

Research Bulletin

Upcoming events, latest publications and other research activities

25 March 2024 (no. 3, 2024)

Upcoming Research Events

25 MAR Monday	26 MAR Tuesday	27 MAR Wednesday	28 MAR Thursday	29 MAR Friday
VILFREDO PARETO RESEARCH SEMINAR Maggie Chen <i>Omnia Juncta in Uno: Foreign Powers and Trademark Protection in Shanghai's Concession Era</i> 12:30–13:30 Room S11 GGC & NORRAG BOOK LAUNCH Suhraiya Jivraj, Foluke Adebisi & Ntina Tzouvala Decolonisation, Anti- Racism and Legal Pedagogy 13:00–14:30 (online)	VILFREDO PARETO RESEARCH SEMINAR Anca Balietti <i>Strategic Ignorance and Perceived Control</i> 14:15–15:30 Room S4 IHP FORUM Pascaline Winand India-EU Relations in Historical and Contemporary Perspectives 16:15–18:00 Room S5 MIGRATION TALKS Andrew Geddes European Migration Governance of, for and against Crisis 18:15–19:30 hybrid CONFÉRENCE DE LA CHAIRE YVES OLTRAMARE Changement social et modernité islamique en Afrique de l'Ouest 18:15–20:00 Salle S1 GENDER CENTRE	IE DEP. BROWN BAG LUNCH (INTERNAL SEMINAR) Wenjie Li 12.15–13.30 Room S8 GHC ONLINE PANEL DISCUSSION No Peace of Mind: Mental Health under Military Occupation and War 16:00–17:30 online IL DEP. Michael Byers Elon Musk, President of Mars? 18:00–20:00 Room S12 CONFÉRENCE DE LA CHAIRE YVES OLTRAMARE Olivier Christin Adam et Eve, le Paradis, la viande et les légumes 18:30–20:00 Auditorium A2	THE HAITI SEMINAR – NO EVENTS MONEY, FINANCE AND SOVEREIGNTY Debt, Fraud and the Making of Countries: A Book Panel 18:00–19:30 online	NO EVENTS

Philippa Levine | The
 Empire Has No
 Clothes: Naked
 Imaginings, Colonial
 Obsessions
 18:15–19:45
 Auditorium A1B

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APR **Monday**
NO EVENTS
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APR **Tuesday**
NO EVENTS
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APR **Wednesday**
NO EVENTS
- 04**
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NO EVENTS
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NO EVENTS

[See all events >](#)

Gateway to Publications by Themes

				
Trade, Finance, Economies & Work	Gender, Diversity, Race & Intersectionality	Democracy, Civil Society & Sovereignty	Peace, War, Conflicts & Security	Sustainability, Environment, the Anthropocene & SDGs
▼	▼	▼	▼	▼
				
Diplomacy & Global Governance	Cities, Space, Mobilities & Migrations	Technology	Education, Information & Media	Development & Cooperation
▼	▼	▼	▼	▼

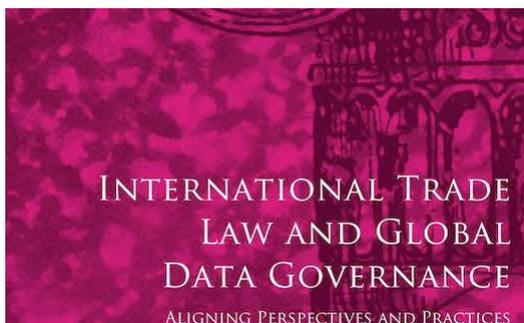
Gateway to Other Relevant Information

				
Multimedia	Awarded Grants	Visitors	Calls for Papers	Awarded Prizes
▼	▼	▼	▼	▼

Publications by Themes



Trade, Finance, Economies & Work



MONOGRAPH

International Trade Law and Global Data Governance: Aligning Perspectives and Practices

Digital trade and global data governance are at a unique crossroads, raising significant policy challenges. **Neha Mishra** focuses on five policy areas at the interface of digital trade and global data governance – privacy, cybersecurity,

governmental access to data, data divide, and competition – in order to analyse how different

types of domestic laws in each policy area interface with existing provisions in international trade law and how to align international trade law with evolving norms, standards and best practices in that specific area of data regulation, both at the domestic and transnational level (Hart Publishing, February 2024). Drawing upon these findings, she proposes a multilayered framework for aligning international trade law with evolving norms and practices in global data governance. The key message of the book is that international trade law can and should meaningfully align with and contribute to the development of transnational data governance norms and practices.

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

PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL LAW, 2024

Reconfiguring Relations of Production: International Organizations and the Making of Global Classes

This thesis explores three parallel histories in post-World War II global economy: the liberalisation of telecommunications networks and services, the rise of open shipping registries in the transport of raw materials at sea, and the mass logging of tropical forests in the post-independence era, focusing on the role that four intergovernmental organisations played in these processes through commodification and post-commodification socialisation. The four international organisations are, respectively, the International Telecommunication Union, the Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization, the UN Conference on Trade and Development, and the International Tropical Timber Organization. **Negar Mansouri** argues that states are a manifestation of their local relations of production and that the three historical developments can be explained by the struggles between two types of capitalist state/society complexes that have emerged since the rise of capitalism in the late 17th century. The first type is generated by the organisation of production relations by the market and exhibits a de-territorialising logic of expansion (Lockean state/society complex). The second type is underpinned by the organisation of such relations by bureaucratic vanguards and directed towards territorially confined accumulation. Finally, the thesis demonstrates that the three histories reflect the ultimate victory of the Lockean mode, materialised through a hegemonic fit between shifting material capability, a shared image of production relations, and institutionalisation through norms and institutions.

[Read more about the PhD thesis in this interview >](#)

[Repository](#) (access restricted to members of the Institute community; others may [contact Dr Mansouri](#)).

PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS, 2023

Essays on International Trade: Theory, Policy, and Dynamics

This thesis by **Israel Gutierrez Treviño** consists of three chapters on international trade.

- The first chapter examines the trading relationship of American and Colombian firms in the context of the US-Colombia Free Trade Agreement (FTA). It distinguishes between spot sourcing and relational sourcing strategies depending on the trading patterns of the firms. Firms relying on relational sourcing are characterised as paying higher prices, placing smaller orders, and having longer lasting trading relationships than their peers (similar to a just-in-time management system). They are the firms that export the most under the FTA, and, surprisingly, their exports increase the more restrictive the rules of origin (RoOs) of the traded goods are. This phenomenon occurs because the defining characteristics of relational sourcing happen to be ideal conditions for the firms to make the investments necessary to comply with the rules and benefit from the preferential tariff rates of the agreement.
- The second chapter examines the interdependence of global value chains (GVCs) and rules of origin. Employing a heterogeneous firms trade model, it finds that the optimal number of stages for production for a GVC increases the cheaper the foreign intermediate inputs are, and decreases the more restrictive the RoOs. Additionally, it shows that firms that operate as GVCs have much larger incentives to comply with the RoO than the rest of the exporting firms.
- The third chapter presents a new extensive database on RoOs by the OECD and the World Bank which is not yet publicly available. Using this data, a novel indicator to measure the restrictiveness of the RoO is constructed and incorporated into an augmented trade gravity model.

The main findings suggest a negative relationship between restrictive rules of origin and bilateral trade. However, these negative effects are mitigated by certain facilitating provisions of the agreement such as allowing different kinds of cumulation schemes with third countries.

[Repository](#) (file embargoed until November 2026; for access, [contact the author](#)).

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Gender, Diversity, Race & Intersectionality



ARTICLE

Gender in Public Health Research: Reflections on Design and Process across Four Research Projects in Low- and Middle-Income Countries

A growing body of work clearly documents the gendered inequalities in health. The Covid-19 pandemic further exposed these deep inequities: men appear to be more vulnerable to poorer

outcomes, but most of the global health workforce is female who are at increased risk of exposure to hospital infection. However, researchers often fail to adequately embed gender as part of public health research. **Claire Somerville**, Lecturer in International Affairs, and others report findings from a synthesis exercise that identified some of the challenges of integrating gender in the design and processes of research studies in four projects conducted in six low- and middle-income countries (in *PLOS Global Public Health*, vol. 3, no. 4, e0000808, 2023). Through a collective retrospective meta-synthesis process with researchers from each project, the authors identified two main themes; (i) they deep dive on two of the structural pillars of conducting public health research (design and process) and (ii) describe some of the underlying opportunities and resistances to the integration of a gender perspective in these research projects. In conclusion, they suggest that public health funding bodies require researchers to integrate gender in public health research from early on as part of the design and to conduct gendered analysis, as part of the overall drive towards more equitable health systems delivery.

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

ARTICLE

The Lucky and Unlucky Daughter: Gender, Land Inheritance and Agrarian Change in Ratanakiri, Cambodia

In many agrarian societies, women come to own land, and people secure care in old age through land inheritance. The social norms guiding inheritance shape gendered, generational and class-based relations of power in rural areas, and intra-family land rights can be lost when inheritance norms shift. In Cambodia's northeastern Ratanakiri province, rapid agrarian change over the past decade is transforming decision-making around inheritance. Based on a large sample of qualitative interviews and focus groups carried out in 2016 and 2020 with Indigenous and Khmer communities, Alice Beban and **Joanna Bourke Martignoni**, Researcher at the Gender Centre, focus on the ways in which intergenerational and gendered obligations of care are being reconfigured as land scarcity and inequalities within rural areas become more pronounced (in *Journal of Agrarian Change*, online February 2024). They argue that social norms around land inheritance are in flux, with a proliferation of diverse practices emerging including a shift from matrilineal to bilateral inheritance amongst some Indigenous families, the deferment of marriage and inheritance decisions due to a lack of land and parents taking on debt to buy land and secure care in older age. These changes are reconfiguring gendered and generational identities in

relation to land and have potentially negative consequences for land-poor families, in particular, for poor Indigenous women. They are symptoms of a larger “crisis of care” in rural communities.

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

ARTICLE

Waiting and the Gendered Boundaries of Work among India’s Poor

Poor people in India routinely have to wait for short-term employment, basic services and subsidised goods. Based on fieldwork in Delhi, **Lucy Dubochet**, Research Associate at the Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy, describes how this waiting blends into an environment where men are underemployed and women try to make ends meet by engaging in contentious public activities (in *Economy and Society*, online march 2024). While negotiating destabilised gender roles, the latter downplay their wait for services and describe much of their paid and unpaid work as “mere” waiting and just “passing time”. In complex responses, they sometimes internalise the relations of power that keep them waiting, while subverting them on other occasions. Exploring what these women hide or minimise brings to light a host of activities that question our understanding of the boundaries of labour, idleness and the broader work of social reproduction.

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

EDITED BOOK CHAPTER

Soraya, la Reina del Sur in Nicaragua

In his contribution to *Portraits of Persistence: Inequality and Hope in Latin America*, **Dennis Rodgers** recounts the life story of Soraya, a manicurist and drug dealer in a poor neighbourhood of Managua, the capital of Nicaragua (J. Auyero, ed., University of Texas Press, March 2024). Although drug dealing in Latin America is a predominantly male enterprise, Soraya is one of the rare women who has established herself within the trade. Her involvement seems to have outwardly imbued her with confidence and independence, but it has also brought much tragedy to her life. While Soraya challenges many gendered expectations, her life possibilities are also fundamentally constrained by enduring structures of machismo and patriarchy, which have in many ways been magnified by her involvement in drug dealing.

