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INSTITUTE for
ADVANCED
S T U D Y in
TOULOUSE

IAST connect

FEATURES

Karine Van der Straeten
Caps off to political
science!

Jean-Marc Olivier
From watches
to aeroplanes:
a childhood
passion



Director's message



Dear readers,

The beginning of our fourth year of operation has been an exceptionally exciting time. At the beginning of the academic year we were privileged to welcome eleven new Research Fellows, in anthropology, biology, experimental economics, history, political science, psychology and sociology; in January a twelfth (Jon Stieglitz) will join us in anthropology.

Our new arrivals could hardly have chosen a more lively time to join us, since they have been able to experience at first hand the news of the award of the Nobel prize in Economics to Jean Tirole, President of our Executive Committee. The IAST owes its existence to Jean's vision and energy and it is an immense source of pleasure and pride for all of us to see Jean's extraordinary research contribution recognized in this way.

Jean has been a consistent supporter of interdisciplinary research, both in his own work (which draws on collaborations in the fields of law, sociology, psychology and political science) and in the field of institution building. Interdisciplinary work is hard, but very rewarding when it works – and the IAST represents an ambitious bet that it can work here.

This semester sees also the second season of our Distinguished Lectures in the Social Sciences with three outstanding scholars tackling the theme of «Political Motivation» from a very wide range of standpoints.

I hope that the material in these pages will give you some sense of the energy and creativity that makes this such a rewarding time to be involved in the IAST.

PAUL SEABRIGHT - IAST DIRECTOR

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to be continued in the Spring 2015 edition...

P

IS FOR **P**ASSIONS,

as described by Jean-Marc Olivier in his interview.

› See pages 6-7



Q

IS FOR **Q**UANTITATIVE ANALYSIS,

a key feature of the new CAPS research centre in political science.

› See pages 4-5



R

IS FOR **R**ECRUITMENTS,

via our current opportunities for joining the IAST.

› See page 11



S

IS FOR **S**EAN BOTTOMLEY,

who just published a new book.

› See page 11



T

IS FOR THE **T**EASER VIDEOS

available of this season's distinguished lectures.

› See page 8



Karine Van der Straeten

Caps off to political science!

Karine Van der Straeten, CNRS research director at Toulouse School of Economics, is in charge of the IAST's programme in political science. Karine talks to us about the creation of CAPS, a new research centre aiming to bring together political scientists and political economists.

What is the link between political and economic science?

KVds: The two sciences are almost inseparable: for policy recommendations by economists to positively impact decision-making, it's important to understand the political constraints and oppositions that may arise to these recommendations. There is hence a long tradition of integrating political science into economics. Here at TSE for example we have a "public and political economics" group, and a "development" group which combine both approaches. In terms of methodology, a group of political scientists realised around 30 years ago that a number of economic science tools could also be applied to political science: game theory, mathematical modelling, econometrics, experimental and empirical approaches... in contrast with the traditional case study or monographic approach used in political science. So today, a certain number of political scientists and economists have come closer, thanks to these thematic and methodological links.

So, what is CAPS, and why did you create it?

KVds: Because today, while in the USA and the UK this interdisciplinary approach is well established, notably via groups at Rochester, NYU, Caltech, and LSE (to name but a few), there are very few groups in continental Europe dedicated to bringing together political and economic scientists for analytical and quantitative research. Our aim, via CAPS, is to bridge this gap, hopefully becoming within 5 years one of the leading centres in Europe.

Who do you have on-board?

KVds: To start with, I must mention the Meyer family who very generously gifted a donation allowing us to bring this project to life. Then, in terms of research teams, we are lucky to have a solid base at TSE to start from, including my colleagues Michel Le Breton, Philippe De Donder and Jean Tirole, who have all contributed to the field of political economy and the design of political institutions for a number of years. I have myself worked extensively on public opinion and electoral institutions, notably through mathematical modelling and experiments.

To this base we are delighted to add a great team of IAST research fellows with PhDs from leading centres in political science, including Patrick Le Bihan (NYU), Jonathan Klinger (Rochester), Dominik Dül (NYU) and Charlotte Cavallé (Harvard). Finally, the strength of the IAST is its pluridisciplinarity, and we plan to interact via CAPS with the IAST's international network of colleagues in law, psychology, sociology, history, and geopolitics.

What is the CAPS research agenda?

KVds: Of course we do not plan to cover all fields in political science. Building on our strengths here, our research agenda, at least in the short run, will focus on the general themes of institution design and public opinion analysis. A few more specific examples include the analysis of incentives under alternative political institutions (impact of referendums...), the impact of new media on electoral campaign strategies, the analysis of new voting systems, and the role of preferences and incentives in shaping economic policy (pension design...).

What activities have you planned?

