

GENEVA  
GRADUATE  
INSTITUTE

# Research Bulletin

Upcoming events, latest publications and other research activities

8 December 2025 (no. 11, 2025)

## Launch of the Centre on Knowledge Governance

The Centre on Knowledge Governance — a new **associated programme** of the Geneva Graduate Institute — was launched on 3 December at Maison de la paix. The mission of the Centre is to promote justice and sustainable development within policymaking institutions that govern access and use of information. The Centre conducts research and offers educational programmes and technical assistance to support diplomats, government policymakers and public interest stakeholders engaged in international instruments on intellectual property rights and related rights.

[Find out more.](#)

## Upcoming Research Events

08  
DEC

Monday

CONFÉRENCE DE LA  
CHAIRE YVES  
OLTRAMARE  
Caterina Bandini |  
Religion et  
militantisme pour la  
paix en Israël-Palestine

09  
DEC

Tuesday

AHCD RESEARCH  
SEMINAR  
Oscar Mazzoleni | How  
Political Parties Deal  
with Environmental  
Issues: A Comparative  
Perspective

10  
DEC

Wednesday

GMC | MIGRATION  
TALK  
Nasir Uddin | From  
Stateless to  
Refugeehood: A Case  
of Rohingya  
“Subhuman” Life  
12:00–13:00 (online)

11  
DEC

Thursday

NO RESEARCH EVENTS

12  
DEC

Friday

NO RESEARCH EVENTS

18:30-20:00  
Auditorium A2)

12:30-13:30 Room  
S11 & online  
NORRAG |  
PUBLICATION LAUNCH  
**Education and the  
Humanitarian-  
Development-Peace  
Nexus at 10 Years:  
What Have We Learnt,  
Where Do We Go From  
Here?**  
14:00-16:00 online  
VILFREDO PARETO  
RESEARCH SEMINAR  
**Imelda | Low Emission  
Zones: Transition  
Technologies and the  
Value of Commitment**  
14:15-15:30 Room 5  
GMC | MIGRATION  
TALK  
**Sebnem Koser Akcapar  
| International  
Migration Dynamics:  
Ongoing Paradigms  
and Emerging Realities**  
18:15-19:00 Room  
S12 & online

**15  
DEC**

**Monday**

CCDP | GRF  
PROGRESS REVIEW  
LINKED EVENT  
**From Commitments to  
Action: Advancing  
Child Rights and  
Expanding Access to  
Family Reunification**  
18:30-20:00  
Auditorium 2

**16  
DEC**

**Tuesday**

NO RESEARCH EVENTS

**17  
DEC**

**Wednesday**

INTERNATIONAL  
MACRO HISTORY  
SEMINAR  
**Christopher Meissner  
& Alex Klein | Did  
Tariffs Make US  
Manufacturing Great?  
New Evidence from the  
Gilded Age**  
17:00-18:15 online

**18  
DEC**

**Thursday**

BOOK LAUNCH  
**Elgar Concise  
Encyclopedia of  
Migration and Asylum  
Law**  
18:15-20:00  
Auditorium A2

**19  
DEC**

**Friday**

NO RESEARCH EVENTS

[See all events >](#)

## Gateway to Publications by Themes



Cities, Space,  
Mobilities &  
Migrations



Technology



Global  
Health



Trade,  
Finance,  
Economies  
& Work



Peace, War,  
Conflicts &  
Security



Human Rights,  
Humanitarianism,  
Justice &  
Inclusion



Arts,  
Culture &  
Religion



Gender,  
Diversity,  
Race &  
Intersectionality



Democracy &  
Civil Society



Sustainability,  
Environment,  
the Anthropocene  
& SDGs



Diplomacy &  
Global  
Governance

## Gateway to Other Relevant Information



Multimedia



Awarded  
Grants



Calls for  
Papers



Awarded  
Prizes



Upcoming  
PhD Defences



# Publications by Themes



## Cities, Space, Mobilities & Migrations



### DOSSIER THÉMATIQUE

#### Droits, asile et migrations

Ce nouveau numéro de la *Revue des juristes de Sciences Po* revisite le rôle du droit dans l'asile et la migration à travers un regard croisé entre différentes perspectives internationales, européennes et nationales (no 28, septembre 2025). Il réunit des experts universitaires et des praticiens pour réfléchir à l'actualité du droit dans

un domaine en pleine mutation. **Vincent Chetail**, le directeur scientifique de ce dossier, a rédigé un article intitulé «**Migration: le grand paradoxe**», où il met en garde contre la rhétorique déshumanisante qui associe la migration à l'idée de submersion et d'afflux en contradiction avec la réalité des faits. Pour le professeur Chetail, «cette perception en dit plus sur l'état des démocraties contemporaines que sur le phénomène migratoire en lui-même». Dans un monde polarisé à outrance, «le grand paradoxe de la migration réside dans ce décalage entre l'image que l'on s'en fait et la réalité». Son article démontre à quel point la rhétorique de la submersion migratoire est démentie par les faits en France comme en Europe. Ce décalage entre perception et réalité met à jour l'instrumentalisation de la politique et les limites d'un droit pensé à travers ce prisme déformant.

[Télécharger le dossier.](#)



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## Technology



### SPECIAL ISSUE & ARTICLE

#### Peace and the Pluriverse: Interrogating (Post-)digital Peacebuilding

This special issue of *Peacebuilding* is introduced by **Andreas Hirblinger**, Senior Researcher at the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP), and Suda M. Perera (November 2025). It explores how research on

(post)-digital peacebuilding can contribute to advancing approaches that are neither driven by the sense of an inevitable digital revolution, nor curtailed by the limits of the technically feasible.

