

## PROFILE

- **Professor and Chair Holder:** Nagulendran Chair in Peace Mediation. Research specializes in the political economy of violent conflict, peace processes, and political transitions. Over 100 publications in the peace and security field.
- **Strategic Leadership:** Cabinet-level experience in fundraising, process design, and strategic network development for multi-stakeholder partnerships. 20-year record managing complex policy and research projects.
- **Policy Entrepreneurship:** Co-founder of the Geneva Policy Outlook, Geneva Peace Week, and the Peace Talks Initiative. Initiated more than two dozen projects advancing dialogue and international cooperation.
- **Forum and Conference Organizer:** 7 editions of Geneva Peace Week and countless conferences and workshops.
- **Trusted Advisor, Skilled Facilitator:** Deployment for expert missions on peace processes in Colombia and Yemen. Ability to address different audiences on sensitive issues in German, English, French, and Spanish.
- **Nationality and status:** Dual citizenship of Switzerland and Germany. Married, 1 child (15).

## WORK HISTORY

### Current positions at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies

#### **Director of Strategic Partnerships**, Directorate (since July 2021)

As part of the Geneva Graduate Institute's leadership team, I have the overall responsibilities to lead on the development of strategic partnerships in support of the vision and mission of the Institute; to facilitate collaboration around emerging topics and initiatives at the research-policy interface; and to provide strategic advice to the Director relevant for the overall positioning and competitiveness of the Institute.

#### **Nagulendran Chair in Peace Mediation and Professor of Practice**, Interdisciplinary Programme (Since April 2024 – Present)

In this position, I deliver the course 'Mediation in Conflict Resolution and Political Transitions' in the Interdisciplinary Programme and lecture in the Institute's Executive Education Programme. Key research areas: the political economy of conflict and peace, the economic dimensions of peace mediation, political settlements in cities, and the peace mediation sector, especially with respect to studying how it adapts to changing conflict dynamics and donor landscapes. The Nagulendran Chair in Peace Mediation receives the generous support from the Nagulendran Philanthropy Alliance.

## Past positions

**Advisor to the Director - Strategic Development and Partnerships**, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva (February – June 2021).

**Senior Researcher** (2016-2024) & **Researcher** (2006-2015), Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP), Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva. Past research was supported by a variety of actors, including the EU, OECD, DFID, PRIO, International Council of Swedish Industry, Conciliation Resources, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, the World Bank, and the Institute for Economics and Peace.

**Lecturer**, Interdisciplinary Programmes, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (2020-2024), Visiting Lecture (since 2015).

- Conflict Resolution and Peace Mediation (6 ECTS, 2019-2024)
- Director, Summer Programme *The United Nations in a Changing World* (2 ECTS 2021-2025)
- Business and Security in Fragile States (3 ECTS 2015-2017, 6 ECTS 2018-2021)
- Trade for Peace (6 ECTS in 2022) with Xinyu Yuan and the World Trade Organization.
- The Transformation of Armed Groups (3 ECTS 2016-2017; 6 ECTS 2018-2019)
- Capstone Research Projects, Global Security Track (9 ECTS, 2018-2019), including development of a new management system for 20 Capstone Projects in this track

**Executive Coordinator**, Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, Geneva, Switzerland (March 2011-February 2021). Executive position to drive, fundraise and advance a network of peace professionals, knowledge hub, and incubator. The Platform has a mandate to facilitate interaction on peacebuilding between different institutions and sectors, and to advance new knowledge and understanding of peacebuilding issues and contexts. The Platform is a network-based entity with an annual budget of CHF 1.2 million and the managing secretariat of Geneva Peace Week. It has a core team of five people and additional ad-hoc support staff for activities. As Executive Coordinator, I have shaped various multi-stakeholder processes and initiatives:

- Geneva Peace Week, co-founder and strategic direction, 7 edition from 2014-2020.
- Peace Talks Initiative, co-founder and member of management team with Interpeace and the United Nations Office at Geneva, 2013-2020.
- Beijing-Geneva Digital Briefing on Preventive Diplomacy (September 2020-2021)
- Dialogue on Environment, Climate, Conflict and Peacebuilding (May 2020 - ongoing)
- LATAM Peace and Security Briefings (Jan 2019 – Dec 2020)
- Towards a Geneva Cities Initiative (Jan – Dec 2018)
- Working Group on the Confluence of Urban Safety and Peacebuilding (Jan 2015 – Dec 2017)
- White Paper on Peacebuilding (Oct 2013 – Mar 2015)
- Conflict prevention in the context of large-scale business investments (Jan – Dec 2012)

**Research Coordinator**, Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development, Small Arms Survey, Geneva (Sep. 2007-Sep. 2008; Oct. 2009-Dec. 2010). Research coordinator and co-editor of Global Burden of Armed Violence 2008 involving 8 research teams in 10 countries.

**Project Coordinator**, Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva, June 2001-May 2006. Organization of 9 training courses for young diplomats in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia in the framework of the project “Capacity Building in International Relations in the South Caucasus” supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

**Corporal**, Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Germany, July 1995 - June 1997. Military service at School for Personnel Earmarked for International Assignments, Cologne, Germany; and Generals’ Driver at the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE), Mons, Belgium.