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

EDITORIAL

The Damages Done by the “Anti-Gender Movement”

What has been termed the “anti-gender movement” in Europe and Latin America has already caused significant damage. It has questioned fundamental international norms of gender equality that had appeared settled and uncontroversial. It has cheered on violence in the name of securing the “traditional” family and the nation. It has helped to bring to power authoritarian leaders whose endorsements of sexism and racism are beyond the pale, and it has played a role in the impeachments of progressive presidents in Paraguay and Brazil. But, as **Elisabeth Prügl** and others point out, feminist movements have not taken this assault lying down, and years of working to institutionalise gender equality principles are paying off (in *International Feminist Journal of Politics*, vol. 26, no. 1, online January 2024). The fierce battles over the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence in the European Union and in various national parliaments provide an indication of the differential strengths of the opposing movements. So too do the coalitions built across institutional spaces and progressive movements in Latin America and beyond. This issue of the *International Feminist Journal of Politics* offers additional insight, highlighting not only battles within political institutions but also the urgent struggle over definitions and framings. The anti-gender movement has thrown down the gauntlet, but it has yet to understand what feminist ingenuity and solidarity can do.

[DOI >](#)





Democracy, Civil Society & Sovereignty



ARTICLE

Are Latin American Populists More Likely to Introduce Direct Democracy?

Saskia P. Ruth-Lovell and **Yanina Welp**, Research Fellow at the Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy (AHCD), investigate the relationship between populism in power and the expansion of mechanisms of direct democracy (MDDs) (in *Latin America in Contemporary*

Politics, online December 2023). They hypothesise that the introduction of new or additional MDDs is more likely under populist than non-populist presidents due to core populist ideas. They then add a conditional explanation to this ideational argument grounded in a strategic calculus and hypothesise that the expansion of MDDs is even more likely if the political context in which populist presidents are embedded provides strategic incentives to promote MDDs. They test these hypotheses by means of logistic and Poisson regression analyses using a newly compiled data set covering information on the introduction and reform of MDDs in 18 Latin American countries from 1980 to 2018. Their results indicate that expansion of MDDs is, indeed, more likely promoted by populist presidents and that this association is conditioned by the degree of presidential approval.

[DOI >](#)

CAPÍTULO DE LIBRO EDITADO

¿Puede la revocatoria del mandato evitar el estallido?

En las democracias occidentales, los estudios de opinión dan cuenta de la creciente distancia que separa a gobernantes de gobernados, el descrédito de los políticos y, paradójicamente, el creciente apoyo a liderazgos fuertes. Porciones relevantes de la ciudadanía perciben que sus autoridades gobiernan en su propio beneficio y/o en el de un grupo de poderosos. En este escenario, movimientos sociales derivados de protestas ciudadanas, como los “chalecos amarillos” y el movimiento de los Indignados, han irrumpido en la escena política y han propuesto introducir mecanismos de democracia directa entre los que destaca la revocatoria de mandato. En teoría, la revocatoria podría operar como una “válvula de seguridad” que evite la revuelta contra el poder, pero ¿bajo qué condiciones podría funcionar de esta manera y qué resultados ha tenido en los casos en que la regulación la permite? **Yanina Welp**, investigadora asociada del Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy (AHCD), explora estas cuestiones teórica y empíricamente (in *Mouvements révolutionnaires et droit constitutionnel*, L. Megahed y N. Pauthe, Eds., LGDJ, enero de 2024).

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Peace, War, Conflicts & Security

SPECIAL ISSUE AND ARTICLES

Autonomous Weapon Systems and War Crimes



The definition of autonomous weapon systems has sparked a vivid debate, and there is currently no accepted standard definition in an international legal instrument. However, an assessment of the impact of autonomy *of* and *in* weapon systems on the ascription of legal responsibility to the individual or the state for, respectively, war crimes and violations of international humanitarian law does not require the adoption of a rigid definition.

What matters instead is whether and to what extent the autonomy *of* and *in* weapon systems may create unique challenges from the perspective of ascription of responsibility. This progressive autonomy is the subject of a special issue of the *Journal of International Criminal Justice*, edited and introduced by **Paola Gaeta** and **Marta Bo**, Postdoctoral Researcher at the time of writing (vol. 21, no. 5, November 2023).

Contributions by members of the Graduate Institute include:

– **Who Acts When Autonomous Weapons Strike? The Act Requirement for Individual Criminal Responsibility and State Responsibility**

This essay by **Paola Gaeta** examines the theories according to which “actions” carried out by autonomous weapon systems enabled by strong artificial intelligence in detecting, tracking and engaging with the target (“intelligent AWS”) may be seen as an “act” of the weapon system for the purpose of legal responsibility. The essay focuses on the material act required for the commission of war crimes related to prohibited attacks in warfare. After briefly presenting the various conceptions of the act as an essential component of the material element of criminal offences, it argues that the material act of war crimes related to prohibited attacks is invariably carried out by the user of an “intelligent AWS”. This also holds true in the case of so-called “unintended engagements” during the course of a military attack carried out with an intelligent AWS. The essay moves on to examine the question of whether, in the case of the use of intelligent AWS by the armed forces of a state, the “actions” of intelligent AWS – including those not intended by the user – are attributable to the state. It demonstrates that under a correct understanding of the concept of “act of state” for the purpose of attributing state responsibility under international law, such attribution is unquestionable. It underlines that, suggesting otherwise, would bring to a breaking point the possibility of establishing violations by states of international humanitarian law in the conduct of hostilities.

