

Research Bulletin

Upcoming events, latest publications and other research activities

23 October 2023 (no. 10, 2023)

Upcoming Research Events

23 OCT	Monday	24 OCT	Tuesday	25 OCT	Wednesday	26 OCT	Thursday	27 OCT	Friday
	OPEN ACCESS WEEK Creative Commons Licences in 15 Minutes 12:45–13:00 online MIGRATION TALK SERIES François Héran What if European Countries Really Do Their Part in Welcoming Asylum Seekers and Migrants? 18:15–19:30 hybrid RENCONTRE ANNUELLE DE LA CHAIRE YVES OLTRAMARE TABLE RONDE INAUGURALE Olivier Roy et Sarah Scholl Guerre culturelle et religion 18:30–20:00 salle C1, pétale 5 GENDER CENTRE & CCDP Cynthia Enloe Three Feminist Lessons of War 18:30–20:00 Auditorium A2	RENCONTRE ANNUELLE DE LA CHAIRE YVES OLTRAMARE Religion et révolution conservatrice: perspectives comparatives <i>Diverses conférences</i> 9:00–20:00 salle C1, pétale 5 OPEN ACCESS WEEK ORCID and Co.: Be Visible! 12:45–13:30 online VILFREDO PARETO RESEARCH SEMINAR Gregory Clark Marital Assortment and the Industrial Revolution 14:15–15:30 room S4 AHCD Books in Conversation: Scrutinising Democratic Innovations 17:15–18:30 hybrid	RENCONTRE ANNUELLE DE LA CHAIRE YVES OLTRAMARE Révolution conservatrice, religion et cinéma en Europe orientale 10:00–12:00 salle C1, pétale 5 GHC PANEL DISCUSSION Decolonising Global Health: From Discourse to Practice 15:00–16:15 online	OPEN ACCESS WEEK Publish in Open Access 09:00–09:30 online GENDER SEMINAR Rosalba Icaza Garza Decolonial Feminist Horizons beyond Development 12:30–13:45 room P3 506 OPEN ACCESS WEEK DISCUSSION Ugo Panizza, Marie Thorndahl & Catherine Brendow The State of Open Access at the Institute 12:30–13:30 the Fab (petal 2, floor 4) INTERNATIONAL LAW COLLOQUIUM Mira Buri Human Rights Implications of Digital Trade Rulemaking 12:00–13:00 GENEVA GLOBAL HISTORY SEMINAR	NO EVENTS				

Mischa Suter | Money at the Margins: Sovereignty and Measures of Value in the Age of Imperialism, 1871–1923
18:15–19:45 room S4

PUBLIC CONFERENCE
Regulating Sustainable Supply Chains for a “Green transition”? Possibilities and Limits of Due Diligence
Policies for Lithium-ion Batteries
18:30–20:30 hybrid

30
OCT **Monday**

IRPS DEP.
Speaker’s Corner
15:00–20:00 the Fab
(petal 2, floor 4)

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OCT **Tuesday**

VILFREDO PARETO RESEARCH SEMINAR & GENEVA TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

Dennis Novy | Urban-Biased Structural Change
12:30–13:30 room S5

ANSO TUESDAY SEMINARS

Gabriel Abend | Words and Distinctions for the Common Good
16:15–18:00 room S12

01
NOV **Wednesday**

NO EVENTS

02
NOV **Thursday**

INTERNATIONAL HISTORY AND POLITICS BRUNCHES
Paul Deshusses | Evaluating the Moral Status of Animals in 20th Century Animal Communication
11:00–12:15 room P1-547

INTERNATIONAL LAW COLLOQUIUM
Joost Pauwelyn | Are WTO Rulings Biased? The Role of Institutional Design in Protecting Judicial Autonomy
12:30–14:00

THE HAITI SEMINAR – MONEY, FINANCE AND SOVEREIGNTY
Arielle Xena Alterwaite | Counterfeit Empire: Speculative Currency and the 1825 Haitian Indemnity
17:00–18:30 online

03
NOV **Friday**

NO EVENTS

[See all events >](#)

Gateway to Publications by Themes



Peace, War, Conflicts & Security



Sustainability, Environment, the Anthropocene & SDGs



Global Governance



Global Health



Cities, Space, Mobilities & Migrations





Technology



Trade,
Finance,
Economics
& Work



Human Rights,
Humanitarianism,
Justice &
Inclusion



Gender,
Diversity,
Race &
Intersectionality



Democracy,
Civil Society &
Sovereignty



Arts,
Culture &
Religion



Gateway to Other Relevant Information



Multimedia



Awarded
Grants



Visitors



Calls for
Papers



Calls for
Prizes



Awarded
Prizes



Upcoming
PhD Defences



Publications by Themes



Peace, War, Conflicts & Security



ARTICLE

Data-Driven Learning Systems and the Commission of International Crimes: Concerns for Criminal Responsibility?

Current discussions on the military use of artificial intelligence (AI), in particular concerning autonomous weapons systems, have largely focused on the challenges for the attribution of individual criminal responsibility for war crimes

whenever such systems do not perform as initially intended by human operators. Yet, recent observations evidence the pressing need to shift the discussion on the responsibility gap further to include challenges raised by the intentional use of AI systems for the commission of war crimes and other international crimes. Additionally, the increasing development and use of AI systems, based on data-driven learning (DDL) methods, demands particular attention due to the difficulty these systems' lack of predictability and explainability poses in terms of anticipation of their effects. Against this background, **Anna Rosalie Greipl**, PhD Researcher in International Law, complements the present discussion on the responsibility gap by discussing some concerns that the intentional use of DDL systems for the commission of international crimes raises regarding the required mental element and thus, the ascription of individual criminal responsibility (in *Journal of International Criminal Justice*, mqad031, September 2023). Ultimately, she proposes preliminary avenues to address these concerns.

[DOI >](#)

ARTICLE

After the Gang: Desistance, Violence and Occupational Options in Nicaragua

Gangs are widely considered major contributors to the high levels of violence afflicting Latin America, including in particular Central America. At the same time, however, the vast majority of individuals who join a gang will also leave it and, it is assumed, become less violent. Having said this, the mechanisms underlying this "desistance" process are not well understood, and nor are the determinants of individuals' post-gang trajectories, partly because gang desistance tends to

be seen as an event rather than a process. Drawing on long-term ethnographic research carried out in barrio Luis Fanor Hernández, a poor neighbourhood in Nicaragua's capital city Managua, and more specifically a set of “archetypal” gang member life histories that illustrate the occupational options open to former gang members, **Dennis Rodgers** offers a longitudinal perspective on desistance and its consequences, with specific reference to the determinants of individuals’ continued engagement with violence (or not) (in *Journal of Latin American Studies*, online October 2023).

