

GENEVA
GRADUATE
INSTITUTE

Research Bulletin

Upcoming events, latest publications and other research activities

23 February 2026 (no. 2, 2026)



CALL FOR PHOTOS

Research Photo Competition at the Geneva Graduate Institute

As part of the Research Festival on 11 May 2026, the second edition of our photography competition will be launched, celebrating the compelling images captured by members of the Institute's research community during their fieldwork. Professors, researchers, and PhD and Master's students are warmly invited to **submit three photographs by 26 April**. Each image should embody the spirit of your research, offering an original perspective on your methodology, your field experience, or your engagement with your object of study.

[Read the full call.](#)

Image: Nora Doukkali

Upcoming Research Events

23
FEB

Monday

CONFÉRENCE DE LA
CHAIRE YVES
OLTRAMARE

Kristina Kovalskaya |
Des deux côtés de
front: les musulmans
de Russie et la guerre
en Ukraine
18:30-20:00
Auditorium A2

24
FEB

Tuesday

VILFREDO PARETO
RESEARCH SEMINAR

Glenn Magerman |
Optimal Trade,
Industrial, and Public
Policy Mix in Economic
Unions with
Heterogeneous
Locations
14:15-15:30 Room
S5

CDHM | KITCHEN
SERIES SEMINARS

Stéphanie Rinaldi &
Bertrand Taithe | The
Humanitarian Archives
Emergency: How and
Why Digital Solutions
Contribute to the
Survival of Archives in
Danger
18:00-20:00 Petal 2,
Room S12

GMC | TALK

Thomas Gammeltoft-
Hansen | Data-Driven
Futures of International
Refugee Law? Insights
from the Nordic
Asylum & AI Lab
18:15-19:00
Auditorium A2 &
online

25
FEB

Wednesday

NO RESEARCH EVENTS

26
FEB

Thursday

INTERNATIONAL
HISTORY AND
POLITICS FORUM

Carolina Topini | Think
Locally, Act Globally:
Toward a Feminist
Glocal History of the
International Women
and Health Meetings
12:15-13:45 Petal 2,
Room S12

27
FEB

Friday

NO RESEARCH EVENTS

02
MAR

Monday

NO RESEARCH EVENTS

03
MAR

Tuesday

VILFREDO PARETO
RESEARCH SEMINAR

With Julia Cajal-Grossi
14:15-15:30 Room
S5
ANSO
CONVERSATIONS |
BOOK LAUNCH
Till Mostowlansky |
Humanitarianism from
Below? Universalism
and the Politics of
Inhumanity
16:15-17:45 Room
S5

GMC | MIGRATION
TALKS

Larisa Lara-Guerrero |
Diaspora Engagement
in Action: Impact and
Results
18:15-19:00 Room
S11 & online

04
MAR

Wednesday

CFD & CDHM | BOOK
LAUNCH

Claudia Kedar | The
World Bank and the
Cold War in Latin
America: The
Argentine Challenge
14:15-15:30 Petal 2,
Room S2

05
MAR

Thursday

UNIL, CFD & AHCD

Janick Schaufelbuehl
& Carlo Edoardo
Altamura | Voices from
the Margins:
Rethinking
Neoliberalism from
Latin America
09:00-19:15 UNIL
(Amphipôle Building,
Room 342)

HISTOIRE ET
POLITIQUE
INTERNATIONALES

Sean Dobson | Les
origines du trumpisme,
son essor et comment
le vaincre
12:15-14:00 salle S7

IL COLLOQUIUM

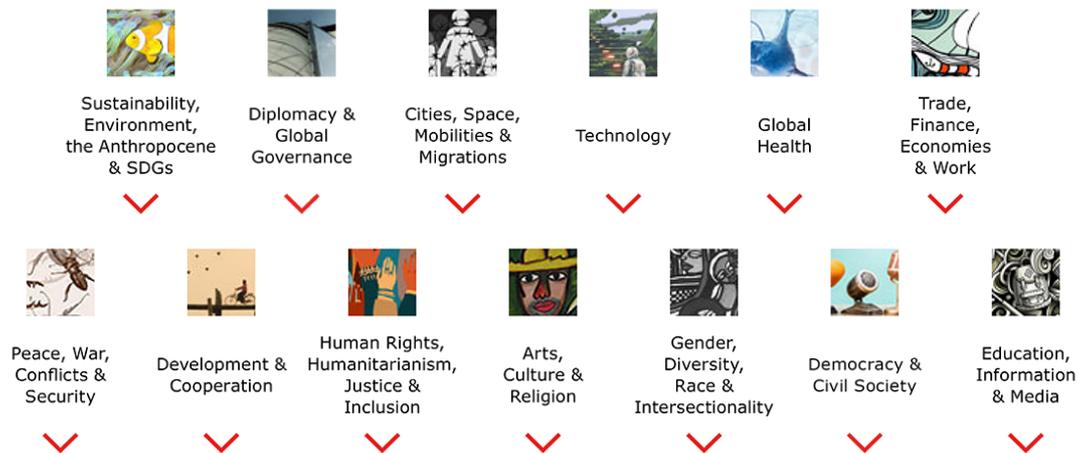
Daryna Abbakumova |
Warfare in the Digital
Age: Cyber Operations
as Means of Modern
Armed Conflict
12:45-14:00 Room
S11 & online

06
MAR

Friday

NO RESEARCH EVENTS

Gateway to Publications by Themes



Gateway to Other Relevant Information



Publications by Themes



Sustainability, Environment, the Anthropocene & SDGs



EDITED BOOK & CHAPTER

How Transparency Works: Ethnographies of a Global Value

Transparency has become a ubiquitous presence in seemingly every sphere of social, economic, and political life. Yet, for all the claims that transparency works, little attention has been paid to how it works — even when it fails to achieve its goals. Instead of assuming that transparency is

itself transparent, this book, edited by **Filipe Calvão**, Matthieu Bolay and Elizabeth Ferry, questions the technological practices, material qualities, and institutional standards producing transparency in extractive, commodity trading, and agricultural sites (Cambridge University Press, January 2026).

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

Shaila Seshia Galvin has contributed a chapter titled “**Transparency and Truth in Organic Certification**”. Based on research conducted in the northern Indian state of Uttarakhand, she explores how organic certification becomes established as a regime of truth through semiotic technologies mobilised to make agricultural production transparent and legible. Probing a question she has frequently encountered — “Is it really organic?” — her chapter attends to what

such a question reveals about transparency's contemporary power. By examining how paper and digital record-keeping, as well as tags and traceability, come together in organic certification, she shows how transparency projects work to make real and to establish thresholds of truth for the objects that they purport only to observe.

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

Image: *Cyrstalusionman / Shutterstock*

SPECIAL ISSUE & ARTICLES

Aluminium Moving South

Whereas in 1971 roughly three quarters of the world's aluminium was produced in the Global North, today that proportion has been effectively reversed, with around three quarters produced in the Global South. This special issue of the *Cahiers d'histoire de l'aluminium* examines the causes and consequences of the global relocation of aluminium production over the past decades (no 73–74, 2025). The contributions explore how this shift has reshaped industrial geographies and intensified socio-environmental challenges, particularly given aluminium's close entanglement with coal mining and large-scale hydroelectric power. They also address the sector's growing climate impact: aluminium production is currently responsible for over 2% of global greenhouse gas emissions, and these emissions continue to increase as production becomes more carbon-intensive. The special issue is edited and **introduced** by **Simon Lobach**, Alumnus (**PhD, 2024**), Communications Officer at the Hoffmann Centre for Global Sustainability and Postdoctoral Researcher at the University of Vienna, and Yun Zhai from Yanshan University. It includes an article titled **"The Aluminium Industry in Suriname: Hopes of Progress, but not for Long"**, which brings together a selection of photographs from the collections of the Dutch National Archives and the Wereldmuseum, documenting the history of bauxite mining and aluminium production in Suriname under Dutch colonial rule. While many of the images convey the optimism surrounding this new material and the developmental promises it represented, they also reveal the environmental and social inequalities that existed in the company towns. The pictures are accompanied by a short historical commentary by Simon Lobach.

[DOI of the article \(open access\)](#).

[Whole issue \(open access\)](#).

EDITED BOOK & CHAPTERS

Nachhaltige Entwicklung im Schweizer Recht (Sustainable Development in Swiss Law)

The book (in German), edited by **Charlotte Sieber-Gasser**, Senior Researcher at the Centre for Trade and Economic Integration (CTEI), Elisabeth Bürgi Bonanomi and Rika Koch, examines sustainable development in Swiss law, arguing it is a concrete legal principle rather than a vague slogan (Stämpfli Verlag, October 2025). It analyses its constitutional basis and implementation across economic, ecological, and social fields, highlighting gaps in coherence and enforcement while stressing its growing normative force.

Charlotte Sieber-Gasser has written the following chapters:

- **"Nachhaltige Entwicklung – Ursprung und Idee" (Sustainable Development: Origin and Idea**, co-authored with Rika Koch) traces the origins and conceptual development of sustainable development, from early environmental debates to the 1987 Brundtland Report, which defined it as meeting present needs without compromising future generations. It explains how the concept evolved in international law, particularly through UN processes, and clarifies its dual character as both normative principle and political programme. The authors distinguish sustainability as a goal from sustainable development as a dynamic balancing process.
- **"Generationengerechtigkeit – Quintessenz Nachhaltiger Entwicklung?" (Generational Justice: Essence of Sustainable Development?)** explores intergenerational justice as a core element of sustainable development, rooted in the Brundtland definition and reflected in Swiss constitutional thought. It argues that justice between present and future generations requires safeguarding natural resources, respecting planetary boundaries and ensuring fair distribution within the current generation. While intergenerational justice has normative relevance, its

enforcement remains limited, especially across borders, and depends heavily on political will and judicial interpretation.

