

**GENEVA  
GRADUATE  
INSTITUTE**

# Research Bulletin

Upcoming events, latest publications and other research activities

**13 October 2025 (no. 9, 2025)**



### Discover our new Publications Gateway

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## Upcoming Research Events

<b>13 OCT</b> <b>Monday</b>	<b>14 OCT</b> <b>Tuesday</b>	<b>15 OCT</b> <b>Wednesday</b>	<b>16 OCT</b> <b>Thursday</b>	<b>17 OCT</b> <b>Friday</b>
CFD <b>8th Interdisciplinary Sovereign Debt Research and Management Conference (DEBTCON8)</b> 08:00–18:00 EST, Georgetown University, Washington DC GGC   SWIPE <b>Johanna Mohring   Back to the Future? French, British and German Nuclear Mentalities and European Security Today</b> 12:30–14:00 Room S12 GENEVA PEACEBUILDING PLATFORM <b>Geneva Peace Week 2025: Peace in Action   High-Level Opening Ceremony</b>	CFD <b>8th Interdisciplinary Sovereign Debt Research and Management Conference (DEBTCON8)</b> 07:00–21:00 EST, Georgetown University, Washington DC GENEVA PEACEBUILDING PLATFORM <b>Geneva Peace Week 2025: Peace in Action</b> 08:30–18:30 Maison de la paix & online VILFREDO PARETO RESEARCH SEMINAR <b>Tishara Garg   Can Industrial Policy Overcome Coordination Failures? Theory and Evidence</b> 14:15–15:30 Room S5	CFD <b>8th Interdisciplinary Sovereign Debt Research and Management Conference (DEBTCON8)</b> 07:00–17:30 EST, Georgetown University, Washington DC GENEVA PEACEBUILDING PLATFORM <b>Geneva Peace Week 2025: Peace in Action</b> 08:30–18:30 Maison de la paix & online GGC & IL DEP.   BOOK LAUNCH <b>Karen Engle &amp; Neville Road   Hierarchies at Work: Race, World-Systems, and Legal Distribution</b> 14:00–15:00 online	GENEVA PEACEBUILDING PLATFORM <b>Geneva Peace Week 2025: Peace in Action</b> 08:30–18:30 Maison de la paix & online IHP DEP.   IHP FORUM <b>Rachel Leow   1917–1991: A Long Cold War?</b> 12:15–13:45 Room S5 IL DEP.   IL COLLOQUIUM <b>Susan Marks   “A Far Larger Family”: Kinship and the International Legal Imagination</b> 12:45–14:00 Room S11 & online TABLE RONDE <b>Table ronde en l'honneur de Françoise Grange Omokaro</b> 18:15–19:45 Salle S12	GENEVA PEACEBUILDING PLATFORM <b>Geneva Peace Week 2025: Peace in Action</b> 09:00–12:30 Maison de la paix & online HCGS   SCALAGRO WORKSHOP <b>Supporting Agroecological Transitions: What Works?</b> 09:30–16:15 Room 11 GMC   GLOBAL MIGRATION TALKS <b>Jacqueline Bhabha   Migrant Solidarity: Creating a New “We”</b> 14:15–15:00 Room S7

17:00–18:30  
Auditorium Ivan  
Pictet & online

ANSO DEP. | ANSO  
CONVERSATIONS  
Jolene Yiqiao Kong |  
“Beseeching for  
Babies” (qiuzi): When  
the Sacred Meets the  
Medical in  
Contemporary China’s  
Reproductive  
Journeys; Robert  
Smith | Chakkar: Going  
in Circles in Delhi’s  
Healthcare System  
16:15–17:45 Room  
S5

**20**  
**OCT**

**Monday**

IRPS DEP.  
**Elias Dinas | Mating  
Market Competition  
and Gender Norms**  
12:15–13:45 Room  
S11  
RENCONTRE  
ANNUELLE DE LA  
CHAIRE YVES  
OLTRAMARE |  
CONFÉRENCE  
INAUGURALE  
**Olivier Christin | Cujus  
regio et autres fictions  
juridiques**  
18:30–20:00  
Auditorium A2

**21**  
**OCT**

**Tuesday**

RENCONTRE  
ANNUELLE DE LA  
CHAIRE YVES  
OLTRAMARE  
**La souveraineté  
religieuse: vieux sujet,  
nouveaux débats**  
09:15–18:30  
VILFREDO PARETO  
RESEARCH SEMINAR  
**Leon Huetsch | The  
Medical Expansion,  
Life-Expectancy, and  
Endogenous Directed  
Technical Change**  
14:15–15:30 Room  
S5

**22**  
**OCT**

**Wednesday**

NO EVENTS (YET)

**23**  
**OCT**

**Thursday**

IHP DEP. | IHP FORUM NO EVENTS (YET)  
**Cyrus Schayegh | The  
Party’s Interests  
Comes First: The Life  
of Xi Zhongxun, Father  
of Xi Jinping**  
12:15–13:45 Room  
S5  
GENDER CENTRE (CO-  
ORGANISER) | TALK  
**Shirin Rai | Depletion:  
The Human Costs of  
Caring**  
14:15–15:45 Room  
S11

**24**  
**OCT**

**Friday**

[See all events >](#)

## Gateway to Publications by Themes



Global  
Health



Trade,  
Finance,  
Economies  
& Work



Peace, War,  
Conflicts &  
Security



Development &  
Cooperation



Human Rights,  
Humanitarianism,  
Justice &  
Inclusion



Arts,  
Culture &  
Religion



Gender,  
Diversity,  
Race &  
Intersectionality



Democracy &  
Civil Society



Sustainability,  
Environment,  
the Anthropocene  
& SDGs



Diplomacy &  
Global  
Governance



Cities, Space,  
Mobilities &  
Migrations



## Gateway to Other Relevant Information



Multimedia



Awarded  
Grants



Visitors



Calls for  
Papers



Calls for  
Prizes



Awarded  
Prizes



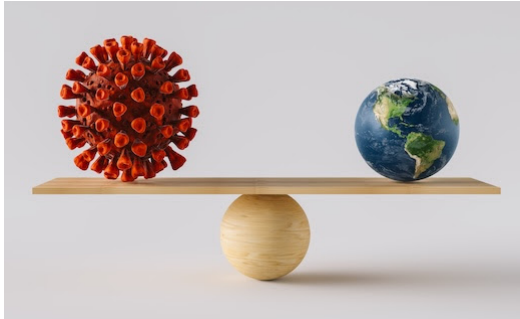
Upcoming  
PhD Defences



# Publications by Themes



## Global Health



### DISCUSSION PAPER

**PABS 101: Foundations of Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing under the Pandemic Agreement: Interviews with Gian Luca Burci, Anne Huvos, Luisa Belloni, Timothy Dallman, Stephanie Switzer, Mark Eccleston-Turner, and Michelle Rourke**

This discussion paper, edited by **Adam**

**Strobeyko**, alumnus and Postdoctoral Researcher affiliated at the Global Health Centre, outlines the foundations of the Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing (PABS) System, currently negotiated under the WHO Pandemic Agreement, through expert interviews and workshop findings (Discussion Paper, Global Health Centre, 2025). It traces the evolution of Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) under international law, analyses practices governing sharing of samples under Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (PIP) Framework, and reviews WHO's normative work on the sharing of pathogen sequence information. It distils lessons from other ABS treaties to inform PABS design, including on scope, enforceability, predictable benefit-sharing, and mutual supportiveness between regimes. The paper concludes with a call for inclusive, cross-disciplinary engagement to ensure the PABS system is technically sound, legitimate, and implementable, and to build the trust needed for ensuring timely access and equitable benefit-sharing.