[Repository \(public access\) >](#)

ARTICLE

To/for Syrialism: Towards an “Embodied” Kind of War Story

How would what we know about war change if we took seriously the “embodied experience” of its violences? How do we write “war” and “violence” in such a way that we can capture the complexity of what **Bousquet, Grove and Shah** refer to as “war’s incessant becoming”? How do we, as **Sylvester** puts it, “pull the bodies and experiences of war out of entombments created by [international relations] theories . . . into the open as crucial elements of war”? In other words, how do we write “war” as if people, lives, suffering, pain, anger, cruelty, hope, resilience, survival and the creativity of it all – the embodied experience – mattered in international relations? **Asees Gabriel-Puri**, PhD Researcher in International relations/Political Science, wrestles with these questions by recreating her encounter with Omar Imam, a Syrian artist whose conceptual photography forms the backbone of her article, and by fleshing out a conceptual framework through which to explore this “embodied experience”: Syrialism (in *Security Dialogue*, September 2023). Here, Syrialism, imagined as a “machine” (borrowing from **Deleuze and Guattari**), declares that war is experienced as an embodied process that is consistently, though not constantly, partially connected to other violence/violent processes, and this refiguration brings the actual machinations of the injuries of war and the particulars of how it is sensed and made sensible into focus.

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REPORT

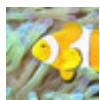
Pragmatic Peacebuilding for Climate Change Adaptation in Cities

Climate stresses like heat waves, floods, air pollution, and storms have the potential to exacerbate political tension and fuel violence in urban settings. To address these dynamics, this report by **Achim Wennmann**, Senior Researcher at the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding, discusses what climate change practitioners can learn from the peacebuilding field to help cities adapt more effectively to the coming climate crisis. The approach known as “pragmatic peacebuilding”, which entails dealing with the de facto realities in specific contexts as a starting point for transformational processes, is particularly useful as a framework for climate action in cities (Peaceworks no. 191, United States Institute of Peace Press, September 2023).

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Sustainability, Environment, the Anthropocene & SDGs

ARTICLE

Mike Davis: Planetary and Environmentalisms: The Invention of New Environmental Histories from the *Ecology of Fear* to *Victorian Holocausts*

Mike Davis transformed the understanding of southern California and dramatically reshaped thinking about the region in his books and many articles for *New Left Review*. Less well known



locally is the significant impact of his approaches to urban environmental history and the large-scale effects of climate events at a global level. Davis can be seen as foundational for global environmental history in his methodology: analysing the teleconnections and impacts of a particular climate event (in *Victorian Holocausts* this was an El Niño) and then parsing out the social effects. The severe El Niño he describes

was key in the disenfranchisement of millions in the Colonial worlds and the creation of new indentured and sub-proletariat populations that became the labour force for new forms of plantation agriculture, infrastructure labour, and rubber extraction in tropical forests. Davis' work provided early historical analysis on the impacts of colonial capitalism in the creation of climate vulnerability. Both his creativity in urban environmental history and its imaginaries, and the foundational research on global climate history are extraordinary contributions at which **Susanna Hecht** marvels (in *Human Geography*, online October 2023).

[DOI >](#)

ARTICLE

Agroecological Initiatives in the Mekong Region: A Systematic Literature Review and Mapping Reveals Their Implications for Transitioning to Sustainable Food Systems

In the Mekong Region, agroecological approaches provide a niche alternative to the dominant traditional or intensive farming systems. **Christophe Gironde** and others conducted a synthesis of current evidence on agroecological interventions by means of a systematic literature review and mapping of case studies in Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, and Myanmar (in *Journal of Land Use Science*, vol 18, no. 1, September 2023). The majority of the 271 identified cases focussed on practical and technical support. Interventions using holistic approaches, and such that focused on improving food systems through innovative territorial governance, value chain arrangements, and policy frameworks were scarce. Most cases targeted the agroecological optimisation and the modernisation of traditional farming systems. A mere 18 of our cases addressed gender in relation to agroecology. To scale agroecological transitions, sectoral barriers have to be overcome. There is an urgent need to put a pronounced focus on the diversification of ecosystem services in commercial agriculture and degraded areas and on women's contributions to sustainable farming.

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EDITED BOOK CHAPTER

The Farming of Trust: Organic Certification and the Limits of Transparency in Uttarakhand, India

Certification is increasingly used in diverse spheres of social, political, and economic life, in which it is associated with transparency projects and audit cultures. In the Doon Valley of the northern Indian state of Uttarakhand, the state government has supported certified organic agriculture since the early 2000s. Although practices of document keeping and inspections required by organic certification were intended to make agrarian practices legible and transparent, in practice they often failed to do so. Officials charged with conducting certification ultimately framed organic agriculture as a moral enterprise, finding sentiments of *viśvās* (trust, belief, or faith) to be crucial to their work. Rather than producing certainty and transparent knowledge, certification practices may generate forms of uncertainty that compel, and rely for their resolution on, sentiments of trust, argues **Shaila Seshia Galvin** (in *Sustaining Natures: An Environmental Anthropology Reader*, ed. S. R. Osterhoudt and K. Sivaramakrishnan, University of Washington Press, July 2023).

[Publisher's page >](#)

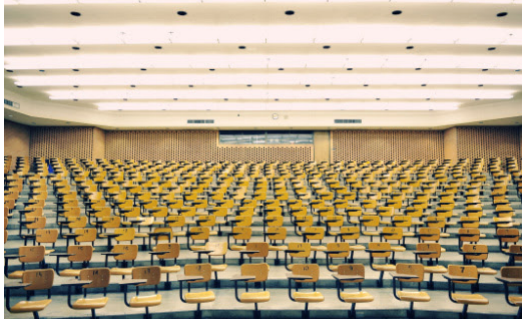
This chapter was originally published as an article in *American Ethnologist* (vol. 4, no. 4, November 2018). Read a [related interview](#) with Professor Seshia Galvin.



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Global Governance



ARTICLE

Staging Grounds: Dialectics of the Spectacular and the Infrastructural in International Conference-Hosting

For international lawyers, the international conference appears as a rather anodyne place. While attention has been paid to who partakes in the “invisible college”, scant scrutiny has been directed to where we sit. To counter this, **Daniel**

Ricardo Quiroga-Villamarín, PhD Researcher in International Law, argues we should interrogate conference spaces as material stages for the dramas of global governance (in *London Review of International Law*, lrado15, October 2023).

