



FONDS NATIONAL SUISSE  
SCHWEIZERISCHER NATIONALFONDS  
FONDO NAZIONALE SVIZZERO  
SWISS NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

## The Emergence of a 'Science of the International' in Interwar Europe: Its Origin, Development and Legacy for Contemporary Social Science

November 6 and 7, 2019

Graduate Institute, Global Governance Center

Organizers:

Grégoire Mallard and Jean Terrier

### Abstract

Over the past twenty years, numerous publications have called upon scholars to consider all relevant contexts when analysing historical processes of knowledge production: many historians of ideas have claimed to “provincialize Europe” or moved to a “global history,” thereby paying attention to the interactions between the global context and regional and/or imperial processes, in contrast to conventional accounts focusing on national legacies, intellectual or otherwise. In this conference we ambition to gather scholars from international law, history, sociology and anthropology, who have paved the way for the development of a global intellectual history of what we may call the “sciences of the international” in the twentieth century. It will fill a gap in the historical scholarship on the topic, as most historians of anthropology and sociology continue to ignore recent revisions of the history of international law; and reciprocally, historians of international law who pay attention to global processes between North and South have failed to notice the emerging sociology of colonial knowledge and new histories of sociology and anthropology in the interwar period.

### Confirmed participants:

1. Arnulf Becker, Lecturer in Legal Studies, Brandeis University.
2. Jean-François Bert, « Maître d'enseignement et de recherches » of history and anthropology of religion, University of Lausanne.
3. Francesco Callegaro, Professor of philosophy and sociology, University of Buenos Aires.
4. Filipe Calvao, Associate Professor of Anthropology and Sociology, Graduate Institute.
5. Leo C. Coleman. Associate professor of anthropology, Hunter and Graduate Center, CUNY.
6. Alice Conklin, Professor of history, Ohio State University.
7. Francesco Corradini, PhD student in international law, Graduate Institute
8. Jane Cowan, Professor of social anthropology, University of Sussex.
9. Marine Dhermy-Mairal, « Maître assistante » in history, University of Geneva.
10. Yvan Droz, Senior Lecturer of anthropology and sociology, Graduate Institute
11. Marcel Fournier, Professor of sociology, University Montréal.
12. Michael Goebel, Associate Professor of History, Graduate Institute.
13. Sue Stedman Jones, *Durkheim Centre*, Oxford.
14. Nico Krisch, Professor of international law, Graduate Institute.
15. Annabelle Littoz-Monnet, Professor of international relations, Graduate Institute.
16. Grégoire Mallard, Professor of anthropology and sociology, Graduate institute.
17. Jean Christophe Marcel, Professor of sociology, Université de Bourgogne.
18. Luigi Nuzzo. Professor of Legal History, University of Salento.
19. Davide Rodogno, Professor of International History, Graduate Institute.
20. Jérôme Sgard, Professor of Political Economy, Sciences-Po Paris.
21. Patricia Spyer, Professor of anthropology and sociology, Graduate institute.
22. Amalia Ribí-Forclaz, Associate Professor of International History, Graduate Institute.
23. Jean Terrier, Unidistance/University of Basel.
24. Ludovic Tournès, Professor of history, University of Geneva.
25. Fuad Zarbiyev, Associate professor of international law, Graduate Institute.



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## Conference Schedule

**Wednesday Nov. 6, 2019. Villa Barton, S1.**

9:30pm - 10:00pm: Welcome and Introduction Grégoire Mallard, Jean Terrier, Nico Krisch and Annabelle Littoz-Monnet

10:00pm - 12:00pm: The “International” at the Crossroad of Practical and Theoretical Knowledge

Chair/Discussant: Chair/Discussant : Davide Rodogno

Luigi Nuzzo, University of Salento. “Dangerous Liaisons: Colonialism and International law in the interwar period.”

Jane Cowan, University of Sussex. Title TBC “The Research Expertise Built at the League of Nations in the Minorities Sections”

Grégoire Mallard, Graduate Institute. “Marcel Mauss the High Society of Progressive Colonial Reformists in the Era of the League of Nations.”

12:00pm- 1:00pm: Lunch Break

1:00pm - 3:00pm: The Institutionalization of Maussian Anthropology in Interwar League of Nations

Chair/Discussant: Patricia Spyer

Ludovic Tournès, University of Geneva. “Marcel Mauss, the Rockefeller Foundation and the Restructuration of Colonial Sciences in the Interwar Era”

Marine Dhermy-Mairal, University of Geneva. “From Nation to Humankind : the International Labor Organization, a place for Durkheimian social scientists (1920-1930)”

Jean-Christophe Marcel, Université de Bourgogne. “The Contribution of Célestin Bouglé to the Concept of International Society and his Work at the Centre de Documentation Sociale”

3:00pm- 3:15pm: Coffee Break

3:15pm - 5:15pm: Forms of Knowing as an International Law Specialist

Chair/Discussant: Fuad Zarbiyev

Arnulf Becker, Brandeis University. “The rise of the international: protecting, projecting and limiting sovereignty in the interwar era”

Francesco Corradini, Graduate Institute. “International Legal Knowledge Production at the Graduate Institute of International Studies (1927-1938)”

Jérôme Sgard, Sciences-Po Paris, “League of nations Bureaucrats in the Financial and Juridical Fields.”



