

Princeton International

int'l

Fall 2022

also inside:

Introducing the
Global Arc

A Conversation
with Deborah Yashar

A Tree Grows in India



Reengaging International



PHOTO: Ryan X. Sung, MPA '26

On this page: The Office of International Programs (OIP) hosts the 2022 Study Abroad Fair on the Frist South Lawn.

Back page: A Kenyan landscape captured during a Global Seminar. Photograph by William Goldberg '24.

Cover: Illustration by Lauren Lee

Produced by the Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies (PIIRS) in conjunction with the Office of International Programs (OIP) and the Office of the Associate Provost for International Affairs and Operations (APIAO).

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2 | Letter from Princeton International

Considering international scholarship in the shadow of COVID-19

3 | INT'L NEWS

Introducing the Global Arc, SPIA launches Afghanistan Policy Lab, a conversation with Deborah Yashar and more

8 | INT'L IN REVIEW

Princeton's Humanities Council welcomes Abdul Wahid Wafa, Henry Posner III '77's railways make history, Mpala fosters a diverse and inclusive research community and more

INT'L TRAVEL

16 | Snapshots from a Summer Abroad

Students share highlights from faculty-led summer courses abroad

17 | Exchange of Views

Thirteen students from five different countries discover life as Princetonians

18 | Out of the Classroom and Across the World

A PIIRS Global Seminar brings the cultures, politics and language of contemporary Kenya to life

20 | Retracing the Revolution

A co-taught, interdisciplinary course connects students to past and present Paris

21 | Building Bridges

The Novogratz Bridge Year Program is back in action

22 | Look to the Stars

Paige Cromley '24 reflects on her intergalactic internship in Chile

24 | All Abroad!

Labouisse 1926 fellowships support recent grads in Asia and Africa

INT'L RESEARCH

26 | A Tree Grows in India

India looks to its urban trees for carbon mitigation

27 | Troll Tolls

Princeton students and researchers team up to analyze online disinformation networks



28 | Odd 'Nestfellows'

Searching for why some South American birds form parenting co-ops

30 | A River Runs Through It

On Jordan Salama's celebrated nonfiction book "Every Day the River Changes: Four Weeks Down the Magdalena"

INT'L ON DISPLAY

32 | Resist! Insist! Persist!

A Princeton exhibition highlights global social movements through the years

Letter from Princeton International

It is a pleasure to open this year's magazine with a sense of new beginnings and possibilities.

The pandemic is not of course "over," and many parts of the world continue to experience severe restrictions and disruption as a result of COVID-19. Nor, as anyone who has recently experienced an international airport can attest, has travel returned to normal. Yet much of the activity close to the hearts of all those working in international collaboration is possible again. Fall 2022 has seen the return to campus of significant numbers of visiting international faculty and students, while many of our own students are already traveling (Paige Cromley '24 on her internship in Chile, p. 22), and more still are planning to do so over the coming year. International research collaborations have also been reenergized (a reinvigoration of the Princeton-University of Tokyo partnership, p. 5), and ambitious new projects are being planned across the campus (the launch of the Afghanistan Policy Lab, p. 4).

One of the most interesting features of this exciting period of regeneration is the variety of ways that teaching, research and programming continue to be informed by the experience of the pandemic. Campus conversations about international engagement are now more than ever questioning how Princeton can engage abroad in a sustainable, reciprocal and meaningful way. As a community, our principal imperatives have been reinforced by the lessons of the pandemic: We strive to ensure that the impact of international experiences continues long after the return to campus, that relationships built are maintained and that an equitable exchange of expertise is facilitated.

International activity at Princeton is therefore back in full swing, but in all sorts of positive ways, not "back to normal." We are building on the new worldwide audiences reached by our increased online presence over the past two years, and on the extended networks of cooperation that sustained critical international conversations at the most difficult of times. The energy and ambition that characterizes this work is inspiring, and we hope that the following pages capture some sense of this exciting moment.



Deborah Yashar

Donald E. Stokes Professor of Public and International Affairs;
Director, Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies



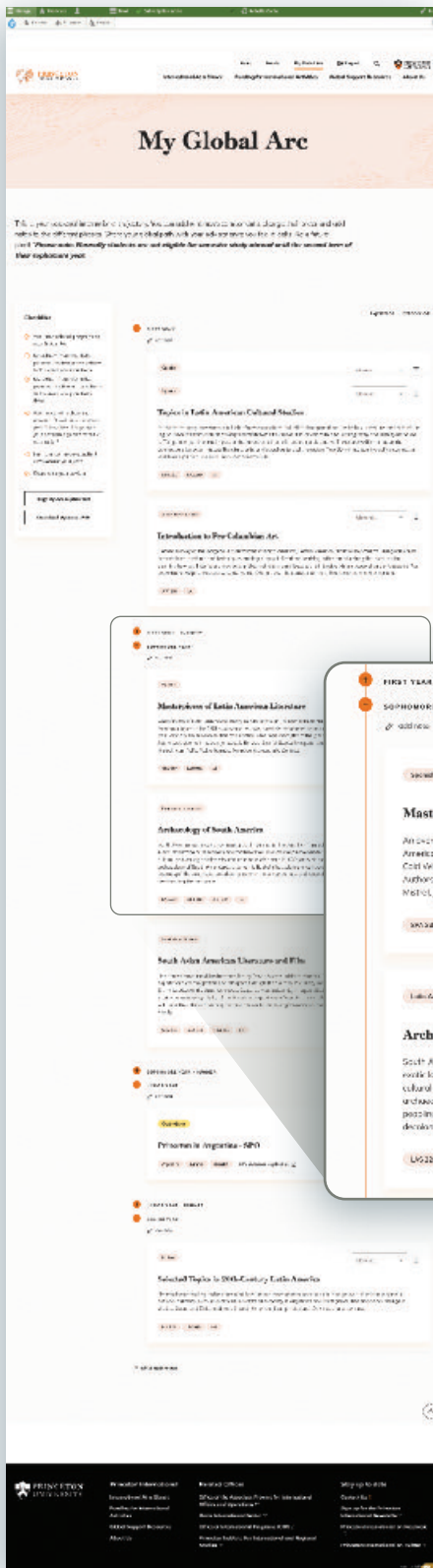
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Introducing the Global Arc

A new tool allows students to plan for travel abroad

By Carrie Compton, Princeton International

Students who want to travel abroad must balance several questions: Where? To what ends? And when is the right time? Now, using a new online tool called the Global Arc, students can take a measured approach to planning for time abroad.

The website Princeton International (international.princeton.edu) was launched last March to create a centralized source of information for students and faculty wishing to work or learn across borders. In addition to providing important administrative information, the site also contains the Global Arc, with which students can search on-campus courses (drawn from the previous year of course offerings) and Princeton's various overseas programs, such as study abroad, fellowships or internships. Using the search, students can place classes and international experiences onto a four-year timeline. Courses can be searched

by department or keyword, and experiences can be filtered by language, country, academic-term timing and program type.

While semester-long study is normally not permitted in a student's first three semesters, the timeline will allow users to consider the courses that will best prepare them for their desired journeys and to determine the ideal timing for an overseas experience. After devising a trajectory within the Global Arc, students can share their outlines with their academic advisers and incorporate adviser feedback into their plans.

"The Global Arc is intended to facilitate more structured planning of student international experiences,

and to highlight the possibilities for integrating these with on-campus course material," said PIIRS Deputy Director David Jarvis, who was the project manager for the creation of the new website. "The timeline component in particular helps students to envision opportunities for building on these connections throughout their undergraduate careers and to identify the best times for them to travel. We are excited to see how they will use this new tool and look forward to further developing it in response to their feedback."



SPIA Launches Afghanistan Policy Lab

By B. Rose Huber, Princeton School of Public and International Affairs

Afghanistan is moving closer to a humanitarian crisis, marked by economic collapse. Half of the population needs aid, and the poverty rate is expected to reach 97 percent by mid-2022, according to reports from the United Nations.

Understanding the country, its policymaking process and advocacy needs is critical. To contribute toward — and advocate for — Afghanistan's rebuilding, the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA) and the Liechtenstein Institute on Self-Determination co-founded the Afghanistan Policy Lab in April. The lab aims to help build an inclusive, peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan equally representing all citizens.

Eight academic fellows from Afghanistan, who worked previously in support of U.S. government efforts there,

collaborate with members of Princeton SPIA's academic community on policy-relevant research. Hailing from different sectors of Afghan society, the fellows include researchers, women activists, government officials and journalists. They will produce work on four areas: humanitarian aid, civic space, women, and national healing and reconciliation.

"Our School is committed to being responsive to needs within the global community and providing humanitarian support. We are honored to welcome these fellows to Princeton, especially in the face of turmoil," SPIA Dean Amaney Jamal said. "Their contributions will address the impact of the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan and will influence policy recommendations for the country."

In addition to providing recommendations to the international community and the United States, the initiative works to include the perspectives of Afghans on the ground by partnering with local organizations, think tanks and experts to include their ideas. The fellows will produce policy papers and present panel discussions.

The lab is directed by Adela Raz, Afghanistan's former ambassador to the United States and the United Nations.

"In selecting these four policy areas, we focused on one word: 'forward,'" Ambassador Raz said. "How do we protect the dynamic society, civilian spaces and respect for human rights that we built over the past 20 years for Afghan men and women, while also addressing the existential challenge of the humanitarian catastrophe and the need for a reconciliation process that can lead to a sustainable peace? We cannot afford to take any steps back, and these areas require our immediate attention and Afghan solutions to help our country get back on track to development."

The fellows are appointed full time for 12- to 18-month terms. Besides engaging with external partners, the fellows may work with other Princeton academics and students interested in the evolving situation in Afghanistan.

Stay up to date
on the project and learn more at
spia.princeton.edu/afghan-policy-lab.



Africa World Initiative Plans New Partnerships and Projects

The Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies (PIIRS) and the Program in African Studies (AFS) announced the formation of the Africa World Initiative, an interdisciplinary center that will bring together scholars and students to explore contemporary Africa, including its economy, politics and culture, and raise the profile of African research on campus. The community gathered at an "Alumni for Africa" Reunions event in May 2022 to celebrate the announcement.

"What the Africa World Initiative sets out to do is engage in trans-disciplinary partnerships and projects," said Professor of Art and Archaeology Chika Okeke-Agulu, who

is director of both the Program in African Studies and the Africa World Initiative. "Science, technology, innovation, entrepreneurship — these are the fields of inquiry that are shaping and reshaping our world. What we're doing from the get-go is establishing

meaningful and impactful connections on the African continent as a way to engage in a mutual, effective exchange of knowledge that draws on Princeton's vast intellectual and infrastructural resources." — P.M.



