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# Research Bulletin

# EXTRA!



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## SPECIAL ISSUE

ISA 2023 Annual Convention, 15–18 March

“Real Struggles, High Stakes:  
Cooperation, Contention, and Creativity”

held in Montréal, Québec, Canada

Professors and researchers of the Geneva Graduate Institute went to Montreal to present their research and engage in several roundtables at the annual convention of the **International Studies Association (ISA)**. Below you will find the abstracts of their convention papers, divided into seven thematic clusters, followed by the description of the **roundtables**.



Peace, War,  
Conflicts &  
Security



Global  
Governance



Development &  
Cooperation



Education,  
Information  
& Media



Gender,  
Diversity,  
Race &  
Intersectionality



Democracy,  
Civil Society &  
Sovereignty



Sustainability,  
Environment,  
the Anthropocene  
& SDGs



# Convention Papers



## Peace, War, Conflicts & Security

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### **The (Geo-)Political Determinants of Digital Peacebuilding: A Typology**

The past decades have been characterised by the increasing digitalisation of peace processes. Existing research suggests that the employment of digital technologies in peacebuilding may impact peacebuilding dynamics, for instance, by enabling both “top-down” or “bottom-up” approaches. However, such arguments are often

based on essentialising assumptions about technology as a tool, and do not sufficiently account for the social and (geo-)political context in which digital technologies are employed for peacebuilding. **Andreas Hirblinger** argues that, when studying the relationship between digital technology use and peacebuilding dynamics and outcomes, we must consider the broader socio-technical arena, in which digital peacebuilding practices take place, including shifts in the geo-political environment, shrinking civic space, and growing authoritarianism. To demonstrate this point, he develops a typology that illustrates the material-semiotic conditioning of digital peacebuilding across a variety of geo-political arenas that differ in their degree of digitalisation and political freedom.

### **From Monopoly to Oligopoly of Violence: Competitive Rebel Governance in Northern Syria**

**Bilal Salaymeh** advances the concept of oligopoly of violence as an alternative analytical framework to the concept of the monopoly of violence to understand the political order formation and reformation, in the absence of monopoly, and when more than one armed group coexist and overlaps in conflict-affected zones. He defines the oligopoly of violence as the “existence of a limited number of competing violent actors that enjoy a degree of empirical sovereignty”. He analyses the emergence of the oligopoly of violence in the case of Syria and argues that the process of the emergence of the “oligopoly of violence” could be seen as the result of three parallel and complement trends: (1) the diffusion of violence, (2) the localisation of the “use of violence”, and (3) the heterarchy and partial ordering. Based on ethnographic fieldwork and qualitative data collected in northern Syria, he argues that in the absence of a monopoly, the oligopoly of violence emerges at different levels, from being competitive to slightly dominated. He also shows that under the state of oligopoly, the political order is formed locally, in a bottom-up direction, and expands horizontally. He also argues that local civic councils play a limited role in order formation, a process which is dominated by armed actors.

### **How Multipolarity Impacts UN Peacekeeping Missions on the Ground: Evidence from Mali and Central African Republic**

One of the major changes in the world order has been the shift from unipolarity to multipolarity in the post–Cold War era. In this context, scholars have discussed the future of United Nations (UN) peace operations and, more broadly, how international organisations like the UN can adapt to changing world politics. **Fanny Badache** tackles these questions through the case of UN peacekeeping operations. Scholars have already examined the role of rising and non-Western

powers in peacekeeping through the prism of their contributions (in terms of troops and budget). The author argues that we need to go beyond the study of material influence and look at the mechanisms through which changes in world politics influence UN peacekeeping practices on the ground. Using a process-tracing approach, her analysis builds on interviews with diplomats, UN staff, and conflict parties in Mali and the Central African Republic along with a qualitative analysis of debates at the UN Security Council. She shows that the impacts of multipolarity are manifold. First, we observe the increasing presence of non-liberal peacebuilding alternatives that compete with UN peacekeeping. Secondly, increased geopolitical competition between Western and non-Western powers hampers UN peacebuilding efforts on the ground.

