

Research Bulletin

Upcoming events, latest publications and other research activities

24 April 2023 (no. 5, 2023)

Upcoming Research Events

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APR

Monday

IRPS COLLOQUIUM
Katharine Millar |
Support the Troops:
Military Obligation,
Gender, and the
Making of Political
Community
12:15–14:00 hybrid
CFD
Impact Seminar on
Effective Altruism
18:15–20:00 Room
S1

25
APR

Tuesday

ANSO/IHP SEMINAR
Ruramisai Charumbira
| The Lives of Others in
the Historian's Hands
16:15–18:00 hybrid

26
APR

Wednesday

CTEI, GTP, IMF & CDF
IMF World Economic
Outlook Report
10:30–12:00
Auditorium A2
GHC
Averting a Collision
Course? Beyond the
Pandemic Instrument
and the International
Health Regulations
16:00–17:30 hybrid

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APR

Thursday

GENDER SEMINAR
Shirin Heidari |
Intersecting
Liminalities in Forced
Displacement: Drivers
and Consequences of
Transactional Sex
12:30–13:45 Room
S11
CFD
Interdisciplinary
Sovereign Debt
Research and
Management
Conference (DebtCon6)
| Day 1
starting 13:00

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APR

Friday

CFD
Interdisciplinary
Sovereign Debt
Research and
Management
Conference (DebtCon6)
| Days 2 and 3 (Sat. 29
Apr)
ending Sat. 29 April
at 17:00

01
MAY

Monday

NO EVENTS

02
MAY

Tuesday

SÉMINAIRE ANSO/IHP
Jean-François Bayart |
Du théorème du
camembert, ou
Comment écrire une
sociologie historique
et comparée de l'État
16:15-18:00 hybride

03
MAY

Wednesday

GPP BOOK LAUNCH
Séverine Autesserre |
Sur les fronts de la
paix
12:00–14:00
Auditorium A2
CONFÉRENCE DE LA
CHAIRE YVES
OLTRAMARE

04
MAY

Thursday

CIES
INTERDISCIPLINARY
SEMINAR
Patrick Bottazzi | Work
and "Just"
Agroecological
Transition:
Experiences from
Western Africa

05
MAY

Friday

NO EVENTS

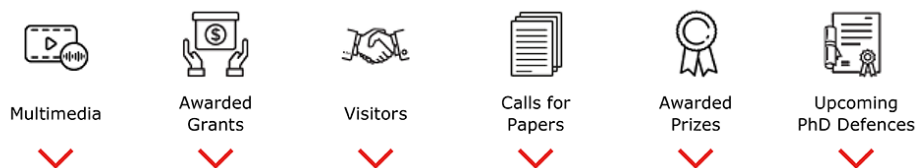
Jean-Pierre Warnier | 12:15– 13:30 Room
 Marthe Robin: P1-847 (restricted to
 prophétisme et Institute members)
 millénarisme dans le CCDDP & CIES SEMINAR
 patronat français Michael Beevers |
 16:30-18:00 Conflict Sensitivity in
 Auditorium A2 Climate Financing:
 CONFÉRENCE DE LA Risks and
 CHAIRE YVES Opportunities across
 OLTRAMARE the Adaptation
 François Garaï | Être Planning Cycle
 juif dans la cité 15:00–16:15 Room
 18:30-20:00 P1-647
 Auditorium A2
 CFD
 Impact Seminar on
 Effective Altruism
 18:15–20:00 Room
 S8

[See all events >](#)

Gateway to Publications by Themes



Gateway to Other Relevant Information



Reminder to the Graduate Institute's

Research Community:

It is possible to have your academic publications featured in the international press through the Institute's partnership with *The Conversation*, among others.

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Publications by Themes



Education, Information & Media



ARTICLE

The Learning Crisis of Developing Country Elites: Lessons from PISA-D

How much of the learning crisis can be addressed through “inclusion” – the equalisation of grade attainment and learning outcomes across groups (e.g., girls/boys, rural/urban, poor/rich) – and how much of the learning crisis requires improvement in the country's system of basic education to

improve learning outcomes across the board? Lant Pritchett and **Martina Viarengo** use the data from the seven countries who participated in Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) for Development (PISA-D) to show that for most countries and subjects the average learning outcome for the *advantaged* (male, urban, native-born, speakers of assessment language) and *elite* (95th percentile in PISA measured socio-economic status) students was below the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) “minimum learning level” target of PISA level 2 (in *The World Bank Economic Review*, vol. 37, no. 2, May 2023, online February 2023). Even if every child in these countries were fully “included” – had the same distribution of learning outcomes as the advantaged, SES elite, public school children – 80 percent of all children would still fall short of proposed global minimum levels of learning.

