

**GENEVA
GRADUATE
INSTITUTE**

Research Bulletin

Upcoming events, latest publications and other research activities

23 June 2025 (no. 6, 2025)

Upcoming Research Events

**23
JUN**

Monday

KEYNOTE LECTURE |
ALBERT HIRSCHMAN
CENTRE ON
DEMOCRACY

Leslie McCall |

Rethinking Public

Views on Inequality
and Redistribution

17:00–18:30 Room

S4 & online

**24
JUN**

Tuesday

NO EVENTS

**25
JUN**

Wednesday

NO EVENTS

**26
JUN**

Thursday

NO EVENTS

**27
JUN**

Friday

NO EVENTS

[See all events >](#)

Gateway to Publications by Themes



Human Rights,
Humanitarianism,
Justice &
Inclusion



Arts,
Culture &
Religion



Gender,
Diversity,
Race &
Intersectionality



Democracy &
Civil Society



Education,
Information
& Media





Sustainability,
Environment,
the Anthropocene
& SDGs



Diplomacy &
Global
Governance



Cities, Space,
Mobilities &
Migrations



Global
Health



Trade,
Finance,
Economies
& Work



Gateway to Other Relevant Information



Multimedia



Calls for
Papers



Calls for
Prizes



Upcoming
PhD Defences



Publications by Themes



Human Rights, Humanitarianism, Justice & Inclusion



EBOOK

De/Colonising Palestine: Contemporary Debates

This volume, edited by **Riccardo Bocco**, Emeritus Professor of Political Sociology and Faculty Associate at the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP), and **Ibrahim Saïd**, seeks to contribute to the broader project of decolonisation by bringing together

diverse perspectives for a critical examination of the Palestine Question (Graduate institute eBooks no. 8, Geneva Graduate Institute, May 2025). It aims to challenge dominant narratives, highlight the resilience and agency of Palestinians, and explore new pathways toward justice and liberation amid ongoing occupation and colonialism. Topics covered include the question of refugees, the diaspora, the predicament of the Palestinian Authority, hydropolitics, and the settler colonial modes of Israeli control. Additionally, the book delves into Palestinian cultural resistance and the evolution of international coalitions, highlighting a shift in solidarity — from performative to transformative — towards decolonisation and liberation and the associated challenges.

Contributors include Geneva Graduate Institute's alumna et alumni **Alice Baroni**, **Jalal Al Hussein**, **Sergio Bianchi**, **Basil Farraj**, **Ibrahim Saïd** and **Rami Salameh**, as well as **Tareq Dana**, former Senior Research Fellow, **Atwa Jaber**, PhD Researcher in International History and Politics, **Caitlin Procter**, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Research Fellow at the CCDP, and **Alaa Tartir**, Research Associate at the CCDP.

[DOI \(open access\) >](#)



Top



Arts, Culture & Religion



ARTICLE

The End of Jihadi Salafism? The Religious Governance of HTS, the Post-Jihadi Rebel Ruler in Northern Syria

Jihadis differentiate themselves from other Muslims by their demand for an Islamic state based on their interpretation of Islamic law as well as their legitimisation of violence against Muslim domestic regimes and, occasionally, Western

countries for supporting them. Over the past decade, they have increasingly governed civilians with harsh governance featuring physical punishments and discriminatory measures against women and religious minorities. But this is not always the case. In Syria, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), a former affiliate of Islamic State (IS) and Al-Qaeda previously known as Jabhat al-Nusra, took on a very different governing role in the northwest of the country. In contrast to other Jihadis, HTS has distanced itself from its Jihadi legacy after seizing power. As the group relocalised, it has established new structures of governance that are more technocratic than ideological though they feature religion too. **Jérôme Drevon**, Research Associate at the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP), and Patrick Haenni analyse HTS's policies, from its rejection of its Jihadi legacy to the group's understanding of Islamic law and interactions with local communities, including religious minorities (in *Mediterranean Politics*, online May 2025). Their article is based on extensive research conducted in northwest Syria, including numerous interviews with the HTS leadership, its supported government, other armed groups, and civil society organisations.

[DOI \(open access\) >](#)

ARTICLE

Waste of Time Is Worse Than Death (*Daya' al-waqt ashadd min al-mawt*)

Hanna Berg, PhD Researcher in Anthropology and Sociology at the time of writing, examines how experiences of time and waiting are shaped by theological imaginations among Syrian Sunni Muslims living as asylum seekers in Jordan (in *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*, vol. 45, no. 1, May 2025). While anthropological studies on time and waiting in contexts of displacement most often place human agency at the centre of analysis, attending to people's understandings of waste of time (*daya' al-waqt*) in relation to divine power allows for moving beyond secular, materialistic understandings of time. Placing God at the centre of analysis, the author explores how temporal inequalities created in and through the humanitarian protracted context in Jordan are conceptualised along notions of life and death, and she explores the role of God in such conceptualisations. She takes an ethnographic approach to address the relationship between human *sa'y* (strive) and divine granting of *faraj* (ease) to explore how God's agency materialises into something tangible when addressed through human mobilisation. Suggesting that *sa'y* is not only a virtue on its own, but a fundamental part of *sabr*, her article adds to theological understandings of the virtue of endurance as opposed to emotional surge and unrest, and it provides an analytical space to rethink waiting in contexts of displacement beyond bare "migranhood".