### **Peacebuilding in a New World Order: Conceptualizations of Security and Their Impact on UN Peace Missions**

**Sara Hellmüller** presented this paper cowritten with **Fanny Badache** and **Bilal Salaymeh**. World politics are changing: The unipolar system characterised by US pre-eminence is waning and new actors exert power in an increasingly multipolar world order. These developments influence peacebuilding. One way to think about the link between world politics and peacebuilding is to analyse dominant conceptualisations of security because the latter determine what is considered as a threat to international peace and thus influence when a UN peace mission is deployed and with what mandate. To examine prevailing conceptualisations of security, the authors conduct a qualitative content analysis of speeches delivered by the permanent five member states (P5) in the UN Security Council since 2010. They then analyse how these conceptualisations influenced the P5's views on UN peace missions in terms of both their prioritisation of specific mandate tasks and their stance on the use of force. Finally, they examine how the P5 views relate to broader developments in UN peace missions in recent years to uncover the influence of individual P5 members and discuss potential future trends. Their paper adds to two strands of literature: scholarship on the re-conceptualisation of security and on peace missions. Overall, it contributes to a better understanding of how changing world politics influence peacebuilding.

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## **Global Governance**

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### **The Logic of Refugees' Data Practices and the Private Sector: Different, Yet the Same?**

**Augusta Nannerini** discusses the logic that defines the success of projects to support the livelihood of the forcibly displaced, taking the work of aid workers in Jordan as an example. The main contribution is about showing how the analysis of data practices can shed light on this logic and

unveil the role of the private sector. The author demonstrates how adopting particular data practices, for example in defining the criteria to select the participants of programmes, changes practices more broadly, setting an hegemonic doxa and triggering reactions from those that are marginalised by the mainstream view. In analysing these tensions, she shows how the private sector maintains a status of being “seen and not seen” in the field. It is “unseen” because, she argues, humanitarian work can be considered as “care labour”, which has been traditionally conceptualised as something that is not done to seek profit by the hegemonic doxa of the field. It becomes “seen” in the data practices of refugees' livelihood projects that adopt the same logic of efficiency proper to for-profit organisations. This ambivalence shows the pervasive and yet

chameleonic nature of the logic of the field, but it also suggests that identifying and interrogating the tensions that it generates can provide insights to think of alternatives, starting from different data practices to measure success.

### **Associated States and the Porous Boundaries of International Organizations: Introducing Organizational Memberness**

The current binary understanding of international organisations' (IO's) membership creates blind spots and biases in our understanding of who matters in IOs, why and how. Existing scholarship primarily looks at full member-states or non-state actors to capture who influences IOs.

Associated states do not feature as active contributors to IOs. Instead, they are often portrayed as passive receivers of IO rules. **Stephanie Hofmann, Anamarija Andreska, Erna Burai and Juanita Uribe** address this blind spot and resulting bias by asking what types of association relationships exist and how they impact IOs. They propose a novel conceptualisation of membership that they call "memberness". Memberness is based on the relative openness of organisational boundaries and stratified access via material and ideational contributions. It moves away from a purely rights-based understanding of membership (or who you are in an IO) and includes tangible contributions (or what you do in an IO). This shift in focus makes additional channels of influence visible. Associated states' material and ideational contributions to IOs constitute three memberness types: payroller, sponsor and advisor. The authors argue that these memberness types impact IOs' vitality, design, and performance in ways that have not been visible before. They illustrate these types with empirical examples from regional security organisations across the globe and discuss the implications memberness has for IO research programmes.

### **Symbiotic Authority in Global (Sport) Governance**

Global governance across issues is characterised by degrees of functional overlap and networked relations among a multiplicity of actors. How do different actors interact in this complex governance landscape? And what does that mean for the nature of authority and how it is achieved? To shed light on these questions and contribute to the literature on authority in global governance, **Velibor Jakovleski** borrows from biology and introduces into the International Relations toolkit the idea of symbiotic authority. He demonstrates the applicability of the concept through the example of the so-called "Olympic Truce", which captures the blurred authority relations between two institutions: the United Nations and the International Olympic Committee.