[Repository](#) (access restricted to the Institute community)

[DOI](#)

EDITED BOOK CHAPTER

Towards a Right to Learn: Concepts and Measurement of Global Education Poverty

The idea that children have a “right to education” has been widely accepted since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. The “right to education” has always, explicitly or implicitly, encompassed a “right to learn”. Measures of schooling alone, such as enrollment or grade attainment, without reference to skills, capabilities, and competencies acquired, are inadequate for defining education or education poverty. Because of education’s cumulative and dynamic nature, education poverty needs an “early” standard (e.g., grade 3 or 4 or age 8 or 10) and a “late” standard (e.g., grade 10 or 12 or ages 15 and older). Further, as with all international poverty definitions, there needs to be a low, extreme standard, which is found almost exclusively in low- and middle-income countries and can inform prioritisation and action, and a higher “global” standard, against which even some children in high income countries would be considered education poor but which is considered a reasonable aspiration for all children. As assessed against any proposed standard, Michelle Kaffenberger, Lant Pritchett and **Martina Viarengo** show there is a massive learning crisis: students spend many years in school and yet do not reach an early standard of mastery of foundational skills nor do they reach any reasonable global minimum standard by the time they emerge from school (in *Research Handbook on Measuring Poverty and Deprivation*, J. Silber, ed., Elgar, March 2023). The overwhelming obstacle to addressing education poverty today is not enrollment/grade attainment nor inequality in learning achievement but the fact that the typical learning profile is just too shallow for children to reach minimum standards.

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Development & Cooperation



ARTICLE

Agricultural Commercialization in the Mekong Region: A Meta-Narrative Review and Policy Implications

Agricultural commercialisation has been a development focus in the Mekong region for several decades, resulting in varying outcomes. In response to competing claims and policy advice, this meta-narrative review not only examines the

literature on the impacts of agricultural commercialisation in the Mekong on local livelihoods, but also investigates the research traditions that shape the conceptualisation of the research topics, study design, and recommended solutions. **Christophe Gironde** and others explore narratives from three research traditions, namely the neoclassical, Marxian political economy, and neopopulist approaches (in *Journal of Land Use Science*, vol. 18, no. 1, 2023, online March 2023). On the whole, the neoclassical literature finds positive impacts on household incomes and thus contributes to reducing poverty; the Marxian political economy tradition finds that capitalist development in agriculture creates and deepens social differentiation through which certain groups may benefit while others are negatively impacted; lastly, the neopopulist perspective finds negative impacts compared to previous, traditional livelihoods. The ideological premises informing these studies and implications for policy are discussed.

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Trade, Finance, Economies & Work



PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE, 2022

The Complexity of Sovereign Debt Governance: How Heterogeneity and Interdependence Shape Policy in Times of Crisis

Processes and outcomes in sovereign debt governance result from the interaction of heterogeneous and interdependent actors, be

they sovereign debtors, creditors, or their respective constituencies. There are several sources of actors' heterogeneity: the economic and institutional profiles of borrowing countries, their constituencies' preferences over fiscal policy options, and the lending frameworks and credit exposures of creditors. At the same time, borrowing countries exist and operate within a broader

set of institutions, and creditors operate in the shared environment of global finance – this gives rise to interdependence, both within and between actors. Importantly, heterogeneity and interdependence are defining features of what is called a complex adaptive system – i.e., an environment where diverse actors interact with, and adapt to, one another via a web of connections. **Alessandra Romani** thus takes a complex systems perspective, and considers: (1) how sovereign debtors' integration in an international political economy creates channels of transmission for the spread of debt crisis resolution policies; (2) how repeated interactions between debtors, creditors, and their constituencies at debt talks create feedback effects that might nonlinearly aggregate; and (3) how the involvement of creditors with different lending paradigms in the development landscape opens the room for interaction dynamics other than competition. In all three cases, results point to the relevance of heterogeneity and interdependence in shaping patterns of borrowing and lending behaviour, as they provide new evidence on debtor-creditor, inter-debtor and inter-creditor relations.

Read more about Alessandra's research and findings in this [interview](#)

[Repository](#) (access restricted to the Institute community; others may contact the author at alessandra.romani@graduateinstitute.ch)

WORKING PAPER

Access to Credit and Bank Ownership: Evidence from Firm-Level Data

Mario Di Filippo and **Ugo Panizza** use a unique dataset with matched information at the firm-bank level covering 13,000 firms and 550 banks in 36 emerging and developing economies over 2012–20 (Policy Research Working Papers 10384, World Bank, March 2023). The analysis tests whether government-owned banks fulfil their social mandate by targeting credit constrained firms or firms that are more likely to generate positive externalities. The findings show that credit-constrained firms are more likely to borrow from government-owned banks, and that this is especially the case in countries with good institutions. However, the authors do not find any evidence that government-owned banks target innovative firms or “green” firms. The findings show that in firms that borrow from government-owned banks, employment reacts less to business cycle conditions relative to firms that borrow from private banks. Furthermore, employment is more stable in credit-constrained firms that have a relationship with a government-owned bank with respect to credit-constrained firms that borrow from a private bank.

