



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

+ Thinking
Doing
Columbia
Global

Where thinking
meets doing

What constitutes outstanding scholarship is expanding. We are at a moment in history where universities need to be both scholarly and relevant.

Minouche Shafik President, Columbia University





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Foreword



At Columbia, our mission extends beyond the university's traditional purposes of teaching, research, and service. We assume a profound responsibility to leverage the remarkable scholarship, expertise, and resources of the university to help address the world's most complex challenges while fostering intellectual endeavors in ways that inspire, surprise, and challenge.

Columbia Global plays a vital role in fulfilling this mission. It brings together major global initiatives from across the university that serve all of its purposes as a 21st-century institution of higher learning—from teaching and inquiry to collaboration, innovation, and creative problem-solving.

Through the alignment of its current founding entities—the Columbia Global Centers, Columbia World Projects, the Committee on Global Thought, and the Institute for Ideas and Imagination—Columbia Global not only fosters groundbreaking scholarly pursuits but also facilitates leadership development, advances cutting-edge research, and develops projects that aim for social impact. It drives breakthroughs in our understanding of the world, while nurturing the next generation of leaders to tackle the intellectual and societal challenges we face.

Our proposition is powerful and unparalleled at any university: to harness scholarship, resources, diverse voices, and expertise in confronting the problems of our interconnected world. A multitude of crises jeopardize our collective creativity, well-being, health, development, and security. As these adverse forces erode cohesion within societies and perpetuate inequality, Columbia Global is exploring new frontiers to redefine the role of a university as an agent in reversing these trends.

On the following pages, we highlight how this vision is coming to life through Columbia Global on campus and around the globe. You will find stories of curiosity, exchange, innovation, and transformation—each serving as a testament to Columbia Global's commitment to advancing scholarship, serving the public good, fostering thriving communities, and inspiring scholars, educators, creative artists, implementers, and future leaders.

We are excited about what's to come.

Our Fundamentals

Columbia Global's four organizations each contribute unique expertise and experience to the initiative. When brought together under one umbrella they allow for the acceleration and scaling of the university's engagement with global issues under one strategic framework.



Mission

Advance knowledge and foster global engagement to address complex global challenges through interdisciplinary research, education, collaboration, and directed action.

Vision

Reimagining the university's role in society as not only a nexus for learning and intellectual exploration but also as a catalyst for creativity and impact locally, regionally, and globally.

Our Growing Global Presence

The best way to engage with the world is to be out in the world. Through an ever-expanding network of Global Centers in 11 cities and the implementation of Columbia World Projects in 23 countries, Columbia delivers on its mission to be an impactful, global university.

Columbia Global Centers
Countries with Columbia World Projects



Why Columbia Global



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. El-Sadr'.

Wafaa El-Sadr
Executive Vice President,
Columbia Global

Ideas can be transformative. Concepts that seemed impossible or unlikely then materialized in ways that have thoroughly changed our world. In one generation alone, we have seen how a moonshot idea in technology gave us the internet and connected us as never before, how grassroots movements for democracy are taking on oppressive regimes, and in my own field of work, how orthodoxies around treatment for diseases thought to be intractable, such as HIV/AIDS, evolved from hopelessness to the possibility of living a normal life span.

Of course, the true power of ideas rests in whether they come to life—creating breakthroughs in thinking, altering trajectories, or saving lives—and along the way radically adjust our concept of what can be accomplished and by whom. How do new ideas emerge? How do they become realized? How does thinking become doing? How does the doing achieve the desired impact? These questions are the driving force behind Columbia Global.

Columbia Global represents the university's renewed commitment to nurturing positive change today in our hyperconnected, fast-paced, and dynamic 21st-century world.

At Columbia Global, our ambition is twofold: first, to harness the power of thought with the exhilaration of innovation and second, to pair these with decisive action, aiming to shape a future that instills confidence and inspiration. As we embark on this mission, we approach it with a sense of humility. We recognize that our aspirations are great, but at the same time, we firmly believe that they are attainable with the right minds and hands at the table. Thus, on behalf of the scholars, students, faculty, researchers, artists, and activists working with Columbia Global, I invite you to join us on this journey.

There is no such thing as the world of letters apart from the world of man.

President Seth Low upon his installation at Columbia University in 1890.



Our Approach

Columbia is a global institution, “of the world,” reflecting an array of perspectives from around the globe and “with the world” by putting those perspectives in service to humanity. This ethos guides how we approach our work at Columbia Global, which we think of in the following terms:

Connecting people and communities. Addressing major challenges requires partnerships. To this end, we look for issues ripe for conversation and collaboration and find synergies that bridge people, ideas, and programs within and outside the university.

Creating the opportunity for creative collaboration, ideation, and problem-solving across disciplines. We provide the time, space, and platform for people from different perspectives and experiences to deepen their connections and develop new ways of thinking and doing.

Providing a gateway for Columbia’s global engagement and initiatives. We are the hub for key global initiatives at the university and also a channel for perspectives and expertise from around the globe to enrich the learning and engagement taking place at Columbia.

Investing in transformational learning and leadership development. Our nimble, global presence provides a vibrant learning environment to build and support new generations of social impact and thought leaders.



Who Are We?

Columbia Global is an umbrella entity that currently encompasses four global initiatives at Columbia University: the Columbia Global Centers, Columbia World Projects, the Committee on Global Thought, and the Institute for Ideas and Imagination. It aims to support each of its constituent entities while at the same time identifying opportunities for efficiencies, synergies, and collaborations among them. Each initiative takes its own creative approach to achieving this goal, with the aim of enabling the university to advance global thinking and action.

Columbia Global Centers

The Gateway

Columbia Global Centers drive transformative connections between the university and the world, fostering innovation, understanding, and engagement.

