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INSTITUT DE HAUTES
ÉTUDES INTERNATIONALES
ET DU DÉVELOPPEMENT
GRADUATE INSTITUTE
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Histoires

NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL HISTORY DEPARTMENT OF THE GRADUATE INSTITUTE, GENEVA

April 2020

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UNDERSTAND THE PRESENT
PREPARE THE FUTURE

Uniquely located to study the making of international policies and the global history that stands behind it, the **International History Department of the Graduate Institute** researches and teaches the contemporary world through its different histories and from a multiplicity of perspectives.

Interested in joining our community? For further information on studying International History at the Graduate Institute [click here](#).

[Courses](#) | [Research](#) | [Faculty](#) | [Students](#)

Dear Friends:

Our lives go on, and so does our work.

The virus is here, all around us.

Everything has changed, and it will do so even more as we adapt to the historical changes brought on by Covid-19.

Yet keeping to normalcy is as crucial as that ongoing adjustment and that upcoming adaptation are.

In that spirit of resistance, we bring you with great pleasure in this Spring 2020 issue of our department newsletter, news about our students, alumni, fellows and professors – the work they do and will continue doing as the post-Corona world dawns on us.

SPOTLIGHT



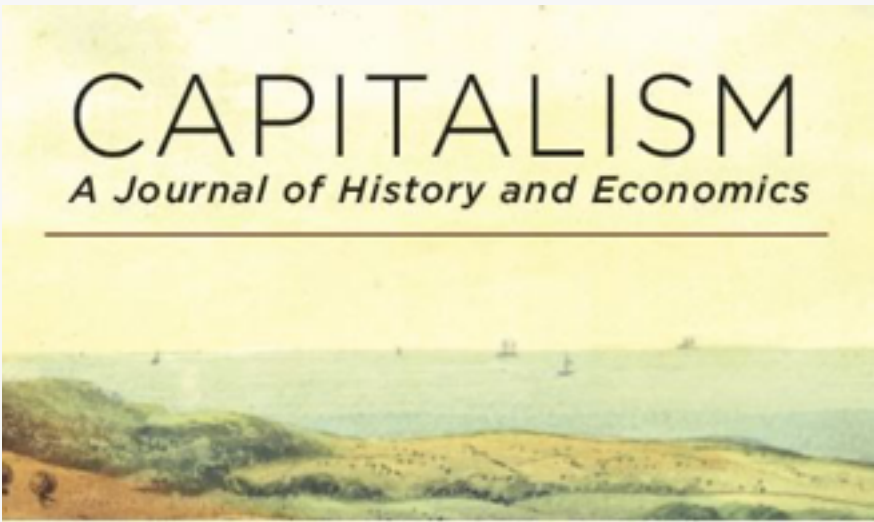
Students in Professor Mahmoud Mohamedou and Professor Davide Rodogno's class An International History of Racism, March 2020

15 New Courses for Past, Present and Future Challenges

This 2019-2020 academic year, the Department of International History of the Graduate Institute has introduced ten new courses for its students. In the near future, the curriculum will be further expanded with classes examining notably “Digitization and History”, “Europe and the World”, “Collapsology”, "Statehood and War" and “Monetary History”.

[Read the article](#)

INSIGHT



Launch of New Journal on History and Economics

By Carolyn Biltott, Assistant Professor of International History

Graduate Institute Department of International History Assistant Professor **Carolyn Biltott** and colleagues launched a new academic journal on history and economics. Published by the University of Pennsylvania Press, **Capitalism: A Journal of History and Economics** , offers a trans-disciplinary forum for the examination of the history of economic phenomena broadly conceived.

ANALYSIS



Globalisation, Inequality and Cities

By Michael Goebel, Associate Professor of International History, Pierre du Bois Chair Europe and the World

Ever since the term ‘globalisation’ began to circulate widely among social scientists and the media in the 1990s, it has been commonplace to assume that the world’s growing connectedness has also exacerbated socio-economic inequalities. The enormous success of Thomas Piketty’s Capital has lent further credence to the notion that globalisation aggravates inequality.

