

+ Questions
+ Answers
+ Listening
+ Leading
+ Local
+ Global
+ Thinking
+ Doing
Columbia
Global



Welcome to Columbia Global. Where thinking meets doing.

How does real change happen? It requires bridge-builders — people willing to think broadly, reaching across disciplines and borders, bringing together ideas and partners from every field and from everywhere.

That's where we come in.

In 2022, Columbia Global was born — a bold initiative reflecting Columbia University's deep-rooted commitment to learning, scholarship, and action — combined with a sense of responsibility to humankind and the planet we all share. We connect students, researchers, activists, artists, practitioners, and policy-makers from Manhattan to Mumbai to take on humanity's most complex challenges and foster intellectual inquiry.

How?

- + **By breaking down barriers between disciplines to drive groundbreaking discoveries.**
- + **By embracing curiosity + diversity of thought.**
- + **By catalyzing innovation that transforms lives + communities.**
- + **By bringing together thinking and doing.**

This is Columbia Global's vision: to reimagine the role of the university in today's world.

To do that, we need to experiment, collaborate, and be an engine for creativity + global impact.

Wherever thinking needs doing — or doing needs thinking — Columbia Global will convene, engage + get it done.

One vision. Four entities. A better world.

The entities that now live under the Columbia Global umbrella aren't new; they are well-established and thriving. What is new? Joining forces to have more potential for game-changing discourse, scholarship, and impact.

The Gateway

Columbia Global Centers

Where the university and the world intersect, fostering innovation, understanding, and engagement in 11 global cities (and beyond).

The Action Lab

Columbia World Projects

Where thinkers and doers come together with partners to tackle some of the world's biggest challenges. We explore, build and maintain partnerships with policy makers and practitioners that catalyze innovation.

The Rethink Tank

Committee on Global Thought

Where a community of distinguished faculty push boundaries, thinking beyond borders to tackle humanity's most intractable problems.

The Creative Incubator

The Institute for Ideas & Imagination

Where academics join forces with accomplished artists, writers, and creative thinkers to foster intellectual and creative discovery.

513

active global partnerships
+ collaborations

606

engaged faculty

1,467

engaged students

2,854

participants in non-degree
global education + training
programming

35,280

faculty, staff, students, alumni, and
external partners engaged in global
programs + initiatives

How will we tackle the most urgent global challenges of our time? Together.

Columbia Global is where conversations start, ideas are shared, and thinking meets doing. We're here to put the resources of Columbia University into action to solve the world's most persistent and pressing problems. To foster intellectual endeavors that inspire, surprise, challenge — and ultimately create meaningful impact. **This is how we intend to do it.**

World-class education

Our approach? Take students and scholars beyond the classroom. Offer them the world! For a learning experience that's not only more engaging, but life-changing.

Game-changing research

We support research that moves the needle — provoking paradigm shifts and breathing new perspectives into tough debates.

Conversations that matter

We bring unanswered questions to the table for dialogue that fosters understanding across cultures, boundaries, and disciplines — the only way, we think, to spark global innovation.

Meaningful impact

We bring together a deep understanding of our shared challenges, generating innovative solutions that are both far-reaching and long-lasting.

Questions this big need a world of input

We do more than just ask big questions. We seek answers. By transcending borders and bridging disciplines, we support work to achieve impact from Athens to Alabama, from Sierra Leone to Santiago.

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- Columbia Global Centers
- Obama Foundation Scholars
- Columbia World Projects

Columbia World Projects In Focus

- **Amman, Jordan** How can displaced students continue their education? Columbia University Scholarship for Displaced Students
- **Athens, Greece** How does stolen art rewrite history? Stolen Identities: Between Cultural Heritage, Art Collections and Looting
- **Bangladesh, Colombia, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Senegal, and Vietnam** Connecting the changes in the sky to what grows from the ground. ACToday (Adapting Agriculture to Climate Today, for Tomorrow)
- **Beijing, China** How can we teach children to impact the world around them? One Tree, One World
- **Beirut, Lebanon** How does recovery here help recovery everywhere? Rebuilding Beirut: A Roadmap for an Equitable Post-Disaster Response
- **Istanbul, Turkey** What does the past tell us about our future? Mapping Mesopotamian Monuments
- **Mumbai, India** How can destigmatizing menstruation improve women's health? The Period of Life: Improving Menstrual Health and Knowledge in India
- **Nairobi, Kenya** What insights are African authors offering the world? The African Book Talk Series
- **Paris** If you could talk to any changemaker in the world, who would that be? Atelier Podcast
- **Rio De Janeiro, Brazil** Can collaboration redefine our climate future? Rio Climate Hub
- **Santiago, Chile** How does translating help writers improve their craft? Word for Word workshops
- **Tunis, Tunisia** Is there a better way to teach a language? Here's one way. Here's one way. TC-Tunisia Foreign Language Teacher Education Project



What's the best way to learn about a place and its people? Being there. Can we deepen global dialogue? We can, and we will. What does press freedom mean to journalists in Turkey, Jordan, and France? We asked them.

How do we connect global to local (and vice versa)?

Columbia Global Centers are the bridge from the University to the world and from the world to the University. Situated in 11 cities across 4 continents, these regional hubs represent the University's intellectual presence abroad. From Nairobi to Rio de Janeiro, each Global Center cultivates new avenues for student, faculty, and local partner engagement through mutual learning and dialogue, combined with the exploration of issues of local priority.