Recognizing the reality of a profoundly interconnected world, the compelling need to foster global learning and engagement, and the hazards implicit in self-isolation, Columbia University took the bold step of establishing a new model for global engagement. Founded to connect the local with the global and to create opportunities for shared learning and dialogue, Columbia Global Centers are the university's physical and intellectual presence around the world, their expanse and portfolios extending beyond what any other university offers.

The centers represent a sustained presence and a profound asset for the university, building partnerships with Columbia schools, institutes, centers, and faculty with experts, institutions, and partners where they are situated. They support Columbia faculty, students, and alumni to better understand issues; build local partnership networks; deepen global dialogue; and advance knowledge exchange.

Each center is led by a notable director, working with a team of individuals with deep roots in their respective countries and regions. Each serves as a regional hub for training, research, and collaboration, linking local experts and institutions to Columbia's rich academic and scientific resources. The centers also provide the extended Columbia family with a global home to deepen their research, scholarship, and social impact.

Working individually and collectively as a network, the centers support teaching, scholarship, research, and social impact programming across disciplines and geographies and in partnership with local experts. Hundreds of research, education, and public programs engage thousands of participants annually, gathering some of the greatest minds to examine global issues. The centers offer learning opportunities for students, enable research for faculty, and host events for the community and alumni, including faculty discussions, book talks, film screenings, academic and scientific seminars, roundtable discussions, music salons, and longer-term projects.

118 grants to
130 faculty from
15 Columbia schools

OF NOTE: Accelerating Research

Launched in 2013, the President's Global Innovation Fund provides Columbia faculty with resources to develop and implement research with the Columbia Global Centers. For the past decade, 118 grants have been awarded to 130 faculty from 15 Columbia schools, cutting across a broad range of disciplines, from art history to youth engagement to climate mitigation. Faculty research projects have fostered new interdisciplinary collaborations at Columbia, accelerated innovation, exchange, and provided rich new opportunities for students to learn from the world. As examples, one funded project focused on improving gender-based violence services in Kenya, and another mapped Mesopotamian monuments to prevent erasure of the past.

A Growing Global Network of Columbia Global Centers



Amman, Jordan



Athens, Greece (forthcoming)



Beijing, China



Istanbul, Turkey



Mumbai, India



Nairobi, Kenya



Paris, France



Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



Santiago, Chile



Tel Aviv, Israel (forthcoming)



Tunis, Tunisia

Students gather data on how humans, wildlife, and the environment interact across East Africa. Group in Nairobi, Kenya photographed by Dustin R. Rubenstein.



Climate Hub | Rio

Established in 2023 at the Columbia Global Center in Rio de Janeiro, Climate Hub | Rio furthers education and research on climate. The hub, supported by the city of Rio de Janeiro, links experts from Brazil and Columbia working on climate education, policy, technology, economy, and human rights. Pilot funding is provided to Columbia faculty to engage with their counterparts in Brazil to carry out climate-related convenings and research, creating an unparalleled opportunity for scientists, researchers, and students to work on global climate issues while benefiting from an important regional perspective and knowledge.

“As a result of this decade-long partnership with this superb institution, we have moved even further with the launch of Climate Hub | Rio, which will encourage international scientific collaboration to face the climate emergency.” —Rio de Janeiro Mayor Eduardo Paes on working with Columbia University

Immersive Learning to Preserve Archaeological Treasures

Columbia Global Center | Istanbul hosts experiential learning opportunities for Columbia classics and archaeology professors and their graduate students, including visits to Troy and other eastern Aegean archaeological sites. The center has also welcomed Columbia professors who work on the preservation of heritage of Mesopotamian monuments in Turkey and Iraq. Programs out of the Columbia Global Center | Tunis similarly engage Columbia students through experiential visits to important historical and cultural loci—the archaeological site of Carthage, the Islamic capitals of Kairouan and Mahdia, and the Medina of Tunis—enriched by opportunities to exchange ideas with and learn from Tunisian scholars.

Columbia Undergraduate Student Programming in Paris

Based at the Columbia Global Center | Paris, the Columbia undergraduate student programs allow students to benefit from a truly global learning experience. Carried out in collaboration with Columbia Undergraduate Global Engagement, these immersive study abroad programs offer a variety of curricular and co-curricular opportunities—coursework, cultural immersion, research engagement, an array of programs at Reid Hall, and connections with local people and partners. An average of 150 students attend the Columbia undergraduate program annually, where the most popular programs are French language and cultural studies courses, global core classes, and seminars in art and music humanities.

Engaging Our Alumni

Columbia University has an extensive network of alumni spanning the globe. Columbia Global Center | Beijing exemplifies how the centers fulfill their mission of bridging the gap between students and the world, while maintaining a strong bond with alumni and upholding the university’s enduring tradition. A student credits the Beijing Center with helping him define his path postgraduation.

“The magic of the global centers has been about dissolving barriers across cultures based on kindling dialogue that champions a multiplicity of perspectives. Opportunities to connect with scholars from around the world have undoubtedly sharpened my worldviews on a wide range of topics, from sustainability to entrepreneurship to being a global citizen.”—Sean Lee, CC’23

Columbia World Projects The Action Lab

Columbia World Projects (CWP), the university's home for global social impact, leverages innovative research, convenings, programmatic activities, and leadership development to address complex societal challenges.

Complex global challenges abound in the U.S. and around the world—climate crisis, threats to democracy, unfettered urbanization, disparities in childhood achievement and maternal health, among many others. Academia has much to offer to address these challenges, yet to do so requires an appreciation that tackling such problems requires new ways of thinking and doing that cannot be accomplished by one discipline or by academics alone.

CWP was established to forge closer and more meaningful connections between the university's vast scholarship and research capabilities and the need to effect positive change in the world. CWP serves as a hub for innovation where the university advances its social impact through three complementary pillars of work: research and convenings, supporting multidisciplinary projects, and investing in leadership development.