Available in open access [here](#)

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Gender, Diversity, Race & Intersectionality



ARTICLE

Exploring the Contested and Controversial Nature of the Sex Industry in India: Experiential Encounters by Sex-Workers from the Periphery

Despite the prostitution industry being decriminalised and accorded a semi-legal status in India, the status of sex-workers remains

abysmal with scarce provisions towards healthcare, education/literacy and labour rights. Consequently, the current approach to sex-worker rights is ridden with several structural barriers, as existing state rehabilitation projects often violate subjects' bodily autonomy and act as moral discipliners, leaving them vulnerable to various forms of institutionalised violence. Moreover, sex-

workers' children are subject to rampant forms of discrimination and societal othering, culminating in a vicious cycle of socio-economic deprivation. However, there have been strong feminist and civil society movements in India in the recent decades advocating for the rights of such disenfranchised actors. Take for example the NGOs Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee, Sampada Gramin Mahila Sanstha and Veshya Anyay Mukti Parishad, comprising of many sex-workers working as social workers, who advocate for dignity of sexual labour, addressal of HIV + STIs infecting the community, awareness strategies, and emancipation campaigns, as inevitable first-steps towards eradicating the pervasive discrimination afflicting them. **Shriya Patnaik**, PhD Researcher in International History and Politics, incorporates such grassroots modalities of resistance and mobilisation towards informing a bottom-up, inclusive lens of representation that considers sex-workers' agency, bodily autonomy, and freedom of mobility (in *South Asian Women and International Relations*, online April 2023).

[DOI](#)

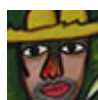
ARTICLE

Women's "Timepass": Waiting as Work, Politics, and Survival among Delhi's Poor

In a poor neighbourhood of Delhi, women try to cope with unemployment among male breadwinners, and in doing so they often frame their practices as a way of passing time. From the long wait at service points to contentious involvements in work and politics, they depict a host of different and seemingly contradictory activities as meaningless idleness. **Lucy Dubochet**, Research Associate at the Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy, analyses their discourses and uncovers a wider pattern of minimising in which women sometimes internalise and sometimes quietly oppose the constraints that limit what they can do with their time (in *American Ethnologist*, online March 2023). In a gender landscape where public waiting has usually been associated with men destabilised by a lack of opportunities, women's conversations about lost time become a playing field for alienation, resilience and subversion, even as the practices that hide underneath allow us a glance into their untold public involvements.

[DOI](#) (open access)

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Arts, Culture & Religion



ARTICLE

Comprendre ce qu'il se passe en Iran ou De la nécessité de la nuance et de la raison anthropologique

L'œuvre de l'anthropologue Fariba Adelhah, prisonnière scientifique en Iran depuis le 5 juin 2019, nous permet de mieux comprendre le mouvement de contestation de l'obligation du port du voile, voire des institutions mêmes de la

République islamique. Ses travaux relativisent la place de l'islam dans la révolution de 1979 et au sein du régime postrévolutionnaire, tout en insistant sur l'irréductibilité de ses «logiques intrinsèques». Ils analysent le processus de sécularisation et de bureaucratisation du pouvoir d'État, mais aussi du champ religieux. Ils mettent en exergue l'émergence de l'idée nationale et de ses thématiques politiques dont demeurent tributaires les manifestants contemporains. Ils insistent sur les lignes de continuité de l'économie politique, et notamment des intérêts agraires, sous-jacents aux rapports de pouvoir politique. Pour toutes ces raisons, il ne faut pas exclure que

la République islamique puisse résister à la tempête à laquelle elle est confrontée, quitte à se recomposer à la marge, nous avertit **Jean-François Bayart** (dans *L'Homme*, no 245, janvier-mars 2023, en ligne avril 2023).

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Peace, War, Conflicts & Security



PHD THESIS IN DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS,
2023

Three Essays in Development and Conflict Economics

The three chapters of **Rami Alazzeh's** PhD thesis focus on the impact of occupation on Palestinian economic development and policy:

– Operation Protective Edge: The Impact of the Damages of Israeli Bombing on Localities

in Gaza examines the impact of the damages on the localities' poverty rate and household expenditures using different techniques to account for the non-linear and spatial dependence impact of these damages on the outcome variables.

– **The Special Negative Economic Zones in the West Bank Area C: The Unrealised Potential** explores the impact of the share of Area C, the negative special economic zone in the West Bank, on the total locality household expenditures across the West Bank using two cross sectional data sets of 457 localities in 10 governorates.

– **Integrated Simulation Framework - II Model for Palestinian Economic Policy** is a Klein-type demand-side model. It also goes beyond the standard demand-side approach by integrating the supply side of the economy in its structure. This model could help Palestinian policy makers in assessing the impact of different policies and shocks.

Read more about Rami's research and findings in this [interview](#)

[Repository](#) (access restricted to the Institute community; others may contact the author at rami.alazzeh@graduateinstitute.ch)

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Global Governance



ARTICLE

Design Paths of Federal Intergovernmental Cooperation

Actors rarely approach institutional design choices with a blank slate but are influenced by design choices made at earlier stages. How does institutional design evolve over time and are there specific paths to deepening cooperation? Simon Montfort, Manuel Fischer, **James Hollway** and

Nicolas W. Jager investigate the institutional design paths of subnational cooperation that are chosen to address increasingly complex and interconnected policy problems (in *Policy Studies Journal*, online March 2023). They theorise that besides the substantive problem, earlier choices matter to explain what institutional design mechanism is chosen; that is, the design of existing institutions between two subnational governance units, called substates, influences the design of subsequent institutions. Using a semi-parametric Cox proportional hazards model, they show that the design paths of subnational cooperation in the Swiss water governance sector correlate with earlier design choices. Their results indicate that not all cooperation is self-reinforcing and path-dependent, but they show which specific design choices are more likely to follow each other in repeated formal federal intergovernmental cooperation.

