Upcoming Research Events

13 February 2023 (no. 2, 2023)

13 FEB Monday
NO EVENTS

14 FEB Tuesday
IRPS COLLOQUIUM
Adam Auerbach | Migrants and Machine Politics
17.00–19.00 hybrid

15 FEB Wednesday
GIELS
Vitaliy Pogoretskyi | Is the WTO Losing Its Crown Jewel to FTAs and Why Should This Concern Economically Disadvantaged WTO Members?
12:30–13:30 hybrid

16 FEB Thursday
AHCD, CFD & IHP DEP. INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE | DAY 1
Democracy and Finance
13:30–19:00 Room S8

17 FEB Friday
AHCD, CFD & IHP DEP. INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE | DAY 2
Democracy and Finance
09:00–16:30 Room S8

20 FEB Monday
GENEVA PEACEBUILDING PLATFORM
Delphine Djirajibé | Justice, Interrupted: What the International

21 FEB Tuesday
NO EVENTS

22 FEB Wednesday
LUNCH SEMINAR
Ximena Fuentes | The Role of Science in the Resolution of Disputes regarding International Water Resources

23 FEB Thursday
NO EVENTS

24 FEB Friday
NO EVENTS
Trial of Hissène Habré Left Unfinished in Chad
18:00– 19:30 Auditorium A2
GENDER CENTRE & IHP DIP

Iran in Transition?
Feminist, Geopolitical and Historical Perspectives
18:15– 20:00 hybrid

Promoting Sustainable Investment and Green Trade: The Swiss Perspective
14:00–18:00 CCIIG, bd du Théâtre 4, Geneva

Women’s Political Violence – A Talk with Prof. Laura Sjoberg
18:30–20:00 The FAB, Petal 2, 4th Floor

See all events >

Gateway to Publications by Themes

Development & Cooperation
Trade, Finance, Economies & Work
Human Rights, Humanitarianism, Justice & Inclusion
Gender, Diversity, Race & Intersectionality
Arts, Culture & Religion
Peace, War, Conflicts & Security
Global Governance
Sustainability, Environment, the Anthropocene & SDGs
Global Health
Digital Technologies & Artificial Intelligence
Education, Information & Media

Gateway to Other Relevant Information

Multimedia
Visitors
Calls for Papers
Awarded Prizes
Upcoming PhD Defences

Publications by Themes

Development & Cooperation

MONOGRAPH
O destino da floresta: Desenvolvedores, destruidores e defensores da Amazônia
Susanna Hecht and Alexander Cockburn’s Fate of the Forest: Developers, Destroyers, and Defenders of the Amazon, first published in 1989, is now available in Portuguese (Editora Unesp, 2022). In many ways it is a foundational analysis for understanding the processes and politics of
Brazilian Amazon development and its current destruction as a part of contemporary development history, framed through its complex but largely ignored deeper social history. It contextualises the dynamics of Brazilian occupation in the Cold War period within the national political ambitions of the military dictatorship and the resistance to it as Amazonia broke into a land war among indigenous and traditional populations, battling against the large-scale corporate ranches, mines and small-scale settlers. Framing the social movements and their environmental allies as part of an emergent political ecology, the book places Amazonia into a recognisable social history of transformation, one with huge local and planetary environmental costs.

**PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/POLITICAL SCIENCE, 2022**

**Three Essays on Contemporary Turkish Politics**

This dissertation by Buğra Güngör includes three essays on contemporary Turkish politics at varying levels. Concerning the domestic level, the first essay investigates how outparty contact shapes support for electoral violence in the most (Kucukcekmece) and least (Esenler) competitive districts of Istanbul. The results show that direct outparty contact in Kucukcekmece and outparty contact through home visits in Esenler significantly decrease the prevalence of support for electoral violence against outparty voters. Concerning the international level, the second essay analyses how the determinants of Turkey’s foreign aid influenced Turkey’s medical assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic. The findings indicate that recipient countries’ historical ties to the Ottoman Empire, Turkic identity, their level of imports from Turkey, and needs based on their general health system were the predictors of receiving Turkish medical supplies during the pandemic. As for the regional level, the third essay explores how the European Commission’s (EC) attitude toward Turkey’s accession to the EU changed between 1998 and 2020. The overall pleasantness of the EC’s attitude shows a steady trend between 1998 and 2008 that precedes a persistent decline between 2010 and 2018.

