



Spring 2019 NEWSLETTER

CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES
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New SNF project awarded to Prof. Liliana Andonova

Prof. Liliana Andonova, Co-Director of the Centre for International Environment Studies (CIES), has been successfully awarded a research grant of CHF 862'453.- by the Swiss National Science Foundation. The 4-years project *Accountability of International Organisations* will aim to investigate under what conditions and to who are International Organisations (IOs) accountable to for their decisions, operations and practices.

The scope of accountability of IOs will be measured, using innovative layering of methodologies from multiple social science disciplines, including analysis of historical archives and legal instruments, and inter-temporal and comparative analysis on who are the formal and informal accountability holders, and through what accountability mechanisms they access information, demand justification, or impose consequences.

This project will seek to develop a broadly generalisable theory that places a spotlight, for the first time, on explaining the variable accountability of IOs, and how institutional design and political action affect the scope of international accountability.

The project aims to make substantial contributions to International Relations theories, the study and teaching of international institutions, and, importantly, to public policies and IO reforms.

It will inform a comparative empirical analysis on the accountability of five IOs (ICRC, UNICEF, the World Bank, the IMF, and the WHO), selected according to the expected variation in their institutional structure and other explanatory variables.



Geneva Dialogue Climate Change, Social Movements and Peasant Agroecology

by **Peter Rosset**, Professor at ECOSUR
Chiapas, Mexico
Tuesday 9 April 2019, 18:30 - 20:00



Auditorium A1B
Maison de la Paix
Welcome address by
Prof. Susanna Hecht

CIES is pleased to host Professor Peter Rosset for its next Geneva Dialogue lecture on *Climate Change, Social Movements and Peasant Agroecology*. Peasant farmers are prime victims of climate change. Increasing variability in rainfall and temperatures disrupts planting and what the peasant movement calls 'false solutions', such as agrofuels and REDD, which lead to further land grabbing and dispossession, doubly victimising the peasantry. The transnational peasant movement La Via Campesina (LVC), asserts that peasants also hold the promise of a true solution that could

substantially scale back greenhouse gas emissions: localising the global system by building food sovereignty, based on anti-capitalist struggle, the roll-back of free trade agreements, true agrarian reform and peasant agroecology. Beyond its well known engagement in political struggles, LVC is now significantly dedicated to building peasant schools and territorial processes to scale up agroecology practiced by small scale producers of food, as part of advancing from 'discourse' to real transformation of material reality.

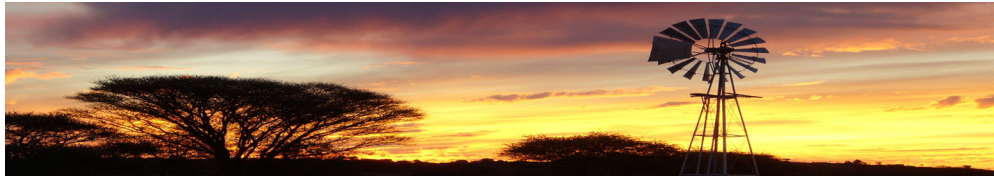
CIES News

Clean Energy in Africa

Monday 25 March 2019, 12:30 - 14:00

Auditorium A2, Maison de la Paix, Geneva

CIES Panel Discussion



CIES is delighted to organise a panel discussion on clean energy in Africa. On this occasion we will host **Lucy Hunt**, Renewable Energy Associate at the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), **Prof. Malick Kane**, Head of the Laboratory for Thermal Energy Systems (LTE), HEIA-Fribourg and **Prof. Youba Sokona**, Senior Adviser, Sustainable Development, South Centre.

At the initiative of the IHEID Africa Summit and jointly organised by the CIES and the Green Growth Knowledge Platform (GGKP), this event will discuss the opportunities and obstacles to develop clean energy through the African continent.

Africa's economy is growing, and people have the ideas, the intelligence and the will to create businesses that will leapfrog the continent's development; energy access is a crucial piece of the puzzle.

The panel seeks to discuss the remaining obstacles to a full electrification of the African continent, the renewable energy solutions that are developing, in light of the continent's potential to tap into clean energy sources, and the policy and business solutions which can accelerate the clean energy transition of the African continent.

Our Plastic Future - Can the Oceans Survive?

Tuesday 2 April 2019, 18:30 - 20:00

Auditorium A2, Maison de la Paix, Geneva

CIES co-sponsored event

Sustainability Week Switzerland (SWS) is part of a national movement of more than ten other sustainability weeks in cities across Switzerland aimed at raising awareness and building momentum towards sustainable leadership in higher education institutions and for the general public. The goal is to bring sustainability into all aspects of Swiss higher education institutions and support them in becoming sustainability role models for our society.



The panel discussion 'Our Plastic Future: Can the Oceans Survive?' will be one of the main events of the week. The future of our oceans is in jeopardy. Economic development and the subsequent expanding use of plastic constitutes a major threat to the biodiversity of the ocean, the future of cities at low elevations, and the safety and security of millions of people around the globe. This discussion is an urgent conversation about the impact of marine plastic pollution, the current work addressing the issue and possible avenues for solutions.