[Read the full article](#)

[Read the full article](#)

INTERVIEW



EUI Fellow Grace Ballor on Reconstructing the History of the Single Market

Grace Ballor is a **Max Weber Fellow in History and Civilisation at the European University Institute**, currently a Research Fellow at the **International History Department at the Graduate Institute**. Dr. Ballor is an international economic historian, focusing on European integration, economic globalisation and capitalism. She earned her Ph.D. in History from the **University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)** in 2018. She has published on US-EU-Russia trade, on trans-Atlantic economic relations in the post-war period, and on the political influence of multinational corporations. Her current book project investigates the relationship of business to the process of European integration.

[Read the interview](#)

DOCTORAL FOCUS



Amal Shahid

Amal Shahid, fourth year PhD candidate in International History discusses her research on the political economy of casual labour in Colonia India.

[Read more](#)

STUDENT NEWS



International History doctoral candidate Alessandro Ambrosino, took part on 9 January 2020 in "Passato e Presente" (Past and Present), a television programme on the Italian channel RAI3. Mr Ambrosino contributed his analysis as a young historian.

[Read the full article here.](#)



Frank Afari (PhD Candidate) spent the months between October 2018 and June 2019 as a Predoctoral Research Fellow at the Northwestern University's Buffett Institute for Global Affairs (Evanston-Illinois, USA). He was selected under the partnership between the Graduate Institute and Northwestern University, and was awarded a [Sylff Research Abroad \(SRA\)](#) travel grant by the Tokyo Foundation for Policy Research. In addition to conducting interviews amongst Northwestern's faculty members, he was able to conduct archival research in the Melville J. Herskovits Library of African Studies which holds the largest Africana collection in the world. His research, which explores the intersection of human rights, historical injustice and transition to democracy in Ghana's history, uncovered the agency of US-based African diasporic communities and individuals in the 1980s and 1990s as historically noteworthy transnational drivers of political change in Ghana's history. Later, he presented a paper on "The Truth-for-Amnesty Conundrum and the Ghana's National Reconciliation Commission" at the [2019 Accra Roundtable Conference](#) on Truth Commissions organised by the Canada-based [Confronting Atrocity Project](#) at the University of Ghana.



Efrat Gilad is a doctoral candidate researching the history of urban settlers in Tel Aviv through the city's emerging market for meat under the British Mandate for Palestine (1920s-1940s). Her thesis focuses on disputes surrounding meat in the fields of nutrition, import, slaughter and trade. Her supervisors are Davide Rodogno and Cyrus Schayegh. Her preliminary findings were recently published on academic blogs. On [Global Urban History](#) (co-edited by [Michael Goebel](#)) she posted the question: "[Is settler colonial history urban history?](#)". The post suggests rethinking the role of cities in the construction of settler colonialism with Tel Aviv as a main example. On [The Social History Workshop](#) (Hebrew) of [Ha'aretz newspaper](#) she posted a short essay on "[Zionist Vegetarianism](#)". The post shows how nutrition, climate and political economy were linked together in the Jewish settlement in Palestine, and how this led Zionist experts to promote a national diet that limited meat.



Aditya Kiran Kakati will be taking up a position as a Research Fellow, at the [International Institute for Asian Studies \(IIAS\)](#) in Leiden, the Netherlands from April-October 2020. He will pursue a postdoctoral project as an Early-Postdoctoral Mobility Fellow, granted by the [Swiss National Science Foundation \(SNSF\)](#) at the [School of Oriental and African Studies \(SOAS\)](#) in London and the [University of Amsterdam](#), Netherlands till May 2022. His postdoctoral project, entitled *Blind Spots and Blank Spaces: Borderworlds and Frontiers-at-large (1944-1962)*, examines the relationships between violence, development and state-making to investigate how remoteness is historically produced at the margins of emergent nation-states.



Andrei Mamolea, who completed an International History PhD in September 2018 will be joining [Boston University's Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies](#) as an Assistant Professor of International Law & History this coming autumn 2020. His research, which has been funded by the [Swiss National Science Foundation](#), [Canada's Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council](#), and the [Max Planck Institute for European Legal History](#), challenges the widespread assumption that the United States was the driving force behind the development of international law during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Mamolea is currently working on a manuscript about the US approach to the laws of war during this formative period, as well as a second, longer-term, book project on the development of international law in the Americas.