**Repository** (file embargoed until October 2025; contact the author at bugra.gungor@graduateinstitute.ch for access).

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**Trade, Finance, Economies & Work**

**EDITED BOOK**

**Rebuilding Ukraine: Principles and Policies**

Edited by Yuriy Gorodnichenko, Ilona Sologoub and Beatrice Weder di Mauro, this book offers a comprehensive analysis of what Ukraine should become after the war and what tools policymakers can use to fulfil these goals (CEPR Press, December 2022). It provides perspectives from leading scholars and practitioners. While each chapter of the book covers a specific sector, there is a natural overlap across the chapters because Ukraine’s reconstruction should involve a
comprehensive transformation of the country. The leitmotif of this book is clear: reconstruction is not about rebuilding Ukraine to the pre-war state; it is about a deep modernisation of the country on its path to European Union accession. All critical elements of the economy and society will have to leapfrog and undergo reforms to help Ukraine escape its post-Soviet legacy and become a full-fledged democracy with a modern economy, strong institutions and a powerful defence sector. Ukraine’s ownership of the reconstruction will be key to its success.

WORKING PAPER

Sparse Production Networks
Firm-to-firm connections in domestic and international production networks play a fundamental role in economic outcomes. Firm heterogeneity and the sparse nature of firm-to-firm connections implicitly discipline network structure. Andrew B. Bernard and Yuan Zi find that a large group of well-established statistical relationships are not useful in improving our understanding of production networks. They propose an “elementary” model for production networks based on random matching and firm heterogeneity and characterise the families of statistics and data generating processes that may raise underidentification concerns in more complex models (NBER Working Paper no. 30496, National Bureau of Economic Research, September 2022). The elementary model is a useful benchmark in developing “instructive” statistics and informing model construction and selection.

Repository (access restricted to the Institute community)
NBER page

PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS, 2022

Essays in International Economics and Finance
This PhD thesis by Alexandre Robin Lauwers is composed of three self-contained empirical essays on international economics and finance:

– “In the Right Hands? Capital Inflows and Allocation of Credit Across Firms: Evidence from Emerging Europe” investigates how cross-border capital flows are intermediated by domestic banks and if they are channelled to their more productive use.

– “Capital Inflows and Institutions” examines three decades of capital flows data in a large sample of countries to study, indirectly, the impact of capital inflows on the quality of local institutions.

– “Is There Smart Money? How Information in the Commodity Futures Market Is Priced into the Cross-Section of Stock Returns with Delay” explores in a novel empirical setting the notion that limited information processing capacity and the ensuing specialisation of investors would induce value-relevant information to diffuse gradually across segmented asset markets.

Read more about Alexandre’s research and finding in this interview
Repository (access restricted to the Institute community; others may contact the author at alexandre.lauwers@graduateinstitute.ch)

Human Rights, Humanitarianism, Justice & Inclusion

ARTICLE

The Obligation to Release and Repatriate Prisoners of Wars: Revisiting the Arbitral Award of Eritrea–Ethiopia Claims Commission
The Eritrea–Ethiopia Claims Commission hugely contributed to the development of IHL jurisprudence by interpreting, clarifying and applying IHL rules. However, the Commission’s
decision regarding the suspension and delay of repatriation of Eritrean POWs by Ethiopia, which was handed down nearly two decades ago, still draws much criticism. On the one hand, the date marking cessation of hostilities, which according to Article 118 of the Geneva Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War (GC III) triggers the obligation of Ethiopia to repatriate Eritrean POWs, had not been properly determined. On the other hand, the decision suggested that the obligation of states to repatriate POWs is dependent on the behaviour of the other party or subjected to reciprocity. According to the Commission, the repatriation of POWs can be delayed after cessation of hostilities unless the detaining powers get an assurance that their troops would similarly be released and repatriated. However, as Wubeshet Tiruneh, PhD Candidate in International Law, argues, the suspension and delaying of the repatriation of POWs on the ground of reciprocity runs counter to the unilateral and unconditional nature of the obligation to repatriate POWs under Article 118 of GC III (in *Journal of Conflict and Security Law*, vol. 27, no. 3, Winter 2022). Nor can it be justified as a legitimate reprisal under IHL and countermeasure under the general rules of state responsibility.

