# Upcoming Research Events

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>26 SEP</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>VILFREDO PARETO RESEARCH SEMINAR Martina Miotto</td>
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<td>27 SEP</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>GGC Launch of the Report of the Lancet Commission on Women, Power, and Cancer 14:00–16:30 hybrid</td>
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<td>NORRAG &amp; CENSOF AI and Digital Inequities Summit 14:00–17:00 online</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 SEP</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>GGC &amp; SDG LAB Accelerating the SDGs through Applied Research Insights 12:00–13:30 Petal 2 ground floor</td>
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<td>GENDER SEMINAR Kritika Saxena</td>
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<td>CFD &amp; CLUB OF ROME Rethinking Finance with Youth Leadership and Intergenerational Dialogues 18:15–20:00 Auditorium A2</td>
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<td>IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SDG LAB AND UNDP Keeping Commitments for a Sustainable Future: The Road to 2030 and Beyond 18:30–20:00 Auditorium Ivan</td>
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NO EVENTS

03 OCT
ANSO TUESDAY SEMINAR
Filip de Boeck | Wide and Close, Above and Below: Kinshasa’s Traumatique
16:15–18:00 Room S5
CFD | BUILDING BRIDGES
José Manuel Barroso | Innovative Finance: The Path to a Sustainable Future
18:30–19:30 CICG, 17 rue de Varembé, Geneva
AHCD | DEMOCRACY WEEK
Christina Kitsos & Andrea Tobia Zevi | Renewing Local Democracy through and with Youth
18:30–20:00 Auditorium A2

04 OCT
CFD Impact Seminar on Effective Altruism (E.A.): Introductory Session
Time and room TBC
AHCD WORKSHOP | DEMOCRACY WEEK
Towards a Unified Impact Measurement Framework for Impact Investing: A Pilot Study
10:00–11:00 CICG, 17 rue de Varembé, Geneva

05 OCT
CFD | BUILDING BRIDGES
What Is a Responsible Wealth Manager?
13:30–14:30 CICG, 17 rue de Varembé, Geneva
CFD | BUILDING BRIDGES
Digital Money: Expectations, Realities, Prospects
13:30–15:00 CICG, 17 rue de Varembé, Geneva

06 OCT
LA FABRIQUE DE LA PAIX
Research-Practice Exchange on Digital Peacebuilding
13:00–14:30 petal 2, 4th floor

See all events >

Gateway to Publications by Themes

- Sustainability, Environment, the Anthropocene & SDGs
- Global Governance
- Technology
- Development & Cooperation
- Trade, Finance, Economies & Work
- Human Rights, Humanitarianism, Justice & Inclusion
- Gender, Diversity, Race & Intersectionality
- Democracy, Civil Society & Sovereignty
- Peace, War, Conflicts & Security

Gateway to Other Relevant Information

- Multimedia
- Awarded Grants
- Visitors
- Calls for Papers
- Upcoming PhD Defences

Publications by Themes
**ARTICLE**

Agroecological Initiatives in the Mekong Region: A Systematic Literature Review and Mapping Reveals Their Implications for Transitioning to Sustainable Food Systems

In the Mekong Region, agroecological approaches provide a niche alternative to the dominant traditional or intensive farming systems. Christophe Gironde, Senior Lecturer in Development Studies, and others conducted a synthesis of current evidence on agroecological interventions by means of a systematic literature review and mapping of case studies in Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, and Myanmar (in *Journal of Land Use Science*, vol. 18, no. 1, September 2023). The majority of the 271 identified cases focussed on practical and technical support. Interventions using holistic approaches, and such that focused on improving food systems through innovative territorial governance, value chain arrangements, and policy frameworks were scarce. Most cases targeted the agroecological optimization and the modernization of traditional farming systems. A mere 18 of our cases addressed gender in relation to agroecology. To scale agroecological transitions, sectoral barriers have to be overcome. There is an urgent need to put a pronounced focus on the diversification of ecosystem services in commercial agriculture and degraded areas and on women’s contributions to sustainable farming.

**DOI (open access) >**

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**PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL LAW, 2023**

Foreign Investor Diligence: An Actionable Cartography for Sustainable Investment

Alessandra Mistura introduces a new concept, “foreign investor diligence”, as a tool to close the governance and accountability gap associated with foreign direct investment (FDI). To do so, she draws from social norms rooted in sustainable development to design a broad cartography of the standards of behaviour expected from foreign investors implementing FDI in the host state. Then, she identifies avenues to enforce those standards against foreign investors.

Read more about Alessandra’s research and findings in this interview >

Repository (access restricted to members of the Institute community; others may contact the author at alessandra.mistura@graduateinstitute.ch).
Fanny Badache, Postdoctoral Researcher at the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP), Leah R. Kimber and Lucile Maertens, new Associate Professor in International Relations/Political Science, provides an inventory of the methods developed in the study of IOs under the five headings of Observing, Interviewing, Documenting, Measuring, and Combining (Michigan Publishing, August 2023). Their aim is not to reconcile diverging views on the purpose and meaning of IO scholarship but to create a space for scholars and students embedded in different academic traditions to reflect on methodological choices and the way they impact knowledge production on IOs.

The book contains several contributions from researchers at the Institute:

– Participant Observation

Participant observation provides a unique insider’s view on global politics in the making. By enabling scholars to look behind the doors of IOs, it can contribute to study how IOs produce documents, discourses, and artifacts; to grasp routine activities that shape decision making; to observe how power is exercised between IO members and different organisations; and to understand how IO staff navigate between daily constraints, informality, and hierarchy, argue Leah R. Kimber and Lucile Maertens.

