

A New Model for Interdisciplinary Research

Challenges like migration, poverty, gender violence, access to water, and data governance are not confined by borders or cultures. However, research is too often conducted by scholars working in silos of expertise, geography, culture, and language.

Northwestern Buffett's role is to help break down barriers and intellectual silos. We create opportunities for dialogue across disciplines—humanities, social sciences, business, law, STEM, and the arts—and we expand collaborations to include international scholars and experts from global civil society, policy worlds, and industry. We collectively define questions and set the direction for research.

Our goal is to identify and address gaps in research and response around critical global issues. Here's our approach.

Idea Incubation

Northwestern Buffett's inaugural Idea Incubation Workshop will be hosted in **November 2019**.

Held for Northwestern scholars and international guests, it will catalyze new ideas that will help define the Institute's direction for research and international engagement.

In a global environment, excellence in research, innovation, and the arts can only be achieved through collaboration with those beyond our field and beyond our country, institutions, concepts, and positions. The Workshop is an opportunity to

take risks and engage in purposeful play with scholars and thought leaders beyond our usual community of interlocutors to develop impactful questions for research and ideas for action.

The Workshop will draw scholars from across Northwestern schools, representatives of international partner institutions, practitioners, and subject matter experts from a range of disciplines for intensive working sessions. Thematic groups, or "Idea Streams" will work together over the course of the weekend to identify emerging challenges that can be addressed through research, dialogue, strategic output, and action.

At the end of the weekend, each group will pitch its ideas to a committee of reviewers that will select the winning projects for longer-term support.

Through the Workshop process, groups will:

- Come to consensus on a specific critical global challenge that can be addressed impactfully within a two-year time frame
- Develop a concrete plan for collaborative research, innovation, creative work or action to address this challenge, including identifying points of view or forms of expertise that should be included in the project going forward
- Define post-research action steps necessary to ensure that the results achieve social impact
- Pitch ideas to a review panel before an audience of faculty peers and global experts

Groups with strong ideas and associated research and action plans will be selected and supported for two years. Northwestern Buffett will work with these groups to help them achieve their goals for research and social impact.

Contact information

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Idea Stream members at work

Learn more at buffett.northwestern.edu.