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**Gender, Diversity, Race & Intersectionality**

**ARTICLE**

**Clean Energy Access: Gender Disparity, Health, and Labour Supply**

Women bear a disproportionate share of the health and time burden associated with lack of access to modern energy. Anjali P. Verma and Imelda study the impact of clean energy access on adult health and labour supply outcomes by exploiting a nationwide rollout of a clean cooking fuel programme in Indonesia (in *The Economic Journal*, vol. 133, no. 650, February 2023). They find that access to clean cooking fuel led to an improvement in women’s health and an increase in their work hours. They also find an increase in men’s work hours and in their propensity to have an additional job, primarily in those households where women accrued the largest programme benefits.

Repository (access restricted to the Institute community)

Journal's page

*This article was originally published as Economics Department Working Paper no. 11 (May 2022); see Research Bulletin no. 6, 2022.*

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**Arts, Culture & Religion**
Fashioning New Selves: Grooming and Personality Development in Delhi, India

In her doctoral research, Suchismita Chattopadhyay conducts an ethnography of private grooming institutes in the “world-class” city of Delhi, India. She shows how the grooming industry promises different classes of people a “polished transformation” and the production of new subjectivities via language, soft skills and appearance, while simultaneously proposing the very discourse and aesthetics of a seemingly global urbaniy.

Read an interview with Suchismita

Repository (file embargoed until September 2025; contact the author at suchismita.chattopadhyay@graduateinstitute.ch for access)

Peace, War, Conflicts & Security

International Law and the Regulation of Autonomous Military Capabilities

There is a dissonance between principled consensus and operational dissensus in the emerging regulatory framework for autonomous military capabilities (AMCs). This framework is based on the application of international humanitarian law (IHL) and the maintenance of human control and responsibility, but it remains unclear whether and how IHL might apply to AMCs and how human control and responsibility can be maintained. The emergence of a regulatory framework in the face of this dissonance raises questions about how alternative regulatory possibilities have been excluded and how the possibility of regulation has been assumed. Abhimanyu George Jain, PhD Researcher in International Law, explores the mechanics of this exclusion and assumption (in European Journal of International Law, chac064, December 2022). He sheds light on the conditions of possibilities and trajectories of development of the regulatory regime for AMCs, and also provides insights into international regulatory frameworks more broadly, especially in relation to new technologies. Using the example of the everywhere-forever war on terror, he points to the role of a failure of politics and a consequently amorphous and expanding ideal of security in excluding the possibility of prohibition or restrictive regulation of the military promise of AMCs. He then turns to four discursive strategies that sustain the assumption that AMCs are amenable to regulation. Through conflation, different types of AMCs are subsumed within an imaginary that is more easily accommodated within the regulatory consensus. Deferral creates a façade of consensus while shifting contentious issues to the national sphere. Normalisation operates to de-emphasize the novelty of AMCs, while valorisation pulls in the opposite direction by exaggerating the virtues of AMCs.

DOI (open access)
After independence, India led a non-aligned foreign policy in the Cold War that opened the country for influence from both Moscow and Washington. From the mid-1950s on, the Soviet Union engaged in Indian economic development and created a public diplomacy programme that sought to influence Indian public opinion toward the left without focusing on supporting the Communist Party of India. Based on previously unexplored Russian, Indian, American and British archival data, Severyan Dyakonov analyses Soviet public diplomacy efforts, looking specifically at the activities of the Institute of Oriental Studies, the main Soviet think tank on India during the Cold War. His thesis thereby opens new perspectives on the history of the Cold War and decolonisation.