– Surveys

Surveys are widely used in contemporary society to know, govern, and serve populations, from censuses and public opinion polls to clinical trials and consumer experience studies. They are, however, far less common when it comes to unpacking global governance and the critical role individuals play in determining IO action at different levels. Clara Egger and Monique J. Beerli, Executive Director of the Global Governance Centre, draw from ongoing research on aid workers to situate the interest and intricacies of doing survey-based research on IO professionals.

– Biographic Interviews

Every day, thousands of people across the globe get up, get dressed, and go to work… for an IO. In fact, IOs would not have much agency beyond the parchments that establish their rational-legal authority if it were not for privileged and precarious individuals acting in their name. To enter into the situated, lived, and imagined worlds of individuals that “make up” IOs, Monique J. Beerli offers up biographic interviews, or life stories, as a methodological lever.

– Controversies in Interview Research

Interviews are a “method” of data collection or generation that is today widely used in research on IOs. Yet existing insights in the literature too often solely concentrate on the practicalities of research drawing on interviews, focusing on how to choose whom to interview, how to gain access, and how to establish a good “rapport” with the interviewee. While relevant, such questions are often addressed without prior consideration of the epistemological status of the knowledge created through interviewing techniques, thus creating some confusion in methodological discussions, argues Annabelle Littoz-Monnet.

– Discourse Analysis

IOs are the setting for the production and dissemination of overlapping discourses. They annually publish thousands of documents in which one word can be debated over years of negotiations. Audrey Alejandro, Marion Laurence and Lucile Maertens argue that discourse analysis assists scholars to grasp both internal processes of discourse production within organisations and the impact of IOs’ discourses in the making of global politics.
What IOs Talk About When They Talk about Themselves, and How They Do It

This contribution by Davide Rodogno, the title of which is a *clin d’oeil* to a famous book by Haruki Murakami (2008), reflects on the ways IOs talk about and to themselves and to us (i.e., lay persons, students, scholars). What do they tell us? How and why? What do they communicate and what do they choose not to communicate? How do technologies favour and hamper, free and constrain the ways in which IOs talk? This set of questions is an invitation to think about these strange creatures.

Repository (public access) >

– Composing Collages: Working at the Edge of Disciplinary Boundaries

Is it possible to think of methods in a way that does not turn them into a Procrustean bed for knowledge, cutting off any body part extending beyond the frame while stretching those that don’t reach it? Anna Leander suggests that the answer to this question is yes. It is possible to work with methods not as instructions but as “heuristic devices” (Abbott 2004). The fundamental question is not “does the method allow this?” but rather “what/how does it help me discover?” Methods do not have to work like recipes in a cookbook. They can be “thinking tools”. The author introduces one such thinking tool associated with an affirmative understanding of methods: the Composing of Collages (Leander 2020).

Repository (public access) >

The full book available in public access in the repository and in free online access at Fulcrum.

Don’t miss the BOOK LAUNCH on 12 October!

EDITED BOOK

150 ans de contributions au développement du droit international / 150 Years of Contributing to the Development of International Law

In light of the 150th anniversary of the Institut de droit international, this book edited by Marcelo Kohen and Iris Van der Heijden has been published on its history and work. It contains 45 chapters (16 in French and 29 in English) written by prominent members, including former professors of the Graduate Institute Georges Abi-Saab, Lucius Caflisch, Marcelo Kohen and Jorge Viñuales (Éditions Pedone, September 2023). Part I focuses on its evolution through a historical lens and the role it has played so far, discussing its mission, composition, codifying role, external relations, dissemination, and the interaction of private international law and public international law. Part II focuses on its contribution to the codification and development of international law in different areas: settlement of disputes, sources, *ius in bellum* and *ius ad bellum*, individual and collective human rights, regulation of spaces, and harmonisation of private international law. The book addresses the challenges and controversies that arose in the course of the work; the resolutions adopted, their impact and the way forward. It concludes with the position of the Institute in today’s world and its future.

More info >

MONOGRAPHIE

Penser différentes manières de penser: théories de droit international


Les juristes – et les internationalistes n’y font pas exception – ont tendance à se focaliser sur la pratique du droit, souvent sans accorder une attention soutenue aux théories sous-jacentes qui en déterminent pourtant la production et la mise en œuvre. Ce livre d’Andrea Bianchi se veut une tentative de remuer l’eau dans laquelle, en tant qu’internationalistes, nous nageons (Dalloz, mars 2023). Il propose une introduction à différentes approches du droit et sensibilités à son égard.

Page de l’éditeur >
“These Are My Principles. If You Don’t Like Them I Have Others.” On Justifications of Foreign Investment Protection under International Law
Fuad Zaribiye
aims to show that the mainstream discourse of the international law of foreign investment protection has adjusted itself to changing historical circumstances in a way that brings to light its strategic and ideological character (in *Journal of International Economic Law*, jgad025, August 2023). He argues, in particular, that the justifications offered in defence of foreign investment protection under international law appear to have been pretextual rather than principled, having been offered to provide reasons capable of flying at a particular point in time in light of the attending circumstances rather than to serve as an analytically sound, empirically grounded, and diachronically consistent framework.

