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INSTITUTE for
ADVANCED
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TOULOUSE

IASTconnect

FEATURES

Patrick Le Bihan
Game theoretic
models

Michael Riordan
The digital society
initiative

IAST A TO Z

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Director's message



Dear readers,

Welcome to the third edition of IAST Connect. This sees the start of our third year at the IAST. We have four new postdoctoral fellows, as well as a busy program of seminars, conferences and visits.

We are particularly pleased to be able to launch our series of Distinguished Lectures in the Social Sciences, which this year will focus on the theme of Origins. The first in the series has already been delivered by Rob Boyd, and his fascinating talk attracted an audience of around 350 people. We hope these will become a central event in the academic calendar in Toulouse. We see them as bringing together people with a wide range of interests, students and researchers, academics and non-academics, young and old, to think about questions that are central to our societies: Where have we come from? What is our nature? Can we live together peacefully? This creation of an intellectual community that transcends the particularities of disciplines is central to the spirit that animates IAST, and we look forward to many more such events.

This edition of IAST Connect will give you an insight of the future treats in store. Enjoy reading the magazine.

PAUL SEABRIGHT - IAST DIRECTOR

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IAST A TO Z

to be continued in the Spring 2014 edition...

F

NEW FEATURE: IAST DISTINGUISHED LECTURES

This fall IAST launched a new lecture series, namely IAST Distinguished Lectures in the Social Sciences, to be given by internationally renowned scholars on a theme of interest to all concerned citizens. The theme for this semester is ORIGINS.

› See pages 8-9



G

TIGER FORUM 2014: GLOBAL STRUCTURES IN EXPANDING ECONOMIES

Within the framework of the 2nd edition of the TIGER Forum 2014, IAST will be organizing a Workshop on Military & Economies.

› www.tiger-forum.com



H

HISTORY WITH WALTER SCHEIDEL

Ph.D. in ancient history from University of Vienna, Walter is a classical Historian from Stanford University. IAST is extremely honored to host his lecture on "The origins of inequality" on December 19.

› See pages 8-9



I

THE DIGITAL SOCIETY INITIATIVE

This program bringing together 3 world-class research institutes at University Toulouse Capitole 1, aims at opening up the debate about the digital society from the expert to the citizen, while treating the technical and social science aspects of these questions with the rigor and seriousness they deserve.

› See pages 6-7



J

JONATHAN KLINGLER NEWCOMER 2013

Ph.D. from University of Rochester, Jonathan's research interests lie broadly in the study of interest groups, and is particularly interested in how interest groups mobilize their members. Jonathan joined the IAST this academic year 2013-14 with three other postdoctoral fellows.

› See pages 10-11





Patrick Le Bihan

GAME THEORETIC MODELS TO STUDY THE ABILITY OF THE ELECTORATE TO HOLD ELECTED OFFICIALS ACCOUNTABLE

Patrick joined the IAST in September 2013 as a postdoctoral fellow.

After completing a dual degree in political science at Sciences Po Paris and the Freie Universität Berlin, Patrick moved to the USA to undertake his postgraduate studies in politics at New York University.

His areas of expertise are political economy, political accountability, and judicial politics. He talks to us about his involvement at IAST, his research project & the upcoming events he is involved in.

How did you get involved in the IAST?

Patrick Le Bihan: Howard Rosenthal, who served on my Ph.D. thesis committee and is a member of the IAST scientific council, recommended that I apply for a postdoc at the IAST. I was very excited by this prospect given that: given the proximity of the institute with that of TSE and its reputation for research on the theory of incentives, a theory which has many applications in political science and which I use extensively in my own research. Moreover, with the launch of its political science program the IAST seemed like a perfect setting for interdisciplinary research in the field of political economy. So I joined and I'm very happy that I did.

What is political economy?

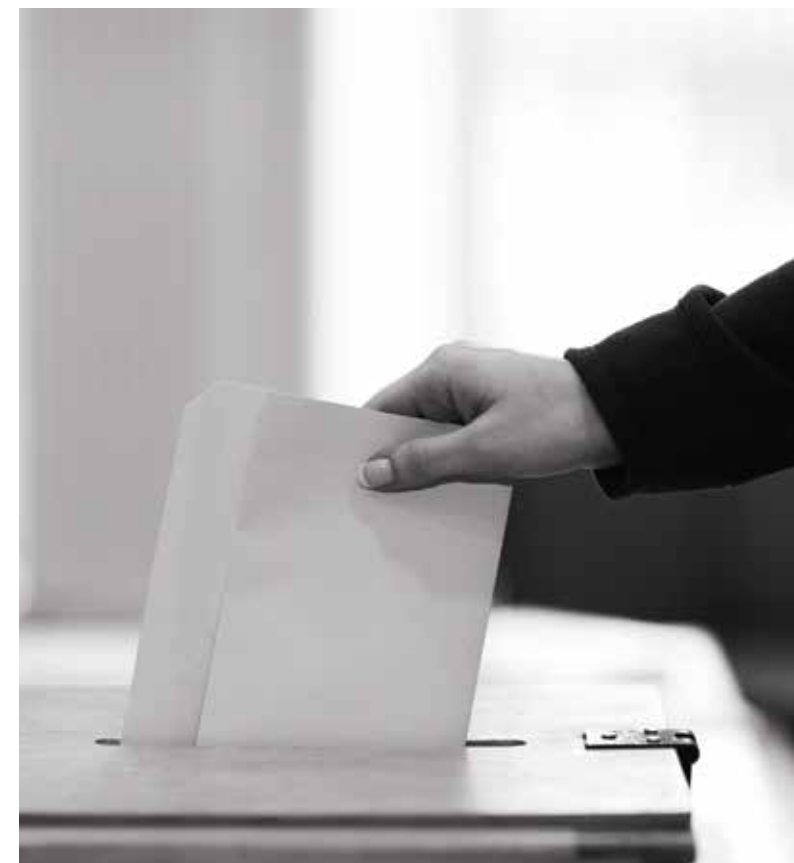
PLB: Political economy is an interdisciplinary research field at the crossroads of political science and economics. Specifically, it asks how political institutions and processes affect economic outcomes and how in turn these economic outcomes shape political conflicts and thus political decision-making. Although political economy has been burgeoning in the last thirty years and is seen by many as a relatively new research field it is to some extent a return to questions which were considered essential before economics and political science separated into distinct disciplines in the second half of the nineteenth century.