[DOI](#) (open access)

ARTICLE

Statehood for Sale: Derecognition, “Rental Recognition”, and the Open Flanks of International Law

State derecognition, defined as the withdrawal of recognition from a putative state, has been more impactful as a diplomatic subculture in the last decades than is often assumed. Recent practice suggests that when states engage in derecognition, they do not mechanically assess whether a state no longer fulfils the traditional criteria for statehood, but rather employ derecognition as a tool of foreign policy, tailored to enhance their own economic and geopolitical interests. The bargaining dynamics of derecognition and “rental recognition” policies adopted by a range of smaller states create a precarious hostage-like situation for the targeted entities who helplessly watch their international status being traded in a recognition market. As the success of some claims to statehood risks being reduced to a matter of pricing, a process of commodification emerges: state recognition is granted to the “highest bidder” regardless of factual reality or legal considerations. With this backdrop, **Victor S. Mariottini de Oliveira**, PhD Researcher in International Law, seeks to clarify how international law conceptualises derecognition and its hypotheses of legality, offering an overview of contemporary events of derecognition and expedient shifts in recognition to clarify the role and deficiencies of international law as it stands before the emerging phenomenon of “statehood commodification” (in *Jus Cogens*, online March 2023).

[Repository](#) (public access)

ARTICLE

Kelsen and Morgenthau in America: Betwixt Legal Philosophy and International Politics

Hans Kelsen and his former mentee at the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva, Hans J. Morgenthau, emigrated to the United States in 1937 and 1940, respectively. Both were unable to secure stable academic positions in the law departments of American universities, and they would go on to become professors of political science at Berkeley (Kelsen) and contemporary history at Chicago (Morgenthau). **Oliver Jütersonke**, Head of Research for the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP), traces the ways in which the two legal scholars sought to make sense of their new intellectual environment: by stepping out of American law debates, and by placing the emphasis on the international (in *Österreichische Zeitschrift für Politikwissenschaft*, vol. 51, no. 3, September 2022).

[DOI](#) (open access)

EDITED BOOK CHAPTER

Global Legal Pluralism

In his chapter in *International Legal Theory: Foundations and Frontiers*, **Nico Krisch** argues that global legal pluralism, unlike many of the theoretical approaches explored in other contributions to the volume, takes into view not just international law as such but inquires into the broader universe in which traditional international law, understood primarily as inter-state law, is embedded (J.L. Dunoff and M.A. Pollack, eds., Cambridge University Press, online July 2002).

Global legal pluralism starts from the observation that in today's global order multiple normativities – domestic, regional and international, formal and informal, private and public – interact and that this interaction is important for understanding the shape of the overall order. Global legal pluralism thus seeks to theorise the ways in which interactions between different normativities take place and their implications for a more general account of the structure of the global legal order. Some pluralists writing in this vein take a more analytical, others a more normative approach, but they all seek to capture situations in which law consists not of one, unitary legal order, but of a multiplicity of suborders with potentially competing claims to authority.

[DOI](#)

REPORT

Barriers to Afghanistan's Critical Private Sector Recovery

Erica Moret, Senior Researcher at the Global Governance Centre, seeks to understand the challenges facing private sector actors and trade in Afghanistan, with a focus on the supply of essential goods (Norwegian Refugee Council, March 2023). Her report is based on 25 anonymised interviews carried out in mid-2022 with a range of private sector, development, and banking actors operating in, or with, Afghanistan. She finds that Afghanistan should be open to business despite sanctions: the country as a whole is not under sanctions; business activities and payments needed to address the basic needs of the populations are permitted. Despite the exemptions, there remains widespread misunderstandings and lack of awareness about what activities and transactions are permissible. This results in the "chilling effect" whereby firms restrict their activities due to perceived risks of sanctions mis-compliance. Finally, restricted access to formal banking services is limiting private actors' ability to conduct trade internationally. The author provides recommendations based on input from Afghan firms and those operating in the wider region.

Available in open access [here](#)

YEARBOOK

Annuaire de l'Institut de droit international = Yearbook of the Institute of International Law

Marcelo Kohen and Iris van der Heijden are the editors of this IIL yearbook (80e session (online), 2021, *Deliberations*, vol. 82, 2020–2021, Pedone, published January 2023).

[Publisher's page](#)

PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL LAW, 2023

Specters of Man: Sovereignty and Anthropomorphism of the State

In his PhD thesis in International Law, **Adam Strobejko** examines the treatment of the state as a person in international law. He analyses the historical role that the notion of personhood has played in portraying the state as a unitary subject of sovereignty and investigates the impact of new technologies on the treatment of the state as a legal person.