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Global Health



EDITED BOOK CHAPTER

The Office of the Legal Counsel of the World Health Organization

Claudia Nannini and **Gian Luca Burci** provides an overview of the Legal Adviser’s role at the World Health Organization: a specialised agency of the UN and the only global intergovernmental organisation with a specific mandate in the field of public health (in *Legal Advisers in International*

Organizations, ed. J. Wouters, Edward Elgar, May 2023). They consider the WHO’s membership, governance structure, special arrangements, and broad mandate and explicate the historical, structural, and functional roles of the WHO Office of the Legal Counsel. The Office’s recent development and practice is representative of many legal advisory bodies in other international organisations, and many of the Office’s legal services fall within the typical functions of a large institution’s legal office: advisory, negotiation, external representation, support, litigation, drafting, compliance, and standard-setting roles and functions. However, global health governance is characterised by increasing politicisation, which has penetrated the WHO’s agenda and led to shifting demands and expectations. These have placed specific and significant pressures on the Legal Adviser and the Office, and have required the Office to innovate beyond its traditional in-house role, increasing its participation in the development of international health law.

[DOI >](#)

PROJECT OUTPUTS

Research Collaboration on Technology, Equity, and the Right to Health

There is growing interest in pharmaceutical innovation occurring in low- and middle-income countries, but information on existing activities, capacities, and outcomes is scarce. This project, supported by the Open Society University Network (OSUN)/Open Society Foundations (OSF) and led by the **Global Health Centre** (GHC), the James P. Grant School of Public Health at BRAC University in Bangladesh and the Universidad de los Andes in Colombia, mapped available data at the global level, and studied the national pharmaceutical innovation systems of Bangladesh and Colombia to shed light on pharmaceutical research and development in the Global South, including challenges and prospects, to help fill existing knowledge gaps. The GHC recently published the project outputs, which include notably three reports, on this [page](#).

WORKSHOP REPORT

Implementation and Compliance in International Law: Implications for Pandemic Rulemaking

Building on a [discussion paper](#), this workshop held in July sought to provide members of Geneva-based permanent missions, and government officials from capitals, with theoretical and practical tools for approaching implementation and compliance mechanisms. **Gian Luca Burci** provided an overview of current proposals concerning implementation and compliance mechanisms in the Bureau's text of the WHO CA+ and in the IHR proposed amendments. Carmen Dolea presented existing implementation and compliance mechanisms under the IHR and summarised key issues in ongoing discussions. **Fuad Zarbiyev** provided an introduction to theories of compliance in international law. **Stefania Di Stefano**, PhD Researcher in International Law, provided insights from the human rights regime; Sophie Meingast from the anti-corruption regime, and Elena Cima from the international environmental law (IEL) regime. Speakers agreed on the importance of dialogical and facilitative, rather than punitive, compliance and implementation mechanisms, the linking of compliance mechanisms with the provision of financial and technical assistance required to meet obligations, and the need to harmonise implementation and compliance mechanisms across the WHO CA + and the revised IHR in order to avoid reporting fatigue. Speakers highlighted the breadth of options for implementation and compliance mechanisms (e.g. self-reporting, peer-review, expert committees, and compliance committees) and emphasised the need for multiple, interacting options rather than one-size-fits-all solutions. The report was drafted by **Anthony Rizk**, PhD Researcher in Anthropology and Sociology (Workshop Series Report, Global Health Centre, September 2023).

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Cities, Space, Mobilities & Migrations



ARTICLE

Labor Market Integration, Local Conditions and Inequalities: Evidence from Refugees in Switzerland

Tobias Müller, Pia Pannatier and **Martina Viarengo** examine the patterns of economic integration of refugees in Switzerland, a country with a long tradition of hosting refugees, a top-receiving host in Europe, and a prominent

example of a multicultural society (in *World Development*, vol. 170, 106288, October 2023).

Relying on a unique longitudinal dataset consisting of administrative records and social security data for the universe of refugees in Switzerland over 1998–2018, they reconstruct the individual-level trajectories of refugees and follow them since arrival over the life-cycle. This empirical analysis exploits the government dispersal policy in place since 1998, which consists of the exogenous allocation of refugees across cantons, to identify the effects of the local initial conditions. The authors find that higher unemployment rates at arrival slow down the integration process, whereas the existence of a co-ethnic network does not consistently lead to a faster integration. A change toward more restrictive attitudes over time in a canton (relative to attitudes in other cantons) leads to higher employment rates of the successive refugee cohorts. These effects persist over the refugees' life-cycle. Together, these results highlight the importance of taking a longer run perspective when examining the effectiveness of policies, as the effects may vary over time and different complementary interventions may be needed in the short vs. long-run.

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This article was originally published in 2022 as a World Bank Policy Research Working Paper.

ARTICLE

The Politics of Soft Law: Progress and Pitfall of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration

The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) epitomises the potential and the limits of soft law in promoting global migration governance. While being a catalyst of multilateralism, the use of soft law remains highly ambiguous and must thus be approached with caution. At the same time, the GCM operates as a counter-narrative to populism insofar as it proposes a collaborative framework to develop global migration governance. Yet, its implementation record remains disappointing, and the last review carried out within the UN General Assembly signals a return of *realpolitik*. **Vincent Chetail** therefore calls for a vigilant plea toward a principled implementation of the GCM with due regard to the commitments of states contained therein, as well as to their legal duties under international law (in *Frontiers in Human Dynamics*, vol. 5, September 2023). Following this stance, soft law and hard law are not mutually exclusive, but rather mutually reinforcing, provided they are implemented in a cogent and integrated way. The GCM can make a difference on the ground if, and only if, it works in tandem with legally binding norms and instruments. If not, it may eventually become nothing else than a mere smokescreen, if not a masquerade, for the patent violations of migrants' rights.

