

PROFILE

- Achim Wennmann works across policy, practitioner and research communities to enable critical thinking, facilitate partnerships and find solutions.
- He has over 20 years of experience in strategic management of complex policy and research projects and served in advisory roles for companies, foundations, international organizations, NGOs, and governments. He is co-founder of Geneva Peace Week and the Peace Talks Initiative, incubator of numerous multi-stakeholder processes, and executive of a networking platform with 10 people under his responsibility.
- Having worked with many diplomats, peace mediators and community workers over the last decade, Achim believes in the merits of dialogue and negotiation for preventing and resolving conflicts, even in the most difficult contexts and with the most difficult actors.
- Achim has a long record of publication in the peace and security field. His academic work has been published in journals such as *Third World Quarterly*; *Global Governance*; *Security Dialogue*; the *International Review of the Red Cross*; *Conflict, Security and Development*; and the *Journal of International Business Policy*, and in edited volumes published by Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press or Routledge.
- Achim has strong diplomatic skills and judgment capacity and is an experienced public speaker and facilitator with an ability to address different audiences on sensitive issues. He speaks German, English, French, and Spanish and has dual citizenship of Switzerland and Germany.

WORK HISTORY

Current positions

Director of Strategic Partnerships, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (since July 2021)

In this position, I have the overall responsibilities to (a) lead on the development of strategic partnerships in support of the vision and mission of the Graduate Institute; (b) to develop collaboration around emerging topics and initiatives at the research-policy interface; and (c) to provide strategic advice relevant for the overall positioning and competitiveness of the Institute. These responsibilities aim to enable exchange and community building between different actors from Geneva and elsewhere and Institute entities, colleagues and students, and to help promote a prominent strategic positioning of the Institute on global issues and in International Geneva and the world, especially ahead of its centennial in 2027.

Senior Researcher (since 2016) & Researcher (2006-2015), Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP), Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva.

Research focus

- Adaptation of peace mediation, conflict prevention and peacebuilding practice to changing global, regional and local orders
- Opportunities and constraints of post-conflict economic development in the nexus of state sovereignty and hybrid political orders
- Transnational diplomacy of cities and corporations with a focus on violence reduction and risk mitigation
- The political economy of violent conflict, peace processes and political transitions
- Peace and conflict dynamics in Latin America and the MENA region

Past research was supported by a variety of actors, including the OECD, DFID, PRIO, International Council of Swedish Industry, Conciliation Resources, Swiss FDFA, the World Bank, Institute for Economics and Peace, and other institutions.

Lecturer, Interdisciplinary Programmes, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (since 2020), Visiting Lecture (since 2015).

- Peace Mediation in a Changing World (6 ECTS since 2019)
- Business and Security in Fragile States (3 ECTS 2015-2017, 6 ECTS since 2018)
- Director, Summer Programme *The United Nations in a Changing World* (2 ECTS since 2021)
- The Transformation of Armed Groups (3 ECTS 2016-2017; 6 ECTS 2018-2019)
- Capstone Research Projects, Global Security Track (9 ECTS, 2018-2019), including development of a new management system for 20 Capstone Projects in this track

Past positions

Advisor to the Director - Strategic Development and Partnerships, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva (February – June 2021). I provided advice to Professor Marie Laure Salle, the Director of the Graduate Institute, in relation to the Institute's strategic development and partnerships, especially to Swiss authorities and international organizations and other actors in international Geneva.

Executive Coordinator, Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, Geneva, Switzerland (March 2011-February 2021). Executive position to drive, fundraise and advance a network of peace professionals, knowledge hub, and incubator. The Platform has a mandate to facilitate interaction on peacebuilding between different institutions and sectors, and to advance new knowledge and understanding of peacebuilding issues and contexts. The Platform is a network-based entity with an annual budget of CHF 1.2 million and the managing secretariat of Geneva Peace Week. It has a core team of five people and additional ad-hoc support staff for activities. As Executive Coordinator, I have shaped various multi-stakeholder processes and initiatives:

- Beijing-Geneva Digital Briefing on Sustaining Peace and Preventive Diplomacy (September 2020-present)
- Dialogue on Environment, Climate, Conflict and Peacebuilding (May 2020-present)
- LATAM Peace and Security Briefings (January 2019 – Present)
- Towards a Geneva Cities Initiative (January – December 2018)
- Working Group on the Confluence of Urban Safety and Peacebuilding (January 2015 – December 2017)
- White Paper on Peacebuilding (October 2013 – March 2015)
- Conflict prevention in the context of large-scale business investments (Jan. – Dec. 2012)

Research Coordinator, Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development, Small Arms Survey, Geneva (Sep. 2007-Sep. 2008; Oct. 2009-Dec. 2010). Research coordinator and co-editor of Global Burden of Armed Violence 2008 involving 8 research teams in 10 countries.

Project Coordinator, Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva, June 2001-May 2006. Organization of 9 training courses for young diplomats in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia in the framework of the project “Capacity Building in International Relations in the South Caucasus” supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

Corporal, *Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Germany*, July 1995 - June 1997. Military service at School for Personnel Earmarked for International Assignments, Cologne, Germany; and Generals' Driver at the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE), Mons, Belgium.

EDUCATION

- Doctorate in International Relations, Department of Political Science, 2002-2007, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, Switzerland. Thesis title: *Conflict Financing and the Recurrence of Intra-state Armed Conflict*.
- Masters in International Relations, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, 2000-2002 (Diplôme d'Études Supérieures en Relations Internationales)
- Bachelor of Arts in International Relations with Development Studies, 1997-2000, University of Sussex, Brighton, Great Britain
- A-levels (Abitur), German School of Brussels, Belgium, 1982-1995

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Board & committee memberships and other associations (selected)

- International Institute for Strategic Studies, London: Visiting Fellow (since November 2018)
- Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime, Geneva: Member of the Expert Network (since January 2017)
- ETH Zürich: Invited Lecturer at the Master of Advanced Studies *Mediation in Peace Processes*. Module on economic dimensions of peace mediation (June 2018, November 2020)
- Global Governance: Editorial Board of *Global Governance: A Review of Multilateralism and International Organizations* (2013-2017)
- Peace Research Institute Oslo, Collaborative for Development Action, Africa Centre for Dispute Settlement: Global Advisory Group of the Business and Peace Research Project (January 2016 – June 2017)
- World Economic Forum: Global Agenda Council on Fragility, Conflict and Violence (May 2015- June 2016)
- Rockefeller Foundation: Scholars Selection Committee of the Bellagio Residency Programme (January 2010 – July 2014)
- International Council of Swedish Industry: Expert Panel on 'Leadership for Complex Markets' (September 2012 – October 2013). Reference Group on 'Private Sector and Peacebuilding' (October 2010 – November 2011)
- Inter-Agency Standing Committee Task Team on Funding for Preparedness: Advisory Panel (July 2012 – June 2013)

Doctoral theses supervision

- Member of the Adjudication Committee, Mark B. Taylor, *War Economies and International Law: Regulating the Economic Activity of Armed Conflict*. Faculty of Law, University of Oslo. Defense: 14 December 2017.
- External examiner, Irene Costantini, *Statebuilding Versus State Formation: The Political Economy of Transition in Iraq and Libya*. University of Trento, Italy. Defense: 27 April 2015.

AWARDS

- Scholarly Residence, Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Centre, September 2009.
- Young Researcher Prize, Awarded by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Paris, and the Process of International Negotiation Network, December 2007.
- Outstanding Achievement Award, Harvard Model Congress Europe, 1994.
- Personality Prize, Public Speaking Union of Belgium, 1993.