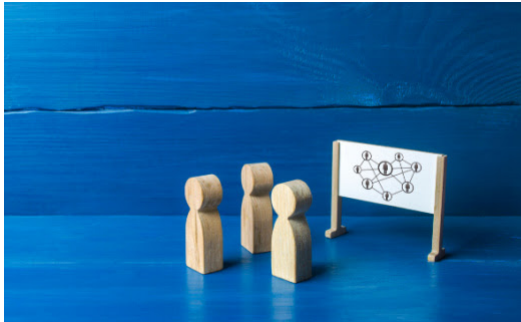
### **Institutional Complexes' Resilience to Transactionalism**

How many institutionalists does it take to maintain a complex network of international institutions? A supposed aim of international institutions is to provide a system of enduring expectations to reduce transaction costs and facilitate cooperation between parties over time. However, there will always be actors who prefer a more transactional approach, accepting the increased costs of frequent (re)negotiation to eke out relative advantages in the short term. This question, and especially its inverse – how many transactionalists does it take to undo an institutionalised complex –, is essentially a question of systemic resilience. **James Hollway** outlines a framework for studying resilience that concentrates on a succession of key questions: resilience of what? against what? and to what? This framework helps distinguish resilience from related terms such as robustness and resilience, and highlights the central counterfactual conundrum of such research. To progress on this front, he shares recent results from a dynamic, network, agent-based model. He finds that systems can (and indeed should) carry about a third transactionalists to maintain institutional density, though structural resilience will still erode over time. He concludes with some reflections on the conservativeness and rhetorical functions of the concept of resilience in contemporary political discourse.



## Development & Cooperation

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### **Coordination Conundrum in the United Nations Development System: Solutions from Self-Managed Organizations**

Many of the problems that international organisations are tasked with solving are interdependent and require concerted efforts. This interdependence is epitomised in the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. Yet acting in a

concerted manner poses significant organisational obstacles. **Cédric Dupont** and Astrid Skjold focus on one of the most prominent of those obstacles, coordination within the UN development system – the collection of UN entities working on development issues. They highlight the complexity of coordination within the UN development system and the changes introduced by the latest reform. They argue that those changes are unlikely to improve the situation significantly and turn to theoretical and empirical sources of inspiration for adjusting those changes. They draw on coordination solutions implemented in non-hierarchical organisational settings, in particular self-managed organisations, to recommend a reorientation of the role of the Resident Coordinator system.

*This paper was published in Global Perspectives in December 2022. The article is available in free access [here](#).*

### **The Partnership Paradox: Disaggregating Pathways to Effectiveness**

Partnerships have become a ubiquitous form of organization in global cooperation. While considerable research has been carried out into the rise of partnerships and their potential to solve an increasing range of social, economic and environmental problems, doubts remain as to their effectiveness. At the same time, the existing literature on partnership effectiveness is highly fragmented across several disciplines, and characterised by a plurality of definitions and tendencies to focus on input-output-outcome-impact log-chains in assessing effects. Bringing different literatures into dialogue with each other, this largely theoretical paper by **Liliana Andonova** and **Moira Faul** elaborates a multifaceted framework for disaggregating the meaning of effectiveness and the pathways that lead to different partnership effects, which are ultimately likely to shape partnerships' impact on societies and sustainability. It advances a conceptual meta-synthesis of existing approaches and proposes a new theoretical framework that specifies distinct pathways to partnership effectiveness. Drawing on the broader literature on institutional effectiveness, the paper further identifies a set of conditions, related to the structuring of partnership arrangements, which are likely to shape their variable effectiveness. The authors use illustrative material from issues such as biodiversity, clean energy, climate change and global health in the exploration of the five pathways and conditions to effectiveness.