[DOI >](#)

This article is an early version of "God and the Remaking of Humanitarian Boundaries", one of the chapters in Hanna Berg's PhD thesis.

PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL HISTORY, 2025

Being Black and Jewish in Côte d'Ivoire and Kenya: Histories, Communities, and Life Stories

Contemporary African history has been marked by a notable increase in the number of individuals and groups identifying as Jewish. These people have constructed their narratives through a variety of means, drawing upon biblical references, personal experiences, and intellectual

engagement. **Ayode Daniel Dossou** examines the trajectories of the actors engaged in the process of Judaization on the continent, with a particular focus on two countries: Côte d'Ivoire and Kenya. The movement of people and ideas through globalisation, coupled with an overall Judeophile sociopolitical atmosphere that has been partly facilitated by cordial relations between Israel and African states, are among the factors that have contributed to this growing infatuation with Jewishness. Based on a synthesis of comparative and complementary analysis, conducted through field research, interpersonal interviews, secondary literature exploration, archival sources, and the consultation of a diversity of information outlets, he finds that the emerging Jewish communities in both countries are primarily characterised by agency, resilience, and adaptation. Their multifaceted interactions with other emerging communities at national and continental levels, as well as with the mainstream Jewish community primarily established in the Global North, illustrate an intricate network of connections and processes that have been influencing conventional understanding of what it means to be African and what it means to be Jewish. The author also shows that questions of historical as well as spiritual identity, in addition to faith and intellectual pursuits, are the primary motivators behind the turn to Judaism and the assertion of Jewish identity in the communities studied.

[Find out more in this interview >](#)

Repository (access to the PhD thesis restricted to members of the Institute community; others can contact Dr Dossou Nonvide [by email](#) or [via his LinkedIn profile](#)).



[Top](#)



Gender, Diversity, Race & Intersectionality



ARTICLE

You Cannot Pinkwash Genocide: Why the (Queer) Refugee Law Studies Community Should Be Talking about Palestine — and Why It Is Not

Palestinians represent one of the largest refugee populations in the world, and are reserved a special legal status under Article 1D of the Refugee Convention. A number of urgent novel

questions are now also arising from the current genocide and mass displacement in Gaza, yet the refugee law studies community on the whole remains silent. Sophia Zisakou, Samuel Ballin and **Irene Manganini**, PHD Researcher in International Law, examine academic silence and Israeli pinkwashing through the appropriation of queer and feminist approaches to refugee law (in *Feministika*, no. 7–8, Spring 2025). They reclaim the political commitments inherent in feminist and queer epistemologies as situated, decolonial, critical, and low theories, and describe the contemporary application of these commitments to both refugee law and the Palestinian struggle. Beginning from a personal encounter with Israeli pinkwashing and academic silence during the meeting of a feminist working group, the authors critique and contextualise these two interlinked phenomena and the wider power structures which they reflect. They argue that behind this academic silence and censorship is a project of epistemicide that extends beyond occupied Palestine to the global stage: what should be a witness project, documenting and opposing genocide, has been transformed into a whiteness project of erasure and silence. Their article calls on the migration and refugee law community — and those engaged in critical queer and feminist legal scholarship in particular — to take seriously the oppression and erasure of Palestine and academic complicity in the extreme material and onto-epistemic violence currently being perpetrated. With this, the authors distance themselves from the appropriation of queer and

feminist politics to pinkwash genocide.

[Read here \(open access\) >](#)

PHD THESIS IN DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS, 2025

Perceptions, Stereotypes, and the Gender Gap: Three Essays in Development Economics

Carlotta Nani investigates how gender stereotypes shape perceptions and contribute to persistent gender gaps in Bangladesh, focusing on both household dynamics and labour market outcomes. The first chapter, “**How Do Spouses Perceive Each Other?**”, explores intrahousehold perceptions using experimental data. It finds that husbands systematically underestimate their wives’ cognitive abilities, despite equal performance, with biases linked to conservative gender norms. The second chapter, “**Perceived Abilities and Gender Stereotypes within the Household**”, examines whether biased perceptions stem from information gaps. Through an incentivised game with married couples, the study shows that revealing women’s abilities shifts beliefs and increases their involvement in decision-making — particularly among couples with initially negative perceptions and shorter marriages. There is evidence that changes persist outside of the lab setting, suggesting that gender discrimination has a statistical component that can be mitigated by increasing information. The final chapter, “**Hiring Preferences in Small Businesses in Bangladesh**”, evaluates demand-side barriers to women’s labour market participation. Using data from a randomised trial among mobile money agents, it reveals that employers undervalue women’s skills, even when qualifications are equal, reducing women’s hiring prospects. Together, these chapters demonstrate that stereotypes distort economic decisions and perpetuate inequality. Addressing perception gaps is key to fostering both gender equality and inclusive economic development.

