

AT A GLANCE

Founded: 2004

Most recent renewal: 2014

Program Director: **Torsten Persson, Stockholm University**

Fellows and advisors: 24

Institutions represented: 13, in 6 countries

Fields and subfields represented: **economics; political science;**

economic and political history; social psychology; anthropology

Interaction meetings: 3; in **Toronto, Canada (twice), and Paris, France**

Relevant knowledge user groups: **policy-makers (federal and**

provincial governments); international institutions such as the

International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the International

Labour Office; international development organizations

Supporters: **BMO Financial Group, Maxine Granovsky and Ira Gluskin,**

Scotiabank, 1 anonymous donor

INSTITUTIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & GROWTH

Takes an integrated approach to basic questions, such as what makes some countries rich and others poor; what makes some societies violent and others peaceful; what makes some states strong and others weak; always examining the crucial roles of different types of institutions.

The program in Institutions, Organizations & Growth experienced a highly productive year in 2015/2016. Fellows and invited guests came together for three program meetings, including two held in Toronto and one in Paris. A wide spectrum of themes was discussed at these meetings, ranging across different aspects of voter behaviour and elections, the self-selection of individuals into politics, the structure and organization of societies, the role of co-operation in social order, the drivers of cultural and institutional

change, and connections between social change and economic growth.

In June 2016, the program partnered with the Collège de France and the Institute for Advanced Study in Toulouse (IAST) in holding its spring interaction meeting in Paris, France. The Collège is one of France's most renowned higher-education and research establishments, and the IAST is an ambitious interdisciplinary research institute facilitating the cross-fertilization of ideas across the social sciences. The meeting enabled CIFAR fellows to engage with numerous researchers from both organizations, as well as from Sciences Po in Paris.

Alongside their program meetings in Toronto, several program fellows engaged in CIFAR-facilitated opportunities to share their expertise and exchange ideas with officials in the Government of Ontario and leaders from Toronto's business and academic communities. These and other knowledge outreach events, held in conjunction with various partner organizations, are highlighted further on page 41.

Research

- Senior Fellow **Guido Tabellini** (Bocconi University) completed a study with collaborator Francesco Passarelli, exploring how political unrest, as an emotional reaction to unfair treatment, influences public policy. Dr. Tabellini credits his interactions with program fellows with leading him to incorporate elements of psychology and behavioural economics into his analysis of political interactions.
 - > Passarelli F, **Tabellini G**. Forthcoming. Emotions and political unrest. J Polit Econ.
- Senior Fellow **Elhanan Helpman** (Harvard University) developed a new analytical framework that emphasizes the impact of international trade on residual wage inequality; that is, inequality not explained by worker characteristics. Discussing his ideas at a number of program meetings over the past four years was influential in leading Dr. Helpman and his collaborators to formulate this new model.
 - > **Helpman E**, Itskhaki O, Muendler M, Redding S. Forthcoming. Trade and inequality: from theory to estimation. Rev Econ Stud.
- Gluskin-Granovsky Fellow **Timothy Besley** (London School of Economics & Political Science) and Program Director and Senior Fellow **Torsten Persson** (Stockholm University) released a working paper exploring the extent to which an established culture of democratic values is important to the strength of democratic institutions. The co-authors analyzed data on political histories of democratic institutions and found that citizens are more supportive of democratic values in countries that have experienced stable periods of democracy than in countries where autocracy has been the norm.
 - > **Besley T, Persson T**. 2016. Democratic values and institutions. LSE and IIES Working Paper. Available online.

Other notable publications

- **Fearon JD**, Humphreys M, Weinstein JM. 2015. How does development assistance affect collective action capacity? Results from a field experiment in post-conflict Liberia. Am Polit Sci Rev. 109(3): 450-469.
- **Jackson MO**, Nei S. 2015. Networks of military alliances, wars, and international trade. Proc Natl Acad Sci USA. 112(50): 15277-15284.
- O'Hara NN, Mugarura R, Potter J, Stephens T, **Rehavi MM, Francois P**, Blachut PA, O'Brien PJ, Fashola BK, Mezei A, Beyeza T, Slobogean GP. 2016. Economic loss due to traumatic injury in Uganda: The patient's perspective. Injury. 47(5): 1098-1103.

IdeasExchange

- Fellows of the program met with deputy ministers in the Government of Ontario to discuss how policy can support the growth and flourishing of innovative firms and disruptive-technology sectors in advanced manufacturing economies. Fellows also met with Global Affairs Canada to discuss global development projects and evaluation.
- Senior Fellow and Nobel Laureate **George Akerlof** (Georgetown University) presented to groups of policy and business leaders as part of CIFAR's inaugural David Dodge Lecture series. Two lectures were given: one in Toronto, hosted by the Economic Club of Canada, and the other in Ottawa, hosted by the Conference Board of Canada.
- At the invitation of the Consulate General of France in Toronto, Senior Fellow **Philippe Aghion** (Collège de France) spoke about innovation policy at an intimate dinner with business and academic leaders from Toronto.

Global Academy

- The program continued to mentor a number of past CIFAR Global Scholars by inviting them to program meetings, where two had the opportunity to present their latest work.

To learn more: <https://www.cifar.ca/research/institutions-organizations-growth/>

Senior Fellows Daron Acemoglu and Patrick Francois engage in the October 2015 meeting of the program in Institutions, Organizations & Growth.