Read more about Adam's research and findings in this [interview](#)

[Repository](#) (PhD thesis embargoed until February 2026; for access, contact the author at adam.strobejko@graduateinstitute.ch)

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Sustainability, Environment, the Anthropocene & SDGs

ARTICLE



Institutional Adaptation in Slow Motion: Zooming In on Desertification Governance

The ability of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) to keep pace with their changing circumstances is crucial for a more effective global environmental governance. Yet, we know little about how new institutional design features are taken up by MEAs, allowing them to

evolve over time. Building on Kingdon's multiple streams theory, **Noémie Laurens**, Postdoctoral Researcher at the Centre for Trade and Economic Integration (CTEI), conceives the development of new institutional design features as the association between streams of problems, solutions, and political receptivity at critical moments (in *Global Environmental Politics*, March 2023). She applies this framework to two features introduced within the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) framework and finds that the main design entrepreneurs were the UNCCD Secretariat and independent scientists. Her article provides important insight into characteristics that can make MEAs more adaptive. Namely, treaty bodies able to generate feedback about problems, push for solutions, and provide windows of opportunity for advocates to present and revise their proposals are found critical to the development of new design features.

[DOI](#) (open access)

In 2022, Noémie won the prestigious *Oran R. Young Prize* from the Earth System Governance project for this article. She also received an excellence doctoral grant from the Montreal Research Centre in Public Law.

ARTICLE

Opportunities and Challenges for Common Agricultural Policy Reform to Support the European Green Deal

The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is the European Union's main instrument for agricultural planning, with a new reform approved for 2023–2027. The CAP intends to align with the European Green Deal (EGD), a set of policy initiatives underpinning sustainable development and climate neutrality in the European Union (EU), but several flaws cast doubts about the compatibility of the objectives of these 2 policies. **Valeria Y. Mendez**, Visiting Fellow at the Centre for International Environmental Studies (CIES), and others reviewed recent literature on the potential of CAP environmental objectives for integration with the EGD: protection of biodiversity, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and sustainable management of natural resources (in *Conservation Biology*, e14052, online January 2023). The CAP lacks appropriate planning measures, furthering instead risks to biodiversity and ecosystem services driven by landscape and biotic homogenisation. Funding allocation mechanisms are not tailored to mitigate agricultural emissions, decreasing the efficiency of climate mitigation actions. The legislation subsidies farmers making extensive use of synthetic inputs without adequately supporting organic production, hindering the transition toward sustainable practices. The authors recommend proper control mechanisms be introduced in CAP Strategic Plans from each member state to ensure the EU is set on a sustainable production and consumption path. Both the CAP and the EGD should maintain ambitious environmental commitments in the face of crisis to avoid further degradation of the natural resources on which production systems stand.

[DOI](#) (open access)

ARTICLE

"Natural" Islands in UNCLOS: Reframing Artificial Islands in the Context of Climate Change, Inhabitation, and Human Mobility

As the effects of climate change become apparent in line with IPCC projections, the normative aspects of international affairs are being increasingly challenged. The context of rising sea levels, coastal inundation, and salinisation in low-lying atoll States points to an unprecedented scenario that beckons revisitations into "what is natural in international affairs" and "what turns it into being

natural". Under UNCLOS and a common understanding in international affairs, a State is primarily defined by natural territory. Oppenheim claimed that "a State without (natural) territory is not possible". In contrast, Gottmann's instructive approach urges a transition from viewing geographical spaces in a vacuum to understanding the relationship they share with human existence. Sanskriti Sanghi and **Ryan Mitra**, PhD Researcher in International History and Politics, explore the potential of artificial islands such as Hulhumalé in the Maldives as a climate adaptation and human resettlement strategy and their long-term legal identity in international affairs (in *Australian Journal of Maritime & Ocean Affairs*, online March 2023). They aim to answer two questions: first, what is the role of human inhabitation in the characterisation of geographical spaces as "natural" in international affairs? and, second, why and how do the definitions around artificial islands need to be revisited amidst contemporary conditions of climate change to offset the normative costs being borne by low-lying atoll States?

[DOI](#)

ARTICLE

Implications of Exceeding the Paris Agreement for Mammalian Biodiversity

The Paris Agreement settled to limit global warming to 2°C and possibly 1.5°C from pre-industrial times. However, little is known about the implications of such climatic goals for biodiversity once species' adaptability to new climatic conditions is accounted for. **Valeria Y. Mendez**, Visiting Fellow at the Centre for International Environmental Studies (CIES), and others projected the bioclimatic space loss for mammalian communities across terrestrial biomes, under four alternative emission scenarios to year 2050, and evaluated the risk for taxonomic, phylogenetic, and functional biodiversity in each biome (in *Conservation Science and Practice*, vol. 5, no. 3, e12889, online February 2023). The high-emission scenario (largely overshooting Paris limits) will lead to an average 34% bioclimatic space loss across biomes, surpassing critical levels in half of them (31 out of 63), including six biomes with high biodiversity content. Overall, these biomes account for an area at risk which is 10 times larger compared to that identified under low-emission scenarios. Under intermediate-emission scenario the loss is reduced to 28%, but two biomes with high biodiversity content will still be at risk. Achieving the 1.5°C target would reduce the average bioclimatic space loss to 19%, with only eight biomes facing critical levels of loss, none of which hosts high biodiversity content. These results highlight the biological risk of climate inaction and the consequences of exceeding Paris Agreement's climatic goals.