[Find out more in this interview >](#)

[Repository](#) (access to the PhD thesis restricted to members of the Institute community; others may [contact Dr Nani](#)).



[Top](#)



Democracy & Civil Society



ARTICLE

British Subjects by Birth, Imperial Citizens by Choice: The Straits Chinese and Cultural Citizenship in Colonial Malaya

In 1897, a diplomatic incident involving a Straits Chinese trader in Amoy who was arrested by Qing authorities, despite his claims of being a British subject rather than a Chinese national, set

into motion a series of public and private debates about British subjecthood and the rights that it ought to accrue to those that held said status. Drawing from contemporary accounts from the time, **Bernard Keo** investigates how Straits Chinese with the status of British subjects conceived of their subjecthood and understood their place in the British Empire and beyond (in *Itinerario*, online May 2025). In particular, he makes the case that Anglophile Straits Chinese understood British subjecthood as a form of what historian Daniel Gorman calls “imperial citizenship”: legal and juridical rights in exchange for loyalty to the Crown. Drawing from the wider new imperial studies scholarship which has made a compelling case for how being British went beyond legal definitions of status and incorporated a cultural identification with the symbols, language, and

style of the empire, he contends that this conception of subject as citizen derived from a sense of cultural citizenship developed through the inculcation of cultural “Britishness” within sections of the community.

[DOI \(open access\) >](#)

ARTICLE

Challenging the Global Herrenhaus: The Unending Quest to Democratize International Relations within, and beyond, the United Nations

Who speaks for the peoples of the world? National polities usually have defined institutional arrangements in relation to who speaks on behalf of its “people”— centralised legislative bodies, chief among them. But when it comes to the elusive “international community”, a difficult question continues to haunt us: who speaks for “the international”? In the twentieth century, an approach taken to this problem was to draw from the model of the European domestic parliament to “democratise” international relations. Indeed, the League of Nations and its successor institution, the United Nations (UN), have aspired to serve as a sort of inchoate “global parliament”. But the creation of these institutions did not bring about “global democracy.” In fact, these organisations were created with both “upper” and “lower” chambers of deliberation, with powers of decision slanted clearly in favor of the former. For that reason, it is not surprising that the unequal prerogatives of the “Great Powers” in the UN’s Security Council — and before it, the League Council — have remained a controversial issue in international affairs. **Daniel Quiroga-Villamarín**, alumnus (2024) of the Geneva Graduate Institute, traces a history of these debates, arguing that the quest to democratise the world order is still very much an unfinished one (in *University of Vienna Law Review*, vol. 9, no. 2, May 2025).

[DOI \(open access\) >](#)



Top



Education, Information & Media



ARTICLE

Mapping the Network: Identifying UAE Philanthropies’ Partners in Education

In line with global trends, the impact of United Arab Emirates (UAE) education philanthropies continues to grow as they work to strengthen education systems. These philanthropies partner with government entities, academic institutions, the private sector, and other nonprofit actors to

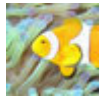
better navigate the ever-evolving educational landscape. While the literature addresses the advantages and challenges of philanthropic partnerships, little attention has been paid to mapping the partners of Emirati philanthropic organisations operating in the education sector. Using social network analysis, **Camilla Della Giovampaola**, PhD Researcher in International History and Politics, and Giuseppe Ugazio map the partners of UAE education philanthropies, highlighting the interplay and level of connectivity of actors working on education in the country and abroad (in *Comparative Education Review*, vol. 68, no. 4, November 2024). This analysis yields two insights. First, Emirati education philanthropies partner with various cross-sector actors, expressing similarities and differences with global philanthropic partnership trends. Second, there is potential for greater connectivity within the UAE’s philanthropic sector, which could lead to more efficient use and allocation of resources. The UAE is an important regional philanthropic actor, and this mapping exercise lays the groundwork for further research on philanthropic partnerships for

education in the Middle East and North Africa region.