DOI >

**Governing Cyberspace: Policy Boundary Politics across Organizations**

Policy boundaries and issue interdependence are not a given. The stakes they imply – who governs, how, and where a policy domain is – become institutionalised over time, often first by the Global North. We know little about how these stakes are presented and institutionalised within and across organisations. Stephanie C. Hofmann and Patryk Pawlak tackle this lacuna by asking how, and to what effect, an emerging policy domain is situated in a densely institutionalised environment (in *Review of International Political Economy*, September 2023). They argue that new policy domains such as cyberspace or artificial intelligence prompt resourceful governments to forum-shop policy frames by clustering promising issues in new and existing organisations in pursuit of coalition-building. Initially, resonance is more likely to be established in organisations with like-minded countries, leading to partially differentiated non-hierarchical regime complexes. In the long-term, competing adjustment pressures, particularly felt in the Global South, help trigger a regime-shift to an orchestrating general-purpose organisation. Key actors must reconfigure their frames thereby reducing differentiation. In today's geopolitical world, this hardens intra-organisational political differences. The authors examine three propositions in the case of cyberspace and show how the proliferation of competing frames across organisations led to shifting the policy debate to the UN, where only piecemeal policy adjustments are possible. Their analysis is based on primary sources and immersion strategies.

Repository (public access) >


Existing research points to the presence of philanthropists in global governance as funders of programmes and partners. Through an in-depth exploration of global health governance, Annabelle Littoz-Monnet and Ximena Osorio Garate, PhD Researcher in International relations/Political Science, highlight that philanthropic organisations now shape governance by acting as producers of knowledge (in *Review of International Political Economy*, August 2023). Practising “knowledge philanthropism”, they collect, produce and assemble the data, calculations and research which is used by international organisations (IOs) to govern problems. In addition, philanthropies craft tools of interpretation, whether concepts, vocabularies, or concrete technological devices that embed these, which are being used for the treatment of the knowledge they themselves produce. While performing such activities, they reify their own role and enable their deeper entanglement in the knowledge machinery of global governance, fashioning data-centric activities as the solution to global health problems, and themselves as the necessary partners in this resource-intensive data collection effort. The epistemic power of philanthropists produces political effects, on health interventions and modes of governing, which deeply
participate to the transformation of all matters into objects of investments for financial returns. The authors explore these processes in relation to global health governance, with a specific focus on medical hypertension, fashioned as a top global health priority and a necessary “investment” by the World Health Organization and other sites of global governance.

Repository (public access) >

ARTICLE

Pivotes informativos y giros lingüísticos: filosofías geopolíticas del lenguaje en la Sociedad de Naciones
This paper (in Spanish) by Carolyn N. Biltoft offers a re-reading of the League of Nations’ relationship to information and language policy by resituating the organisation within the long-term geopolitical and philosophical contexts of the so-called “linguistic turn” (in Ayer, vol. 131, no. 3, July 2023). At the same time, the author argues that by examining even the most peculiar language questions that came before the League, we can see deep and often technologically-driven links between transformations in the domains of philosophy and linguistics and nascent political strategies on the world stage. Both reflected a conceptual shift towards the idea that words constrained, shaped, or even altered “reality”.

DOI (open access) >

ARTICLE

Money, Magic, and Machines: International Telecommunication Union and Liberalisation of Telecommunications Networks and Services (1970s–1990s)
Negar Mansouri, PhD Researcher in International Law and Learning Manager in the Master of Advanced Studies in International Affairs, studies the liberalisation of telecommunication networks and services in the last quarter of the twentieth century, focusing on the role that the International Telecommunication Union played in creating the material, normative and ideological foundations of the pro-market global telecommunications order (in London Review of International Law, lrad011, August 2023).

Repository (public access) >

PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL LAW, 2023

Authentic Interpretation of Treaties in Contemporary International Law
This dissertation investigates authentic interpretation of treaties with dual aims: to understand unprecedented challenges against the authority of authentic interpretation, and to reflect on their consequences for international lawmaking. Having surveyed a variety of issue-areas, Phattharaphong Saengkrai argues that challenges against the weight of authentic interpretation typically arise when the rights of third-party beneficiaries to be adjudicated by international adjudicatory bodies, such as human rights courts and investor-state arbitration, will be adversely affected by that interpretation. Such challenges are often justified by a consistent pattern of legal arguments and typically shaped by an epistemic framework which may be called the “transnational paradigm”, as opposed to the “inter-state paradigm” which dominated the discipline of international law for much of the twentieth century. The contestability of authentic interpretation has culminated in changes in authority relations in international lawmaking and erosion of state control over the process of treaty interpretation. Some international courts and tribunals, by contrast, have achieved the status of supreme treaty interpreters.

Repository (PhD thesis embargoed until June 2026; for access, contact the author at phattharaphong.saengkrai@graduateinstitute.ch).
Leveraging Digital Methods in the Quest for Peaceful Futures: The Interplay of Sincere and Subjunctive Technology Affordances in Peace Mediation

While traditionally perceived as a human-centred activity, peace mediation now commonly entails information- and data-driven methods to enhance talks, support the analysis of conflict stakeholder needs and interests, and ground mediation efforts in better evidence. Digital technologies also promise to make peace efforts more future-oriented by helping to predict or anticipate upcoming developments, build scenarios, and increase readiness for emerging challenges. However, little is known about how such methods can be employed in dialogue and negotiation settings, where participants may have subjective and incompatible views on the conflict context, and more data and evidence don’t necessarily help to determine what a more peaceful future could look like.

Through a qualitative study of the use of digitally enhanced dialogue efforts in Yemen and Libya, Andreas T. Hirblinger, Senior Researcher at the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP), Ville Brummer and Felix Kufus demonstrate that future-oriented peacemaking requires the balancing of “sincere” technology affordances that encourage an engagement with the past and present reality of conflict, with “subjunctive” technology affordances that encourage an engagement with possible futures that are more peaceful (in *Information, Communication & Society*, August 2023). In practice, this requires combining data- and evidence-generating methods concerned with the world “as is” with data analysis and visualisation methods concerned with how the world “should” or “could” be. These findings have implications for the study of digital methods in the facilitation of contentious political processes where the provision of data and evidence may create hurting deadlocks.