Instead of providing intellectual support for the idea that a singular, digitalised future is inevitable, the collection of articles in this Special Issue engages with the pluriversal possibilities of past, present, and future peacebuilding that increasingly involve the digital. The idea of the pluriverse, as proposed in the Zapatista declaration of a “world in which many worlds fit”, is to challenge Eurocentric Western universalist rationality by recognising that multiple ways of knowing, being, and doing exist. The contributors translate these three dimensions to digital peacebuilding and discuss the most critical challenges that emerge when they are put to use in the (re)search of the pluriverse of digital peacebuilding approaches.

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

The special issue includes an article by **Agnieszka Fal-Dutra Santos**, Alumna and Postdoctoral Researcher at the Gender Centre: “**(Dis)connected? Women’s Agency and Meaningful Participation in the Digital Space.**” There are growing calls for greater inclusion of women in digitalisation and digitally facilitated processes, including those related to peace and peacebuilding. However, there is little discussion of what such participation may look like. Using the notion of “meaningful participation” as a conceptual framework, the author seeks to explore both the pathways towards greater participation of women in digital peacebuilding, and the challenges in doing so. Applying a feminist lens, she goes beyond viewing digital inclusion simply as a matter of having access to the internet and explores the questions of agency and presence in the digital realm.

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



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## Global Health

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#### ARTICLE

### **Beyond Resistance: Alternative Innovation Models for Global Access and Stewardship of New Antibiotics**

Accelerating the development, equitable access to, and stewardship of new antibiotics is critical to protect public health and address antimicrobial resistance (AMR). To understand and assess how the current antibiotics innovation sub-system – or

“niche” – addresses this task, **Iulia Slovenski, Adrián Alonso Ruiz, Marcela Vieira, Kaitlin Elizabeth Large, Adam Strobeyko, Yiqi Liu and Suerie Moon**, from the Global Health Centre, reviewed the literature, compiled and analysed a database of 211 antibiotic developers, and conducted 10 stakeholder interviews (in *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*, unedited version, November 2025). They found that the mainstream market-driven innovation model is still adopted by a substantial minority of antibiotic developers, but the majority of developers adopt one of two alternative models: The Publicly-Supported Private Initiative (PSPi) model is the most common, and is characterised by public and/or philanthropic financial and other support to small and medium enterprises. This model secures essential resources for R&D, but the current focus on innovation fails to ensure access and stewardship on a national or global scale. The Collaborative Network (CN) alternative innovation model includes a wider range of actors sharing resources and collaborating towards achieving innovation, access and stewardship goals. It consists of public and private actors supported by philanthropic and/or not-for-profit organisations such as Wellcome, CARB-X, or GARDP. The authors conclude that this model represents the most promising development to ensure innovation with access and stewardship.

[DOI](#).

#### ARTICLE

### **Historicising the “Empty Pipeline”: How Antibiotic Innovation Became a Market Failure (1980–2024)**

Antibiotic innovation has slowed. Despite substantial public investment, research and development (R&D) remains insufficient to address rising antimicrobial resistance (AMR). In this historical review, **Nadya Wells**, Senior Research Adviser at the Global Health Centre, and others draw on quantitative and qualitative historiographic methodologies, as well as on testimony from key stakeholders, to reconstruct antibiotic innovation challenges and public interventions since 1980 (in *Public Humanities*, vol. 1, online November 2025). Emerging in the 1990s and gaining traction around 2010, the “empty antibiotic pipeline” metaphor, as well as its market failure diagnosis, has played a key role in structuring the global R&D response. This reframing described AMR as an incentives-based innovation challenge, which suited industrial and high-income country interests. However, the introduction of so-called push and pull incentives has so far failed to halt the exit of large developers, sustain diversified R&D ecosystems, or address global access challenges. The authors explore challenges and conflicts involved in the implementation of the incentives-based innovation approach alongside the ever-greater subsidies required to stabilise small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and attract larger pharmaceutical companies and investment from financial markets. Several SME bankruptcies since 2019 and the mothballing of novel compounds suggest that this is an unsustainable innovation model. The authors also explore whether public interventions have been insufficient or whether there is a deeper problem with the central metaphor structuring global action.

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

#### ARTICLE

### **Is Disability Prevalence Higher in Rural Areas? Evidence from Functional Difficulty and Nightlight Data in 15 Low- and Middle-income Countries**

Evidence suggests disability prevalence is lower in urban than rural areas, but cross-country comparisons are challenging due to differing definitions. **Minerva Rivas Velarde**, Research

Associate at the Global Health Centre, and others examines the link between disability — measured via functional difficulties (seeing, hearing, walking, cognition, self-care, communicating) — and urban development, using the satellite nightlight composite as a proxy (in *Disability and Health Journal*, online September 2025). Drawing on Demographic and Health Survey data from 15 LMICs and multilevel random intercept models to estimate whether functional difficulties are negatively associated with village-level nightlight composite, they find that while country level results vary, in the pooled sample, adults in villages above the 80th percentile of nightlight activity have 0.765 times the odds of reporting any functional difficulty compared to those below (AOR = 0.765; 95% CI = 0.717–0.816). Correlation is strongest for hearing, cognition, and communicating. Further research should explore drivers of the correlation such as poorer living conditions and access to services in rural areas, differential access to resources and environmental barriers in rural and urban areas, and potential differences in rural-urban migration opportunities across functional difficulty status.

[DOI](#).

  
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## Trade, Finance, Economies & Work



### ARTICLE

#### **Debt and Taxes: Deferred Obligations and Immediate Demands in Fiscal History**

History shows that public debt is a powerful tool for societies to trade with themselves in the future. Debt allows governments to spread the costs of public goods over time, while taxes provide the revenue needed for debt service.