KVds: We began with a kick-off conference in April 2014, at which Gary Cox of Stanford gave a keynote speech on electoral rules, mobilisation and turnout. The next edition of the conference, on 26-27 March 2015, on election behaviours, institutions and reforms, will include a keynote by James Snyder of Harvard. Both speakers are exemplary in their fields and an inspiration for what we hope to achieve at CAPS. We interact via a monthly seminar inviting international scholars, and a bi-monthly informal work group. We also organise regular collaborations with the Institut d'Etudes Politiques (IEP) and are currently developing new collaborations with the CERTOP lab here in Toulouse. We also have



CAPS

Centre for Analytical Political Science
Created in September 2014 / Supported by the Meyer family

a very active visitor programme, and have been happy to welcome over the past two years top researchers such as John Romer (Yale), Thomas Romer (Princeton), Howard Rosenthal and Rebecca Morton (NYU). Last but not least, this year's IAST Distinguished lecture series on Political Motivations has a clear link to our themes. (Editor's note: see pages 8-9)

This all sounds very impressive. What are your long-term ambitions?

KVds: As I mentioned before, we hope within 5 years to establish CAPS as one of the leading centres in Europe, with a solid team of around 15 researchers trained in quantitative research here in Toulouse, alongside an extensive international network. We hope to offer tenure track positions and senior chairs and foster exchange links with peer groups at Warwick, LSE and Mannheim. This is made possible by on-going support from the Meyer family and our institutional partners in France, the UT1, CNRS and EHESS. So a big thanks to them.

So, you must be very busy – back to work...

KVds: Indeed!

A WORD FROM

Rebecca B. Morton, NYU

"I am extremely impressed by CAPS. Karine Van Der Straeten has done an excellent job of putting together a fantastic team of researchers from political economics and political science for pathbreaking research in questions of interest to both. I expect that the work produced through this new enterprise will be both exciting and noteworthy."



Rebecca visited the IAST from October 20 to October 24, and gave on 24 October a CAPS seminar on "What Motivates Bandwagon Voting Behaviour: Altruism or a Desire to Win?"



Jean-Marc Olivier

From watches to aeroplanes: a childhood passion

Jean-Marc Olivier, historian at the University of Toulouse – Jean Jaurès, is member of the IAST steering committee. Jean-Marc tells us more about his background, his passions, and his links with the IAST.

So, why history?

JMO: I think I was born a historian! Swiss by my mother and French by my father, I come from the East of France, more specifically from the Jura, an industrial mountainous region on the border between the two countries. The Jura was the cradle of the watch-making industry, which developed via a kind of “soft” industrial revolution, in small workshops and even in homes. At the end of the 18th century, watch-making was the most sophisticated technology in the world, and from that seed so much was born, notably the automobile industry. Peugeot, for example, was created at the foot of the Jura mountains. So I guess you could say I was inspired and fascinated by the rich history of this industry so close to home. I wanted to dig deeper, understand my roots. I carried out my PhD on watch-making, and this set the cogs in motion for the rest of my career.

You have worked a lot on aviation history. How does one arrive there from watch-making?

JMO: Because aviation was also born from watch-making! Take for example Louis-Charles Breguet, early aviation pioneer – his ancestors were watch-makers. What aviation and watch-making have in common is the “soft” economic development model which is different from the factory systems typical of the UK, the USA and Germany. In Switzerland and in France, but also in Scandinavia, there is a tradition of technical know-how developed around metals which meant that in 1830, Switzerland produced more manufactured goods per capita – watches, but also textiles, machines, etc. – than in the UK. So, the true, albeit “soft”, industrial revolution happened there.

“What aviation and watch-making have in common is the “soft” economic development model

Toulouse is known for its aviation industry...

JMO: Toulouse and the surrounding region has a strong economic history that dates a long way back. When I first arrived here to take up my post in 1999, I hopped from one mountain region to another – studying for example small-scale industries in the Pyrenees and the South-West of France. And then I came to aviation. Paradoxically, despite Toulouse’s world-renowned aviation industry, historians here hadn’t actually studied the economics of the industry over time. It was perhaps intimidating to approach the giant Airbus group to access their archives, but with my childhood passion for model airplanes I was very motivated, and I made it my mission to develop a solid group in Toulouse working on the question. There are so many stones that were left unturned – take for example the role of women in the aviation industry – there is only one book in France on air hostesses history, despite the crucial role they have played!

We have since developed our studies to the economic history of the aviation industry worldwide, with work on-going in Sweden, Poland, Brazil, and Japan. We have a big book project underway with the Toulouse-based editor Privat, tracing the world history of aviation.



Let’s come to the IAST, how are you involved?

JMO: I’m delighted to be on the IAST steering committee. What inspires me is the interactions with peers from a broad range of social sciences – economists, but also sociologists, psychologists, management scientists – all with a true open-minded spirit. In 2012 Mohamed Saleh (editor’s note: IAST history programme director) and I decided to create a regular seminar with an interdisciplinary approach to economic history – studying the field from different perspectives with the aim of converging on new research paths. There are a number of new IAST research fellows that I am very excited to involve in this project – Smeerati Mitter, for example, working on the economic history of Palestine, and Hassan Malik, working on the history of bankers and Bolsheviks. Both have just joined the IAST from Harvard and I’m sure they’ll bring a lot to the already dynamic mix.

I hear your seminar “travels”?