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



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## Trade, Finance, Economies & Work



### ARTICLE

**Post-neoliberal Parallel Globalization: The Unipolar to Multipolar Transition in Transnational Financial Orders**

So far, the comprehensive international sanctions on Russia for invading Ukraine have not led to economic collapse; instead, Russia surpassed Japan to become the world's fourth-largest economy in terms of purchasing power parity, with

growth outpacing that of sanctioning powers like the UK, France, and Germany. This challenges existing theories assuming unipolar financial governance under neoliberal globalisation. Jin Sun and **Grégoire Mallard** introduce “transnational financial orders” to address this puzzle in the processes of international currency circulation, the financial embeddedness of transnational politically embedded bankers (TPEBs), and the transnational investment order (in *Socio-Economic Review*, online September 2025). TPEBs' stance on unipolar vs. multipolar global governance is crucial. Too broad unipolar sanctions on too many entities in competitive powers

such as Russia and China create economies of scale for TPEBs to afford a multipolar order with benefits outweighing the costs imposed by sanctioning powers. This multipolar order benefits competitive powers' ability to withstand sanctions, signaling a transition from unipolarity to multipolarity in a post-neoliberal parallel globalisation.

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

#### ARTICLE

### **When the FED Speaks Their Tone, Do International Financial Markets Respond?**

This study aims to explore the question “When the FED speaks, do international financial markets respond?” through an extended analysis, using a two-step regression method (in *Finance Research Letters*, vol. 86, part B, December 2025, online September 2025). Initially, **Thu Thanh Luu**, Master Student in International Economics at the time of writing, and Minh Quang Tran perform a regression analysis on the tone of speeches by FED Chairpersons, based in the US, against the rate of return on major stock exchanges from over 60 countries. Subsequently, to account for the variability of these coefficients in the initial phase, they incorporate macroeconomic and financial indicators, such as proximity, GDP per capita, and lending interest rates, into their analysis to test their hypotheses. Their findings indicate that proximity negatively influences return changes, and other factors, including total reserves, lending interest rates, external debt of stock, and exchange rates, show a predictive capacity for these variations from the first estimate.

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

#### PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/POLITICAL SCIENCE, 2025

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

This thesis by **Jaewon Kim** investigates the complex interplay between economic globalization and domestic skills governance. Through three independent but interrelated essays, it explores how participation in global value chains (GVCs) shapes workforce risks and national policy responses. The first essay, “**Job Polarization within the Middle-Skill Group and Its Impact on Skills Mismatch**”, focuses on Thailand’s automotive sector, a core part of the country’s integration into GVCs, and examines how this positioning affects workers’ experiences of skills mismatch. The second essay, “**Can Governments Do More Than We Thought? New Insights on the Role of Government in Global Value Chains and Skills Governance**”, examines whether GVC integration affects national education spending across countries. The third essay, “**Decision to Privatize: Conditions for the Privatization of Primary Education**”, investigates the political and economic conditions under which governments choose to privatize primary education, using cross-country data and case studies from Southeast Asia. Collectively, the thesis highlights the importance of both public institutions and global market structures in shaping skills development and educational governance.

[Find out more about Dr Kim’s PhD thesis in this interview >](#)

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



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## **Peace, War, Conflicts & Security**

#### EDITED BOOK CHAPTER

### **Critical Approaches to Security Studies**





Critical approaches to security today occupy a prominent place in security studies and present a diverse and future-oriented research agenda. This review by **Keith Krause** traces the three-decade evolution of “Critical Security Studies” (CSS), showing how different strands of scholarship are positioned vis-à-vis each other and variations in their scope and orientation (in *Handbook of International Relations*, C.G. Thies, ed., Elgar

Edward, June 2025). It highlights the “departure points” for CSS: a rejection of foundationalist claims for immutable and objective features of world politics (such as the security dilemma); a focus on how language and discourses produce or constitute different identities and make certain relationships (friend-enemy) possible; an opening to referent objects beyond the nation-state for security practices; and a broader understanding of the nature of threats. It concentrates on post-2010 scholarship and the emergence of self-conscious CSS methods and methodologies and concludes with an “auto-critique” of some of the limitations of the CSS project.

[DOI >](#)

#### SPECIAL ISSUE AND ARTICLES

##### **Legacies of Rebel and Paramilitary Governance**

This special issue of *Civil Wars*, edited and **introduced** by **Toon Dirkx**, Postdoctoral Researcher at the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP), and Georg Frerks, conceptualises the legacies of governance by armed groups and present the findings of seven case studies and a multiple-case thematic study (vol. 27, no. 3, 2025). Why do victorious rebels discard key aspects of rebel modes of governance when they create a new state through secession? In a contribution titled “**The Clashing Legacies of EPLF Rebel Governance in Post-Independent Eritrea**”, Dr Dirkx demonstrates how rebel governance by the Eritrean People’s Liberation Front left contradicting legacies in post-independent Eritrea. During the war, the EPLF promised democracy, but the organisation was authoritarian at the top. Post-independence, the fairness of wartime practices was viewed differently, leading to pressure on the new government to fulfil its democratic promise. The leadership did not give in, however. It jettisoned its earlier commitment to democracy to protect its grip on power under the new condition of independent statehood.

