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PROGRAMME

# Pierre du Bois Annual Conference 2026

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

*Convened by the Department of International History and Politics in partnership with the Pierre du Bois Foundation for Current History.*

*Supported by the 'Global Governance, Trust and Democratic Engagement in Past and Present' Project (GLO) and the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF).*

Organised by Professor Carolyn Biltoft, Professor Amalia Ribí-Forclaz, and Dr. Thomas Gidney

**Auditorium Ivan Pictet, A1B | Maison de la Paix**

**Day 06 May 2026 | 09:00 – 19:45**

**Day 07 May 2026 | 09:30 – 17:15**

[Register for the Conference](#)

### To Learn More

- [fondation-pierredubois.ch](https://fondation-pierredubois.ch)
- [research.northumbria.ac.uk/glo/](https://research.northumbria.ac.uk/glo/)
- [graduateinstitute.ch](https://graduateinstitute.ch)



## Wednesday 06 May 2026

**8:30 - 9:00 WELCOME AND REGISTRATION**

**9:00 - 9:30 WELCOME NOTE**

- **IRINA DU BOIS**, Fondation Pierre du Bois  
*A welcome to the Conference*
- **DANIEL LAQUA**, University of Northumbria, GLO Project leader  
*An introduction to the GLO project*
- **AMALIA RIBI-FORCLAZ**, Geneva Graduate Institute  
**THOMAS GIDNEY**, Geneva Graduate Institute  
*An Introduction to the Conference*

**9:30 - 9:45 OPENING LECTURE**

- **CAROLYN BILTOFT**, Geneva Graduate Institute  
*Worldly Projections: IOs as (Historical) Good and Bad Objects*

**9:45 - 11:15 PANEL I: LETTERS TO THE WORLD: IO'S AS RECIPIENTS OF IMPOSSIBLE DEMANDS**  
PANEL CHAIR: **ANNE-ISABELLE RICHARD**, Leiden University

- **NICOLE BOURBONNAIS**, Geneva Graduate Institute  
*Dear Dr. Mahler: The World Health Organization and the Moral Guardians of Breastfeeding*
- **PETER GATRELL**, University of Manchester  
*Refugees' Encounters with UNHCR, 1951–1975*
- **DAN GORMAN**, University of Waterloo  
*An Affective History of United Nations Associations in the Anglo-Atlantic World, 1945–1960*

**11:15 - 11:40 Coffee Break**

**11:40 - 13:10 PANEL II: LAW AS PSYCHIC THEATRE: REDEMPTION, BETRAYAL, AND THE LIMITS OF LEGAL FORM**  
PANEL CHAIR: **ILARIA SCAGLIA**, Aston University

- **ALBERTO RINALDI**, Lund University  
*Trauma and Redemption in The Hague: The ICJ, Global South, and the Impossible Quest for Justice*
- **EMANUELE MONACO**, University of Bologna  
*The Unattainable Dream of Equality: Gender, Law, and the Emotional Economies of the League of Nations*
- **Nitzan LEBOVIC**, Lehigh University  
*Complicity and the Future of International Law*

**13:10 - 14:30 Lunch Break**

**14:30 - 16:00 PANEL III: PROJECTION ONTO THE FORUM: FEAR, SOVEREIGNTY, AND THE DELIBERATIVE STAGE**  
PANEL CHAIR: **THOMAS GIDNEY**, Geneva Graduate Institute

- **SAKIKO KAIGA**, Hiroshima University  
*Emotional Collective Security: Fears and Grievances at the International Studies Conference, 1934–1935*
- **JENNIFER FORAY**, Indiana University  
*Of Promises, Projection, and Personal Conflict: Indonesian Decolonization in the Early United Nations Security Council*
- **JAMES MARTELL**, Lyon College  
*America's Foiled Reflections with the UN and NATO*

**16:00 - 16:30 Coffee Break**

**16.30 - 17:30 METHODS ROUNDTABLE: THE PSYCHIC LIFE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

**CAROLYN BILTOFT**, Geneva Graduate Institute  
**AMALIA RIBI-FORCLAZ**, Geneva Graduate Institute  
**ILARIA SCAGLIA**, Aston University

**18:15 - 19:45 KEYNOTE LECTURE**

**JOANNA BOURKE**, Birkbeck University of London  
*Making and Unmaking of Life: The Politics and Psychology of Fear from the 1970s to the Present*

## Thursday 07 May 2026

### 9:30 - 11:00 **PANEL IV: GOOD OBJECT, BAD OBJECT: IDEALIZATION, RIDICULE, AND THE SPLITTING OF INSTITUTIONAL ATTACHMENT**

PANEL CHAIR: BERNARD **KEO**, Geneva Graduate Institute

- JENNIFER **BOND**, University College London  
*Getting 'Closer to the World's Family' vs Exposing 'Undercover Imperialists': Cora Deng and the World's YWCA*
- PAUL **VAN TRIGT**, Leiden University  
*Dreaming for Others: The Emotional Relationship Between the Allies of People with Cognitive Disabilities and the United Nations, 1968-2006*
- DANIEL **QUIROGA-VILLAMARIN**, New York University  
*All Quiet on the Geneva Front: Derso and Kelen's Cartoons of the Psychic Lives of Early International Organizations*

### 11:00 - 11:30 **Coffee Break**

### 11:30 - 13:00 **PANEL V: INSIDE THE INSTITUTION: PERFORMING COMMUNITY, SUSTAINING BELIEF**

PANEL CHAIR: JESSICA **REINISCH**, Birbeck University of London

- ANASTASSIYA **SCHACHT**, Heidelberg University  
*Before the New Day Dawns: Managing Emotions and Inter-Staff Conflicts in the League-UN Transition*
- MARINE **PIERRE** and HAAKON A. **IKONOMOU**, University of Copenhagen  
*Staging Community, Managing Hierarchy: Sociability and Its Contradictions at the League of Nations*
- GORDON **BARRETT**, University of Northumbria  
*Institutional Attachments: UNESCO and the Scientific Internationalism(s) of Lu Gweidjen and Joseph Needham, 1943 - 1995.*

### 13:00 14:30 **Lunch Break**

### 14:30 - 16:00 **PANEL VI: THE IO AS A VESSEL: SANCTUARY, MORAL COSMOLOGY, AND THE DREAM OF PLANETARY CARE**

PANEL CHAIR: DANIEL **LAQUA**, University of Northumbria

- SHEYDA **JAHANBANI**, University of Kansas  
*'The Only Place I Can Go': Garry Davis and the UN General Assembly as a Space of Sanctuary*
- LAURA **CASSIS**, Geneva Graduate Institute  
*Space Technologies, Climate Adaptation, and the Psychic Life of International Organizations*
- FRANCESCO **CORRADINI**, Copenhagen Business School  
*The Psychological Life of Legal Entanglements: The Alcohol Question at the League of Nations*

### 16:00 - 16:30 **Coffee Break**

### 16:30 - 17:15 **Closing Discussion and Remarks**