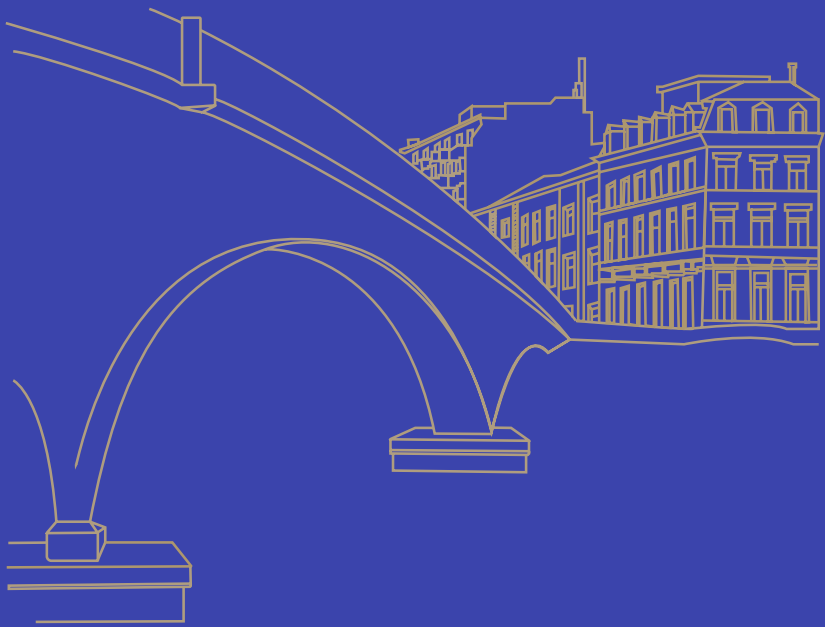
IEA PARIS

INSTITUT D'ÉTUDES AVANCÉES DE PARIS



RESEARCH FELLOWS

2026-2027

Paris Institute for Advanced Study

17 quai d'Anjou, 75004 Paris
Tel: +33 (0) 1 56 81 00 52
www.paris-iea.fr

Information:
information@paris-iea.fr

Graphic Design: Delphine Cormier. Printing: Media Graphic

RESEARCH FELLOWS

2026-2027

CONTENTS

The Director's word ..... p. 5
The Institute ..... p. 6
Our partners & supports ..... p. 8
Our research programs ..... p. 10

OUR 2026-2027 FELLOWS

Christopher BARRETT ..... p. 16
Will BATEMAN ..... p. 17
Luis BETTENCOURT ..... p. 18
Bram BÜSCHER ..... p. 19
Angèle CHRISTIN ..... p. 20
Gerardine DOYLE ..... p. 21
Anthony ELLIOTT ..... p. 22
Rebecca FREETH ..... p. 23
Scott FRICKEL ..... p. 24
Sabine FRÜHSTÜCK ..... p. 25
Michele GELFAND ..... p. 26
Silvia Elena GIORGULI SAUCEDO ..... p. 27
Carola HEIN ..... p. 28
Enrico ILLE ..... p. 29
Maurizio ISABELLA ..... p. 30
Diana K. DAVIS ..... p. 31
Boaz KEYSAR ..... p. 32
Emmanuel KREIKE ..... p. 33
Karin KUKKONEN ..... p. 34
Johana KUNIN ..... p. 35
Hannah LANDECKER ..... p. 36
Guilherme LASSANCE DOS SANTOS ABREU ..... p. 37
Ya-Wen LEI ..... p. 38
Louise MALLINDER ..... p. 39
Martha MAYA CALLE ..... p. 40
Gretty MIRDAL ..... p. 41
Helga NOWOTNY ..... p. 42
David Fernando SALAS MUÑOZ ..... p. 43
Guillaume SAUVÉ ..... p. 44
William Brent SEALES ..... p. 45
Cyrus SHAHABI ..... p. 46
Fredrik STIERNSTEDT ..... p. 47
Joseph TANKE ..... p. 48
Benjamin VOYER ..... p. 49
Sigrid WEIGEL ..... p. 50
Wing Thye WOO ..... p. 51
Li XIONG ..... p. 52
CAT Group ..... p. 54

Saadi Lahlou has a multidisciplinary background (statistics and economics, human biology, HDR in Psychology). He has led four research laboratories (the Department of Consumer Forecasting at Crédoc, the Internal Social Forecasting Group, the Cognitive Design Laboratory at EDF R&D, and the Department of Social Psychology at the LSE) and served on the Evaluation Committee of the Commissariat Général du Plan. Since 2009, he has held the Chair in Social Psychology at the LSE. He was a fellow at the Paris IAS in 2014 and has been its director since September 2018. He is a member of the Académie des Technologies and Academia Europaea, and has served on numerous scientific committees in France and across Europe, both academic (ERC, ESRC, ENS-PSL, INRAE, IMT, UTC, etc.) and industrial (food, defence, consumer goods, etc.). He has published numerous scientific articles and books.

