This collaboration seeks to build a sustainable emotional response to issues of global climate change in order to establish a basis for coordinated action toward mitigation and adaptation. Grant Macdonald (PhD candidate, Geophysical Sciences, UChicago) uses a combination of remote sensing, modeling, and field observations to study meltwater on the surface of the ice in Antarctica and Greenland. Katie Wood (MFA candidate, Sound, SAIC) is an interdisciplinary artist whose focus is developing innovative soundscapes and compositional strategies that reflect intuitive and historical relationships between people and landscape. The project is a narrative sound map of the site of Grant’s studies in Antarctica, taking form as both a digital interface and a sound installation. Unlike traditional sound maps, the samples for this project will be completely fabricated in the studio, highlighting the human-controlled nature of Anthropocene landscapes. The project closes the distance between data and comprehension, using sound in conjunction with the spatial nature of the data to evoke a sense of place. Ultimately, this builds an understanding of the data and its implications in an attempt to engender a meaningful experience for the audience and providing a foundation for action. 

Faculty Advisors: Doug MacAyeal (Professor, Geophysical Sciences, UChicago) and Brett Balogh (Adjunct Assistant Professor, Art and Technology, SAIC). Funded in part by the Graduate Division, SAIC.

**El otro lado: Border Crossing Comix**

From the Bracero Program to President Trump’s anti-immigration rhetoric and policies to the most recent media coverage surrounding the Central American immigrant caravans, the immigration crisis, despite its duration, remains as much a perplexing situation as it is tragic for many. El otro lado: Border Crossing Comix explores and bridges the disparity between the data-driven histories regarding U.S.-Mexican border policies that is presented to the public and the deeply intimate and largely untold stories of those who make the journey between bordering lands. Utilizing the comic book form, Oscar Chavez (PhD candidate, English, UChicago) and Mariana García Torres (PhD candidate, History, UChicago) depict border-crossing accounts derived from public and private natural history collections, and the importance of social science methods of data collection and interpretation with a graphic representation of personal narrative. Faculty Advisors: Kenneth Warren (Professor, English, UChicago) and Mauricio Tenorio-Troilo (Professor, History, UChicago).

**Dripping, Creaking, Flowing: Narratives of Hydrological Change in Antarctica**

Continued urbanization and development bring wild animals into contact with humans. E.O. Wilson's biophilia hypothesis suggests that humans have an innate tendency to connect with other forms of life, but the current cohabitation of humans and other organisms is appearing unsatisfactory. With threats from climate change and other anthropogenic stressors, it is critical to reestablish this connection between humans and nature. Biophilia reconnects with and explores a negentropic collaboration, an artistic collaboration that seeks to perceive the internal structure of things and the imagination’s role in constructing meaning from structure. Faculty Advisors: Frances Whitehead (Professor, Sculpture, SAIC), Michelle Grabner (Professor, Painting and Drawing, SAIC), and Dorian Abbot (Associate Professor, Geophysical Sciences, UChicago). Funded by the Graduate Division, SAIC.

**Under One Roof**

What makes a space " queer" and another “Middle Eastern"? Do the people create the space as much as the space creates itself? These questions are raised in an oral history project documenting the relationship between two spaces held under one roof: Savay-Nova, Chicago’s only Armenian restaurant, and Second Story, a gay bar that occupies the second floor above the restaurant. Since the 1970s, the two venues have shared a building between them, bringing forth questions about their relationship within the structure. Culminating in a research publication-cum-food menu and a final performance intervention, Niko Shahbazian (MA candidate, Middle Eastern Studies, UChicago) and Aram Atamian (MFA candidate, Performance, SAIC) speculate on the collapse of the boundaries between a veiled “ ethnic” space, and an explicit “ queer” space, remaking them as a single public place. Savay-Nova, perhaps Armenia’s most celebrated musician and poet, and a symbol of nationalist pride, was also the original name of Sergei Parajanov’s 1969 film The Color of Pomegranates, an imagined biography of his life re-presented with densely coded queer imagery. The final performance plays on the multiple identity navigations that Aram and Niko choose to negotiate while working to preserve culture and explore iterations of queer Armenian-ness within and outside the mythic Armenian homeland. Faculty Advisors: Leah Feldman (Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature, UChicago) and Roberto Sifuentes (Professor, Performance, SAIC).

**The Exotic is Never at Home**

This project seeks to understand the relationship between collective and individual, the constitution of private and public natural history collections, and the importance of institutions, such as the Field Museum, in the construction and development of knowledge in the postcolonial context of the Americas. Natalia Píndol (PhD candidate, Evolutionary Biology, UChicago) and Jacobo Zambrano (MFA candidate, Sculpture, SAIC) address these thematics through a short documentary film with the support of both the departments of Conservation and Museum Collections at the Field Museum. By interrogating the underlying historical narratives that conceive the museum as a space for education and dissemination of knowledge, we challenge notions of function, accessibility, and community engagement in our present context. Following the museum’s current effort to implement ethical and socially engaged models, we ask: can natural history museums be decolonized? Faculty Advisors: John Bates (Associate Curator and Section Head, Life Sciences, The Field Museum; Committee of Evolutionary Biology, UChicago), and Frances Whitehead (Professor, Sculpture, SAIC).