Repository (public access) >

ARTICLE

**Groundwork for AI: Enforcing a Benchmark for Neoantigen Prediction in Personalized Cancer Immunotherapy**

This article by Florian Jaton, Research Associate at the Tech Hub, expands on recent studies of machine learning or artificial intelligence (AI) algorithms that crucially depend on benchmark datasets, often called “ground truths” (in *Social Studies of Science*, August 2023). These ground-truth datasets gather input-data and output-targets, thereby establishing what can be retrieved computationally and evaluated statistically. The author explores the case of the Tumor nEoantigen SeLection Alliance (TESLA), a consortium-based ground-truthing project in personalised cancer immunotherapy, where the “truth” of the targets – immunogenic neoantigens – to be retrieved by the would-be AI algorithms depended on a broad technoscientific network whose setting up implied important organisational and material infrastructures. The study shows that instead of grounding an undisputable “truth”, the TESLA endeavour ended up establishing a contestable reference, the biology of neoantigens and how to measure their immunogenicity having slightly evolved alongside this four-year project. However, even if this controversy played down the scope of the TESLA ground truth, it did not discredit the whole undertaking. The magnitude of the technoscientific efforts that the TESLA project set into motion and the needs it ultimately succeeded in filling for the scientific and industrial community counterbalanced its metrological uncertainties, effectively instituting its contestable representation of “true” neoantigens within the field of personalised cancer immunotherapy (at least temporarily).

Repository (public access) >
International organisations in the circulation of agricultural expertise, knowledge and technology in a European context in the second half of the 1940s. Amalia Ribi Forclaz uses the archives of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) to remedy this gap and to open a window into the rationale and implementation of UNRRA’s short-lived but meaningful programme of “agricultural rehabilitation” in Europe (in Planting Seeds of Knowledge: Agriculture and Education in Rural Societies in the Twentieth Century, H. Hartmann and J. Tischler, eds., Berghahn, June 2023). She traces the contours of relief operations to re-establish agricultural production in war-damaged countries through the importation of farm machinery, cattle and breeding equipment, fertilisers, pesticides and seeds. Her chapter unpacks what agricultural rehabilitation meant in the case of Italy, a country that offers a multifaceted lens through which to examine the logistical, political and social challenges encountered in the quest to induce agricultural transformation within specific localised contexts.

DOI >

Atomized Incorporation: Chinese Workers and the Aftermath of China’s Rise
Sungmin Rho examines why the Chinese regime selectively tolerates workers’ collective action within single factories and what this means for the country’s long-term political resilience (Cambridge University Press, June 2023). She investigates the implications of state-labour relations in contemporary China and suggests that it has evolved away from overt coercion to limited incorporation. Based on two years of in-depth fieldwork, she uncovers how ordinary workers think, believe and behave in this changing socio-political environment. She demonstrates that labour grievances have become more politicised and finds that the current approach to economic grievance resolutions demobilises the emergence of labour movements by rewarding those with collective action resources within individual workplaces. She argues that though this limited state of incorporation allows workers to express discontent at wages and working conditions, it also denies them the opportunity to make claims about structural
problems and does not effectively enhance political loyalty in the long run.

**Sequential Monte Carlo with Model Tempering**

Modern macroeconometrics often relies on time series models for which it is time-consuming to evaluate the likelihood function. Marko Mlikota, new Assistant Professor in International Economics, and Frank Schorfheide demonstrate how Bayesian computations for such models can be drastically accelerated by reweighting and mutating posterior draws from an approximating model that allows for fast likelihood evaluations, into posterior draws from the model of interest, using a sequential Monte Carlo (SMC) algorithm (in *Studies in Nonlinear Dynamics & Econometrics*, May 2023). They apply the technique to the estimation of a vector autoregression with stochastic volatility and two nonlinear dynamic stochastic general equilibrium models. The runtime reductions they obtain range from 27% to 88%.

**Risk, Contract Terms, and Maturity in the Sovereign Debt Market**

Michael Bradley, Irving Arturo De Lira Salvatierra, Mitu Gulati and Ugo Panizza examine the relations between risk, the choice of foreign or local contract terms (parameters), and maturity in the sovereign debt market (in *Journal of Financial Regulation*, fjad009, September 2023). Their primary finding is that the maturities of bonds that carry a meaningful degree of risk are greater when the bonds are written under foreign parameters. This finding is consistent with the Credible Commitment Theory. Relinquishing certain key contractual parameters (governing law, jurisdiction, currency, listing) precludes the issuing sovereign from taking actions that would diminish the wealth of its bondholders after the bonds have been issued. Correspondingly, the yield on lower-grade bonds, written under foreign parameters, is less than the yield on bonds written under local parameters. Investors are willing to pay a premium for lower-grade bonds if they are written in foreign parameters. Finally, the authors find a positive relation between maturity and S&P ratings for the subsample of lower-grade bonds – but no such relation for the subset of high-grade bonds.