[DOI >](#)

#### ARTICLE

##### **Firearm-related Violence in the Caribbean Is a Complex Systemic Issue: How Do We Move towards a Solution?**

In the Caribbean, gun violence has reached crisis levels and regional heads of government have called for a public health approach to inform prevention and control. **Nicolas Florquin** and **Anne-Séverine Fabre**, respectively Head of Data & Analytics and Researcher at the Small Arms Survey, and others describe the work of a multisectoral group convened to develop a “Pathway to Policy” to inform the regional approach (in *The Lancet Regional Health – Americas*, vol. 52, December 2025, online October 2025). They utilised a systems mapping technique to inform their understanding of firearm-related crimes and injuries based on the expertise of stakeholders. The analysis is informed by publicly available data from thirteen countries of the Caribbean Community. Feedback loops showed that firearm-related crimes increased the chances of household poverty, national economic costs, deaths and disability and promoted a culture of violence, all of which reinforced gun violence. Interventions to reduce illicit access and use of firearms, social development programs, and investment in educational systems may balance rates of gun violence. The authors call for greater attention to the equilibrium between crime response strategies and prevention approaches.

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

## REPORT

### **Armed Group Economic Policy: Towards a New Research Agenda**

From Myanmar to Somalia, armed groups are shaping markets, setting economic rules, and pursuing international economic relations. Nigel Roberts and **Ashley Jackson** and **Florian Weigand**, Co-directors of the Centre on Armed Groups and Research Associates at the Geneva Graduate Institute's Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP), challenge the narrow focus on illicit finance, showing how armed groups around the world regulate trade, allocate resources, and govern everyday economic life — sometimes more effectively than the state (Centre on Armed Groups, September 2025). Combining insights into four case studies (Afghanistan, Myanmar, Somalia, and Mexico) and a comparative analytical framework, their report offers a new lens for understanding how non-state actors structure economies during conflict. For development economists, peacebuilders, and humanitarians, understanding these systems is essential. Effective aid, realistic economic policy, and meaningful engagement with conflict-affected areas all require a grounded view of how armed groups govern economies in practice.

[Read the report >](#)

## BRIEFING PAPER

### **Drivers of Extremist Sympathies: Security, Ideology, and Firearms in Lebanon and Tunisia**

Lebanon and Tunisia share a common struggle against extremism, but the social, political, religious, and ideological make-up of each country is quite different. By comparing perceptions of violent extremism in these two countries, **Doaa' Elnakhala**, **Gergely Hideg** and **Darine Atwa**, from the Small Arms Survey, identify potential common determinants of extremist sympathies and behaviours (Security Assessment in North Africa [SANA] Briefing Paper, Small Arms Survey, September 2025). They also examine the relationship between firearms and extremist affinities, a link that has received insufficient attention to date. Their analysis is based on a general population survey conducted in the two countries in September–November 2023, in which 3,339 adults were interviewed about their views on key elements of their lives, violent extremism, and firearms. The survey revealed a clear linkage between firearms and violent extremism, though manifested differently in the two countries. Its findings have implications for other countries struggling with violent extremism and the proliferation of firearms, both in the Middle East and North Africa region and beyond.

[Read the paper >](#)

  
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## **Development & Cooperation**



PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL  
RELATIONS/POLITICAL SCIENCE, 2025

### **Localization, Legacies, and Leverage: Three Essays on Donor Funding and Aid Allocation in Africa and Beyond**

Through three interconnected essays, **Swetha Ramachandran** examines the political nature of aid allocation and how it is influenced by institutional dynamics, historical legacies, and the

rise of new private actors. The first essay, “**Unravelling Aid Funding: Linking Funding Allocation Patterns and Localization in Sierra Leone**”, focuses on the extent to which donors

channel aid to and through local actors (i.e., localise funding). By analysing Sierra Leone's Development Assistance Database and conducting primary interviews, the study finds that multilateral donors are more likely to provide funding for local actors compared to bilateral donors. The second essay, "**From Empire to Aid: Analyzing Persistence of Colonial Legacies in Foreign Aid to Africa**", examines whether and how colonial legacies continue to shape donor-recipient ties. Using data from the OECD's Creditor Reporting System, it finds that while colonial legacies in aid are declining overall within former colonies, the rate of decline varies. Former French African colonies, despite being more reliant on French aid, experience a faster diversification of donors compared to former British African colonies. (*In March 2024, this essay earned Swetha Ramachandran the GDS/ISA Edward Said Graduate Paper Award.*) The third essay, "**The Gates Effect: Private Foundations and Donor Funding Shifts in Global Health**", examines whether and how the presence of Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) alters the funding behavior of bilateral and multilateral donors in global health. Through a mixed-methods approach analysing over 314,107 health projects across 143 countries over 21 years, alongside qualitative interviews with global health experts, the study finds a crowding-in effect of BMGF funding by other bilateral and multilateral donors.

**Repository** (access to the PhD thesis restricted to members of the Institute community; other interested individuals can **contact Dr Ramachandran**).



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## Human Rights, Humanitarianism, Justice & Inclusion



### ARTICLE

#### **De Facto Transparency? Investigating the Practice of the International Court of Justice**

This article by **Irene Miano**, PhD Researcher in International Law, explores the International Court of Justice's (ICJ or the Court) use of various forms of de facto transparency, enacted beyond normative constraints (in *Journal of International*

*Dispute Settlement*, vol. 16, no. 3, September 2025). It focuses on three examples: the ICJ's online activities (website and social media), the Court's press releases and summaries of judicial decisions, and the speeches delivered by the judges of the Court, to understand the benefits and risks of these practices. While they may not all have originated with the explicit aim of enhancing the Court's image as a transparent institution, their consistent implementation has assumed that role. The article examines them from the perspective of transparency as "accessibility", with its nuances of "justification", "explanation", and "simplification". Ultimately, it highlights the importance of reflecting on transparency beyond formal rules, considering possible problems inherent to it, and understanding the ways in which it is (or is not) achieved.

**DOI >**

### REPORT

#### **Weaponizing Water and Humanitarian Collapse in Sudan: An International Humanitarian Law Assessment**

Warfare in Sudan over the last two years has seen many attacks on water sources and infrastructure — and civilians are paying the heaviest price. This report, drafted by Etienne Henry, independent legal consultant for the **IHL in Focus** project of the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, and reviewed by **Stuart Casey-Maslen**, special adviser to



the IHL in Focus project, reveals how the targeting of water infrastructure is contributing to what is now considered the world's largest humanitarian crisis, affecting 30 million people (Geneva Academy, August 2025). Using satellite imagery, humanitarian reports and public statements, this report shows how these tactics are not just brutal — they are clear violations of international humanitarian law.