[DOI >](#)



[Top](#)



Sustainability, Environment, the Anthropocene & SDGs



MONOGRAPH

The Pathology of Plenty: Natural Resources in International Law

Since the 1990s, expressions such as the “resource curse” and “paradox of plenty” have been associated with unequal patterns of power and wealth distribution in postcolonial and neocolonial countries. They have also been applied to the ecological and social costs of

natural resources exploitation, and the planetary costs of mineral resources-based production and consumption patterns. Taking various resource-curse and paradox-of-plenty theories as a starting point, **Lys Kulamadayil**, SNSF Ambizione Fellow, illustrates how the law’s role in resource-cursed countries is at once constitutive, preventive, remedial and punitive (Bloomsbury, May 2025). She does so by engaging with various fields of public international law. Her book revisits how rights and principles such as sovereignty over natural resources and economic self-determination were applied in decolonisation processes; studies the proliferation of international treaties protecting foreign property rights; and zooms in on various contract models used in the mineral resources sector to evaluate the distributional choices of cost and revenue.

[DOI \(open access\) >](#)

PHD THESIS IN ANTHROPOLOGY AND SOCIOLOGY, 2025

The Amazon as a Global Carbon Sink: Sociological Essays in a Burning World

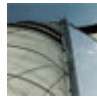
Building on five years of field research, **Livio Silva-Muller** centres his thesis on the Amazon Rainforest as a key location for understanding the global climate breakdown we currently live through. His first essay, “**Pathways of the Environmental State**”, shows how defining features of state-building are transformed due to environmental problems’ global and scientific dimensions. Empirically, the author implements a comparative-historical framework to explain how Brazil successfully decarbonised from 1985 to 2022. The second essay, “**Financialization as Transnational Policy Insulation**”, proposes a socio-legal framework to understand transnational climate finance over the last three decades. In the third essay, “**Which Amazon Problem?**”, he and **Henrique Sposito**, then PhD Researcher in International Relations/Political Science, explain how and why Brazilian presidents construct the Amazon as distinct problems. Using a dataset containing all official speeches since 1985 and their location, they show that all presidents, independent of ideology, are likelier to favour environmental conservation as they speak away from the region. The thesis also includes three intermezzos that discuss, among other things, how qualitative fieldwork changes in the age of new computational methods.

[Read an interview with Livio Silva-Muller >](#)

[Repository](#) (file embargoed until April 2028; for access, please [contact Dr Silva-Muller](#)).



[Top](#)



EDITED BOOK AND CHAPTERS

International Organization Initiatives: How and Why Organizations Adapt and Change

This volume, co-edited by Gabrielle Marceau and Henner Gött, bridges conceptual frameworks with empirical case studies, examining how international organisations, their secretariats, and executive heads launch and implement innovative

activities and adapt to respond to new challenges, crises, members' demands, internal impulses, or interactions with the outside world (Oxford University Press, June 2025). **Ana Balcázar-Moreno**, PhD Researcher in International Law, served as one of the Assistant Editors.

Contributions by authors from the Geneva Graduate Institute include:

– **“WHO’s Reactions to COVID-19: Between Politics and Managerialism”**: The 2005 International Health Regulations (IHR) proved inadequate in preventing the rapid spread of the COVID-19 virus, leading WHO to take unprecedented reactive and strategic measures and underscoring the urgency and gravity of the situation. These actions included, inter alia, the aggressive use of its epistemic authority, the establishment of new governance tools, and the creation of global technical hubs. **Gian Luca Burci** and **Ana Balcázar-Moreno** examine how the WHO Secretariat, particularly under the leadership of its Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, undertook these measures, often without explicit mandates granted by its governing bodies, to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic as well as trying to improve prevention, preparedness, and response capacities for future health emergencies, and to fight the inequitable distribution of power in the access to life-saving medical countermeasures.

[DOI of the chapter >](#)

– **“The International Energy Agency at 50: The Astounding Environmental Shift from an Organization Focused on Fossil Energy Supply to a Clean Energy Authority”**: The International Energy Agency (IEA), created in the wake of the 1973 oil shock and ensuing energy scarcity, is now 50 years old. **André-Philippe Ouellet**, PhD Researcher in International Law, examines the shift towards renewable energy within the IEA under the leadership of Helga Steeg in the 1990s until today. Despite most provisions in its constitutive instrument relating to fossil fuels, the Secretariat cleverly built on alternative energy provisions to initiate changes that progressively transformed the IEA from a fossil fuel agency to a clean energy authority. Through these initiatives, the Secretariat provides its members with cash value in a changing world. The incumbent Executive Director, Fatih Birol, pushed the boundaries even further, making the IEA the spearhead of the energy transition despite opposition from fossil fuel producers.