The centers facilitate faculty research with regional experts and partners. Students become engrossed in immersive learning in a rich local context. Curated events engage the public and alumni, from book talks to film screenings, academic seminars, roundtable discussions, and salons.

Displaced scholars and students

What to do when conflict or disaster has disrupted education or scholarly work?
 We have a place for you. Our displaced students and scholars programs bring hope and optimism to so many in distress. There are over 108 million people worldwide who have been uprooted by disaster or conflict. At Columbia Global, we're committed to welcoming displaced scholars, students, and artists into our community. From financial assistance to fellowships to creative residencies, we we offer opportunities designed for people who have been forced from their homes.

"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, Scholarship for Displaced Students recipient

What happens at the intersection of analysis and creativity? Come to Paris and find out. What can academics and artists learn from each other? A great deal.

Each year, the Institute for Ideas and Imagination welcomes an eclectic cohort of 14 fellows from around the world to spend a year at Columbia in the heart of Montparnasse, Paris. Half are accomplished artists and writers, and the other half are Columbia faculty and researchers. They spend a magical year working on their own projects while engaging in conversation and collaboration with their peers. The result is something unexpected, every time.



Think research needs to inform action? Think higher education should respond to the needs of humanity? **We think so too.**

Columbia World Projects (CWP) mobilizes the university's researchers and scholars to seek new insights and pursue sustainable solutions to key global challenges, always working in collaboration with governments, nonprofits, businesses, and communities. CWP also empowers aspiring and emerging social impact leaders by equipping them with the education, tools, and training needed to maximize their potential and impact.

190+

students and scholars have engaged with CWP as researchers, fellows, and interns

2000+

experts have extended their work beyond the University to make a tangible difference in the world

975+

thought leaders from government and the private and nonprofit sectors have contributed to the work

1000+

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

How can island nations contend with climate-related threats? Through the Climate-Resilient Communities project, we're working with partners in the Dominican Republic to design a blueprint for a resilience center that positions the country and other island nations to better prepare, and respond to climate emergencies.

How do we prevent postpartum illnesses and deaths among U.S. women? Through the Leveraging Policy to Improve Maternal Health Project, we sought to understand women's experiences — and are using the results to change policies to benefit society's most vulnerable women.

How do we preserve democracies under pressure from mounting threats? By revitalizing democratic discourse, for one. We brought together a bipartisan group of experts to debate and ultimately determine how universities can help rebuild public trust in the electoral system and elections.

The resulting report, 'Building Trust: Election Administration and the Role of Higher Education,' details their insights.

Where does economics connect with history, law, political science, sociology, public health, and engineering? At the Columbia Center for Political Economy, which identifies and advances the most promising contemporary developments in economics to promote a new political economy with robust philosophical underpinnings.

How do we prepare the next generation of leaders to help solve our most urgent global challenges? Through the Obama Foundation Scholars Program, Early Career Faculty Impact Fellowship, and Social Impact Fellowship, we are investing in the development of promising leaders who are committed to advancing innovative solutions to critical societal problems.

Think the role of the university requires new perspectives? Think higher education needs to keep pace with a rapidly changing world? Think silos are impeding solutions? We couldn't agree more.

The challenges currently facing our world cut across borders, industries, and disciplines; Columbia's Committee on Global Thought does the same, seeking fresh ideas that reflect the intertwined world of today — and can adapt to the emerging world of the future.

Through the **Masters in Global Thought** and **Global Thought Scholars**, students learn to ask critical questions rather than offer prescriptive answers to global issues.

The **Global Thought Leaders** program offers professionals the opportunity to explore the geopolitical, economic, social, and cultural dimensions of four priority topics: climate; world order; technology and social media; and race, gender, and identity.

How do global debt dependencies fuel inequality and tensions worldwide? How do the visual arts shape and reflect political ideologies? **Politics of the Visual Arts** is an interdisciplinary project that explores the connections between art and politics in cultures around the world.

36
MA students

26
countries

247
alumni



What's next?

Learning and collaborating with the world to shape our shared future.

Ideas can be transformative. Concepts that once seemed unlikely or even impossible have materialized in ways that thoroughly change our world.

In one generation alone, we've seen how a moonshot idea in technology gave us the internet, connecting us as never before.

We've watched as grassroots movements for democracy have taken on oppressive regimes.

And, in my own field of work, we've witnessed orthodoxies around treatment of diseases initially thought to be incurable — such as HIV/AIDS — evolving from hopelessness to unimaginable possibilities.

Of course, the true power of an idea lies in whether it's able to come to life — creating breakthroughs in thinking, altering trajectories, or saving lives.

How do we facilitate this jump from idea to a movement?
From innovation to action?
From thinking to doing. From doing to thinking?

These questions are the driving force behind Columbia Global.

Our ambition is two-fold.

First, we will harness the power of thought with the exhilaration of innovation.

Second, we will ensure that innovative ideas are paired with decisive action, so together we may shape a future that instills confidence and inspiration.

Our aspirations are great, and we believe that they are possible with the right people at the table — thinkers and doers from inside and outside academia and all around the world. I invite you to join us on this journey.



Wafaa El-Sadr Executive Vice President



A world of thanks

Our work is made possible by countless supporters across Columbia University and around the world. We are profoundly grateful to the donors, advisors, partners, staff, and volunteers who wholeheartedly believe in our mission, and praise their commitment to bringing our vision to life.

We look forward to more thinking and more doing, together.

global.columbia.edu