Princeton-University of Tokyo Strategic Partnership Celebrates In-Person Collaboration

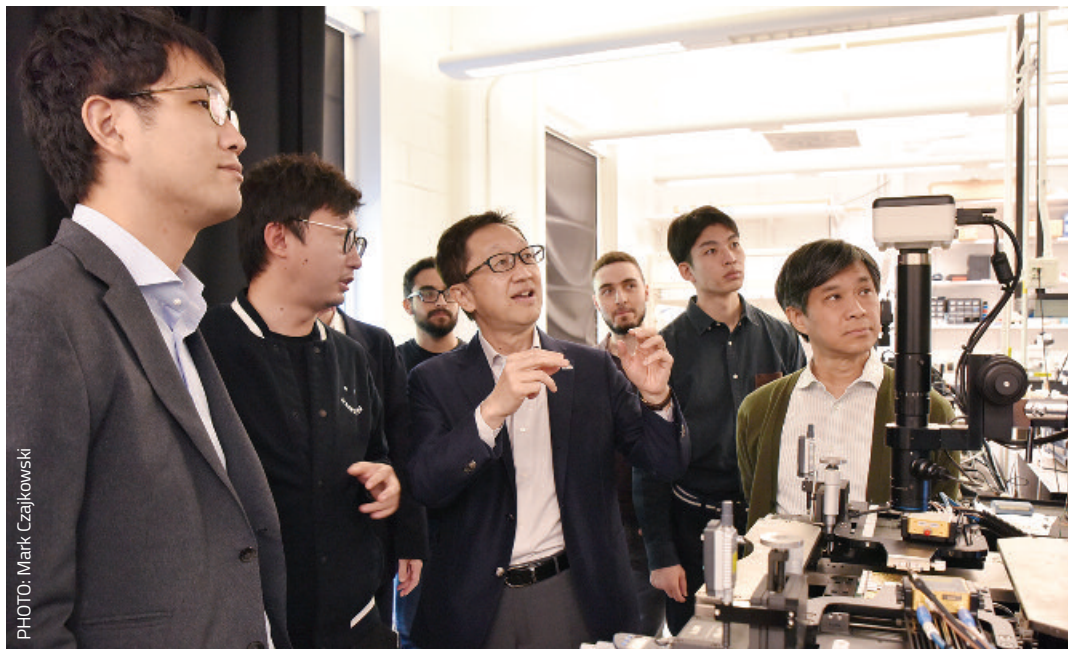
By Pooja Makhijani, Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies

In September, the Princeton-University of Tokyo Strategic Partnership marked what its director James Raymo called “a full-scale resumption of face-to-face collaboration after a long interruption.”

A delegation from the University of Tokyo arrived in New Jersey to reinvigorate a long-running research project between Kaushik Sengupta, associate professor of electrical and computer engineering, and d.lab, a consortium of AI and semiconductor technology companies that work closely with faculty members at the University of Tokyo. The Japanese representatives toured Sengupta’s Integrated Micro-systems Research Lab, met with other Princeton engineering and computer science faculty and discussed a 2023 symposium workshop in Tokyo.

In light of COVID travel restrictions over the past two years, the researchers had created a virtual environment in which they designed and prototyped semiconductor integrated circuits together and pivoted entirely from analog to digital circuit research, explained Tadahiro Kuroda, University of Tokyo professor of engineering. “This is because collaborative analog circuit design is best done while reviewing circuit diagrams and simulation results together. In contrast, by having individual designers set up their own simulation environment, we can use a software-centric methodology to effectively design and verify digital circuits even with limited in-person interaction.”

“We have managed to keep parts of our partnership activities on track via remote collaboration,” — like this specific project — “but this arrangement is fundamentally limiting,” added Raymo, who is a professor of sociology and East Asian studies. For example, Kuroda said, while virtual connection provided opportunities



A delegation from the University of Tokyo tour associate professor Kaushik Sengupta’s Integrated Micro-systems Research Lab during a campus visit in September.

for hardware-oriented students to learn about software technology and for researchers to adopt a more efficient research methodology, the distance made it challenging to share prototype evaluation expertise with students, “which is best done while conducting experiments together.”

The Japanese delegation met not only their collaborators but other faculty as well, said Sengupta: “The visit allowed them to form deeper, interlocking connections with the broader Princeton community.”

Raymo, who is also inaugural director of the newly established Global Japan Lab, which seeks to promote and support research, teaching and training on contemporary Japan across multiple disciplines, looks forward to a robust return of travel and programming — from more

such events to conferences to student exchange. “In-person events are of significance,” added Satoshi Watanabe, professor of materials engineering and Raymo’s counterpart at the University of Tokyo. Watanabe stressed that he appreciated the diversity of the Princeton community, which leads to broader networking opportunities and is something “missing in Japan,” he said. “And it is especially fruitful for students who have little international experience.”

While such a return to normal will have a significant impact on research and teaching outcomes, it will also strengthen the sort of connection and community that takes place in the spaces outside classrooms and labs, said Kuroda. “We hope to deepen our relationship and mutual cultural understanding,” he said.

In Conversation with Deborah J. Yashar

By Pooja Makhijani, Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies

Deborah J. Yashar, professor of politics and international affairs, was appointed director of the Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies (PIIRS) and the Donald E. Stokes Professor of Public and International Affairs. She assumed her new duties on July 1, 2022.

Yashar envisions PIIRS as “an intellectual home and multidisciplinary crossroads — one that brings people together at Princeton to pursue innovative scholarship; one that fosters research and teaching abroad; and one that emphasizes our collective responsibility to partner with colleagues around the globe in the co-production and sharing of knowledge. How do we build community? How do we engage in research that is relevant, ethically engaged and dynamic, both during the school year and during the summer? These are the essential questions.”

Princeton International spoke with Yashar about her research, PIIRS as a space for conversation and collaboration, and the importance of international engagement in a forever-changed world.

How do your research interests intersect with the mission of PIIRS?

I’m a political scientist whose central concerns focus on political regimes, citizenship, social movements, violence in illicit economies, migration and border crossing, as well as state capacity and public-goods provision. These are all fundamentally political questions that I’ve pursued by drawing on multidisciplinary scholarship. My work has tended to focus on the global South, particularly Latin America, and I’ve had the good fortune of working with excellent collaborators in the process of researching and writing about these questions.

PIIRS has been a great home for this kind of research. It’s an institution that supports and promotes global, regional and country-based knowledge. So, too, it’s a place where scholars from different disciplines can come together to engage in generative conversations. The directorship offers an exciting opportunity to learn about other people’s work and to facilitate cutting-edge research and teaching about the world around us. In this regard, my research aligns with PIIRS’ core mission.

What is your vision for PIIRS?

First, PIIRS is and should remain a dynamic, generative, intellectual meeting place. This will happen in both physical and virtual form. Indeed, as we return to campus, we need to self-consciously embrace and facilitate rigorous and compassionate forms of education and exchange — especially following the extreme disruption associated with the pandemic. For some this will be a return; for others it will be an invitation to join for the first time. In both cases, we aim to bring people physically together while also deploying digital technologies to foster global conversations and critical engagement about international and regional studies — both broadcasting seminars while also inviting colleagues around the world to take part. The newly designed PIIRS website and the Princeton International website will be critical in this endeavor. For students, we invite them to attend PIIRS events, pursue certificate programs, take advantage of opportunities to conduct research abroad and enroll in our Global Seminars and to propose new ways of becoming involved. For faculty, we rely on their intellectual initiative and leadership as they advance innovative research and teaching. For visitors, we hope they will enhance and amplify our globally engaged conversations.

Second, I envision PIIRS as combining the best of regional-international studies and thematic, problem-driven research. This includes initiatives both on campus and abroad. At present, PIIRS has excellent regional programs, centers and labs. We will continue to support this place-based knowledge and international research, which is critical to our ability to understand, interpret, explain and address what is happening in a given place — for example, democratic backsliding in Hungary, migration flows across the U.S. southern border, the war in Ukraine, deforestation in Brazil, food security in Sub-Saharan Africa. I envision complementing this place-based work with theme-based research clusters that evaluate a core question that cuts across regions. I look forward to working with faculty to forge these

research clusters, building on existing research initiatives and faculty strengths. The new monthly seminar on Global Existential Challenges will provide one such forum for initiating these kinds of comparative, thematic conversations on campus.

Third, we will forefront ethics in the research that we undertake going forward. This is a moment to think about the ethics of how we do regional and international work. Older models were often extractive. We have the opportunity to forge more collaborative partnerships and knowledge production to then share those results with our colleagues around the world. We're fortunate to be at a university with so many resources. PIIRS has the ability to help to facilitate these conversations to imagine and affect a new model for doing and sharing research. We have to think creatively about how we facilitate collaborative exchanges, not only with institutions and colleagues where it's easy, but also with institutions and colleagues who don't have the same capacity and resources. These kinds of intellectual partnerships and collaborations are imperative.

Why is international engagement important to Princeton?

We live in a globalized and yet highly unequal world — one with great opportunities and great constraints. We can celebrate and learn from the creativity and bravery of those around the globe. But so, too, we have much to understand and redress, including climate change, health crises, democratic backsliding, economic precarity and racial injustice, among other issues. Princeton is fortunate to have faculty and students who are eager to understand the world in which we live. So, too, the University is fortunate to have the resources to support cutting-edge research and teaching. These are privileges not afforded all institutions around the globe. And with that great privilege comes great responsibility. It's in this context that PIIRS has not only an institutional but also a normative responsibility to interrogate the human condition writ large and to promote international engagement.



These stories and information about global travel and research opportunities can be found at Princeton International; just scan the QR code!



Art Museum Curator Katherine Bussard Reflects on Her Visiting Professorship in Ireland

By Carrie Compton, Princeton International

In late 2021, Katherine Bussard, the Peter C. Bunnell Curator of Photography at the Princeton University Art Museum, spent six weeks as a visiting professor at University College Dublin, at the invitation of Emily Mark-Fitzgerald, associate professor and head of the School of Art History and Cultural Policy there. Bussard taught, gave talks, undertook research and met with scholars. Bussard's most recent exhibit for the art museum and its accompanying book, *Life Magazine and the Power of Photography*, were met with critical acclaim in 2020. Bussard discusses her time in Ireland and what she learned.



Katherine Bussard

Q: What drew you to Ireland?