[DOI of the chapter >](#)

– **“International Organization Interactions with Multi-stakeholder Initiatives: The International Labour Organization Experience”**: International organisations (IOs) increasingly interact with transnational economic actors to achieve governance aims beyond the reach of state-based structures of international cooperation. In the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Labour Office (“Office”) and Director General have advanced the ILO’s decent work mandate in transnational regulatory spaces by orchestrating multi-stakeholder initiatives (MSIs) in which transnational actors and ILO national constituents collaborate. The Office recently designed and orchestrated the Rana Plaza Arrangement, a path-breaking MSI, to pay thousands of claims for employment injury and death from a supply chain factory collapse in Bangladesh. Along with inspiring a local pilot programme for future Bangladeshi claims, the initiative fostered ILO’s formal approval in 2023 for an ILO-wide supply chain strategy and programme of action. Such ILO innovations point to avenues for effective joined-up modes of international cooperation

and transnational governance among IOs, member states, and MSI actors, concludes **Janelle Diller**, Senior Research Associate at the Global Governance Centre,

[DOI of the chapter >](#)

[DOI of the book >](#)

EDITED BOOK CHAPTER

Between Diplomacy and War: The Limits of OSCE Mediation in Ukraine in the Run-up to 2022

In this study, **Fred Tanner**, Research Associate at the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP) and Senior Advisor at the Center for Strategic Analysis, Vienna, examines crisis management initiatives undertaken by the OSCE and other actors in the run-up to Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 (in *Between Diplomacy and War: The Limits of OSCE Mediation in Ukraine in the Run-up to 2022*, C. Friesendorf and A. Kartsonaki, eds., Nomos, 2026). These efforts — including the Geneva Statement, the OSCE Roadmap, the Normandy Format, the Trilateral Contact Group, the Minsk agreements, and the activities of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission — unfolded against a backdrop of escalating armed violence and Russian political maneuvers aimed at undermining Ukrainian sovereignty. Despite this sustained engagement, the OSCE's facilitation and mediation efforts proved insufficient. By analysing the inherent shortcomings, missed opportunities, and limitations of these diplomatic initiatives, the author seeks to draw key lessons for improving future international conflict resolution efforts.

[DOI \(open access\) >](#)

PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL LAW, 2025

To Perceive or Misperceive Crises in International Law: The Role of Black Swans in International Legal Discourse

Crises have long been central to accounts of change in international law, but the factors determining why some crises elicit changes in international legal discourse while others do not remain insufficiently examined. **Marzia Marastoni** addresses this gap by exploring the question: Which crises are more likely to trigger changes in international legal discourse, and why? Integrating perspectives from philosophy, cognitive psychology, and social psychology, she challenges conventional accounts of crisis-driven change in international law. Building on Nassim Nicholas Taleb's *black swan theory*, she argues that unforeseen, high-impact crises — conceptualised here as *black swans in international law* — are particularly likely to drive significant shifts in legal discourse. Furthermore, she examines why similarly unpredictable and high-impact crises may fail to produce comparable discursive changes. By conducting a qualitative comparative analysis of the Kosovo War and the First Liberian Civil War, she shows how key human biases — including Western bias, representativeness and availability heuristics, ingroup/outgroup dynamics, media framing, hegemonic influence, and the notion of moral proximity — determine how crises are perceived and prioritised within international legal discourse.

[Find out more in this interview >](#)

[Repository](#) (access to the PhD thesis restricted to members of the Institute community; others may [contact Dr Marastoni](#)).

REPORT

Paying for Multilateralism amid Global Shocks: Financing of International Organizations in Geneva, 2013–2023

Livio Silva-Muller, PhD Researcher in Anthropology and Sociology at the time of writing, Remo Gassmann and Guilherme De Franco chart the funding trends of 21 large international organisations in Geneva based on unique data on over 25,000 contributions from at least 1,000 different funders between 2013 and 2023 (Geneva Policy Outlook, Geneva Graduate Institute, May 2025). Specifically, their study describes how donors behave in the context of four exogenous shocks: the 2016 US elections, the 2016–2020 Brexit process, the 2020 global

pandemic, and the 2022 conflict in Ukraine. The report builds on a completely updated and revised dataset and is the second report in a series, contributing to a transparent analysis about the financing and a potential reform of multilateralism.

[Repository \(public access\) >](#)



[Top](#)



Cities, Space, Mobilities & Migrations



PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS/POLITICAL SCIENCE, 2025

Measurements That Matter: Competition and Frictions in Data Practices under the Global Compact on Refugees

The Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) emphasises the need for better data. It aligns with initiatives such as the UNHCR-World Bank

partnership, the establishment of their Joint Data Center, and the design of measurement practices to assess programs that support refugee employment in host countries. **Augusta Nannerini** examines these changes through a theoretical framework that interrogates data practices through the lenses of competition and frictions. Competition refers to the drive to excel over others, present positive results and generate data showcasing refugees' labour market integration. Frictions emerge as sites of resistance, where practitioners develop alternative ways of working that challenge these measurement practices. Through semi-structured interviews in Geneva and online, the research captures the perspectives of practitioners working with refugee data, who question for example why economic inclusion is prioritised over other issues related to the right to seek asylum. Ethnographic participant observation in Jordan reveals how the focus on employability in M&E reinforces a narrow view of work, often overlooking care labour. This study calls for participatory measurement to bridge policy priorities and field experiences, reframing competition as an opportunity for self-improvement rather than a market-driven race.

