



# INTERNATIONAL HISTORY

GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AND  
DEVELOPMENT STUDIES, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

Understand the present, Prepare the future

THE  
GRADUATE  
INSTITUTE  
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ÉTUDES INTERNATIONALES  
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GRADUATE INSTITUTE  
OF INTERNATIONAL AND  
DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

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## A Unique Programme

**The International History Department at the Graduate Institute in Geneva offers a unique opportunity to study and research today's global challenges from a multiplicity of historically-informed perspectives.**

Situated in the heart of international Geneva, we are uniquely positioned to monitor and examine the making of international policies and the global history that stands behind them. International Geneva is where national, transnational and international, public and private actors operate and meet constantly. Here, peace agreements are signed, international IT protocols are negotiated, environmental advocacy, public health policies, financial, economic, conflict

and security issues are imagined, debated and enforced, between and beyond nations. This has been the case for one hundred years, and Geneva continues to actively shape the future.

Both the Master programme and the PhD Programme in International History explore the modern world through these transnational histories, taking into account a multiplicity of perspectives.

This education opportunity is offered to high-quality students interested in the drivers of contemporary global governance challenges and their historical undercurrents in the areas of politics, development, conflict, environment, humanitarianism, commerce and finance, health and culture.



## A Dynamic Study Plan

### Master in International History

3 compulsory courses (18 credits)  
12 elective courses (72 credits)  
8 to 10 courses in discipline of specialisation (48 to 60 credits)  
2 to 4 in one or several other disciplines (12 to 24 credits)  
Thesis (30 credits)  
**Total** of 120 credits

### PhD in International History

2 compulsory courses (12 credits)  
2 elective courses (12 credits)  
Preliminary thesis dissertation (30 credits)  
Option to choose other discipline minor (18 credits)  
Dissertation  
**Total** of 54 credits or 72 (with minor)

## Courses

Historiography: A Critical Introduction • Histories Beyond Nations • Research Training Workshop • The Cold War: An International History • Decolonisation: A History • Foreign Policy of Major Powers • Fundamental Historical Questions • The Humanitarians: A History • Birth and Evolution of Japanese Imperialism • Violence, History and Memory in 20th century Africa • Environmental History of Latin America • Gender, Sexuality and Decolonisation in the Global South • History and Development • Medicine, Imperialism and Internationalism •

Themes and Interpretations in Global History • Transatlantic Relations since 1945 • Understanding Terrorism: History, Context and Challenges • United States and East Asia since the 19th century • The Climates of History • China-Europe Relations • State-Building and War-Making in the Developing World • Latin American and Caribbean Social Histories • The United States and the World since 1945 • Agriculture in World History • History of the European Union from a Global South Perspective • Public Health and Medicine • From the Ottoman Empire to the Arab Spring

## Why Study International History?

The International History Department of the Graduate Institute – the oldest school of international relations in Europe located in Geneva, the site of historical international organisations and historically of the League of Nations – enables students to pursue historical research and analysis in the context of the Institute's anchoring in both the humanities and the comparative analysis of contemporary policy and governance.

The particular contribution of the International History Department is to bring a historical methodology to the study of international affairs, including policy-making, political systems and institutions. These methods – specifically qualitative and textual analysis, archival research and attention to structural change and continuities over time – allow students to coherently link history, politics and the contemporary environment.

A degree in international history at the Graduate Institute in Geneva can lead to a career as an international historian, but it also provides a set of tools for a successful career in politics and diplomacy, or in the private sector. The same methods that make for a great international historian are a tremendous, indeed indispensable asset in the world of global politics. Of particular importance are the ways that historians illuminate the political relevance of questions of meaning, culture, mentalities and deep economic structures local and globally.

The Department's mission is to encourage dynamic and cross-cutting historical approaches to understanding, contextualising and situating current international politics and policies. Members of the faculty teach and research

- governmental and non-governmental actors and organisations
- human rights, humanitarianism and humanitarian actions/interventions
- development politics, policies and ideologies
- nation-building and state-building
- civil society and social movements, gender, women and public policies, labour, employment and trade unions
- international and global public health
- environment and environmentalisms, climate change and political ecologies
- immigrants, refugees and diasporas
- international finance and economy
- conflicts and international security issues, political violence and terrorism
- transnational actors, institutions, histories and processes
- foreign policies, multilateral diplomacy, negotiations and co-operation, regional integration and North-South relations

# Faculty and Research

The International History Department of the Graduate Institute researches and teaches the contemporary world through its different histories and from a multiplicity of perspectives. The Department hosts a diverse community of

distinguished professors and researchers with deep knowledge of today's global challenges expertise on many regions of the world and with a great sensitivity to diversity.



