



GENEVA
GRADUATE
INSTITUTE

ALBERT
HIRSCHMAN
CENTRE ON
DEMOCRACY

GENEVA
GRADUATE
INSTITUTE

INTERNATIONAL
HISTORY
AND POLITICS

GENEVA
GRADUATE
INSTITUTE

CENTRE FOR
FINANCE AND
DEVELOPMENT

DEMOCRACY AND FINANCE: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE

Thursday 16 | Friday 17 February 2023

Room S8, Geneva Graduate Institute

Public transports: Tram 15, Stop Maison de la Paix

During the Eurozone Debt Crisis of early 2010s, in Davos, former Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou accused that 'speculators' were attacking Europe's weak link and a few months later called for an end to 'opportunistic speculation' against his country at the European Parliament's Special Committee on the Economic, Financial and Social Crisis. In the aftermath of the Global Financial Crisis of 2007-8, an antagonistic notion of finance appeared to resurface as the financial industry came to be perceived as the main driver of growing inequality as well as global instabilities, underpinning the emergence of populist politics across the globe.

This conference, to be held at the Geneva Graduate Institute, investigates from an interdisciplinary perspective the complex and multifaceted links connecting democracy and finance in the *longue durée*. What is the relationship between finance and democracy? Are they antagonistic or symbiotic? Is the former detrimental to the latter? What influence does the financial community exert in political affairs? For this event, organisers invite scholarly discussions on the complex or nuanced relations between the two.



**Swiss National
Science Foundation**

The conference is hosted by the Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy in collaboration with the Department of International History and Politics and the Centre for Finance and Development at the Geneva Graduate Institute.

It is organised with the support of the Swiss National Science Foundation in the context of the project '[Business with the Devil? Assessing the Financial Dimension of Authoritarian Regimes in Latin America, 1973-85](#)'

Contact: demfinance.conference@graduateinstitute.ch

DAY 1 THURSDAY 16 FEBRUARY

13:45 - 13:55: WELCOMING REMARKS

14:00 - 15:40: SESSION 1 - REPRESENTATION

Chair: Carlo Edoardo Altamura (Geneva Graduate Institute)

Speakers:

- Aris Komporozos-Athanasiou (University College of London),
Real Fake: An Intellectual History of Distortion in Finance Capitalism
- Maria Stella Chiaruttini (University of Vienna),
Unified Italy, 'the Land of Plenty of the Banking High Aristocracy'? Narratives of Democracy and Financial Colonialism in Italy (19th-21st centuries)
- Seung Woo Kim (Geneva Graduate Institute),
Control over the Labour's Capital: Law and Economics Movement and Socially Responsible Investment of US Private Pension Funds, 1972-1982

15:40 - 16:00: BREAK

16:00 - 17:40: SESSION 2 - INTERNATIONAL FINANCE AND DOMESTIC POLITICS

Chair: Juan Flores (University of Geneva)

Speakers

- Claudia Kedar (University of Jerusalem),
«It's the economy, stupid»: The World Bank and Democratic Regimes in Argentina, 1946-1976
- Pablo Leon-Aguinaga (Centro Universitario de la Defensa de Zaragoza), Alfred Barth, the Chase, and the Cold War Rehabilitation of Franco's Spain
- Sophia Celeste Hoffinger (University of Edinburgh),
The Question of Funding Violence: Circuits of Public Funding and the Limits of Artistic Freedom and Freedom of Speech around Palestine in Germany

17:40 - 18:00: BREAK

18:00 - 19:00: KEYNOTE SPEECH

- Youssef Cassis (European University Institute),
Finance, Politics and Democracy

19:30: CONFERENCE DINNER

DAY 2, FRIDAY 17 FEBRUARY

09:00 - 10:40 SESSION 3: DEBT

Chair: Rui Esteves (Geneva Graduate Institute)

Speakers:

- Kevin Keller (Yale University),
Consent and Control: The Chinese Reorganization Loan of 1913
- Ivan Luzardo (University of Pennsylvania),
Crisis and reforms: The Colombian case in the 1990s
- Carlo Edoardo Altamura and Seung Woo Kim (Geneva Graduate Institute),
Exclusionary Regimes, Financial Corporations, and Human Rights Activism in the UK, 1973-92

10:40 - 11:00 BREAK

11:00 - 12:40 SESSION 4: CENTRAL BANKING

Chair: Ugo Panizza (Centre for Finance and Development, Geneva Graduate Institute)

Speakers:

- Thomas Lambert (Rotterdam School of Management),
(In)dependent central banks
- Guillaume Vallet (Université Grenoble Alpes),
Masters of the Game: The Power and Social Responsibility of Central Banks and Central Bankers in a Democracy
- Orkun Saka (City University of London),
Financial Policymaking after Crises: Public vs. Private Interests

13:00 - 14:00 LUNCH

14:00 - 15:40 SESSION 5: EXPERTISE AND TECHNOLOGY

Chair: Gopalan Balachandran (Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy, Geneva Graduate Institute)

Speakers

- Andreas Nölke (Goethe Universität),
Financialization and the Crisis of Democracy: A systematic approach
- Thomas Lambert (Rotterdam School of Management),
Does Democracy Shape International Merger Activity?
- Jonas Ljungberg and Dominic Mealy (Lund University),
Financialization in Public Services

16:00 - 16:30 CONCLUDING REMARKS