History also shows that there are limits to the power of public borrowing. Effective debt management requires balancing borrowing, interest rates, growth and inflation. Failure to do so results in unsustainable debt levels and fiscal crises. However, **Rui Esteves** argues that we need to reevaluate the balance of risks and benefits of sovereign debt (in *Rivista di storia economica*, early access, November 2025). While the stated aim is to understand the past, his essay also speaks to current debates.

[DOI](#).

### WORKING PAPER

#### **The Sovereign Greenium: Big Promise but Small Price Effect**

**Ugo Panizza, Beatrice Weder di Mauro, Shuyang Shi**, PhD Researcher in International Economics, and Mitu Gulati investigate the existence, magnitude and drivers of the sovereign greenium: the yield discount on sovereign and quasi-sovereign green bonds relative to conventional bonds (International Economics Department Working Paper no. 16-2025, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, 2025). Using a dataset of 332 matched pairs of green and conventional bonds issued between 2014 and 2023 by sovereigns, sovereign-backed agencies, and multilateral development institutions, they analyse secondary-market pricing to capture both cross-sectional and time-varying heterogeneity. They find a small but statistically significant greenium, averaging about 2 basis points for advanced economies and nearly 13 basis points for emerging markets. The greenium is larger for lower-rated issuers and increases when climate transition risks become more salient or when issuers are more vulnerable to climate change. Interaction effects indicate that global awareness of transition risks and



domestic climate vulnerability jointly amplify the greenium. While green sovereign bonds trade at lower yields, the resulting fiscal savings are economically modest relative to total interest expenditures. A novel analysis of bond documentation shows that sovereign green bonds contain no binding commitments regarding environmental outcomes, suggesting that the observed greenium reflects symbolic rather than contractual sustainability value.

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

WORKING PAPER

### **The Exceptions that Prove the Rule? Revisiting the Effectiveness of Capital Controls under International Investment Agreements**

**Giovanni Donato**, PhD Researcher in International Economics, examines how international investment agreements constrain the use and effectiveness of capital controls in emerging and developing economies (International Economics Department Working Paper no. 17/2025, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies). Leveraging a novel database on the specific content of investment treaties, he identifies those that include “macro-stability exceptions”, which allow countries to derogate from their legal obligations in times of crisis. Although theoretical models highlight the effectiveness of capital controls in moderating capital flows, empirical evidence remains inconclusive. The author argues that this is partly due to the potential conflict between capital controls and countries’ treaty commitments, and to the limited attention given to endogeneity bias in existing studies. To address this identification challenge, he constructs two indicators of policy space restriction and flexibility, reflecting the content of countries’ investment agreements in force, which he uses as instruments for capital controls on outflows. Instrumental Variable (IV) estimates reveal that capital controls have a statistically significant causal effect on sudden stops. However, the direction of the effect differs across investment types. Moreover, countries with more restrictive treaty commitments are less likely to deploy capital controls, whereas those with greater policy space due to macro-stability exceptions use controls more extensively.

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

PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/POLITICAL SCIENCE, 2025

### **Navigating Uncertainty: Three Essays on Actor Preferences in Global Trade**

Globalisation has dramatically reduced the cost of moving goods, people, and ideas across borders. Yet, it has also exposed countries to external shocks and volatility. As the institutional foundations of the post-WWII economic order unravel, international trade, in particular, has been at the centre of rising uncertainty. Against this backdrop, **Christian Winkler** investigates how firms and governments navigate an increasingly unstable global landscape. How does uncertainty shape their preferences? And how do they strategically respond? To address these questions, he examines how actors’ preferences are influenced by various types of uncertainty. First, how the risk associated with operating in global markets shapes firms’ preferences for regulatory protection. Second, how uncertainty surrounding treaty ratification influences governments’ choices when adopting preferential trade agreements. And third, how exogenous shocks during trade negotiations affect the institutional design preferences of governments and firms. Drawing on a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods and novel datasets, his findings suggest that firms and governments respond to uncertainty by seeking rules and arrangements that provide stability and continuity.

[Find out more about Dr Winkler'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 Winkler](#)).

PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/POLITICAL SCIENCE, 2025

### **Essays in International Finance and Macroeconomics**

This dissertation by **Ka Lok Wong** examines how external conditions shape fiscal and financial outcomes in emerging market economies (EMEs). The first paper, “**Monetary Shocks and Fiscal Consequences**”, studies how exogenous depreciations against the U.S. dollar affect corporate

profits and tax revenues. Using panel regressions and a calibrated DSGE model, it finds that domestic-currency depreciation raises corporate income and total tax revenue in the short run through valuation and demand effects. The second paper, “**Determinants of Sovereign Bond Issuance in Emerging Markets**” (written with Mark Manger and **Ugo Panizza**), employs a new auction-level dataset covering 20 EMEs (2000–2023) to analyse issuance volume, maturity, and currency. Local-currency issuance mainly reflects refinancing needs, while foreign-currency issuance is more strategic and moves with global conditions, interest-rate differentials, and investor sentiment. The third paper, “**The Impact of China on Trade Invoicing**”, explores how China’s market size and commodity exchanges affect exporters’ currency choice. It shows that organised Chinese demand — not trade share alone — can shift invoicing from the US dollar toward the euro for non-energy commodities. Together, the three studies reveal how exchange-rate dynamics, global financing cycles, and China’s market integration influence fiscal revenues, sovereign debt management, and currency use in trade.

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

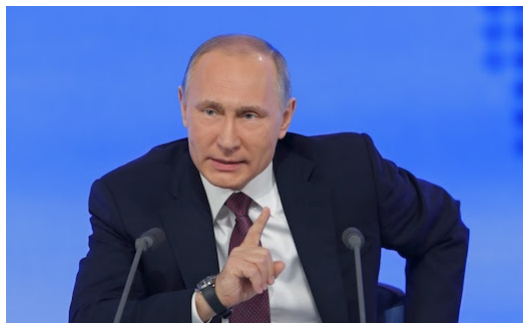
[Repository](#) (access to the PhD thesis restricted to members of the Institute community; other interested individuals can [contact Dr Wong](#)).