[Find out more in this interview >](#)

[Repository](#) (access to the PhD thesis restricted to members of the Institute community; others may [contact Dr Nannerini](#)).



[Top](#)



Global Health

ARTICLE

Of Ethnographic (Mis)Translations on a Ward

Purbasha Mazumdar, PhD Researcher in Anthropology and Sociology, reflects on some of the concrete dilemmas that she was faced with in trying to negotiate, secure and maintain access to her field-site (in *Medicine Anthropology Theory*, vol. 12, no. 2, April 2025). These reflections derive from her engagement with infectious diseases physicians, at a renowned corporate tertiary care hospital in Southern India, who are working towards mitigating antibiotic/antimicrobial resistance.



By drawing on the difficulties of felicitously translating her concerns, as an ethnographer, to the epistemological universe that animated (but did not wholly determine) her site of investigation, she can think through what might or might not emerge as strategically useful in the varied loci that anthropologists are increasingly engaged with.

[PDF \(open access\) >](#)

BRIEFING

Governing Pandemics Snapshot

The 78th World Health Assembly (WHA) adoption of the Pandemic Agreement sent a powerful message: multilateralism remains alive and countries can still pull together to find common understandings on collective problems. But many steps on the Agreement still remain to be completed, and thus will not be open for signature for at least another year, as negotiations continue on contentious issues around an Annex on the Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing System (PABS). This sixth issue of the *Governing Pandemics Snapshot*, authored by members or affiliates of the Global Health Centre, explores the tradeoffs that were made in a final agreement and the steps remaining for it to be ready for parties' signature, setting off the countdown for it to enter into force (Global Health Centre, June 2025). **Ava Greenup** and **Daniela Morich** provide a summary on the steps leading up to the adoption of the WHO. **Gian Luca Burci** analyses the potential governance challenges ahead for the International Health Regulations and the Pandemic Agreement; **Ricardo Matute** examines Article 4 on prevention and Article 5 on One Health; and guest author Ellen 't Hoen focuses on Article 11 on technology transfer and **Adam Strobeyko** on Article 12 on Pathogen Access and Benefit Sharing.

[Repository \(public access\) >](#)



[Top](#)



Trade, Finance, Economies & Work



ARTICLE

IMF Programs and Borrowing Costs: Does Size Matter?

Salim Chahine, **Ugo Panizza** and **Guilherme Suedekum**, PhD Researcher in International Economics at the time of writing, study whether IMF programmes and their size affect borrowing costs by comparing bonds issued immediately before the onset of the programme with bonds

issued immediately after the programme (in *European Economic Review*, vol. 177, August 2025, online May 2025). They show that, on average, the approval of the programme leads to a 72-basis points reduction in borrowing costs and that programme size matters. Their point estimates indicate that when programme size increases by one percent of GDP, borrowing costs decrease by 23 basis points. They also show that programme size mostly matters for ex-post programmes (i.e., those implemented during crises). For precautionary ex-ante programmes, there is some evidence that programme size attenuates the reduction in borrowing costs. However, this effect is small and in most cases IMF programmes still lead to a statistically significant reduction in borrowing costs.

[Repository \(public access\) >](#)

This article was previously published as *International Economics Department Working Paper no. 06-2024* and as a *chapter in Guilherme Suedekum's PhD thesis*.

EBOOK

The Economic Consequences of the Second Trump Administration: A Preliminary Assessment

This volume, co-edited and introduced by **Beatrice Weder di Mauro**, Gary Gensler, Simon Johnson and **Ugo Panizza**, offers urgent expert analysis of the policy shifts unfolding under President Trump's second term (Rapid Response Economics no. 6, Centre for Economic Policy Research [CEPR], June 2025). With contributions from 40 leading economists, it provides a timely, evidence-based examination of how current US policy trajectories — ranging from aggressive tariffs and deregulation to executive overreach and global fragmentation — may affect domestic and global economic outcomes. Key findings include increased economic uncertainty and volatility; lower long-term US and global growth prospects; risks to multilateral cooperation and rule-based order; and threats to the dollar's international role.

[Read here \(open access\) >](#)

PHD THESIS IN ANTHROPOLOGY AND SOCIOLOGY, 2025

(Neo)colonial (Dis)connectivity: A Sociological Analysis of Transnational Infrastructure of Finance

The three essays comprising this thesis by **Shirin Barol** engage with United States financial hegemony, analysing its historical trajectory, the enabling conditions that facilitated its emergence, and its repercussions on social actors and processes. The first essay adopts a theoretical framework, exploring the tendency among American sociologists, who concurrently achieved significant influence within the discipline, to downplay the US dominant position. Each subsequent empirical essay then focuses on a contemporary case, albeit from distinct historical periods and analytical perspectives, wherein US engagement with finance has been instrumental in shaping the trajectory of change. In this thesis, finance is conceptualised broadly, encompassing instruments, institutions, actors, and processes that have proliferated as a result of a flexible turn in capitalism. A central argument is that examining financial transformation since the mid-20th century in light of regulation provides a broader understanding of shifts in global governance mechanisms. This intertwined evolution of finance and law has endowed the US with an unprecedented capacity to safeguard its prominence and compel other global market participants to adhere to its dictates.