## Education, Information & Media

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## The Global Regulation of Social Science Research: Ethical Scandals and Rule Indeterminacy in Institutionalized Ethical Review

While social scientists have long lamented the institutionalised practice of prospective ethical review (e.g., IRBs or RECs), it is nonetheless increasingly common. These regulatory institutions interpret and apply core ethical

principles enshrined in the *Belmont Report*: respect for persons, justice, and beneficence. Despite this increasingly coherent institutional practice, **Rebecca Tapscott** argues that research ethics in the social sciences has no substantive core. This means that scholars may hold and maintain fundamentally irreconcilable views as to what constitutes ethical practice, and that these views cannot be resolved using our existing ethical principles nor by the rules that review institutions implement. Focusing on the principle of beneficence, she examines several ethical “scandals” in the social sciences as key moments when scholars articulate and justify ethical principles within their scholarly community. Examining the argumentation in these debates reveals that the principle of beneficence is fundamentally indeterminate, such that there is no stable way to establish whether research achieves principled ethical goals. Instead, in the face of an empty principle, scholars rely on background principles, norms, and processes to claim and contest ethics.

## Classroom Life: Critical Pedagogy, Institutional Incentives, and Decolonial International Relations

The agenda of this article is twofold: to review literature dedicated to the agency of critical pedagogical styles, and formulate a decolonial methodology for the analysis of the classroom as an agentic and interactive site of global politics and knowledge valorisation that has until recently been overlooked. When theory is taught, the ontologies encompassed by its texts are constructed as somehow relevant to understanding the field of International Relations (IR). Few systematic investigations have been conducted in the discipline that take this commonsensical assertion seriously, and by extension fewer have been conducted which place the political commitments of canonisation at the heart of the perennial debate about International Relations’ self-understanding/self-identification. Drawing on seminal texts by Quijano and Mignolo to identify the capillary exercise of coloniality in the structures that govern IR scholars’ professional environments, as well as recent empirical work that illustrates the long-standing inequities of the discipline, **Bart Gabriel** argues that decolonisation must be an everyday classroom practice, and that IR professors and the theories from which the discipline derives its *raison d’être* hold a key position in the chain of knowledge production that sediments what the collective we come to understand quintessentially as International Relations.

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## Gender, Diversity, Race & Intersectionality

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### Visibility through Violence: The Emancipatory Potential of Self-Defence in Visual Representations of the YPJ

Since the siege of Kobanê in late 2014, images of the combatants of the all-female YPJ have been the object of competition amongst different views on women’s participation in conflict and political mobilisation. By relying on the notion of figuration, **Massimiliano Masini** takes an





approach of visual semiotic to engage with the digital production of the group. He argues that self-representations of the militants convey an oppositional reading of violence as emancipatory and suggest an interpretation of the video content published on the YouTube channel of the YPJ Media Center that reflects this oppositional reading. In particular, he highlights the ways in which emancipation is imagined through material

practices of embodiment in the context of armed conflict, pointing out to the significant appropriation of spaces that are generally considered as eminently masculine. He thereby contributes to the increasing wealth of literature on the radical project of socio-political transformation articulated in northern Syria, but also proposes a potential approach to digital visual content in radical movements.

### **(Dis)connected – How Do Digital Technologies Impact Women’s Meaningful Participation in Peace Processes?**

The potential of information and communication technologies (ICTs) to contribute to conflict prevention and resolution has garnered increasing attention among academics and practitioners alike. Mediators have used instant messaging to coordinate between the negotiating parties and monitor ceasefires in Syria, and created online platforms to consult broad constituencies during peace talks in Colombia and Libya. However, much less is known about whether and how women peace activists operating at different levels and across different “tracks” of peace negotiations engage with and use ICTs. Moreover, existing research shows that online spaces too often perpetuate and aggravate patriarchal structures, norms and practices, leading to the exclusion of diverse women from the digitally-facilitated processes. Building on research conducted by the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders, **Agnieszka Fal-Dutra Santos** asks: how and under what conditions can digital technologies contribute to greater and more meaningful participation of women in peace processes? To answer the question, she explores women peace activists’ experiences in engaging with digital technologies – asking when and how they engage with ICTs, what (dis)empowering digital spaces look like from their perspective, and – finally – whether and under what conditions increasing digitalisation is compatible with localised and feminist approaches to peacebuilding.