CWP responds to an ambition that faculty, researchers, students, and rising leaders need to extend their work beyond the walls of the university to make a tangible difference in society. It supports activities designed for impact and mobilizes the university's researchers and scholars to work with governmental and nongovernmental organizations, the corporate sector, and communities. At present, CWP is focusing its efforts on four substantive themes: democratic renewal, inclusive urbanism, thriving communities, and generational well-being.



Student performing laboratory experiment at Northwest Corner Building, photographed by Sirin Samman.

Connecting projects, inquiry, and convenings around the world, CWP takes a solutions-oriented approach to reimagine the development, implementation, and sustainability of solutions that transform lives. It serves as a platform and facilitator for engagement and knowledge exchange among faculty, students, community members, and external partners, including policymakers, governments, and community leaders.

CWP Leadership Development

CWP cultivates the next generation of social impact leaders.

The Columbia Obama Foundation Scholars Program supports emerging leaders from the U.S. around the world who have demonstrated a commitment to tackling challenges in their communities and countries.

The Social Impact Fellowship engages rising undergraduate juniors and seniors at Columbia and Barnard who aspire to learn about and engage in social impact work.

The Early Career Faculty Impact Fellowship supports faculty to deepen their knowledge and expertise in interdisciplinary research for social impact.

OF NOTE: Catalyzing Connections

Since 2017, CWP has been connecting scholars, thought leaders, practitioners, and emerging young leaders from across the academic, government, civil society, and private sectors to identify interdisciplinary, actionable solutions.

190+

postdoctoral scholars, doctoral students, masters students, and undergraduates have engaged with CWP as researchers, fellows, interns, and administrators.

2000+

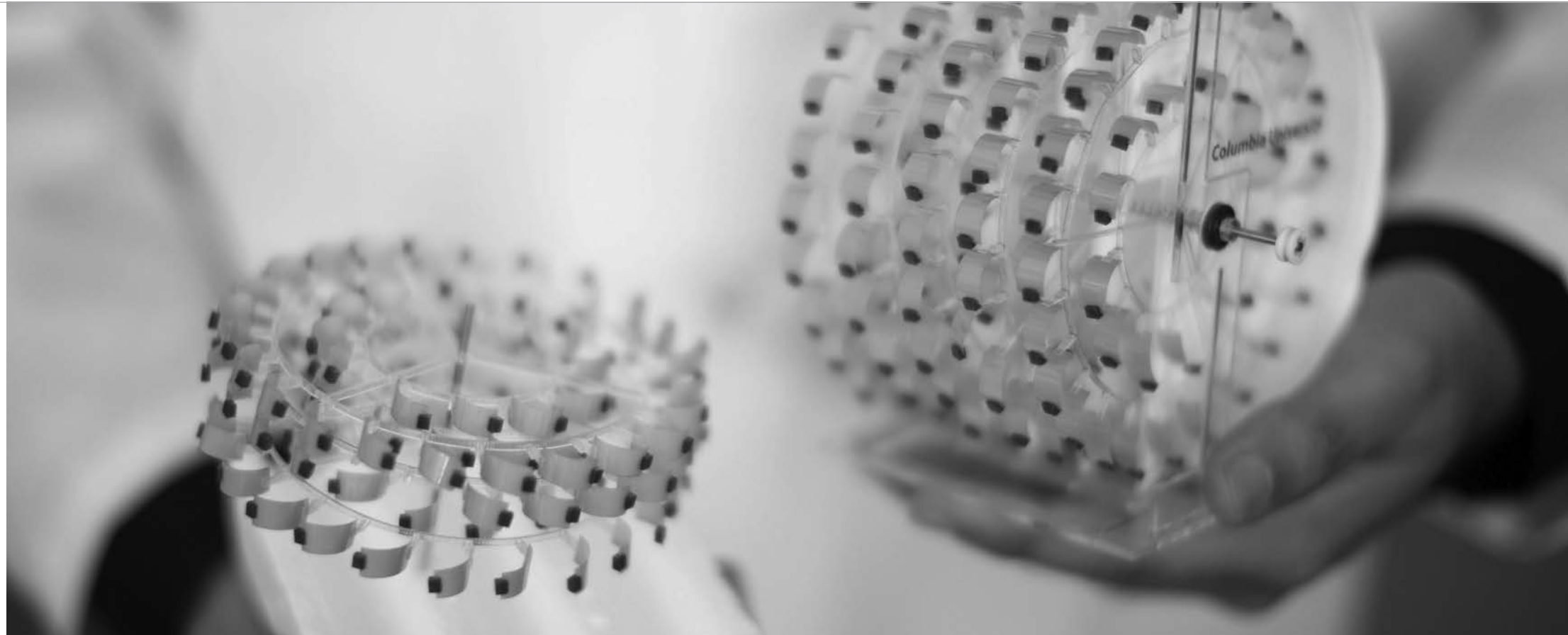
experts, including

975+

thought leaders from government and the private and nonprofit sectors and

1000+

academics, have taken part in CWP research, convenings, programs, and projects.



Addressing Wastewater Management in the U.S.

Wastewater systems are an indispensable part of public health. In the U.S., 80 million residents, largely poor and rural, lack access to effective sanitary systems or centralized wastewater treatment. In Alabama’s Black Belt region—a term originally used to describe the rich, black soil of a southern region of the state—the consequences are dire in terms of the health and well-being of residents and on the environment. A 2017 study of one Black Belt county found one-third of 55 adults surveyed tested positive for parasitic worms, which have been linked to reduced productivity and wage-earning potential and to adverse outcomes in pregnancy. CWP supports the Transforming Wastewater Infrastructure in the United States project, in a partnership between Columbia; other universities in Alabama, California, and North Carolina; the Black Belt Community Foundation; and the Consortium for Alabama Rural Water and Wastewater. The project is piloting a machine learning model using physical and socioeconomic indicators to identify where failure is happening, exploring cluster systems and decentralized treatment networks, measuring health and environmental impacts, and bringing modern data, analytical tools, and other valuable resources to the community so financing and needs are targeted quantitatively.