– “**Staatszweck und Rechtsprinzip: Nachhaltige Entwicklung in der Bundesverfassung**”
(**State Purpose and Legal Principle: Sustainable Development in the Swiss Constitution**)

examines sustainable development as both a constitutional purpose and a structural legal principle within the Swiss Federal Constitution. It analyses its foundations in the Preamble and in Arts. 2, 54, 73 and 104a BV, highlighting overlaps, inconsistencies and tensions between ecological limits, economic interests and other state goals. Although largely programmatic and often balanced against welfare and independence, sustainability increasingly gains legal weight through case law and policy practice.

[Publisher's page.](#)



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Diplomacy & Global Governance



ARTICLE

The Concept of European Society in a Historical Perspective: A Legacy from the 20th Century

This article examines the constitutional imagination of European policymakers and legal scholars in the 20th and 21st centuries who participated in key treaty drafting processes that led to the listing of a series of values central to

Europe's identity in the 2012 Treaty on the European Union (TEU) and the 1919 Treaty of Versailles, which established the League of Nations — or Société des Nations (SDN) — and the International Labour Organization (ILO). Based on this historical comparison, **Grégoire Mallard** argues that the concept of a European “society” characterised by a specific set of what he calls “social-democratic values” (listed in Article 2 of the TEU) should be read in continuity with the 20th-century civilisational project of modern international law scholars who shaped the working of the SDN in the interwar era (in *European Law Open*, online January 2026). Many international legal scholars close to the SDN were inspired by the French sociological school and social-democratic ideals: they anchored the working of international legal rules on the solid rock of an ‘international society’ marked by a series of values which seemed “modern” in the sense that they reflected the emergence of a “society of individuals” whose freedom and social rights went beyond those granted by sovereign states at the time. When seen against this historical background, the introduction in Article 2 of the TEU of a concept of “society” characterised by such social-democratic values, such as pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men, to ground the EU's constitutional order, betrays less the influence of contemporary sociological thinkers on the EU constitutional framers, than that of socio-legal theories developed by interwar scholars who wanted to modernise the operations of European colonialism and internationalism.

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

Image: Everett Collection / Shutterstock

ARTICLE

The Moral Economy of Global Priorities: Fusing Profit and Public Duty in Malnutrition Governance

There has been a shift in the discourses through which attention to problems is justified in global governance. Whereas appeals to the public good and private gain were once invoked as distinct and often conflicting grounds for collective action, contemporary governance discourses increasingly bring them into alignment. **Juanita Uribe**, Postdoctoral Researcher at the Global Governance Centre, argues that grasping this shift requires a moral economy lens that can account for the novel entanglements between profit and moral obligation in an era where hybrid arrangements and the language of stakeholder collaboration have become commonplace (in *Review of International Political Economy*, online January 2026). Empirically, she traces how malnutrition moved from episodic recognition to unprecedented prominence within the United Nations (UN) governance architecture after 2008. Two practices were central to this shift: the communalisation of market solutions and the recasting of the problem as a win–win opportunity. The author underscores the need for an analytical reintegration of morality in international political economy (IPE) not only within the confines of financial or corporate practice, but also as part of a wider transformation of how the global “common” is being articulated. More broadly, her analysis shows that moral discourses may function not as a remedy for capitalism but as one of the means through which it anchors its core principles at the heart of public life.

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

ARTICLE

“Friendship between Unequals”: The Brotherly Law of Alliances in Grotius and the Early Modern Law of Nations

A central concern for Law of Nations early modern scholars was the body of norms that regulated the alliances with friends and enemies. Regardless of whether whom we consider the father of international law to be, all the early *ius gentium* treaties devoted energy to this juridico-theological concern. And yet, by the time in which “modern international law” emerged in the early twentieth century, questions of friendship and martial leagues are nowhere to be found in the legal lexicon. It seems, however, difficult to claim that alliances have disappeared from interpolity relations today. **Daniel R. Quiroga-Villamarín**, Research Associate at the Global Governance Centre, revisits the intellectual vocabulary used by Hugo Grotius in the *De jure belli ac pacis* (1625) on the law and practice of (un)equal alliances (in *Grotiana*, online December 2025). For Grotius, as a firsthand witness of the emergence of a nominally post-imperial world of equal sovereigns, can teach us plenty about the legal consequences of friendship by treaty.

[DOI](#).

EDITED BOOK CHAPTER

Norms, Legitimacy, and Compliance: Between International Law and Politics

International Relations scholarship generally defines norms as “standards of appropriate behaviour” for actors that share certain identities and values. States that value human rights, for example, are expected to not practice torture, arbitrary detention, or censorship because said behaviour is not appropriate. International Law scholarship, by contrast, views norms as rule-based constructs, composed of obligations and correlative rights within a given community of practice. The community’s norms are maintained by legal instruments and institutions, not directly by members’ identities and values. While it may be members’ identities and values that inspire these instruments and institutions in the first place, the latter serve as more solid reference points and enforcement mechanisms and, therefore, better yardsticks to assess norm legitimacy and compliance pull. Using the case of the norm against torture, **Ezgi Yildiz**, Research Affiliate at the Global Governance Centre, and Isabel Silagy demonstrate how legal instruments and institutions shape the legitimacy of norms and states’ compliance with them (in *The Oxford Handbook of Norms Research in International Relations*, S. Ghohliagha, P. Orchard and A. Wiener, eds., Oxford University Press, December 2025).

[DOI](#).

ARTICLE

Architectural Appeasement: A Material History of Fascism and the League of Nations as told by its *Palais des Nations* (1926–1938)

Despite the resurgence of interest in the history and practice of the League of Nations, we still know quite little of the concrete buildings in which this pioneer international organisation attempted to create a shell for itself and the nascent liberal rules-based international order. As part of these efforts, the League invested heavily in the creation of its own Secretariat and Conference complex — which it inspirationally baptised the *Palais des Nations* (“Palace of Nations” in French). But by the late 1930s, when the building was finalised, much had changed in the climate of international relations — leading, eventually, to the collapse of international order and the return of World War. **Daniel R. Quiroga-Villamarín**, Research Associate at the Global Governance Centre, traces a material history of the parallels between the League’s construction of its Palais and the collapse of the multilateral international order it had erected (in *West Bohemian Historical Review*, vol. 15, no. 2, 2025). In particular, he focuses on debates surrounding (i) the exceptional participation of German architects (in a broader context marked by the so-called “spirit of Locarno”) in the League’s architectural competition, and (ii) the sanctions deployed against Italian raw materials — crucially needed for construction of the Palais itself — after the Fascist invasion of Ethiopia of 1935. In this way, he engages with the history of European and Global collective security arrangements from a rather heterodox different perspective: the League’s built environment.

[PDF of the whole issue \(open access\).](#)

ANNUAL

Geneva Policy Outlook 2026

Global cooperation is being reshaped by crisis and constraint. *Geneva Policy Outlook 2026* explores how International Geneva can adapt to budget pressures, political fragmentation, and radical uncertainty while continuing to deliver solutions to global challenges (online January 2026). It brings together 12 contributions in English, French, and German, offering reflections on adapting multilateralism, brokering new partnerships, and advancing diplomacy in action from global health and AI governance to peace finance, youth participation, and disarmament. Contributors from the Geneva Graduate Institute include **Achim Wennmann, Vinh Kim Nguyen, Ilona Kickbusch, Prathit Singh, Lucile Maertens, Zoé Cheli, Daniela Morich, Gian Luca Burci, Ellen Roskam** and **Claire Somerville**.

[Read more and discover GPO 2026.](#)

[Watch the launch on YouTube.](#)

The Geneva Policy Outlook is an initiative of the Geneva Graduate Institute in partnership with the Republic and State of Geneva and the City of Geneva.

RESEARCH REPORT

Governing in Complexity: Assessing the Quality of Global Governance across 15 Case Studies

The field of global governance has grown increasingly crowded and interconnected, as an overlapping constituency of formal international organisations, informal forums, and private actors shapes rules across almost every major policy area. This report examines what this growing complexity means for the robustness, effectiveness, and democratic quality of global governance (ENSURED Research Report no. 25, January 2026). Drawing on 15 ENSURED case studies, Henning Schmidtke and **Stephanie C. Hofmann** relate empirical findings to academic debates on governance complexity and explores the quality of governance across five issue areas: trade and inequality, climate and biodiversity, global health, migration and human rights, and digitalisation. They find that complexity is neither inherently beneficial nor inherently harmful: instead, its effects depend on the architecture of governance complexes and the political alignment of powerful states. Hierarchical complexes with a recognisable centre that enjoy broad agreement among key states tend to stabilise governance, sustain output, and offer stronger mechanisms for democratic participation. Fragmented and politically divided complexes, by contrast, struggle with incoherent standards, selective implementation, and diffuse accountability. Building on these insights, the

report highlights implications for political actors seeking to navigate and shape an increasingly dense global governance landscape.