[Repository](#) (file embargoed until May 2028; for access, please [contact Dr Barol](#)).



Top

Other Relevant Information



Multimedia



VIDEO | GRAND ENTRETIEN | *GLOBAL CHALLENGES* | RESEARCH OFFICE

Diplomacy Today, with Stephan Klement, EU Diplomat and Special Adviser on the Iran Nuclear Issue

Since the end of the Cold War, diplomacy has shifted toward multilateralism, expanding to new issues and actors. However, this system is now weakened by rising geopolitical tensions, nationalism, and speculative, transactional approaches such as Trump's disruptive diplomacy. As part of Global Challenges' latest issue *Diplomacy Today*, **Grégoire Mallard**, Director of Research at the Geneva Graduate Institute, interviews European diplomat **Stephan Klement** about the Iranian nuclear issue.

[Watch here >](#)



VIDEOS | GLOBAL HEALTH CENTRE'S INTERNATIONAL GENEVA GLOBAL HEALTH PLATFORM

Geneva Health Week 2025

Each year during the World Health Organization (WHO)'s World Health Assembly (WHA) happening in May, the **Geneva Global Health Platform** hosts a series of side events and discussions around critical global health issues, raising awareness among member states attending WHA meetings. Events provide important exposure for a wide range of global health actors, enhancing collaborations and partnerships for future discussions and events.

[Watch the events of the Geneva Health Week 2025 >](#)



VIDEO | DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY AND SOCIOLOGY, GENDER CENTRE & ALBERT HIRSCHMAN CENTRE ON DEMOCRACY IN PARTNERSHIP WITH UNFPA

UNFPA State of World Population Report 2025 Launch: How to Pursue Reproductive Agency in High and Low Fertility Countries

After decades of global panic about a crisis of “over-population”, today many countries have falling fertility rates, and policymakers are sounding the alarm over a “population collapse”. The 2025 State of World Population Report, titled *The Real Fertility Crisis*, examines the causes and consequences of these trends and points to the fact that many people cannot freely decide if, when, and with whom they want children. On 11 June 2025, **Shalini Randeria**, Rector of CEU & Senior External Advisor on the report, H.E. **Magnus Hellgren**, Permanent Representative of Sweden, H.E. Ms **Khadra Ahmed Dualeh**, Permanent Representative of Somalia, and H.E. Mr **Marcos Gómez Martínez**, Permanent Representative of Spain, discussed how to pursue reproductive agency in high and low fertility countries.

[Watch here >](#)



VIDEO | CONFÉRENCE DE LA CHAIRE YVES OLTRAMARE

Amélie Barras | Faith in Rights: Christian-Inspired NGOs at Work in the United Nations

On 28 May 2025, **Amélie Barras**, Associate Professor in the Department of Social Science (Law & Society Program) at York University (Toronto, Canada) and author of *Faith in Rights*, explored why and how Christian nongovernmental organisations conduct human rights work at the United Nations' Human Rights Council, and how their work is informed and shaped by constructions of human rights discourse and space as secular.

[Watch here >](#)



PODCAST | *GLOBAL CHALLENGES* | RESEARCH OFFICE

La diplomatie de la restitution des œuvres d'art, avec l'ambassadeur Angelo Dan

Dans le cadre du numéro de *Global Challenges* portant sur l'avenir de la diplomatie, l'ambassadeur du Bénin **Angelo Dan** revient sur un angle méconnu de la diplomatie d'aujourd'hui, en l'occurrence la restitution des œuvres d'art. Pourquoi ce diplomate a-t-il décidé d'écrire un **livre d'histoire** sur les coulisses de la restitution par la France de 26 œuvres d'art du Trésor d'Abomey au Bénin, en octobre 2021?

[Ecoutez ici >](#)



PODCAST | *GOVERNING THE SEAS E1* | RESEARCH BY STUDENTS

The Research Group

Geneva Graduate Institute students of the “Law of the Sea Reading Club and Student Seminar” (spring 2025), guided by faculty mentors, delve into the intricate world of ocean governance and the law of the Sea through a series of focused presentations. With **Laisa Branco, Ela Gokcigdem, Joachim Strzelecki, Navaranjini Nadarajah, Nart Karacay** and **Li Ningxiner**.

[Listen here >](#)

[^](#)
Top



Calls for Papers

SWISS POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE | SWISS POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION & UNIVERSITY OF ZURICH

Main theme of the conference: Emotional Politics

The Annual Conference of the Swiss Political Science Association (SPSA) will be held at the University of Zurich on 15–16 January 2026. Conference panels are organised in cooperation with the permanent **working groups** of the SPSA.