The Center for Political Economy

Launched in 2022 at CWP, the Center for Political Economy draws faculty from across the university to reimagine an economy that is fairer and more inclusive, deepening a field of postneoliberal political economy. The center, supported by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, joins an expanding cohort of new multidisciplinary efforts at several universities across the Global North and South. The center brings together faculty, students, and practitioners to consider the economy as embedded in social and political contexts, imagine economics as a more wide-ranging field connected to other disciplines, and engage with four key issues—labor, industrial policy, climate change policy, and money and finance.

Combatting Household Air Pollution with Clean Energy in Ghana

The partnership between the government of Ghana and the Clean Cooking Alliance aims to improve air quality and health in Ghana. The project integrates behavioral approaches, clean technologies, and the examination of broader infrastructural and regulatory barriers. The team of environmental health and developing economies experts surveyed more than 7,500 households to understand what tools and mechanisms could incentivize communities to transition to clean-cooking technologies. The findings suggest that offering responsive, cutting-edge technologies that meet household energy needs could be a solution that also address key barriers to adoption, such as financial and access constraints. The project has the potential to improve public health, contribute to women’s empowerment, drive economic development, improve environmental quality, and provide lessons that can be applied widely.

Many communities in the country are being challenged by failing water and wastewater systems. Our goal is to bring these “buried” conditions to light, especially for the poorest communities. Working with our partners, we aim to... help these communities access innovative technical and financial solutions that make sense in the 21st century.

Upmanu Lall, project lead and director of the Columbia Water Center and the Alan and Carol Silberstein Professor of Engineering.

The Committee on Global Thought

The Rethink Tank

The Committee on Global Thought (CGT) is a unique intellectual community of distinguished faculty from diverse disciplines and units across Columbia University and Barnard College who aim to bring innovations to global thinking.

Established as a forum to enhance the university's engagement with the complexities and challenges of a rapidly globalizing world, the committee includes over 30 faculty who develop interdisciplinary frameworks and conduct collaborative research. The committee works with scholars, students, and partners across disciplines and geographies to adopt new ways of thinking and develop practical approaches to address the challenges of our world today. Working within and beyond the academy, faculty pursue the mission of CGT through pedagogy, research, and public events in cooperation with policymakers, journalists, urban planners, finance leaders, artists, and representatives of international, governmental, and nongovernmental institutions.

Educational Programs

CGT is home to several education programs for students that support new ways of thinking. Academic initiatives, including the **M.A. in Global Thought** and the **Global Thought Scholars** program, provide opportunities for students to engage in transnational, cross-disciplinary CGT courses and experiences within and beyond the classroom. The **Global Thought Leaders Program**, a certificate program for emerging and mid-career professionals that is conducted in collaboration with the Columbia Global Centers in Istanbul, Paris, and Rio de Janeiro, brings faculty, students, and experts together to consider complex global issues that transcend national borders, including climate change, world order, technology and social media, race, gender, and identity.



"Talks With Professors" event the Undergraduate Committee on Global Thought held with Professor Diagne.

Research

The committee supports a number of transdisciplinary, collaborative research projects that transcend geography and discipline, conducted in collaboration with the Columbia Global Centers.

Public Programming

CGT's public programs complement faculty research and are essential to the committee's intellectual contributions to campus life. They engage the university community and affiliates outside of academia in critical thinking about emerging world problems and new possibilities.

Youth in a Changing World

Youth in a Changing World, a CGT research project, convened more than 500 young people in over 25 global workshops in collaboration with Columbia Global Centers in Amman, Beijing, Mumbai, Nairobi, Paris, Rio de Janeiro, Santiago, and Tunis. Participants took on roles as both researchers and subjects to discuss how their aspirations are affected by the changing world. Through focused discussions and collective drawing activities, participants were able to understand how their peers envision their present and futures. The workshops offered them a platform to propose responses to the challenges in the world they will inherit. The project also aimed at building the skills of over 100 youth facilitators to shape and complete research with and for youth within their contexts.

What Is Global Thought?

Global Thought considers today's global issues by transcending traditional frameworks, categories, and forums, acknowledging that the current era of interconnection necessitates interdisciplinary, collaborative, and diverse thinking.

Master of Arts in Global Thought

This novel program is designed for individuals from around the world who are poised to rethink conventional paradigms and tackle urgent questions. The program requires students to engage with new concepts and generate innovative questions as they examine the complexities of our interconnected and evolving world. To date, 200 students from a range of disciplines and life experiences, representing 56 nationalities, have completed the master's program.

"To me, the Global Thought program has been like the bridge that takes young leaders and people with big dreams from where they are to where they want to be." —Shagun Sethi, M.A. in Global Thought'20 and current director for Global Leadership at OneShared.World

Institute for Ideas and Imagination

The Creative Incubator

The Institute for Ideas and Imagination (II&I) fosters intellectual and creative discovery, unconstrained by medium and discipline, through the interaction of the arts and academia.

The II&I was born of the conviction that the arts can serve as a catalyst for reimagining pedagogical possibilities and scholarly communication. By bringing scholars together with accomplished artists, writers, and creative thinkers from around the world, it fosters interdisciplinary conversation, collaboration, and intellectual innovation within and beyond the university. It is a place where different parts of Columbia—from the Climate School to Classics—come together and engage with the global arts.

Each year, up to 15 fellows, consisting of renowned artists and writers from across the globe as well as distinguished Columbia faculty and postdoctoral students, spend one year in creative conversation and work at the Columbia Global Center | Paris. From these unexpected collaborations and exchanges are born new ways of conceiving, communicating, and operationalizing ideas in the 21st century. Fellows bring invaluable new perspectives into the university, and the culture more broadly, through their interactions with Columbia students at the Global Center in Paris, faculty, alumni, and the public and through their participation in public II&I events such as the SNF Rendez-vous de l'Institut series, concerts, readings, lectures, and performances. Fellows also benefit from the deep local and national relationships and partnerships that Columbia Global Center | Paris has formed.