**Supply Chain Disruptions and Sourcing Strategies**

Supply chain disruptions have recently been at the centre of both academic and policy debates. After reviewing some of the emerging literature on supply chain disruptions, Julia Cajal-Grossi, Davide Del Prete and Rocco Macchiavello discuss the role of buyers’ sourcing strategies in mediating responses to such shocks (in *International Journal of Industrial Organization*, vol. 90, September 2023). They focus on two dimensions of a buyer’s sourcing strategy: *relationality* (the extent to which the buyer concentrates its sourcing in a few core suppliers) and *just-in-time*. On the one hand, theoretical models of sourcing suggest that these are complementary practices and their adoption should be positively correlated in the data. On the other hand, the two dimensions have opposing implications for supply-chain resilience to shocks. The authors borrow an empirical proxy for a buyer’s *relationality* from Cajal-Grossi et al. (2023) and introduce a new proxy for a buyer’s adoption of *just-in-time* inventory systems. Using data from the apparel global value chain they compute the two proxies and present three results: (a) the variation in both *relationality* and *just-in-time* is mostly explained by across-buyer variation, rather than product or country variation, (b) consistent with the theoretical analysis in Taylor and Wiggins (1997), *relationality* and *just-in-time* are highly correlated with each other across buyers, (c) at the onset of the global Covid-19 pandemic, buyers’ overall sourced values declined relatively less for *relational* buyers but not for buyers with *just-in-time* inventory systems.
Three Essays in International Trade

This thesis by Gianmarco Cariola consists of three independent chapters. The first chapter, co-authored with Rainer Lanz, studies the determinants of preference utilisation. It is increasing in the share of competitors’ exports that are eligible to preferential treatment and reciprocal preferences display higher utilisation rates compared to non-reciprocal ones. The second chapter, co-authored with Eddy Bekkers, builds a partial equilibrium model to quantify to what extent Least Developed Countries (LDCs) will be affected by graduation from the LDC status. It projects that graduation will have a negative impact on trade, but such adverse effects will be mitigated by the current underutilisation of LDC duty schemes. On the other hand, it simulates a scenario in which all LDCs simultaneously switch to a full preference utilisation regime and quantify the potential benefits of removing the obstacles to the use of preferences. The third chapter exploits Italian customs data to study the impact of Covid-19 on firm-level trade. It shows that the pandemic in foreign countries had a negative impact on imports and exports, especially during the first wave. Less intensively traded varieties had a higher probability of being dropped in the aftermath of the Covid-19 crisis, and the varieties that were displaced in 2020 had a higher probability of not being traded one year later, which preliminarily suggests that the trade impact of Covid-19 might be persistent.

Repository (access restricted to members of the Institute community; others may contact the author at gianmarco.cariola@graduateinstitute.ch).

Human Rights, Humanitarianism, Justice & Inclusion

ARTICLE

Human Rights and Peacebuilding: Bridging the Gap

In this article based on research she conducted for her master’s dissertation at the Geneva Graduate Institute, Lina Hillert studies the extent to which and how peacebuilding has been integrated into the work and thinking of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) (in Journal of Human Rights Practice, huad037, September 2023). The analysis draws on interviews with UN Member State attachés and representatives of non-governmental organisations, as well as a range of HRC documents focusing on Myanmar between 2006 and 2021. The findings reveal that the HRC is aware of the link between human rights and peacebuilding, implicitly supports peacebuilding and seeks to strengthen institutional cooperation through the prevention resolutions. However, despite efforts to increase engagement, explicit linkages and coordination with the UN’s peacebuilding institutions in New York remain rare. Institutional silos, concerns about sovereignty and mandate overlap, fears of politicisation as well as a lack of political will and capacity constraints present obstacles to cooperation. The author points to the need for a better information flow and stronger interaction between human rights and peacebuilding actors in Geneva and New York to enhance mutual understanding.

Universal Jurisdiction in Human Rights Treaties from a Victim-Centered Perspective
Do individuals possess legally protected interests, referred to as their rights, in relation to universal jurisdiction established under human rights treaties? Somin Park examines the potential for revisiting universal jurisdiction adopted in human rights treaties as a legal mechanism that serves the interests of victims, notably by focusing on the examination of positive laws. Her analysis encompasses various aspects, including the examination of legal frameworks of universal jurisdiction adopted in human rights treaties, international (quasi-)judicial dispute settlement mechanisms concerning the implementation of universal jurisdiction based on human rights treaties, and the relationship between universal jurisdiction engendered in human rights treaties and the substantive rights of victims established under human rights law. Her findings highlight the pivotal role of legal standing of victims in individual communications and the right to a remedy for victims. These factors contribute to the reconstruction of universal jurisdiction established in human rights treaties as a tool that effectively serves the interests of victims.

Repository (PhD thesis embargoed until June 2026; for access, contact the author at somin.park@graduateinstitute.ch).

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**Gender, Diversity, Race & Intersectionality**

**MONOGRAPH**

*A Orientação Sexual na Constituinte de 1987-88: constituição performativa de sujeitos LGBTI+ na Constituição da nação brasileira*

Providing an important analysis of the productive power of legal discourse as well as a valuable contribution to the historiography of the LGBTI+ movement in Brazil, this Portuguese-language book establishes the National Constituent Assembly of 1987–88 as the inaugural moment of the Brazilian LGBTI+ movement's institutionalised mobilisation of the law (Devires, February 2023). Rafael Carrano Lelis, PhD Researcher in International Law, argues that debates that took place at the time created the possibility of naming the right to non-discrimination in the public sphere for the first time and symbolically allowed for the intersection of the Brazilian homosexual movement and the law. He proposes a reading of the constituent process as a foundational act of the Brazilian state, anchored in discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. He demonstrates that after more than 30 years, discriminatory discourse continues to perpetuate forms of violence and violations of LGBTI+ rights, which are also mobilised by current national politics. In doing so, he brings to the forefront the ways in which controversies around gender and sexuality play a central role in disputes around the meaning and consolidation of democracy.

