

Prof. Christophe Golay

Personal information

Date of birth: 5 June 1976
Nationality: Swiss
Family status: Married, two children (born in 2010 and 2015)
Address: Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights,
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Research positions

- 2008-present Research Fellow and then Senior Research Fellow and Strategic Adviser on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights
- Main activities:
 Legal advice and research for various audiences including academia, civil society organizations, governments and the United Nations (UN)
 Legal support to the UN Human Rights Council (Advisory Committee, Working Group mandated to negotiate the UN Declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas) and to UN human rights experts (Special Procedures and Treaty Bodies)
 Research and publications on economic, social and cultural rights and the rights of peasants
 Invited expert to more than 40 national and international seminars, conferences and colloquiums
- 2018-present Main Researcher, Research Project on “The right to seeds in Europe”, funded by Fondation Salvia – 180'000 CHF (3 years)
- 2015-present Joint Coordinator, research project financed by SNF and the SDC (*Research for Development*) on “Land Commercialization, Gendered Agrarian Transformation, and the Right to Food” (main applicant: Prof. Elisabeth Prügl, IHEID) – 3 million CHF (6 years) including 400'000 CHF for research on the right to food at the Geneva Academy
- 2015-2021 Joint Coordinator, research project financed by SNF and the SDC (*Research for Development*) on “Towards food sustainability: Reshaping the coexistence of different food systems in South America and Africa” (main applicant: Prof. Stephan Rist, University of Bern) – 3 million CHF (6 years) including 400'000 CHF for research on the right to food at the Geneva Academy
- 2013-2015 Associated Researcher, research project on the intersectionality of human rights violations and multiple grounds of discrimination, funded by the Swiss Network in International Studies (coordinated by Dr. Patrice Meyer-Bisch) - 300'000 CHF (2 years)

- 2011-2013 Joint Coordinator, research project on the impacts of land grab on the right to food in South East Asia, funded by the Swiss Network in International Studies (with Dr. Christophe Gironde and Dr. Peter Messerli) – 300'000 CHF (2 years)
- 2013 Visiting Fellow, McGill Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism
- 2005-2012 Consultant for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) and some governments, including Switzerland and Brazil
- 2001-2008 Research Associate, Graduate Institute of Development Studies, Member and then Coordinator of the Research Unit on the Right to Food
- Main activities:
Support to the mandate of the first UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Prof. Jean Ziegler, including through writing UN reports, participating to more than 30 international seminars, conferences and colloquiums and undertaking country missions in several countries, including Brazil, Guatemala, Bolivia, Cuba, Niger, Ethiopia, Bangladesh, India and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (www.righttofood.org)

Teaching positions

- 2021-present Visiting Professor, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva
- Course on “Food Security, Right to Food and Food Sovereignty”
- 2021-present Visiting Lecturer, University of St. Gallen
- Course on Economic and Social Human Rights: The Right to Food
- 2008-present Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights
- Coordinator and Senior Lecturer, Training Courses on “Economic, Social and Cultural Rights” (in English and French) (training courses given annually in Geneva as well as once in the Maldives and once in Nepal), and “The Rights of Peasants”
- 2015-2020 Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights
- Senior Lecturer, LLM on International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, Master in Transitional Justice, Human Rights and the Rule of Law, courses given on “Economic, Social and Cultural Rights”, “Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and Armed Conflict”, and “Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Transformative Contexts”
- 2011-2017 Training Coordinator and Senior Lecturer, Geneva Center for Education and Research in Humanitarian Action

- Coordination of Certificates of Advanced Studies (CAS), Diplomas and Courses on “Legal Framework of Humanitarian Action” (with Dr. Sharon Weill and Maya Brehm), “International Law and Humanitarian Action” (with Dr. Ghislain Patrick Lessène and Dr. Edith Kolo Favoreu), and “Natural Disasters, Famines and Epidemics” (with Dr. Fidel Font and Dr. Corine Frischknecht)
- 2014 Visiting Professor, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milano
- Course on “The Right to Food” in the Summer School in Poverty Eradication: Access to Land, Access to Food
- 2011-2013 Lecturer, University of Fribourg
- Course on “The Realization of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights”
- 2009-2012 Visiting Lecturer, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva
- Courses on “Economic Social and Cultural Rights”, “Human Rights and Development”, and “Food Security: From Food Production to the Right to Food” (with Dr. Christophe Gironde)
- 2002-2007 Lecturer, Graduate Institute of Development Studies, Geneva
- Course on “Theory and Practice of the Defence of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights”
- 2005-present Numerous lectures given on economic, social and cultural rights or the right to food, among others, in other Universities in Europe

Education

- 2009 PhD in International Law, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva
- The PhD dissertation and defense on *The Right to Food and Access to Justice* were both awarded with *mention très bien* and *félicitations du jury* (supervision by Prof. A. Clapham, jury composed of Profs. A. Bianchi, E. Riedel, J. Ziegler and A. Clapham)
- 2002 Master in International Law, Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva
- Topic of the Master’s dissertation: *The Justiciability of the Right to Food* (supervision by Profs. A. Clapham and G. Malinverni)
- 2000 Master in International Relations, Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva

Affiliations

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| 2019-present | Member of the Consultative Commission of the International Solidarity of the Canton of Geneva, in charge of evaluating the development projects supported by the Canton of Geneva |
| 2012 | Member of the Constituent Assembly of the Canton of Geneva, in charge of elaborating a new Constitution |
| 2005-present | External Member, Council of the <i>Institut interdisciplinaire d'éthique et des droits de l'homme</i> , University of Fribourg |

Engagement with civil society

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| 2007 to present | Member of the Board of the non governmental organization FIAN Switzerland (Chair from 2010 to 2014) |
| 2018-2019 | Training courses for Judges in Tunisia on the justiciability of economic, social and cultural rights with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights |
| 2009 | Fact-finding mission on the impacts of the world food crisis on the right to food in Kenya with the non governmental organization FIAN International and the African Network on the Right to Food |
| 2009 | Training course on the impacts of extractive activities on economic, social and cultural rights for local and national organizations working in Congo-Brazzaville, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Guinea, organized by the non governmental organization Global Rights (Pointe Noire, Congo-Brazzaville) |
| 2007 | Training course on the right to food approach to world hunger given to representatives of ActionAid International (Milano) |
| 2007 | Training course on the right to food and food sovereignty given to peasant organizations in Haiti (organized by ActionAid International) |

Research interests

Economic, social and cultural rights, in particular the right to food; food security, food sovereignty and the prevention of food crises; access to justice for human rights violations; the work of the UN human rights mechanisms; human rights and sustainable development; peasants' rights; international law, armed conflicts and humanitarian action.

Language and computer skills

- French (native tongue), English (fluent), Spanish and German (elementary)
- Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Internet