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– **Autonomous Weapon Systems, Errors and Breaches of International Humanitarian Law**

An error in the operation of an autonomous weapon system (AWS) results in civilians or civilian objects being attacked. In such situations, have civilians or civilian objects been “made the object of attack”, such that there is a breach of the rule prohibiting attacks against civilians or civilian objects? This question – which is important because of the high probability of such errors – forms the subject of this article by **Abhimanyu George Jain**, PhD Researcher in International Law and Research Associate at the time of writing. It argues that the rule prohibiting attacks against civilians or civilian objects requires due diligence – contextually reasonable efforts – across the targeting process, to ensure that civilians or civilian objects are not attacked. This implies that AWS errors breach this rule if the errors are unreasonable, i.e., if they originate in a failure of due diligence at any point in the process of development and deployment of AWS. Moreover, the risk-sensitivity of due diligence obligations suggests that the higher degree of risk involved in the development and use of an AWS leads to a corresponding increase in what constitutes contextually reasonable efforts to ensure that civilians or civilian objects are not attacked.

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

– **Criminal Responsibility by Omission for Failures to Stop Autonomous Weapon Systems**

This article by **Marta Bo** deals with establishing the criminal responsibility, through the model of commission by omission, of autonomous weapon systems (AWS) users in situations where failures to suspend AWS-driven attacks have caused a war crime. The author tackles the question

of whether an omission to stop such an AWS may amount to the *actus reus* of war crimes of unlawful attacks and does so by establishing how the doctrine of commission by omission can be applied on the basis of the grave breaches regime in the First Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. In deconstructing the status of commission by omission under both these legal frameworks, this article analyses whether the substantive conditions of commission by omission, namely, the legal duty to act and the capacity to act, are met. The author suggests that “human control”, manifested in the ability to supervise, intervene and stop an AWS-driven attack, should be considered a necessary precondition for the imputation of criminal responsibility in at least some expected scenarios of AWS use. In the absence of such human control, there would be no accountability for unlawful attacks, including indiscriminate attacks, caused by AWS, which would lead to impunity for such crimes. On the one hand, the attribution of responsibility by omission has, therefore, crucial implications for closing the “responsibility gap” within this context. On the other hand, based on the analysis of “control” as the key principle for criminal responsibility by omission, the author argues that an additional treaty obligation should be adopted to ensure human control over AWS and preserve accountability for potential unlawful attacks.

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

– 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, demand 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. Ultimately, this article proposes preliminary avenues to address these concerns.

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

– A Weapon is No Subordinate: Autonomous Weapon Systems and the Scope of Superior Responsibility

The doctrine of superior responsibility is occasionally presented as a potential solution to the “responsibility gap” allegedly created when the employment of autonomous weapon systems (AWS) results in violations of international humanitarian law, which would amount to war crimes. **Alessandra Spadaro**, PhD Researcher in International Law and Research Associate at the time of writing, analyses several challenges to the applicability of the doctrine of superior responsibility in these circumstances. In fact, superior responsibility is premised on the existence of a superior–subordinate relationship between individuals. The type of control required for this relationship to exist is different from the kind of control exercised over weapons, including AWS. Additionally, the doctrine requires the commission of an underlying crime in all its elements by a punishable subordinate. Nonetheless, superior responsibility remains a useful framework to demarcate the scope of the supervisory duties of the superior in relation to the prevention of war crimes. Understanding the limitations of this doctrine will be important in guiding the discussions concerning the level of human control that should be retained over AWS.

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

The special issue is part of the research output of a four-year project, funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation, entitled “[Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems and War Crimes: Who is to Bear Criminal Responsibility?](#)”.

ARTICLE

The Origins and Legacies of Unpredictability in Rebel-Incumbent Rule

Many rebel groups “govern”, becoming increasingly institutionalised, accountable, and predictable. This is now well-accepted; however, less attention has been paid to another common observation: some rebel orders – and rebel-incumbent regimes – are more aptly characterised as unpredictable. **Rebecca Tapscott**, Ambizione Research Fellow, and **Eliza Urwin**, PhD Researcher in International Relations/Political Science, find that this is because they adopt vague mandates and delegate provisional authority (in *Civil Wars*, online March 2024). The analysis shows that, in some cases, this (1) allows rebels to accommodate potentially incongruous pre-existing authorities and institutions, which can integrate unpredictability into early governance arrangements; (2) helps rebels cultivate social control from a comparatively weak position; and (3) has enduring legacies for rebel-incumbent rule. The authors illustrate this argument with Uganda’s National Resistance Movement (NRM) and explore broader relevance with the Afghan Taliban.

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

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Sustainability, Environment, the Anthropocene & SDGs



REPORT & EXECUTIVE REPORT

A Just and Sustainable Lithium Battery Value Chain: Delphi Survey – Results Report

What are the challenges in building a sustainable and fair lithium battery value chain? Martín Obaya, Diego Murguía, Carlos Freytes and Tomás Allan, members of the [Green Dealings](#) research project coordinated by **Marc Hufty**,

carried out a survey to know the points of view of diverse experts across South America and Europe (Centre for International Studies, 2024). Findings demonstrate a widespread consensus on the substantial sustainability challenges associated with lithium mining in salt flats: 77% of participants agreed that addressing this issue should be a top priority, even if it requires temporarily slowing down or suspending mining activities.

[Full report \(public access\) >](#)

[Also available in Spanish \(public access\) >](#)

[Executive report \(public access\) >](#)

[Also available in Spanish \(public access\) >](#)

POLICY BRIEF

Land Market and Illegalities: The Deep Roots of Deforestation in the Amazon

Francisco de Assis Costa and Carlos Larrea, lead authors, **Susanna Hecht** and others highlight the profound impact of increased land cultivation on deforestation and forest degradation (Science Panel for the Amazon, December 2023). They emphasise the connection between weak governance, global commodity demand and illegal land appropriation and call for strengthened governance and innovative solutions to combat illegal land markets, recognising the urgent need for effective measures.