## EDUCATION

- Doctorate in International Relations, Department of Political Science, 2002-2007, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, Switzerland. Thesis title: *Conflict Financing and the Recurrence of Intra-state Armed Conflict*.
- Masters in International Relations, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, 2000-2002 (Diplôme d'Études Supérieures en Relations Internationales)
- Bachelor of Arts in International Relations with Development Studies, 1997-2000, University of Sussex, Brighton, Great Britain
- A-levels (Abitur), German School of Brussels, Belgium, 1982-1995

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

### Current

- Geneva Policy Outlook: Editor (since July 2022).
- Geneva Water Hub, Member of the Advisory Board (since January 2022).
- Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, Advisor to the Organised Crime and Peacemaking (OCPM) initiative (Since September 2024).
- Swiss Alliance for Global Research Partnerships (GRP-Alliance), Member of the Board of Trustees (ad personam, since January 2024).

### Past

- Peace Dividend Initiative, Executive Advisor (2022-2024).
- Swiss PeaceTech Alliance: Member of the Steering Committee (2023-2024).
- Ritsumeikan University, College of International Relations, Kyoto, Japan: Visiting Professor, Spring Semester 2023.
- European Union, External Action Service (EU-EAS): Advisor on the economic dimensions of the conflict in Yemen (since March 2020-2022).
- Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Middle East Africa and Division, Global Relations: Advisor on economic resilience in Yemen. (2021-2022).
- ETH Zürich: Invited Lecturer at the Master of Advanced Studies *Mediation in Peace Processes*. Module on economic dimensions of peace mediation (June 2018, November 2020, June 2022).
- Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime: Expert Network member (2017-2022).
- Global Governance: Editorial Board of *Global Governance: A Review of Multilateralism and International Organizations* (2013-2017)
- Peace Research Institute Oslo, Collaborative for Development Action, Africa Centre for Dispute Settlement: Global Advisory Group on the Business and Peace Research (Jan. 2016 – June 2017).
- World Economic Forum: Global Agenda Council on Fragility, Conflict & Violence (2015- 2016).
- Rockefeller Foundation: Scholars Selection Committee of the Bellagio Residency Programme (January 2010 – July 2014).
- International Council of Swedish Industry: Expert Panel on ‘Leadership for Complex Markets’ (September 2012 – October 2013). Reference Group on ‘Private Sector and Peacebuilding’ (October 2010 – November 2011).
- Inter-Agency Standing Committee Task Team on Funding for Preparedness: Advisory Panel (July 2012 – June 2013).

## Doctoral theses supervision

- External examiner, Alex Graeme Barnes, *Business and Contested Authority in Colombia, 1996-2016*. Department of International Development, Pembroke College, University of Oxford. Defence: 5 December 2022.
- Member of the Adjudication Committee, Mark B. Taylor, *War Economies and International Law: Regulating the Economic Activity of Armed Conflict*. Faculty of Law, University of Oslo. Defence: 14 December 2017.
- External examiner, Irene Costantini, *Statebuilding Versus State Formation: The Political Economy of Transition in Iraq and Libya*. University of Trento, Italy. Defence: 27 April 2015.

## AWARDS

- **International Geneva Award** given of the Swiss Network for International Studies (SNIS) for the research article *Urban political settlements: a new lens for peacemaking in cities*, in *Conflict, Security & Development*, 25(2), 157–183, co-authored by Emilian Berutti. February 2026.
- **Scholarly Residence**, Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Centre, September 2009.
- **Young Researcher Prize**, Awarded by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Paris, and the Process of International Negotiation Network, December 2007.
- **Outstanding Achievement Award**, Harvard Model Congress Europe, 1994.
- **Personality Prize**, Public Speaking Union of Belgium, 1993.

## SELECTED RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- “Assessing the state of peace diplomacy: Towards strategic adaptation”, in the *World Mediation Report* published by the Centre on Conflict and Humanitarian Studies and the Doha Institute of Graduate Studies (forthcoming 2026)
- “Where are the peacemakers? Reinventing peace diplomacy for an era of radical uncertainty”, in *Fletcher Forum of World Affairs* (forthcoming 2026)
- “Making peace through urban political settlements”, in Kieran Mitton, Zoha Waseem and Andrea Varsori (eds) *Handbook on Urban Violence*, Oxford University Press (forthcoming 2026, with Emilian Berutti).
- *Reimagining Multilateralism and the Role of International Geneva: Issues and Options for the Adaptation of a Global Hub*. Special Report, Geneva Policy Outlook. Geneva Graduate Institute (with Prathit Singh, forthcoming 2026)
- *Constructing a Networked Multilateralism Between Addis Ababa and Geneva: Seizing Policy Opportunities*. Special Report, Geneva Policy Outlook. Geneva Graduate Institute (with Solomon Dersso)

## SELECTED MEDIA COVERAGE

- SRF, 10 vor 10, 26 March, [Das internationale Genf droht an Bedeutung zu verlieren](#), Interview contribution (Starts 14min50 sec).
- Deutschlandfunk, 30 June, *Wenig Handlungsspielraum und fast pleite – Existenzkrise der Vereinten Nationen*, Interview.
- Tribune de Genève, 20 August, *Une rencontre Zelensky-Poutine à Genève, c’est possible*, Interview.