Register at graduateinstitute.ch/cies

To learn more about Sustainability Week Switzerland visit <https://www.sustainabilityweek.ch/>

IHEID Africa Summit on Clean Energy in Africa

The IHEID Africa Summit is a student initiative that aims to provide a space for policy makers, academics, professionals and students from varied disciplines to discuss the current economic, social and political landscape of a global Africa, which will potentially accelerate the progress of actions addressing specific issues.

The summit is a series of panels that discuss topics ranging from trade to environmental matters. Their hope is that every semester, students will take the initiative to highlight an Africa-related pertinent subject that is of interest to them, in collaboration with the Institute's Centres.



CIES Staff

New affiliated staff members



Philipp Grosskurth joined CIES as a visiting fellow in November 2018.

Before that, Philipp joined RWI's Berlin office in September 2013 as a researcher in the research department 'Environment and Resources'. Following internships in Frankfurt and Geneva he worked as a consultant for investment policy for UNCTAD.

Philipp studied international economics in Göttingen and Seoul, focusing on development economics, applied econometrics and foreign languages and is a member of the Carlo-Schmid-Programme Network for International Politics and Co-operation. He was a scientific advisor to the workgroups legal affairs, risk & resilience, and international affairs for the project 'Energy Systems of the Future' and a member of the Think-20 Task Force 'Climate Policy and Finance' in the context of the German G20 presidency 2017.

CIES Research

The New Malthusianism : a Symposium

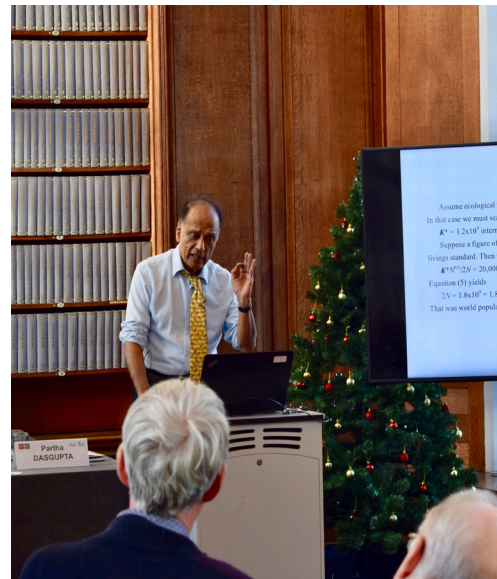
Last workshop of MAVA's «A Sustainable Human Niche?» project

Recent studies project populations reaching levels of 12-14 billion individuals by the end of the century. This raises a set of questions regarding food security, pandemic threats, and environmental crises. These issues relate back to Thomas Malthus and the concerns he raised relating to resource scarcity and human population levels, and their interaction.

On the occasion of the 220th anniversary of Malthus' Essay on Population, a symposium was convened at his Cambridge College – Jesus College – to consider more recent explorations of Malthus and Malthusianism. Economic historians, population/land use modellers, growth theorists, and resource economists presented new or current insights to be derived from more recent studies related to Malthusianism.

Professor Partha Dasgupta presented a stimulating keynote to kick off the symposium. The twenty participants presented a raft of stimulating papers arising from Malthusian thought and motivated by current studies, new projections and historical data. The papers ranged from new theories of unified economic growth via sophisticated demographic projection models to new and striking evidence on the evolution of real wages in England over the past 300 years.

The New Malthusianism Symposium was sponsored by the MAVA Foundation and the Cambridge Institute for New Economic Thinking in celebration of the 220th Anniversary of the publication of Malthus' Essay on Population and organised by Professor Tim Swanson, Dr Toke Aidt and Ms Anhdina Kusumawidjaja.



NRP73 «Financing Investments in Clean Technologies» presented at the second programme conference

Dr Joëlle Noailly and the 'Financing Investments in Clean Technologies' project team, composed of Prof. Gaëtan de Rassenfosse (EPFL), Laura Nowzohour (PhD Candidate, IHEID) and Matthias van den Heuvel (PhD Candidate, EPFL), went to Bern to present [the project's progress](#) at the 2nd programme conference of NRP 73.

The conference was a good platform to strengthen the dialogue between the various actors and provided a sound basis to achieve the programme's objectives to contribute to a more sustainable economy.



CIES «Agrarian environment and food systems» research programme



The Farming of Trust: Organic Certification in Uttarakhand

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 record keeping and inspections required by organic certification were intended to make agrarian practices legible and transparent, in practice they often failed to do so. Shaila Seshia Galvin, explored this issue in an article published last November in the *American Ethnologist*.

Full citation of the article:

Seshia Galvin, Shaila. 'The Farming of Trust: Organic Certification and the Limits of Transparency in Uttarakhand, India.' *American Ethnologist* 45, no. 4: 495–507 (November 2018). [doi:10.1111/amet.12704](https://doi.org/10.1111/amet.12704)

Future of Food workshop

Under the lead of Prof. Susanna Hecht and Amalia Ribi Forclaz, all professors involved in the CIES 'Agrarian environment and food systems' research programme collaborated to write a proposal for an interdisciplinary workshop on 'The Future of Food', which aims to explore the agrarian transitions that are taking place under the new climate regime.