Publisher's page >

**ARTICLE**

*Women’s Social Roles in Memories of Ruth Escobar and Leonor Xavier*

The gender debate features in the lives and works of Ruth Escobar and Leonor Xavier, Portuguese women who renewed their views on the social roles of women after immigrating to Brazil in the 20th century. Ruth Escobar (1935–2017), at age 16, settled with her mother in São Paulo and was an actress, theatre producer, politician, and feminist. Leonor Xavier (1943–2021) immigrated with her husband and children in 1975–1987 to São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, where she became a writer and journalist for media outlets in Brazil and Portugal. Through his content analysis of their autobiographies *Maria Ruth* and *Casas contadas*, Mario Luis Grangeia,
Research Associate at the Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy, allows us to approach them as examples of “mediating intellectuals” for new perspectives on women’s social roles (in Revista Estudos Feministas, vol. 31, no. 2, August 2023). In dealing with the intellectual trajectory and adherence to feminism of relevant Luso-Brazilian intellectuals, the importance of emigration for both of them is evident in the rupture with a masculine and conservative legacy, and their participation in the reflection on gender.

Article (open access) >

Democracy, Civil Society & Sovereignty

EDITED BOOK
Deliberative Constitution-making: Opportunities and Challenges
This book, edited and introduced by Min Reuchamps and Yanina Welp, Research Fellow at the Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy, explains deliberative constitution-making with a special focus on the connections between participation, representation and legitimacy and provides a general overview of what the challenges and prospects of deliberative constitution-making are today (Routledge, August 2023). In her conclusion, Yanina Welp underlines that constitutions found the political community – when approved by the original constituent power – but at the same time, they need to be revised and adapted to historical changes and new demands – through derived constituent power. This expresses the constitution’s concrete relevance as well as its symbolic value, and also the field of disputes that quite commonly surrounds it. In theory, a constitution represents “the will of the people”. The question of who should participate in a constitution-making process directly tackles one of the main deficits of current democracies: the perceived lack of inclusion.

DOI (open access) >

ARTICLE
Querer no siempre es poder: liderazgos populistas, referendos y reelecciones (Where there is a will, there’s not always a way: Populist leadership, referendums and reelections)
In this Spanish-language article, Yanina Welp, Research Fellow at the Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy, analyses six cases in which populist presidents tried to extend their terms of office and promoted or faced referendums with contrasting outcomes – reaching or not the vote and the reelection (in Revista Mexicana de Sociología, vol. 85, no 2 NE, August 2023). She shows that outcomes are explained not so much by the populist character of a president as by the degree of institutionalisation of the political party system, the quality of the rule of law, the distribution of power among actors, and their popular support. The cases are Argentina (Carlos Menem), Bolivia (Evo Morales), Colombia (Álvaro Uribe), Honduras (Juan Manuel Zelaya), Peru (Alberto Fujimori) and Venezuela (Hugo Chávez).

Article (open access) >

POLICY BRIEF
Green and Digital Futures: Enabling Youth for “Just Transitions”
This brief of the Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy (AHCD) addresses the tendency for youth movements in Europe and globally to increasingly centre their activities and discourses around “just transitions”, encompassing digital transformations, green transitions, and the fight against inequality (AHCD Policy Brief no. 3/23). Indeed, findings from the project “Protest and Engagement, from the Global to the Local: Mapping the Forms of Youth Participation in Europe”, carried out by Christine Lutringer, Maria Mexi, Yanina Welp and Laura Bullon-Cassis, researchers at the AHCD, across eight cities in Switzerland, France, Italy and Spain, indicate youth-led movements are increasingly calling for a broader social and economic transition that would be both sustainable and socially equitable. Furthermore, these claims are shaped by local contexts. Similarly, local institutional responses have greatly differed.

Read more >
PDF of the brief (open access) >
develops the concept of “intersectionally gendered mechanisms” and illustrates it with three examples, that is, masculinist protection, masculinist competition and gendered mobilisation for survival.

Repository (public access) >

ARTICLE

Debunking the Myth of Nicaraguan Exceptionalism: Crime, Drugs and the Political Economy of Violence in a “Narco-state”

Nicaragua is often held up as an exception within the Central American panorama of criminal violence, widely presented as the safest country in the region due to its particular revolutionary legacies, the (supposed) absence of transnational gangs and drug-trafficking organisations, and the National Police’s representation as an efficient and professional force. José Luis Rocha, Dennis Rodgers and Julienne Weegels propose an alternative reading of Nicaragua’s contemporary political economy of violence in order to reveal the profoundly misleading nature of this prevalent view (in Journal of Latin American Studies, September 2023). In particular, they highlight how Nicaragua is governed through a particular political “settlement” underpinned by drug trafficking, police and judicial corruption, as well as “mafia state” governance. These factors have coalesced to establish a highly efficient and engrained “narco-state” whose undoing is unlikely in the short term.

Repository (public access) >

EDITED BOOK CHAPTER

The Future of Environmental Peace and Conflict Research

Interest in the intersections of environmental issues, peace and conflict has surged in recent years. Research on the topic has developed along separate research streams, which broadened the knowledge base considerably, but hardly interact across disciplinary, methodological, epistemological and ontological silos. Lucile Maertens, new Associate Professor in International Relations/Political Science, and others address this gap by bringing into conversation six research streams on the environment, peace and conflict: environmental change and human security, climate change and armed conflict, environmental peacebuilding, political ecology, securitisation of the environment, and decolonising environmental security (in Environmental Politics, vol. 32, no. 6, online January 2023). For each research stream, they outline core findings, potentials for mutual enrichment with other streams, and prospects for future research.