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

POLICY BRIEF

Human Impacts on Carbon Emissions & Losses in Ecosystem Services

Luciana Gatti and Pedro Moura Costa, lead authors, **Susanna Hecht** and others examine the human impact on carbon emissions in the Amazon over the last decade (Science Panel for the Amazon, December 2023). They emphasise the need for innovative finance approaches and broader financial strategies to support Amazon conservation. Urgent action is called for to secure the Amazon's role as a global climate regulator.

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

PHD THESIS IN ANTHROPOLOGY AND SOCIOLOGY OF DEVELOPMENT, 2024

Life Alternatives: Daily Praxis among the Kayambi in Northern Ecuador

Since the promulgation of a new constitution in Ecuador in 2008, studies indicate that the Indigenous term of *sumak kawsay* (good living) is a potential systemic alternative. Based on the presupposition that such alternatives already exist in the margins and cracks of the system, **Larissa Da Silva Araujo** discusses how the leading proponents of *sumak kawsay*, namely Indigenous peoples, enact it in daily life. Aiming to contribute to “emergent encounters” between Global South subjects, she conducted this research collaboratively. Between July 2019 and March 2020 and other periods in 2021 and 2022, conviviality in the *chakra*, the family and the community was the main ethnographic pathway that unfolded in different forms of collaboration. Two extraordinary events, the Covid-19 pandemic and an Indigenous and peasant uprising, altered the research development. In this view, besides discussing the struggles Kayambi people have to develop life alternatives in the territory – through advancing agroecology, facing food racism, dismantling gender inequalities, promoting Kayambi knowledge to the youth, and nationally struggling against policies of structural adjustment – she describes how engaged anthropology emerges among them. Their daily praxes enable the search for *sumak kawsay* by developing projects of life alternatives that prioritise a holistic and biocentric approach.

[Read more about the PhD thesis in this interview >](#)

[Repository](#) (file embargoed until January 2027; for access, [contact the author](#)).



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Diplomacy & Global Governance



MONOGRAPH

Demystifying Treaty Interpretation

In this book, **Andrea Bianchi** and **Fuad Zarbiyev** don't just tell you how treaties are commonly interpreted (Cambridge University Press, March 2024). They help you understand also the process of treaty interpretation and its outcomes. The idea that rules of treaty interpretation can guide us to the meaning of treaty provisions, in a simple and

straightforward manner, is a myth to be dispelled. This book aims to capture some of the complex and nuanced processes involved in treaty interpretation. It spurs further reflection about how interpretation takes place against the background of concepts, categories, and insights from other disciplines. A useful tool for scholars, practitioners and researchers engaging with treaty interpretation at all levels, the book aims to enhance the reader's knowledge and mastery of the interpretive process in all its elements, with a view to making them more skilled and effective players in the game of interpretation.

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

TWO EDITED BOOK CHAPTER SECTIONS

The edited book *Public International Law: A Multi-Perspective Approach* provides a comprehensive yet critical introduction to the diverse field of public international law (S. González Hauck, R. Kunz and Max Milas, eds., Routledge, March 2024). Two researchers of the Graduate Institute contributed a chapter section each:

– The chapter “Overarching Questions” provides a short introduction to the overarching questions that shape international law across different approaches, doctrines, and fields of international law. Questions involve among others the “**Enforcement**” of international law (or lack thereof). **Daniel Ricardo Quiroga-Villamarín**, PhD Researcher in International Law, aims to evaluate the reasons why certain legal scholars have considered international law to be “incomplete”; to examine how different schools of international legal thought have problematised this “incompleteness” critique and reframed the problem of compliance – or lack thereof – of international law; and to understand the divergence in North Atlantic international legal thought between a European concern for “system” and a US focus on “process” – without losing sight of what is left outside of this framing.

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

– The chapter “Subjects and Actors” first introduces the concepts of legal personality and legal subjectivity, and then discusses in more depth a number of actors in international law as well as actors which, even though not possessing formal legal personality, play a role in making, interpreting and enforcing international law, such as “**Women**”. **Juliana Santos De Carvalho**, PhD Researcher in International Law at the time of writing, and Verena Kahl aim to understand how women have been included as subjects of international law and how they have contributed to the development of international legal practice, and to take stock of (some) persisting challenges to gender equality in the field.

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

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Cities, Space, Mobilities & Migrations

ARTICLE

Decoding the Impact of Covid-19 on Everyday Life Practices of Syrian Refugees: An Investigation at the Neighbourhood Level

This study by **Z. Ezgi Haliloğlu Kahraman**, Visiting Fellow in the Centre for Trade and Economic Integration (CTEI), investigates the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic at the



neighbourhood level on the everyday life practices of Syrian refugees and the potential reasons for virus transmission in their settlements (in *Southeast European and Black Sea Studies*, online February 2024). It is based on fieldwork in an ethnic enclave of Ankara, which revealed comparative insights into everyday life practices of Syrians before and after the outbreak, their perceptions, reactions and strategies towards the pandemic and its countermeasures. Their religious beliefs, sociocultural structure, social networks and economic struggles have significant effects on their perceptions and practices in pandemic times; together with their living and working conditions, this may create risks of virus transmission. The degradation in their employment status, interruptions in donations and increase in expenditures resulted in decreases in living standards. The outbreak, negatively influencing their use of public services and some parts of social life, created new inequalities and stressors but empowered their social support system and

virtual networking capacities.