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## Peace, War, Conflicts & Security



### ARTICLE

#### **Foreign Threat(s): Vladimir Putin’s Securitisation of Separatism, Terrorism and the West**

Relying on securitisation theory and analysing 115 televised statements by Vladimir Putin, **Vassily Klimentov**, Visiting Lecturer and Research Associate at the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP), shows how the

Russian president securitised the threats of separatism, terrorism, and Western political, military and cultural interference with Russia’s independence and cultural singularity in the course of seven securitisation moves that occurred between 2000 and 2023 (in *Europe-Asia Studies*, vol. 77, no. 9. 2025). Moreover, he reveals how Putin wove together these threats by building on their shared foreign nature and using similar linguistic techniques. He argues that by 2022 Putin had managed to subsume the terrorist and separatist threats under the umbrella of “Western interference”. This strategy reinforced the potency of the securitisation process.

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

### ARTICLE

#### **Decentred Dereliction in Digital International Relations: PeaceTech, Ethics, and the Cascading of Moral Responsibility**

Ethics are commonly invoked to mitigate the adverse effects of digitalisation on international practices such as diplomacy, humanitarianism, or peacebuilding. However, their productive role in shaping global politics has received little attention. **Andreas Hirblinger**, Senior Researcher at the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP), Fabian B. Hofmann and Kristoffer Lidén elucidate how policy and guidance documents containing “PeaceTech” ethics discursively construct normative vectors, i.e., moral claims that frame risks, suggest responses, and attribute responsibilities (in *Review of International Studies*, online November 2025). They identify five major tendencies through which this takes place, namely the internationalising, outsourcing,



delegating, localising, and individualising of PeaceTech-related risks. These vectors produce a cascade of responsibility that reaches from the international to the local, from the public to the private sector and civil society, and from organisations to end users. Agents placed higher in the cascade mainly deal with abstract and systemic risks, while agents placed lower are responsible for dealing with tangible and personal risks. Yet the latter often have the least resources to respond to these risks, and have to weigh up whether to accept them and maintain critical data collection and analysis functions, or to reduce these risks while potentially jeopardizing PeaceTech. The authors describe how this can amount to what they call “decentred dereliction”, i.e., the abandonment of goals in and through digital peacebuilding.

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

#### ARTICLE

### **The Demand for Emerging Mediators from the South: Assessing Challenges and Opportunities of Brazil (and Beyond)**

**Miguel Mikelli Ribeiro**, Visiting Fellow at the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP), and **Neha Sanghrajka** analyse the potential of emerging mediators from the Global South, using Brazil as a key example (in *International Peacekeeping*, online September 2025). They highlight the increasing demand for these mediators due to shifting geopolitical dynamics and the need for diverse perspectives in peacemaking. Their paper outlines challenges and opportunities for countries such as Brazil, drawing on insights from interviews with 31 conflict management professionals. It includes recommendations for Brazil to enhance its standing as a mediator, including through the development of a clear mediation policy, building institutional capacity, demonstrating consistent interest in conflict resolution, and fostering partnerships with experienced mediators and institutions. The authors emphasize that while the current geopolitical context is challenging, established peacemaking practices provide a valuable foundation for emerging mediators to build upon and contribute to the field.

[DOI.](#)

#### EDITED BOOK CHAPTER

### **Power**

In his contribution to the *Elgar Encyclopedia of International Relations*, **Stefano Guzzini** presents the concept of power (B. Jahn and S. Schindler, eds., Edward Elgar, March 2025). Power is a central concept used in the domains of political theory, explanatory theory and political practice. Whereas realism in International Relations linked the three domains through the concept of power, subsequent conceptual developments qualified and/or detached these links. Neo-institutionalist power analysis detached power analysis from political theory and developed the contextual setting or translation process via which control over resources can become control over outcomes. In a critique of this intentional and agent-centred analysis, international political economy scholars developed structural power concepts that denote the biased practices and processes via which dependency is (re)produced. Finally, international political sociology scholars focus on the profoundly political processes and rituals of recognition that constitute subjects and their identities, as well as the material and intersubjective contexts in which rank and status are established. Reconnecting explanatory with political theory, they face the risk of a realist fallacy: while all power is about politics, not all politics is about power.

[DOI.](#)

#### WORKING PAPER

### **The Slippery Slope of Authoritarianism: Using Human Rights to Anticipate and Prevent Conflict**

**Emma Bapt**, Research Collaborator at the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, and **Adam Day**, Head of the Geneva Office of the United Nations University Centre for Policy Research and Visiting Lecturer in the MINT programme, explore how concentrations of power and resources interact with human rights indicators to generate not only early warning of violent conflict, but also a unique set of possible policy responses (Geneva

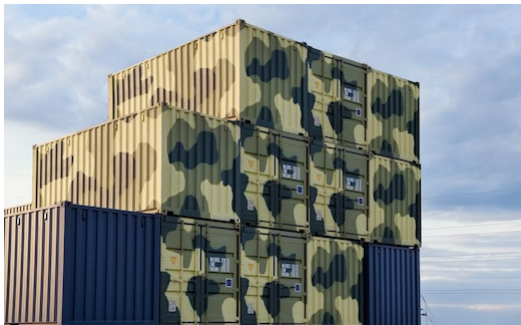
Academy, November 2025). They highlight what kinds of responses might be most effective in anticipating human rights risks, particularly in highly centralised, authoritarian settings, as well as how this research could inform initiatives and developments such as the follow-up to the Pact for the Future's national prevention strategies, the 2025 Peacebuilding Architecture Review (PBAR), discussions on the future of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P), and the UN80 initiative, among other ongoing UN processes.