Can you tell us more about your own research?

PLB: I develop game theoretic models to study how various political institutions affect the ability of the electorate to hold elected officials accountable and how the functioning of these institutions ultimately rests on the incentives provided by elections. This is an exciting research agenda. With few exceptions, early formal models in political science considered more-or-less independent theories of political institutions and elections. Yet, it is clear that how politicians will maneuver in an institutional context will also depend on how given behavior will affect their reelection prospects. The full effect of certain institutions on political decision-making may thus only become apparent if one considers how they interact with the electoral mechanism.

Could you give us an example?

PLB: In one of my papers "Popular referendum and electoral accountability", I show how giving the voters the power to call for a referendum on certain policy dimensions will lead politicians to change their behavior with respect to other policy dimensions which, for constitutional reasons, cannot be subjected to a referendum. This spillover effect occurs because the possibility of a referendum constrains the policy choices made by elected representatives, thereby increasing the relative importance of office benefits compared to policy benefits, leading politicians to seek reelection more actively. So the mechanism entirely rests on how the referendum interacts with the incentives provided by the prospects of reelection. If I had studied the institution of the referendum in isolation I would not have been able to identify this spillover effect.



FIND OUT MORE

IAST POLITICAL SCIENCE PROGRAM
<http://www.iast.fr/disciplines/political-science>

SAVE THE DATE: APRIL 10-11, 2014.
Conference on elections and electoral institution.
The conference will bring outstanding political scientists and economists from Europe and North America together, placing Toulouse on the world map for interdisciplinary meetings in political economy.

>Keynote lecture by Gary Cox, Stanford University.



Michael Riordan

THE DIGITAL SOCIETY INITIATIVE

Michael Riordan received his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of California at Berkeley. Michael specializes in industrial organization economics. His recent research interests include topics on telecommunications, antitrust, and oligopoly. He has written numerous journal articles on these and other industrial organization topics including regulation, contract theory, defense procurement, health services, vertical integration, internal organization of firms, and product quality. Michael's research has been supported by the National Science Foundation, the National Institute of Drug Abuse, and other organizations.

He is an elected fellow of the Econometric Society and was a National Fellow of the Hoover Institution. He served as co-editor of the RAND Journal of Economics, a member of the editorial board of the American Economic Review, and associate editor of the Quarterly Journal of Economics.

How would you describe your research to general public?

Michael Riordan: A lot of my academic research lies at the nexus of the economics of organization and industry economics, with a big focus on procurement and government regulation. I want to know how markets sometimes work and sometimes fail to work, and from this perspective have studied vertical integration, defense procurement, competition policy, and telecommunications regulation. I enjoy being engaged with policy problems, and have spent time as economic advisor at the Federal Trade Commission and chief economist of the Federal Communications Commission.

How did you get involved in the IAST?

MR: I have a long relationship with Toulouse, from the earliest years of IDEI. I have visited for conferences, seminars, lectures, and most recently for a sabbatical. My current relationship with IAST is natural continuation of that long relationship.



I ENJOY BEING ENGAGED WITH POLICY PROBLEMS, AND HAVE SPENT TIME AS ECONOMIC ADVISOR AT THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION AND CHIEF ECONOMIST OF THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION.

You are the first Digital Society Fellow, could you tell more about your research project in this Initiative of IAST?

MR: My research project for the Digital Society Initiative is about the economics of security. I like the topic for several reasons. First, it is important and hasn't received enough attention from economists. Cybersecurity is in the news almost every day. Second, it is interesting to consider security as an organizational problem. Because security risks are interdependent, we need some kind of centralized organization to correct for externalities and coordinate security investments. It could be markets or it could be government. Here is good question: does insurance worsen or improve the security problem? We should better understand why cyber insurance markets have been slow to form. Finally, the organizational problems inherent in the security problem show up in other interesting contexts like health care reform or financial market regulation.