A: There's a burgeoning interest in photography in Ireland at this moment. In the past three years, for example, the National Gallery of Ireland has started collecting photography for the first time ever. Other institutions, like the Irish Museum of Modern Art, have been collecting photography for as long as they've been in existence, which is 30 years. One of the most memorable parts of the experience was the opportunity to bring all these people together. The scholars who were teaching, publishing and collecting photography were rarely in the same room together. Emily Mark-Fitzgerald and

I convened a professional workshop to facilitate conversations with everyone from both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland who thinks about and teaches from photography. This overlap of researching and teaching from photography is precisely why I was a good fit. Coming from the Princeton University Art Museum, that overlap is the bread and butter of my days. I was able to meet virtually with experts from a host of institutions and to foster some incredible conversations about what might be possible in our field and how collaboration can serve us all.

I'm excited to see where they will go with it, because it felt like one of those gatherings that was very much to be continued.

Q: You also spent some time on a new research project while you were there.

A: I did. It is still in the earliest stages, so I will talk about it in the broadest terms. I read and did research related to my next exhibition and book project for Princeton, which will materialize in the new museum after it opens in late 2024. Broadly speaking, it will look at photography's intersection with social concerns. I visited a number of collections, and I had an especially inspiring conversation with a curator at the Ulster Museum about its permanent exhibition on the Troubles. It was as illuminating about the historically charged objects on display as it was about the ways in which those objects had come to be on view. It was wonderful to hear how the community had been involved in putting that exhibition together, since some of the objects were from local individuals.

A lot about the curators' methods was interesting to me. For example, when the National Gallery of Ireland started collecting photographs three years ago, they very intentionally decided to collect only photographs made in Ireland of Irish people. And that decision is one that is completely logical for the National Gallery of Ireland and also completely fascinating because that's not a way in which I've ever thought about acquisitions — in part because our museum's collections are globe-spanning.

Q: Why do you think it is important to study photography?

A: We've hit a moment when the vast majority of people have a camera with them at all times and are using it whenever they want. So there is this ubiquity to photography. We trade photos, sometimes within seconds of making them. Something I continue to find powerful is the way photography can feel like a visual medium that everyone already knows. In our image-immersive world, what I see when I work with either visitors to the museum or faculty and students is that there's less of a perceived barrier to engagement when it comes to photography. My hope is that this mode of art making that we all have in our pockets allows visitors to walk into a place like our museum, see a photograph on the wall and walk right up to that photo and engage. From there they can step to the left or the right, and they can take in a sculpture, painting, stained glass or ceramic vessel. My constant goal for photography in the Princeton University Art Museum is that it offers a familiar welcome.

Council Visitor Abdul Wahid Wafa Brings a Refugee's Perspective

By Carrie Compton, Princeton International

In January 2022, Princeton's Humanities Council welcomed a longtime Afghan journalist Abdul Wahid Wafa as a professional specialist. But his road to Princeton was emotionally fraught. A seasoned researcher and administrator, he participated in journalism courses and advised reporting and writing projects about Afghanistan and the surrounding region last spring.

Wafa and his family were aided by *The New York Times*, his former employer for more than a decade, which arranged for them to fly out of Kabul on Aug. 15, the day after the city fell to the Taliban. However, Wafa, his wife and three children saw the ensuing pandemonium at the city airport — throngs of people fighting to board what few planes remained — and realized their airline tickets were useless. After three more days of waiting, the family was able to depart for the West, a grueling journey that included a noisy, seemingly airless 30-hourlong flight aboard a military aircraft from Qatar to Mexico.

"For three generations, we never left Afghanistan," says Wahid, explaining that his family has always been proud of having endured through civil war, the first Taliban regime of the '90s, and the post-9/11 U.S.-led fighting that blighted the country for two decades. "Once I arrived in the U.S., I immediately was in a shock." It wasn't Wafa's first time in America — he served as a 2010-11 Nieman Fellow at Harvard University studying leadership, democracy and communication at the Kennedy School of Government. But this was strikingly different.

"This time, we were leaving our home, we were leaving our culture and everything, so it was tough," he recalls. From Mexico, the family traveled to Houston, Texas, remaining for four months before arriving in Princeton. Grappling with such seismic changes in his life, Wafa felt depression sinking in.

"With that condition, I was expecting that I might face a lot of challenges here in Princeton, too. But luckily, the Princeton community helped me, and so I'm happy that I came here," he says, noting that his children quickly became English speakers and that his 13-year-old daughter has taken up tennis.



PHOTO: Courtesy of Abdul Wahid Wafa
Abdul Wahid Wafa speaking at an event held at the Afghanistan Center at Kabul University.

In his first semester, Wafa participated in journalism classes, advising on reporting and writing about Afghanistan and the surrounding area. Wafa says that the happiness and energy of Princeton students has lifted his spirits immeasurably, especially since it recalls for him his days as the director of the Afghanistan Center at Kabul University, a nonprofit research institution and archive.

"[Wahid] will be a tremendous resource for both students and faculty eager to learn more about Afghanistan, conflict reporting, nation building and the real-time experience of migrants," says Joe Stephens, founding director of the Program in Journalism. "In his short time here, he's already proven a real boon to the Princeton community."

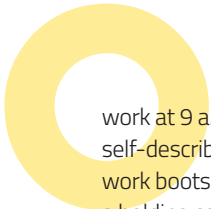
For the fall semester, Wafa has teamed up to join history professor Jeremy Adelman's Global History Lab — an online history class that incorporates displaced people and refugees into its learning network — where he teaches two virtual classes for 20 to 25 students in Kabul.

"I'm grateful to have such an opportunity at this difficult time. The beginning of migration is very tough," says Wafa. "Hopefully I can learn something here to help other migrants in the U.S., because I see a lot of gaps, but communities can help a lot."

Mary Cate Connors, Humanities Council communications manager, contributed to this story.

For Ukrainian Refugees Traveling From Poland to Germany, Henry Posner III '77's Train Awaits

By Carrie Compton, Princeton International



On March 12, 2022, Henry Posner III '77 reported for work at 9 a.m. in his trademark bowtie. But on this day, the self-described railway worker donned a reflective safety vest and work boots as he prepared to make history. Just days earlier, a holding company with several railways owned by Posner, called RDC Deutschland, had entered into a contract with the German government to help transport Ukrainian refugees from the Polish border to the country's interior.

"Unbelievable, but here we are," Posner wrote in the company's internal newsletter. "History comes at you on short notice."

Every morning from March 10 to April 19, RDC passenger trains stood waiting at the German border station of Frankfurt-Oder for hundreds of Ukrainian refugees, who arrived aboard buses and trains after untold hardship. Most had been traveling for days on end and were primarily women and children, as Ukrainian men have remained to fight the Russian onslaught ravaging the country since the Feb. 24 invasion. During Posner's voyage, on which his Russian-language skills were dusted off and put to use, 480 souls were transported three hours away to Hanover, a town located between Berlin and Hamburg that serves as the central processing center. A total of 8,951 Ukrainians were carried along his line to safety, an average of about 230 per day.

Despite the trauma and the displacement implicit in these passengers' ordeals, Posner recalls "an oasis of calm" about the day. Before passengers settled into their seats, German aid workers passed out lunch, coffee, tea and coloring books for children.

Posner's RDC employees approached their jobs on this route with enthusiasm and respect. Conductor Martin Pavlik, who counts Ukrainian among his nine languages, greeted each rider as the train chugged along, carrying his interlocutors ever nearer to their once unthinkable destinies. "I prepared for this trip in detail and thought about what these people need in terms of a message," Pavlik told the newsletter. "As the first German

officials they meet here, we need to build trust and to give them some security. We want them to catch their breath and not panic." As Pavlik walked the train, he was greeted with gratitude and, occasionally, war stories. A 72-year-old grandmother traveling to Munich with her four grandchildren embraced him and told of a harrowing five-day stint in a Kharkiv metro station where food was scarce and tears were plentiful. Safely in German territory, she was grateful that her journey was almost over.

At Hanover, the group was received by German officials who helped the refugees get settled or travel to their next destination, if they had one.

"War in Europe is not in the business plan, nor was COVID-19," says Posner in an interview with Princeton International. But so far, says Posner, the company has navigated adversity and come out stronger for it. "We really do function kind of like a family," he says.

Posner, who returned home to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the day after his journey, was struck by the need for more Ukrainian and Russian speakers aboard these trips. His wife, Anne Molloy, who serves on the Advisory Council of the University's Program in Judaic Studies, recalled that Rabbi Emeritus Walter Jacob from their synagogue, Rodef Shalom Congregation, had created a rabbinical school in Germany to reseed the continent with rabbis after World War II. And that school, Abraham Geiger College, found nine volunteers to aid in communication between train staff and the riders.

"I'm just very proud to have been there on that day," says Posner. "And our people are very proud to be doing this. They really benefit from the accolades they are receiving from compatriots elsewhere in the railway world. For them to get support from other railway people in other countries is kind of like getting support from people of your religion from a different country."

In addition to the U.K., Belgium, Germany, the United States and France, Posner's railway interests also extend into Peru. And so do his philanthropic efforts: This August, for the third time, Posner and other Class of '77 alumni rode his rails to distribute wheelchairs throughout the Peruvian countryside as part of their Reunions class project.



1: RDC employees proudly pose with the Ukrainian flag as they await their passengers.

2: Henry Posner III '77 (second from left), poses with members of the train crew that operated a train from the German town of Frankfurt/Oder on the Polish border.

3: Refugees exit the train after arriving in Hanover, Germany. They then went to a reception center at a nearby exhibition hall for processing before continuing on to their final destinations.

4: Passengers file calmly into trains waiting to take them farther into Germany.



PHOTOS: Henry Posner III '77

Mpala's Next Chapter

As the Mpala Research Centre approaches its third decade, a multidisciplinary focus emerges

By Carrie Compton, Princeton International

In March, anthropology professor Agustín Fuentes was among a small group that visited the Mpala Research Centre, a 48,000-acre living laboratory nestled in the heart of Kenya. During a tour of a possible archeological site, Fuentes almost immediately spotted what looked like a roughly 2-million-year-old stone tool. All at once, he spotted several more scattered about. With him was Assistant Professor of Geosciences Elizabeth Niespolo, who often helps determine the age of stone tools and fossils by dating the rocks and minerals that turn up alongside them. "It was clear to me that these things have been washed out from actively eroding soil, and it's very likely there's a lot more," she says, especially given the center's proximity to other fossil-rich sites in Kenya.

Fuentes, who has been a Princeton professor since 2020, sees more than just rare archaeological specimens in the offering: "There's an opportunity to have research at Mpala that contributes to the grand narrative of human evolution and our broader understanding of what makes us us." But, he says, while that eroding soil could unlock secrets of our past, he is equally concerned about how his findings might improve life for Kenyans.