THE DIRECTOR'S WORD

Here are the research projects of the 2026–2027 class of Fellows. This class enriches the research ecosystem of Paris and the wider Île-de-France region with innovative work, diverse perspectives, and recognised expertise. Once again this year, more than half of the projects address major societal challenges, and we are delighted by this.

Whether an individual or group residency, a short or long stay, the Institute offers an exceptional environment for work and exchange in the beautiful Hôtel de Lauzun, made available to Paris IAS by the City of Paris. In this extraordinary setting, collective intelligence flourishes in the offices, seminars and conferences, and, of course, over meals, where Fellows and their colleagues from Greater Paris share ideas and projects.

Dear fellow residents, this uninterrupted time for reflection is a precious opportunity. Make the most of it for the advancement of science and society. Your expertise and your capacity to think together are essential to better understanding the challenges of our time. And you, dear colleagues in Paris, seize the opportunity to build ties with the best of research from around the world!

In this world in crisis and craving for transformation, research is more essential than ever. It is collective intelligence that allows us, together, to better understand the great challenges we face, and to advise those who must confront them. At Paris IAS, we cultivate this collective intelligence — join us!

Saadi Lahlou
Director
of the Paris IAS

THE INSTITUTE

A vibrant hub for scientific life, the Paris IAS hosts international researchers in the humanities and social sciences to help them develop their research in new directions. Freed from their academic obligations, fellows benefit from a rich space of interdisciplinarity, open to the French and international social, political and economic worlds, conducive to collective intelligence and the broadening of perspectives. The Institute also provides a unique setting for many scientific events for specialists and the general public, anchored in the Île-de-France and European university networks. It encourages closer ties with the extra-academic sphere in an effort to break silos and to respond as effectively as possible to the major contemporary societal issues. Since its creation, the Paris IAS has hosted more than 520 researchers of 65 different nationalities, active in 28 disciplines and from 300 international institutions. These research fellowships have led to the organization of more than 1000 events and have resulted in more than 1200 publications.

OUR PARTNERS & SUPPORTS

The Paris IAS was established in 2008 under the auspices of the Fondation Maison des Sciences de l'Homme (FMSH), the École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS) and the École normale supérieure (ENS). Since 2011, it has been an independent and autonomous institute, supported by the City of Paris, the leading universities in the Paris region, two national research organisations, as well as the FMSH and the Île-de-France Regional Council. The Institute is a member of the French Network of Institutes for Advanced Study (RFIEA), as well as the European Network of Institutes for Advanced Study (NetIAS) and the global network of University-based Institutes for Advanced Study (UBIAS). It plays an active role in the French Institutes for Advanced Study Fellowship Pogramme (FIAS) funded by the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme (Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action – COFUND). It receives funding under the 'France 2030' programme through the RFIEA+ Laboratory of Excellence and from several prestigious European foundations.

MAIN SPONSORS

VILLE DE PARIS · Région îledeFrance · Cofinancé par l'Union européenne · anr agence nationale de la recherche

MEMBERS

cnrs · L'ÉCOLE DES HAUTES ÉTUDES EN SCIENCES SOCIALES · fondation maison des sciences de l'homme · inalco · INRAE · UNIVERSITÉ PARIS SCIENCES & LETTRES · Sorbonne Nouvelle université des cultures · SORBONNE UNIVERSITÉ · Université Gustave Eiffel · Université Paris Cité · Université Paris Nanterre · UNIVERSITÉ PARIS 1 PANTHÉON SORBONNE · université PARIS-SACLAY

OTHER SUPPORTS

CITÉ INTERNATIONALE UNIVERSITAIRE DE PARIS · FRANCE 2030 · NOMIS FOUNDATION · RIKSBANKENS JUBILEUMSFOND

NETWORKS

FONDATION RÉSEAU FRANÇAIS DES INSTITUTS D'ÉTUDES AVANCÉES · Netias. · UBIAS University-Based Institutes for Advanced Study

OUR RESEARCH PROGRAMS

The Paris Institute for Advanced Study offers to its fellows several types of stays as well as various research programs. Whether short or long-term, individual or group-based, the Paris IAS's research residencies enable international researchers to integrate into a high-level academic community and promote collaboration with the local research ecosystem and collective intelligence.

LONG STAYS (5-10 months)

Non-thematic residencies

The research projects of Fellows on long stays at the Paris IAS can cover all disciplines or themes in the social sciences, humanities, and other disciplines concerned with societal issues. The Institute selects projects that stand out for their excellence and that of the researchers who carry them out. The impact that this research can have on its discipline and the academic field in general is a factor that is particularly valued in the selection of the many applications that the Paris IAS receives each year. These projects also stand out for their originality, whether because they use new methodologies, bring theoretical innovations to the state of the art, or are rooted in an interdisciplinary field.