Institute for Ideas and Imagination



Emlyn Hughes

Emlyn Hughes, a 2020–2022 Fellow, is a professor of physics at Columbia and the founding director of the K=1 Project: Center for Nuclear Studies, which examines the impact of the U.S. nuclear weapons testing program, performed in the 1940s and 1950s, on the people, the land, and the lagoons of the Marshall Islands. As an II&I fellow, he turned to the French nuclear weapons testing program in French Polynesia and, working closely with undergraduate students at the Columbia Global Center | Paris, developed a new Columbia Global course on nuclear weapons and nuclear testing in the Marshall Islands to be delivered annually at Reid Hall.



Yasmine Seale

A British-Syrian writer and translator, Yasmine Seale's poetry, essays, visual art, and translations from Arabic and French have brought her international renown. While an II&I fellow (2022–2023), she worked on a project to translate and provide commentary on the poems of Al-Khansā', which were composed in the seventh century and form some of the earliest surviving literature in Arabic.

"I have often tried to imagine Bayt al-Hikmah, the "House of Wisdom" of medieval Baghdad where so much knowledge was created and preserved. After a year at the institute, I feel I can. I knew the institute would be a haven, but I couldn't have anticipated how closely it would seem to recreate the vanished world of sociability I encountered." —Yasmine Seale

OF NOTE: Reimagining Possibilities at II&I



In collaboration with the Columbia Global Center | Paris, the institute also hosts the Faculty Visitors Program, which brings selected Columbia scholars and faculty for short visits to conduct research, organize workshops and talks, and collaborate in arts outreach. In addition, the institute, together with the Harriman Institute and the Paris Global Center, offers yearlong residencies at Reid Hall for displaced writers and artists, including poets, journalists, filmmakers, and musicologists. Residency recipients from Ukraine and elsewhere continue their work and are able to participate fully in the life of the institute and the center.

**Columbia Global
realizes the university's
fourfold mission
through greater global
engagement.**



Research

Education

Service

Impact

COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS



Columbia World Projects



GLOBAL THOUGHT
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY



Institute for
Ideas & Imagination



What we do?

Together, Columbia Global Centers, Columbia World Projects, the Committee on Global Thought, and the Institute for Ideas and Imagination are delivering on the promise of Columbia Global—that from people who thrive on creativity and those who take ideas to spring meaningful change.

Examples abound from across campus and the world that highlight what we have done and signal where we will go from here. We highlight a few of the ways that Columbia Global is cultivating the next generation of thinkers and doers—from offering expansive undergraduate and graduate programs to providing support to displaced scholars and students to nurturing and growing rising leaders. Additionally, we illustrate our commitment to igniting transformation through scholarship, including in the arts, humanities, and social sciences. Finally, we present examples of the ways in which Columbia Global fuels innovation and impact through research in topics spanning climate change, inequity, education, and wellness.

Students under the Panthéon cupola in France.

Cultivating the Next Generation of Thinkers and Doers

Columbia Global provides those seeking to explore and impact the complex challenges of our time with the tools and opportunities to become the leading thinkers and doers the world needs. Through diverse programs, we offer the time and space to step back and engage with the fundamentals—thinking, studying, training, strategizing, networking, thinking, and doing. Our goal is to support the promising trajectory of individuals no matter where they are on their journey to leadership in the field and context of their choice.

Undergraduate and Graduate Education

Columbia Global hosts reimagined academic programs that inspire analytical thinking and impactful doing among future leaders. These include undergraduate and graduate offerings, for example, a degree program, courses, and experiences in Global Thought; immersive programming at Columbia Global Centers; and fellowships for undergraduates exploring careers in social impact.

Global Practicum and Internship Opportunities

Creating an accessible space for global education is a priority for Columbia Global. Among a multitude of educational programs, each of Columbia Global Centers collaborates with local partners, and often Columbia's Center for Undergraduate Global Engagement, to promote knowledge exchange, learning, and cultural understanding through academic programs, immersive courses, in-person and virtual internships, and practicum opportunities for students across the university.

For Columbia's nursing students, the Columbia Global Center | Mumbai supports a six-week clinical practicum on

innovative patient care models. Nursing students intern at the Bel-Air Hospital in Panchgani and the St. Philomena's Hospital in Bengaluru, both of which provide treatment to underprivileged patients. Immersive clinical nursing practicums are also offered by Columbia Global Centers in Amman, Beijing, and Nairobi. Beyond Columbia's students, the centers also deliver educational and capacity-building programs that extend our university's scholarly resources to local students, scholars, entrepreneurs, and professionals.

The **Social Impact Fellowship** recruits rising juniors and seniors at Columbia and Barnard who aspire to a future in social impact. This yearlong program, based at CWP, is designed to deepen students' knowledge and build new skills for effective social impact. Students participate in an immersive six-week summer session of workshops, seminars, and site visits followed by an academic year of programming that includes mentorship, the completion of a capstone project, and gatherings with thought leaders and social impact innovators.

On Columbia University's new Manhattanville Campus at 125th Street, The Forum building is home to Columbia Global.



With my nonprofit, I've had to learn a lot of things on my own. However, the fellowship taught me that there are so many amazing people with knowledge, passion, and experiences who can help me in my journey.

Johanna Martinez CC'24

Displaced Students and Scholars

An estimated 114 million people currently live as refugees or displaced people because of wars and natural disasters—the largest such population in human history. Columbia Global’s Scholarship for Displaced Students, Columbia’s first-ever university-wide scholarship and the world’s first scholarship of its kind, supports displaced students from around the world, offering full scholarships to pursue undergraduate or graduate degrees at Columbia’s 19 schools and affiliates. The scholarship, conceived and delivered as an expression of Columbia’s longstanding commitment to human rights, has supported 53 students from 24 countries and in the process enriched the educational experience for the entire Columbia community.