This proposal was successfully awarded by the SNF in December 2018 and the academic workshop bringing together many high-profile international experts will take place on 9 and 10 April 2019, at the Graduate Institute (Villa Moynier). The meeting will be a great opportunity to jump-start a series of research activities on the topics of agriculture and food within the CIES.



CIES Events - Spring 2019

CIES public events

- **Monday 25 March 2019, from 12:15 to 14:00**, «Clean energy in Africa», Co-organised by GGKP and the IHEID Africa Summit
- **Tuesday 2 April 2019, from 18:30 to 20:00** «Our Plastic Future: Can the Oceans Survive?», in collaboration with Sustainability Week Geneva
- **Tuesday 9 April 2019, from 18:30 to 20:00**, «Climate Change, Social Movements and Peasant Agroecology», CIES Geneva Dialogue with Prof. Peter Rosset
- **Tuesday 9 to Wednesday 10 April 2019**, «Future of Food», CIES Workshop organised by Prof. Susanna Hecht
- **Thursday 13 June to 14 June 2019**, The Swiss Society of Economics and Statistics (SSES) Annual Congress 2019, **Special Session on the Environment**, organised by Joëlle Noailly

CIES Latest Publications

Books and articles

- 'Private Governance in Developing Countries: Drivers of Voluntary Carbon Offset Programs', **Liliana B. Andonova and Yixian Sun**, *Global Environmental Politics*, February 2019, pp 99-119.
- 'The Farming of Trust: Organic Certification and the Limits of Transparency in Uttarakhand, India', **Seshia Galvin, Shaila**, *American Ethnologist* 45, no. 4: 495–507, November 2018. doi:10.1111/amet.12704.
- CIES Policy brief 2, 'The US Taxes Credits and Carbon Negative Technologies', **Tim Flannery**, Segré Foundation Distinguished Visiting Professor, The Graduate Institute
- "Follow the Leader?" Testing for the Internalization of Law., Larcom, S. T., Panzone, L. & **Swanson, T.**, Apollo - University of Cambridge Repository, 2019.

Lunch Seminar series

- **Thursday 28 February 2019, 12:15 - 13:30**, «Market Measures for Sustainable Fishing», **Eva van der Marel**, PhD Candidate at the Centre for the Law of the Sea, The Arctic University of Norway.
- **Thursday 7 March 12:15 - 13:30**, «Effectiveness of Partnerships for Sustainability: a Comparative Analysis of Two Case Studies», **Dario Piselli**, PhD Candidate in International Law, The Graduate Institute
- **Thursday 21 March 2019, 12:15 - 13:30**, «Electrifying Nigeria: the Household-Level Impact of Access to Electricity on Consumption, Education and Employment», **Enrico Nano**, PhD Candidate in Development Economics, The Graduate Institute
- **Tuesday 2 April 2019, 12:15 - 13:30**, «Global governance on marine plastics pollution: The process towards a new legally binding agreement», **Eirik Lingbeberg**, Global Plastics Policy Manager at World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
- **Thursday 18 April 2019, 12:15 - 13:30**, «Catalyst or Hindrance? The link between trade policy & sustainable development», **Colette van der Ven**, Director, Trade and Development pro bono Program, Sidley Austin LLP
- **Thursday 2 May 2019, 12:15 - 13:30**, «The future of coal passes through Kosovo», **Noah Kittner**, Senior Researcher, Group for Sustainability and Technology, ETH Zürich
- **Thursday 16 May 2019, 12:15 - 13:30**, «Crime in South Africa: The Intricate Role of Education», **Roxana Manea**, PhD candidate in Development Economics, The Graduate Institute

Letter from Alumni

Yixian Sun, Postdoctoral Fellow, Yale University

In December 2018, I became a postdoctoral fellow at Yale University, thanks to the financial support of the Swiss National Science Foundation. At Yale, I joined the School of Forestry & Environmental Studies to work at the Governance, Environment, and Markets (GEM) Initiative, and am also affiliated with the Yale MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies. I am glad to be part of a vibrant interdisciplinary academic community and interact with many leading scholars in environmental studies. In addition to turning my dissertation into a book, I am starting a new project comparing sustainability governance of tea supply chains in China, India, and Kenya—the world's three largest tea producers. Additionally, I am leading several collaborative projects at GEM on environmental regulation, particularly to explore the limits of private market-based governance in halting environmental crises. Looking back, I find my experience at CIES very helpful in this smooth transition from a PhD student to postdoc. The CIES' interdisciplinarity, diversity, and collegiality helped me to build not only many research skills, but also management and interpersonal skills. I am grateful to my supervisor, Liliana Andonova, for her guidance as well as to my former colleagues for their advice and support. I miss so much the CIES family!