The FIAS program

Most long-term fellows at the Paris IAS participate in the FIAS (French Institute for Advanced Study) international mobility program, funded by the European Union's Horizon Europe program under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (GA-101217263). The Institute is one of the French institutions coordinated by the French Network of Institutes for Advanced Study (RFIEA) that benefit from this program, enabling high-level researchers to develop their projects during ten-month residencies within the local university network.

Research chairs

With the collaboration of several of its members and partners, the Paris IAS has been able to develop research chairs that can be used by certain long-term resident fellows:

- The City of Paris chair, created with the support of the municipality,
- The Riksbankens Jubileumsfond chair, created with the Bank of Sweden Foundation,
- The CAS program with the Center for Advanced Study of the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, as part of a partnership with the Gudmund Hernes Foundation.

SHORT STAYS (1 to 3 months)

Writing residencies “Paris IdeAS”

Since September 2023, writing residencies have offered the opportunity to spend a month at the Paris IAS to work on an article presenting and developing an idea or concept, with a view to shaping this notion into a clear, widely accessible publication with the potential to become an influential work beyond the discipline. These short stays welcome researchers in the humanities and social sciences, as well as experts who have recently held senior positions: all are selected by a group of 44 “Editorial Fellows” and by the scientific council of the Paris IAS and are invited for a defined period.

The CAT (Constructive Advanced Thinking) program

Launched in 2019 by the Paris IAS and supported by several European institutes of advanced studies that are members of the NetIAS network, the CAT program encourages small groups of young researchers in the humanities and social sciences who are dedicated to developing new ideas for understanding and addressing current societal challenges by proposing concrete solutions. The CAT program, which is free and non-thematic, supports emerging research groups and encourages openness to non-academic actors.

Invitation Support Programs

With the collaboration of several of its members and partners, the Paris IAS has developed research chairs that certain short-term resident fellows may benefit from:

– The PostGenAI@Paris program, led by Sorbonne Université,

– The invitation program in partnership with the CNRS,

– The HERMES program (Heritage in the Making: Emerging Strategies/Patrimoines en devenir), led by Université Sorbonne Nouvelle as part of the AMI SHS France 2030,

– The RELIGIS program (Religions and Societies Facing Contemporary Challenges), led by the Université de Strasbourg as part of the AMI SHS France 2030,

– The CAS program, which hosts short-term residents in partnership with the Gudmund Hernes Foundation. The first fellow will arrive in spring 2027,

– The Brain, Culture and Society Program.

OUR 2026-2027 FELLOWS

CHRISTOPHER BARRETT

April 2027
Cornell University
United States
[Agricultural Economics
and Development Economics]

Risk and the Uncomfortable Reality of Poverty Traps

For many of the world's poor, life seems a Sisyphean struggle of interminable toil, regular setbacks, and futile efforts to advance. A single serious misstep or error or a disaster befalling one's community can spark a slide into sustained destitution. Knowing they face such risk, many poor people refrain from accumulating productive human, financial or physical capital sufficient to escape a life of deprivation. This project explains how the risk or experience of misfortune can create poverty traps. It also teases out key implications for interventions intended to reduce poverty.

WILL BATEMAN

September 2026 - June 2027
Australian National University
Australia
[Law and Political Economy]

Monetary authority and (de-)liberalisation: constitutional dimensions of foreign currency activities in advanced economies

The research project investigates the constitutional dimensions of central banks foreign currency activities, particularly: the role of legal, political and technical institutions in empowering and constraining nation states' monetary authority; how those institutions grow and change under different forms of economic and political liberalisation; and the impact of those changes on the legitimacy of economic power in democratic constitutional states.

LUIS BETTENCOURT

June 2027
University of Chicago
United States
[Complex Systems and Urbanization]

Freedom through interdependence: A Humanistic Synthesis of Development in Complex Urban Societies

Modern societies have changed profoundly, creating progress in health, education, and human agency, alongside a humanistic shift in personal identities, and rights and responsibilities towards people and nature worldwide. Yet national development frameworks have remained narrower, technocratic and contested. This project reconceptualizes development by bridging the human experience with policy frameworks, aiming at a synthesis of individual and societal transformation in complex urban societies.

BRAM BÜSCHER

September 2026 - June 2027
Wageningen University and Research
The Netherlands
[Political Ecology]

Rethinking capitalist development and its uneven relation to biological diversity in an age of extinction

This project studies the dramatic yet highly uneven ways in which capitalist development and biological diversity have transformed each other. French actors, science and history are central to these transformations and how this has shaped contemporary meanings of both biodiversity and capitalist development. Based on interviews, archival research and documentary analysis, the project theorizes these transformations and their implications for human-nature relations in an age of extinction.

ANGÈLE CHRISTIN

October - December 2026
Stanford University
United States
[Sociology, Science and Technology Studies]

AI in the Sky: How Generative AI Reshapes Scientific Discovery in Astrophysics

Since the release of ChatGPT in 2022, in media coverage and among technologists, science is often presented as a poster child to illustrate the benefits of large language models (LLM). Among scientists, the situation is more complicated, with debates raging about the opportunities, risks, and ethical problems raised by LLMs and artificial intelligence agents. Drawing on ethnographic methods, this project focuses on the case of astrophysics - a data-intensive, highly computational, and open scientific field–to examine how scientists are currently negotiating norms about the growing role of AI technologies in the scientific process.