Beyond the scholarship, there are other expressions of Columbia’s commitment to displaced people. For example, Columbia Global Center | Paris, the II&I, and the Harriman Institute have joined efforts to create a residency for displaced artists, including from Ukraine and Iran. Early-career scholars with refugee status or who have been forcibly displaced are invited to apply for the Columbia Global Emerging Scholars Fellowship Program, a year-long fellowship at one of three Columbia Global Centers in Amman, Nairobi and Santiago. Columbia faculty provide educational resources and serve as mentors in both programs.

Amidst all the chaos and uncertainty of my life in Iraq, this scholarship was the only light I could see at the end of my tunnel.

Ronak Elias GS’26

As I reached out my hand to accept my diploma, a rush of emotions flooded me. I couldn’t help but reflect on the journey of the young man I once was 24 years ago, who doubted his ability to succeed amid the hardships of life in the Kakuma camp [Kenya] after leaving his home. I am confident I can effect positive change in Africa, particularly in South Sudan, and am committed to utilizing my leadership abilities to contribute to the development and betterment of the region.

James Maker Atem, SIPA’23

Growing up as an Afghan refugee in Pakistan, I never dreamed that years later I would graduate from Columbia University with a master’s degree in human rights studies in 2022. Thanks to the Columbia University Scholarship for Displaced Students, I was able to achieve this, fulfilling a dream that was planted in me as a child but flowered only later in my life.

Shabnam Fayyaz GSAS’22

Rising Thought and Social Impact Leaders

The Columbia Obama Foundation Scholars Program at CWP brings together young leaders from the U.S. and around the world who have demonstrated a commitment to finding solutions to challenges in their communities and countries. With more than a thousand applicants each year, we have welcomed 70 to date, from 54 countries, complete a nine-month residency on campus at Columbia, where they deepen their knowledge, develop new skills, and build capacities and networks. During the residency, scholars engage across Columbia Global and the university more broadly by offering their unique, real-world perspectives; collaborating with faculty; mentoring students; and engaging in public forums. Empowered by their experience, scholars return to the communities where they have been working equipped to have greater influence and impact on critical issues.

2022-2023 Obama Foundation Scholars arrive on campus in the fall.

Obama Foundation Scholars at Columbia World Projects



Pavel Kounchev
2018–2019 Scholar
Bulgaria

“The program changed me. My perspective was broadened and I now think beyond my local context and think globally. I was introduced to new ways of thinking, new perspectives, and to so many people that I would not have had the chance to work with if I did not join this program. As a result, so many doors were opened, which led to collaborations with people who have helped me take my work to the next level. The program even helped me in ways I never imagined, including the way I speak and how I communicate.”



Isaiah Owolabi
2019–2020 Scholar
Nigeria

“The biggest takeaway from the program is what I call the three S’s: systems thinking, sustainability, and scalability. This framework has influenced how I work with and lead organizations, how I work with my community, and how I work with other social entrepreneurs and social change leaders across Nigeria. I have also internalized this framework, which has made me more collaborative as a person and as a leader and has helped me learn the value of working across sectors.”



Millicent Barty
2021–2022 Scholar
Solomon Islands

“Being an Obama scholar meant to me acknowledging that I am part of something greater. I am a piece to this puzzle of amazing dreamers, practitioners, very talented and intelligent people who care about the livelihoods of others, the earth, and so many issues. This experience has allowed me to come full circle, where I feel I am going home with a more sustainable approach.”



2018–2019 Obama Foundation Scholars host a roundtable discussion in the spring.

The **Institute for Ideas and Imagination** Fellows is a unique combination of Columbia faculty and renowned artists and writers from around the world who spend a year in creative conversation and work at the Paris Global Center. The experience for many is transformative.

The Early Career Faculty Impact Fellowship at CWP supports a cohort of early-career faculty to explore how their scholarship and research can inform policy and practice for social impact. During this yearlong program, faculty are provided with opportunities to enhance their skills in project design, planning, and implementation; developing effective

partnerships outside of the university; and putting in place monitoring, evaluation, and scaling plans.

The **Columbia Women’s Leadership Network** in Brazil, established by the Rio Global Center, builds on the center’s long tradition of fostering women’s leadership and tackling gender inequity. The cohort participates in workshops in Brazil with Columbia guest faculty, and a weeklong intensive at the Columbia campus. Training in inclusive leadership, design thinking, conflict resolution, and women-specific leadership topics has supported a diverse and growing network of more than 200 women who are transforming Brazilian society.

One of the things that took me by surprise was to discover, over and over again, the theme of translation running like a vein through many of my colleagues’ work. Of course, it was my primary focus, but I found especially in the works of the artists present a theme of transposition, of isolating content and then modifying or transforming it to suit other vehicles, media, genres. It was a good reminder that these great sociocultural processes that we study as scholars of history and literature are often artistic processes and that just as the historical linguist must study contemporary languages to understand the development of ancient language, we must also collaborate with contemporary artists and artistic processes to understand how humans changed their societies and cultures, even in the distant past.

John Phan, assistant professor in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures and 2022–2023 II&I fellow

Sparking Innovation through Scholarship



Photo by Eileen Barroso/Columbia University

Columbia Global supports the social sciences, humanities, and professional disciplines to spark fresh thinking and scholarship. This engagement gathers diverse audiences to address urgent and contemporary issues.

Arts and Humanities

The Columbia Global Center | Paris and Institute for Ideas and Imagination host numerous public programs featuring films, concerts, art exhibits, and discussions highlighting the work of writers and artists. These convenings include a yearlong author series in partnership with the American Library in Paris. A concert series highlights local and international talent, as well as musicians and composers from Columbia's Department of Music. The center has partnerships with distinguished cultural institutions in Paris, such as the Musée d'Orsay and the Fondation Cartier.