[Read the report \(open access\).](#)

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Cities, Space, Mobilities & Migrations



ARTICLE

Internally Displaced Persons' Participation in Durable Solutions Processes in International Human Rights Law

Internally displaced persons' (IDPs) participation in processes towards finding durable solutions has been highlighted as essential, but is often sidelined in favour of other priorities. Given

international human rights law's (IHRL) positioning of IDPs as rights-holders, its engagement of duty-bearers' accountability, and its role as the main normative foundation for a human rights-based approach, **Deborah Casalin**, Researcher at the Global Migration Centre, aims to conceptualise IDPs' participation in durable solutions processes in terms of IHRL (in *Refugee Survey Quarterly*, online February 2026). Four interconnected legal bases in IHRL are identified, namely the right to participate in public affairs; the duty to fulfil economic and social rights; the right to reparation and remedy; and collective rights. Her article analyses who these frameworks envisage as participants; in which types of activities and processes; and towards which objectives. Opportunities and challenges of each legal framing are also highlighted. The article confirms a duty on States to facilitate participation in durable solutions processes to internal displacement on their territory, and outlines some of its contours based on the analysis. It also highlights potential tensions to navigate when framing participation in terms of rights generally applicable to citizens/habitual residents, on one hand, and those focusing on subsets or collectives of IDPs with particular statuses on the other.

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

Image: solmaz daryani / Shutterstock

RESEARCH PAPER

The Intelligible Asylum Seeker: Creating an Affectively Credible Protagonist

Asylum judges derive the legitimacy of their decisions through an evaluation of the asylum seeker's credibility, which is thought to filter out fraudulent asylum claims. Scholars have analysed credibility as consistency, reflecting how judges themselves define credibility in their written decisions. **Claire Elizabeth Eastwood**, Master Student in Anthropology and Sociology at the time of writing, challenges the notion of credibility as being solely based in consistency by exploring its affective construction in asylum cases (Global Migration Research Paper no. 34, January 2026). Through an eight-week ethnography at a United States legal aid non-governmental organisation, she observes how lawyers construct what she terms "affective credibility" — creating an illusion of complete intelligibility by transforming asylum seekers into logical, coherent, and trustworthy protagonists within linear storylines. Presenting the asylum seeker as such allows the judge to know them as a literary character, building an affinity between judge and applicant that convinces the judge of the applicant's credibility not only because they aren't lying, but because they wouldn't lie. The judge is invited to enter the story as the hero who can deliver the happy resolution of an affirmative asylum decision.

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

This paper reproduces Claire Elizabeth Eastwood's master dissertation, which won her the Global Migration Centre's [Global Migration Award 2025](#).

ISSUE BRIEF

Democracy, Multilateralism and Migration

Valerio Simoni, Senior Research Fellow at the Global Migration Centre (GMC) and Research Associate at the Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy (AHCD), argues that democratic quality and migration governance shape each other: the weakening of democratic safeguards makes rights violations against migrants easier to normalise, while polarising migration debates are instrumentalised to mobilise partisan support, channel grievances and redraw boundaries between “insiders” and “outsiders”, reshaping how equality and rights are understood (Issue brief no. 1/26, Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy & Kofi Annan Foundation, January 2026). He shows that multilateral frameworks offer important tools for rights-based and accountable migration governance, but that their democratic value depends on how they are implemented, monitored and linked to domestic checks and balances. He also treats migrants as political actors, highlighting their roles in elections, campaigning, lobbying, public debate and grassroots mobilisation. Running through these arguments is a concern with how struggles over jobs, housing, welfare and territorial inequalities cut across borders. Scholarship has shown the value of shifting attention towards shared vulnerabilities, needs and struggles among migrants and long-term residents in precarious situations, rather than treating administrative categories as natural boundaries.

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

PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL LAW, 2026

The Best Interests of the Child in the Context of Migration under International Law

The safety and well-being of children on the move is a critical issue that demands urgent attention, as there are very few safe and legal migration channels available to protect them. States have complete sovereignty over their borders and who they allow to enter; however, they also have international obligations to comply with. This includes their obligations to children. In the field of migration, the international framework regulating this is fragmented, with various instruments addressing different aspects of protection. These protections and obligations on States were created with the adult migrant in mind, leaving children unprotected. The best interests of the child (“BIC”) play a crucial role in addressing these gaps and ensuring that children on the move have access to safeguards throughout their migration journey. **Liline Steyn** examines the role the BIC has played in migration protection mechanisms and how it has influenced their development by analysing international instruments, soft law, and regional practice.

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

[Repository](#) (as the thesis is embargoed until January 2029, please [contact the author](#) for access).



Top



Technology

ARTICLE

The Emerging Framework for Non-personal Data Protection in India: Perils, Promises, and Lessons for the Developing World



Neha Mishra and Binit Agarwal focus on the emerging framework for non-personal data protection in India, analysing its potential benefits and drawbacks (in *International Journal of Law and Information Technology*, vol. 34, January 2026). The Indian government has used a diverse range of policy instruments to develop a technological framework for non-personal data regulation, wherein non-personal data are

predominantly viewed as a national economic resource that must be shared to promote domestic players and reinforce India's digital and data sovereignty. Despite several of its innovative features, including instituting nationwide platforms for non-personal data sharing, this framework lacks clarity regarding data intermediaries' roles, provides insufficient privacy protections, and creates several business uncertainties. India's experience reflects developing countries' challenges and dilemmas in regulating non-personal data, especially balancing economic goals with privacy concerns and managing diverse stakeholder interests. The authors conclude by highlighting the importance of a rights-based approach with clear accountability mechanisms and streamlined policy/legal frameworks to ensure effective and equitable non-personal data regulation in developing countries.

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

Image: LN. Vector pattern / Shutterstock

EDITED BOOK CHAPTER

Digital Transformation and the Humanitarian-Development Transition: The Role of Digital Public Infrastructure and Data Protection

This chapter examines digital transformation, the humanitarian–development nexus, and transition under the Grand Bargain, focusing on digital public infrastructure (DPI) and data protection in humanitarian action. **Emrys Schoemaker**, Research Associate at the Global Governance Centre, and Aaron Martin outline debates on shifting humanitarian response from international organisations to local and development actors, including States, and argue that digital technology is central yet underexamined in these discussions (in *Data Protection in Humanitarian Action*, A. Beduschi, M. Marelli & A. Martin, eds., Routledge, October 2025). DPI marks a shift from building standalone digital systems to investing in shared, modular, and interoperable infrastructure — optimising the railway network rather than buying trains. It prioritises components such as digital identity, data exchange, and payment systems, core to humanitarian response, but is now gaining traction in areas such as social protection and beyond. Drawing on previous research into digital systems used in humanitarian relief and social protection in fragile contexts, the authors explore expert views on increasingly integrated digital system: many see consolidation as inevitable, yet the authors highlight limited attention to data protection and privacy risks. They then analyse the implications of a DPI approach for the maintenance of humanitarian principles and the concept of “humanitarian space”. The interoperability and data sharing inherent in the “transitioning” of relief and services from humanitarian organisations to actors providing longer-term development support complicate data protection principles such as purpose limitation. The authors conclude with an outline of digital technology and design approaches that might support a DPI approach to digital transformation that could both enable a transition and yet help maintain humanitarian principles and protection.

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

EDITED BOOK CHAPTER

Translating and Developing International Human Rights Law in the Online Sphere: The Role of Meta's Oversight Board

This chapter investigates the role of Meta's Oversight Board in translating and developing international human rights law in the context of content moderation (in *International Law and Technological Change*, I. Couzigou, ed., Edward Elgar, December 2025). Starting with situating

the origin of the Oversight Board within the wider context of the emergence of international human rights law as a dominant framework for regulating content moderation matters, **Stefania Di Stefano**, PhD Researcher in International Law at the time of writing, illustrates how the Board established its role and authority as a translator of international human rights standards in the online sphere. She then analyses how the Board is applying article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) on the right to freedom of expression in its own decisions. She demonstrates that the Board has illustrated how international human rights can be molded and interpreted to address human rights issues raised by new technologies. In some instances, however, the Board departed from human rights standards but failed to live up to its mission of explaining why Meta’s human rights responsibilities differed from States’ human rights obligations.

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

PAPER

“AI” for Deciphering Animal Communication: The Geometry of Meaning

In 2025, the bonobo Kanzi passed away, widely regarded as the ape most capable of communicating in English. **Paul Deshusses**, PhD Researcher in International History and Politics, revisits the history of animal communication research, from Kanzi’s spontaneous acquisition of lexigrams to the Model–Rival experiments of Alex the parrot, to contemporary AI-driven projects such as Earth Species Project and Project CETI (Cetacean Translation Initiative) or Zooniverse and Google DeepMind (Current Affairs in Perspective no. 2, Fondation Pierre du Bois pour l’histoire du temps présent, February 2026). He traces the historical shift from symbolic translation to geometric alignment: mapping patterns, structures, and relational regularities through machine learning. His paper situates today’s AI-driven “animal translation” within a longer intellectual arc, linking mid-twentieth-century bioacoustics, cybernetics, and structural linguistics to contemporary large language models and zero-resource translation.

[Read the paper \(open access\)](#).