- Dana Landau, Enzo Nussio and **Sara Hellmüller** are eager to receive submissions for the **Peace and Security** working group.
- Monique Beerli, Myriam Dunn Cavelty and **Annabelle Littoz-Monnet** invite submissions for the **International Political Sociology** working group.
- **Liliana Andonova**, Vally Koubi and Katharina Michaelowa welcome submissions to the **Development and Environment** working group.

- **31 July 2025:** abstract submission deadline

[Full call >](#)

INTERNATIONAL FEMINIST JOURNAL OF POLITICS | SPECIAL ISSUE

Digitalisation, AI, and Feminist Futures

The *International Feminist Journal of Politics*, of which **Elisabeth Prügl** is one of the editors-in-chief, invites proposals for a special issue on “Digitalisation, AI and Feminist Futures”. This call prioritises participants from the journal’s **joint conference with Feminist Africa** in Maputo (July 2024), but new submissions — especially from scholars and activists from the African continent and the African diaspora — are welcome.

- **1 August 2025:** submission deadline

[Full call >](#)

DANCE CHRONICLE | SPECIAL ISSUE

South Asia's Courtesan, Hereditary, and Temple Performers: Expanding Discourse and Disrupting Histories

Shriya Patnaik, PhD Researcher in International History and Politics, and Sinjini Chatterjee invite researchers working on scholarship on hereditary performative communities or the performance traditions in South Asia to contribute to this special issue of *Dance Chronicles*.

- **1 November 2025:** submission deadline (full-length papers)

[Full call >](#)


Top



Calls for Prizes

PAUL GUGGENHEIM FOUNDATION & GENEVA GRADUATE INSTITUTE

Call for Paul Guggenheim Prize 2025

The prize, worth CHF 15,000, will be awarded to a high-quality monograph on an important theme in the field of public international law (except European law), written by a young author at the beginning of their career.

- **25 July 2025:** application deadline

[Full call >](#)


Top



Upcoming PhD Defences

 23 June 2025

 09:30–11:30

 Online

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/POLITICAL SCIENCE

Three Essays on the Political Economy of Global Value Chains and Skills Governance

By **Jaewon Kim**. Committee members: Professor Liliana Andonova and Associate Professor Sungmin Rho, thesis co-supervisors; Assistant Professor Chanwoong Baek, president of the committee and internal reader; Professor Gita Steiner-Khamsi, Teachers College, Colombia University, New York, USA, external reader.

[Read more >](#)

 25 June 2025

 10:00–12:00

 Pétalet 2, Room S9

INTERNATIONAL LAW

Searching for a Legal Framework to Govern the "Affective Border": Securing the Right of Families of Missing Migrants to Know the Truth about Their Missing Relatives in International Human Rights Law

By **Fekade Alemayhu Abebe**. Committee members: Professor Vincent Chetail, thesis supervisor; Professor Andrew Clapham,

president of the committee and internal reader; Professor Melanie Klinkner, International Law, Bournemouth University, UK, external reader.

[Read more >](#)

📅 25 June 2025

🕒 16:00–18:00

📍 Pétale 2, Room S9

INTERNATIONAL HISTORY

Temple Dancer, Prostitute, Celibate Nun? The Shifting Position of the Mahari-Devadasi from Late Colonial India to the Early 21st Century

By **Shriya Patnaik**. Committee members: Associate Professor Nicole Bourbonnais, Thesis Supervisor; Professor Aditya Bharadwaj, president of the committee and internal reader; Frédérique Apffel-Marglin, Professor Emerita, Department of Anthropology, Smith College, Northampton MA, USA, external reader.

[Read more >](#)

📅 26 June 2025

🕒 10:00–12:00

📍 Pétale 2, Room S9

INTERNATIONAL LAW

Demystifying the Human in International Humanitarian Law: Artificial Intelligence and the Evolving Role of Humans in Military Decision-Making

By **Anna Rosalie Greipl**. Committee members: Professor Andrea Bianchi, thesis director; Professor Andrew Clapham, president of the committee and internal reader; Nils Melzer, Member of the Council, International Institute of Humanitarian Law, Sanremo, Italy, external reader.

[Read more >](#)

📅 27 June 2025

🕒 10:00–12:00

📍 Pétale 2, Room S9

INTERNATIONAL LAW

The Crime of Torture: The Involvement of a Public Official or Other Person Acting in an Official Capacity

By **Victoria Priori**. Committee members: Professor Paola Gaeta, thesis supervisor; Professor Andrew Clapham, president of the committee and internal reader; Professor Kevin Jon Heller, Department of Political Science, University of Copenhagen, Denmark, external reader.

[Read more >](#)



Top



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*.



Copyright © 2025 Geneva Graduate Institute | Com, All rights reserved.