[DOI](#)

PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL LAW, 2023

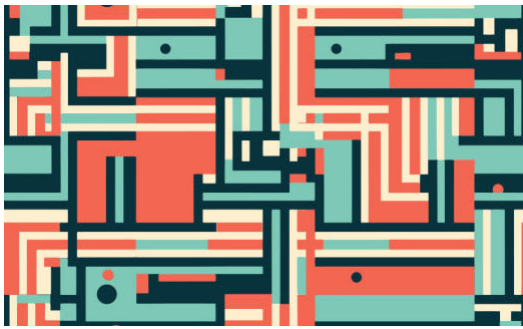
Rethinking Corporate Law: From Enabling to Disciplining the Corporate Externality

The outward interactions between the corporation and its societal context are generally left outside the scope of concerns addressed by corporate law and expected to be addressed by other legal regimes, such as environmental, tort, and human rights law. **Kinda Mohamadieh** argues that such corporate externality, or the costs emanating from corporate practices and born by society, cannot be addressed by ex-poste interventions through these other legal regimes so long as corporate law remains intact and unreformed. She demonstrates how the set of incentives emanating from the dominant features of corporate law fuels the corporate externality, while the other legal regimes are not fully equipped to address this corporate externality. She posits the need for a series of changes in corporate law that alter the incentive structure shaping corporate decision-making to better align it with the collective societal concerns.

Listen to a [podcast about Kinda's research journey and findings](#)

[Repository](#) (PhD thesis embargoed until March 2026; for access, contact the author at kinda.mohamadieh@graduateinstitute.ch)





ARTICLE

Methods Regimes in Global Governance: The Politics of Evidence-Making in Global Health

Methods regimes are a special kind of sociomaterial arrangement, which govern the production and validation of knowledge, by establishing a clear hierarchy between alternative forms of research designs. When such regimes

become inscribed in processes of global governance, they shape and control what knowledge is deemed valid and thus relevant for policy. **Annabelle Littoz-Monnet** and **Juanita Uribe**, PhD Researcher in International Relations/Political Science, shed light that through a mode of operation that relies on a discourse of procedurality, a dispersed but powerful network of epistemic operators, and a dense web of infrastructures, methods regimes constitute and police the making of “policy-relevant knowledge” in global governance (in *International Political Sociology*, vol. 17, no. 2, olad005, June 2023, online March 2023). Through an examination of the case of “GRADE” (Grading of Recommendations, Assessment, Development, and Evaluation), a standardised system that evaluates and grades the quality of evidence in global health, the authors show that its dominance has worked to the effect of empowering a new cast of methodologists, seen as more objective and portable across domains, sidelining certain forms of evidence that do not conform with its own methodological criteria of scientificity, and “clinicalizing” research in medicine and beyond.

[Repository](#) (public access)

ARTICLE

Pharmaceutical Policy and Innovation for Rare Diseases: A Narrative Review

Adrián Alonso Ruiz, **Kaitlin Large**, **Suerie Moon** and **Marcela Vieira**, from the Global Health Centre (GHC), provide a synthesis of the existing literature on the implementation of public policies to incentivise the development of treatments for rare diseases (which are diseases with very low prevalence and therefore with low commercial interest), otherwise known as orphan drugs (in *F1000Research*, February 2023). The implementation of these incentives in the 1980s in the United States (US), later in Japan and in the European Union (EU) seems to be related to a substantial increase in treatments for these diseases, and has influenced the way the pharmaceutical research & development (R&D) system operates beyond this area. In spite of this success, the academic literature also highlights the negative implications that these public policies have on affordability and access to orphan drugs, as well as on the prioritisation of certain rare disease areas over others. This synthesis focuses mostly on the US Orphan Drug Act (ODA) as a model for subsequent policies in other regions and countries. It starts with a historical overview of the creation of the term “rare diseases”, continues with a summary of the evidence available on the US ODA’s positive and negative impacts, and provides a summary of the different proposals to reform these incentives in light of the negative outcomes described. Finally, it describes some key aspects of the Japanese and European policies, as well as some of the challenges captured in the literature related to their impact in low- and middle-income Countries (LMICs).

Available in open access [here](#)

FINAL PROJECT REPORT

Rising Pharmaceutical Innovation in the Global South: Painting with New Colors

This just-published report by **Marcela Vieira, Yiqi Liu, Azizah Siddiqui, Adrián Alonso Ruiz, Kaitlin Large** and **Suerie Moon**, from the Global Health Centre (GHC), is part of the broader "Research Collaboration on Technology, Equity, and the Right to Health" between the GHC, BRAC University in Bangladesh and the Universidad de los Andes in Colombia, which included two projects: one on digital health and human rights, and the other on pharmaceutical research and development (R&D) in the Global South. As part of the latter research project, the report provides a baseline snapshot of pharmaceutical R&D in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). It concludes that ongoing systematic data collection and analysis is still needed. Country-level studies analysing strengths, weaknesses and trajectories are also needed to deepen understanding of effective policies for building R&D capacity. Finally, there is a need for further research on potential alternative R&D models in LMICs that may better meet domestic needs, as well as the needs of global public health.

[Repository](#) (public access)

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Other Relevant Information



Multimedia



ABD STORIES E13 | RESEARCH OFFICE

Rethinking Corporate Law with Kinda Mohamadih

With corporations holding unprecedented power in today's world, the debate over what they owe to society has become a hot topic. **Kinda Mohamadih**, a recent PhD graduate whose research focuses on rethinking corporate law, is on a mission to challenge their role in our society.