That experience and Fuentes' emphasis on using research to engender positive changes for Kenya reflect the twin intentions of the trip: to build up a more multidisciplinary scope of research at Mpala and to do so with the aim of encouraging more African scientists to undertake research there while also ensuring that the center's research will benefit Kenyan people and wildlife. Associate Provost for International Affairs and Operations Aly Kassam-Remtulla, who oversees the research center and serves

as chair of its board of trustees, convened the journey. "A lot of the research that has taken place at Mpala over the years has been in the life sciences," he says. "That work is foundational, and we want to continue to invest in it. At the same time, the goal of this trip was to give faculty members in other disciplines — especially the social sciences and humanities — an opportunity to explore how they might do research projects or teach or engage with the community there." Kassam-Remtulla is planning at least two more trips this year, so that Princeton administrators and multidisciplinary scholars can become acquainted with the center.

In addition to Fuentes and Niespolo, the group on the March trip included: Visiting Research Scholar Ethan Kapstein, an economist and co-director of the Empirical Studies of Conflict Project; Erika Milam, professor of history specializing in the history of modern life sciences; Andrea Graham, professor of ecology and evolutionary biology (EEB), then a co-director of the Program in Global Health; Director of the Office of International Programs Rebecca Graves-Bayazitoglu; and Associate Director for International Affairs in the Office of the Provost Grace Penn.

Niespolo and Fuentes have secured funding for an anthropological, geological and hydrological survey of the center's entire 48,000 acres in collaboration with Kenyan scientists and Mpala staff. Kapstein, of the Empirical Studies of Conflict Project, says Kenya has been experiencing "its worst drought in decades [and] periods of drought in the developing world tend to be associated with higher levels of conflict." His team — which includes Princeton EEB professor Dan Rubenstein, Tufts professor



Former Mpala executive director Dino Martins, far right, leads researchers around the center. From right: Agustin Fuentes, Erika Milam, Andrea Graham, Sara Kocher, Elizabeth Niespolo, Aly Kassam-Remtulla, Rebecca Graves-Bayazitoglu.

Steven Block, Princeton Ph.D. candidate Fiona Bare, Carson Maconga '22 and junior Meera Burghardt — has just begun researching water-based conflict throughout Laikipia County, where Mpala is based, thanks to seed funding from Kassam-Remtulla's office. "Like the world generally, Kenya is witnessing climate change," says Kapstein. "One form it's taking is severe drought. I can attest to it because I was walking in riverbeds in Laikipia County that were absolutely empty." Kapstein hopes to use the help of Mpala staff, local NGOs and local conservancies as part of their data gathering to gauge attitudes about water — both when it's plentiful and again when it's scarce — then share their findings with the local community and the Kenyan government to hopefully create meaningful change.

"A lot of the research that has taken place at Mpala over the years has been in the life sciences. That work is foundational, and we want to continue to invest in it.

At the same time, the goal of this trip was to give faculty members in other disciplines — especially the social sciences and humanities — an opportunity to explore how they might do research projects or teach or engage with the community there."

— Aly Kassam-Remtulla, Associate Provost
for International Affairs and Operations

Graham, the EEB professor who co-directed the Program in Global Health, learned through conversation with local clinicians about current health challenges facing local communities as well as obstacles to offering preventative health screenings. The clinicians and Princeton-affiliated researchers are now considering how both health research and public health messaging campaigns could be run out of Mpala. Meanwhile, Milam saw the potential for a rich history of Mpala that explores the multiplicity of land uses on site, from hand axes to enclosure grazing quadrants, through oral history interviews with the expert staff and scientists who live and work there.

Graves-Bayazitoglu, who oversees the Office of International Programs, came away convinced there are several opportunities for greater undergraduate engagement: "It was exciting to realize the manifold ways in which undergraduates could engage with not just the science that was being done there but also with all of the questions around land use, land management, political-conflict, the history of Kenya and what was happening in those areas throughout the 20th and 21st centuries."

Kassam-Remtulla says that building capacity of local researchers is among his key priorities for the center. (Mpala is technically a Kenyan NGO, but Princeton is the managing partner responsible for stewardship of its governance, operations and finances.) "We are creating what we hope will be the world's most diverse and inclusive research community," he says of the center. "Over the last number of years, we have increased the number of scientists from Kenya and other parts of the continent, including Uganda and South Africa. In 2021, 60 percent of papers published based on research conducted at Mpala included a Kenyan co-author. We want to accelerate that success and create an environment where we are attracting top researchers from Africa and beyond and benefiting from deep, authentic collaborations that start with the conceptualization of projects."

Last year, Kassam-Remtulla created an Mpala Advisory Council, in part to ensure that the knowledge production at the center continues to be as equitable as possible: that local collaborators are engaged and duly credited and that findings are disseminated to the betterment of the country.

"You cannot overemphasize that this is important research that's going on at Mpala," says Director of the Program in African Studies Chika Okeke-Agulu, who serves on the council. But, he adds, the forthcoming work of the advisory council is pivotal to guaranteeing Mpala-based research continues its drive to be at the vanguard of ethical and collaborative research. Says Okeke-Agulu, "the [Mpala] Board of Trustees, from every indication, is now taking some of these questions head on ... especially:

"The Princeton-Mpala collaboration is an opportunity to lead, as a university from the global North, in developing a collaboration that is meaningful, honest and sincere. It can teach us a lot about how to have sustainable relationships with ecology. And most importantly, it can teach us how to do research in a just, fair, equitable and mutually beneficial manner."

– Agustín Fuentes, professor of anthropology



PHOTO: Anne-Marie Maman

How do you bring in more Kenyans, more Africans, to be fully involved in the work of Mpala?”

Noting that while researchers from across the globe — not just Princeton affiliates — can work at the center, Kassam-Remtulla says scholars looking to conduct fieldwork there must cover the costs of their lodging and use of the facilities onsite. “We want to acknowledge and reduce barriers to entry that some scholars may face. Through subsidies and fundraising we can level the playing field,” he says. “We want to enhance the pipeline of Kenyan and African scientists who are doing research there.”

Mpala was founded in 1994 on land donated by George Small '43, who wanted to see the former cattle ranch transformed into a research center. It began as and remains a partnership among Princeton, the Smithsonian Institution, National Museums of Kenya and the Kenya Wildlife Service. The center comprises an extensive array of ecologically sustainable facilities, including a genomics lab — the only one of its kind in a field setting in sub-Saharan Africa — staffed entirely by Kenyan scientists. Acting Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer of Mpala Nelly Palmeris says that the collaborative spirit already present at the center only helps this effort. When COVID-19 left many of Mpala’s principal investigators homebound, knowledgeable Kenyan partners on site carried research forward.

“When every other conservancy around us was scaling down, we were abuzz with activity. We were busy because Kenyan researchers kept the projects going,” says Palmeris of the center’s 250-some staff. She adds that many employees have been elevated through the ranks, from driver to research assistant, for example, and that thanks to Mpala’s outreach to a local university, a process is being formed whereby some employees who have assisted professors for years can formalize their knowledge with degrees.

For the researchers who visited the center in March, the notion of ethical research is not only an idea whose time has come, it also aligns with the University motto’s emphasis on the service of humanity.

“The Princeton-Mpala collaboration is an opportunity to lead, as a university from the global North, in developing a collaboration that is meaningful, honest and sincere,” says Fuentes. “It can teach us a lot about how to have sustainable relationships with ecology. And most importantly, it can teach us how to do research in a just, fair, equitable and mutually beneficial manner.”

The central Mpala campus includes, from left, the dining area, administrative block, the McCormack lab and the genomics lab.



Snapshots From a Summer Abroad

Students share highlights from faculty-led summer courses abroad

By Michelle Tong, Office of International Programs

The summer of 2022 sparked renewed excitement and enthusiasm with the resumption of several summer study abroad programs led by Princeton University faculty and alumni. Students enrolled in courses that covered topics ranging from language and culture to history and philosophy, offered in more than 10 countries. Following two years of restricted international travel, the opportunity to take courses abroad proved to be an even more valuable experience, allowing students to engage internationally once again and to enhance their linguistic and cultural skills.

Students describe in their own words how their participation in study abroad programs this summer enriched their Princeton academic experience.

PHOTO: Rebecca Graves-Bayazitoglu



Carlisle Imperial '25, Princeton in Argentina

The Department of Spanish and Portuguese offers a study abroad summer program in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in collaboration with the Universidad Torcuato Di Tella (UTDT). The six-week program was designed and coordinated by Gabriela Nouzeilles, the Emory L. Ford Professor of Spanish, and featured two courses — SPA 208S: Language in Context: Urban Cultures of Buenos Aires and SPA 342S/LAS 342S: Topics in Latin American Modernity: Politics of Culture in Modern Argentina.

[In SPA 342S], learning about both the state violence in Argentina from 1976-1983 and the economic policies of the 1990s prompted me to take courses in economics and politics back at Princeton. In one such class that I am taking this fall, "Causes of War" taught by Professor [Gary] Bass, I have tried to apply ideas from lectures to what I have learned about Argentinian history so I can better understand what occurred and, ideally, how society can avoid making the same mistakes. Overall, taking classes and going on trips in Argentina, such as our excursion to Parque de la Memoria, has helped me to see international trends in areas like politics, economics and history.



PHOTO: Gabriela Nouzeilles

Emanuelle Sippy '25, Plato in Paris

Benjamin Morison, professor of philosophy, once again offered his popular 300-level undergraduate philosophy course at the École Normale Supérieure de Paris. Over the course of five weeks, students examined Plato's "Republic" in its entirety and closely analyzed the questions about justice, truth, knowledge, art and literature raised in this important and influential text.

I found myself deeply engaged and interested in classical philosophy, which I had never before explored, let alone studied in such an immersive way. It was powerful to seek to understand Plato's work in and of itself and to think about the countless ways in which the "Republic" resonates with issues of justice today. Our class enjoyed the philosophical discussions so much that even when

we were on the top of the Eiffel tower overlooking the city, we were often facing each other and our professor, as if we were in office hours. The program was centered on how we learned. Professor Morison said that the class would have 13 professors. I had no idea that he meant it, but I did learn from every participant.

Exchange of Views

Thirteen students from five different countries are discovering life as Princeton students

By Michelle Tong, Office of International Programs

Through established partnerships with a select group of institutions from around the world, Princeton's Study Abroad Program welcomed 13 exchange students this year representing five different countries: England, France, Italy, Japan and Switzerland. Exchange students are fully integrated into University life and have full access to all the services that Princeton offers — from academic support to social activities.

Rina Umeda, a student from the University of Tokyo, will be spending fall semester at Princeton and was driven by academic interest in the environmental sciences. "Along with Syukuro Manabe receiving a Nobel Prize for the physical modeling of predicting global warming, Princeton offers many courses that cover both the engineering and policy aspects of environmental engineering," she says. Exchanges with the University of Tokyo are supported by the Princeton-University of Tokyo Strategic Partnership, which fosters collaboration and strengthens ties between the two institutions.