Repository (public access) >

PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL LAW, 2023

Fig Leaf: A Critical Analysis of the Balancing of Military Necessity and Humanity in the Law of Targeting

The international law rules that regulate the conduct of hostilities in warfare – the “law of targeting” – are generally characterised as balancing military necessity and humanity. Abhimanyu George Jain explores what it means to balance two ideas that are so radically different, and how the law of targeting achieves this. His conclusion is that the law of targeting does not actually balance military necessity and humanity, that humanity is merely a fig leaf that facilitates and legitimises the pursuit of military necessity.

Read more about Abhimanyu’ research and findings in this interview >

Repository (PhD thesis embargoed until July 2026; for access, contact the author at abhimanyu.georgejain@graduateinstitute.ch).
CFD & WORLD BANK
Leveraging Technology to Scale Financial Inclusion and Private Sector Growth

Financial inclusion has played a significant role in Western nations’ economic and social development. Based on this historical perspective, financial inclusion will be central to the economic growth of low-income countries. On 19 June, the event explored this topic through a discussion between Leora Klapper, Lead Economist of the Development Research Group at the World Bank; Christopher Woodruff, Professor of Development Economics at the University of Oxford; Liliana de Sá Kirchknopf, Head of the Private Sector Development Division at the Swiss State Secretariat of Economic Affairs (SECO); and Valérie Breda, Technical Expert at the International Labour Organization’s Global Centre on Digital Wages for Decent Work.

More info and full recording of the event >

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL HISTORY AND POLITICS
Oral History Archive

The Oral History Archive consists of two projects: the collection, by Nicole Bourbonnais, of oral histories with advocates prominent in the late 20th century transnational reproductive rights movement, and a general archive including a range of oral histories collected by students and researchers at the Geneva Graduate Institute. A complete catalogue of oral histories is available in the Oral History Collection of the Graduate Institute’s Digital Collections.

More info >

GENEVA TRADE WEEK 2023 | LIVE VIDEOS | GENEVA TRADE PLATFORM

The Geneva Trade Week 2023, presented by the Geneva Trade Platform, took place on 11–14 September in the margins of the WTO Public Forum. The videos of the following events are available:

– Opening Plenary: The Role of Trade & Trade Policy in Advancing Action on the SDGs

The opening plenary was about breaking silos, bringing the trade policy community closer together with those working on environment, health and labour.

Watch the event >

– Trade’s Intersection with Health and Labour Policy

The WTO Public Forum brings the trade community together, but trade doesn’t exist in a vacuum and few consider it a goal in and of itself. In this session, representatives from very different policy spheres, Kitrhona Cerri (Thinking Ahead on Societal Change platform) and Adam Strobeyko (Global Health Centre), shared with Dmitry Grozoubinski (Geneva Trade Platform) the areas where their own work is most likely to touch on trade policy, and the aspects of trade policy

Watch the event >
¿Qué salud y qué educación queremos en Panamá?
El calendario electoral ofrece una pausa que nos invita a preguntarnos qué país quiere tener la ciudadanía panameña. Para empezar a contestar esta pregunta, Harry Brown Arauz (director del CIEPS) y Yanina Welp (investigadora asociada del Albert Hirschmann Centre on Democracy) analizan el contexto de la salud y la educación en Panamá desde la perspectiva de la política democrática. Ambos cuentan con los aportes de Arlene Calvo (profesora asociada del Colegio de Salud Pública del programa Panamá de la Universidad de South Florida), Nanette Svenson (cofundadora e investigadora del Centro de Investigación Educativa de Panamá) y Jon Subinas (investigador del CIEPS) que nos señalan cuál debería ser la prioridad en materia de salud y educación en las próximas elecciones.

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How do small arms and light weapons (SALW) circulate in Latin America, between state and non-state actors and between legal and illegal spheres of activity and what are the cultural and regulatory dynamics that shape this circulation? This project led by Keith Krause tackles these questions by focusing on military-style automatic rifles. The main goals are to: i) understand how the circulation of military-style rifles occurs within and through LatAm; ii) assess their effects on patterns of violence in the region; iii) analyse gun cultures in the region and; iv) identify the main challenges for controlling these flows. We will compose a two-layered mixed-methods approach to tackle the transnational circulation and control of military-style rifles in the region. The first layer gathers quantitative data on rifle flows over the last decade and qualitative data on related sociocultural and gendered perspectives (e.g., the emergence of gun cultures) and on their political economy. The second layer investigates the adoption and implementation of international, regional, and national norms on SALW in LatAm and their policy impacts.

On 28 August, a workshop titled “Transnational Arms Flows in Latin America: Trends and Challenges”, part of the SNIS-funded project, brought together national and international experts to discuss contemporary trends and challenges linked to arms flows in Latin America. The discussions revolved around issues related to the circulation, control, and effects of rifles on broad social processes that allow the modulation and reproduction of violence. Two roundtables discussed the current dynamics of the circulation of weapons and how these dynamics fuel and transform armed violence in the region, as well as existing challenges for data production and analysis on arms flows and their control.

TASC PLATFORM & WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM’S TRADE AND INVESTMENT TEAM

The Trade and Labour Programme

With support of the Laudes Foundation, the TASC Platform will be stepping up the Trade and Labour Programme, which aims to

- inform policymaking through multistakeholder research and recommendations for improvement and innovation, particularly in the context of various transitions affecting labour markets;
- support more constructive interaction among trade and labour policymakers, academics, labour unions, business leaders, and civil society organisations;
- improve awareness of the topic among leaders, executives and the general public to support policy change.