Johanna Gautier Morin, PhD Candidate in International History under the supervision of Professor Carolyn Biltott, has been awarded two fellowships from the Swiss National Science Foundation and the Gallatin fellowship to pursue her research at Princeton University as a Visiting Student Research Collaborator. Her research focuses on the socio-history of global financial deregulation during the 1970s-1980s through the prism of the financial crash of October 1987. At Princeton, she is working with Professor Harold James.



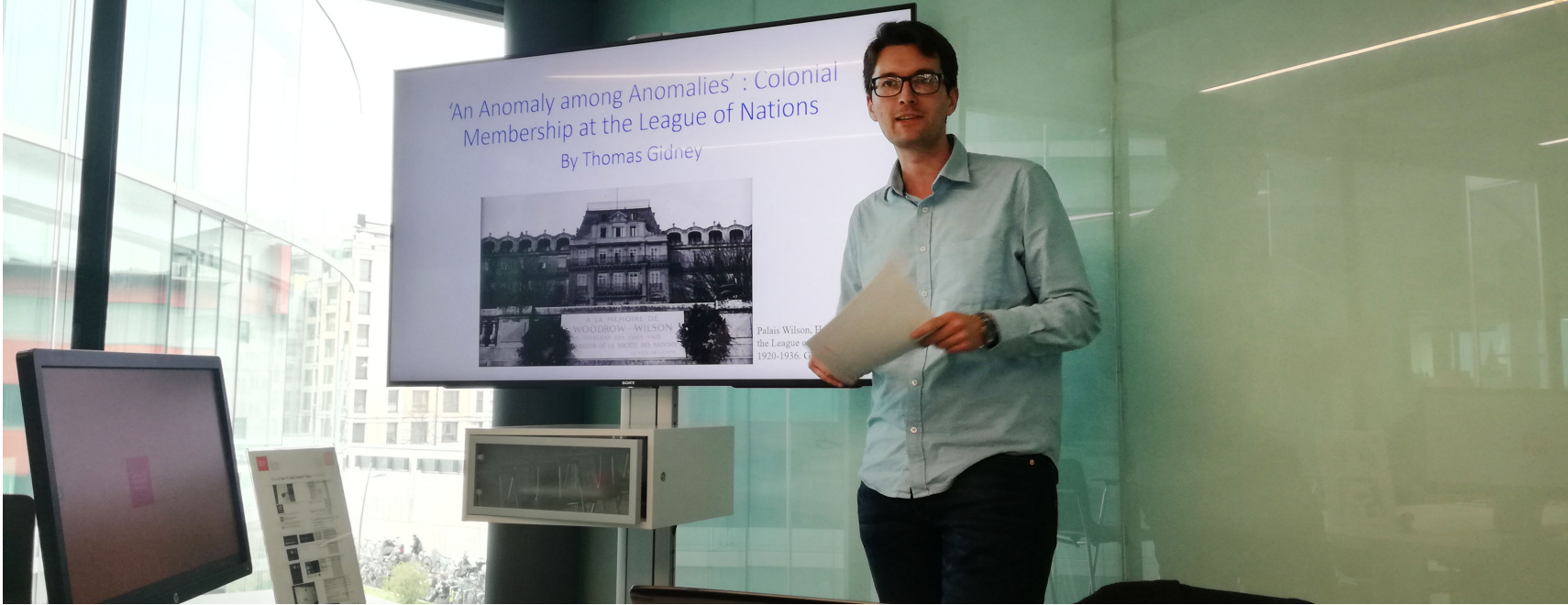
Fourth year PhD candidate Amal Shahid has been awarded the Doc.mobility grant from the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF). Starting September 2020, she will spend one year abroad finishing her doctoral thesis. During the autumn semester, she will be at the Faculty of History in the University of Cambridge, under the supervision of Professor Gareth Austin; and during the spring semester, she will spend her time with the Department of History at Dartmouth College, working with Professor Douglas Haynes. Her thesis explores the colonial famine policy of employing famine victims as labourers on public works construction in British India c.1860-1920.