**Patterns have captured the human imagination for centuries. Ripples in the clouds, coffee grounds, sand, and zebra stripes all exhibit clear ordering. All of them have a common mechanism that underlies their formation, as described by the theory of Turing patterns. But what about other patterns that seem more random? Through a negentropic collaboration, Predrag Popovic (PhD candidate, Geophysical Sciences, UChicago) and Rosemary Hall (MFA candidate, Printmedia, SAIC) researched the emergent order of seemingly random biological patterns to look at the moments where apparently dissimilar systems can show very similar behavior. What is the underlying order those patterns share? What do the attempts to understand these patterns reveal about a desire to construct meaning? Through a multi-layered exploration of patterns, this collaboration seeks to perceive the internal structure of things and the imagination’s role in constructing meaning from structure. Faculty Advisors: Frances Whitehead (Professor, Sculpture, SAIC), Michelle Grabner (Professor, Painting and Drawing, SAIC), and Dorian Abbot (Associate Professor, Geophysical Sciences, UChicago). Funded by the Graduate Division, SAIC.**

**Coalesce: The Space inside Repetition**

**El otro lado: Border Crossing Comix**

From the Bracero Program to President Trump’s anti-immigration rhetoric and policies to the most recent media coverage surrounding the Central American immigrant caravans, the immigration crisis, despite its duration, remains as much a perplexing situation as it is tragic for many. El otro lado: Border Crossing Comix explores and bridges the disparity between the data-driven histories regarding U.S.-Mexican border policies that is presented to the public and the deeply intimate and largely untold stories of those who make the journey between bordering lands. Utilizing the comic book form, Oscar Chavez (PhD candidate, English, UChicago) and Mariana Garcia Torres (PhD candidate, History, UChicago) depict border-crossing accounts derived from public and private natural history collections, and the importance of social science methods of data collection and interpretation with a graphic representation of personal narrative. Faculty Advisors: Kenneth Warren (Professor, English, UChicago) and Mauricio Tenorio-Troilo (Professor, History, UChicago).

**Dripping, Creaking, Flowing: Narratives of Hydrological Change in Antarctica**

Continued urbanization and development bring wild animals into contact with humans. E.O. Wilson’s biophilia hypothesis suggests that humans have an innate tendency to connect with other forms of life, but the current cohabitation of humans and other organisms is appearing unsatisfactory. With threats from climate change and other anthropogenic stressors, it is critical to reestablish this connection between humans and nature. Biophilia reconnects with and explores a negentropic collaboration, an artistic collaboration that seeks to perceive the internal structure of things and the imagination’s role in constructing meaning from structure. Faculty Advisors: Frances Whitehead (Professor, Sculpture, SAIC), Michelle Grabner (Professor, Painting and Drawing, SAIC), and Dorian Abbot (Associate Professor, Geophysical Sciences, UChicago). Funded by the Graduate Division, SAIC.

**Under One Roof**

What makes a space “queer” and another “Middle Eastern”? Do the people create the space as much as the space creates itself? These questions are raised in an oral history project documenting the relationship between two spaces held under one roof: Savay-Nova, Chicago’s only Armenian restaurant, and Second Story, a gay bar that occupies the second floor above the restaurant. Since the 1970s, the two venues have shared a building between them, bringing forth questions about their relationship within the structure. Culminating in a research publication-cum-food menu and a final performance intervention, Niko Shahbazian (MA candidate, Middle Eastern Studies, UChicago) and Aram Atamian (MFA candidate, Performance, SAIC) speculate on the collapse of the boundaries between a veiled “ethnic” space, and an explicit “queer” space, remaking them as a single public place. Savay-Nova, perhaps Armenia’s most celebrated musician and poet, and a symbol of nationalist pride, was also the original name of Sergei Parajanov’s 1969 film The Color of Pomegranates, an imagined biography of his life re-presented with densely coded queer imagery. The final performance plays on the multiple identity navigations that Aram and Niko choose to negotiate while working to preserve culture and explore iterations of queer Armenian-ness within and outside the mythic Armenian homeland. Faculty Advisors: Leah Feldman (Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature, UChicago) and Roberto Sifuentes (Professor, Performance, SAIC).

**The Exotic is Never at Home**

This project seeks to understand the relationship between collective and individual, the constitution of private and public natural history collections, and the importance of institutions, such as the Field Museum, in the construction and development of knowledge in the postcolonial context of the Americas. Natalia Píndol (PhD candidate, Evolutionary Biology, UChicago) and Jacobo Zambrano (MFA candidate, Sculpture, SAIC) address these thematics through a short documentary film with the support of both the departments of Conservation and Museum Collections at the Field Museum. By interrogating the underlying historical narratives that conceive the museum as a space for education and dissemination of knowledge, we challenge notions of function, accessibility, and community engagement in our present context. Following the museum’s current effort to implement ethical and socially engaged models, we ask: can natural history museums be decolonized? Faculty Advisors: John Bates (Associate Curator and Section Head, Life Sciences, The Field Museum; Committee of Evolutionary Biology, UChicago), and Frances Whitehead (Professor, Sculpture, SAIC).