“Islam, Empire, and Modernity: Turkey from the Caliphs to the 21st Century,” presented for the fifth year, is structured around the history, culture, language, and literature of Turkey. Istanbul was the capital of both the Roman and Ottoman empires and the seat of military might, ceremonial pomp, and state policy for 16 centuries. The course provides an analysis of change and continuity in Turkish society with a strong focus on history and on major cultural transformations—including the current cultural renaissance. The course is taught by M. Şükru Hanioglu, the Garrett Professor in Foreign Affairs and chair of the Department of Near Eastern Studies, and Erika Gibson, lecturer in Near Eastern Studies; it will be held at Kadir Has University from June 11 to July 20.

Tokyo, Japan

“Hope as the New Normal: Tokyo after the Disaster” introduces students to the issues facing post-tsunami Japan. The investigation includes the creation of the postwar narrative about Japan’s rise from defeat to become the world’s second-largest economy, and popular views of the country’s cultural vitality in the midst of its economic decline. The course aims to understand what the new normal is for an advanced industrial nation dealing with an unprecedented set of challenges. The key goal is an examination of how disasters are understood and debated in Japan and how those findings can be used to consider disaster and decline more broadly. The seminar will be taught by David Leheny, the Henry Wendt III ’55 Professor of East Asian Studies, and held at the University of Tokyo from June 11 to July 21.


Ewon Baik, Lauren Jackson, Katherine Alvarez, and Enyonam Glover (left to right) enjoy an excursion while participating in the 2011 Global Seminar in Italy and Poland.
New PIIRS Graduate Fellows Program

In an effort to create a community of graduate students working in international and regional studies, PIIRS has inaugurated the PIIRS Graduate Fellows program.

The fellowships provide funding to students who are finishing their dissertations and have exhausted Graduate School support. Shared office space in Burr Hall is also available. In addition to dissertation writing, the fellows are required to participate in weekly interdisciplinary seminars in which they present their research. The meetings offer a venue for the students to interact with peers across traditional departmental boundaries.


For more information, go to www.princeton.edu/piirs/funding.

PIIRS Undergraduate Fellowships to Fund Summer International Research

The Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies has initiated a new program that will provide $3,000 to $5,000 in funding for summer international research by undergraduates working on their senior theses. PIIRS Undergraduate Fellowships are aimed at students in any discipline who are about to enter the second semester of their junior year and are interested in summer research abroad.

Ten juniors will be selected as undergraduates through a competitive application process this fall. Accepted students will work with a PIIRS-appointed adviser during the spring semester to develop a proposal, including preparing a budget. They will also attend presentations on the challenges of international research. Fellows become eligible for funding once the proposal is approved by PIIRS Director Mark Beissinger. Students receiving support will be required to give a presentation on their fieldwork in the spring of their senior year to the incoming cohort of PIIRS Undergraduate Fellows.

The deadline to apply is December 15, 2011. Applications are available at www.princeton.edu/piirs/funding/undergraduate.

Political Crime and the Memory of Loss
John Borneman (Anthropology)
Indiana University Press (2011)

The aim of the year-long 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. Other authors in the series include G. John Ikenberry (Politics/WWS) speaking on Liberal Leviathan: The Origins, Crisis, and Transformation of the American World Order (2011) on March 13, 2012, and Simon Gikandi (English) on Slavery and the Culture of Taste (2011) on April 24, 2012.
The Global Seminars program is among the Princeton University initiatives to receive support from Sovereign Bank, part of Banco Santander, as a result of a three-year funding agreement between the bank and the University. The gift from Sovereign Bank supports existing programs that enable Princeton faculty and students to engage in a variety of educational experiences with institutions and scholars from around the globe.

“The support for Global Seminars will ... enable us to expand this increasingly popular opportunity for Princeton students to expand their intellectual horizons on a global scale,” said Jeremy Adelman, director of Princeton’s Council for International Teaching and Research. “More and more students and faculty are clamoring for precisely these kinds of opportunities, so we are grateful for Sovereign Bank’s vision and commitment to international learning.”

The gift to Princeton is supported by the Santander Universities Global Division, which has forged long-term partnerships with more than 900 universities around the world. The gift builds upon a series of international initiatives outlined by President Shirley M. Tilghman and Provost Christopher Eisgruber in fall 2007.

Sovereign Bank Gift Supports Global Seminars

President Shirley M. Tilghman and Banco Santander officials on campus

Research Community

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community. PIIRS is proud to sponsor, as its first research community, this multidisciplinary initiative addressing the challenges presented by global environmental governance.”

Through its multiple lenses, the research community is drawing on the expertise of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory to work on real cases. The laboratory, located on Princeton University’s Forrestal Campus, is one of the world’s leading climate modeling centers. Scholars from several disciplines are involved:

- Climate scientists are providing an understanding of the kinds of scientific uncertainties that arise.
- Historians are contributing perspective on how uncertainty has been handled in the past regarding fields in which public policy depends in part on scientific knowledge.
- Specialists on international relations are analyzing the politics of climate change within global institutions, while regional specialists are examining a series of case studies of societies that have been more or less successful in adopting policy measures aimed at addressing the effects of climate change.
- Social scientists are using their understanding of various audiences, ranging from high-level nonscientist policymakers to the general public, to investigate how uncertainty by scientists working on climate and other international environmental issues is understood by these audiences.
- Ethicists are examining how policymakers concerned with ethics make decisions in light of uncertainty: the moral and political principles in play, what constitutes responsible communication of underlying science and policy rationale, and the institutional design that best facilitates such communication.