Éloi Delort, a student from the Institut d'Études Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po), is spending the full academic year on campus. Princeton's course offerings and expertise in the social sciences and politics were his biggest draws. "As a student in these fields, I aspire to learn from the best teachers and students, and Princeton offers such unique opportunities," he adds. "I also wanted to discover the American educational system and to take a step back from what I had known."

So far, Umeda has especially appreciated Princeton's academic resources and support from faculty: "My one-on-one meetings with [Peter] Bogucki, associate dean of undergraduate affairs at the engineering school, relieved my stress regarding course selection," she says. "Professors are always welcoming to answering questions even after class is over, in the hallways, or opening up extra office hours for individuals in need. Since I am not an engineering student at my home university, I am glad that I can receive this much support."

The exchange program also provides many opportunities and options for visiting students to join student organizations and attend networking and social events outside of the classroom. Umeda has joined the Princeton University Energy Association (PUEA) and the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) and has made sure to experience larger social events on campus. "I attended Lawnparties, where I got to meet students in the Japan Student Association (JSA)," she says. "It was interesting to hear about their academic background, and it was also fascinating to find out that most of them were engaged in the STEM field."

Being immersed on campus also sheds light on surprising differences in university culture abroad. Delort says, "I come from a very small campus in France, with less than 400 students. Arriving here and meeting so many new people on a small town-sized campus felt really different."

The undergraduate exchange program allows both Princeton students and their peers abroad to benefit from intercultural exchange both inside and outside the classroom, says Jordan Zilla, assistant director of the program. "We have seen students make lifelong connections through their exchange experience: developing new friendships, working closely with professors on research, and even returning to their host institutions to pursue a graduate degree," she says.



PHOTO: Tori Repp/Fotobuddy

From left to right: exchange students Anaïs Yolka (Sciences Po, France), Micha Christoph (ETH Zurich, Switzerland), Felix O'Mahony (University of Oxford, England), Éloi Delort (Sciences Po, France), and Ximeng Zeng (ETH Zurich, Switzerland)

Inspired by her student activities at Princeton, Umeda hopes to find ways of fostering a lasting connection between Princeton and the University of Tokyo via student organizations. "I hope to create ties between PUEA or SWE with the student-led clubs I am involved in at my home university," she says. "For example, PUEA hosts a fall conference every year, so it would be great if the University of Tokyo could also join virtually or even in person next year."

Delort hopes to use the year to learn as much as possible academically, but also about people and himself. "I want to come back to France by the end of May with new perspectives, sharper critical thinking abilities and tons of great memories," he says.

Out of the Classroom and Across the World

A Global Seminar brings the cultures, politics and language of contemporary Kenya to life undergraduate students

By Alexandra Jones

The most rigorous coursework can only take students so far in the confines of a classroom — especially when they're learning about cultures on the other side of the globe. This summer, a group of Princeton students explored contemporary life in Kenya, complementing their studies with six weeks of immersive travel from the country's capital to coastal villages to the birthplace of *Homo sapiens*.

"When we're in Princeton, we are reading about places, about people, about historical events without much tangible experience that makes you interact with people and find out how those theories affect those who are living today," says instructor Mahiri Mwita, a lecturer in the Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies (PIIRS). "I want students not only to read about Kenya, but to experience and touch and interact with material culture."

The PIIRS Summer 2022 Global Seminar "Kenya: Evolution of the Capital of Western Capitalism in Eastern Africa" allowed students to see up close the ways relations with the West have shaped Kenya's culture, economy and political system. Students

learned about the country's importance to archeological, evolutionary and anthropological research as the point of origin for modern humans; postcolonial Kenya's role as a capitalist buffer against socialist and non-Western ideologies in Africa during the Cold War; and its geopolitical status as a site of Western intervention against extremist movements in the Middle East post-9/11.

Students said this summer's session felt even more rewarding after two years of pandemic restrictions. "One of the reasons I applied to Princeton was because they sponsored a lot of international travel, and that was something I wanted to do," says Katie Rohrbaugh '24, a history major pursuing a certificate in environmental studies.

Maseno University in Kisumu served as the students' home base, but their itinerary took them all over the country. At Princeton's Mpala Research Center and the Maasai Mara National Reserve, they studied the impact of postcolonial conservation efforts on indigenous peoples.

"Conservancies have a very complicated history," says Rohrbaugh. "It's important to have a more academic and educational lens that isn't normally provided when you travel and be mindful of that. I grew in that area on this trip more than I would have if I had gone on a safari like most tourists do."

Students also learned about humanity's African origins at the Turkana Basin Institute, the site of some of our most important archaeological discoveries. The course concluded with an exploration of the Swahili Coast, the center of Kenya's precolonial civilizations and trade as well as the Swahili language and culture.

The multidisciplinary curriculum allowed Patrick Newcombe '25 to explore several academic areas. "I am interested in ecology, politics, international relations, economics and journalism, especially photojournalism, and this Global Seminar let me pursue so many of them at once," he says. "I met

"When we're in Princeton, we are reading about places, about people, about historical events without much tangible experience that makes you interact with people and find out how those theories affect those who are living today. I want students not only to read about Kenya, but to experience and touch and interact with material culture."

– Mahiri Mwita, instructor and PIIRS lecturer

Melat Bekele '24, a politics major pursuing a certificate in African studies, came to Kenya as a Swahili learner. "I'm Ethiopian, and I wanted to learn another East African language on top of Amharic, which I speak at home," she says.

"The way the class was taught was really important to me. It was very much a communication style instead of just learning things linguistically." After her experience, she's excited to use Swahili in her future career and hopes to live in the region one day.

One of the trip's most significant takeaways for Bekele was the chance to connect with people whose perspectives and experiences were so different from her own. "I learned that life is more than getting your degree and building connections in a school or professional setting," she says. "I really appreciated making new

relationships with people across the world who are living completely differently from us and have a different outlook on life."

For Mwita, one of the most important aspects of introducing Princeton students to his home country is that the experience changes not only how they think about Kenya but also how they understand themselves and their identities as Americans.

"They get to learn, to listen, to talk to people with a different worldview and get to appreciate the way other people view themselves — and the way other people view them as Americans and view America — in a way that you cannot get when you don't travel abroad," says Mwita. "There is no way of unknowing that. It becomes part of their personality, part of their scholarly character. It starts to influence what they are studying, the dimensions they want to take in life and where they want to go in the future."



so many different people in so many different walks of life, including papyrus harvesters, basket weavers, sand harvesters and fishermen."

The summer session combined Global Seminar students, who received one hour of Swahili instruction daily, with those studying Swahili exclusively. They attended separate classes but traveled, ate, socialized and practiced the language together.

Learning Swahili in Kenya allowed students to develop their skills in a way that would be impossible on campus. "When you are in Kenya, and you attempt to use your little Swahili and you see how people are responding to you; they are lighting up and feeling like you're one of them," says Mwita. "It gives you some sense of ownership of what we are learning better than anything you can find in class."

PHOTO: Patrick B. Newcombe '25

PHOTO: Mahiri Mwita

Retracing the Revolution

By Mary Cate Connors, Humanities Council

July 14, 1789: hundreds of revolutionaries stormed a medieval armory and state prison on the east side of Paris called the Bastille. The event remains a major milestone in European history and a turning point in the French Revolution.

More than 200 years later, on a hot mid-July day in 2022, 16 Princeton students enrolled in “The French Revolution: Political Theory and Culture” found themselves standing in the Place de la Bastille, the square where the former rampart stood.

Co-taught by Flora Champy, assistant professor of French, and Gregory Conti, assistant professor of politics, the six-week summer course was designed for undergraduates to engage with the political concepts of the Revolution and how these ideas were expressed in literature and art.

The interdisciplinary course, a Humanities Council Magic Project, was primarily supported by a David A. Gardner '69 Magic Grant. Magic Projects support innovative ideas that break new ground intellectually and pedagogically and have the potential to change how the humanities are conceived and taught.

Cross-listed in French and Italian and politics, the course also received funding and support from both departments, as well as from the James Madison Program and the Learning Across Borders Fund.

Blending Champy's expertise in 18th-century French political literature and philosophy with Conti's research on the history of modern political thought, the class combined weekly reading-intensive assignments and lectures with experiential and cultural components, where students immersed themselves in daily life in Paris. They engaged in cultural activities — like macaron-making and a walking food tour in central Paris — and rode the RER, the city's public transit system, to their lectures and precepts twice weekly.

Champy and Conti, who were both teaching a Princeton course abroad for the first time, credit the success of the new course to the “supremely motivated” students themselves. From a wide range of academic disciplines in the humanities and social sciences, students made the most of opportunities for formal discussion in class — in both English and French — but also found time for impromptu analysis, as they would often meet for group meals to further delve into both literary and theoretical texts.

Nicole Williams '23, who is majoring in sociology and pursuing a certificate in French language and culture, enrolled in the course because she was keen to explore the Revolution's “multiplicative, layered and complex impact on modern-day society,” including perspectives around democracy and equality.

“History is very important for me personally to better make sense of present-day realities,” Williams says. “And also to see how in many ways history tends to repeat itself.”

While learning about the Revolution's impact on central themes in modern politics and culture, the class was able to experience “physical manifestations” of that influence, says Conti. Students could feel the opulence of the halls and gardens of Versailles, the seat of the French monarchy at the time; view paintings from neoclassical artist Jacques-Louis David up-close at the Louvre; and imagine life as a Revolution-era Parisian by walking the historic city's streets.

Kayra Guven '24, a history concentrator, agrees that exploring the city helped her coursework come alive. “I appreciated the opportunity to observe the seams connecting the different parts of the city to each other,” says Guven, who is pursuing certificates in European cultural studies, French language and culture, European politics and society, and Russian, East European and Eurasian studies.

“I would frequently run into places that we had discussed in class,” says Guven. “And this experience helped me visualize how history continues to live and evolve in the way we interact with the space around us.”

Building Bridges

The Novogratz Bridge Year Program is back in action

By Michelle Tong, Office of International Programs

This August, the Novogratz Bridge Year Program welcomed its 2022-23 cohort to campus for predeparture orientation. Bridge Year is a unique, tuition-free program that allows incoming Princeton undergraduates to engage in nine months of University-sponsored community-based learning abroad prior to the start of their campus studies.

Since orientation, Bridge Year participants have been immersed in community life at one of four program locations: Tiquipaya, Bolivia; Udaipur, India; Yogyakarta, Indonesia; or Dakar, Senegal. In each location, program participants collaborate with local organizations that are working to respond to community concerns, while deepening their cultural understanding and community connections through intensive language training, a homestay family experience and cultural enrichment activities.