[Read the report.](#)

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## Human Rights, Humanitarianism, Justice & Inclusion



### ARTICLE

#### **At the Crossroads of Business, Human Rights and Security: Business and Human Rights in Arms Trade Governance**

The global arms trade stands at the crossroads of security, business and human rights. While historically dominated by security narratives, increasing recognition of the arms industry's

business functions has led to calls for greater corporate accountability for the adverse human rights impacts of arms production and transfers. Business and Human Rights (BHR) provides innovative approaches for addressing regulatory and conceptual gaps in arms trade governance, and, in particular, offers two key paths forward for bringing coherency to arms trade governance and recalibrating the balance between security and business interests and human rights protection. First, as a field of practice, BHR can be utilised to develop comprehensive and coordinated due diligence that bridges silos between human rights, corruption, diversion and lack of transparency, to overcome regulatory fragmentation. Second, as a discourse, BHR introduces a conceptual foundation for reframing the status of human rights in arms trade governance and impelling corporate leadership to elevate human rights protection, argues alumna **Hiruni Alwishewa** in this article, partly based on her [PhD research](#) (in *Business and Human Rights Journal*, vol. 10, no 2–3, online November 2025).

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

### PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL LAW, 2025

#### **"For these reasons": The Practice of Justification of the International Court of Justice**

**Irene Miano** examines the practice of justification of the International Court of Justice ("ICJ" or "the Court"). While mostly to be found in the reasons, the Court's justificatory effort is not confined to their indication. In addition to the reasoning set out in judgments and advisory opinions, the Court uses a range of tools — some extrajudicial — to support or clarify its decisions: speeches at the United Nations, presentations to the International Law Commission, press releases, and social media communications. Within its decisions, elements such as aesthetic choices, formal structure, and obiter dicta also contribute to this practice. For the ICJ, justifying is thus not only a legal obligation under Article 56 of its Statute, but a broader discursive effort shaped by argumentative strategies, form, style, and communication. Through close readings of all advisory opinions and judgments of the Court and interviews with former ICJ staff, the author explores how the ICJ's practice of justification, composed of its different phases of *rationalising*, *structuring* and *sharing*, far from being a mere exercise in logically applying law to the facts, might ultimately shape and

reinforce the understanding of the Court's perception and self-perception of its role.

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

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



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## Arts, Culture & Religion



PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL HISTORY,  
2025

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

Employing a multisited and multiscalar ethno-historical approach, **Shriya Patnaik** focuses on the decline and demise of the regional community

of Devadasis (hereditary, ritualistic, temple dancers and singers) in the Jagannath Temple of Puri, Orissa, colloquially known as Maharis. She progresses chronologically through time, starting from the 1860s, a period marked by the initiation of legal and policy developments that conflated Devadasis as prostitutes, and ending with the extinction of the Mahari-Devadasi community in Orissa in 2021. She delineates the ideological factors and institutional processes shaping the policing of temple dancing under colonial and postcolonial structures of governance in which Devadasi dedications were conceptualised and categorised monolithically through the lens of prostitution, the caste dynamics of regulation projects, and the subsequent silencing of women's voices under abolitionist policies. Each of her four thesis chapters explores how different sets of actors dealt with the regulation of Devadasis across colonial and postcolonial India, and how Devadasis have in turn resisted, contested, or adapted to top-down measures imposed upon them, especially in the spatial locale of Orissa.

[Listen to an interview with Shriya Patnaik by Professor Nicole Bourbonnais.](#)

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



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## Gender, Diversity, Race & Intersectionality



ARTICLE

### **«Séduction haute tension», une sociologie de l'expérience masculine de la séduction hétérosexuelle pour comprendre les racines du *backlash* antiféministe**

**Sébastien Henri Harro Schaer**, alumnus et chercheur associé à la chaire Yves Oltramare, explore les racines du masculinisme en analysant

l'expérience subjective des hommes dans le cadre de la séduction (in *Sociétés politiques comparées: Revue européenne d'analyse des sociétés politiques*, vol. 65, décembre 2025). Il s'intéresse aux éléments symboliques présents dans l'interaction hétérosexuelle qui contribuent à la construction d'une vision masculiniste des rapports entre hommes et femmes en France. Si certains aspects perçus lors de la séduction favorisent une essentialisation des rôles de genre et une remise en question du discours féministe, c'est avant tout le sentiment que le féminisme serait dominant et qu'il y aurait une crise de la séduction qui confère à ces éléments symboliques une portée déterminante, conduisant certains hommes à adhérer au masculinisme. Cet article se fonde sur le [mémoire de master](#) que l'auteur a effectué au Geneva Graduate Institute.

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



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## Democracy & Civil Society



### ARTICLE

#### **Substituer à la conscience identitaire la conscience historique du politique – Entretien avec Jean-François Bayart autour de *L'énergie de l'État* (2022)**

Dans cet entretien mené par Patrick Belinga Ondoua et Nadia Hachimi Alaoui, **Jean-François Bayart** revient sur les concepts clefs de son ouvrage *L'énergie de l'État: Pour une sociologie*

*historique et comparée du politique* (La Découverte, 2022), et sur l'itinéraire scientifique qui l'a conduit à sa rédaction (in *Sociétés politiques comparées: Revue européenne d'analyse des sociétés politiques*, vol. 65, décembre 2025). Le fil rouge de sa préoccupation demeure la compréhension de l'historicité du politique, y compris sous l'effet des «modes populaires d'action politique». Mais il l'approfondit désormais en empruntant le concept bergsonien de la compénétration des durées et en s'interrogeant sur la synergie entre la coercition et l'hégémonie, en particulier par le truchement de styles de la domination, historiquement et culturellement situés. Il insiste sur l'ambivalence constitutive du politique, en dépit de la mise en abstraction de la société par la formation de l'État rationnel-légal. Une ambivalence qui ne doit pas empêcher le chercheur d'intervenir avec clarté, voire vigueur, dans le débat public, en tant qu'«intellectuel spécifique», et non en moraliste ou en homme d'opinion.

