



Brown University's International Advanced Research Institutes (BIARI) initiative convenes early-career scholars and practitioners from around the world to address pressing global issues through collaboration across academic, professional, and geographic boundaries.

Made possible by support from Santander Universities, BIARI represents a distinctive professional development opportunity for outstanding young academic and policy professionals, wherever they are based, to interact with their global peers and lay the groundwork for lasting, productive relationships.

BIARI offers four parallel tracks, each convened by Brown University professors and directed by Brown University anthropologist, Matthew Gutmann. The institutes offer lectures, seminars, workshops, and simulations led by distinguished international guest faculty. BIARI participants share their own work and develop new lines of inquiry, with ample opportunities to benefit from Brown University's world-class campus and facilities.



Objectives

Research That Matters

Based at Brown University's Watson Institute for International Studies, BIARI offers rigorous, innovative, interdisciplinary programs that further Watson's mission: to promote a just and peaceful world through research, teaching, and public engagement.

Global Exchange

BIARI provides a unique opportunity for rising scholars from diverse backgrounds to meet, connect, and identify areas of potential collaboration.

Sustainable Network Building

Each year's BIARI participants join a dynamic alumni community of over 1,000 members from 100 countries. Alumni teams can apply for seed funding for longer-term research, teaching, and outreach collaborations that are outgrowths of BIARI initiatives.



BIARI 2016 June 4-18 | The Institutes

Humanitarian Response and Post-Conflict Reconstruction: Increasing Effectiveness and Accountability in the Age of Complex Emergencies

Robert Blair, Political Science | Adam Levine, School of Medicine | Julie Thompson, Watson Institute

"Natural" disasters and political unrest pose chronic threats to human security. Separately or in tandem, they turn citizens into refugees and displaced people, stretch government capacity, and, increasingly, spark chronic disorder, instability or military conflict. What are the implications of complex emergencies, where natural and man-made factors combine, for the future of humanitarian action? This institute will convene an interdisciplinary and international group of academics and practitioners to develop a better understanding of the underlying political, social, and environmental factors that affect human security before, during, and after humanitarian emergencies. Topics will include the effectiveness and sustainability of existing disaster preparedness systems in different regions; best practices in humanitarian assistance delivery, training and monitoring; and the politics of compassion in disaster and conflict zones. Discussions will focus in particular on the ethical issues that arise at the intersection of human security and humanitarian assistance; rights-based approaches to humanitarian relief; and the potential for new technologies to transform humanitarian response.

Ethnic Conflict and Inequality in Global Perspective

Glenn Loury, Economics | Ashutosh Varshey, Political Science | Patricia Agupusi, Watson Institute

Co-convened by faculty from the Departments of Economics and Political Science, this institute offers participants a thorough exploration of the conceptual and theoretical foundations of scholarship that connect conflict, inequality, and ethnicity. Best practices in comparative and interdisciplinary research design, implementation, and exposition will be explored, with a particular focus on the dilemmas of doing justice to context-specific data while producing generalizable insights. Lectures and workshops led by distinguished guest faculty will constitute the core of this institute, to be supplemented by participants' individual research presentations, and panel discussions on pressing contemporary cases in line with participants' expertise and interests. Applications are especially welcome from scholars interested in evidence-based policy-making.



Governance and Development in the Age of Globalization

Patrick Heller, Sociology | Andrew Schrank, Sociology

Development in the age of globalization presents new challenges and opportunities. Globalization has not only accelerated the pace of economic transformation and social change, it has also fundamentally reconfigured the nature of governance. While global and regional governance institutions (both public and private) are playing an ever more powerful role of shaping possibilities at the local and national level, national and local governments still provide the principle arenas of democratic contestation. The central axis of politics in an age of globalization is the complex interaction of governance institutions at different levels. Tackling the core problems of development, from economic growth to social provisioning and environmental sustainability, requires understanding how processes and institutions of governance operate and interact at multiple levels.

This interdisciplinary institute will bring together specialists in these different domains to focus on efforts to expand the regulatory capacity, institutional efficacy and democratic legitimacy of governance institutions that shape development. Areas of focus will include labor standards, social provisioning, democratic participation and urban transformation. The goal of the institute is to develop a critical understanding of these issues by exploring the latest theories and empirical work through comparative lenses.

Climate Change and Its Impacts 2016: Connecting Local Variability and Knowledge in a Global System

Meredith Hastings, Earth, Environmental and Planetary Sciences | Siri Veland, Environmental Studies

The knowledge of global scale climate change science is rich and well established, but understanding the variability in climate encountered at the local level is critical to sustaining human development. How do we best predict regional to local scale changes in future climate? How does this knowledge feed into local practices for ecosystem-based management, sustainable agriculture, and maintaining air, soil and water quality? How can local knowledge systems contribute to best practices? How do historical legacies influence our ability to adapt and transform? What can be learned and transferred between societies to inform tractable strategies and policies? “Climate Change and Its Impacts 2016” will draw on theoretical and practical insights from environmental sciences and management, atmospheric sciences, sociology, hydrology, climate modeling, geography, and social and environmental justice. This Institute will provide opportunities to develop research projects with scholars across disciplines, and advance oral and written communication skills for publications, presentations and grant applications.

“More than my specific institute, the overall BIARI experience was phenomenal as it exposed me to a very diverse and multi-cultural setting. The several interactions with participants from across different countries proved to be very useful in helping me re-think about my own scholarly work.”

(Human Security in Humanitarian Response participant, 2014)

“BIARI is the best academic institute I have attended. The focus of the institute is clearly defined and the content of the institute is also very relevant and applicable to people of different academic backgrounds, disciplines and careers.”

(Population and Development 2014)

“It was extremely valuable to have attended the institute convened by inspiring academics like Dr. Varshney and Dr. Loury. Their presentations and talks were stimulating, inspiring and enriched my understanding of the complexities of conflict. In all, it was a great experience and I feel fortunate for having been selected for it.”

(Ethnicity, Conflict, and Inequality participant, 2014)

“BIARI was the most exciting academic work I ever did. The opportunity to meet fellow researchers from all over the world, the collaborative work developed among our groups, the attention and care from the faculty and organizers... everything was beyond expectations.”

(BIARI participant, 2013)

Applications for BIARI 2016

Applications are invited for BIARI 2016, which will be held at Brown University's Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, June 4-18, 2016.

We especially welcome applicants who are early in their professional careers. Practitioners normally have four to ten years' experience in their professional field. Participants from an academic background are usually within seven years of having finished their PhD or professional terminal degree. The working language is English.

To apply, please visit watson.brown.edu/biari.

Thanks to generous support from Santander Universities, BIARI covers the full cost of tuition, meals, and university housing for the duration of the program, and air travel when institutional support is not available.

Early-career faculty from institutions that are members of the Santander Universities network are especially encouraged to apply.

QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT

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