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EDITED BOOK CHAPTER

“To Everyone, Homeland Is Kashmir”: Cultural Conceptions of Migration, Wellbeing, Adulthood and Future Among Young Afghans in Europe

Afghan young people migrating to Europe while predominantly boys and young men also include girls and young women. Coming from Afghanistan, Pakistan or Iran, many refer to the tremendous social pressure they feel from their relatives left in their country of origin or first asylum. For young male migrants, success is understood as getting an official form of protection, an education and a job and eventually marrying a girl from home and bringing her to Europe to build a family. Failure is not an option. Being forcibly returned signifies that the money collected for the journey has been lost and is experienced as a social shame by the whole family. Khadija Abbasi and **Alessandro Monsutti** illustrate how these young men and women use social media to express their frustrations or put on stage their lives (in *Becoming Adult on the Move*, ed. E. Chase, N. Sigona and D. Chatty, Palgrave Macmillan, August 2023). Through this flow of information that cuts across national borders, Afghan youth coming to Europe invent new forms of social inclusion and political participation. In online chats and rap songs, they often convey a double feeling of estrangement towards host populations in the places they have crossed or where they currently reside, but also towards their kith and kin in the places they have left. They also talk about their common experience of displacement and the hardships they suffer, oscillating between ontological loneliness and a form of universalism from below that transcends parochial

expressions of belonging.

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EDITED BOOK CHAPTER

Diasporas of Empire: Ismaili Networks and Pamiri Migration

Based on ethnographic and historical research, **Till Mostowlansky** explores the coming together of post-Cold War mobility, humanitarianism and religion (in *The Central Asian World*, ed. J. Féaux de la Croix and M. Reeves, Routledge, October 2023). Using the example of the Pamiris, an ethnically and linguistically diverse group with links to Tajikistan's Gorno-Badakhshan region, he examines how a people that was already highly mobile in the Soviet Union became part of global Shia Ismaili networks in the post-Cold War period. While this process has built on long-standing historical interactions, it also involves different and sometimes conflicting visions of contact, connectivity and communal relations. The author argues that the case of diasporic Pamiri communities, scattered across the former Soviet space and beyond, tells the story of their becoming part of the "pluralistic" Ismaili world under asymmetric power relations that persist to the present day.

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EDITED BOOK CHAPTER

From *Muhājir* to *Āwāra*: Figures of Migration and Exile among Afghans

Khadija Abbasi and **Alessandro Monsutti** examine how self-designation among Afghan refugees and migrants is evolving (in *Migration in South Asia*, ed. S. Irudaya Rajan, Springer, June 2023). While terms such as *muhājir*, "refugee", with a religious connotation, *panāhenda*, "refugee", and *mosāfer*, "traveller," were used by Afghans in the 1980s and 1990s, they no longer have the favour of younger people who might have grown up in Iran or Pakistan and often aspire to try their chance in the West. New generations tend to describe their situation with words such as *āwāra*, *sargardān*, *dar-ba-dar*, which generally convey the idea of "wandering", "vagrancy", "homelessness", "lack of purpose". This evolving terminology suggests that exile has lost the religious and political significance it might have had during the anti-Soviet jihad, on the one hand. It also can be interpreted as a quest for meaning in life, an assertion of agency in an effort to define their place in this world, on the other hand. Social media and blogs run by Afghans evoke an ontology of displacement and mobility, which ultimately elicits a form of cosmopolitanism from below and resonates with the social, political and economic unpredictability in Afghanistan.

[DOI \(open access\) >](#)

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Technology



SPECIAL ISSUE EDITORSHIP AND ARTICLE **Technologies and Infrastructures of Trust**

What do we mean when we talk about trust? Contemporary discourses figure trust variously as a problem, an aspiration, an object of intervention, and something to be dispensed with all together. While the current moment demands new ways of thinking about trust, so too does scholarly work on

trust demand similar renewal and reconsideration. To accomplish this, this book, edited and **introduced** by Anna Weichselbraun, **Shaila Seshia Galvin** and Ramah McKay, departs from

approaches that engage trust as a diagnostic for analysing other phenomena or objects of study, often with an emphasis on its instrumental importance (in *The Cambridge Journal of Anthropology*, vol. 41, no. 2, September 2023). It instead approaches trust as something that itself needs to be problematised.

Julie Billaud has contributed a chapter, “**Humanitarian Technologies of Trust**”, in which she explores how trust is established in humanitarian operations and why do humanitarians consider it a vital resource in their work, Building on the International Committee of the Red Cross’ response to urban violence and the anthropological literature that conceives trust both as a modern social virtue and a technology of power, she examines the ways in which trust is enacted and practised in humanitarian settings. While the organisation’s legalistic logic has traditionally led to a conceptualisation of trust as the end result of a “moral contract” rooted in the Geneva Conventions and operationalised through “confidential dialogue” and face-to-face interactions, more recent concerns for accountability have surprisingly led to the establishment of technocratic procedures where trustworthiness is achieved through the emptying out of social relations.

[DOI \(open access\) >](#)

ARTICLE

The Case for Interfaces in International Relations

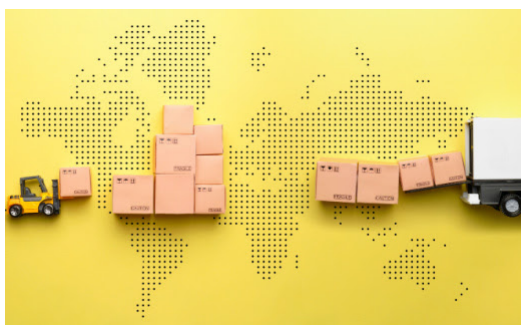
The interface is a zone of contact, experience, and communication between users and computer technology. Although part of many engagements with world politics – e.g., security software and market analytics dashboards – interfaces remain underexplored in the discipline. **Pedro Maia**, PhD Researcher in International Relations/Political Science, first introduces what are interfaces and then presents two ways in which they matter for the discipline of IR by using the Frontex Joint Operations Reporting Application as an example (in *Global Studies Quarterly*, vol. 3, no. 3, ksad054, July 2023). First, interfaces are a relevant – although not yet systemically analysed – place to explore how politics is performed and staged, since their fluidity allows for different engagements with political matters and leads to multifaceted political formations. Second, interfaces introduce a distinct topology of governance. One of neither centralisation *nor* decentralisation – as pointed out by recent debates on political governance – but rather centralisation *and* decentralisation. In the conclusion, the author introduces questions and concerns that could move the research of interfaces in IR forward.

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Trade, Finance, Economies & Work



WORKING PAPER

Does Gravity Matter for Trade in Intermediate Services?