Angèle Christin joins the Paris IAS as part of the "Distinguished Fellowship" program developed in partnership with the cluster PostGenAI@Paris.

GERARDINE DOYLE

February 2027
University College Dublin
Ireland
[Health Science]

A reflection on the sociology of time to deepen our understanding of the societal costs of living with a medical condition

This research contributes to our understanding of the lived experience and the impact of ill health on the person themselves and on their family, social and work lives. It brings a new perspective to the health economic and accounting literatures, by introducing a sociology of time approach to deepen our understanding of the importance of time as a driver of the societal cost of good health and well-being, whilst exploring different cultural and professional perspectives of time.

ANTHONY ELLIOTT

September 2026
Adelaide University
Australia
[Sociology]

Transformations of Agency: Some Consequences of Outsourcing Decision-Making to Smart Machines

We delegate more and more decisions and tasks to artificial agents, machine-learning algorithms, GenAI - or, in other words, to smart machines. These transformations also raise serious questions about human agency, autonomy and the changing nature of public and private life. This project develops a systematic and wide-ranging analysis of the digital externalisation of agency in the age of artificial intelligence, drawing out important distinctions between technologies as agents of change in the public domain as compared to developments in personal life.

REBECCA FREETH

April 2027
Reos Partners
United States
[Science Studies and Sustainability Science]

Futures thinking in fragile contexts: Navigating hope and despair together

In contexts of fragility, polarization, and crisis, how to think about the future without falling into utopian traps or hopeless despair? This project brings together a global community of peacebuilders and futures thinkers to codify a new approach to participatory futures thinking - a "thrutopian" practice designed to help groups navigate hardship, process grief, and identify realistic, grounded pathways for collective action.

SCOTT FRICKEL

June 2027
Brown University
United States
[Sociology, Science and Technology Studies]

Ground Truth: A Historical Sociology of Late Industrial Soils

This project reconstructs a history of soil contamination science and policy and its relationship to broader socio-ecological processes. Combining archival research, interviews, and ethnography with new computational techniques in digital humanities, the study investigates how ostensibly public, but largely hidden, epistemic and organizational processes unfolding in law firms, private testing laboratories, planning offices, and real estate markets inscribe the science and policy of soil contamination onto urban landscapes, invisibly structuring the entwined social geographies of environmental inequality, knowledge, and ignorance.

SABINE FRÜHSTÜCK

June 2027
University of California at Santa Barbara
United States
[History]

Artificial Bodies, Naked Truths

Situated within the history of the Japanese empire and post-empire, this project proposes that more than any other institution, the modern military has always already envisioned the soldier's body in its parts and shows that the crafting and recrafting of the modern military body forged unlikely bonds among dramatically different platforms and actors, including the battlefield and the theater stage, craftspeople, the imperial household, and activist artists.

MICHELE GELFAND

November 2026
Stanford University
United States
[Psychology]

Freedom and Order: The Science of Human Flourishing

For centuries, one of humanity's most fundamental debates has remained stubbornly unresolved: should societies prioritize freedom or order? Philosophers from Plato to Mill, Hobbes to Freud, have argued passionately on both sides. Yet for all the theorizing, remarkably little empirical evidence has been brought to bear on the question.
The answer, it turns out, is both. Drawing on field studies, laboratory experiments, neuroscience, and computational modeling, the research project introduces a new framework for understanding how human groups thrive: balancing both tight (order) and loose (freedom) social norms.

SILVIA ELENA GIORGULI SAUCEDO

March 2027
El Colegio de México
Mexico
[Demography and Sociology]

Between border and fallacies: the management of migration in the Americas

Latin America has recently experienced rapid and sudden shifts in its international migration flows. Although the US remains a strong magnet, countries in the region have seen increasing intraregional mobility that has blurred the distinction between countries of origin, destination and transit. This proposal focuses in understanding the new migration scenarios, their challenges and opportunities in a time where most of the countries in the region already face a below replacement fertility.

CAROLA HEIN

September 2026 - June 2027
Delft University of Technology
The Netherlands
[History of Architecture and Urban Planning]

From Paris Plages to the Seine Watershed: Hydrology, Governance and Culture in a Time of Transition (1950s-2020s)

At a time of climate change, sustainable spatial development depends heavily on hydrology, yet, water systems, governance, planning tools and processes are largely disconnected. This research focuses on the Seine River basin as a river commons. It studies the shifting role and tools of spatial development, governance, and policy making on and near the Seine, not as a border object, but as the center of the study.

Carola Hein holds the 2026-2027 City of Paris Chair, supported by the City of Paris and the Paris IAS, aimed at promoting research on subjects of interest to the municipality.