Read an interview with Severyan

Repository (file embargoed until December 2025; contact the author at severyan_dyakonov@fas.harvard.edu for access)

Global Governance

ARTICLE

Shaping Subjectivity: Locating the Agency of Bolivian Working Children in Narrative Practices

Working children are commonly not considered as active political subjects. Yet, many of them have organised themselves as local groups that cooperate across borders. As a transnational network, they advocate for a right to work and political participation. In IR, these actors were accurately analysed as “governed” actors proactively engaging in (inter-)national norm dynamics. Yet, their situatedness in local and global power relations (shaped by colonialism) remains understudied. Analysing how working children in Bolivia discursively shape their subjectivity in such hierarchical processes, it is argued that their norm engagement is intertwined with how they are situated in this context. Looking beyond proactive norm engagement, Nadine Benedix, Visiting Fellow at the Global Governance Centre, argues for a broader conceptual understanding of the “agency of the governed” in norm dynamics emerging in narrative practices (in European Review of International Studies, vol. 9, no. 3, online December 2022). Special emphasis is placed on how working children in Bolivia (re)create their subjectivity through everyday practices interacting with institutional, material, and social structures which in turn are embedded within broader narrative frameworks.

DOI

Sustainability, Environment, the Anthropocene & SDGs

ARTICLE

Addressing Conflict over Dams: The Inception and Establishment of the World Commission on Dams
The World Commission on Dams (WCD) was active between 1998 and 2000. Despite the Commission's short life, it left a lasting mark on the global debate on large dams, one of the most intractable and conflicted issues in environmental governance. Existing accounts of the Commission focus chiefly on its recommendations and their influence on dam planners. Another major topic of interest has been the novelty of making global environmental policy through multi-stakeholder dialogue rather than through intergovernmental negotiation. This focus on technicalities, results, and institutional design underplays the Commission's political significance. It was a bold and innovative attempt to find common ground between promoters and opponents of dams on which a new way of thinking about and planning dams could be built. Christopher Schulz and Bill Adams focus on the emergence of the Commission, in response to the evolving conflict over dams, particularly between the World Bank and its critics (in *Water History*, vol. 14, no. 3, December 2022). They explore the processes that led to the establishment of the Commission and its role as an attempt to transform conflict into cooperation by bringing together pro- and anti-dam communities.

**DOI** (open access)

**ARTICLE**

**Accelerating Emission Reduction in Israel: Carbon Pricing vs. Policy Standards**

The implementation of a carbon pricing policy to comply with GHG emission targets faces opposition in small economies. Nathan Sussman and others carried out an integrated modelling exercise for Israel to assess the cost-effectiveness of GHG emission reduction options (in *Energy Strategy Reviews*, vol. 45, January 2023, 101032). Alternative policies in terms of carbon pricing and policy standards are evaluated. The results show that modest carbon pricing is effective. It achieves a 67% reduction in emissions, by 2050 relative to the reference year 2015, while having only a minor impact on economic growth. Policy standards currently proposed by the government will only reach a 40% emissions reduction in the same timeframe. Clean energy standards not coupled with carbon pricing may hinder efficiency but have a lesser impact on income distribution.

**Repository** (public access)

**PHD THESIS IN ANTHROPOLOGY AND SOCIOLOGY, 2023**

**Climate of Crisis in the Amazon Rainforest: Collaborative Knowledge Production and Indigenous Cosmopolitics**

Aloisio Cabalzar begins his dissertation with an ethnography of collaborative projects between indigenous organisations and communities and partners from dedicated nongovernmental organisations in the Northwest Amazon. He then expands its horizon, problematising the fate of the Amazon in the Anthropocene and the place of indigenous peoples in this debate, focusing on how indigenous knowledge practices enter into territorial environmental governance, revealing a specific political efficacy. This political performance benefits from long-standing alliances and an effective agenda of collaboration that brings together distinct knowledge practices, making connections between local, community-based knowledge production and external techno-scientific networks. The assemblage of knowledge and political practices that results constitutes a cosmopolitics and confronts centuries of predatory pressure imposed on the Amazon. Empowering such practices in the search for effective alternatives for the region favours both diversity and the sustainability of life cycles. Specifically, this dissertation emphasises indigenous experience and knowledge-practices as embedded in multispecies collectivities and intersecting temporalities.