More info and access to the [podcast](#)



CFD & CLUB OF ROME

What Needs Transformation?

This first event of a new series between the Centre for Finance and Development (CFD) and the Club of Rome took place on 5 April. Through presentations and a panel discussion, it explored the conditions necessary for the co-creation of regenerative economies which prioritise contributing to equitable human well-being within healthy ecosystems – now and in the future. Among the speakers were **Carlos Álvarez Pereira**, Vice President of the Club of Rome, **Arthur Wood**, Founding Partner at TOTAL Impact Capital and at Equity4Humanity, and **Grégoire Mallard**, Director of Research at the Geneva Graduate Institute.

More info and access to the [video](#)



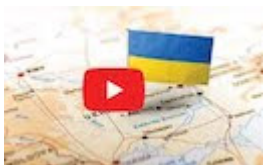
SWISS LAB FOR SUSTAINABLE FINANCE (SL4SF)

Sustainability and Impact Measurement and Reporting: Evidence from a Benchmarking Study

On 27 March, SL4SF hosted an online launch of its report, co-authored with researchers from the Geneva Finance Research Institute and the International Finance Corporation. Among the speakers were **Patrick**

Bolton, Professor of Finance and Economics at Imperial College London, **Rajna Gibson Brandon**, Professor of Finance at the University of Geneva and Director and President of the Foundation Board of the Geneva Institute for Wealth Management, **Camilo Mondragón-Vélez**, Principal Research Economist and Head of the IFC Modeling Team under the organisation's Development Impact Unit since early 2015, and **Maria Teresa Zappia**, Deputy CEO at BlueOrchard.

More info and access to the [video](#)



EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS | GLOBAL HEALTH CENTRE

The Global Health Centre has created short videos to highlight the key messages from their past events. The latest highlight is about

The War in Ukraine: Lives, Money and the Politics of Global Health

Watch it and previous ones [here](#)



DEMOCRACY IN QUESTION S6:E6 | AHCD & CEU

Sergei Guriev on the Changing Face of Autocracy

This episode with **Shalini Randeria** and **Sergei Guriev**, Provost of Sciences Po in Paris, explores the main differences between contemporary, quasi-dictatorial regimes based on spin, and older 20th-century dictatorships based on overt repression and fear. Why do spin dictators demonstrate a commitment to democratic elections and how do their actions undermine democracy from within? Listen to the [podcast](#) to find out what such regimes teach us about internal contradictions of Western democracies and how similar spin dictators are to so-called populist leaders.

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Awarded Grants

SNSF DIVISION OF SOCIAL SCIENCES | CHF 722,408 | 1 May 2023–31 October 2026

Defending Democracy in the European Union: A Socio-Legal Approach to the European Institutions

This research project led by **Grégoire Mallard** will tackle a key issue confronting democracies today: how have democratic institutions defended themselves against threats coming from political movements and parties that aim to undermine their very existence? In the European Union (EU) this reality has become a pressing issue. Seeing that the elected governments in some of its Member States have been dismantling the rule of law at home, while at the same time assuming office in the European Parliament and/or Council of government ministers, the EU institutions have had to face a dilemma about how to respond to these challenges. This research will produce a pioneering study on how the main EU institutions have defended themselves against threats to democracy coming from such parties.

[Read more](#)

SNSF AGORA | CHF 156,562 | 1 April 2023–31 December 2024

Communicating about Peace: United Nations Peace Missions and Their Mandates

In 2023–2024, Switzerland is an elected member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). This project led by SNSF Assistant Professor **Sara Hellmüller** seeks to contribute to an informed debate about Switzerland’s membership by focusing on peace missions as the UN’s main instrument to maintain international peace. It will develop an informative website and a mobile app on UN peace missions as well as a pop-up exhibition that will be hosted in four Swiss cities. *Read more about Sara Hellmüller’s [related project](#) “A Child of Its Time: The Impact of World Politics on Peacebuilding”*

LEADING HOUSE FOR THE LATIN AMERICAN REGION, UNIVERSITY OF ST. GALLEN | CHF 45,880 | January 2023–July 2024

Counting Carbon: The Shaping of Low-Carbon Landscapes and Environmental Justice in Colombia

This project led by **Shaila Seshia Galvin** and **Laura María Gutiérrez Escobar**, Associate Professor at Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá, Colombia, analyses how local socio-environmental relations are transformed in Colombia by climate-change mitigation programmes within a nature-based-solutions framework. It focuses on two Colombian carbon emissions reduction programmes: Visión Amazonía (linked to reduction of deforestation) and Biocarbono (linked to changes in agrarian practices), with the aim of answering two sets of questions: (1) Will the carbon-accounting efforts of these programmes result in subjecting local landscapes to a homogenising quantification of heterogeneous relations? (2) How will they transform socio-environmental relations in ways that might jeopardise or increase environmental justice?

[Read more](#)

EUI-GENEVA GRADUATE INSTITUTE JOINT CALL 2023

Funding Awards for Five Research Collaborations between the Geneva Graduate Institute and the European University Institute

The following projects are to be conducted in 2023:

– **Liliana Andonova** and EUI Max Weber Fellow **Giada Giacomini** will explore the accountability of international institutions toward local populations in the context of Green development projects, examining just transition litigation and the role of [Grievance Redress Mechanisms](#).