### **(Lack-of) Geographical Diversity in International Organizations: The Key Role of Human Resources Policies**

The topic of staff composition in international organisations (IOs) has attracted considerable attention recently. International Relations scholars have been interested in the issue of the representation of member states in IO staff IOs (i.e., geographical representation). Most studies try to explain the level of geographical representation using country-level factors such as economic power, diplomatic capacities or countries’ education level. **Fanny Badache** takes a different and novel stance in the study of IO staffing by looking at the topic of geographical diversity. On a theoretical level, she differentiates between the concepts of representation and diversity. Empirically, she looks at human resources practices and policies as an explanation for the lack of geographical diversity within IO staff. Her paper presents the evolution of human resources policies on geographical representation since 1945 for the case of the United Nations Secretariat. She shows that human resources practices – implemented to foster geographical representation – reproduce global hierarchies, which results in a lack of geographical diversity. She thus contributes to existing scholarship on IO staff composition by adopting a diversity management perspective.

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## Democracy, Civil Society & Sovereignty

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### Ripples and Their Returns: Tracing the Regulatory Security State from the EU to Brazil, Back and Beyond

**Anna Leander** presented this paper, in which she and her co-authors **Cristiana Gonzales**, **Luisa Lobato** and **Pedro dos Santos Maia** argue that the development of a European Regulatory Security State (RSS) has far-reaching political consequences for the world beyond the EU but

also for EU priorities and its ability to realise them. They make this point drawing on a situated analysis of how the extension of the RSS into the digital played into a constellation of factors that skewed the digital platforms towards Bolsonaro's election with long-term consequences for the RSS itself. They trace the connections from the General Data Protection Regulation through shifts in Facebook's self-regulation and to the Brazilian elections with the help of three conceptual tools: "infrastructures", "regulatory design" and "ripples" showing that the extension of the RSS generates a redesign of infrastructures sending ripples that travel from the EU to Brazil, back and beyond. They contribute theoretically by developing concepts for contextualising the RSS and empirically by demonstrating the political stakes for doing so. Both contributions help contextualize the RSS beyond the case analysed.

*This paper was published in the Journal of European Public Policy in February 2023. The article is available in public access in the Graduate Institute's [repository](#).*

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## Sustainability, Environment, the Anthropocene & SDGs

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### Environmental Treaty Adaptation in Slow Motion: Zooming-in on Desertification

The ability of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) to keep pace with developments in their underlying conditions is pivotal for a more effective global environmental governance. Against this background, **Noémie Laurens** asks how new design ideas are

developed within an MEA framework. Building upon Kingdon's multiple streams theory, she theorises the development of new design ideas as the association between independent streams of problems, solutions, and political receptivity at critical moments, which is performed by idea entrepreneurs. This argument differs from problem-driven and fully rational conceptions of institutional change. Relying on qualitative case study, she applies the multiple streams lens to two adaptations of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification: the expansion of its scope and the strengthening of its interface between science and policy. The findings go beyond



state-centric explanations of MEA adaptation and shed light on the advocacy role of treaty staff and stakeholders. The article provides important lessons on design features that can make MEAs more adaptive.