[Read the report >](#)

PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL LAW, 2025

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

Nowadays, the prohibition of torture is a cornerstone norm in international human rights law. Aside from being inserted in various international legal instruments, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Punishment or Treatment is the main legal instrument specifically designed to deal with the prohibition of torture at the international level. According to the Committee against Torture, the UN Convention against Torture also provides the criminal definition for the discrete crime of torture. **Victoria Priori** sheds light on the interpretation of one of the elements of the definition of the discrete crime of torture, i.e. the requirement that the severe pain and suffering be inflicted “by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official capacity”. She does this with reference to 1) preparatory works of various international legal instruments displaying similar expressions, 2) domestic debates and jurisprudence clarifying the meaning of these terms and 3) the regime of state responsibility. She concludes by providing meaningful interpretations for the terms “public official” and “other person acting in an official capacity”. Moreover, she discusses the notions “instigation”, “consent” and “acquiescence” to understand the role these terms play in the ascription of individual criminal responsibility. Overall, her thesis contributes to clarifying who can be held criminally responsible for the discrete crime of torture and how far this crime can be “privatised” in accordance to the definition of the UN Convention against Torture.

[Find out more about Dr Priori's PhD thesis in this interview >](#)

[Repository](#) (access to the PhD thesis restricted to members of the Institute community; other interested individuals can [contact Dr Priori](#)).

PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL HISTORY, 2025

### **The Rockefeller Foundation Factor in the History of Medical Services and Higher Studies in Southern Nigeria, 1925–1973**

This study examines Nigeria's relations with the wider world and American relations with British African colonies through the lens of the Rockefeller Foundation. It examines how one of the most famed and influential American philanthropic organisations made efforts to develop Nigeria, one of the British-prized colonies in Africa, through higher education and medical services. It thus reveals that colonial histories of medicine and education intersect with the history of the activities of philanthropic organisations. Most importantly, this thesis emphasises African voices or agencies — that had been silent — in the efforts of the Rockefeller Foundation in southern Nigeria. More than illuminating African roles in the engagement of Rockefeller with southern Nigeria, **Victor Olasehinde Olaoye** argues that African contributions in the efforts of US philanthropic organisations were beyond African participation: African efforts were pivotal, as they shaped the outcome of the Rockefeller Foundation with southern Nigeria.

[Repository](#) (access to the PhD thesis restricted to members of the Institute community; other interested individuals can [contact Dr Olaoye](#)).



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**Arts, Culture & Religion**



#### EDITED BOOK CHAPTER

### **The Timbre of Power in Burundi**

In his contribution to *Textures of Power: Central Africa in the Long Twentieth Century*, **Aidan Russell** asks how we might think of power with the aural terms of music, rather than more common visual or tactile metaphors (Fl. Bernault, B. Henriët and E. Kalema, eds., Leuven University Press, 2025). Across the longue durée

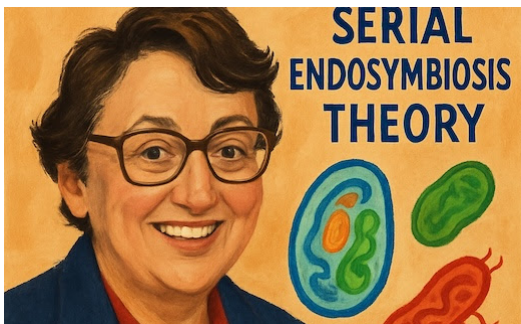
of Burundi's history, borrowing from Kirundi musical arts, he presents rhythms of power in the maintenance of social order, the alternation of leadership and collapse; through political speech and dialectics, he examines polyphony as the interweaving of multiple registers to achieve a singular purpose. Finally, he formulates the sublime nature of power as timbre, "sound texture", as expressed in genres of music that evoke the texture of one sound in the playing of another instrument: the trick of power is to make the unseen heard, while it remains unseen — to make the timbre of a sublime power be felt in one's own words.

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

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## **Gender, Diversity, Race & Intersectionality**



#### EDITED BOOK CHAPTER

### **"Your Research Is Crap, Do Not Bother to Apply Again": Female Evolutionary Biology Theorists as Scientific Rebels and Oppositional Scientists**

Lynn Margulis' theory of endosymbiosis generated a firestorm of controversy following its publication in 1967. Margulis provides a particularly interesting case study, as there was heated

debate in the scientific community about whether she was even a scientist, let alone a theorist, and whether her theory should be legitimised as science. While numerous scholars have relied on scientific sources to assess her place in science, they have paid little attention to how Margulis was constructed and self-identified as a scientific rebel. **Nuala Proinnseas Caomhánach**, Professor of International History and Politics who recently joined the Geneva Graduate Institute, uses interviews, obituaries, magazine features, article comments and editorials to explore the concept and meaning of scientific rebel as a form of scientific celebrity (in *Negotiating In/visibility: Women, Science, Engineering and Medicine in the Twentieth Century*, A. Bonea and I. Nastasă-Matei, eds., Manchester University Press, August 2025). The examination of the use of non-scientific and masculine attributes to un-gender, de-gender and re-gender Margulis, not necessarily in that order, reveals who and what can be counted as a scientist and evolutionary theorist. Her case suggests ways in which women have to navigate their own identities in the realm of modern science and in popular culture more generally. The discourse on Margulis reveals complex views on the boundaries, authority and nature of science.

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

## **Between Data, Faith and Activism: Ambivalent Professional Performances Generating Social Finance**

Social finance is a relatively new but prominent category of finance which promises social goods alongside profits. It draws upon large amounts of quantified data on social relations and realities, in order to create risk assessments and future profit projections. Scholarship in economic sociology and critical finance studies captures the quantification of social phenomena and practices of data coloniality in socially oriented finance. This can end up perpetuating finance's projection as a global force that impacts and quantifies the social. Complicating this characterisation, **Tanushree Kaushal**, PhD Researcher in International Relation/Political Science, uses ethnographic methods and explores Geneva-based social finance professionals' work practices and performances (in *Journal of Cultural Economy*, online September 2025). Social finance professionals modulate between quantification practices to make social information legible to investors and affective embodiments of faith in markets and self-characterisation as "activists" working in finance. This modulation between multiple, seemingly disparate performances attracts investments and constitutes social finance markets. These ambivalent professional performances reveal the ways in which finance incorporates critique such as after the 2008 crisis and renews faith in financial markets as a solution to social challenges.

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

### ARTICLE

## **Composing and Narrating Black Memories of Sexual and Reproductive Health in Jamaica and England in 1990s Birmingham**

This article examines the ways in which sexual and reproductive health themes appear in the Birmingham Black Oral History Project (in *Journal of British Studies*, vol. 64, online September 2025). As a community Black oral history project, it did not set out to collect memories of sexual or reproductive health. Despite that, the collection offers rich insights into the underexplored place of sexual and reproductive health within Black British histories. **George J. Severs**, Postdoctoral Researcher at the Gender Centre, argues that archived oral history interviews should be "reused" as part of that historiographical exploration. He analyses the ways in which dominant interest in questions of "illegitimacy" — interest that had colonial roots — led to memories of sex education, courtship, and access to abortion in mid-twentieth-century Jamaica. Through a case study analysis of one interviewee — Carlton Duncan, father to the first "Black test tube twins" — he concludes by arguing that being attentive to interviewee composure makes more visible the availability of narratives and cultural discourses through which interviewees could narrate or shape their sexual and reproductive health histories. As a whole, his article offers a new lens on postcolonial British history by analyzing the racist stereotyping that endured across the postwar period, especially in relation to Black sexuality and fertility.