ENRICO ILLE

March 2027
Leipzig University
Germany
[Political Ecology]

What is a “useful” plant?

Throughout human history, particular plants were widely regarded as “useful”, and their perceived roles were deeply embedded in socio-ecological life. Yet human–plant relationships were often in crisis, for instance, whenever growth did not occur as intended. Rather than as a mismatch of purpose and fulfilment, this work approaches such crises through the more fundamental question who values which plants as ’useful’ on what basis, while contemplating the virtues of plants not being useful, to humans, at least.

MAURIZIO ISABELLA

September 2026 - June 2027
Queen Mary University of London
United Kingdom
[History]

A world in Turmoil. Contesting Authority in the Age of Revolutions

The project seeks to offer a global account of the ways in which authority was contested by different social actors in the period between 1800 and the 1860s. The project's hypothesis is that renegotiations of social and racial hierarchies took on different forms and meanings that cannot be reduced to Western notions of democratic freedoms and emancipation. It therefore seeks to offer an account of forgotten or alternative paths to popular participation and sovereignty to rethink popular politics then and now.

DIANA K. DAVIS

March 2027
University of California at Davis
United States
[Geography]

Arborocentrism at the Golden Gate: What the World can Learn from the Tribulations of Tree-Planting in San Francisco

This research project analyzes the transformation of an iconic urban environment, San Francisco, in the global context of environmental thinking since the arrival of European settlers, to reveal the surprising and wide spread power of arborocentrism, a tree-centered world view. While many consider mass plantings of exotic species since the 19th century a mode of beautification for the city, research is revealing that this imperial practice has also created many social and environmental problems.

BOAZ KEYSAR

May 2027
University of Chicago
United States
[Psychology]

Labels, stigma and policy: A proposal for a paradigm shift

The project argues that new "inclusive" labels often end up naming different groups, rather than changing how the same group is viewed. For example, "homeless" and "people experiencing housing insecurity" are not interpreted as the same category: the newer phrase is understood to cover a broader, more mixed group and therefore looks less stigmatized. Cross cultural experiments test how such label shifts change perceived group boundaries, stigma, and policy support.

EMMANUEL KREIKE

September 2026 – June 2027
Princeton University
United States
[History]

"Time-Traveling Trees: Machine-reading the Past, Present, and Future of Climate Change Adaptation from Archival Aerial Photography" (3TMAAP: Time Traveling Trees: Machine-reading Archival Aerial Photography)

Archives around the world contain tens of millions of aerial photographs that have captured the entire surface of the Earth from the 1940s to the 1990s, with a remarkable level of detail. By combining oral accounts, documentary archives and images, the project reconstructs the past environments captured by each photograph, making it possible to identify and accurately measure trees and other features over time.

A former Paris IAS fellow (2022-2023), Emmanuel Kreike has been awarded a European Research Council (ERC) Advanced Grant for the 2026-2031 period, hosted by the RFIEA foundation.

KARIN KUKKONEN

May 2027
University of Oslo
Norway
[Literature]

Reconstructing Jeux d'Esprit

The salons of seventeenth-century Paris were places of spontaneous, collective creativity. This project develops a framework for analysing the practices of the salon members in playing "jeux d'esprit" by moving from textual representations in the literature of the period to a reconstruction of the practice in creative-writing workshops. Such a shift from texts to practices also enables insights into what settings may give rise to creative "esprit" today.

JOHANA KUNIN

March 2027
National University of San Martín
Argentina
[Social Anthropology]

With or Without You: A Literature Review on Human–Chemical Relations in the Americas

Synthetic chemicals are ubiquitous in modern life, underpinning industries such as energy, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, and consumer goods. From plastics and detergents to "forever chemicals" and insecticides, they enable convenience and progress while posing serious risks to health and the environment. The project explores this ambivalence of modernity - these chemicals that humans cannot do without, but which pose a threat to ecosystems and public health.

HANNAH LANDECKER

September 2026
University of California, Los Angeles
United States
[History of Sciences]

What is a Metabolic History?

Metabolism is a scientific concept denoting processes by which organisms assimilate food and manage oxygen originating in 19th century cell theory. Playing a fundamental role in knowledge of life in biochemistry, ecology and philosophy, it also drove the industrial remaking of food and growth with metabolic agents and chemistries. This project traces a metabolic history of society, from the industrialization of metabolism in the 20th century to its consequences for metabolic disorder today.

GUILHERME LASSANCE

September 2026 - June 2027
Federal University of Rio de Janeiro
Brazil
[Architecture and Urbanism]

Socio-environmental Enhancement of Inherited Infrastructure

Urban mobility infrastructures are often designed for traffic efficiency, producing degraded and segregated urban spaces, especially in metropolitan peripheries. Using Paris as a case study, this project rethinks infrastructure as part of the city's architecture. Through field analysis and design workshops, it explores how existing transport infrastructures can become places that improve environmental quality, urban integration and daily life, contributing to more inclusive and livable cities.