*This paper was published in Global Environmental Politics in March 2023. The PDF of the article is available [here](#).*

### **Trade Provisions in MEAs: An Incentive to Join the Club??**

Multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) frequently incorporate trade-related provisions that discriminate between members and non-members to the treaty. They include, for instance, references to preferential trade agreements or restrictions on the consumption of specific goods. The resulting preferential treatment can constitute a club good for member countries to an MEA by increasing trade flows among them. This can, in turn, increase incentives to join the MEA for non-members. A telling example is the Montreal Protocol. However, no large-N study has investigated the effect of MEA trade-related provisions on later accessions. This research question is important because providing trade-related incentive for accession is a central argument in Nobel laureate Nordhaus' argument for the creation of climate clubs. Using a novel dataset of trade provisions included in 654 MEAs concluded between 1945 and 2015, Clara A. Brandi, **Noémie Laurens** and Jean-Frédéric Morin analyse whether more trade-discriminatory MEAs obtain more accessions by former non-members over time. They distinguish between trade-liberalising and trade-restrictive provisions. They find that trade provisions in MEAs are associated with higher accession rates. This effect, however, is more prominent for MEAs with trade-restrictive provisions. This indicates that the negative framing has a stronger effect on countries' decision to accede to an MEA.

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## **Roundtables**

Professors and researchers of the Geneva Graduate Institute took participant, chair, and discussant roles in the following roundtables:



### **Relational Thinking, Time and Flows, Transversal Lines: What IPS Means Today**

**Anna Leander** (*participant*)

International Political Sociology (IPS) has been constructed as a site for interrogations and deconstruction of disciplinary doxa coming from late seventies political sciences, functionalist and structuralist sociologies, methodological

individualism and limited rational choice theories, which all point to forms of essentialism and excessive dichotomies and oppositions between society and individual, man and nature, reason and passion, structure and agency. Even when a form of dialectical logic or an interactionist formulation exist, they are based on the neglect of relations, of dynamics both spatially and temporally. This is why the core discussion we need to have is about the episteme of a relational thinking, the understanding of time and flows, the mechanisms of resistance to change (often call positively as order or security), the multiple scapes and heterogeneities which traverse and compose the dynamics of power and obedience relations, as well as the redefinition of an inclusive anthropology. This roundtable invited to discuss these themes, connecting contemporary

challenges (ecology, political violence, democratic practices...) with key authors who have emphasized this relational understanding in their works questioning the international.

### **Ethics and Risk Assessment in IR Research: Questioning, Evaluating, and Improving Institutional Reviewing of Research Ethics and Risk**

**Rebecca Tapscott** (*participant*)

Institutional scrutiny of the ethical and risk implications of research activities of International Relations (IR) scholars is an ever more influential phenomenon shaping the research process and its substance. Ethics committees are increasingly structured, whereas funding institutions and often publishers are making institutional approval of ethics and risk assessments a requirement. This adds to the complexity of IR research, risks limiting its scope, and may even infringe upon academic freedom but it can also improve the reputation of the discipline and minimise dangers for scholars and those involved in their research. This roundtable, also considering related debates in subfields, aimed to enable an unfiltered discussion on the nature, dynamics and impact of ethics and risk institutional review in the field of IR. Scholars who are or have been involved in the works of ethics and risk committees or equivalent arrangements in any IR field shares experiences, challenges, failures and best practices. Based on their contribution, participants engaged with the question of whether establishing a global code of practice on ethics and risk, as done in other disciplinary sectors, is equally desirable in IR. The roundtable laid the ground for a support network of researchers concerned with these matters.

### **International Relations in the Anthropocene**

**Anna Leander** (*discussant*)

The Anthropocene is considered by many to be a new era in which humanity's impact upon the Earth has revealed the limits of a modernist imaginary of human exceptionalism and of history as a story of linear progress. This roundtable brought together a diverse group of experienced and more junior scholars to reflect upon how the discipline of International Relations (IR) has assimilated (or not) the concerns (both practical and conceptual) of the Anthropocene. Many of the participants (and the chair/discussant) were involved in the edited publication of the textbook resource, *International Relations in the Anthropocene: New Agendas, New Agencies and New Approaches* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2021), which engages the Anthropocene from a plurality of perspectives, linked to security, governance and knowledge generation, raising key challenges to more traditional IR methods and assumptions. We wanted to take this opportunity to have an open and engaged discussion of how areas (which could be considered to be Anthropocene related) have been or are not being taken up in IR. We preferred the roundtable option as a flexible framework to perhaps have a more informal discussion, especially as we haven't had much opportunity for face-to-face thinking over recent years.