Anmol Kaur Grewal, PhD Researcher in International Economics, makes a twofold contribution to the literature on trade in services (International Economics Working Paper, September 2023). First, she constructs a novel bilateral dataset of trade in services differentiating

between final consumption and intermediate consumption following the most recent classification of UN’s Broad Economic Categories (BEC Rev. 5). Second, she uses this dataset to estimate a gravity model of trade in intermediate and final services for a sample of 48 economies for the time period 2010-2019. Using a robust model specification consistent with the recent advancements in

the gravity literature, she finds that trade in services exhibits a sensitivity to bilateral distance between trading partners, similar to trade in goods. Intermediate services tend to be more sensitive to distance relative to final services due to the distinct nature of these services (B2B versus B2C). Common language and common borders are important determinants of both trade in intermediate and final services. The author also finds evidence of non-linear effects of time zone differences on trade in services.

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PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS, 2023

Essays in Quantitative Macroeconomics

Utilising quantitative macroeconomics, **Chao Shen** investigates three distinct topics in his PhD thesis. The first chapter focuses on designing an inflation target rule that effectively stimulates the economy when it reaches the lower bound. In the second chapter, a heterogeneous firm model is developed to provide a comprehensive explanation for three recently emerged phenomena in the United States economy: the decline in labour, the rise of market concentration, and the emergence of super-star firms and increased markups. The third chapter delves into a mechanism within the progressive labour tax system that reconciles economic growth with income equity.

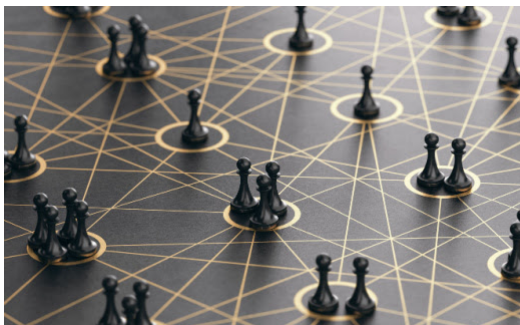
[Repository](#) (access restricted to members of the Institute community; others may contact the author at chao.shen@graduateinstitute.ch).



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Human Rights, Humanitarianism, Justice & Inclusion



ARTICLE

The Power of Interpersonal Relationships: A Socio-Legal Approach to International Institutions and Human Rights Advocacy

Nina Reiners, Research Associate at the Global Governance Centre, further develops and illustrates the argument that relationships between individuals help to explain the success of

human rights advocacy in international institutions (in *Review of International Studies*, online September 2023). Drawing from advocacy theory and socio-legal studies, she shifts the attention from collective forms of advocacy to the importance of interpersonal relationships of advocates with individuals in international institutions to influence the development of human rights. She introduces a framework consisting of three analytical steps – mapping the key actors in a network, process-tracing, and biographical research – and applies the framework to three cases of norm development by a United Nations human rights treaty body. Her findings highlight the power of interpersonal relationships for the making of human rights, and they inform scholarship on transnational elites, human rights advocacy, and the politics of international law.

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Gender, Diversity, Race & Intersectionality



SPECIAL ISSUE EDITORSHIP AND ARTICLES

International Law Dis/oriented: Sparking Queer Futures in International Law

Since their recent emergence of international law, queer approaches have often been studied from a destination-oriented perspective, with a focus on what they (aim to) achieve. On the contrary, this special issue of *Australian Feminist Law Journal*,

edited and **introduced** by **Manon Beury**, PhD Researcher in International Law, **Lena Holzer**, Alumna and Affiliate at the Gender Centre, **Juliana Santos de Carvalho**, PhD Researcher in International Law and Affiliate at the Gender Centre, and Bérénice K. Schramm, aims to look at the journey itself and attempt to single out how scholars are using queer sensibilities in their work; in other words, what “doing queer” means for international legal research (vol. 49, no. 1, September 2023).

In “**Roundtable Conversation: Feminist Collaborative Ethos in International Law**”, Shaimaa Abdelkarim, Farnush Ghadery and Rohini Sen discuss with **Lena Holzer** how turning to feminist collectivity – focused on care, collaboration, and solidarity – can help to disrupt and push against gendered, racialised, and colonial power structures embedded in academic spaces. They examine their intertwined positionalities along with various pedagogical and methodological approaches to determine the functions of critical feminist and queer thoughts in international law. Inculcating a praxis of feminist collaborative ethos in the scholarship and teaching of international law, they hope to present a challenge to the artificial individualisation of the profession and its increasing neoliberalisation.

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ARTICLE

Women, Power, and Cancer: A Lancet Commission

Women interact with cancer in complex ways, as healthy individuals participating in cancer prevention and screening activities, as individuals living with and beyond a cancer diagnosis, as caregivers for family members and friends, as patient advocates, as health workers and health-care professionals, and as cancer researchers and policy makers. The topic of women and cancer spans broad terrain, beyond women’s cancers and the biomedical aspects of any type of cancer that women in all their diversities might experience. It is inclusive of the ways in which sex and gender influence exposures to cancer risk factors, interactions with the cancer health system, and specific challenges faced by health-care professionals, advocates, and caregivers. In all these domains, women experience gender bias, and are subject to overlapping forms of discrimination, such as due to age, race, ethnicity, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, and gender identity, that render them structurally marginalised. These myriad factors can intersect and restrict a woman’s rights and opportunities to avoid modifiable cancer risks and impede their ability to seek and obtain a prompt diagnosis and quality cancer care. At the same time, they serve to unfairly burden and perpetuate an unpaid cancer caregiver workforce that is predominantly female, and hinder women’s professional advancement as leaders in cancer research, practice, and policy making. However, the *Lancet* Commission on women, power and cancer, whose members include **Shirin Heidari**, Senior Researcher at the Gender Centre, believe that much can be achieved if actions are urgently taken (in *The Lancet*, September 2023).

[DOI >](#)

ARTICLE

Identifying Indigenous people: Visual Appearance, Filiation, and the Experience of Race in an “Indigenous” Soccer Championship and in Everyday Life in Otavalo, Ecuador

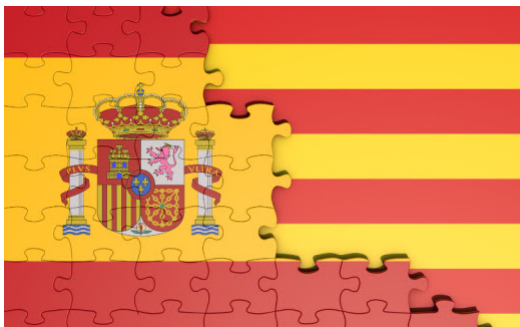
While Indigenous/*mestizo* distinction in Latin Americanist anthropology has been mainly thought of as a cultural and/or socioeconomic demarcation, **Jérémie Voirol**, Postdoctoral Researcher at the Global Migration Centre at the time of writing, argues that a conceptualisation in terms of race offers some valuable insights (in *The Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology*, online September 2023). Starting from a soccer championship in the Otavalo region of Ecuador, he shows how *otavaleño* Indigenous people’s historical and current experiences of racialisation have shaped the criteria that they consider relevant to identification practices, and how they build on these to act to some advantage. Building on the assemblage of what the author calls phenotypisation – an extended notion of phenotype – and genealogy, *otavaleños* create spaces of identification control, striving to maintain the Indigenous/*mestizo* divide and a sense of belonging upon which they rely for economic activities. Favouring the notion of race, this study lays the groundwork for a Latin Americanist anthropology that considers Indigenous people as part of the same subaltern category as Afro-descendants.