YA-WEN LEI

December 2026 - June 2027
Harvard University
United States
[Sociology]

Geopolitical Transplants: States, Firms, and the New Global Struggle for Technology

Amid growing geopolitical tensions, states are seeking greater technological self-sufficiency by relocating strategic industries. This project examines "geopolitical transplantation" through the case of semiconductor manufacturing and TSMC's central role in the global chip industry. It analyzes efforts by the United States, Japan, and Germany to develop domestic production despite significant constraints, and explores how Taiwan manages the risks of transferring key industries abroad. Based on policy documents, media reports, and interviews from several countries, the study contributes to research on developmental states, industrial policy, and organizational adaptation.

LOUISE MALLINDER

May 2027
Queen's University Belfast
United Kingdom
[Law and Transitional Justice]

Justice Before Peace? The Design, Architecture and Impacts of Transitional Justice during Armed Conflicts

This research project examines claims made in scholarship and practice of the potential for transitional justice policies during armed conflict to shape social outcomes such as reducing violence, facilitating peace, or transforming governance. Informed by recent practice in multiple conflicts, it identifies and analyses the objectives expressed in transitional justice laws and policies during conflict and explores the links between these objectives, the forms of transitional justice adopted, and their potential consequences.

MARTHA MAYA CALLE

June 2027
Institute for Integrated Transitions
Spain
[Political Science
and Public Policy]

Framework for Constructive Engagement in Divided Societies: Tools and Process Design Tips

This project develops a framework for constructive engagement in polarized societies, drawing on nearly two decades of practitioner experience convening high-level actors with opposing views. By integrating field-based practice with scholarship on conflict resolution and polarization, it distills principles and tools for designing effective dialogue processes in sensitive political contexts.

GRETTY MIRDAL

Permanent Fellow
University of Copenhagen
Denmark
[Psychology]

Brain, Culture and Society

The aim of the Brain, Culture and Society program developed at the Paris IAS is to enable the humanities and social sciences, as well as the brain sciences, to renew their approaches to classic objects, and to enter new fields of research with bold and innovative interdisciplinary approaches. It focuses on research into society-body-mind-brain interactions with an impact on societal challenges, such as physical and mental health and bioengineering, education and learning, inter-group conflict and violence, and adaptation to changing natural, industrial and urban environment.

HELGA NOWOTNY

March 2027
ETH Zurich
Switzerland
[Science and Technology Studies]

The Food Socioscope in discussion with food and transition studies experts

The research project aims to further develop the design of a series of interviews with internationally renowned experts in the fields of transitions to sustainability and food systems, who will be invited to undertake short stays at the Paris IAS between January 2026 and March 2027. Drawing on insights from the Food Socioscope project –which analyses the transition mechanisms linking local sustainable development initiatives to the dynamics of meso-level actors and institutions– the research seeks to bring these findings into dialogue with the scientific work and practical experience of experts involved in international sustainable development policies and strategies.

DAVID FERNANDO SALAS MUÑOZ

December 2026
University of the Andes
Colombia
[Continuing Education and Artificial Intelligence]

Leveling the Field: AI and Micro-credentials in the Global South

This project studies how Latin America's social protection infrastructure can be repurposed as AI-skills infrastructure. Drawing on a pilot AI leadership micro-credential delivered through Colombia's compensation funds –via ASOCAJAS, over 750,000 companies and 10 million workers– it examines an "Upward Leveling" effect: participants with little or no AI knowledge closed the gap with technical profiles. The project builds a framework for micro-credentials against AI-driven exclusion in the Global South.

GUILLAUME SAUVÉ

September 2026 - June 2027
Université du Québec à Montréal
Canada
[Political Science]

Public Petitions and the Relational Politics of Dissent in Russia

This research investigates public petitions in Russia (2014–2022) as a lens into the relational politics of dissent under authoritarianism. Combining AI-assisted quantitative analysis and qualitative case studies, the project shifts the focus from vertical state appeals to the horizontal dynamics of community-building. It offers a scalable model for studying civic life and public claims in closed regimes where traditional fieldwork is increasingly restricted.

WILLIAM BRENT SEALES

October 2026
University of Kentucky
United States
[Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning]

AI for the Restoration and Analysis of Cultural Material

At PostGenAI@Paris, this project develops analytical, generative, and explainable AI methods for heritage science. Building on digital restoration, it aims to narrow gaps between damaged artifacts and what can be restored, and between fragmented context and holistic understanding. By addressing AI explainability alongside provenance and authenticity, the work seeks to deepen understanding of cultural heritage, reveal shared human experience, and expand societal value of AI in the humanities.

William Brent Seales joins the Paris IAS as part of the "Distinguished Fellowship" program developed in partnership with the cluster PostGenAI@Paris.