– **Nicole Bourbonnais**, PhD Candidate **David Motzafi-Haller**, EUI PhD Researchers **Daphne Budasz** and **Anna Orinsky**, Max Weber Fellow **Anna Dobrowolska**, and History Professor **Benno Gammerl** aim to advance [migration and border studies](#) by bringing in gendered and racialised histories of family, exploring how echoes of colonial regulation of intimate relations can be found in today’s policies on mobility.

– **Christiana Parreira** and EUI PhD Researcher **Julian Vierlinger** will take a close look at Lebanon’s politics today, asking how and why [democracies transition from prevalent clientelism to programmatic politics](#).

– By convening a workshop with academics and international trade and development experts, **Julia Cajal-Grossi**, EUI Professor **Bernard Hoekman** and Schuman Visiting Fellow **Marco Sanfilippo** will lay the foundation for a broader collaboration to explore the [next agendas for supply chains in developing countries](#).

– Max Weber Fellows **Effrosyni Charitopoulou** and **Natalia Garbiras-Díaz** will support a conference and a research publication on [Scholars-at-Risk in the Social Sciences](#).

Read more about those five collaborations [here](#)



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Visitors

📅 1 May–30 June 2023

📍 GMC

Clara Van Thillo

Coming from KU Leuven, Junior Visiting Fellow Clara Van Thillo will work on “International Law-Making in Disguise? A Critical Legal Assessment of the Mandate and Practice on Statelessness of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees” with Vincent Chetail.

📅 1–30 May 2023

📍 GC

Christabelle Sethna

Coming from University of Ottawa, Visiting Fellow Christabelle Sethna will work on “Transnational Travel and Abortion Services” with Nicole Bourbonnais.

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Calls for Papers

CENTRE ON FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT, UNCTAD, UNU-WIDER, CEPR & NYU ABU DHABI

WIF 2023 Academic Research Conference on Investment in Sustainable Development

This conference will be held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, on 16-17 October 2023 during the World Investment Forum 2023 (16–18 October 2023). Applications from economists, finance experts, political scientists, international business scholars working on theoretical and empirical areas related to the topic of “investment in sustainable development” are welcome.

- **30 April 2023:** extended abstract (or a full paper) deadline
- **16 August 2023:** final contributions deadline

[More info](#)

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Awarded Prizes

Fuad Zarbiyev Distinguished by American Society of International Law (ASIL)

On 30 March, Fuad Zarbiyev became the first recipient of the “Prize for the Best Article in International Dispute Resolution” of the ASIL Dispute Resolution Interest Group. According to the Selection Committee, his article “**On the Judge Centredness of the International Legal Self**” was selected among a great number of outstanding papers for depth of research, sophistication of analysis, originality, quality of writing and potential impact on the field of international dispute resolution.

[Read more about the prize](#)

[Read the article](#) (open access)

Susanna Hecht Receives the Stanley Brunn Award for Creativity in Geography from the American Association of Geographers

The Stanley Brunn Award for Creativity in Geography is presented annually to an individual geographer or team who has demonstrated originality, creativity, and significant intellectual

breakthroughs in geography. Professor Hecht has contributed critical research toward changing the policies and market incentives that caused widespread, destructive deforestation in previous decades, and helping to determine a path for renewal and protection.

Read [here](#) an interview with Professor Hecht by the UCLA International Institute

[Read more about the award](#)

Le Prix Paul Guggenheim 2021 attribué à Lorenzo Palestini

Le prix Paul Guggenheim 2021 a été décerné à [Lorenzo Palestini](#) pour son ouvrage intitulé *La protection des intérêts juridiques de l'État tiers dans le procès de délimitation maritime* ([Bruylant](#), 2020). Le jury a couronné un ouvrage remarquable, fondé sur une recherche et des connaissances poussées de la jurisprudence, de la doctrine et de la pratique à la lumière de pièces produites et de plaidoiries. Aujourd'hui enseignant et chercheur au Geneva Center for International Dispute Settlement, un centre conjoint de l'Institut et de l'Université de Genève, Lorenzo Palestini a fait une [thèse de doctorat](#) à l'Institut, thèse dont est issu l'ouvrage récompensé.

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Upcoming PhD Defences

 28 Apr 2023

 14:00–16:00

 Pétales 2, Room S9

DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS

Colonisation, Conflicts and Education: Three Essays in Development Economics

By **Mhamed Ben Salah**. Committee members: Julia Cajal Grossi, President and Internal Reader; Jean-Louis Arcand, Thesis Director; Andy McKay, Professor, Business School, University of Sussex, Brighton, UK.

[Read more](#)

 3 May 2023

 15:00–17:00

 Pétales 2, Room S9

ANTHROPOLOGY AND SOCIOLOGY

Price versus Worth: The Value and Devaluation of Public Transportation in Luxembourg before and after Fare Abolition

By **Sonja Ruud**. Committee members: Umut Yildirim, President and Internal Reader; Filipe Calvao, Thesis Director; Noel B. Salazar, Professor, Faculty of Social Sciences, Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium.

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For comprehensive information please visit the [Research website](#).

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