[DOI \(open access\) >](#)

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Democracy, Civil Society & Sovereignty



ARTICLE

Autonomy over Independence: Self-Determination in Catalonia, Flanders and South Tyrol in the Aftermath of the Great War

The end of the First World War was a crucial time for nationalist leaders and minority communities across the European continent and beyond. The impact of the post-war spread of self-

determination on the redrawing of Eastern European borders and on the claims of colonial independence movements has been extensively researched. By contrast, the international historiography has paid little attention to minority nationalist movements in Western Europe. **Emmanuel Dalle Mulle**, Research Associate at the Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy, and **Mona Bieling**, PhD Researcher in International History and Politics, focus on three regions (Catalonia, Flanders and South Tyrol) that experienced considerable sub-state national mobilisation in the interwar period (in *European History Quarterly*, vol. 53, no. 4, October 2023). Their aim is to understand whether the leaders of Western European minorities and stateless nations shared the same enthusiasm as their anti-colonial and Eastern European counterparts for the new international order that self-determination seemed to foreshadow in the months following the end of the First World War. Because the American President Woodrow Wilson stood out as the most prominent purveyor of the new international legitimacy of self-determination, the authors further examine how Western European nationalist movements exploited Wilson’s image and advocacy to achieve their own goals. Nationalist forces in Catalonia, Flanders and South Tyrol initially mobilised self-determination and referred to Wilson as a symbol of national liberation, but this instrumentalisation of self-determination was not sustained. Large-scale mobilisation occurred only in Catalonia, and, even there, it disappeared suddenly in spring 1919. Furthermore, sub-state nationalist movements in Western Europe tended to mobilise self-determination to gain regional autonomy, rather than full independence, thus pursuing internal, not external, self-determination.

The willingness of these movements to privilege autonomy over full independence made them more receptive to compromise. Radical forces would become stronger only in the 1930s and largely for reasons not directly connected to the post-war mobilisation around self-determination.

[Repository \(public access\) >](#)

MONOGRAPH

Lula vs Bolsonaro: Anatomia del Brasile oggi (Lula vs Bolsonaro: Anatomy of Brasil Today)

Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and Jair Bolsonaro, one a former trade unionist and reformist on the side of the people, the other a far-right populist ideologically close to Donald Trump. With their completely opposite projects, they faced each other in the Brazilian presidential elections of 2022, which ended with Lula's victory, albeit by a narrow margin. Tracing the main historical events in Brazil since the return to democracy in 1985, after the military dictatorship that lasted more than 20 years, **Matías López**, Postdoctoral Researcher at the Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy, Enrico Padoan and Débora Thomé reconstruct the milestones of the process that led to this unprecedented presidential dispute, analysing the social, ideological and organisational bases of Lulism and Bolsonarism, with a look at the gender perspective and at the international geopolitical scenario (book in Italian, Castelvecchi, September 2023).

[Publisher's page >](#)

PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/POLITICAL SCIENCE, 2023

Spreading the Word Abroad about Democracy at Home: New Democracies and Their Support of Human Rights

Democratisation changed many countries around the world but also precipitated structural changes to the multilateral system. After a democratic transition, these new democracies effectively recast the notion of sovereignty, now circumscribed by human rights and subject to international supervision. In his PhD thesis on comparative foreign policy, **Leonardo S. C. Castilho** analysed state diplomatic rhetoric and practice in the field of human rights and found that new democracies worldwide joined forces with old Western democracies and recalibrated multilateral balance power dynamics, tilting the scales away from sovereignty and towards human rights, paving the way for the creation of new mechanisms such as the United Nations (UN) High Commissioner for Human Rights. The research explores the multilateral balance between democracies and autocracies with implications for the future of global governance.

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

[Repository](#) (thesis embargoed until April 2026; for access, contact the author at leonardo.castilho@graduateinstitute.ch).



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Arts, Culture & Religion



EDITED BOOK AND CHAPTER

War-Torn Ecologies, An-Archic Fragments: Reflections from the Middle East

This book edited and **introduced** by **Umut Yıldırım** identifies a conceptual intersection between war, affect, and ecology from the Middle East (ICI Berlin Press, 2023). It creates a counter archive of texts by ethnographers and artists, and

enables divergent worlds to share a conversation through the crevices of mass violence across species. Delving into vital encounters with mulberry trees, wild medicinal plants, jinns, and goats, as well as bleaker experiences with toxic war materials like landmines, this volume expands an ecological sensorium that works through displacement, memory, endurance, and praxis.

Umüt Yıldırım has also contributed the chapter “**Mulberry Affects: Ecology, Memory, and Aesthetics on the Shores of the Tigris River in the Wake of Genocide**”, in which she considers the Armenian genocide in terms of its ecological roots and remnants. She explores the more-than-human flora and fauna indigenous to the banks of the Tigris river in Upper Mesopotamia – in particular, centenarian mulberry trees – as resistant roots that register the evidentiary ecologies of the Armenian genocide through the Turkish state’s denialist present and its ongoing war against the Kurds.

[DOI of the chapter \(open access\) >](#)

[Full book \(open access\) >](#)

ARTICLE

The Role of Metaphors in Shaping the Narrative of Protection in the Mandate System: A Story of a Protective Father and His Controlled Children

Metaphors are a ubiquitous tool of rhetoric and aesthetics. Throughout international legal history, they have come in many forms and served diverse purposes. One of their key functions is to shape narratives and serve as a means of concealing the darker aspects of the law. **Derya Çakim**, PhD Researcher in International Law, focuses on the trust and paternalism metaphors which played this role in constructing a narrative of protection within the discourse of the League of Nations, legitimising the use of control (in *European Journal of Legal Studies*, 2023, vol. 15, no. 1, August 2023). The League created a trust-based narrative that emphasised humanitarian rhetoric, moral protection obligations and emotional values, while obscuring the more sinister side of trust as a means of justifying control and exploitation in economic policies. The author explores in particular the trusting parent-child dynamic metaphor which carried significant emotional weight in the relationship between the mandated powers and mandate territories.