CYRUS SHAHABI

October 2026
University of Southern California
United States
[Computer Science]

From Patterns of Life to Traces of Meaning - On Mobility, Meaning, and Spatial AI

This research project examines how digital mobility data and artificial intelligence can reveal "patterns of life": the routines, places, and social interactions that shape everyday experience. It explores how these patterns can deepen understanding of health, social connection, and well-being, while also raising questions about privacy, consent, bias, and surveillance. The project will propose a framework for interpreting such data responsibly and within its broader human and social context.

FREDRIK STIERNSTEDT

September 2026 - June 2027
Södertörn University
Sweden
[Media and Communication Studies]

Data Welfare and Digital Vulnerabilities – Conceptual Development for the Public Good

The project examines how digital technologies such as AI are reshaping welfare services and creating new risks for citizens. It develops clear concepts and a research model to understand "data welfare" and "digital vulnerability," bridging fragmented fields. It maps existing theories, clarifies definitions, and proposes tools for future studies across health, education, and social services. The results help researchers and policymakers assess impacts on rights, trust, and inclusion, supporting fair and democratic digital welfare systems.

Fredrik Stiernstedt joins the Paris IAS for a ten-month research stay where he holds the Riksbankens Jubileumsfond Research Chair. This Swedish foundation supports research in the Humanities and Social Sciences.

JOSEPH TANKE

September 2026
University of Hawaii
United States
[Philosophy]

Three Ways of Thinking AI Philosophically

This project identifies three of the main ways in which artificial intelligence has been conceptualized within the discipline of philosophy and endeavors to develop a new model for grasping its social significance. In this way, it engages what might be called Turing's "other test"- not the imitation game announced in "Computer Machinery and Intelligence", but the idea that the advent of machine learning forces humanity to interrogate itself from the standpoint of that which exceeds its capacity for reason.

BENJAMIN VOYER

April 2027
ESCP
France
[Psychology]

Towards a Theory of Symbiotic Socio-Economic Systems (SSS)

This project exposes limits in traditional theories of consumption, which often ignore financial constraints and social influences. By focusing on the luxury industry, it examines how personal choices, group dynamics, and cultural norms interact, aiming to develop a unified theory that explains how these layers work together to shape consumer behavior and create a balanced socio-economic system.

SIGRID WEIGEL

October 2026
Leibniz Center for Literary
and Cultural Research
Germany
[Literature and Cultural Science]

The First Kulturwissenschaft. Topicality and Epistemological Potential of an Intellectual Movement around 1900

The project is dedicated to a group of scholars (such as Freud, Warburg, Simmel, Benjamin and others), who formed a fascinating intellectual movement around 1900. Without forming a homogeneous group, in retrospect their works show similarities in theoretical convictions, their way of thinking, operating in border areas and working on border concepts between disciplines and cultures, and beyond the taxonomic order of knowledge and conventional historical narratives oriented towards chronology and progress.

WING THYE WOO

September 2026
University of California at Davis
United States
[Economics and Sustainable
Development]

What Useful Roles Can Middle Powers Play Amidst Intensification of US-China Conflict?

This project aims to explore the strategies that middle powers can develop to address the three major threats arising from the successful economic catch-up of China and other emerging economies. It is part of a broader examination of the collateral effects of the "Cold War 2.0" fueled by the national security strategies of the United States, China, and Russia.

LI XIONG

September 2026
Emory University
United States
[Computer Science]

MEMOIR (Memory, Erasure, Mediation, and Ownership in AI Representations)

Large artificial intelligence models such as ChatGPT are becoming new gateways to human knowledge. This project asks how these systems remember, forget, and prioritize information, and how privacy tools and governance choices shape that process. It examines artificial intelligence models as forms of collective memory, highlighting tensions between protecting personal data, preserving historical and cultural records, and ensuring that marginalized voices are not erased.

Li Xiong joins the Paris IAS as part of the "Distinguished Fellowship" program developed in partnership with the cluster PostGenAI@Paris.

CAT GROUP, led by Pedro Teixeira
05 April – 09 April 2027

Democracy at Work (DemWo):
Historical Perspectives and Future Challenges for Employee Representation in Europe

DemWo investigates the historical evolution of industrial democracy in a European context. The research group explores how historical periods of crisis and transformation shaped ideas and practices of industrial democracy and how these legacies can inform responses to contemporary challenges. With the rise of AI and remote work during and after the pandemic, the landscape of employee participation is shifting significantly. DemWo seeks to leverage historical insights to address these challenges.

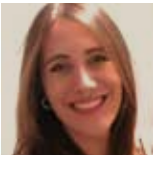
cat. Netias.