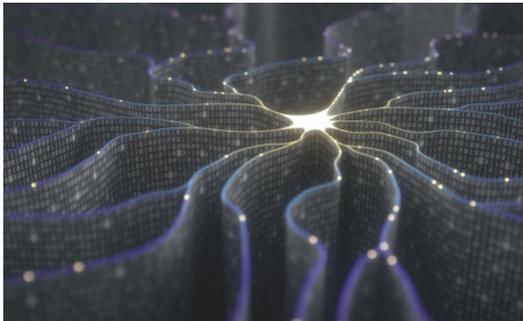
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Technology



PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS/POLITICAL SCIENCE, 2024

Artificial Intelligence: A Journey towards Understanding Its Global Governance

Artificial Intelligence (AI) represents a profound and far-reaching transformation of politics, economics, and society. **Carl Gahnberg** aims to understand AI's global governance and the role of

non-state actors. In a first paper, he introduces a new framework for analysing AI as an object of governance through a lens of artificial agents. This interdisciplinary framework merges social science and technical perspectives, enabling a comprehensive examination of AI governance across various applications. The second paper explores the interaction between public and private authorities in AI governance, presenting a detailed case study of privacy standards for the Web. It highlights the dynamic nature of these interactions through historical examples, emphasising the co-constitutive nature of hybrid authority and the evolving role of technical standards in governing online privacy. In his third paper, the author investigates the role of ethics in AI governance, conceptualising ethics as constitutive rules shaping objectives, identities, and behaviours within an emergent governance complex. Through an analysis of 186 documents, the study reveals variations in how stakeholders value and interpret key principles. It posits that this variation poses a challenge to establishing cohesive governance frameworks for AI.

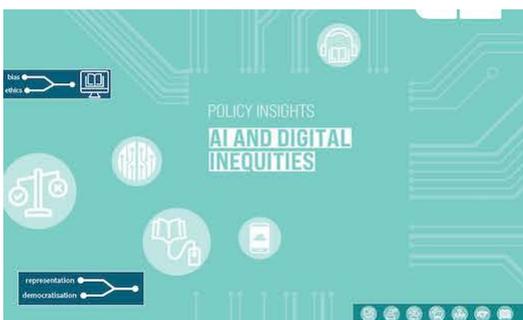
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Education, Information & Media



COLLECTION

AI and Digital Inequities

AI in society is not a binary on/off. But the question of how we can prevent AI from reflecting and reinforcing existing inequities must be answered. This collection, edited and introduced by **Maira Faul**, Executive Director at NORRAG, brings together 30 authors from 5 continents who foreground the ethical challenges that arise with

regards to AI use in education whether as a private, public or common good, and invite the reader to put human and planetary flourishing at the heart of AI decision making, development and

deployment (Policy Insights no 4, NORRAG, March 2024). Among the authors is **Carolina Earle**, Research Assistant, who describes in her contribution an educational process that supported marginalised people to recognise and reclaim their agency as they realised their own transformative visions for more equitable AI futures for all.

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Development & Cooperation



ARTICLE

The Impact of LDC Graduation on Trade: A Quantitative Assessment

Twelve Least-Developed Countries (LDCs) will graduate from the LDC status in the coming decade, implying that they will lose preferential access to export markets. Eddy Bekkers and **Gianmarco Cariola**, PhD Researcher in International Economics at the time of writing,

quantify the expected impact of LDC graduation on exports of graduating and non-graduating LDCs, incorporating detailed preference utilisation data in a partial equilibrium model (in *The Journal of International Trade & Economic Development*, online February 2024). They compare the results under actual and full preference utilisation rates. Separately, they explore how underutilisation of tariff preferences affects the exports of countries benefiting from such preferences. The analysis generates four main results. First, graduation will have a negative impact on the exports of graduating LDCs (more than USD 6 billion export loss or 6% of exports), especially in the clothing sector. Second, the adverse trade effects of graduation would be overestimated by 30% under full instead of actual utilisation rates. Third, the increase in exports of non-graduating LDCs following graduation of other LDCs is limited, implying that non-graduating poorer LDCs hardly benefit from graduation of richer LDCs. Fourth, there would be significant benefits of increasing the utilisation of LDC preferences. The exports of LDCs would increase by almost USD 7 billion if they simultaneously switched to a full utilisation regime.

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Other Relevant Information



Multimedia



BOOK LAUNCH | ALBERT HIRSCHMAN CENTRE ON DEMOCRACY

Expert Ignorance

On 26 February, a panel discussion marked the book launch of *Expert Ignorance: The Law and Politics of Rule of Law Reform*, in which **Deval Desai**, Reader in International Economic Law at the University of Edinburgh and former Postdoctoral Fellow at the Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy, identifies this form of expertise as “expert ignorance”. Adopting an interdisciplinary approach, the author draws on insights from legal theory, sociology, development studies and performance studies to explore how this paradoxical form of expertise works in practice.

[Watch the event >](#)



THE CFD PODCAST E3 | CENTRE FOR FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

Master's Theses on Sustainable Finance

Anna-Riikka Kauppinen, Assistant Professor of Anthropology and CFD Chair in Finance and development, and **Luz Stecca**, Communications Officer at the CFD, interview **Signe Skov Jensen** and **Tim van Doorne**, two alumni who graduated in 2023. Signe wrote her Master dissertation in Development Studies on the sustainability concerns in the EU Taxonomy and its implications for financial decision-making. Tim's master dissertation in International Affairs contemplates the measurement of listed companies' contributions to health through public equity. What are their research findings – and their motivations to study and work in sustainable finance?

[Listen to the episode >](#)



ALBERT HIRSCHMAN CENTRE ON DEMOCRACY

A Bias for Hope: Revisiting Albert Hirschman's Legacy

This roundtable organised on 13 February 2024 discussed Albert O. Hirschman's seminal insights and how they enable to grasp specific research and policy issues, focussing in particular on the changing forms of civic engagement that produce new configurations of “voice” and “exit”. Panellists were **Santiago Gerchunoff**, Professor of Political Theory, Universidad Carlos III, Madrid; **Shalini Randeria**, Professor of Anthropology and Sociology & President and Rector, Central European University, Vienna; and **Laurence Whitehead**, Senior Research Fellow in Politics, Nuffield College, Oxford University.