"We're incredibly excited to relaunch the Novogratz Bridge Year Program this year after the recent pause in international programming," says John Luria, director of the program.

"Our new cohort joins an amazing cadre of Princetonians dedicated to collaborative, intercultural dialogue and the building of more just, inclusive and sustainable communities — both at home and abroad."



The 2022-23 Novogratz Bridge Year Program cohort consists of 32 students who will engage in nine months of University-sponsored community-based learning abroad, prior to the start of their campus studies at one of four program locations — Tiquipaya, Bolivia; Udaipur, India; Yogyakarta, Indonesia; or Dakar, Senegal.

Meet Ashley Prince

The Novogratz Bridge Year Program also welcomed Ashley Prince '14, an alumna of the inaugural year of the Bridge Year Program in Serbia, as its assistant director. She provides mentorship and support to current and returned participants. Princeton International asked her what her hopes are for the new cohort:

Many of the students expressed desire and excitement to get away from school and grading for a year, something I, too, had been seeking. In response, my encouragement has been for them to truly embody that desire and philosophy by stepping outside of an evaluative, judging approach to life and people — to enter spaces and interactions without gut categorizations and comparisons like "good," "better" and "bad." To reflect back that same freedom they want for themselves. I hope they will engage with people and the world in a way that observes without judgement and learns and listens genuinely, during their nine months and beyond.



PHOTO: Michelle Tong

Look to the Stars

Paige Cromley '24 reflects on her intergalactic internship in Chile

Because of its dry, clear skies and remoteness, Chile's vast Atacama Desert is home to many astronomical observatories, including the world-class Atacama Large Millimeter/Submillimeter Array (ALMA for short, meaning "soul" in Spanish). I'm an astrophysics major who grew up seeing photos produced by ALMA, and I've always wanted to visit the observatory myself for the chance to peek at the massive antennas pointing toward starry skies.

This summer, I fulfilled that dream — and more. A science communications internship through the International Internship Program (IIP) with the ALMA observatory gave me the opportunity to live in Santiago for two months while working on a project with ALMA's education and public outreach team.

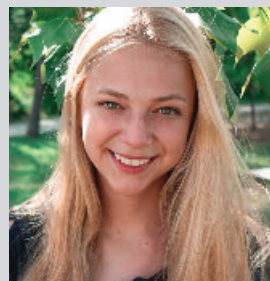
While a lot of research done through ALMA has made international headlines, I wanted to bring the story of the observatory to a wider audience. I created a podcast, focusing on the operations, people and technology behind the observatory. The show, titled "ALMA's Little Universe," is a series of mini-episodes, about three minutes each, that covers a range of topics, from the type of data collected by the observatory radio antennas to the hospitality staff on site.

I was given a lot of freedom in creating this project. Conversations with ALMA staff helped me pick topics for each episode: I talked to people from all over the world representing a variety of roles at the international observatory, from its Canadian director to Taiwanese astronomers to Chilean engineers who specialize in cryogenics.

Mostly, I worked in the Santiago office, but for a few days in early July, I had the chance to visit the actual observatory site in the north of Chile. I stayed in a science-fiction-esque residential compound where engineers and workers live for about a week at a time while they're "on shift" and got to glimpse the Milky Way for the first time in the dry desert sky. Some constellations only exist in the Southern Hemisphere; while star-gazing in the Atacama Desert, I could see the Southern Cross. The seasons were also different there; I spent my summer vacation wrapped in sweaters during a Chilean winter. While hiking through knee-deep snow on a mountain next to Cerro Provincia, I realized my mom had been right: I should have packed more warm clothes.

The most tangible difference, of course, wasn't the weather or the constellations, but the language. I arrived in Santiago not knowing a word of Spanish, and though my work was in English, adjusting to life in a Spanish-speaking city was challenging. Routine elements of life, like ordering a coffee or asking for directions, now required online dictionaries and a lot of hand-waving. Colleagues often carried out meetings or conversations in their native tongue as I desperately tried to pick out words I had learned on Duolingo. But it was a growing experience, and now I'm enrolled in an introductory Spanish course at Princeton. Hopefully I'll return one day fluent.

By working in science communications, I was able to explore two of the fields I'm most interested in, astronomy and journalism. I hope one day to work in a career at the intersection of science and storytelling, and this internship both affirmed that dream and gave me practical experience toward it. It was also incredibly helpful to be immersed in a workplace like ALMA for



Paige Cromley '24

two months; the diversity of jobs and people who work there, as well as the general supportive environment and the passion of the staff taught me a lot about what kind of workplace I'd like to seek in the future.

I also made a deliberate effort with my roommates to explore the culinary scene of Santiago. Friends recommended dishes to us, and I quickly became obsessed with manjar, also known as dulce de leche, which can be found in an impressive number of desserts. We were most eager to attend an asado, kind of like an Argentinian barbecue, where meat is char-grilled on a parrilla. One of our last weekends was spent at the home of two fellow interns. The food was delicious, of course, but I was most grateful for having been welcomed by our new friends and for the time spent chatting together.

Overall, this was a theme of my experience living abroad: The best memories I have are the moments when new friends took the time to share something with me, whether it was food, a hiking path they love, a Spanish phrase or simply time.

“By working in science communications, I was able to explore two of the fields I’m most interested in, astronomy and journalism.”

– Paige Cromley '24

IIP interns Danny Sun '23, Paige Cromley '24 and Savannah Pobre '23 at the Atamaca Large Millimeter Array (ALMA) operations site in Chile.

All Abroad

Henry Richardson Labouisse 1926 global service fellowships support recent graduates in Asia and Africa

By Pooja Makhijani, Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies

Two Princeton University fellowship programs — Princeton in Asia (PiA) and Princeton in Africa (PiAf) — have long given recent graduates the opportunity to pursue internship opportunities across the Asian and African continents. The programs are open to graduates of any university, and, combined, have placed 4,000 graduates in more than 60 countries. The disruptions of COVID-19 altered placements somewhat, but this fall, both programs are cautiously back, fostering person-to-person diplomacy, enhancing mutual understanding, contributing to communities, and providing transformative experiences for fellows and host communities.

PiA and PiAf have also been bolstered by a one-time contribution by the Henry Richardson Labouisse 1926 Prize, which funded five recent Princeton graduates instead of the usual three. Emmanuel Kreike, professor of history and chair of the Labouisse selection committee, calls the collaboration “a major effort to help jumpstart Princeton’s programming to serve humanity at home and abroad.” The necessity of these fellowships has never been timelier, he says. “We live in a dark moment of history marked by fake news and distrust that fan the flames of hate causing conflict and human suffering. And the isolation and physical and mental health impacts of the biggest pandemic in a century were a major factor in creating deep divides.”

M.B. Dillon ’06, executive director of PiA, is excited for this next chapter in the organization’s evolution: “We’ve made a lot of investments in health, safety and security so that we can support fellows in this new world,” he says. “PiA has focused on English teaching in the past, and that will always remain important to us, but we have exciting new placements in environmental sustainability, arts and culture, and public health — trying to find multiple pathways for engagement and building connections with Asia.”

Humility, mutuality and interdependence are PiA’s guiding values, Dillon adds, and have provided the organization with a steady foundation in these times of tumult. “The learning goes

both ways,” he says. “Our fellows are dedicated to professional service but aren’t coming in with ‘the answers’ or seeking to change the place they’re going to be. The mission is to support, to learn, to contribute.” PiA’s host organizations make the decision as to whom to hire, he explains. “We’re not just saying, ‘Here’s your person; enjoy!’ Our host organizations also invest in the partnership by paying the fellow a stipend.”

“The mission is to support, to learn, to contribute.”

– M.B. Dillon ’06, executive director of PiA

Tuul Galzagd is the director of the eco-banking department at XacBank, whose team is leading the way in financing clean energy products in Mongolia; by making these products more affordable, they hope to help to improve the air quality in Ulaanbaatar, the Mongolian capital. XacBank has partnered with PiA since 2006 and appreciates this mutually beneficial partnership and the fellows that PiA sends year-after-year. “What we are doing is very unique,” Galzagd says. “The fellows help develop proposals that we use to mobilize funds from the international financial institutions, mainly from climate funds and climate investors. Report monitoring [to institutions] is a huge task. We have to make these documents in English, so that is the part where our fellows work.”

Two Henry Richardson Labouisse 1926 fellows tell Princeton International about their experiences in-country thus far and how their time in community with others continues to shape and influence their academic and professional trajectories.

Matthew Fuller '20

Foundation for Community Development and Empowerment (FCDE) in Uganda

Matthew Fuller '20 heard about PiAf as a first-year student in an African history class; James Floyd, vice president emeritus of the program, was a guest speaker. "Ever since then, it was something that I was really interested in doing," he says. "The mission stuck out and the opportunities stood out, just in terms of their focus on responsible development and also professional development."

Fuller graduated at the height of the pandemic with a concentration in history and certificates in the history and practice of diplomacy and African studies. He worked with USAID and the National Democratic Institute, a nonprofit American NGO that works with partners in developing countries to increase the effectiveness of democratic institutions, all the while keeping an eye on PiAf opportunities.

He is in Kampala, Uganda, a fellow with Foundation for Community Development and Empowerment (FCDE), which helps countries reach their own sustainable development objectives by increasing the capacity of existing nongovernmental organizations and community-based organizations. "FCDE helps build skills and institutional knowledge with local, often rural, organizations through training, coaching and workshops," he says. "I work on fostering strategic relationships with other organizations that are usually based out of Kampala. That is something a little bit newer for the organization."

Fuller has enjoyed getting to know FCDE's partners in Kampala, as well as his colleagues, whom he often watches soccer with. "I've heard the term 'mission-driven' a lot in international development work," he says. "But by working with coworkers who are often from the communities that we work with, it brings a whole new meaning to what it means to be mission-driven and what that looks like."



Aemu Anteneh '22

XacBank in Mongolia

Aemu Anteneh '22 has a wide variety of academic interests. She chose to concentrate in operations research and financial engineering because of her many curiosities: math, engineering, computer science, finance. As an undergraduate, she pursued internship opportunities at an asset management firm and a startup. She also has a keen desire to travel: While at Princeton, prior to COVID-19, she studied abroad for a summer in Spain and participated in a PIIRS Global Seminar in India.

PiA offered her a postgraduate opportunity to marry her professional interests with her desire to live and work outside of the U.S. "Most fellowships don't quite touch the career interests that I have," she says. "I love that PiA has a lot of business posts."

Anteneh has been eyeing her current position — a fellow in XacBank's eco-banking department — since her sophomore year. "It's actually quite revolutionary, not just here but throughout the world," she says. "XacBank is a pioneer in what they do in financing sustainable projects and working with international organizations on expanding environmental activism."