[Repository \(public access\) >](#)

LIVRE

L’État en Afrique: la politique du ventre (*traduction en japonais*)

Cet essai de **Jean-François Bayart**, publié chez Fayard en 1989 ([nouv. éd. augmentée 2006](#)) et devenu un classique en sociologie de l’État, vient de paraître dans une traduction en japonais de Shozo Kamo, publiée en collaboration avec les Éditions Fayard par l’intermédiaire de The English Agency (Japan) Ltd. L’analyse des groupes sociaux qui se disputent l’État postcolonial et des différents scénarios qui ont prévalu depuis la proclamation des indépendances permet à l’auteur d’avancer des hypothèses neuves sur la formation d’une classe dominante, sur la dépendance des sociétés africaines vis-à-vis de leur environnement international, sur la place déterminante en leur sein des stratégies individuelles et des modes populaires d’action politique, sur l’importance des réseaux d’influence et des terroirs historiques dans le déroulement des conflits, sur la récurrence des conduites – souvent religieuses – de dissidence sociale, sur l’émergence de cultures politiques originales.

Une conférence-débat autour de l’œuvre de Jean-François Bayart aura lieu le 6 novembre 2023 à l’Académie royale de Belgique. [Infos et inscriptions >](#)



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Other Relevant Information



Multimedia



EL PUENTE, EP4 | CENTRO INTERNACIONAL DE ESTUDIOS POLÍTICOS Y SOCIALES (CIEPS) EN COLABORACIÓN CON AHCD

Un mundo de alianzas, ¿también en Panamá?

Según el calendario electoral, los partidos tienen hasta el 30 de septiembre para formalizar las alianzas con las que competirán en las elecciones del 2024. **Harry Brown Arauz** (director del CIEPS) y Yanina Welp (investigadora asociada del Albert Hirschmann Centre on Democracy) analizan el funcionamiento de las alianzas en Panamá, el impacto que han tenido las candidaturas independientes en la conformación de las mismas y su importancia dentro de la política criolla.

Escúchalo el episodio en [Spotify](#) o [Youtube](#).



BUILDING BRIDGES 2023 | WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF THE GENEVA GRADUATE INSTITUTE AND THE SUPPORT OF THE CENTRE FOR FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

The Geneva Graduate Institute once again participated in several events of Building Bridges, reaffirming its commitment to fostering the crucial intersection of finance and sustainability:

– Innovative Finance: The Path to a Sustainable Future

This event with **José Manuel Barroso**, Gavi Board Chair and Former President of the European Commission, focused on the potential of innovative finance as a “transformative tool” which aligns with the need for creative and impactful solutions to address pressing global challenges.

[Recording >](#)

– Towards an Impact Performance Measurement Framework for Impact Investing: Results from a Benchmarking Study

This panel session moderated by **Ugo Panizza** presented a proof of concept for a unified and parsimonious impact measurement framework for impact investing and report on its functionality in a pilot version.

[Recording >](#)

– Digital Money: Expectations, Realities, Prospects

Fifteen years ago, blockchains and bitcoins highlighted the news, promising a new era of “free” currencies. Where do we stand today? Does blockchain currencies match the more traditional credit card payment systems? How did the financial system react and what about digital currencies emitted by Central Banks? Panellists, among whom **Nathan Sussman** and **Anna-Riikka Kauppinen**, explored these questions.

[Recording >](#)

– Global Health Impact Investment Ecosystem

Nadya Wells, Senior Research Adviser, was among the participants in this event focused on the equitable delivery of healthcare worldwide, particularly in the Global South.

[Recording >](#)



OPENING LECTURE OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR | GENEVA GRADUATE INSTITUTE

War and Peace in the 21st Century

The Geneva Graduate Institute had the honour to welcome **Ghassan Salamé**, Professor of International Relations Emeritus at Sciences Po Paris and former UNSG Special Representative in Libya, for the opening lecture of its academic year on 5 October 2023.

[Read more and watch the event >](#)



DEMOCRACY IN QUESTION? S7:E6 & E7 | CENTRAL EUROPEAN INSTITUTE & GENEVA GRADUATE INSTITUTE

Janka Oertel on "The End of the China Illusion" (Part 2)

This episode explores China's thinly veiled projects of expanding global influence. Does Chinese control of critical infrastructure and economic supply chains threaten Europe's autonomy? And how can democracies counter the global spread of Chinese Communist Party ideology? [Listen](#) to hear about China's vulnerabilities to political protest and why many Chinese citizens consent to surveillance that controls their everyday lives.

Kalypso Nicolaidis on Governing Together through Democracy (Part 1)

This episode explores the notion of "demoicracy" in the European Union – the ideal of a union of people that govern together, but not as one. What might pluralising democracy look like? And do recent experiments warrant optimism in citizen assemblies? [Listen](#) to hear about emergent new models of transnational grassroots participation in the political process across Europe.



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Awarded Grants

SNSF AMBIZIONE 2020 | 01.01.2023–31.12.2026 | CHF 779,615

Raja and Praja: Public Politics and Decolonisation in India's Princely States

In August 1947, British rule gave way to newly independent India. But questions about the future remained. For there had actually been two Indias: the provinces of British India, administered by the government; and the Princely States, ruled by nominally sovereign Maharajas and Nawabs. Nationalist politicians took power in British India. In the Princely States however, where Praja Mandals (People's Associations) substituted for political parties, constitutional negotiations over the transfer of power extended well into the 1950s. These negotiations, though vital to decolonisation and the institutional order of postcolonial South Asia, have remained critically neglected in historical scholarship. **Tripurdaman Singh**, Researcher at the Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy, will thus attempt to comprehend how the transfer of power unfolded in the Princely States – placing the role of these people's associations at the centre of the broader story of decolonisation – and discern the development of Indian nationalism beyond responses to colonial rule.