Over the next two years, the programme will implement the following activities:

- Phase 1: The Trade and Labour Steering Group is created to bring together a multistakeholder community, composed of leaders and experts. Interviews and workshops will inform a policy paper on the trade policy tools for better labour outcomes.
- Phase 2: Two country-level, sector-specific case studies will be conducted to provide practical insights and evidence.
- Phase 3: Country-level learnings will be fed into multilateral, regional and bilateral processes in coordination with international organisations and civil society. A final policy paper will be published and disseminated.

The programme is actively seeking partners to help shape and advance this transformative initiative.

Read more >
The Institute welcomes the following new faculty members:

Moira FAUL  
**Senior Lecturer, International and Development Studies, and Executive Director of NORRAG**  
Moira Faul’s current research projects focus on Systems Approaches, the International Geneva Ecosystem, the use of evidence in policy, innovative financing for education to Leave No-one Behind, and reversing the North-to-South flow of expertise and decision making (#TheSouthAlsoKnows).

Stefano GUZZINI  
**Adjunct Professor, International Relations/Political Science**  
Professor Guzzini’s areas of expertise include Social and Political Theory (Concepts and theories of power); Foreign Policy Analysis; Security Studies; Critical Geopolitics; and Interpretivist and qualitative methodology.

Bernard KEO  
**Assistant Professor, International History and Politics**  
Professor Keo is an historian of modern Southeast Asia, with a particular focus on the intertwined processes of decolonisation and nation-making in the post-World War II period. His further research interests include the Malayan Emergency, urban life in the port-cities of Southeast Asia, and transnational networks across the Malay World. He also has training and research in the Digital Humanities.

Jan KIELY  
**Senior Lecturer, International History and Politics**  
Jan Kiely is a historian of modern China particularly interested in aspects of religion, social morality, law, justice, conflict and its resolutions in the twentieth century.

MINHUA LING  
**Associate Professor, Anthropology and Sociology**  
As a sociocultural anthropologist, Minhua Ling uses ethnography as a basis to explore three sets of related research interests: (1) the various forms of mobility and how they are shaped, experienced, and interpreted; (2) the (re)making of inequality in everyday life; and (3) the challenges to sustainable livelihood facing underprivileged individuals and communities.

Lucile MAERTENS  
**Associate Professor, International Relations/Political Science**  
Professor Maertens’ current research focuses on international organisations, multilateral practices, global environmental governance and issues of temporality and (de)politicisation.

Marko MLIKOTA  
**Assistant Professor, International Economics**  
Professor Mlikota focuses his research on time series econometrics and empirical macroeconomics, particularly the relation between economic dynamics and networks (e.g. prices across industries linked by supply chain relationships, or economic activity across countries linked via trade and capital flows).

Joëlle NOAILLY  
**Senior Lecturer, International Economics**  
Joëlle Noailly' research provides perspective on how environmental and climate change policies can induce firms to increase their investments in clean technologies, using econometric
techniques and machine learning algorithms for text analytics.

Mark ZEITOUN
Professor, MINT; Director of the Geneva Water Hub
Mark Zeitoun’s research focuses on international transboundary water conflict and cooperation, the influence of armed conflict on water services, and the links between water, conflict, and health.

The Institute also welcomes the following visitors:

📅 11 Sept. 2023–11 Sept. 2024
📍 GGC

Tania MESSELL
Coming from FHNW HGK, Visiting Fellow Tania Messell studies “Managing Uncertainty: Design and Global Disaster Governance (1960-1980)”.

📅 27 Sept. 2023–31 May 2024
📍 IHP Dep.

Liat KOZMA
Coming from The Hebrew University, Visiting Fellow Liat Kozma studies “International Health Organization and the Palestine Conflict”.

📅 30 Sept.–31 Dec. 2023
📍 CCDP

Rickard SÖDER
Coming from the Department of Political Science of Stockholm University, Junior Visiting Fellow Rickard Söder will study “Anticipating the Future: Humanitarian Aid in a Changing Climate”.

📅 2 Oct. 2023–31 Jan. 2024
📍 CCDP

Alexandre RAFFOUL
Coming from Uppsala University, Junior Visiting Fellow Alexandre Raffoul will study “Associational Power-Sharing: Multi-Ethnic Party Systems, Electoral Institutions, and Ethnic Conflict Transformation”.

Calls for Papers

GLOBAL GOVERNANCE CENTRE

Workshop “Space and Scale in International Legal History”
For the third and last workshop of the Doc.CH “New Directions in the Theory & History of International Law” workshop series, to be held in Spring 2024, the GGC is interested in paper proposals that theoretically question the ways in which different spatial and temporal spaces and of inquiry limit – or enrich – our ways of seeing international law’s “world making practices”.

- 31 October 2023: abstract submission deadline

More info >
INTERNATIONAL HISTORY

Landscape and Power in Mandate Palestine, 1917–1948
By Mona Bieling. Committee members: Cyrus Schayegh, Thesis Director; Susanna Hecht, President and Internal Reader; Diana K. Davis, Professor, History Department, University of California Davis, USA.

More info >

ANTHROPOLOGY AND SOCIOLOGY OF DEVELOPMENT

Lithium Trajectories in Bolivia and Beyond: Encounters against the Supply Chain
By Jonas Köppel. Committee members: Graziella Moraes Dias Da Silva and Marc Hufty, Thesis Co-Supervisors; Shaila Seshia Galvin, President and Internal Reader; Stefan Leins, Assistant Professor, Social Anthropology, Universität Konstanz, Germany.

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.