She appreciates PiA's commitment to cross-cultural exchange. "I really like the idea of approaching the job more than just as a job — not just the clock-in-and-clock-out, but embracing the community as a whole, not just falling into the expat bubble," she says. "I'm asking a lot of questions, and I'm super curious about everything. From my end, I'm one of the only Black people in Mongolia. So definitely a lot of interest there — I've been able to share more about my identity as an African American. It's definitely a two-way street."



A Tree Grows in India

By Pooja Makhijani, Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies

Cities consume 78 percent of the world's energy and produce more than 60 percent of greenhouse gas emissions, according to UN-Habitat. To mitigate the effects of greenhouse gas emissions on climate change, scientists around the world are advancing new technologies for carbon capture and storage. Fortunately, the best carbon capture technology already exists: trees. Trees reduce carbon in the atmosphere by sequestering it in new growth every year; as a tree grows, it stores more carbon by holding it in its accumulated biomass.

An ongoing research project in the Urban Nexus Lab attempts to quantify the carbon mitigation potential of urban greenery in India. Since October 2021, the lab has collaborated with the Indian cities of Delhi, Pune and Siliguri to advance non-destructive field methods for the development of local urban tree data and to better understand the potential of trees in Indian cities to offset emissions from other infrastructure provisioning sectors, toward net-zero emissions.

Assessing the carbon sequestration potential of trees in any given city requires an understanding of the size-diameter relationship, commonly called the “allometric relationship,” and the growth rate of local trees. A reliable scaling methodology is also needed to use relatively small samples of field data to generate citywide carbon stock and sequestration estimates. However, these three components — the allometric relationships, growth rates and scaling to citywide estimates — are existing knowledge gaps in India. Allometric relationships and growth rates of Indian urban trees have never been investigated, and no consistent methods exist in India for reliably converting small-scale urban tree inventories to citywide carbon estimates.

“Small-scale studies in the U.S have shown tree allometry is different for urban trees relative to rural trees of the same species in the same eco-region,” says Joshua Eastman '22, who worked in the Urban Nexus Lab as part of his independent studies in civil and environmental engineering as an undergraduate and as an intern post-graduation. “If we want to produce estimates of urban biomass in India, we need to determine what that ratio is for India.”

The researchers championed LiDAR technology, a method for determining variable distance by targeting an object with a laser and measuring the time for the reflected light to return to the

receiver. LiDAR has been used successfully in forestry to map individual trees in forests and to predict forest volume and biomass — but never before in India.

The Urban Nexus Lab operates under the aegis of Anu Ramaswami, the Sanjay Swani '87 Professor of India Studies, professor of civil and environmental engineering, PIIRS and the High Meadows Environmental Institute, and director of the M.S. Chadha Center for Global India. This project is supported with funds from the Chadha Center's India Data Project, which, along with the Urban Nexus Lab, aims to advance new methods for developing novel datasets on people, nature and infrastructure in cities across the U.S. and India. Bhartendu Pandey, lead urban data scientist and postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, is concurrently developing data science approaches to derive first-order estimates of carbon storage and sequestration in trees across all urban areas in India using field measurements.

Monalisa Sen is program coordinator in biodiversity at ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability South Asia, the regional outpost of a global network of more than 2,500 local and regional governments. She coordinates the Urban Nexus Lab's entire on-the-ground research operation; her team conducted over 300 LiDAR scans and 160 increment cores — a process by which an instrument called an increment borer extracts a small, pencil-sized piece of wood from the trunk of a tree — of urban trees in these three cities. Researchers in India faced early challenges: For example, the equipment malfunctioned unexpectedly in India's climate, and the data collectors struggled at first with producing high-resolution output scans.

But, Sen says, despite early hiccups, this methodology has broad appeal and application. The Indian Forest Service calculates carbon sequestration calculations annually, but only in forests: Such data does not exist for urban spaces and urban trees, she explains. “Cities in India are interested in understanding how much emissions are being reduced or how much carbon is being sequestered by the trees that they have and which trees should they plant or which trees they should not plant,” she says. “Carbon sequestration analysis for trees is very complicated. We hope that this methodology will be a much simpler exercise for cities to undertake.”

Troll Tolls

Princeton students and researchers team up to analyze online disinformation networks

By Carrie Compton, Princeton International

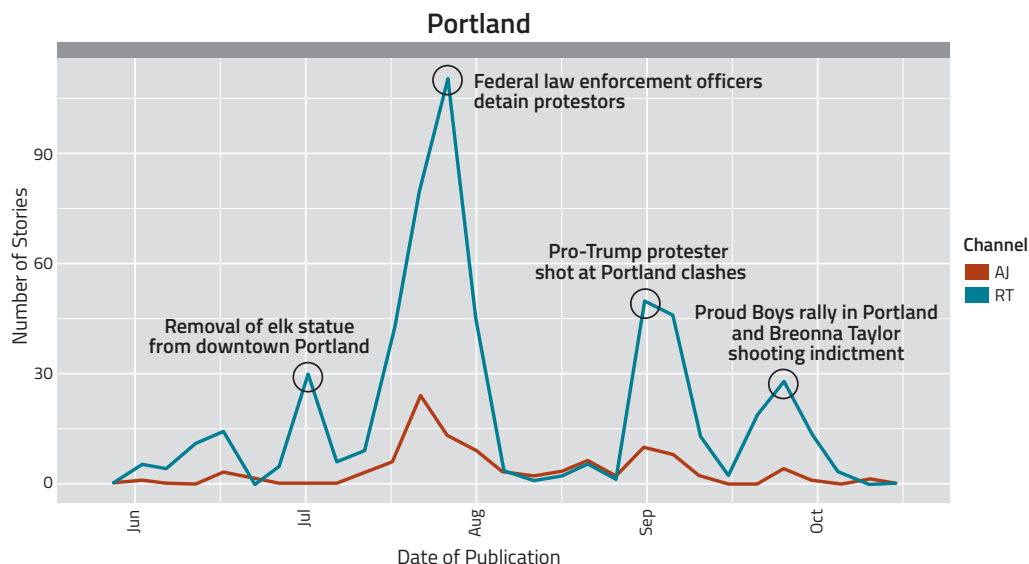
The headlines are commonplace: A United States tech company finds and blocks from their platform thousands of malevolent accounts spreading disinformation. In 2018, ahead of midterm elections, Professor of Politics and International Affairs Jacob Shapiro, who directs Princeton's Empirical Studies of Conflict Project (ESOC), joined with Microsoft to determine whether these accounts — usually traceable to an adversarial country — left digital fingerprints that might connect them to a broader network. Focusing on Chinese, Russian and Venezuelan trolls on Twitter and Reddit from 2015-18, the team, working with colleagues at NYU, found distinctive markers that could be traced across various accounts.

Then, in 2020, as the coronavirus spread, Shapiro gathered a group of international Princeton students who had returned home to monitor COVID-19 misinformation in their countries'

social media channels. By December 2020, the students had recorded more than 5,600 misinformation stories from more than 80 countries in 35 languages, resulting in a series of publications that the students contributed to. In the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, the ESOC group reported in June 2021 that the vast majority of misleading COVID-19 posts from Russia appeared to originate from state-sponsored sources, with nearly 70 percent of them seeking to undermine institutions in rival countries and the West. Shapiro says collaborating with Microsoft on this issue was akin to "addressing a public policy problem together." He adds that putting the students to work gave them "a strong sense of agency, a sense that they can contribute to (solving) this problem at this time when the whole world is getting reorganized."

Dan Day, Director of Special Projects, Office of Communications, contributed to this report.

RT published far more stories on protests and unrest in Portland, Oregon, in the summer of 2020 than did Al Jazeera, a comparable foreign media outlet. This graph shows the total number of stories published over five-day periods by each network.



CREDIT: Benjamin Dubow, Evanna Hu, Jacob N. Shapiro, Ulaş Erdoğan, Kamya Yadav

Odd 'Nestfellows'

Searching for why some South American birds form parenting co-ops

By Julie Schwieter Collazo

Barro Colorado, a six-square-mile island in the middle of the Panama Canal, has been a nature reserve and a site of scientific research for nearly a century. Hosting more than 400 researchers and scholars annually, Princeton professors and students among them, Barro Colorado is “the most intensively studied tropical forest in the world,” according to the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI) website.

For decades, Princeton researchers have flocked to STRI to examine forest biology and biodiversity, responses of invertebrates to climate change and observations of howler monkeys’ behavior, to name a few. Add to that list the cooperative breeding system of the greater ani, which has been the focus of a 15-year study led by Christina Riehl, associate professor of ecology and evolutionary biology (EEB) at Princeton University.

Riehl says that while the ani is one of the island’s most common birds, it had been largely overlooked by researchers. Upon landing on the island in 2006 to study alongside her doctoral adviser, Martin Wikelski, now director of the Department of Migration of the Max Planck Institute of Animal Behavior at the University of Konstanz, Germany,

who was working on several projects in Panama, Riehl realized that “very little was known about the greater ani, except that it was a communal nester like the groove-billed ani,” a species common in Costa Rica that had been studied extensively by Sandra Vehrencamp, a behavioral ecologist at Cornell. Riehl had read Vehrencamp’s papers and was fascinated by the species. “An understudied tropical bird with a bizarre cooperative breeding system?” she says of the greater ani. “I immediately started planning my dissertation.”

In the decade and a half she has spent in Panama — mostly during the greater ani’s summer breeding season — Riehl and her colleagues have been working to uncover why anis have such a unique breeding system, in which two to five pairs of birds nest, lay eggs, incubate and feed offspring communally, sometimes with unrelated group members. “This is unusual in animals,”

Riehl notes, as “cooperative groups are usually composed of family members, and communal nesting isn’t easy.”

The greater ani’s abundance on Barro Colorado doesn’t mean that researching them is straightforward. Fieldwork is conducted entirely by boat because anis nest in marshy shoreline

A nest of greater ani eggs.



PHOTO: Amanda Savagian

PHOTO: Amanda Savagian



Two anis are perched near their nest; one is banded.

task while floating in a boat. “In some ways, it’s a wonderful way to spend the day,” says Riehl. “But other days, when you get alternately baked by the sun and frozen by the rain — or worse, when the boat breaks down — it’s not so wonderful.”

Unsurprisingly, the COVID pandemic presented all kinds of challenges for researchers like Riehl, her students and her colleagues. “It was extremely hard not to be able to interact with the scientists, not to mention

the anis, during the pandemic,” she says.

Riehl and her team have recently made some significant findings. This summer, doctoral candidate Amanda Savagian, working with postdoctoral research associate Josh Lapergola, both in EEB, designed a set of experiments to confirm her hypothesis that greater anis have a “raptor alarm,” a call reserved only for when they observe a bird of prey nearby. “It’s one of the few examples of referential communication in birds,” says Riehl. Lapergola spent the summer playing back raptor calls to anis and recording their behaviors, thus confirming the hypothesis.