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



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## Sustainability, Environment, the Anthropocene & SDGs

### ARTICLE

#### **Ecological Dimensions of Cannabis Regulation in the Rif, Morocco**

In 2021, Morocco legalised the use of cannabis for medical and industrial purposes, with the stated aim of promoting the development of marginalised rural communities in the Rif mountains



where illicit production is concentrated. The decision, which was widely hailed, generated a great deal of interest around issues of market access, licensing, and the substitution of illicit crops, yet the environmental dimension of this transition remains largely absent from public debate. Kenza Afsahi, **Khalid Tinasti**, Research Associate at the the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP), and

Khalid Mouna analyse how Morocco's cannabis legalisation intersects with environmental sustainability, examining the ecological consequences of both traditional and modern cultivation practices and the regulatory frameworks shaping them (in *International Journal of Drug Policy*, vol. 146, December 2025, online November 2025). They do so by combining insights from over two decades of fieldwork in the Rif region with policy analysis to compare legal and illicit cultivation systems, assess resource use and biodiversity impacts, and situate Morocco's cannabis sector within broader national and international environmental commitments. Their analysis highlights how regulatory priorities such as standardisation, traceability, and control often overlook environmental concerns, whether in the promotion of beldia (Moroccan traditional cannabis) as an agroecological variety or in the rise of water- and chemical-intensive hybrids and greenhouse farming. These dynamics risk entrenching environmentally damaging practices despite some opportunities that legalisation presents for more sustainable cultivation.

[DOI](#).

#### ARTICLE

### **Failure-proof or Failure-prone? The Paradoxes of Global Biodiversity Institutions**

The number of global environmental institutions has increased dramatically over the past decade. Yet environmental governance is widely seen as failing. Focusing on biodiversity politics, **Sylvain Maechler**, Postdoctoral Researcher at the Global Governance Centre (GGC), and Jacqueline Best argue that many key governance institutions, particularly those advancing market solutions, are themselves deeply implicated in this persistent failure (in *Review of International Studies*, online November 2025). Drawing on the sociology of expertise, they show how two recently established institutions — the European Business and Nature Platform and the Network for Greening the Financial System — attempt to address the uncomfortable reality of biodiversity governance failures and the risks of their own future failures by creating a series of diversions to deflect attention and by displacing the focus of biodiversity governance from core issues to their own efforts to develop metrics. These dynamics render these institutions both “failure-proof” and inherently “failure-prone”, ultimately reinforcing rather than resolving the problems they aim to address.

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



## Recognition of Customary Tenure in the Forest Landscapes of the Mekong Region

More than 70 million people in the Mekong region depend on forests, but many lack the formal legal rights to use, manage and benefit from them. Securing community tenure and access to forest resources through the recognition and formalisation of customary rights is a precondition for sustainable livelihoods and the management of forests. This brief by **Christophe Gironde** and others focuses on State-led tenure reforms and initiatives to recognise customary tenure arrangements and rights to use and manage forests (Policy Brief no. 3, Mekong Region Land Governance Project and Centre for Development and Environment). It maps out different options for formalising customary forest tenure offered by States, including their relative coverage and the associated rights and responsibilities devolved to communities.

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

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## Diplomacy & Global Governance



EDITED BOOK

### Knowledge in Modern Transimperial History: Actors, Formations, Causes

This volume, introduced by **Cyrus Schayegh** and edited with **David Motzafi-Haller**, alumnus (2024) of the Geneva Graduate Institute and currently postdoctoral fellow at Université de Neuchâtel, intervenes in the growing field of transimperial history, which explores interactions across

empires — European and non-European — between the mid-1800s and mid-1900s, a period of heightened imperial entanglement (Leiden University Press, November 2025). It focuses on how actors from one empire came to know, interpret, and position themselves in relation to actors from other empires, emphasizing the role of socio-professional profiles, informal networks, and formal institutions. The volume is structured around three themes. First, it examines actors, including both individuals (e.g. a Chinese diplomat in Europe) and professional groups (e.g. journalists, military officers). Second, it analyses formations of transimperial knowledge through diverse textual objects such as bank chops and travelogues, highlighting processes of commensurabilization. Third, it explores causes, noting how specific inter-imperial junctures and enabling factors — like language skills and institutional access — facilitated knowledge creation. Altogether, the volume sheds light on the concrete, situated ways in which transimperial knowledge was produced, mediated, and made meaningful in a competitive imperial world.

[Publisher's page.](#)

[Open access version soon available.](#)

PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL HISTORY, 2025

### Foreign Policy Making Capacities and Foreign Policy Priorities of the Mandate States of Syria and Lebanon During the Interwar Period

**Egecan Erdogan** examines the emergence of Syria's and Lebanon's foreign policy priorities and the development of their foreign policy making capacities through the perspectives, discourses, decisions, and actions of various actors who influenced or attempted to influence the foreign policies and relations of the mandate states of Syria and Lebanon during the Interwar period, and the outcomes arising from their interactions. He argues that the positioning of the mandate states



of Syria and Lebanon in a grey zone between colonisation and independence was the primary reason for sovereignty in these countries to be in this zone, and that this created a space for competition, confrontation, negotiation and compromise among actors who could not be confined to the mandatory country-mandate country dichotomy.