Columbia Global Centers host book talks of regional relevance with authors of nonfiction and fiction, often interviewed by local experts or Columbia faculty. This included a series hosted by the Columbia Global Center | Amman with Arab authors to showcase the breadth and diversity in Arab fiction writing.

Social justice movements and the climate crisis have inspired artists to create a sense of urgency for new solutions and new social systems in cultural institutions. **Politics of Visual Arts in a Changing World**, a transdisciplinary, multinational project of the Committee on Global Thought, brings together scholars, activists, curators, and cultural professionals from the U.S., Germany, France, Turkey, India, Mexico, China, and Nigeria to understand these issues regionally and globally and suggest a way forward. The project culminates in an illustrated anthology published by Columbia University Press.

Columbia Global has explored a range of topics in journalism, media, and the free press at the global centers, highlighting the critical role of a free press in a functioning society and envisioning the role of journalism in the modern world. The Columbia Global Center | Santiago has worked

with the Columbia Journalism School and Universidad Diego Portales' Journalism School to offer a series of conferences and workshops on the **Future of Journalism**. Columbia Global Center | Istanbul has hosted multiple series, bringing together professionals from various fields of journalism with academics and nongovernmental organizations, including the **Quality Journalism Series**. Organized in collaboration with the International Press Institute, the series allowed participants to discuss combating misinformation, fake news, fact-checking, otherization, and hate speech as well as the importance of reporting in conflict zones and emergency situations.

History and Culture

The Columbia Global Center | Istanbul has engaged with Columbia faculty and students on several projects. **Mapping Mesopotamian Monuments** created a topographical survey of the standing historical monuments and architecture in the region from Iraqi Kurdistan and southeastern Anatolia (Turkey) to southern Iraq. Another project created a **digital platform for the virtual presentation of Istanbul's Roman, Byzantine, Ottoman, and early Republican sites and monuments**. Both were collaborations with local experts that have left a tangible resource for researchers and the public that also raises awareness about safeguarding the region's cultural heritage. Additionally, the **Voices of Emerging Scholars** series provides visibility to young historians and presents new research in Ottoman-Turkish studies to a wide network of scholars and students worldwide.

Columbia Global Centers | Amman published "**Columbia University Ties with Arabs and the Arab World**," which contains snapshots of students' research exploring issues from the 1890s to the present, featuring the life stories of celebrated alumni and distinguished faculty from the region. "**Columbia University and Chile: Over 100 Years of History**," published by the Columbia Global Center | Santiago, showcases how Chilean alumni have left their profound imprint on both the university and Chile.

CGT's collaborative Franco-American project, the **Politics of Memory in Global Context**, gathers scholars in the social sciences and humanities, cognitive scientists, psychologists, neuroscientists, and curators of historical and memorial museums. The project aims to identify commonalities, offer fresh analysis on the formation and functioning of public memory, and propose policies for effective political management of divisive memories within and between countries.



Students from Columbia and Boğaziçi University at Topkapı Palace in Istanbul, with Professor Holger Klein

I am very grateful for the opportunity to jump-start the Mapping Mesopotamian Monuments field survey of endangered heritage in Iraq and Turkey. Our 10 years of work can now be accessed on a quadrilingual website.

Zainab Bahrani, Edith Porada Professor and chair of the Department of Art History and Archaeology.

Social Sciences

The **Center for Political Economy** explores new ideas about deep and growing inequalities, linked to questions of effective regulation, inadequate investments in public goods, and global supply chain limitations. This kind of scholarship brings economics into conversation with other disciplines, as scholars respond to the multiple dimensions of inequity. The center seeds new research, organizes public events and conferences, and produces scholarly publications while developing "idea labs" to serve as intellectual and policy incubators.

At CGT, an interdisciplinary research project, **A World Indebted**, is examining debt dependencies and interdependencies and how they shape economic inequality and political tensions within and between countries.

Challenges facing constitutional democracies, including the United States, have put fundamental institutions, norms, and practices under immense stress. In response, scholars, practitioners, and various stakeholders have been brought together to revitalize democratic discourse. This includes an initiative that examines the governance of large digital

platforms with European and U.S. policymakers, regulators, and researchers to develop concrete ideas for policy action in the regions. A second initiative connects policymakers in the Global South. In both, the work addresses concerns about firm size, uncurated content, data access, and user security to better construct and implement a governance framework for Big Tech that protects and promotes democracy.

Successful democracies depend on elections that ensure open debate, the availability of relevant ideas, and clarity about the issues at stake. The project report **Building Trust: Election Administration and the Role of Higher Education** proposes that academic institutions have an important role to play in mobilizing to address the alarming erosion of trust in elections in the U.S. and the threat this crisis of trust poses.



The Reid Hall garden featuring the Raw Earth Sgraffito Pavilion, designed by Lynnette Widder, professor of professional practice at Columbia School of Professional Studies and Lola Ben-Alon, assistant professor at Columbia Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation and director of the Natural Materials Lab.

Defining New Frontiers: Fueling Innovation through Research

Columbia Global programs extend faculty networks across disciplines and topics, including economics, climate change, forced migration, energy, threatened democracy, pandemics, digital governance, and equitable access to resources.

By tackling complex challenges through innovations and research, Columbia reaffirms its commitment to finding pathways to relevant solutions to problems faced by the world today and those of the future. At the heart of this work is partnership and cooperation with people and institutions around the world.

Climate Change

The challenges posed by climate degradation exemplify, perhaps more than any other issue facing our world, the need for cross-border and immersive research, collaboration, and action. Columbia is proud to be at the forefront of the climate discourse, benefiting from a university-wide commitment to combating climate change. Columbia Global advances this work through several important initiatives.