HISTORY BRUNCHES



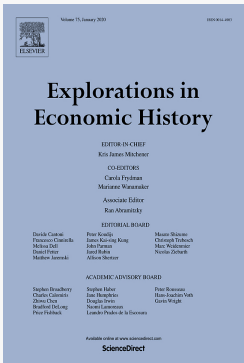
The History Brunches are a series of gatherings by members of the International History Department . The concept of the Brunches is as simple as it is effective: professors, visiting researchers and students are invited to present their projects in front of a small audience. Taking place about 3-4 times per semester since 2015, the brunches have become a forum for intellectual exchange that offer presenters an opportunity to test their ideas in a friendly environment.

An Anomaly Among Anomalies: Colonial Membership of the League of Nations



Thomas Gidney , PhD candidate in International History, shared his research “‘An Anomaly Among Anomalies’: Colonial membership of the League of Nations” during the History Brunch on 11 March. Thomas analyses how, although the United Nations prides itself as a force for decolonisation and bringing new nations states into the fold, the more we delve into the history of the United Nations, the more we see its colonial roots through its predecessor, the League of Nations founded in 1919. Through a case-study of colonial India’s membership to the League of Nations, Thomas shows how Great Britain pushed to include its colonies as member-states of the League of Nations. This happened at a time when international law was not universal, allowing for dissonant voices among sovereign nation-states for and against the inclusion of colonies. The British Empire was partially driven by the desire to multiply its vote share, but the decision to include its colonies also tried to legitimise colonial rule and appease nationalist movements. Thomas’s research provides a new prism to understanding the colonial foundations of the UN and how its inclusivity of colonies turned the organisation into a site of British imperial politics.

PUBLICATIONS

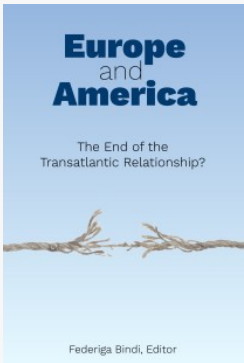


Explorations in Economic History

Social Networks in Economic History:
Opportunities and Challenges

Rui Esteves

October 2019
[Read the article](#)

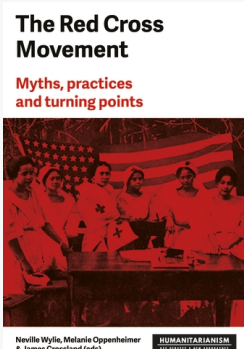


Europe and America

The Foreign Policy of the United States:
Indispensable No More?

Jussi Hanhimäki

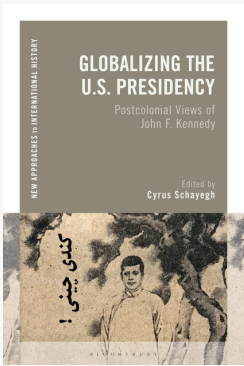
April 2019
[Read the chapter](#)



The SAGE Handbook of Political Science
In Search of the Non-Western State:
Historicising and De-Westphalianising
Statehood

Mohammad-Mahmoud Ould Mohamedou

February 2020
[Read the chapter](#)



Globalizing the U.S. Presidency:
Postcolonial Views of John F. Kennedy

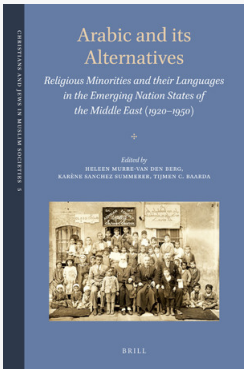
Cyrus Schayegh

January 2020
[Read the Book](#)

The Red Cross Movement: Myths,
practices and turning points
Certainty, Compassion and the Ingrained
Arrogance of Humanitarians

Davide Rodogno

April 2020
[Read the Chapter](#)



Arabic and its Alternatives
Epilogue

Cyrus Schayegh

March 2020
[Read the chapter](#)

EVENTS



On 3 March, Professor **Carolyn Biltoft** was invited to give a talk on **writing methodology** at the University of Oslo's **Department of Archeology, Conservation and History**.