[Watch the event >](#)



RESEARCH AT THE ALBERT HIRSCHMAN CENTRE ON DEMOCRACY E8

Navigating Environmental Justice at Sea through Ethnographic Ways of Knowing with Jennifer Telesca

Laura Bullón-Cassis, Postdoctoral Researcher at AHCD, is in conversation with **Jennifer Telesca**, Associate Professor of Environmental Governance in the Department of Geography, Planning, and Environment at the Nijmegen School of Management of Radboud University, the Netherlands. Together they dive into the heart of environmental justice through an ethnographic lens. They unpack the intersections of human-environment relationships, global ocean governance, and the politics of extinction. They delve into the choices ethnographers make when embarking on new research projects and examines the role of ethnography in shedding light on the nexus between environmental, economic, and political concerns.

[Listen to the episode >](#)

After a successful first season, Research at the Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy (RAHCD) returns for a second season to reflect on the fieldwork, methods, and readings of its researchers, as well as on the meaning and state of democracy. [Read more >](#)



DEMOCRACY IN QUESTION? S8:E4 | CENTRAL EUROPEAN INSTITUTE & GENEVA GRADUATE INSTITUTE

Oleksandra Matviichuk on Human Rights and Ukraine

This episode explores human rights in relation to Russia's full-scale aggression on Ukraine. How do accountability gaps play a role in restorative justice? And what are effective approaches for documenting losses and war crimes so they can be brought to court? [Listen](#) for an analysis of the current war in Ukraine and the prospects for addressing human rights violations.



DEMOCRACY IN QUESTION? S8:E5 | CENTRAL EUROPEAN INSTITUTE & GENEVA GRADUATE INSTITUTE

Vivek Maru on Legal Empowerment for Communities

This episode explores environmental justice and the democratisation of law. What does it take to turn the law into something that ordinary people can use to protect themselves? And how can putting the power of the law into the hands of the people support progressive emancipatory politics? [Listen](#) to hear how investment in community leadership is key to an environmentally just transition.



EL PUENTE E10 | CENTRO INTERNACIONAL DE ESTUDIOS POLÍTICOS Y SOCIALES (CIEPS) EN COLABORACIÓN CON AHCD

¿Cuándo es confiable una encuesta?

A medida que avanza la contienda electoral, son más las encuestas que buscan medir la intención de voto de la ciudadanía panameña de cara a las elecciones del 5 de mayo. Muchas de ellas arrojan resultados contradictorios. ¿Por qué se da esto? **Harry Brown Arauz** (director del CIEPS) y **Yanina Welp** (investigadora asociada del Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy) conversan con el investigador y experto en opinión **Jon Subinas** para aprender a identificar cuándo es confiable una encuesta. Escúchalo el episodio en [Spotify](#) o [Youtube](#).

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Awarded Grants

SNSF DOC.CH | 1 March 2024–31 August 2026, CHF 193,033 | IHP Dep. & AHCD

A Poetics of Decolonization: Literary Entanglements, Textual Solidarities, and the Progressive Writers' Movement, South-Asia, c.1934–1980

On the evening of 23 November 1934, a group of Indian students met in the backroom of the Nanking restaurant in London to lay the foundations for their visions of a “progressive” literature for the times. Critically reflecting on their shared experience as colonised subjects in the metropole, they sought to outline the role that writers and artists would play in the struggle to free the Indian subcontinent from British rule. While born out of the political agitations for Indian

independence, they aligned themselves with a global movement against imperialism and fascism. Active from the 1930s to the 1980s, they published journals and newspapers; brought into their fold poets, painters and performers through different forums; and built networks of Third World solidarity with other Asian and African artists across territorial borders. **Devarya Srivastava** will chart the political, personal and transnational journeys of this self-avowed group of left-wing, “progressive”, peripatetic individuals. He argues that tracing these histories allows us to grasp how writers, artists and performers crafted visions for a decolonial world free from colonial domination, imperial rule and fascist repression.

SNSF DOC.CH | 1 March 2024–31 August 2026, CHF 186,666 | ANSO Dep. & AHCD **Health as a Form of Politics in North India**

In 2013, the Aam Aadmi [common man] Party (AAP) was elected to the Delhi Government and promised to provide the *aam aadmi* with the right to health by establishing by 2015 1,000 Mohalla [neighbourhood] Clinics, which are publicly funded. However, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-run Central Government of India controls the public land in Delhi and often refuses to allocate land for the AAP to build the clinics. The AAP hence claims that to fulfil its promise of health, it needs to be elected to the Central Government of India, with the result that its health governance in Delhi often has more to do with competing for positions of electoral-political power than with managing the healthcare system. Such governance escapes anthropology’s traditional biopolitical understandings of health governance and suggests that we need to take more seriously the politics of biopolitics. **Robert D. Smith** therefore asks: How does the AAP govern health? How does health become political in Delhi? How did clinics become an object of contemporary electoral politics? And how is health experienced in the mohalla To answer these questions, he will conduct 12 months of ethnographic research, media analysis, archival research and interviews in Delhi, aiming to bring into conversation the subdisciplines of medical and political anthropology to provide insights for health policy makers, political actors and global audiences about the possibilities and limitations of health within electoral democracy.