KNOW MORE

WHAT IS THE DIGITAL SOCIETY INITIATIVE?

Initiated in May 2013, this program of policy-oriented research outreach and public education about current and future technological innovation in the field of digital technology aims to open up the debate about the digital society from the expert to the citizen, while treating the technical and social science aspects of these questions with the rigor and seriousness they deserve.

The program will address the following range of research themes stressing the need for interdisciplinary thinking on each of them:

Privacy, digital security, digital dissemination of dangerous information, the digital encoding of cultural heritage, media pluralism, digital health, online education, personal financial services, digital infrastructure for fighting poverty, intergenerational conflicts over digital investment, the political and philosophical acceptability of inequality in the digital economy.

WEBSITE

<http://www.iast.fr/partnerships/dsi>





THIS SEMESTER, IAST HAS RESERVED A SERIES OF EXCITING EXCHANGES WITH EXPERTS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE SPECIALIZING IN VARIOUS INTERDISCIPLINARY FIELDS SOCIOLOGY, BIOLOGY, ZOOLOGY, HISTORY ETC...



FORTHCOMING EVENTS (SEMINARS, CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS)

IAST Biology and Economics Seminar

- › November 8: by Susanne FOITZIK
- › November 22: by Tim CLUTTON-BROCK
- › December 6: by Alan GRAFEN

IAST Political Economy / Political Science Seminar

- › December 20: by Vincent PONS

IAST General Seminar

- › November 7: by Carsten K. W. DE DREU
- › December 5: by Alicia MELIS

IAST Distinguished Lecture

- › November 19: by Tim CLUTTON-BROCK
- › December 21: by Walter SCHEIDEL

Consult the calendar of the IAST events



FOCUS ON...

IAST DISTINGUISHED LECTURES

This fall we have launched a new lecture series, the IAST Distinguished Lectures in the Social Science. These lectures are delivered by internationally renowned scholars on a theme of interest to all concerned citizens – ORIGINS.



GOOD TO KNOW

› Venue: Amphitheater CUJAS at the University Toulouse 1 Capitole

› Time: 18:00 – 20:00

› Lectures are open to all

› Free Entry

› Simultaneous translation in French available upon request

September
19



Watch the lecture

Robert BOYD,
Anthropologist from UCLA & Arizona State University
“How Culture Shaped Human Evolution”

Robert Boyd's impression

“I am pleased to be included in such a list of speakers. There is a kind of synthesis going on today between Economics, Anthropology, Evolutionary biology which lead to bigger questions of the society and I am happy that these distinguished series of lectures were focused on Origins”



November
21

Tim CLUTTON-BROCK,
Zoologist from Cambridge University
“The Origins of Society”

Explaining the evolution of reproductive cooperation poses an important challenge for evolutionary biologists. This lecture explores the evolution of mutualistic and altruistic cooperation in vertebrates and its relevance to understanding the evolution of cooperation in hominids. It argues that mutualistic cooperation in non-human animals is widespread but seldom costly while altruistic cooperation is largely confined to close kin. In contrast, costly cooperation between non-kin is widespread in humans but may be a relatively recent development.

December
19

Walter SCHEIDEL,
Classical Historian from Stanford University
“The Origins of inequality”

Concerns about rising inequality are making headlines all over the world, from America and Europe to China. Yet current debates and policy proposals focus on the recent past, neglecting the very long sweep of history and the lessons it may hold. This lecture traces the evolution of resource inequality from the Stone Age to the present.

IAST WELCOMES FOUR NEW POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS THIS ACADEMIC YEAR...



› SEAN BOTTOMLEY

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY
› Research specialization:
Economic History

Sean's research interests are the British industrial revolution, and institutions.



› JONATHAN KLINGLER

UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER
› Research specialization:
Political Science

Jonathan's research interests lie broadly in the study of interest groups, and is particularly interested in how interest groups mobilize their members.



› PATRICK LE BIHAN

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY
› Research specialization:
Political Science

Patrick's research interests are Formal Modeling, Political Economy, Comparative Politics, and Comparative Judicial Politics.



› CÉSAR MANTILLA

UNIVERSIDAD DE LOS ANDES
› Research specialization:
Experimental Economics

César's research interests concern the generation of norms and adaptation of behaviors in cooperation dilemmas.

EVER INCREASING NUMBER OF HIGH-PROFILE VISITING SCHOLARS AT IAST...



› HILLARD KAPLAN – UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO

› Research specialization: **Evolutionary anthropology**

Hillard's research examines the research of human life course, drawing on fieldwork with a number of indigenous populations & focusing on food sharing, fertility decisions, parental investment etc... He is visiting IAST for a year.

OTHER VISITING MEMBERS THIS SEASON...

BEN TRUMBLE
LAURENT LEHMANN
JÖRGEN WEIBULL
THOMAS ROMER
ALEXANDRE DEBS
LYDIA MECHTENBERG
MINUS VAN BAALEN


GERARD ROLAND
MANFRED MILINSKI
SIMONE SEPE
NAOMI BECK
CHRISTOPHER CHABRIS
MICHELLE MEYER
KRISTAPS DZONSONS



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