The **Climate Hub at the Columbia Global Center | Rio** links experts from Brazil and Columbia working on climate education, policy, technology, economy, and human rights through a partnership with the municipality of Rio de Janeiro. Convenings, research, and projects are planned to engage Columbia faculty and students with their counterparts in Brazil and diverse academic, community, and corporate partners. Another Columbia Global initiative, the **Climate Action Collective**, leverages the university's global network of Columbia Global Centers and ICAP country offices as a platform for dialogue and partnerships with diverse climate stakeholders around the world. The effort included in-depth consultation to gather perspectives on climate change and climate action, including from people from nine countries who would not typically have had a voice in shaping decisions.

Building Climate-Resilient Communities in the Dominican Republic is a CWP project, in partnership with the Columbia Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, the mayor's office of Santo Domingo, and two Dominican universities. The goal of the project is to design a blueprint for a resilience center in Cristo Rey, a dense, semi-industrial neighborhood of Santo Domingo vulnerable to climate-related events. The center will build the community's capacity to prepare for and respond to natural disasters and demonstrate a model for community resilience building that can be adapted throughout the country, the Caribbean, and other island nations threatened by climate threats.



Columbia Global Center | Mumbai developed the **Urban Works Innovation Challenge** to serve as an accelerator and support entrepreneurs and innovators addressing issues emerging from rapid urbanization in India, where a workforce of 600 million people is expected to live in cities by 2030. Teams from India and Columbia University participated in workshops and seminars and received coaching from Columbia University's Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science and Columbia Entrepreneurship. Winners secured unrestricted capital and had opportunities to pitch their solutions to prominent investors and corporations.

The Urban Works Innovation Challenge provided a strong foundation for Kara Water to take a leap in the Indian market, where we hope to provide a long-term alternative to bottled water and reverse osmosis-based purifiers.

Cody Soodeen, founder, Kara Water (Mumbai)

Unequal Opportunity—Health, Education, and Labor

One-third of pregnancy-related deaths in the U.S. occur from one week to one year after delivery, known as the “fourth trimester,” and more than half of these mothers’ deaths are preventable. The **Postpartum Assessment of Health Survey** is the first multistate survey on health outcomes, overall well-being, experience of care, and health care access, quality, costs, and barriers for vulnerable women in the U.S. in the postpartum year. The findings will be used to help the U.S. government and advocacy and medical organizations develop recommendations for improving health and social policy, in particular Medicaid, the national program that supports most of these women.

In Sierra Leone, **Project SHINE! (Supporting Healthy Interaction, Nurturing, and Enrichment) for Preschool Children** aims to help improve children’s health, development, and education outcomes, ultimately contributing to reduced child morbidity and mortality. This policy-to-action project is a partnership between ICAP at Columbia University, situated at the Mailman School of Public Health, the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, and the government of Sierra Leone. The team is creating and testing scalable “wraparound health services”—a preschool-based health unit, household health visits, a nutritional teaching garden, and linkages to community health and nutritional support services—for preschool children aged 2–6 years old and their families.

Understanding the health care experiences of Syrian refugees and exploring how refugee self-reliance can be fostered to promote resilience are the focus of eight research studies undertaken by Columbia Global Center | Amman, in collaboration with the Columbia Mailman School of Public Health, School of Nursing, and School of Social Work. This is part of broader efforts to deepen engagement with local partners, international organizations, regional universities, and the Jordanian government around forced migration and displacement to facilitate knowledge exchange between academia and practitioners.

Working across disciplines to **improve gender-based violence services in Kenya**, Columbia Global Center | Nairobi joined forces with the Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia Law School, and Strathmore University in Nairobi. Through this partnership, the team offered and evaluated paralegal services at the Gender-Based Violence Recovery Center in Kisumu in western Kenya. An interdisciplinary practicum program was established



Nursing students attend a lecture at Lusaka School of Nursing, as part of ICAP’s NEPI initiative to enhance healthcare education in Zambia. Photo by Sven Torfinn/ICAP at Columbia University

involving students from Columbia Mailman School of Public Health and Columbia Law School who assisted paralegals and health staff at the center in Kisumu to improve monitoring and evaluation of gender-based violence services including supporting survivors.

The acute and lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have had a profound impact on individual, community, and the collective well-being, with disproportionate effects on vulnerable groups. The **Confronting COVID-19 Loss in Harlem** project engaged local faith-based and community leaders and Columbia faculty to address the pervasive grief among Harlem community residents that emerged as a result of the pandemic, compounded by legacy of racism and discrimination. The findings are informing the development of digital grief management tools to better serve the Black community.

This effort deepened our understanding of effective interventions to reduce gender-based violence within health care delivery systems and the role of plural legal systems in perpetuating gender-based discrimination.

Dr. Terry McGovern, professor and chair of the Heilbrunn Department of Population and Family Health at Columbia University.

What's Ahead

We are inspired by the opportunities and the potential for advancing both scholarship and action. We work across disciplines and borders, seeking collaborations and partnerships, investing in the leaders of tomorrow, and cultivating a culture of scholarship and continuous learning. These, we have learned, are imperatives that will serve Columbia well on its journey to true global citizenship and, more broadly, in our aspiration to redefine the role of a university in society. And as the world's challenges shift both in scope and scale, we will adapt and iterate our approach, learning along the way to deepen our impact.

It is from this never-ending cycle of creating, learning, reflecting, and improving that we are sustained in our commitment to building the future we know is possible. Inspired and motivated, we look with excitement to what's ahead, preserving the strengths of what got us to today and innovating to respond to the emerging needs of our faculty and students and the world.



A road sign on a highway with mountains in the background. The sign is rectangular and contains the following text:

ΕΛΛΑΣ	
ΚΑΤΩΛΕΥΜΕΝΟ	135 km
ΚΑΤΩΛΕΥΜΕΝΟ	38 km
ΚΑΤΩΛΕΥΜΕΝΟ	13 km
ΚΑΤΩΛΕΥΜΕΝΟ	64 km

In Gratitude

The work of Columbia Global is made possible by a range of supporters around the world. We are profoundly grateful to the donors, advisors, partners, staff, and volunteers who believe in our mission and help make its realization possible.



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to thinking and doing
together

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