**Repository** (restricted to Institute community; others may contact the author at aloisio.cabalzar@graduateinstitute.ch for access).
Global Health

REVIEW ARTICLE
While the degree of COVID-19 vaccine accessibility and uptake varies at both national and global levels, increasing vaccination coverage raises questions regarding the standard of prevention that ought to apply to different settings where COVID-19 vaccine trials are hosted. Suerie Moon and others provide a brief review of a guidance developed by a WHO Expert Group on the ethical implications of conducting placebo-controlled trials in the context of expanding global COVID-19 vaccine coverage (in Vaccine, vol. 40, no. 14, March 2022). The guidance also considers alternative trial designs to placebo controlled trials in the context of prototype vaccines, modified vaccines, and next generation vaccines.
DOI (open access)

Digital Technologies & Artificial Intelligence

ARTICLE
The Digital Peregrine: A Technonatural History of a Cosmopolitan Raptor
Using the peregrine falcon (Falco peregrinus) as an illustrative example, Adam Searle, Jonathon Turnbull and Bill Adams propose “technonatural history” as a theoretical and methodological approach for observing, describing, and examining the role technologies play in shaping human relations with other species (in Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers, vol. 48, no. 1, March 2023, online August 2022). They examine the related technological histories of livestreaming technologies and natural histories of peregrine falcons in the UK, tracing the emergence of “the digital peregrine” and its manifold implications for more-than-human and digital geographies. In the peregrine’s case, digital technologies create unexpected and radical opportunities for urban conviviality, signalling the positive potentials technologies host for forging meaningful more-than-human connections.
DOI (open access)
NORRAG, and Laura Savage proposes systems thinking as a way of understanding the global education crisis and to drive the real change that is needed to achieve SDG4 (Edward Elgar, January 2023). The book includes the following chapter:

“Understanding Travelling Reforms from a Systems Perspective”
in which Gita Steiner-Khamsi introduces the reader to a system-theoretical framework of a special kind: the sociological systems theory of Niklas Luhmann. Even though it is genuinely sociological in orientation, the theory appears to be ideally suited to understand how and why certain “travelling reforms” or global education policies surface in different parts of the world.

Known in comparative policy studies as policy borrowing or policy transfer research, this body of research attempts to explain the political and economic reasons for why policy actors adopt reforms that were either tried elsewhere or are framed as “best practices” or “international standards”. Attention is given to the agents of change, the window of openness for innovation, and the power dynamics in the policy process. In addition to examining why a national education system is receptive to innovation, change, or reform, this body of research investigates how borrowed global reforms are actually translated at the national level. Four sets of key concepts of sociological systems theory lend themselves for theorising policy borrowing at the national level: (i) externalisation, (ii) projection, (iii) reference and counter-reference societies, and (iv) reception and translation. The chapter briefly explains each of these system-theoretical concepts and puts them in relation to policy borrowing research, that is, the study of transnational policy transfer in education.

Chapter (open access)
Full book (open access)
“Double Loss”: Commercial agriculture, women and food insecurity in Cambodia

This documentary shares first-hand accounts of the challenges faced by Cambodian rural communities when turning to commercial agriculture – from gender disparities in workload and responsibilities to growing indebtedness and new forms of food insecurity. The film is based on DEMETER, a six-year research project carried out by a team from the Graduate Institute’s Gender Centre together with Cambodian researchers.

Watch the documentary

DEMOCRACY IN QUESTION S6:EP2 | AHCD & CEU

Shaharzad Akbar on Afghanistan after Democracy

Shalini Randeria and Shaharzad Akbar, one of the most prominent voices among the Afghan democratic opposition in exile, explore the political mistakes which prevented human rights and the rule of law from taking root in Afghan society. Listen to what made Taliban resurgence possible, as well as the prospects for a successful popular resistance to their rule of terror.

More info and access to the podcast

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Faculty and Visitors

The Geneva Graduate Institute welcomes two new faculty members:

AT THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

Assistant Professor Alice Pirlot

Before joining the Institute, Alice Pirlot was a Senior Research Fellow in Law at the Oxford University Centre for Business Taxation and a Research Fellow of the National Belgian Fund for Scientific Research (FNRS) at the University of Louvain. Alice’s main expertise lies at the intersection between tax, environmental, EU and international trade law. Her publications, which include *Environmental Border Tax Adjustments and International Trade Law* (Edward Elgar, 2027), cover a wide range of topics such as carbon border adjustment measures, the taxation of the energy sector, and the interactions between tax policy and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Read more