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

### COMMENT ARTICLE

## **Recognising the Right to Care as a Foundation for Human Flourishing: Agroecological Insights on a Critical Development Issue**

Care lies at the heart of human flourishing and is essential for sustainable environmental and socio-economic systems, yet it remains systematically unrecognised, undervalued and unequally distributed. **Joanna Bourke Martignoni** and **Larissa da Silva Araujo**, Research Affiliates at the Gender Centre, examine the human right to care as a potential catalyst for transformative development policies through its capacity to confront and redress persistent inequalities while reinforcing connections between communities and the environment (in *Journal of Human Development and Capabilities*, vol. 26, no. 3, 2025, online June 2025). By exploring feminist agroecology as one pathway for implementing the right to care and specifically "food care" in the context of developing capabilities, they argue that care is both instrumental to achieving other human rights and capabilities and intrinsically valuable for human flourishing.

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

## Territory-Object-Body: Material-Discursive Entanglements of the Menstrual Cup in Colombia

This thesis by **Marie De Lutz** traces the material-discursive relations woven through and around a small, seemingly trivial object, the menstrual cup, focusing on the coastal Caribbean village of Brisas del Mar, Colombia, where Dorkas, a community leader, utilises the act of surfing as a claim of mutual belonging between women and the sea to establish a wider claim regarding the centrality of knowledge(s) and balanced socionatural relations to ensuring her community's survival and thriving. Working through and with the body-territory as a heuristic framework, the chapters examine the territorial, embodied, and material dynamics involving the menstrual cup both in Brisas del Mar, and in engagements with activists, educators, entrepreneurs, and people who menstruate across the country. Weaving between the local and national scales and situating the object sociohistorically, this thesis demonstrates how examining the menstrual cup through its material-discursive relations reveals engagements in everyday practices of knowledge production as worldmaking practices.

**Repository** (as the thesis is embargoed until July 2028, please **contact Dr De Lutz** for access).



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## Democracy & Civil Society



PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL  
RELATIONS/POLITICAL SCIENCE, 2025

### Inclusion amidst Exclusion? Perspectives on Migrants' Political Engagement

Rising rates of migration, and the diversification of flows, have made Western societies increasingly heterogeneous. Yet, the same societies are simultaneously witnessing a resurgence of

nationalism and anti-immigration attitudes. In the three articles that make up her PhD thesis, **Agnese Cecilia Maria Zucca** explores how migrants and political actors navigate this tension, and its implications for political participation and representation, with an empirical focus on Switzerland. The first article, **"Migrant Electoral Participation in Origin and Residence Countries: A Multidimensional Perspective on the Role of Inclusion and Exclusion Perceptions"**, advances a multidimensional conceptualisation of exclusion perceptions to assess their impact on the decisions to vote of Kosovar-, Italian- and German-Swiss dual citizens in residence and origin countries elections. The second article, **"Opening-Up the Black Box: Migrants' Understandings of Exclusion and Engagement with Politics Across Contexts"**, explores how members of the Kosovo-Albanian diaspora in Switzerland make sense of exclusionary experiences in different ways, demonstrating that different understandings of exclusion are associated with different reasons, modes, and degrees of political engagement in residence and origin countries. The third article, **"Immigrant-Background Candidates Inclusion: Party Strategies amidst Ideological and Strategic Constraints"**, focuses on Swiss parties' decisions to nominate immigrant-background candidates in electoral lists. The analysis reveals that once the interplay of ideological and strategic considerations is accounted for, patterns of inclusion inconsistent with a linear understanding of the effects of ideology emerge. Altogether, through a mixed- methods approach, this thesis deepens our understanding of how exclusion affects migrants' political inclusion, demonstrating that expanding current academic perspectives can unveil unexpected patterns of political engagement.

Find out more about Dr Zucca's PhD thesis in this [interview >](#)

[Repository](#) (as the thesis is embargoed until July 2028, please [contact Dr Zucca](#) for access).

PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL HISTORY, 2025

### **"We Shall Ourselves Be the Magicians": Rudolf Broda and the League for the Organization of Progress, c. 1900–1920**

This dissertation examines the intellectual and social history of the idea of progress as developed and debated in the project of Rudolf Broda (1880–1932), a Viennese social democrat and sociologist. Broda founded and coordinated a transnational network of scholars, politicians, and reformers on a spectrum of political inclinations, published periodicals in French, English, German, Russian, Hungarian, and Esperanto, and initiated a popular movement across and beyond Europe to research and organise social progress. **Anna Diem** provides an intellectual biography of Broda and of the movement for global progress he built. She argues that his project had a unifying aim: brokering between civilisations, it was to organise a holistic interpretation of pacifist social democracy across class, political party, and state boundaries by building an organic, synthetic world culture encompassing all the best aspects of individual "cultures". Her research maps and studies the network of involved persons, their social and intellectual milieux, the principal themes of their debates, and the forms of their political organising. It traces the movement's development from its beginnings through the First World War and studies how its understanding of society and of (possible) progress changed during the war as social democratic internationalism betrayed its own principles, Russia experienced two revolutions, empires started disintegrating, and building a new world order became a real possibility. In sum, this dissertation shows how the idea of progress structured a large debate of the time's key questions while imagining a more just future society.

[Repository](#) (access to the PhD thesis restricted to members of the Institute community; other interested individuals can [contact Dr Diem](#)).



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## **Sustainability, Environment, the Anthropocene & SDGs**



### ARTICLE

#### **My Price Is Your Cost: CBAMs and the New Turn in the Commodification of CO2 under CBDR-RC and the WTO's Anti-dumping Precedents**

Developed countries are introducing carbon border adjustment mechanisms (CBAMs) with the aim of combating carbon leakage and promoting a level playing field for their industries by

imposing carbon costs on imports equivalent to domestic carbon prices. **Agustín Giustiniani**, PhD Researcher in International Law, and Luciano M. Donadio Linares examine CBAMs within the broader context of commodifying CO2, highlighting the historical evolution and current trends in this process (in *Journal of World Energy Law and Business*, vol. 18, no. 3, June 2025). They argue that CBAMs should be viewed not in isolation but as part of the ongoing commodification of CO2, including establishing a mandatory international CO2 price. Moreover, they explore the legal complexities and potential conflicts of CBAMs with established principles under international environmental and trade regimes, particularly focusing on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC) and the World Trade Organization's (WTO) anti-dumping rules and precedents. By examining the EU's CBAM model



and its implications, they underscore the challenges of imposing a unilateral carbon price and the relationship between WTO precedents on the differences between price and cost for these measures. They conclude by advocating for a nuanced understanding of CBAMs' role in the commodification of CO<sub>2</sub> and the need for an equitable and legally coherent global approach that takes due consideration of States' common but differentiated responsibilities towards climate action and the legitimate and evidence-based difference between the international prices of goods and the domestic costs of producing them, when seeking for carbon emissions reduction.