## Professors

Gopalan **BALACHANDRAN**

Globalisation • North-South relations • Diasporas

Carolyn **BILTOFT**

Globalisation • History of international relations • International organisations



Nicole **BOURBONNAIS**

Global health • Gender • Public policies

Philippe **BURRIN** (Taught in 1987–2004)

Second World War • Fascism, nazism, antisemitism • History of international relations  
19th–20th century



Jussi **HANHIMÄKI**

Cold War • Foreign policies • International organisations

Susanna **HECHT**

Environmental history • Political ecologies • Resource governance



Mohammad-Mahmoud Ould **MOHAMEDOU**

Terrorism • State-building • Political transition

Amalia **RIBI FORCLAZ**

Agriculture • Labour • International organisations



Davide **RODOGNO**

Humanitarianism • Authoritarianism • International organisation

Aidan **RUSSELL**

Violence • Decolonisation • Borders and mobilities



Cyrus **SCHAYEGH**

Transnational history • Cold War • Decolonisation

Lanxin **XIANG**

Cold War • Foreign policies • World wars



## Honorary Professors

Bruno **ARCIDIACONO**

Armed conflict • International organisations • History of international relations

Mohammad-Reza **DJALILI**

Political sociology of development • History of international relations



Andre **LIEBICH**

Minorities • Post-communism • Immigrants

## Recent Publications by our Faculty

Gopalan **BALACHANDRAN** *Globalising Labour? Indian Seafarers and World Shipping, 1870-1945*, Oxford University Press, 2012.

Nicole **BOURBONNAIS** *Birth Control in the Decolonising Caribbean – Reproductive Politics and Practice on Four Islands, 1930–1970*, Cambridge University Press, 2016.

Jussi **HANHIMÄKI** *The Rise and Fall of Détente – American Foreign Policy and the Transformation of the Cold War*, Potomac Books, 2012.

Susanna **HECHT** *The Scramble for the Amazon and the 'Lost Paradise' of Euclides da Cunha*, University of Chicago Press, 2013.

Mohammad-Mahmoud Ould **MOHAMEDOU** *A Theory of ISIS – Political Violence and the Transformation of the Global Order*, Pluto Press and University of Chicago Press, 2017.

Davide **RODOGNO** *Against Massacre – Humanitarian Interventions in the Ottoman Empire, 1815–1914*, Princeton University Press, 2015.

Cyrus **SCHAYEGH** *The Middle East and the Making of the Modern World*, Harvard University Press, 2017.

Lanxin **XIANG** *China's Legitimacy Crisis – Republic without Plebiscite*, Lexington Books, 2017.



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## Students and Careers

The International History Department at the Graduate Institute prepares you for an international career. From academe to diplomacy to the corporate sector by way of the media, foundations and think-tanks, effective analysis and practice of current international affairs need the contribution of an appropriate historical contextualisation and knowledge. This is what we offer our Master and PhD students, helping them secure that quality advantage. Through historical methodology such as qualitative and textual analysis, applied research seminars conducted with practitioners in partner organisations, archival research and attention to structural change and continuities over time, students study international politics, policy-making, political systems and institutions, transnational actors and actions, and history of culture, societies,

markets and environment in regional and/or global perspective.

Studying International History at the Graduate Institute means acquiring high-quality training, an international network and practical experience. It also means living in a city, Geneva, where international cooperation happened, happens and will continue to happen.

Past and present cohorts of Master and PhD students have been extremely successful and are currently employed in a wide range of roles in the private and public sector.

To the extent of its ability, the Graduate Institute strives to support its students throughout the duration of their studies with nearly half of our students receiving direct or indirect financial support. Financial aid is awarded on the basis of an application documenting financial need.

### Student Testimonials

“ The Department of International History at the Graduate Institute provides students with the opportunity and the tools to approach their studies in more complex and innovative ways than do other graduate programmes around the world. ”

Jonathan Matthew **SCHMITT**  
United States of America

“ A wonderful community of scholars and students. The historical sources available in Geneva – a hub of international organisations – have enriched my work in a way that I had never expected, and my time at the Graduate Institute broadened my intellectual horizon. ”

Yukako **OTORI**, Japan

“ I have continually found the space to explore novel openings and have received great direction and support. An ideal milieu in which to broaden our spectrum of thought, history and everything else in between. ”

Aditya Kiran **KAKATI**, India



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[graduateinstitute.ch/prospective](https://graduateinstitute.ch/prospective)

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