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Global Health



ARTICLE

Policies to Promote Affordability and Access across the Life Cycle of Costly New Drugs

Strategic collaboration among countries and sectors on policies that prioritise equity throughout the full medicine life cycle could make innovative therapies more affordable and accessible globally. So argue Krista Kruja, Jorge

Mestre-Ferrandiz, Michael M. Hopkins, Bettina Ryll, Zoltan Kalo, and **Suerie Moon** (in *The BMJ*, online November 2025).

[DOI](#).

Image: ANYARICO / Shutterstock

ARTICLE

Video Remote Sign Language Interpreting and Health Communication for Deaf Patients: A Randomized Clinical Trial

Does the use of video remote interpreting (VRI) significantly improve communication outcomes compared with usual communication tools among Deaf patients? **Minerva Rivas Velarde**, Research Associate at the Global Health Centre, Laura Catalina Izquierdo Martinez, Jyoti Dalal, and others led a randomised clinical trial involving 210 Deaf patients and found that VRI did not always result in improved communication between Deaf individuals and physicians (in *JAMA Network Open*, vol. 9, no. 2, online February 2026). While attentiveness, completeness, and other aspects of communication were rated more highly among participants using VRI, there were no differences in clarity and feeling listened to, among others. These findings suggest that VRI alone is not sufficient to ensure quality communication between health care professionals and Deaf individuals.

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

BRIEFING

Governing Pandemics Snapshot

Under the new Pandemic Agreement adopted at the World Health Assembly in May 2025, WHO member states must reach an agreement on a pathogen access and benefit sharing (PABS) system before the next World Health Assembly on 18–23 May. Will they succeed? In the seventh issue of the *Governing Pandemics Snapshot*, four members of the Global Health Centre (GHC) share their perspectives on this issue:

- **Daniela Morich** dissects the choices facing member states in “**The Pandemic Agreement on Hold: Can Countries Bridge the Divide on PABS?**”
- In “**Avoiding Contractual Fatalism: Lessons from PIP Framework for Standardising PABS Contracts**”, **Adam Strobeyko** meanwhile looks at how the experience of the Pandemic Influence Preparedness (PIP) Framework could help inform the PABS process.
- In “**PABS Laboratory Networks: Building a New System or Using What We Have?**” **Gian Luca Burci** examines whether existing WHO-managed networks could take on the additional role of a PABS laboratory network.
- In “**Could Money Grease the Wheels of Compromise on PABS?**” **Suerie Moon** explores how finance for access and benefit sharing (ABS) could be generated in “interpandemic” times when the absence of a clear pandemic threat provides limited incentive to pharma companies to invest in related products.

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

This biannual publication aims to provide a concise overview on the state of efforts to strengthen global pandemic prevention, preparedness and response.

PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL LAW, 2025

Understanding Vaccine Hesitancy: A Critique of How International Law Communicates Science

In her study, **Sophia Mo** argues that international law, through the way it communicates science, contributes to mistrust of science: the language of international law communicates specific depictions of scientific knowledge and expertise that shape the framing of global problems such as vaccine hesitancy, which was listed among the top ten threats to global health in 2019. She specifically looks at the language and rhetoric of the World Health Organization (WHO) by investigating the guidelines, recommendations, position papers, resolutions, and statements issued by the WHO. She finds that the way WHO communicates science contributes to a setting wherein people become distrustful of scientific knowledge and experts, and sceptical of how health risks and crises are problematised. This then leads to a ripe ecosystem for vaccine hesitancy and misinformation to thrive.

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

[Repository](#) (as the thesis is embargoed until December 2028, please [contact the author](#) for access).





Trade, Finance, Economies & Work



ARTICLE

How the US Reciprocal Tariff Plan May Save the Global Trading System

The US plan to impose reciprocal tariffs is a game changer. If you ask *The Economist*, Trump's tariffs "really mean chaos for global trade". **Joost Pauwelyn** argues that if managed well, the opposite could be true: it could be the largest round of trade negotiations since the creation of

the World Trade Organization (WTO) and a much-needed rebalancing of global trade relations to catch up with fundamental changes that occurred, but remained unaddressed, for close to a quarter century (in *World Trade Review*, vol. 24, Special Issue 4, October 2025).

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

Image: Ganna Zelinska / Shutterstock

WORKING PAPER

Agglomeration, Segregation and Imperial Origins

What explains the dramatic differences in earnings across locations? Ester Faia, Edward L. Glaeser, Saverio Simonelli and **Martina Viarengo** employ an administrative employer-employee linked dataset from Italy that includes the country's entire workforce to estimate firm-worker or location-worker effects (NBER Working Paper 34582, National Bureau of Economic Research, December 2025). They also estimate differences in human capital accumulation across firms and cities. They find that the elasticity of the location premia to density is smaller than in other settings and that other locational characteristics, such as segregation in school or the workplace and inter-generational mobility, are more strongly correlated with earnings and earnings growth. Their place-based estimates are similar if they focus on movers who were forced to relocate after the L'Aquila Earthquake. Using a regression discontinuity design, they find that density levels jump up at the historic border between House of Savoy-ruled Piedmont and the Hapsburg Empire. Earnings today also jump at the border. This finding suggests that there may be some unintended effects of being a far-flung province of a distant empire, perhaps because of access to larger markets or the administrative and educational reforms that began under Empress Maria Theresa.

[DOI](#).

ISSUE BRIEF

The Remaking of the Global Trading Order: The Search for a New Compass

The existing trade order is unravelling at a breathtaking pace. The World Trade Organization and the rule-based trade system that promoted economic integration and globalisation for much of the last 80 years is under extreme pressure from trade wars and increasing geopolitical frictions. Yet, rising protectionism and isolationism are also symptoms of a broader public backlash against globalisation and international trade. **Cédric Dupont** and **Christian Winkler**, Postdoctoral Researcher at the Centre for Trade and Economic Integration (CTEI), seek to help us understand why the old system has failed, what a new one might look like, and what principles should guide it (Issue brief no. 5, Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy, Centre for Trade and Economic Integration and Kofi Annan Foundation, 2025). They outline three broad scenarios for the future of the global trade order: (1) Turnberry System, (2) Trade Blocs, and (3) Phased Liberalisation. They then assess these scenarios in terms of their ability to win public support and meet principles of democratic legitimacy. Finally, they propose some policy suggestions. This will help stimulate a policy dialogue bringing together policymakers, thought leaders and civil society actors in search

for solutions that would help reconcile multilateralism and democratic legitimacy in international trade.

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

PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL HISTORY, 2025

Essays on Public Investment and Economic Development in Postwar Italy

This dissertation by **Michele Zampa** examines how different forms of state-led investment shaped firm behaviour, industrial structure, and regional development in postwar Italy. It comprises three studies based on new data assembled from municipal censuses, administrative archives, newly digitised firm balance sheets, and a reconstructed national road network. The first paper, “**Janus Faces of Progress: Evaluating the Dual Strategy of the Cassa per il Mezzogiorno for Regional Development, 1950–1984**”, evaluates the Cassa per il Mezzogiorno’s industrial and infrastructure funding streams. Using causal inference methods, it shows a clear divergence: industrial support reliably boosted local industrial growth but slowed public infrastructure development, while infrastructure outcomes hinged on coordination across municipalities and on projects with clear, trackable outputs. The second paper, “**Banking on the South: The Impact of CasMez’s Funding Strategies on Southern Italian Firms**”, examines firmlevel effects of the Cassa’s subsidised credit, drawing on a new 15-year panel of Southern Italian firms. It finds sustained gains in asset productivity — consistent with increased scale and efficiency — but also suggests that strict credit rules limited access for otherwise viable firms, weakening the program’s broader regional reach. The third paper, “**Paving the Way: Highway Access and the Reconfiguration of Local Labor Markets in Italy**”, studies the impact of highway construction on local economies. It finds that better connectivity reduced industrial specialization and strengthened integration within labour market areas. Using the reconstructed road network, it shows that highway access tied municipalities more tightly to stable economic regions, with local industrial structures adjusting accordingly. Taken together, the papers show how the design and implementation of public investment programmes shape their distributive and developmental effects, offering insights for current industrial and regional policy.

[Find out more about Dr Zampa’s thesis in this interview](#).

[Repository](#) (as the thesis is embargoed until November 2028, please [contact the author](#) for access).

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Peace, War, Conflicts & Security



ARTICLE

European Security in Flux: The OSCE’s First Dimension from Détente to Disruption

This article looks at the history and enduring relevance of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)’s First Dimension, which covers politico-military issues (in *Security and Human Rights*, online November

2025). Tracing the evolution from the Cold War period to the current rupture, **Fred Tanner**, Faculty Associate at the Centre for Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP) and Senior Adviser at the Centre for Strategic Analysis (CSA) in Vienna, argues that while cooperative security has yielded to deterrence, the Helsinki Final Act’s normative infrastructure remains essential for managing risk and preventing escalation. He advocates a pragmatic shift toward

basic risk reduction, leveraging the OSCE's "soft" assets and adapting existing instruments — such as the Vienna Document — to address emerging technologies, for example armed Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs). Ultimately, preserving the OSCE acquis provides vital tools for navigating confrontation while safeguarding the foundations for future stability.