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

#### DISCUSSION PAPER

### **Accelerating Progress on Nature, Climate Change, and Sustainable Development in a Shifting International Trading System**

The evolving international trade landscape presents both challenges and new opportunities for accelerating progress on nature, climate change, and sustainable development objectives.

**Carolyn Deere Birkbeck**, Founder and Executive Director of the Forum on Trade, Environment and the SDGs (TESS), aims to spur reflection on the potential building blocks of a new narrative and policy agenda on international trade that places nature and people at its heart (Discussion Paper, TESS and WWF, September 2025). Her paper begins by reviewing current major shifts (and persistent trends) in international trade relations, narratives, and paradigms, and the implications of these for nature, climate, and sustainable development. It then explores potential opportunities for an equitable, nature-positive, and net-zero trading system that works for sustainable development, prosperity, and climate resilience, while acknowledging the challenges and risks that complicate the prospects for progress and suggesting ways to address them. It concludes with a review of potential elements for new global narratives and policy agendas for an international trading system that delivers for nature and people, with a set of questions for strategic consideration. The overall aim of the paper is to inform forward-looking strategic dialogue on potential pathways and entry points to support international cooperation, policy, and advocacy on a trade agenda that could reverse biodiversity loss, support the climate agenda, and advance sustainable development in all three of its dimensions — environmental, economic, and social.

[Read the paper >](#)

#### BRIEFING NOTE

### **Digital Transformation — Trade, Climate, and Net Zero Pathways: Scenarios and Implications for Developing Countries and Climate-Resilient Development**

**Yasmin Ismail**, Senior Policy Advisor at the Forum on Trade, Environment and the SDGs (TESS), and **Nadira Bayat** look at the future implications of the twin digital and green transitions for the digital sector, trade, and climate-resilient development, and highlight some of the key implications for developing countries (TESS, September 2025). They first discuss the interlinkages between the digital transformation, climate change, and trade, before reviewing key initiatives at the international level aimed at supporting emissions reductions in the digital sector. They then explore the potential impacts on trade of digital decarbonisation pathways and the related opportunities and challenges for developing countries. They conclude with a set of key priority areas for policy action, engagement, and international cooperation to support digital and green transitions and climate-resilient development in developing countries.

[Read the note >](#)

#### BRIEFING NOTE

### **Fostering Enhanced International Cooperation on Trade-Related Measures with Climate Objectives at the WTO: Coherence, Transparency, Development, and Interoperability**

**Christophe Bellmann**, **Carolyn Deere Birkbeck** and **Yasmin Ismail**, from the Forum on Trade, Environment and the SDGs (TESS), and **Brian Kelly Nyaga** identify a set of rationales, priorities,

and outcomes for enhanced international cooperation on trade-climate measures that have been raised by a range of WTO members in formal submissions and in various WTO settings (TESS, September 2025). Overall, cooperation in this area tends to respond to four main considerations or rationales; namely the need to enhance coherence, foster transparency, reflect development considerations, and support interoperability and equivalences of existing and future measures. Discussions so far have also identified four levels of cooperation that could be explored to achieve those objectives from more general to very specific considerations: (i) general principles of international law relevant to trade-climate measures; (ii) processes and practices for the development and implementation of such measures; (iii) design features associated with specific measures; and (iv) technical aspects of measures. In each of these areas, the authors provide examples of existing international processes, sector-specific initiatives, and public-private partnerships already taking place. Based on these considerations, the paper identifies existing gaps and areas where discussions and cooperation at the WTO could add value.

[Read the note >](#)

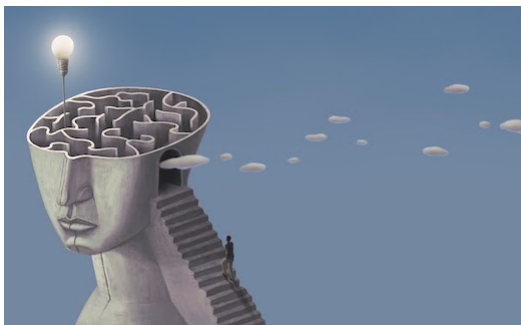


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## Diplomacy & Global Governance

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EDITED BOOK CHAPTER

### Contested Essential Concepts in International Relations

This chapter by Felix Berenskötter and **Stefano Guzzini** explores the notion of “essential concepts” and their contestation with an eye on the field of International Relations (in *Handbook of International Relations*, C.G. Thies, ed., Elgar Edward, June 2025). The title plays on W.B.

Gallie's famous essay to pursue the argument that a debate over the meaning of an essential concept has analytical, normative and political value. The chapter is structured around three questions: What are concepts? What makes a concept essential? How should we think about contestation? Starting from the position that concepts play a central role in knowledge production and are embedded in (meta-)theoretical logics that shape their meaning, it discusses how contestation plays out in three domains: abstract and normative theoretical knowledge; explanatory and empirical knowledge; and practical knowledge. The chapter concludes with the argument that meaningful contestation requires translation.

[DOI >](#)



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## Cities, Space, Mobilities & Migrations

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ARTICLE

### Emergence of an Aero-city: Path Dependency and “Internal” Dimensions in BEY/Beirut from the Mid-nineteenth to the Mid-twentieth Centuries



Examining the early post-colonial Beirut International Airport (BEY), **Cyrus Schayegh** makes two arguments (in *Urban History*, online September 2025). First, BEY had the potential to become the Middle East's largest airport only because from the mid-1800s Beirut, which had a large maritime port, had been the Arab East's global cultural, commercial, communications and transport hub, which created a path dependency.

Second, BEY deepened Beirut's regional-global role throughout the 1960s, making it an aero-city piggybacking on a port-city. He explores four dimensions. First, in urban planning, the government was exceptionally interventionist where BEY was concerned; second, BEY's construction triggered sociopolitical conflicts; third, BEY intersected with Palestinian and Lebanese unskilled labour flows; and, finally, air-travel, including tourism, affected Beirut's cityscape deeply yet unevenly.