**Thursday Nov. 7, 2019, Villa Moynier, Cassese Room.**

9:00 am - 13:00 am: Ethnologists and International Law Scholars During the League of Nations

9:00 am - 11:00 Panel 1 : The Internationalization of Maussian Anthropology

Chair/Discussant: Filipe Calvao

Michael Goebel, Graduate Institute. “International Movements, the Law, and Anticolonialism: Expert Activists against Empire in Interwar Paris.”

Francesco Callegaro, University of Buenos Aires (FNS). “Le don de la nation. Marcel Mauss et le tournant intersocial(iste) de la sociologie”

Alice Conklin, Ohio State University. “Marcel Mauss, Alfred Metraux and the Challenge of International Social Science.”

11:15 am - 12:30: Panel 2 : Conceptions of the International and the Global in Interwar Sociology

Chair/Discussant: Yvan Droz

Leo C. Coleman, Hunter and Graduate Center, CUNY. “Kula Ring and Colonial Knowledge: Mauss’s Order of Gifts, Malinowski’s Vision of Order”

Sue Stedman Jones, *Durkheim Studies Centre* in Oxford (FNS). “The Durkheimian Conception of the ‘International’ Society before and after the Great War.”

12:30-1:30pm: Lunch

1:30pm-3:30pm: Marcel Maus’s Relevance Today for Inter-disciplinary Debates – L’actualité de Mauss: Quelles perspectives inter-disciplinaires? (session bilingue)

Chair/Discussant: Amalia Ribí Forclaz

Marcel Fournier, University Montréal (FNS). “The ‘International’ in Sociology: From Durkheim to Mauss”

Jean Terrier, Unidistance/University of Basel. “The notion of ‘intersocial’: The case of Marcel Mauss’s *La Nation*.”

Jean-François Bert, University of Lausanne. “L’intersocial comme question de méthode. Marcel Mauss et le comparatisme hier et aujourd’hui.”

3:30pm- 4:00pm: Coffee Break

4:00 pm - 5:15 pm : Conclusions Grégoire Mallard and Jean Terrier

Discussion of a special issue on the “sciences of the international in the times of Mauss and Durkheim”

5:15pm: Departure of participants

## Aims

Over the past twenty years, numerous publications have called upon scholars to consider all relevant contexts when analyzing historical processes of knowledge production: authors have claimed that we should “provincialize Europe” or move to a “global history,” more attentive to the contribution of Global South scholars, when studying the history of academic disciplines like international law or anthropology. These calls and methodological shifts have also resonated within, when they were not preceded by, the disciplines of anthropology and sociology. Still, except for notable exceptions, the sub-disciplines that are concerned with telling the histories of either anthropology, sociology or international law in the twentieth century have remained particular impervious to such attempts to de-nationalize the subject of their study. Moreover, even when they did so, most historians of anthropology and sociology continue to ignore recent revisions of the history of international law; and reciprocally, historians of international law who pay attention to global processes between North and South have failed to notice the emerging sociology of colonial knowledge and new histories of sociology and anthropology in the interwar period.

This lack of dialogue, we hypothesize, is creating obstacles for new theoretical progress. As we make the hypothesis that the object and claimed jurisdiction of all the disciplines of the “international” (international law, anthropology, sociology) at the time of their foundation was precisely the definition of the “international,” or the boundaries between national, colonial and international phenomena, we propose to gather specialists in the history of each of these “sciences of the international” and bring them together to discuss recent and future perspectives on the history of their disciplines. In doing so, we pursue three goals:

- discuss and assess the state of the art in the most recent historiography of international law, sociology and anthropology;
- develop a coherent framework to capture the role of international politics and local sociological processes at play in the creation of an international society in Geneva, Paris and London;
- reflect on what these interwar projects can teach us to further strengthen inter-disciplinary debates between anthropology, sociology and international today, especially as the disciplines increasingly grapple with challenging ethical, political and methodological issues related to the fact of conducting research in transnational setting characterized by multiple legal and normative layers.

Conference participants will answer such questions as: What were the imaginaries of the ‘international’ developed by anthropologists, sociologists and international law scholars in the interwar era? How were those imaginaries linked to the contexts in which these scientists/administrators developed new legal, political and social technologies to learn about, and administer, populations in various areas of the world (Europe, Americas, colonial territories in Africa and Asia)? Were these imaginaries of the ‘international’ generally associated with the liberal vision of the world order and the defense of human rights or with the fascist ideologies? How did they survive in the postwar era up to today?

To answer these questions, we have invited leading scholars who have focused on the role of francophone anthropology and international law, particularly around the key figures of Emile Durkheim and Marcel Mauss. Indeed, methodologically, we believe it will produce even more fruitful intellectual exchanges if we focus part of the conference on a specific area in global intellectual history where recent research has been particularly productive, in addition to having general presentations on the evolution of academic fields in the interwar period.