[Find out more about Dr Erdogan'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 Erdogan](#)).



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## Other Relevant Information



### Multimedia



PODCAST | *GLOBAL CHALLENGES* | RESEARCH OFFICE

#### **Jean-François Bayart | Logiques néocoloniales, responsabilité française et génocide rwandais**

Trente ans après le génocide des Tutsis au Rwanda, l'ombre des anciennes puissances coloniales plane toujours sur les lectures historiques et géopolitiques du drame. Dans cet entretien conduit par **Dominic Eggel**, directeur exécutif de la recherche au Geneva Graduate Institute, **Jean-François Bayart**, professeur au Geneva Graduate Institute, revient sur cet épisode et précise une pensée critique des logiques néocoloniales, dénonçant depuis plusieurs décennies les effets pervers de la Françafrique, ces relations opaques mêlant intérêts militaires, économiques et réseaux politiques personnels.

[Ecoutez sur Soundcloud.](#)



PODCAST | *GLOBAL CHALLENGES* | RESEARCH OFFICE

#### **Annyssa Bellal | Past, Present and Future of Genocide**

Why is the Holocaust considered the fundamental model for understanding genocide? Was the instrumentalisation of the term “genocide” inevitable? And is the competition between concepts such as “war crimes,” “crimes against humanity” and “genocide” ultimately counterproductive? In this interview led by **Dominic Eggel**, Executive Director of Research at the Geneva Graduate Institute, Dr **Annyssa Bellal**, Executive Director of the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, delves into these questions.

[Listen on Soundcloud.](#)



PODCAST | CCDP SPOTLIGHT S2:E5 | CENTRE ON CONFLICT, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACEBUILDING (CCDP)

#### **Tracing the Flow of Firearms: Understanding the Circulation and Control of Small Arms in Latin America**

CCDP's **Jennifer Thornquest** speaks with **Nicolas Florquin**, Head of Data and Analytics at the Small Arms Survey, about the transnational circulation and control of small arms in Latin America. Their conversation explores the drivers, risks, and regulation of military-style firearms

across state and non-state spheres, with a particular focus on Brazil. The discussion also touches on the forthcoming outputs of the CCDP research project [Mapping the Transnational Circulation and Control of Small Arms in Latin America](#). Listen on [Simplecast](#) or [Spotify](#).

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## Awarded Grants

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SNSF SPARK | 01.01.2026–31.12.2026 | CHF 99,849 | GENDER CENTRE

### **Till Death Do Us Part? The In-law Relationships of (Previously) Married Middle-class Women**

This project, led by **Norah Kiereri**, Postdoctoral Researcher within the context of the [FamilEA project](#), examines the everyday practices of relations of middle-class Nairobi women with their relatives-in-law. Moving beyond normative discourses of lifelong marital and kin unity, it focuses on how women develop, maintain, reprioritise, or abandon specific in-law ties in response to conflict and life transitions. The study examines how women negotiate moral expectations attached to wifhood, motherhood, and respectability, and how Nairobi's diverse moral landscape shapes the dilemmas, tensions, and creative strategies that the women use to shape these relationships over time.

[SNSF page](#).

FONDATION LEENAARDS – MÉDIAS & DÉMOCRATIE | 01.01.2026–30.04.2027 | CHF 78,435  
| ALBERT HIRSCHMAN CENTRE ON DEMOCRACY

### **Decode, Co-create, Debate**

Informed participation is vital to democracy, and youth engagement drives resilience and innovation. To address today's information challenges, we must understand how content circulates, who shapes it, and how it can be distorted. This new project, led by **Christine Lutringer**, Senior Lecturer and Executive Director at Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy, and **Jérôme Duberry**, Senior Lecturer in International and Development Studies, Head of the Tech Hub, Co-Director of Executive Education and Senior Researcher at the Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy, will explore the intersection of youth participation, democratic innovation, and media literacy. It will create spaces for young people to unpack how information is crafted and connect their experiences to global transformations shaping disinformation. Geneva's international environment offers an ideal setting for this endeavour, enabling participants to explore the implications of technological change and geopolitics on public debate at different levels and across different contexts. Through interactive workshops, French- and English-speaking youth will tackle disinformation in the age of deepfakes and AI. The project will culminate in a multimedia school guide and will foster synergies with Swiss and international initiatives.

NEW FRONTIERS IN RESEARCH FUND | 01.04.2025–31.03.2027 | CAD 250,000 (TOTAL) –  
CAD 67,500 FOR GENEVA GRADUATE INSTITUTE | GLOBAL HEALTH CENTRE

### **Should Microbes Have Rights? Co-constructed Explorations and Breakthroughs at the Novel Intersection of Environmental Law and Microbiology**

This highly interdisciplinary project engages particularly the fields of microbiology, law, and the history of science. Its starting point is the recognition that the health and sustainability of ecosystems are dependent on and deeply interconnected with microbial life. At the same time, the field of environmental law has paid little attention to microbes. The overarching aim of the project

is to shift the legal focus towards the role of microbes, thereby potentially revolutionising sectors such as agriculture, medicine, and resource extraction by fundamentally altering the ways and extent to which human activities affect microbial communities. The emerging Rights of Nature (RoN) is used as a framework through which to expand the reach and scope of environmental law to include microbes. The projet proposes to rethink the field of environmental law by explicitly centring the role of microbes as a fundamental yet overlooked part of RoN.

Louis-Patrick Haraoui, Professor in the Department of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at the Université de Sherbrooke, is the project's principal investigator. As co-principal investigator, **Anne Saab**, Associate Professor of International Law at the Geneva Graduate Institute, supervises the work of a research assistant, **Maria George**, PhD Researcher in International Law, in conducting the legal aspects of the research. Dr Emily Jones, Senior Research Fellow at the University of Newcastle, serves as an advisor for the legal part of the project.