JMO: Yes! The seminar moves each time from one partner laboratory to another, which we hope helps to foster creativity and open-mindedness. The next seminar will be given by Stefano Ugolini at the Toulouse Institut d’Etudes Politiques (IEP), on 10 December at 14:00.

What are your future ambitions with the IAST?

JMO: We have a very ambitious project on the cards – hosting the World Economics History Congress (WEHC) in Toulouse in 2021. That sounds far away, but it’s rather like the Olympic Games – it only happens every three years and one must apply far in advance to try to host it. OK, it’s perhaps slightly less well-known than the Olympics, but it’s a major event with a perfect fit to the interdisciplinary scientific philosophy that we’re trying to establish here. It would hence be a great signal of achievement if Toulouse and the IAST could welcome it. Fingers crossed!





Distinguished lectures in the social sciences

After a very successful first season in 2013 around the theme of Origins, this year we are pleased to continue our special public lecture series given by three internationally renowned scholars on themes of interest to the whole of society:

POLITICAL MOTIVATION



THIS SEASON'S OTHER CONFERENCES

STAKEHOLDERS IN MODERN CORPORATIONS

Within the IAST law & economics programme, Simone Sepé and Jean Tirole will organise a one-day workshop on the distribution of power within modern organizations.

› 17 December, 2014



COGNITIVE CONTROL IN SOCIAL DECISION MAKING

Conference in Sociology organized by Jean-François Bonnefon, Astrid Hopfensitz, Paul Seabright and Jean Tirole.

› 15-16 January 2014



THIS YEAR'S DISTINGUISHED LECTURES...

“OUR INNER APE: WAR, PEACE AND POLITICS”

› 25 September, 2014

To launch the series, Frans De Wall, primatologist from Emory University, gave a fascinating talk exploring and documenting the ways in which the duality of human nature (beast or angel?) is tied to biology. Are we innately selfish or moral beings? De Wall answers these questions regarding human behaviour through the eyes of a primatologist, using the bonobo and the chimp as two provocative metaphors for ourselves and our evolutionary ancestry.



“POLITICAL VIOLENCE”

› 4 December, 2014

Elisabeth Wood, political scientist from Yale University will talk to us about the history of political violence in Colombia.



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“DEMOCRACY REALLY IS THE WORST FORM OF GOVERNMENT EXCEPT ALL THE OTHERS...”



endernasai / Shutterstock.com

› Watch the teaser video



› 20 November, 2014

John Aldrich, political scientist from Duke University, will take us on a comparative tour of different political governance systems.

NEWCOMERS 2014

We are proud to welcome 11 research fellows specialising in a wide range of social sciences. Here are their profiles, with an example of their recent work:

4 “ The evolutionary anthropology of fertility decline in rural Poland

Heidi Colleran
(anthropology – University College London)

5 “ Evolution of sibling interactions in humans

Aida Nitsch
(biology – Sheffield University)

6 “ Demand for Redistribution in the Age of Inequality

Charlotte Cavallé
(political science – Harvard University)

7 “ Political Economy of Social Identity

Dominik Duell
(political science – New York University)

8 “ Sex & Cooperation: Is sexual selection involved in the evolution of cooperative behaviour

Arnaud Tognetti
(biology – University of Montpellier 2)

3 “ Does it pay to be flexible? Life history consequences of reversal learning abilities in wild Great tits (*Parus major*)

Maxime Cauchoix
(biology – Cerco)

2 “ Bankers and Bolsheviks: International Finance and the Russian Revolution, 1892-1917

Hassan Malik
(history – Harvard University)

1 “ Don't you push my angry button

Boris Van Leeuwen
(experimental economics – University of Amsterdam)



Jonathan Stieglitz will also join us starting January 2015 from the University of New Mexico.

9 “ A History of Money in Palestine: from the 1900s to the Present

Sreemati Mitter
(history – Harvard University)


10 “ How Organizations Matter with Digital Activism

Jen Schradie (sociology – UC Berkeley)

11 “ Why be patient? The ultimate and proximate causes of patience

Gladys Barragan
(psychology – Cerco)

CURIOUS TO FIND OUT MORE ?



Scan the QR code to watch a 1-minute video profile of each newcomer.

WANT TO JOIN US?

APPLY NOW!

Applications are now invited for short- and long-term research positions at various levels in a wide range of disciplines for the academic year 2015-16.





Visiting scholar posts, deadline 30 November 2014

Research fellow posts, deadline 31 December 2014




NEW BOOK: THE BRITISH PATENT SYSTEM AND THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION, 1700-1852

IAST research fellow Sean Bottomley specialises in economic history and has just published a book via Cambridge University Press on the British patent system during the Industrial Revolution, presenting a fundamental reassessment of the contribution of patenting to British industrialisation during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The book shows that despite the absence of legislative reform, the British patent system was continually evolving and responding to the needs of an industrialising economy. Inventors were able to obtain and enforce patent rights with relative ease. This placed Britain in an exceptional position. Until other countries began to enact patent laws in the 1790s, it was the only country where inventors were frequently able to appropriate returns from obtaining intellectual property rights, thus encouraging them to develop the new technology industrialisation required.

FIND OUT MORE...

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