[Read the article \(open access\).](#)

Image: Viacheslav Life Studio / Shutterstock

ARTICLE

Beyond the Water's Edge: Realities of European Security and Defence Politics during War

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine and Israel's war in Gaza have demonstrated that partisan politics and polarisation dynamics in Europe can, but do not necessarily, stop at the water's edge. Threat perception and political ties to foreign actors, for example, influence how the EU and its member-states debate whether and how to intervene in international events and engage with external powers. **Stephanie C. Hofmann** assesses when heightened polarisation and new cleavages are likely to emerge, and when a more unified front can be expected (in *Journal of European Integration*, online January 2026). She also argues for moving beyond the water's edge not only theoretically but also interdisciplinarily. Conceptual and theoretical translations across Comparative Politics, International Relations, Public Policy and Administration, Political and Social Psychology, and Foreign Policy Analysis help us tap into the realities of European security and defence politics.

[DOI.](#)

REPORT

Nuclear Futures: (Non)Proliferation, Dangerous Doctrines, and Arms Control Perspectives

The American–Russian relationship — and with it the nuclear arms control regime — is in tatters, with existing agreements such as New START set to expire in February 2026 and no concrete follow-up on the horizon. There are proliferation concerns from North Korea, Iran, and elsewhere, while debates over non-nuclear postures in Europe and Asia increasingly threaten the future of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Meanwhile, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons reflects the ongoing desire for a nuclear-free world but also highlights the lack of progress on long-standing promises. This report by **Apolline Foedit**, PhD Researcher in International History and Politics and Researcher at the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP), summarises the key discussions and outcomes of a [conference](#) convened by the Toda Peace Institute and the CCDP (Summary Report no. 266, Toda Peace Institute, January 2026). The conference aimed to explore preconditions for incremental progress in arms control, risk reduction, and confidence-building measures, and identify potential entry points for innovative global, regional, or national initiatives.

[Read the report.](#)

PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL HISTORY AND POLITICS, 2026

Geographies of Violence: Black Power, Jihad, and the (Re)-Making of Anti-colonial Radicalism among Muslims in Britain (1976–1995)

Michele Benazzo traces the evolution of anti-colonial radicalism among Muslims in Britain from the late 1970s to the early 1990s, examining how Black Power–inspired politics gave way to Islamic radical ideologies and why these shifts produced different forms of violence, from street vigilantism to war volunteering abroad. He argues that Black and Islamic radicals competed to lead a post-imperial struggle for recognition within Britain, shaped by local resettlement dynamics and transnational actors. By bridging scholarship on Black and Islamic radicalism through post-1945 anti-colonialism, his study challenges terrorism-centred narratives and repositions Europe as a key site of postwar anti-colonial conflict.

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

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Development & Cooperation



POLICY PAPER

The Role of UAE Institutional Philanthropy in Driving Development at Home

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is widely recognised as a leading humanitarian donor, with philanthropy closely linked to its foreign aid architecture. This global focus has shaped how UAE philanthropy is understood, often privileging

cross-border giving and rendering domestic philanthropy less visible. **Camilla Della Giovampaola**, PhD Researcher in International History and Politics, addresses this imbalance by examining community-focused foundations and their societal contributions Policy Paper 90, Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi Foundation for Policy Research, December 2025). She argues that domestic philanthropy is a distinct and important pillar of the UAE's development model. In a context of strong state capacity and extensive welfare provision, philanthropic foundations do not replace public services but act as embedded institutions investing in local needs, piloting innovation, and supporting long-term development. Four findings emerge: foundations show diverse models shaped by emirate-level priorities yet broadly aligned with national development objectives; their mandates are largely development-oriented, reflecting the limited need for relief interventions in a high-capacity welfare state; they mediate between traditional charitable norms and contemporary philanthropy; and they operate within a distinctive environment, shaped by evolving regulatory and data environments and a global emphasis on cross-border giving. The author concludes with recommendations to strengthen coherence and institutional maturity of domestic philanthropy, advancing a fuller understanding of the UAE's philanthropic model in which community-based philanthropy and international humanitarian engagement are mutually reinforcing.

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

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Human Rights, Humanitarianism, Justice & Inclusion



ARTICLE

Intervening for the Community? The Law and Politics of Third-Party Intervention before the International Court of Justice

This article explains why states intervene before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and how they choose between Articles 62 and 63 of the ICJ Statute (in *Journal of International Dispute*

Settlement, vol.17, no., March 2026, online January 2026). Against accounts of a general turn from bilateralism to community interests, **Haris Huremagić**, PhD Researcher in International Law, offers a comprehensive mapping of all interventions and classifies them as “community interest” or “self-interest intervention” by reference to the rights invoked, the submissions made and the overall context of the interventions. Of 87 Article 63 interventions, about 77% advance community interests, whereas only 35% of Article 62 applications do so. Read through a “costs and commitments” lens, the pattern coheres: Article 63 is comparatively low-cost and low-commitment and has become the principal vehicle for advancing community interests; Article 62 is higher-cost and is used mainly to pursue particularised rights and outcome-driven aims. Yet, the utility of Article 63 is constrained by its interpretive scope, which limits practical effect in contentious proceedings. The author therefore assesses whether existing avenues match contemporary practice and considers reform options. Two policy paths are outlined. One would maintain generous admissibility under Article 63 and recognise that obligations *erga omnes* and *erga omnes partes* may satisfy the legal interest threshold of Article 62. The other would conserve resources by policing the scope of Article 63 more strictly and clarifying that obligations *erga omnes* and *erga omnes partes* alone do not meet the threshold of Article 62, paired with the introduction of *amicus curiae* submissions for states in contentious cases. Together, the analysis shows both greater recent willingness by states to intervene for community interests and the need to recalibrate procedures to that practice.

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

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ARTICLE

Resilience by Design: Emergency Architecture, Testing and the Ecology of Aid (1970–1980)

Since the late 2000s, the humanitarian sector has witnessed what scholars have described as an “innovation turn” in response to what humanitarian innovators conceive as the field’s inefficient, backwards-looking and top-down inner workings. In this context, aid actors have increasingly embraced design methodologies in pursuing creative, participatory and human-centred responses to humanitarian crises. However, this turn overshadows a longer history of intersections between design and humanitarian governance. **Tania Messell**, Research Associate at the Global Governance Centre, contributes to filling this gap by tracing how design and innovation met in the field of post-disaster shelters in the 1970s (in *Third World Quarterly*, online January 2026).

Echoing today’s “innovation turn”, the period witnessed widespread efforts to innovate cross-border disaster relief interventions amongst international aid actors. Examining the development, implementation and aftermath of the A-frame shelter, a post-disaster housing solution developed by Carnegie Mellon University and the consultancy Intertext between 1974 and 1977, the author argues that the project announced a new understanding of the role of design responses to disasters, that of a practice that through participative and iterative problem-solving methods aimed to produce mobile protocols capable of rendering local populations more resilient to environmental catastrophes. Her article thereby exposes and critically examines the longstanding intersections between humanitarian aid, design and early resilience thinking.

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

ARTICLE

Hard(er) Times for Human Rights Advocacy in Global Governance: Ideological Capture and Illiberal Interests

Nina Reiners, Research Associate at the Global Governance Centre, reveals the institutional dynamics of hard times in the issue area of human rights (in *Ethics and International Affairs*, vol. 39, no. 2, Summer 2025). She shows that the human rights regime has developed innovative-yet-informal institutions like individuals-based coalitions for the international protection and progressive development of human rights. Yet, as these informal institutions function very much based on, first, the interpersonal relations among their members, and, second, legal instruments that require no further consent by states, the advocacy success of liberal human rights defenders

has, in turn, provided a playbook for advocates and governments from the illiberal end of the ideology spectrum. In addition, new human rights advocates in the form of certain private law firms have entered the UN through their pro bono work. They promise valuable resources for a crisis-ridden system but often represent corporate clients with conflicts of interest. Given the imminent risk of ideological capture and illiberal interests in human rights paralysing the system, the author reemphasises the need for regulating access to the human rights global governance institutions.

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

REPORT

War WATCH – IHL in Focus (1 July 2024–31 December 2025)

This report by the Geneva Academy, a joint centre of the University of Geneva and the Geneva Graduate Institute, provides a comprehensive legal analysis of the most serious violations of international humanitarian law documented in 23 armed conflicts worldwide between July 2024 and the end of 2025 (Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, February 2026). Based on conflict-by-conflict assessments, the report documents widespread and often systematic harm to civilians; the starvation of civilians as a method of warfare, with devastating humanitarian consequences; persistent attacks on healthcare, journalists and humanitarian workers; unprecedented levels of conflict-related sexual violence; the growing use of armed drones against civilian populations; and the classification of a non-international armed conflict in Haiti.

[Read the report \(open access\)](#).

WORKING PAPERS

Neurotechnology is advancing, in many different ways. This expansion is driving an increasing number of neurotechnological applications within clinical and research settings, but equally in everyday life across areas including education, work, criminal justice, entertainment, and well-being. **Timo Istance**, Associate Researcher at the Geneva Academy, and Sjors Ligthart emphasise the importance of identifying and anticipating the potentially profound human rights risks associated with the development and anticipated proliferation of these technologies in two complementary sets of guiding principles:

– Guiding Principles for States on Human Rights and the Responsible Use of Neurotechnology **Titre de l'article**

This document provides guidance to assist States to meet their obligations to respect, protect and fulfil human rights in the process of developing, using, implementing and regulating neurotechnology across diverse societal contexts (Geneva Academy, December 2025). The authors clarify how the substance of existing human rights can apply to different types and applications of neurotechnology, serving as a normative baseline to guide States in their policy and legislative activities. In this way, they promote greater harmonisation in policy and regulatory responses to neurotechnology. In addition to providing guidance to States, they also aim to inform multilateral and supranational organisations on specifying the established framework of human rights in relation to neurotechnology in order to respect, protect and fulfil human rights in a way that is practical and effective.