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

#### ARTICLE

### **Shanghai Lockdown and Alienation under China's State Capitalism**

The chaotic implementation of lockdown measures in Shanghai in the spring of 2022 generated widespread feelings of anxiety, frustration, and despair among residents from different rungs of socioeconomic strata. **Minhua Ling** archives and analyses personal narratives mostly by educated middle-class urbanites to understand how they made sense of their being during the lockdown and probes the social conditions structuring these feelings and the subsequent pall of silence (in *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies*, online September 2025). She argues that the Shanghai lockdown is not an exceptional event but a crystallising moment of a generalised condition of alienation under state capitalism that has been gradually taking hold in Chinese society. Nor can the loss of control over one's world under the extreme conditions of lockdown be solely attributed to coercion and manipulation by external forces. By employing alienation as an interpretive scheme, the author reveals the complex and often subtle ways in which people became both victims and perpetrators of their alienated condition.

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

#### PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL LAW, 2025

### **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**

While states have intensified their efforts to prevent migrant arrivals, the past decade has also seen a significant rise in deaths and disappearances of migrants undertaking irregular journeys. The (un)intended consequence of the focus on preventing arrivals is the neglect of the management of the remains of the deceased, as they are perceived to no longer pose a security threat. Consequently, there is reluctance to design a response to handle the remains of the deceased, manifested in the lack of a legal framework for the identification of the remains, and an investigation aiming to clarify the truth surrounding their death. Compared to the existence of a legal framework available to citizens and residents of the destination countries, this absence of a framework creates an "affective border" where the emotional needs of families of missing migrants, who are anxiously awaiting news of their loved ones, are excluded. **Fekade Abebe** explores how human rights law can address this exclusion, particularly through the right of families to know the truth about their relatives. He argues that this right, as articulated and developed by human rights bodies, should also extend to families of missing migrants. However, it also reveals that securing this right faces several challenges due to the transnational nature of the problem.

[Find out more about Dr Abebe's PhD thesis in this interview >](#)

**Repository** (access to the PhD thesis restricted to members of the Institute community; other interested individuals can **contact Dr Abebe**).

  
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## Other Relevant Information



### Multimedia



VIDEOS | GENEVA TRADE PLATFORM

#### **Geneva Trade Week 2025 – 6th Edition (15–19 September 2025)**

Relive the conversations that shaped the 6th edition of **Geneva Trade Week** (GDW), the annual gathering that brings together policymakers, negotiators, business leaders, academics, and civil society to debate the future of international trade. From high-level plenaries to interactive workshops, GDW 2025 explored urgent questions at the heart of the global trading system: sustainable development, digital transformation, resilient supply chains, and inclusive growth.

[GTW 2025 playlist >](#)



VIDEO | BOOK LAUNCH | NORRAG

#### **UNESCO Chair Book Talk: *Time in Education Policy Transfer***

On 15 September, NORRAG hosted the UNESCO book talk on ***Time in Education Policy Transfer: The Seven Temporalities of Global School Reform***. The author of the book, **Gita Steiner-Khamsi**, highlighted a few points made in the book. The summary was followed by comments and questions from three noted scholars and practitioners in the field of comparative and international education.

[Watch the event >](#)



VIDEOS | EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS | NORRAG

#### **KIX EMAP Skills-Strengthening Workshop: Implementation Research**

On 19 and 20 June 2025, the KIX EMAP Hub, in partnership with the **Building Evidence in Education** (BE2) initiative, organised a workshop focused on helping education stakeholders design and oversee implementation research in order to answer questions and learn lessons about the contextual factors impacting the implementation of an intervention or reform.

[Read more and watch the highlights >](#)



VIDEOS | EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS | NORRAG

#### **DHIS2 Annual Conference 2025**

On 10–13 June 2025, the KIX EMAP Hub partnered with the DHIS2 Annual Conference 2025, organised by the Health Information Systems Program (HISP) of the University of Oslo (a KIX research grantee). The

conference focused on sustaining the District Health Information System 2 (DHIS2) in challenging times, reflecting the community's commitment to innovation and scale. Participants discussed how DHIS2 is leveraged for data-driven solutions responding to some of the most pressing challenges in health, education, climate impacts, logistics, and beyond.

[Read more and watch the highlights >](#)



VIDEOS | EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS | NORRAG

### **Vaka Pasifiki Education Conference 2025: "Jab liktōn peeke jelaloken: With knowledge, influence decision-making, voice your ideas, do not remain silent"**

The 2025 Vaka Pasifiki Education Conference marked a historic milestone as the first conference hosted in the Northern Pacific, celebrating 25 years of the Re-thinking Pacific Education Initiative (RPEI) and 50 years of service by the Institute of Education, USP. It was dedicated to Micronesian teachers and emphasised Pacific educators' collective voice in shaping educational decision-making across the region.

[Read more and hear from conference participants >](#)



PODCAST | IN AND AROUND WAR(S), S3:EP5 | GENEVA ACADEMY

### **Israel's Weaponization of Water in Gaza**

This episode provides a legal analysis of Israel's weaponisation of water against civilians. Host **Juliette Graf** (Geneva Academy) speaks with **Stuart Casey-Maslen** (Geneva Academy), **Elvina Potholet** (Diakonia IHL Centre), and **Lama Abdul Samad** (Oxfam), bringing together legal expertise, humanitarian perspectives, and field documentation to examine how Israel has turned water into a weapon against Palestinians in Gaza.

Listen to the episode on [Youtube](#) or on [Soundcloud](#)

*The podcast In and around Wars (available on [Youtube](#) and on [Soundcloud](#)) discusses issues relating to wars with Geneva Academy alumnae-i.*



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## **Awarded Grants**

SNSF AMBIZIONE | 01.01.2026–30.12.2029 | CHF 718,176 | GLOBAL MIGRATION CENTRE

### **Actors beyond the Territorial State and Durable Solutions to Internal Displacement in International Law**

In 2024, over 80 million people were internally displaced persons (IDPs). Displacement is resolved when IDPs can voluntarily return, resettle, or integrate locally. International human rights law places the primary obligation on the territorial state to enable such durable solutions. Actors beyond the territorial state may significantly influence these processes in ways that are beyond the reach of domestic law. However, their potential human rights obligations in this domain remain underexplored. This project, led by SNSF Ambizione Fellow **Deborah Casalin**, will fill that gap by examining (emerging) international legal duties of actors beyond the state in resolving internal displacement. Using sources of international law emanating from (mainly inter-state/state-empowered) law-making processes, it will uncover the obligations that exist under current



international law. Then, using documents evidencing the practice and commitments of non-state actors regarding durable solutions for IDPs, it will determine to what extent their practice aligns with, falls short of, or goes beyond these obligations. Project outputs will include a monograph, two peer-reviewed articles, and an open-access dataset to make its novel analysis accessible to other researchers.