AT THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL HISTORY AND POLITICS

Eccellenza Assistant Professor Caroline Rusterholz

Before joining the Institute, Caroline Rusterholz was a Wellcome Trust Research Fellow at the Faculty of History, Cambridge University. Her new research project, “Race and Sexual and Reproductive Health Charities in Postwar Britain”, which was awarded an SNSF Eccellenza fellowship, explores the racialisation of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) charities and the ways that minoritised communities advocated for the SRH needs. Her publications include *Women’s Medicine: Sex, Family Planning and British Female Doctors in Transnational Perspective* (1920-70) (Manchester University Press, 2020) and *Deux enfants c’est déjà pas mal*:
famille et fécondité en Suisse (Antipodes, 2017).

Calls for Papers

UNCTAD DIVISION OF INVESTMENT AND ENTERPRISE & ACADEMY OF INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

UNCTAD-AIB Award for Research on Investment and Development
This Award is granted on an annual basis for the best young academic research work on international investment and development. It is intended for PhD students or early career researchers with no more than five years of full-time work experience.

- 31 March 2023: paper submission

More info

ALBERT HIRSCHMAN CENTRE ON DEMOCRACY

Working Paper Series on the Rule of Law and Authoritarian Practices
This series seeks to publish early-stages and original research, particularly from early and midcareer researchers.

- 15 April 2023: next round of submissions

More info

Awarded Prizes

Diego Silva awarded the Marcel Roche 2022 prize for excellence in the category articles or book chapters
The Marcel Roche prize is awarded by the Latin American Association of Social Studies of Science and Technology (ESOCITE) to the best article or book chapter written by scholars under forty years of age. The 2022 prize was awarded to Postdoctoral Researcher Diego Silva for his article “Keep Calm and Carry On: Climate Ready Crops and the Genetic Codification of Climate Myopia”, which analyses the controversial HB4 transgenic technology developed in Argentina for promoting drought resistance in soybeans and wheat. The jury praised the article for its creative combination of ethnographic fieldwork, theories of ignorance studies, and the immunological concept of tolerance.

More info (in Spanish)

Three members of the Graduate Institute listed on AcademiaNet
In early February, the SNSF nominated Sara Hellmüller, SNSF Assistant Professor, and Ezgi Yildiz, Senior Researcher, for AcademiaNet, the Portal to Excellent Women Academics. They joined Joëlle Noailly, already a member since 2017. AcademiaNet is a database of profiles of excellent female researchers from all disciplines, nominated for by 43 science partner
organisations according to strict selection criteria, including outstanding scientific qualifications, outstanding academic references and independent leadership.

More info

Upcoming PhD Defences

Tuesday 14 February
14:00–16:00
Petal 2, Room S9

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/POLITICAL SCIENCE
“Contentious Clients”: Democratic Participation and Clientelistic Politics at the Urban Grassroots in India
By Somabha Mohanty. Committee members: Sung Min Rho, President of the committee and Internal Reader; Elisabeth Prügl, Thesis Director; Adam Auerbach, Associate Professor, School of International Service, American University, Washington DC, USA.

More info

Monday 20 February
14:00–16:00
Petal 2, Room S9

DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS
Three Essays in Development and Conflict Economics
By Rami Alazzeh. Committee members: Martina Viarengo, President of the committee and Internal Reader; Jean-Louis Arcand, Thesis Director; Touhami Abdelkhalek, Professor, Social Sciences, Economics and Humanities, Mohammed VI Polytechnic University, Morocco.

More info

Tuesday 21 February
10:00–12:00
Petal 2, Room S9 and online

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/POLITICAL SCIENCE
By Janine Elena Bressmer. Committee members: Michelle Weitzel, President of the committee and Internal Reader; Anna Leander and Julie Billaud, Thesis Co-Supervisors; Roland Bleiker, Professor, School of Political Science and International Studies, The University of Queensland, Australia.

More info

For comprehensive information please visit the Research website.

Notes to members of the Geneva Graduate Institute:

To promote your research outputs (books, chapters, articles, working papers) through the Bulletin, please write to publications@graduateinstitute.ch.
Visit also our intranet page to find out which outputs and events are covered in the *Bulletin*.