PEDRO TEIXEIRA

Centre Marc Bloch, Germany
[Political Science]

AURÉLIE ANDRY

IDHE.S, France
[History]



SOPHIA FRIEDEL

Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany
[History]

PHILIPP REICK

Technical University of Berlin, Germany
[History]

Aarhus Universitet · Académie des sciences de Russie · Académie nationale des sciences d'Ukraine · Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg · Albion College· Alma Mater Studiorum – Università di Bologna · American School of Classical Studies Athens · Amherst College · Bar-Ilan University · Birbeck, University of London · Boğaziçi University · Brandeis University · Brown University · Bryn Mawr College · Chatham House · College of Wooster · Columbia University · Complexity Science Hub · Conicet · Copenhagen Business School · Dartmouth College · Deutsches Archäologisches Institut · Duke University · Durham University · El Colegio de Mexico · Emory University · Eötvös Loránd University · Europa-Universität · Ewha Womans University · Federal University of Rio de Janeiro · Fondation Martin Bodmer · Freie Universität Berlin · Fudan University · Galatasaray Üniversitesi · Georg-August-Universität Göttingen · George Mason University · Goethe Universitaet Frankfurt · Griffith University · HafenCity Universität Hamburg · Harvard University · Hebrew University of Jerusalem · Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf · Hobart and William Smith College · Hochschule Geisenheim University · Högskolan Kristianstad · Indiana University · Institute of Literary Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences · Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia · İstanbul Bilgi Üniversitesi · Itä-Suomen yliopisto · Jadavpur University · Jan Dlugosz University · Johns Hopkins University · Katholieke Universiteit Leuven · Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt · King's College London · Københavns Universitet · Latvijas Universitāte · Louisiana State University · Leibniz Universität Hannover · Leiden University · LSE · Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München · Lund University · Macquarie University · Malmö Universitet · Massachusetts Institute of Technology · Max Planck Institute for the History of Science · McGill University · Mesrop Mashtots Institute of Ancient Manuscripts · Missouri University of Science and Technology · Museu Nacional da Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro · National Autonomous University of Mexico · National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy · New College of Florida · New York University · Norges teknisk-naturvitenskapelige Universitet · Northern Illinois University · Ohio University · Pennsylvania State University · Polska Akademia Nauk · Princeton University · Purdue University · Queen Mary University of London · Queen's University · Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität · Ritsumeikan University · Russian State University for the Humanities · Rutgers University · Saint Petersburg State University · Sapienza Universita di Roma · Sarah Lawrence College · Simon Fraser University · SOKENDAI · Southern Methodist University · Stanford University · State University of New York · Stockholms Universitet · Tel Aviv University · The Royal Anthropological Institute · TU Dortmund University · Tufts University · Tulane University · Universidad Autónoma de Madrid · Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Cuajimalpa · Universidad Católica del Norte · Universidad de Sevilla · Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México · Universidad Nacional de Luján · Universidad Nacional de San Martín · Universidade de Brasília · Universidade de Lisboa · Universidade de São Paulo · Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina · Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro · Università degli Studi dell'Aquila · Università degli studi di Bari · Università degli Studi di Firenze · Università degli Studi di Milano · Università degli Studi di Palermo · Università degli studi di Roma Tre · Università degli studi di Siena · Università degli studi di Torino · Università degli Studi di Verona · Università del Piemonte Orientale · Università della Calabria · Università di Bologna · Università Vita Salute San Raffaele · Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona · Universität Bielefeld · Universitat de Girona · Universitat Pompeu Fabra · Universität Potsdam · Universität Trier · Universitat Wien · Universitatea din Bucuresti · Université catholique de Louvain · Université Cheikh Anta Diop · Université de Genève · Université de Lausanne · Université de Montréal · Université de Nouakchott Al-Aasriya · Université de Strasbourg · Université de Toamasina · Université du Québec · Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny · Université Laval · Université Mouloud Mammeri · Université nationale de recherche « École des hautes études en sciences économiques » de Moscou · Universiteit Gent · Universiteit Leiden · Universiteit Twente · Universiteit Utrecht · Universiteit van Amsterdam · Universiteit van Maastricht · Universitetet i Oslo · University College London · University of Birmingham · University of British Columbia · University of California, Berkeley · University of California, Irvine · University of California, Los Angeles · University of California, San Diego · University of California, Santa Barbara · University of California, Santa Cruz · University of Cape Town · University of Chicago · University of Colorado · University of Connecticut · University of Copenhagen · University of Groningen · University of Iowa · University of Leeds · University of Manchester · University of Massachusetts at Amherst · University of Michigan · University of Minnesota · University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill · University of Nottingham · University of Oslo · University of Oxford · University of Reading · University of Russian Academy of Education · University of Southern California · University of Sussex · University of Tartu School of Law · University of Tehran · University of Texas at Austin · University of Texas at Dallas · University of Toronto · University of Victoria · University of Virginia School of Law · University of Warwick · University of Washington, St. Louis · University of Wisconsin, Madison · University of York · Univerza na Primorskem · Univerzita Karlova · Uniwersytet Jagielloński Krakowie · Uniwersytet Warszawski · Uppsala University · Ural Federal University · Vanderbilt University · Viadrina European University Institute · Weizmann Institute of Science · Western Sydney University · Whitman College · William and Mary University · Yale University