Professor **Nicole Bourbonnais** has been invited to participate in a workshop on "Decolonisation and International Organisations" in Lisbon, April 13-14. She will be presenting her book, **Birth Control in the Decolonizing Caribbean**, as well as a new paper entitled "Planning Families in an Insecure World: The Politics of Reproduction, Decolonisation, and International Activism."



In March, Professor **Michael Goebel** was welcomed as a new Steering Committee member of the **Global Migration Centre**.



In January, Professor **Jussi Hanhimäki** announced a new Research Project entitled “The CSCE Follow-Up Meeting in Vienna (1986-1989): Struggling for Human Rights and European Security at the End of the Cold War.” This is a joint project between the **Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies**, the **Institute of Contemporary History, Munich-Berlin** and the **University of Innsbruck**. It is funded by the national funding agencies of Austria (**FWF**), Germany (**DFG**) and Switzerland (**SNF**). The research assistant working in the department for this project is Kai Habel, a second year PhD candidate in International History.



Professor **Susanna Hecht** has been appointed to the UN Scientific Panel on the Amazon which is headed by **Jeffrey Sachs**, Colmubia University and Earth Island Institute and **Carlos Nobre**, of the University of Sao Paulo. On 2 March, Professor Hecht gave the closing address at the Oxford conference entitled “**Amazon: Rising Violence and Disturbance Trends**”. In the coming months, Professor Hecht plans to speak at an event on Man and nature in Latin America at Columbia University, and has been invited to be a Keynote speaker at a conference May 5-7 on Political Ecology in Latin America.



On 5 March, Professor **Mohammad-Mahmoud Ould Mohamedou** gave a lecture on “**The Allers-Retours of Contemporary Political Violence**” at the University of Zurich. The conference was the opening keynote of the newly-launched Interdisciplinary Public Lectures “**Regarding Violence: Perspectives in Literature, History and Law**”. On March 12, he chaired a panel discussion with Jordi Tejel at the Graduate Institute on “**Towards a Decentred History: Transborder Spaces, Circulations, Frontier Effects and State Formation**”. On 12 June, he will deliver a lecture at the Collège de France in Paris entitled “De L’Après-11 Septembre et l’Étude du Présent”.



On 12 March, Professor **Amalia Ribi Forclaz** served as an external expert on the thesis defence of Verna Kröss from Jakob’s University Bremen, on the thesis entitled *Becoming a Big Player: The World Bank in the 1960s and 1970s*.



In January, Professor **Davide Rodogno** gave a talk at the **Humanitarian Exhibition** entitled “La photographie humanitaire à la fin de la Première Guerre Mondiale.” The exhibition aimed to explore the representation of humanitarianism at key moments in history. In February, Professor Rodogno attended a workshop entitled “**Working with the archives of the United Nations in Geneva**”. The aim of this workshop was to share ideas and experiences on the League of Nations and UN archives. The workshop attracted a host of academics from multiple disciplines. Together they discussed issues such as the accessibility of the documents and the challenges of digitisation; methodological issues regarding the use of international archives; and the importance of UN archives today.



In November, Professor **Cyrus Schayegh**, was invited to be a Chair and discussant at a Panel entitled “Territoriality and Population: “Arab” Nation States in the Age of the League of Nations,” at the **Middle East Studies Association (MESA)** Annual Conference in New Orleans. Following this, Professor Schayegh gave a lecture on “Iran’s Global Long 1970s: Empire, Civilisational Developmentalism and the Crisis of the Global North” at the **University Freiburg**, Germany. In December, Professor Schayegh was invited speak Invited at the Colloquium Global History hosted by the **Department of History and Cultural Studies** at the **Freie Universität Berlin**, on “**On Scale: Some Preliminary Thoughts**”.

In January, Professor **Lanxin Xiang** organised a track two dialogue between the United States and China on artificial intelligence, and on US-China relations



in Beijing and Shanghai. The American side of this diplomatic encounter was is organised by the **Scowcroft Center at the Atlantic Council** . Their Chinese counterparts were represented by military generals, top intelligence officials and diplomats.



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