[Read the paper \(open access\)](#).

– Guiding Principles for Businesses on Protecting Human Rights throughout the Neurotechnology Lifecycle

These guidelines focus on the role and responsibility of businesses in respecting human rights across their neurotechnology-related operations and in the products and services they provide (Geneva Academy, December 2025). They aim to implement the UNGP standards in the context of neurotechnology to guide businesses in meeting their corporate responsibilities as recognised within the UN human rights framework. To provide clear guidance, the authors (1) clarify human rights standards relevant to neurotechnology, and (2) recommend concrete measures that could be considered by businesses to align their operations, products, and services with these

standards.

[Read the paper \(open access\).](#)

WORKING PAPER

Reframing Military Expenditure as a Human Rights Issue

Florence Foster, Senior Project Manager at the Geneva Academy, argues that military spending must be understood not only as a matter of national security or fiscal policy, but as a direct human rights concern (Geneva Academy, December 2025). She examines how large-scale defense budgets can divert resources from essential public services — including healthcare, education, housing, and climate resilience — thereby undermining the realisation of economic, social, and cultural rights. While states are legally obligated under international human rights law to use available resources to the maximum of their means to fulfill rights, excessive or poorly justified military expenditure may constitute a failure to meet those obligations. The author further identifies a lack of transparency and accountability in how military funds are reported, which hinders the ability of UN Treaty Bodies to monitor human rights compliance. Drawing on case studies and international legal frameworks, she calls for greater transparency, parliamentary oversight, and human rights impact assessments of defense budgets — urging states, civil society, and UN Treaty Bodies to treat military spending as a matter of accountability under human rights law.

[Read the paper \(open access\).](#)

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Arts, Culture & Religion



MONOGRAPH

Hope and Contemporary Israeli Peace Movements: The Emotional Dimension of Collective Peace Politics

Visiting Professor **Liv Halperin** investigates and compares two contemporary Israeli peace movements through the angle of collective emotions, and specifically of hope (Routledge, December 2025). Drawing on empirical qualitative

research combining interviews with Jewish and Arab-Palestinian activists and ethnographic work, her work provides unique documentation of the birth and development of Standing Together (a mixed-gender peace movement) and Women Wage Peace (a women's peace movement). It explores the meaning of hope for Israeli peace activists, and shows the concrete efforts that both movements undertake to trigger hope, as part of an intersectional peace politics and of a non-partisan women's peace politics, respectively. The book also engages with the post-October 2023 developments in the Middle East, showing how both peace movements, now followed by others in the Israeli peace camp, continue to invest in their politics of hope amid devastation, fatigue and fear. Offering a gendered typology of hope-related emotion work useful beyond the cases at hand, the book proposes that collective hope-based action, combined with other emotions, might be powerful in all contexts of despair and protracted conflicts.

[Publisher's page.](#)

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EDITED BOOK CHAPTER

Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)

Faith communities have been obvious and indispensable allies during the negotiations of the Convention on the Rights of the Child from 1979 to 1989, as well as for its ratification and implementation in the 196 States parties as of December 2025. During the *travaux préparatoires*, faith-based civil society organisations brought theological perspectives and strong advocacy messages on the agency, evolving capacities and empowerment of children. In recent years, the Committee's interpretive practice has increasingly recognised the significance of engaging faith actors, both as duty bearers, rights holders and as powerful allies and influencers within their communities. In its practice, the Committee has consistently applied interpretive principles that safeguard the protection and promotion of children's rights as individual rights-holders. Thus, religious law or doctrine may be acknowledged as part of a child's life, but cannot supersede protections against discrimination, violence or harmful practices. The Committee has also provided interpretations to accommodate religious frameworks in areas such as alternative care, education or parental guidance, while insisting on adherence to common standards of the best interests of the child and respect for evolving capacities. At a time when human rights and the very notion of human dignity are increasingly under attack, **Allie Kavalauskas**, Senior Undergraduate Student at Colgate University and joint MA/BA student at the Geneva Graduate Institute, Philip Jaffé, Jennifer Philpot-Nissen, Eleonora Mura and Maria Lucia Uribe Torres make six recommendations, which aim to move from dialogue to transformation, and from collaboration to shared accountability (in *Faith in United Nations Human Rights Treaties: Legal and Religious Commentaries for Research and Peer-Learning*, M. Wiener, I. Salama & B. Nicolmann, eds., University for Peace; The British University in Egypt; University of Oslo, January 2026).

[Whole book available in open access.](#)



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Gender, Diversity, Race & Intersectionality



EDITED BOOK CHAPTER

Land Defenders and Ocean Warriors: Resistance to Land Grabs as a Politics of Social Reproduction

Land grabbing, that is, the violent appropriation of large swaths of land, is a global phenomenon that reaches back to colonialism and is anchored in capitalist logics of accumulation. Resistance against land grabbing must be understood as

motivated by women's concern for social reproduction, what feminist political economists have called "the production of life". Honorary Professor **Elisabeth Prügl** and Wening Udasmoro provide background on the phenomenon of land grabbing and review literature on women's resistance against this practice (in *Feminist Responses to Crises and Dehumanization: Transnational Scholar-Activist Perspectives*, S. Zwingel, B.N. Hernandez and L. Turbino Torres, eds., Routledge, October 2025). They introduce two cases from East Java, Indonesia, one recounting the opposition to an industrial cotton plantation in the regency of Banyuwangi, the second to sand mining in the regency of Lumajang. Their chapter explores four different ways that feminist activists frame their struggles, which reflect how they anchor their activism in concerns for social reproduction: (1) the right to land farmed over generations (generational reproduction), (2) securing everyday livelihoods, (3) environmental reproduction, and (4) maintaining peace in the community. The authors conclude by arguing that a social reproduction lens brings to light situated perspectives while illustrating commonalities linked to global capitalist processes. Situated perspectives thus resonate across borders and seed international solidarities.

DOI.

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ARTICLE

Les heurs et malheurs du mariage femme-femme en pays kikuyu, Kenya

À partir de l'exemple kikuyu et en s'inspirant des cas de l'Afrique de l'Est, voire australe, **Yvan Droz** présente un regard synthétique sur le mariage femme-femme, ainsi que sur son expression actuelle au Kenya central, où il se pratique toujours, bien que de façon restreinte aujourd'hui (in *Journal of Eastern African Studies*, en ligne janvier 2026). Il propose une perspective d'anthropologie historique en présentant les transformations qu'a subies ce type d'union, avant d'analyser les données issues d'entretiens conduits entre 2019 et 2023 dans les environs de Nairobi et en Province Centrale. Il se fonde sur les quelques recherches conduites sur cette pratique en Afrique de l'Est, où l'accomplissement personnel passe toujours par le mariage et la procréation – si possible de garçons. Paradoxalement, le mariage femme-femme renforce une représentation patrimoniale et inégalitaire des relations homme-femme. Cette union souligne la fragilité de la position des veuves ou des femmes sans enfants au sein du lignage de leur époux, puisqu'elle leur garantit une certaine stabilité dès la naissance d'un garçon. En outre, les femmes qui y recourent adhèrent à l'idéologie kikuyu qui accorde au stock de noms du lignage et à leur reproduction, ainsi qu'à la transmission de la terre du lignage une importance symbolique capitale.

DOI.

EDITED BOOK CHAPTER

Remapping Gendered Circuits of Violence: A Social Reproduction Perspective

Honorary Professor **Elisabeth Prügl** and **Raksha Gopal** and **Luisa Lupo**, PhD Researchers in International Relations/Political Science, engage with the concept of "gendered circuits of violence" to explore how social reproduction both sustains and resists war economies (in *War Economy: Gendered Circuits of Violence and Capital*, A.A. Hozić & J. True, eds., Routledge, December 2025). Using the lens of social reproduction, they argue that contemporary political economies resemble war economies, as violence moves through the circuits of capital, biopolitics and mastery. Circuits of capital highlight the exploitation and dispossession intrinsic to accumulation, where labours of social reproduction sustain but are also undermined by neoliberal economic orthodoxies and post-war reconstruction policies. Circuits of biopolitics bring to light the violent governance of social reproduction in the form of social and security policies, for example in the areas of development, migration, and health, that entrench racialised and gendered forms of othering. Circuits of mastery foreground how extractivism and coloniality justify epistemic and material violences, situating war economies within longer histories of domination. These circuits do not operate in isolation but interlock in everyday negotiations of survival and resistance. Recognising social reproduction as liminal, the authors argue that it operates as a practice that both coopts and offers alternatives to the circuits of violence that define war economies.

DOI.

ARTICLE

Mapping Academic Discourses on Gender in European Farming from a Feminist Political Ecology Perspective

Using a feminist political ecology lens, **Larissa da Silva Araujo** and **Joanna Bourke Martignoni**, Research Affiliates at the Gender Centre, and Charlotte Voigt, Barbara Stadlmayr, and Stefanie Lemke critically analyse how gender is addressed in European agricultural research (in *Journal of Rural Studies*, vol. 123, March 2026, online February 2026). They find that research on gender has remained binary and single-axis and that only a few studies take an intersectional approach. They identify five discourses around gendered structures and agency. They conclude that by foregrounding intersectional power relations, feminist political ecology shifts the analysis from gender as a fixed category to gender as a dynamic process embedded in socio-ecological

relationships.