[Project page >](#)



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## Visitors

📅 01.09.2025–  
31.08.2026

📍 GENDER CENTRE

### **Suzana RAHDE GERCHMANN**

Coming from City St George's, University of London, Visiting Fellow Suzana Rahde Gerchmann, holder of a Swiss Excellence Scholarship, is researching "Selling Binaries: The Law and Political Economy of Gender Diversity".

📅 15.09.2025–  
15.05.2026

📍 GENDER CENTRE

### **Natacha BASTIAT-JAROSZ**

Coming from UCLouvain, Junior Visiting Fellow Natacha Bastiat-Jarosz is researching "What Counts as Activism? Feminist Businesses, Community, and Political Engagement".



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## Calls for Papers

*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 Chronicle*. They hope to illuminate communities from lesser researched regions such as Delhi, Maharashtra, Assam, Manipur, and Odisha from India, and also communities from larger South Asia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka, through contributions that incorporate depictions of artists via photographic, oral, archival, and recorded sources, as well as interviews and testimonials, that span colonial and postcolonial archives.

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

[Full call >](#)

GENEVA GRADUATE INSTITUTE'S TECH HUB & PARTNERS

### **AI Negotiation Forum 2026**

The Tech Hub, together with leading partners, invites contributions to the AI Negotiation Forum 2026, an open online event taking place on 10–11 January 2026. The forum will bring together researchers, practitioners, and diplomats to explore how AI is reshaping negotiation and

diplomacy, addressing its risks and limitations, opportunities for collaboration, and implications for teaching, research, and professional training-

- **20 November 2025:** submission deadline

[Read more >](#)



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## Calls for Prizes

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SNIS

### International Geneva Award

This award of the SNIS (Swiss Network for International Studies) distinguishes three recently published academic articles that are particularly relevant for international organisations. The articles must come from any of the following research domains: governance, health, climate change, inequalities, migration, biodiversity, human rights, sustainability. At publication time, submitters must have been postdocs or professors at a Swiss Institution of higher education and research.

- **8–22 October 2025:** submission window

[Read more >](#)

[Submit >](#)

UNIVERSITÉ DE GENÈVE

### Prix Latsis 2026

Le Prix Latsis, d'un montant de 25'000 CHF, récompense des travaux achevés, thèses ou publications, de niveau exceptionnel en sciences économiques, juridiques, sociales, politiques, en relations internationales et en informatique (à l'exclusion du hardware), en numérisation et en intelligence artificielle dans la dimension humaniste, ainsi que les recherches sur les civilisations comparées, le dialogue des cultures et la linguistique, en psychologie et éducation.

- **30 novembre 2025:** délai de candidature

[Appel complet >](#)



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## Awarded Prizes

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### Daniel R. Quiroga-Villamarín Receives EISA's Best Doctoral Dissertation Award

At the last Pan-European Conference on International Relations held in Bologna on 25–29 August, Alumnus **Daniel R. Quiroga-Villamarín**, Hauser/Remarque Global Fellow at New York University, received the Best Dissertation Award 2025 of the European International Studies Association (EISA). This award recognises the PhD thesis in International Law (with a Minor in International History and Politics) that he **defended in 2024**, entitled “**Architects of the Better**

World': Democracy, Law, and the Construction of International Order 1919–1998".

[Read more in this interview >](#)

### **Ezgi Yildiz Receives APSA Human Rights Section's Best Book Award**

In September, Alumna **Ezgi Yildiz**, Assistant Professor of Government at Bowdoin College and a research affiliate at the Graduate Institute's Global Governance Centre, received the American Political Science Association (APSA) Human Rights Section's **Best Book Award** for her first book, *Between Forbearance and Audacity: The European Court of Human Rights and the Norm against Torture* (Cambridge University Press, 2024, open access). Her book explains how and when courts employ strategies for institutional survival and resilience — forbearance and audacity — which help them adjust their sovereignty costs to preempt and mitigate backlash and political pushback. It also received an Honorable Mention for the Chadwick F. Alger Prize from the International Organization Section of the International Studies Association (ISA).

### **Livio Silva-Muller Receives ASA's Environmental Sociology's Student Paper Award**

In August, Alumnus **Livio Silva-Muller**, Postdoctoral Fellow at the Harvard Academy, received the Environmental Sociology's **Student Paper Award** of the American Sociological Association for his outstanding PhD essay "Pathways of the Environmental State: Global Climate Politics in the Amazon Rainforest", in which he shows how defining features of state-building are transformed due to environmental problems' global and scientific dimensions. Empirically, he implements a comparative-historical framework to explain how Brazil successfully decarbonised from 1985 to 2022. The essay is part of his PhD thesis "**The Amazon as a Global Carbon Sink**: Sociological Essays in a Burning World", which he defended last April.

### **Ezgi Yildiz and Umut Yüksel Receive the Best Article on International Law and Social Science Award from ASIL's Interest Group on International Law and Social Science**

In April, Alumna **Ezgi Yildiz**, Assistant Professor of Government at Bowdoin College, and Alumnus **Umut Yüksel**, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellow at Universitat Pompeu Fabra, both research affiliates at the Graduate Institute's Global Governance Centre, received the inaugural Best Article on International Law and Social Science Award from the American Society of International Law's Interest Group on International Law and Social Science for their article "**The Defocalizing Effect of International Courts**: Evidence from Maritime Delimitation Practices" (in *Review of International Organizations*, June 2024, open access). In contrast to existing literature's claim that international courts can influence state policies and facilitate interstate cooperation, their article argues that court rulings can often have an opposite, defocalising effect, which may durably harm the prospects of convergence around what the law requires.



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## **Upcoming PhD Defences**

📅 15 October 2025

🕒 16:30–18:00

📍 Room S9

INTERNATIONAL LAW

### **Curbing Illicit Financial Flows from Africa: An International Law Perspective**

By **Fred Kusim Awindaogo**. Committee members: Professor Andrew Clapham, thesis director; Assistant Professor Alice Pirlot, president of the committee and internal member; Professor Lucie E

White, School of Law, Harvard University, USA.

[Read more >](#)

📅 16 October 2025

🕒 14:00–16:00

📍 Room S9

INTERNATIONAL LAW

## **The Best Interests of the Child in the Context of Migration**

By **Liline Steyn**. Committee members: Professor Vincent Chetail, thesis supervisor; Professor Andrew Clapham, president of the committee and internal member; Professor Jacqueline Bhabha, Department of Global Health and Population, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, USA.

[Read more >](#)



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For comprehensive information please visit the [Research website](#).

*Notes to members of the Geneva Graduate Institute:*



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Visit also our [intranet page](#) to find out which outputs and events are covered in the *Bulletin*.