In addition to monthly community meetings, support for existing courses related to the issue area, and work on new undergraduate course development, outreach for the coming year includes two conferences in the spring; workshops; meetings with colleagues from Columbia, Harvard, and New York universities in an effort to engage in joint research; and a public lecture series. The research community’s Web address is www.princeton.edu/piirs/research/research-communities/communicating-uncertainty.

In addition to Keohane and Socolow, the research community faculty members include Charles Beitz, the Edwards S. Sanford Professor of Politics and director of the University Center for Human Values; Daniela Campello, assistant professor of politics and international affairs; Melissa Lane, professor of politics, acting director of the Program in Political Philosophy, and director of the Program in Values and Public Life; Stephen Macedo, the Laurance S. Rockefeller Professor of Politics and the University Center for Human Values; Denise Mauzeraul, associate professor of civil and environmental engineering and public and international affairs; Helen Milner, the B.C. Forbes Professor of Public Affairs, professor of politics and international affairs, and director of the Center for Globalization and Governance; Michael Oppenheimer, the Albert G. Milbank Professor of Geosciences and International Affairs; Daniel Osherson, the Henry R. Luce Professor of Information Technology, Consciousness, and Culture and professor of psychology; Stephen Pacala, the Frederick D. Petrie Professor in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and director of the Princeton Environmental Institute; Venkatachalam Ramaswamy, lecturer with the rank of professor in geosciences and atmospheric and oceanic sciences; Harold Shapiro, president of the University, emeritus, and professor of economics and public affairs; Peter Singer, the Ira W. Decamp Professor of Bioethics in the University Center for Human Values; Keith Wailoo, the Townsend Martin Professor of History and Public Affairs; and David Wilcove, professor of ecology and evolutionary biology and public affairs.

The annual deadline for Princeton faculty to submit research community preproposals is February 15. Information is available at www.princeton.edu/piirs/research/research-communities.
**PIIRS Visitors Focus on Range of Issues**

**Marc Flandreau**, a professor of international economics and international history at the Graduate Institute of International Studies and Development in Geneva, is a fellow with the Program in Contemporary European Politics and Society this fall. Flandreau is an expert in the history of the international monetary and financial system with interests in central banks, currencies and foreign exchange, and globalization, and he is the author of numerous publications. At Princeton, Flandreau is working on a book on foreign debt markets during the Pax Britannica.

**Gábor Halmai**, a professor of law and director of the Institute for Political and International Studies at Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, as well as the director of the Hungarian Human Rights Information and Documentation Center, is a visiting research scholar with PIIRS and the Program in Law and Public Affairs. Halmai, one of Hungary’s most distinguished scholars of constitutional law, has published extensively in English, German, and Hungarian on problems related to human rights, judicial review, freedom of expression, and freedom of association.

**Marc Helbling**, head of the Immigration Policies in Comparison research group at Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung, will be a visiting research scholar with the Luce Project on Migration, Participation, and Democratic Governance in the U.S., Europe, and the Muslim World (Luce Project) in spring 2012. Helbling’s research interests include immigration and citizenship policies, nationalism, xenophobia/Islamophobia, the accommodation of Islam, right-wing populism, and public policy analysis.

At Princeton, he will teach a seminar on issues related to religion, migration, and international affairs and continue his own research.

**Christophe Jaffrelot**, a senior researcher at the Paris-based Centre d’études et de recherches internationales (CERI-Sciences Po/CNRS), where he served as director from 2000 to 2008, joins the Luce Project as a visiting research scholar for a second semester this fall. Jaffrelot is a leading specialist on South Asian politics and religion. At Princeton, he is teaching a course with Luce codirector Mirjam Künkler (Near Eastern studies) on Muslim politics in Asia.

**Madhulica Malik**, a visiting Fulbright IIE foreign-language teaching assistant, is assisting Mekhala Natavar (anthropology and PIIRS) with Hindi language instruction this year. As a visiting graduate student at Princeton, she is also taking graduate-level courses toward an M.A. in English literature from her home institution Jamia Millia Islamia in New Delhi.

Yüksel Sezgin, an assistant professor at City University of New York, will be a visiting research scholar with the Luce Project in spring 2012. Sezgin is a specialist in human rights law and legal pluralism in countries where religious law is integrated into the national legal system. His current book project focuses on human rights under religious law in Israel, Egypt, and India. At Princeton, Sezgin will participate in Luce project speaker series, workshops, and conferences, and continue his research.

**Tuong Vu**, an associate professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Oregon, is a visiting research fellow with the Project on Democracy and Development this year. His research interests include state formation and development, the politics of nationalism, the role of ideology and identity in domestic and international conflicts, and the role of communist ideology in the Vietnamese revolution. While at Princeton, Vu will work on two projects: a book that examines the role of ideology in the Vietnamese revolution as a case of radical politics in the periphery, and a paper that examines the role of capital and coercion in the formation of modern East Asian states.

**Tokio Yamaoka**, senior manager and head of the Intelligence and Targeting Center of Japan Customs, Tokyo Customs/Ministry of Finance, is a visiting professional specialist for the year. His expertise includes international trade negotiations, policy, facilitation, and customs-related security issues. While at Princeton, Yamaoka is researching trade facilitation and security issues in international trade.
Deadline. Henry Richardson Labouisse ’26 Prize. Applications from graduating seniors due January 3, by 5 p.m., Burr Hall, Room 323.


Deadline. 2012 Global Seminars. Applications from freshmen, sophomores, and juniors due February 13, by 5 p.m. For application details, visit www.princeton.edu/piirs/global-seminars.


Exploratory Seminar. “Ghetto: Themes of a Place, the Spread of an Idea.” Mitchell Duneier (Sociology). May 11–12, Burr Hall, Room 216.