[Project's page.](#)

AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL (ARC) | 2026–2029 | DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL HISTORY AND POLITICS

### **Cultivating Connections: A Transregional History of Australian Rice**

This three-year project aims to produce the first transregional history of Australian rice that reflects the industry's diverse and environmentally responsive multicultural pasts. The project intends to use this single commodity to generate innovative insights into Australia's social, cultural and economic interconnections with the Asia and Pacific region. Expected project outputs will include an accessible book, refereed articles, a hybrid exhibition, a policy brief, and an oral history archive. This should provide the benefit of new historical knowledge about rice agriculture, its social and environmental impacts, and changing cultures of consumption, aiding preparations for a more open market, in a warmer world, with more diverse consumers. **Bernard Z. Keo**, Assistant Professor of International History and Politics, will be a Partner Investigator in this project that will be carried out at La Trobe University and the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Australia.

[Read more.](#)

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## **Calls for Papers**

PIERRE DU BOIS FOUNDATION & GENEVA GRADUATE INSTITUTE

### **Love, Hate, and the Fate of International Organizations: The Psychological Life of Global Governance (1900–Present)**

The 2026 Pierre du Bois Conference will take place on 6–7 May 2026 at the Geneva Graduate Institute. This event is convened by Associate Professors **Carolyn Biloft** and **Amalia Ribi Forclaz**, is supported by the Pierre du Bois Foundation and is part of the “Global Governance, Trust and Democratic Engagement in Past and Present” (**GLO**) Project. Organisers are inviting historical contributions about how international institutions such as the League of Nations, the United Nations, and their many specialised agencies have not only governed the international but have also absorbed the tensions of modern political psychology and subjectivity.

- **14 December 2025:** abstract submission deadline

[Full call.](#)

GENEVA GRADUATE INSTITUTE'S ALBERT HIRSCHMAN CENTRE ON DEMOCRACY  
& SWISS NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

## Democracy as Health

**Robert D. Smith**, PhD Researcher in Anthropology and Sociology, and Professor **Aditya Bharadwaj** are organising a call for contributions to an edited volume (review: Fall 2026–Fall 2027; publication: Spring 2028), preceded by a workshop to be held on 29–30 June 2026 at the Geneva Graduate Institute. Amidst rising fascist, authoritarian tendencies that rely upon health as an electoral-political tool, they invite contributions that reimagine the relationship between democracy and health.

- **5 January 2026:** abstract submission deadline

[Full call.](#)

APPEL À COMMUNICATIONS | REVUE D'HISTOIRE *RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES*

### **De l'«Extrême-Orient» à l'«Indopacifique»: crises, conflits et processus de paix en Asie-Pacifique (XXe-XXIe siècles) | *From the "Far East" to the "Indo-Pacific": Crises, Conflicts, and Peace Processes in the Asia-Pacific (20th–21st Centuries)***

Le prochain colloque de *Relations internationales*, revue d'histoire cofondée et soutenue par le Geneva Graduate Institute, se tiendra à l'Université de Montpellier Paul-Valéry les 1er et 2 juin 2026. Organisé par Pierre Journoud (Montpellier) et Ariane Knüsel (Fribourg), il vise à relancer une nouvelle et collective dynamique autour de l'histoire des relations internationales dans l'Asie-Pacifique. Les contributions s'inscrivant dans un ou plusieurs des axes suivants (liste non exhaustive) sont bienvenues: guerres, héritages et reconfigurations (XXe siècle); tensions et nouvelles formes de conflictualité (XXIe siècle); processus de paix, diplomatie et sécurité régionale.

- **24 janvier 2026:** délai de soumission des résumés

[Appel complet.](#)

*Contributions in English also welcome.*



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## Awarded Prizes

### **Daniel R. Quiroga-Villamarín Co-awarded Max Planck-ASLH Dissertation Prize for European Legal History in Global Perspective 2025**

At the Annual Meeting of the American Society for Legal History (ASLH) held in Detroit on 13–15 November, Alumnus **Daniel R. Quiroga-Villamarín**, Hauser/Remarque Global Fellow at New York University, was the co-winner of the 2025 Max Planck-ASLH Dissertation Prize for European Legal History in Global Perspective, along with Vladislav Lilić. This award recognises the PhD thesis in International Law that he **defended in 2024**, entitled “**Architects of the Better World**”: Democracy, Law, and the Construction of International Order 1919–1998”.

[Read more.](#)

*This is the second award Dr Quiroga-Villamarín has received for his thesis, after the **Best Dissertation Award 2025** of the European International Studies Association (EISA).*



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## Upcoming PhD Defences

📅 9 December 2025

🕒 08:15–10:15

📍 Pétale 2, Room S9

INTERNATIONAL HISTORY

### **Rejection and Mimesis: Unrecognised Statehood and International Society since Decolonisation**

By **Diego Humberto Soto Saldias**. Committee members: Professor Jussi Hanhimäki, Thesis Director; Professor Fuad Zarbiyev, President of the Committee and Internal Member; Nina Caspersen, Professor, Department of Politics and International Relations, University of York, UK.

[Read more.](#)

📅 15 December 2025

🕒 14:00–16:00

📍 Pétale 2, Room S9

INTERNATIONAL LAW

### **The Legal Basis, Authority, and Implications of Inspections in International Law**

By **Swati Malik**. Committee members: Professor Andrew Clapham, Thesis Director; Senior Visiting Professor Gian Luca Burci, President of the Committee and Internal Member; Professor Thilo Marauhn, Law Faculty, Justus Liebig University Giessen, Germany.

[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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