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

WORKING PAPER

Invisible Citizens: How Targeting and Repression of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Minorities in Russia Impacts Human Rights

The targeting and repression of sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) minorities in the Russian Federation has accelerated since President Putin's return to power in 2012, reaching its peak following the 2023 Supreme Court decision designating the "International LGBT Movement" as "extremist". While this repression is primarily State-driven, it is heavily amplified by religious, societal, and non-state actors. Drawing on 20+ interviews with UN representatives, Russian LGBTQ+ organisations, LGBTQ+ activists, regional and international NGOs, researchers and academic experts, as well as extensive UN reporting, **Emma Bapt**, Research Collaborator at the Geneva Academy, and **Rose Sandford**, Junior Researcher at the Geneva Academy at the time of writing, situate SOGI repression as an early warning signal of authoritarian consolidation (Geneva Academy, December 2025). They demonstrate how the targeting of LGBTQ+ communities often precedes wider crackdowns on civil society, freedom of expression, and political opposition, patterns increasingly mirrored across Eastern Europe and beyond.

[Read the paper \(open access\)](#).

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Democracy & Civil Society



ARTICLE

Kapitans and Unofficials: Ethnic Intermediaries in the Straits Settlements, 1786–1942

Prior to 1867, the Chinese communities in the Straits Settlements of Penang, Malacca, and Singapore were administered through the *Kapitan* system, where an influential individual was appointed by the colonial government to

represent their ethnic community. Following the establishment of the Straits Settlements Legislative Council in 1867, the colonial government's administration of Chinese communities shifted away from *Kapitano* "unofficial" members of the Legislative Council (as opposed to members who were government officials). "Unofficial" legislative councillors linked the Chinese communities of the Straits Settlements with the colonial administration as the *Kapitan* once did, albeit in a diminished role. **Bernard Z. Keo** traces the evolution of ethnic administration in the Straits Settlements and the role of the *Kapitan* and "unofficials" in the expansion of British authority over Asian subjects (in *Journal of the Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society*, vol. 98, no. 1, June 2025). He argues that the replacement of the *Kapitan* by the unofficial was part of a broader shift from indirect to direct rule, and illustrates the role played by individuals in these positions in challenging British authority.

[DOI](#).

Image: Anonymous, early to mid-19th century, Public domain, via [Wikimedia Commons](#)

ARTICLE

Is Clientelism (Only) for the Poor? Insights on Class and Clientelism from a Survey Experiment in Lebanon

Clientelism — the exchange of goods and services for political support — is widely understood as a phenomenon targeted at and demanded by poorer constituents. Melani Cammett, **Christiana Parreira** and Sami Atallah question that assumption by exploring class differences in preferences for clientelism conditional on the type of goods and services provided (in *The Journal of Politics*, vol. 87, no. 3, July 2025). They explore these intuitions through a conjoint experiment in Lebanon, where candidates in national elections make different clientelist pledges of varying value. They find that the poor and rich both disfavour lower-value clientelism, that the rich and poor react similarly toward different types of clientelism overall, and that the rich prefer higher-value clientelist pledges from copartisan candidates, whereas this distinction does not hold among poorer voters. These findings suggest a need to reconsider previously assumed linear ties between class and clientelism and raise questions for further research about how the rich and poor engage differently with patronage-based parties in some developing country contexts. [DOI](#).

CHAPITRE D'OUVRAGE COLLECTIF

Nation

Nul ne devrait plus pouvoir croire à l'existence d'une nation atemporelle, correspondant à un ethnos propre, dont un territoire et une langue, voire une religion, seraient les réceptacles ou les matrices naturels, et dont l'accomplissement politique, sous la forme d'un État-nation, conférerait à l'Histoire son sens. La nécessaire réinvention de l'idée nationale supposerait l'inclusion en son sein des migrants, dès lors qu'ils représentent un phénomène global et irréversible, soutient **Jean-François Bayart** (dans *Mondes postcapitalistes*, J. Baschet et L. Jeanpierre, dir., La Découverte, février 2026).

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Education, Information & Media



EPAPER

Education in Adversity: How NGOs Providing Education to Girls and Women in Afghanistan Navigate Challenges

In 2022, the Taliban prohibited girls and women in Afghanistan from attending secondary school. Still, a range of NGOs continues to provide educational opportunities. **Fabia Jenny** examines

how these organisations navigate challenges and build organisational resilience in fragile and high-risk environments (Graduate Institute ePaper 59, Graduate Institute Publications, January 2026). Eleven interviews with NGO representatives were conducted. The findings reveal that NGOs rely on interlinked adaptive capacities, defined as resources and the ability to mobilise them, and resilience-building strategies, understood as concrete strategic actions enabled by these capacities, to respond to external challenges and build resilience. In practical terms, this study emphasises the importance of fostering intrinsic motivation and psychological well-being among volunteers and staff, promoting collaboration among organisations, and strengthening local grassroots efforts. It further highlights the role of local actors, especially women, in ensuring context-sensitive programme design and implementation. These insights contribute to a deeper understanding of how NGOs adapt to sustain education in crisis settings.

[Read an interview with the author](#).

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

This ePaper reproduces the author's *master's dissertation*, which won the 2025 NORRAG Prize in Comparative and International Education and is published thanks to the support of the Vahabzadeh Foundation.

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EDITED BOOK CHAPTER

The OECD's Emulationist and the World Bank's Universalist Approach to Policy Brokerage: A Matter of Style

Taking inspiration from the scholarship on national policy styles, Helen Seitzer, **Chanwoong Baek** and **Gita Steiner-Khamsi** investigate whether global public policy actors also have distinct ways of governing (in *The Routledge Handbook of Policy Advisory Systems*, Routledge, September 2025). Focusing on the education sector and knowledge brokerage as a central tool of global governance in an era of evidence-based policy-making, the authors selected the two most influential policy brokers, the OECD and the World Bank, that exert “soft governance by hard fact[s]”. They explore the different approaches of the World Bank and the OECD to knowledge brokering and policy advice in education. They discuss how and with whom these actors engage in disseminating their policy advice and what their engagement patterns reveal about their policy brokering styles.

[DOI.](#)

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Other Relevant Information



Multimedia



VIDEO | ALBERT HIRSCHMAN CENTRE ON DEMOCRACY (AHCD)

Stories of the Future: Project Documentary

In 2022, the AHCD launched **Stories of the Future**, an ambitious Agora project that asked a simple but profound question: What kind of democracy do young people envision in an age of artificial intelligence? Researchers traveled to schools across Switzerland, inviting students to write about their own visions of the future. To bring these visions to life, the team created an interactive exhibit that traveled from Geneva to Zurich, Ticino, and Bern, inviting visitors to reflect, debate, and imagine the futures we want to build.

[Watch a video on YouTube](#) and also [read a report](#) about the project.



VIDEO | NORRAG

The Role of Knowledge, Innovation and Exchange in Building Equitable and Inclusive Education Systems

GPE KIX organised a panel discussion at the Development and Education Conference 2025 (DevEd 2025) held at the State Library Victoria, Melbourne, Australia on 1–13 November 2025.

[Learn more and watch on YouTube.](#)



VIDEO | NORRAG

Educating against the Odds: The Inclusion and Exclusion of Refugee Teachers in National Education Systems

On 11–13 November 2025, **Chris Henderson**, Education in Emergencies Specialist at NORRAG, participated in the inaugural Development and Education Conference (DevEd) 2025: Reimagining the Future of Education in the Asia-Pacific, where he presented research on refugee teacher exclusion in Bangladesh and Malaysia.

[Watch on YouTube.](#)



VIDEO | RESEARCH CAFÉ | GLOBAL HEALTH CENTRE

The Global Governance of Climate Change and Health: What Does the Literature Say about its Evolution, Weaknesses and Priorities for Change?

On 13 November 2025, this event presented findings from a **historical mapping of global climate change and health (CC&H) governance** over the past 25 years, tracing how key developments have shaped today's governance landscape. The discussion focused on the need to overcome fragmentation between climate and health policy spaces to build cohesive, collaborative governance frameworks capable of addressing this urgent, interconnected challenge.

[Watch on YouTube.](#)



VIDEO | WEBINAR | GLOBAL HEALTH CENTRE'S GOVERNING PANDEMICS INITIATIVE AND INTERNATIONAL GENEVA GLOBAL HEALTH PLATFORM

Laboratory Networks in Practice: Implications for Pathogen Access and Benefit Sharing

This webinar took place on 27 January 2026. It opened with a brief overview of current practices across WHO-coordinated laboratory networks, setting the scene for a moderated discussion with practitioners from regional and global laboratory networks.

[Watch on Youtube.](#)



VIDEO | TECH HUB

The University in the Age of AI: A Global Perspective

On 4 December 2025, as part of the two-day workshop “**Artificial Intelligence and the University: Knowledge Production, Pedagogy, and Infrastructure**” organised at the Geneva Graduate Institute, an interdisciplinary panel of scholars from Asia, Europe, and North America explored how AI is redefining the intellectual and social mission of universities across the globe.