SNSF DOC.CH | 1 March 2024–31 August 2026, CHF 172,032 | ANSO Dep. & GMC **The Natures of Displacement: A Study of Relations to Nature on Afghan Journeys in Istanbul and Geneva**

In the journey narratives of Afghans on the move, nature takes an unexpected importance. Forced to cross borders through forests, mountains and seas for weeks at a time to avoid arrest and deportation, the natures they encounter are politicised and anthropised. What forms of relations to nature emerge in displacement? How are the boundaries of “nature” and the “human” politicised in displacement? How does the diversity of natures lived by people on the move question what nature is? What are the imaginaries embedded in the environment of Afghans waiting in displacement? To shed light on these questions, Théo Lefort will examine the relations to nature of displaced young Afghan men and women on their journeys through multi-sited ethnography in Istanbul and Geneva, key sites of waiting on the journeys to Western Europe connected in Afghan networks. The original contribution of this project is to bridge transnational studies of displacement with anthropological enquiries on nature. It aims to contribute to the studies of migrations by examining how the biopolitics governing relations to nature in displacement are lived and resisted. It also aims to contribute to ontological approaches of nature and the human by approaching, through experiences of displacement, the multiplicity of natures. Additionally, his project questions whether relations to nature in displacement exemplify the ways these relations emerge in contexts of exploitation and violence. Thus, the research asks if their study could contribute to unearthing techniques of control and resistance that politicise nature in broader contexts marked by climate change. **Théo Lefort** proposes that studying how Afghans create critical imaginaries embedded in displacement ecologies could foster counternarratives to Western-centric frameworks of climate migration that conflate fears of migration and of climate change.

SNSF DOC.CH | 1 March 2024–31 August 2026, CHF 158,442 CHF | ANSO Dep. & AHCD

Welfare in a Peculiar State: Experimenting with the Welfare State in Entrepreneurial Hubs

Although the phenomenon of entrepreneurial hubs has recently come under scrutiny in the social sciences, previous research has focussed on their role in incubating private technology companies and thus spearheading digital innovations. Using anthropological perspectives and ethnographic methods, **Edouard Zeller** starts from the premise that entrepreneurial hubs are becoming increasingly important for experimenting with new modes of governing entrepreneurial citizens and building the welfare state in Europe. Building on two burgeoning strands of literature on innovation and welfare restructuring across Europe, his research asks: how are the ideas and practices of entrepreneurship and social innovation shaping new models of the European welfare state and citizenship? Drawing on 15 months of ethnographic research in a recently inaugurated entrepreneurial hub in Lausanne, Switzerland, he will study how the phenomenon of social innovation, actively supported by Swiss public authorities, translates into new ways to conceptualise and deliver social welfare. Next to advancing an understanding of how European welfare states are changing in the 21st century, this research sheds new light on the impact of entrepreneurial hubs' global presence on work subjectivities and citizenship.



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Visitors

📅 15 March–30 Aug. 2024

📍 IRPS Dep.

Bianca Kremer

Coming from Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro, Visiting Fellow Bianca Kremer is researching “Anti-Discrimination Auditing Methods for Biometric Technologies in the Public Sector”.

📅 1 April 2024–30 June 2025

📍 CFD

Rebecca Stuart

Coming from the University of Neuchatel, Visiting Fellow Rebecca Stuart will be researching “Swiss Financial Markets in the 19th Century”.

📅 1 April–14 June 2024

📍 AHCD

Michael Leger

Coming from the University of Cambridge, Junior Visiting Fellow Michael Leger will do research on “Managing Money from the Periphery: UNCTAD on Monetary Reform and Development, 1940–1980”.



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Calls for Event Proposals

INTERNATIONAL GENEVA GLOBAL HEALTH PLATFORM

Side Events during the 77th World Health Assembly, 2024

The 77th World Health Assembly (WHA), to be held from 27 May to 1 June, provides the key convening space for the global health community to learn about and debate critical global health challenges. Continuing the tradition from previous years, the International Geneva Global Health

Platform at the Global Health Centre (GHC) will organise four days of diverse side events during the 77th WHA. We invite you to submit a proposal for a 1.5 hour side event to the WHA, which should include a 30 minute Question and Answer session.

- **27 March 2024:** submission deadline.

[More information and submission form >](#)



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Awarded Prizes

Swetha Ramachandran Receives the GDS/ISA Edward Said Graduate Paper Award

Congratulations to **Swetha Ramachandran**, PhD Researcher in International Relations/Political Science, who has just been awarded the 2023–2024 Edward Said Award: Global Development Studies (GDS) Section’s Graduate Paper by the International Studies Association (ISA) for her paper “**Unravelling Aid Funding**: Linking Funding Allocation Patterns and Localization in Sierra Leone” (WIDER Working Paper 2023/105, UNU-WIDER). Development assistance funding by international donors is rarely channelled to/through local actors. While the topic is mired in heated ethical and normative debates, tangible progress has been piecemeal. Swetha Ramachandran empirically explores the phenomenon and investigates why and how donors vary in their extent of localisation when it comes to disbursing aid funding. Using the case study of Sierra Leone and applying a mixed-methods design that combines primary interviews with regression analyses, she uncovers novel patterns of aid allocation and explores its implications for how major donors provide foreign aid.

The Edward Said Award has been established to honour the intellectual legacy of Professor Said and to recognise outstanding graduate research.

GLOBAL MIGRATION CENTRE

Carolina Futuro Winner of the Global Migration Award 2024

Congratulations to Master Student **Carolina Futuro**, who won the Global Migration Award for her master dissertation in International Relations and Political Science “**Solidarity Movements**: An Ethnography of Anti-Deportation Struggles in Switzerland”. Observing the rise of deportation in contemporary times and focusing on Switzerland because of the high occurrence of such movements in the country and its configuration as a direct democracy, she aims to answer the following question: In what ways can the ethnographic study of Swiss solidarity movements against the detention and expulsion of foreigners disrupt the political practice of deportation? Employing participant observation of anti-deportation protests, material analysis and interviews, she investigates empirical examples of two Swiss solidarity movements that, contrary to usual conclusions, have a radical scope that aims to reform the deportation system and count upon active deportee participation, who demonstrate a political and resistant subjectivity.

The Global Migration Award has been created by the Global Migration Centre to promote innovative and high quality research on global migration. [Read more >](#)



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