But not all of the team’s questions about the greater ani have been answered, and the species still offers exciting avenues for further research. “How do so many birds ‘agree’ on anything?” Riehl asks. “How do they decide when to start laying eggs or where to build the nest? Why does a bird decide to stay in the same group or try to leave and join a different group? How do groups form to begin with? We still have only a hazy understanding of most of these questions.”

PHOTO: Amanda Savagian



Three greater ani nestlings are individually marked with non-toxic paint to aid in identification on video for a study on provisioning and begging behavior.

vegetation. “Any experiment requires knowledge of the nesting biology of the group — how many birds are in the group, whether they’re laying eggs or raising chicks, where their nest is — and so a huge amount of our fieldwork is finding nests, marking eggs and nestlings, and taking blood samples for later analysis,” Riehl says.

Researchers also rely upon technology — and installing cameras or playing back alarm calls from a speaker can be a tricky

A River Runs Through It

Class of 2019 graduate Jordan Salama's celebrated nonfiction book was the Class of 2026 Pre-read

By Pooja Makhijani, Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies

Princeton University President Christopher L. Eisgruber selected the travelogue "Every Day the River Changes: Four Weeks Down the Magdalena," by Jordan Salama '19 as the Pre-read for the Class of 2026. Eisgruber began the Pre-read tradition in 2013, choosing a different book each year as a way of introducing first-year students to the intellectual life of the University.

"Every Day the River Changes" was originally written as Salama's senior thesis and later expanded into a book, named a Kirkus Best Nonfiction Title of 2021. The travelogue was inspired by Salama's international experiences while at Princeton, and connects his studies in Spanish, creative writing, environmental studies, journalism and Latin American studies.

An American writer of Argentine, Syrian and Iraqi Jewish descent, Salama tells the story of people and places along the Río Magdalena, nearly 1,000 miles long, in the heart of Colombia. "This is a story about a young person's journey down a river, how the people he met changed him and changed his view of the world," Salama said in a video message to first years. "I hope that when you read it, you think about all of the ways that you can chase your own passions at Princeton. That you can pursue projects that may seem ambitious, challenging but are exciting to you at their core."



PHOTO: Nina Subin

An excerpt from the book:

The Magdalena River. It wasn't in the tourist guidebook like the other places she mentioned, but I recognized its name immediately, for so many people in Colombia spoke of it to me with an almost-religious fervor. "A place you must not miss," they said. It seemed to be every Colombian's dream to someday travel the 950 miles of its course, though not many people had actually done it. The Wildlife Conservation Society had a project in a community somewhere along its banks, but it was in the Magdalena Medio, the Mid-Magdalena, where at the time they had told me it was still too dangerous to go.

I landed back in the States a few weeks later, at that point more curious than fulfilled from my trip, and without having laid eyes on the great Magdalena River. But I did not forget about my time in Colombia. In college, friends studied things like economics and history and biology, while I devoured everything to do with Latin America, reading books like "One Hundred Years of Solitude" and "The Old Patagonian Express" and dreaming of a second chance to travel there. The next summer I spent on a grant in Argentina and Bolivia, tracing the route of my great-grandfather — the long-ago traveling salesman in the Andes — and seeing for myself that ours was indeed a family forever on the move, linking one place with the next, exchanging goods and stories and cultures as they wandered. I realized the value of a journey with a singular thread, one that could connect seemingly disparate places and people. And I was beginning to figure out that telling these stories was what I wanted to do with my life.

The Magdalena was waiting for me when it came time to decide on a topic for my senior thesis. I'd decided I wanted to spend time with people along a river, and I was surprised that it took me so long to find my way back to my old journals from Colombia, written in the sweaty heat under Sandra's grandmother's careful curfew in Cali. Immediately I was reminded of the glimmer in people's eyes when they told me of their country's greatest river; indeed, in Colombia there is no river that is more important and revered than the Rio Grande de la Magdalena, which flows through just about every kind of landscape — mountains, jungles, plains, and swamplands — before emptying into the Caribbean Sea. The river is central to the history of Colombia and much of South America, serving as the setting for several of the continent's most famous novels (by Gabriel Garcia

Marquez), the birthplace of some of its most popular music (from regional genres like cumbia and vallenato, which arose from the valleys, to global superstar Shakira, who was born in Barranquilla at the river's mouth), and the source of myths and legends that have since touched lands far beyond the river's banks. In Colombia's heartland, the Magdalena is a major source of life.

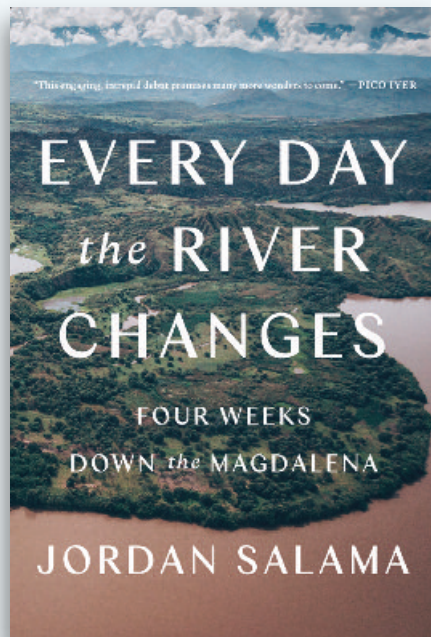
The old woman in Ladrilleros had said to me, "To understand the river is to understand the country."

Maybe I wanted to understand Colombia because it is always changing, always coming up with something new. By late 2016, just a few months after my first trip, a landmark peace deal had been signed, and the worst of the guerrilla armies were supposedly demobilizing. Areas of the country that were previously off-limits were now ostensibly back on the map, and there was renewed hope after more than fifty years of conflict. But every few months there were regressions, too: in the absence of the guerrillas there came political upheaval, threats of a return to arms, killings of environmentalists and local activists and ex-combatants, and the strengthening of dissident criminal groups, all stoking fears of a relapse into violence.

And all the while, through the ups and downs of hope and despair, there were stories of ordinary people doing what they could to help, often in the most extraordinary of ways.

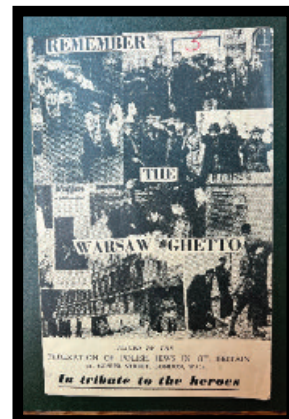
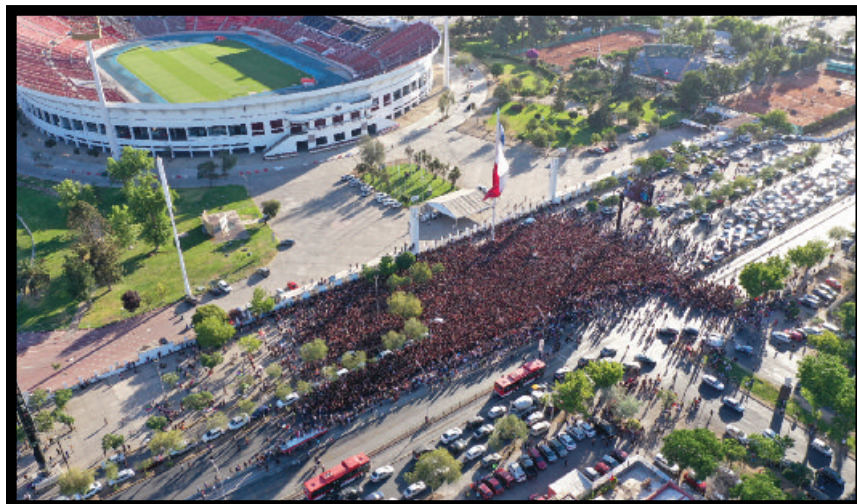
One thing was for certain: the Colombia I met in 2016 was a far cry from the Colombia I came to love just two years later, when I did indeed return, though at the old woman's advice I did not go back to Vismar and Colo in Ladrilleros or to anywhere else I'd been before. I returned to Colombia with the goal of traveling the entire length of its most important river, from source to sea, south to north, over the course of four weeks. With school in the way, this was all the time that I had; an ambitious goal, but by no means an unattainable one.

Figuring out how I would do it was another question entirely. The Magdalena River of the storybooks was a river of life, revered for its romantic journeys through landscapes with astounding biodiversity. I soon came to dream of long voyages by steamboat through the dense, misty wilderness, of siestas spent cruising by in a hammock, without worry, lulled by the hum of the ship and the buzzing of the jungle. A life lived by river seemed impeccable in its simplicity — you never had to worry about where you were going.



Resist! Insist! Persist!

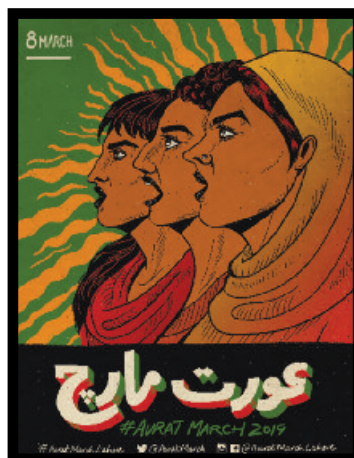
A Princeton exhibition highlights global social movements through the years



The exhibition “Records of Resistance: Documenting Global Activism 1933 to 2021,” which was mounted at Princeton University’s Firestone Library during the fall semester, told stories of social justice movements through the tools of resistance, such as posters, pamphlets, flyers and campaigns from the internet and social media. The collection was wide ranging, from sacred Passover Haggadot, which embody Jews’ spiritual resistance to their oppressors during and immediately after the Holocaust; to photographs of marchers on Selma’s Edmund Pettus Bridge in 1965; to vibrant posters and pamphlets created by protesters in Santiago, Chile, and Lahore, Pakistan, only a few years ago.

“‘Records of Resistance’ invites the visitor to consider the items on display and their relationship to movements for social justice across time and various locales,” said South Asian Studies Librarian and co-curator Ellen Ambrosone. Viewers were asked to “connect to [their] shared humanity, to consider the conditions that perpetuate injustice, to confront their deepest feelings of indignation, and to reflect on how we may advocate for change,” she said of the exhibit, which featured how issues including indigenous, gender and LGBTQIA+ rights; social inequality; antisemitism; and systemic racism manifest in resistance over time and across the globe.

The “Records of Resistance” site was created using digital images from the Princeton University Library’s collections and is accessible around the world at bit.ly/ResistanceRecs.





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