[Learn more and watch on YouTube.](#)



VIDEO | INTERNATIONAL LAW DEPARTMENT, GLOBAL GOVERNANCE CENTRE & FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG (FES)

Who Can Lead a Disarrayed World? Electing the Next UN Secretary-General

In 2026, UN member states will elect the next Secretary-General. With the UN currently under ever-increasing financial and political pressure, FES New York commissioned a **study by Professor Anjali Dayal** (Fordham University) to assess the challenges for the next SG selection process. On 20 November 2025, this event provided a platform to discuss how the upcoming selection process is perceived from Geneva's

unique vantage point as a hub of multilateral diplomacy. Participants reflected on what insights and perspectives the Geneva community can contribute to the global conversation on UN leadership and legitimacy.

[Watch on YouTube.](#)



PODCAST | RESEARCH IN PROGRESS | RESEARCH OFFICE

Paul Deshusses | Quand les animaux parlaient

Doctorant en histoire et politique internationales, **Paul Deshusses** travaille à une histoire critique de la biosémiotique et de la zoosémiotique, mettant ainsi en lumière la manière dont ces domaines ambitieux, multidisciplinaires et interdisciplinaires, ont émergé dans les années 1960.

[Écoutez sur YouTube](#) ou [SoundCloud](#).



PODCAST | PRACTICING MULTILATERALISM E2 | GLOBAL GOVERNANCE CENTRE

Doing Multilateral Human Rights Work: A Conversation with William O'Neill

Research Associate **Flavia Keller** hosts **William O'Neill**, the UN-designated expert on human rights in Haiti, for a conversation on multilateral practice through the lens of human rights. Together, they address questions such as: What does the day-to-day work of a human rights expert look like in one of the most challenging contexts? What role does multilateralism play in protecting human rights? And how does the global “crisis of multilateralism” affect these efforts?

[Listen on SoundCloud](#).



PODCAST | CCDP SPOTLIGHT S2:E8 | CENTRE ON CONFLICT, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACEBUILDING (CCDP)

Matt Waldman | Why Mediation Is Falling Short: Peacemaking amid Militarization and Global Rivalry

Robert Watkins, Research Associate at the CCDP, speaks with the mediation specialist **Matt Waldman** about what could be done to increase the effectiveness of international mediation efforts to resolve or prevent armed conflict. Drawing on Waldman's [recent study](#) based on interviews with leading mediation practitioners and specialists, as well as ten expert colloquia convened through institutions including the University of Oxford and the United States Institute of Peace, the conversation examines why mediation efforts are falling short.

[Listen on Spotify](#) or [Simplecast](#).



PODCAST | CCDP SPOTLIGHT S3:E1 | CENTRE ON CONFLICT, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACEBUILDING (CCDP)

Drug Policy and Global Power: Rethinking Governance, Security, and Multilateralism

Jennifer Thornquest, Research Associate at the CCDP, speaks with **Khalid Tinasti**, Research Associate at the CCDP, about the global governance of drug policy and why it has become a critical site of geopolitical contestation. The conversation unpacks how international drug control, one of the most ratified global regimes, shapes national policy, security priorities, and multilateral cooperation. Drawing on Tinasti's research, the episode explores how shifting power dynamics, public health crises, and pressure on multilateral institutions are

reshaping the future of global drug governance.

[Listen on Spotify](#) or [Simplecast](#).



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Awarded Grants

SNSF RETURN CH POSTDOC.MOBILITY | 01.02.2026 – 31.01.2027 | CHF 128,000 | CENTRE ON CONFLICT, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACEBUILDING

Conscientious Objection and Asylum in the Face of Russia's Invasion of Ukraine

This project examines conscientious objection to military service as a ground for international protection in the context of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. **Dina Bolokan**, Postdoctoral Researcher at the Global Migration Centre (GMC) and the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP), analyses how international refugee law, human rights law, and domestic asylum practices in Germany, France, and Switzerland address asylum claims by Russian conscientious objectors refusing participation in the war. Her research explores the legal recognition of conscientious objection, its limits in times of armed conflict, and the impact of evolving geopolitical narratives on asylum decision-making. Drawing on an analysis of selected national practices, she seeks to clarify states' obligations under international and human rights law towards conscientious objectors and to assess the extent to which existing asylum frameworks provide adequate protection to individuals who refuse to participate in unlawful and morally objectionable warfare. By situating conscientious objection within the broader dynamics of forced migration and militarisation, her project contributes to contemporary debates on asylum, responsibility, and dissent in wartime.



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Visitors

📅 23.02.–19.04.2026

📍 GHC

Deborah GLEESON

Coming from La Trobe University, Visiting Fellow Deborah Gleeson is working on "Negotiations for the World Health Organization's Pandemic Agreement and Access to Medical Products for Pandemics: A Policy Analysis".

📅 01.03.2026–

01.03.2027

📍 IRPS Dep.

Haesol KIM

Coming from Seoul National University, Junior Visiting Fellow Haesol Kim will work on "How Are Middle-power Countries (e.g., South Korea, Turkey, India) Contesting or Reshaping Global Migration Governance Norms through Regional Migration Initiatives between 2015 and 2025?".

📅 02.03.–22.05.2026

📍 IL Dep.

Anastasiia ZHURAVEL

Coming from The Hertie School, Junior Visiting Fellow Anastasiia Zhuravel will research "The Trilemma of Aggression Victimhood:

Reconciling IHRL, *Jus ad Bellum* and International Humanitarian Law”.


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Calls for Papers

WORKSHOP | GLOBAL GOVERNANCE CENTRE

The History of Agrochemicals and International Development: Knowledge, Politics, and Business, 1940s to the Present

This workshop, which will take place on 6 November 2026 at the European University Institute, Florence, Italy, is part of the “**Chemical Crossroads**: Agrarian Transitions, Pesticide Controversies and International Governance, 1940–1970” project. **Elife Biçer-Deveci**, **Amalia Ribì Forclaz** and **Corinna Unger** welcome contributions from the fields of history and the social sciences working with historical approaches on topics including, but not limited to, knowledge about agrochemicals; agrochemicals and international development; and environmental and health consequences of postwar agricultural development.

- Proposal submission deadline: **16 March 2026**

[Read the full call.](#)

MEDICAL HUMANITIES

Topic Collection: Race, Sexual and Reproductive Health: Histories, Inequalities, Futures

Caroline Rusterholz, **George Severs** and **Naomi Samake-Bäckert**, guest editors of this topic collection in *Medical Humanities*, welcome contributions around four key themes: reproductive governance and the ways institutions and authorities have racialised SRH and the impact of these processes on global majority individuals; activism of global majority groups who sought to improve their SRH and deployed strategies of resistance and resilience in hostile and unequal environments; transnational circulation of SRH activism and contraceptive technologies; challenges and opportunities in working in the field of SRH and studying SRH and “race” in historical perspectives.

- Submission deadline: **31 October 2026**

[Read the full call.](#)


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Upcoming PhD Defences

 24 February 2026
 14:30–16:30
 Pétale 2, Room S9 & online

INTERNATIONAL HISTORY AND POLITICS

Continuity in Transformation: Philanthropy in the United Arab Emirates

By **Camilla Caroline Mebahel Della Giovampaola**. Committee members: Professor Davide Rodogno, Thesis Director; Professor

Alessandro Monsutti, President of the Committee and Internal Member; Assistant Professor Seungah Sarah Lee, Management and Human Resources, HEC Paris.

[Read more.](#)

📅 25 February 2026
🕒 16.00–18:00
📍 Pétales 2, Room S9 & online

INTERNATIONAL LAW, MINOR IN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS

Level Playing Field as an Emerging Norm in International Economic Law

By **Marios Tokas**. Committee members: Professor Joost Pauwelyn, Thesis Co-Supervisor; Professor Damien Neven, Thesis Co-Supervisor; Assistant Professor Alice Pirlot, President of the Committee and Internal Member; Professor Petros C. Mavroidis, Columbia Law School, USA.

[Read more.](#)

📅 27 February 2026
🕒 14:00–16:00
📍 Pétales 2, Room S9 & online

INTERNATIONAL LAW

The Hospital after Infection: An Ethnography of (Resistant) Infections in a Hospital in India

By **Purbasha Mazumdar**. Committee members: Professor Aditya Bharadwaj, Thesis Director; Associate Professor Shaila Seshia Galvin, President of the Committee and Internal Member; Professor Carlo Caduff, Department of Global Health and Social Medicine, King's College London.

[Read more.](#)

📅 3 March 2026
🕒 09:00–11:00
📍 Pétales 2, Room S9 & online

INTERNATIONAL LAW

Competition among International Courts and Tribunals

By **Zelin Li**. Committee members: Professor Fuad Zarbiyev, Thesis Supervisor; Professor Joost Pauwelyn, President of the Committee and Internal Member; Professor Laurence R. Helfer, Duke University, School of Law, Durham, USA.

[Read more.](#)

📅 4 March 2026
🕒 09:30–11:30
📍 Pétales 2, Room S9 & online

INTERNATIONAL LAW

Complex Disputes in International Adjudication

By **Islam Attia Mohamed**. Committee members: Emeritus Professor Marcelo Kohen, Thesis Co-Supervisor; Professor Paola Gaeta, Thesis Co-Supervisor; Professor Zachary Douglas, President of the Committee and Internal Member; Associate Professor Mamadou Hébié, Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies, Leiden, The Netherlands.

[Read more.](#)



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