### **"International Organizations and Research Methods: An Introduction" edited by Fanny Badache, Leah R. Kimber and Lucile Maertens**

**Fanny Badache** (*participant*)

Which methods are used and how? Do we need a specific methodology applied to the case of international organisations (IOs)? What are the concrete methodological challenges when we do research on IOs? To explore these questions, **Fanny Badache**, Leah Kimber and Lucile Maertens have edited a book entitled *International Organizations and Research Methods: An Introduction* (University of Michigan Press, forthcoming 2023). The book provides a large inventory of both well-established and more recent methods used in the social sciences and humanities and their applications in IO research. All contributions review a specific method (or combination of methods) in a few pages, pointing out the advantages and limits as well as providing concrete tips. As a daily companion for academics and students alike, the book is a practical guide that can be used all along the research process from the definition of the question to data collection, as well as during the analysis and writing phases. The roundtable gathered IO scholars in order to discuss the book's contributions, and more broadly, research methods used to study IOs. Overall, it

creates a space for scholars and students embedded in different academic traditions to reflect on methodological choices and the way they impact knowledge production on IOs.

## **Interviewing in International Organizations: Why, How, on What and Where?**

**Stephanie Hofmann** (*chair*)

Qualitative inquiry into the politics of International Organisations (IOs) is thriving. The political elite interview is a classic of qualitative methods but often remains a black box in the research process. Why should IO scholars use interviews? How can we conduct interviews that produce rich, novel and reliable data? Are some IOs – across regions and policy domains – more accessible than others? This roundtable aimed to address these questions. The participants contribute expertise across policy domains (e.g., security, human rights, trade) and across regions. With this roundtable, we hoped to contribute to a lively discussion about the context sensitivity of interviews, the use of network-making before interviews and data quality.

## **The Normative and Political Futures of International Relations Scholarship**

**Anna Leander** (*participant*)

What is the future of normative-political praxis within International Relations (IR)? Though IR originally defined itself as producing knowledge to serve political practice, times have changed. On the one hand, world politics has transformed through technological shifts, the return of socio-political cleavages, and a general global political malaise. On the other hand, IR's growing vitality has also generated a fragmentation in conceptions of whether, how, and for what reasons the field should intervene politically. In this roundtable, we explored emerging trends that aim to creatively leverage IR's conceptual, methodological and empirical vitality to change the world in small or significant ways. This includes work orientated towards legal politics, science and technology studies, design, the politics of expertise, aesthetics, critical theory, and beyond. Each approach has developed novel proposals for "intervention" that challenge the classical focus on serving an advisory and epistemic role (encapsulated in phrases like "policy-relevance") or a critical-epistemic role focused on injecting reflexivity into ethico-political debate. But what are the stakes of such proposals? Can they really re-inject IR with an interventionist ethos? Is it dangerous to do so? Or increasingly necessary? And what are the various normative and political futures that each proposes?

## **Author Meets Critics: Sibel Oktay's "Governing Abroad: Coalition Politics and Foreign Policy in Europe" (University of Michigan Press, 2022)**

**Stephanie Hofmann** (*participant*)

The roundtable brought together scholars of International Relations, party politics and cabinet decision-making to discuss Oktay's new volume on coalition politics and foreign policymaking in parliamentary democracies.

## **International Organizations in a Changing World**

**Stephanie Hofmann** (*participant*)

Amidst various global crises in a changing world, international organisations face a broad range of challenges. This roundtable brought together junior and senior scholars to discuss extant work on international organisations and global governance and to explore new avenues for future research.



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Some participants from the Geneva Graduate Institute at ISA 2023.  
L to R: Augusta Nannerini, Keith Krause, Sara Hellmüller, Bilal Salaymeh and Fanny Badache.

**The ISA 2024 Annual Convention  
will be held on 3–6 April 2024 in San Francisco, USA**

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