[Read more >](#)

SNSF Doc.CH 2022 March | 01.02.2023–31.01.2026 | CHF 213,589

Forced Migration and Transnational Activism: The Case of Colombian Women in Exile

Gina Marcela Wirz, PhD Researcher in Anthropology and Sociology, frames her project around her interests in social movements and collective action from feminist perspectives. Drawing from various research areas, particularly political transnationalism and forced migration studies from feminist perspectives, she analyses the experiences of Colombian women who have undergone political exile in Geneva and Barcelona, with the aim of understanding how women mobilise during and after exile, as well as the specific resources they require to engage in transnational collective action and networks. To achieve this, she uses ethnographic methods, taking into consideration ethical issues and her positionality as a researcher and as part of the Colombian diaspora in Switzerland.

[Read more >](#)


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Visitors

 1 Oct. 2023–30 Aug. 2024
 GGC

Huaying Bao

Coming from Beijing Foreign Studies University, Visiting Fellow Huaying Bao does research on the relationship of China and International Organizations, NGOs and international governance, etc.

 Oct.-Dec. 2023
 CIES

Deborah Silva

Coming from the University of Sao Paulo, Junior Visiting Fellow Deborah Silva is researching on “Brazil at the OECD: Entrepreneurs and the Environmental Agenda” under the supervision of Susanna Hecht.


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Calls for Papers

GLOBAL GOVERNANCE CENTRE

Workshop “Space and Scale in International Legal History”

For the third and last workshop of the Doc.CH “New Directions in the Theory & History of International Law” workshop series, to be held in Spring 2024, the GGC is interested in paper proposals that theoretically question the ways in which different spatial and temporal spaces and of inquiry limit – or enrich – our ways of seeing international law’s “world making practices”.

- **31 October 2023:** abstract submission deadline

[More info >](#)


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Calls for Prizes

GLOBAL MIGRATION CENTRE

Global Migration Award

Every year, the Global Migration Centre rewards one Graduate Institute student for their outstanding Master thesis in the field of migration. The Award consists of the opportunity to publish the thesis within the Global Migration Research Paper Series and a prize of CHF 1,000.

- **4 December 2023:** application deadline

[More info >](#)



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Awarded Prizes

PRIX DÉCERNÉS LORS DE LA CÉRÉMONIE DE REMISE DES DIPLÔMES

Les prix de recherche suivants ont été décernés lors de la cérémonie de remise des diplômes le 15 septembre dernier:

– **Le Prix Arditi en relations internationales** a été décerné à **Swadha Bharpilania** pour son mémoire de master “**In Mem(e)oriam: Memes, Imaginations of the Past and New Ways of Telling History**”.

– **Le Prix Pierre du Bois** a été décerné à **Amal Shahid** pour sa thèse de doctorat en histoire et politiques internationales “The Political Economy of Famine Relief: Labour, Colonialism, and Public Works in the North-Western Provinces of India, c. 1860–1920”.

[Pour en savoir plus >](#)

– **Le Prix Leonid Hurwicz** a été décerné à **Laura Minu Nowzohour** pour sa thèse de doctorat en économie internationale “**Essays in Environmental Macroeconomics**”.

– **Le Prix du Département d’anthropologie et sociologie** a été décerné à **Krithi Dakshina Ramaswamy** pour son mémoire de master en anthropologie et sociologie “The Making of Good Work and Good People: Ethical Liberation in and through ASHA Work”.

– **Le Département d’anthropologie et sociologie** a décerné une **mention honorable** à **Jasmine Yoojin Have** pour son mémoire de master en anthropologie et sociologie “Melting Landscapes: Human-Glacier Relations in Chamonix’s Mer de Glace”.

– **Le Prix Mariano Garcia Rubio** a été décerné à **Margot Anastasia Donzé** pour son mémoire de master en droit international “Too Little, Too Late? The Recourse to Implied Derogations from the European Convention on Human Rights in Extraterritorial Armed Conflicts”.

– **Le Prix Rudi Dornbusch** a été décerné à **Luigi Dante Gaviano** pour son mémoire de master en économie internationale “Considering the Consequences of Consolidations”.

– **Le Prix du Département de relations internationales/science politique** a été décerné à

Sara Kallis pour son mémoire de master en relations internationales/science politique.

– **Le Département de relations internationales/science politique** a décerné une **mention honorable** à **Fabian Benjamin Hofmann** pour son mémoire de master en relations internationales/science politique “Sousveillance the Smart City: Everyday Queer Resistance to Urban Surveillance in Singapore”.

– **Le Prix de l’Association des alumni-ae** a été décerné à **Rohit Ticku** pour sa thèse de doctorat en économie du développement “**Empirical Essays on Conflict and Corruption**”.

– **Le Prix Ladislas Mysyrowicz** a été décerné à **Giulia Raimondo** pour sa thèse de doctorat en droit international “At the Frontiers of International Responsibility: Frontex, the European Integrated Border Management and International Law”.

– **Le Prix de l’Association Genève-Asie** a été décerné à **Agathe Le Vaslot** pour son mémoire de master en études du développement “Knowledge Production and Negotiation between Development Actors and their Indigenous Other: A Case Study in the Upper Baram (Sarawak, Malaysia)”.

Félicitations aux lauréat-es!

Ugo Panizza, Yi Huang and Marco Pagano Receive the Pu Shan Award for Distinguished Paper on World Economics

The Shanghai Pu Shan New Finance Development Foundation granted its award to Professors Panizza, Huang and Pagano for “**Local Crowding Out in China**”, published in *The Journal of Finance* in 2020. The article focuses on local government debt, which is one of the most important concerns for Chinese policymakers and a key source of vulnerability for the Chinese economy.



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Upcoming PhD Defences

📅 Wednesday 25 Oct.

🕒 16:15–18:15

📍 Room S9, Pétales 2

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/POLITICAL SCIENCE

Artificial Intelligence: A Journey towards Understanding Its Global Governance

By **Carl Gahnberg**. Committee members: Liliana Andonova, Thesis Supervisor; Anna Leander, President and Internal Reader; Roxana Radu, Associate Professor, Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford, UK.

[More info >](#)

📅 Thursday 26 Oct.

🕒 15:30–17:30

📍 Room S9, Pétales 2

DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS

Development Dynamics: Institutions, Market Structure, and Historical Legacies

By **Pinyi Chen**. Committee members: Jean-Louis Arcand, Professor, Thesis Supervisor; Martina Viarengo, President and Internal Reader; Yi Huang, Professor, Fanhai International School of Finance, Fudan University, China.

[More info >](#)



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

Notes to members of the Geneva Graduate Institute:



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Visit also our [intranet page](#) to find out which outputs and events are covered in the *Bulletin*.

