

ANNUAL REPORT



HOFFMANN CENTRE FOR GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY

SEPTEMBER 2024 – DECEMBER 2025

GENEVA
GRADUATE
INSTITUTE

HOFFMANN
CENTRE
FOR GLOBAL
SUSTAINABILITY

ANNUAL REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2024 – DECEMBER 2025

HOFFMANN CENTRE FOR GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY

Geneva Graduate Institute

Where financial, economic, environmental, and social research converge to equip decision-makers with holistic insights for sustainable, long-term value creation for people and the planet.

CONTACT US

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Report coordination and visual design support: [Jennifer Thornquest, SPEC Collective Consulting](#)

SILENCE DOES NOT ALTER THE SCIENCE

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT US



FOREWORD

A FOUNDATIONAL YEAR

WATCH THE
CENTRE LAUNCH:
23 SEPTEMBER 2024



One year ago, the Hoffmann Centre for Global Sustainability opened its doors. We built on the foundation of the former Center for International Environmental Studies and received an expanded mandate. The case for the Hoffmann Centre rested on a simple conviction: that the sustainability challenges of our time — climate change, biodiversity loss, the green transition, trade in a fragmented world, and the fragile architecture of global governance — demand rigorous scholarship, systemic approaches, and trusted convening power to have impact.

Looking back at the period covered by this report — September 2024 to December 2025 — we are delighted by how much has come together. Research without an audience is not enough. Talk without foundation is not enough. Access to decision-makers alone is not enough. What is needed is a space where scholarship and practice consistently meet, and where those who shape ideas and those who shape policy are in genuine dialogue.

That is the space we have been building. A few highlights: this year, we established our governance, activated an Advisory Board of exceptional calibre, launched our flagship programming, and hosted our first Annual Conference alongside Building Bridges — an event that brought senior researchers, policymakers, and finance leaders from across the globe to Geneva. We launched the Hoffmann Centre Fellows Programme, engaging 22 distinguished academics and practitioners in sustained collaboration with the Centre. We hosted World Economic Forum Fellows at the Institute, co-convened high-level dinners through the Hoffmann Circle, and ran a seminar series that, session by session, filled the Geneva Graduate Institute to capacity.

The communications numbers tell their own story. Our newsletter reaches an audience that opens it at nearly twice the rate of comparable institutions and almost never unsubscribes. Our Centre subscriber list grew from zero to more than a thousand in a single year. These are not just metrics — they are signals that the Centre is already a trusted source for a community that wants to stay connected.

None of this happened by accident. It reflects the extraordinary commitment of our faculty, researchers, and operational team, and the generosity and vision of the Hoffmann Foundation. We are deeply grateful to André Hoffmann and the Foundation for making this Centre possible, and to our Advisory Board for their guidance and engagement.

Looking ahead, we are refining our structure to deepen our impact: moving to a track-based model that concentrates effort, strengthens governance, and ensures that every pillar of the Centre — research, convening, outreach, and community — delivers at the highest level. The groundwork laid in this first year gives us every confidence that what comes next will be even more significant.

We hope this report conveys both the substance of what the Centre has achieved and the ambition that continues to drive it.

THE HOFFMAN CENTRE TEAM



INAUGURATION

- Formal launch of the Building the Ecosystem
- Hoffmann Centre for Global Sustainability on 23 September 2024, with a high-profile public event at the Graduate Institute featuring André Hoffmann, co-Directors Beatrice Weder di Mauro and Dominic Rohner, and Geneva Graduate Institute Director Marie-Laure Salles
- Managing Director Ioana Popp appointed November 2024
- Integration of CIES research portfolio and convened Faculty meetings with affiliated professors in December 2024, March and June 2025
- Advisory Board of 12 senior international figures activated, chaired by André Hoffmann; first meeting held 10 March 2025

BUILDING THE ECOSYSTEM

- Strategic collaboration with Building Bridges in October 2025: four joint events bridging sustainability research and sustainable finance during Geneva Sustainability Week
- Enriching collaborations: Co-hosted event with WWF on Oceans, conducted intensive Nature course at the Villars Institute symposium, WEF Fellows programme hosted in May 2025, participated to the InTent ecosystem convening on the Education Initiative

PUTTING THE CENTRE ON THE MAP

- First HCGS–CEPR Annual Flagship Conference held 1–3 October 2025, organised in parallel with Building Bridges— establishing HCGS as a convener of international standing in its first year
- Media appearances in NZZ, Tages-Anzeiger, Euronews, RTS, Swissinfo, and the Graduate Institute YouTube channel
- 14 active research projects supported by approximately CHF 7.9 million in funding from SNSF, ERC, and SOR4D; 64 publications in 2024, with 62% appearing in A-ranked journals
- Launch of the Hoffmann Advanced Research Seminar Series: six world-class speakers from LSE, Yale, EPFL, Oxford, and Imperial College in Spring 2025 alone

BUILDING A LOYAL, ENGAGED COMMUNITY

- Centre's LinkedIn following grew by over 2000 followers in 2025, with notable growth spikes around Davos, Dominic Rohner's book launch, and the Flagship conference for Global Sustainability
- Newsletter open rate of 48.7% against an industry benchmark of 31.2% — outperforming by 17.5 percentage points; unsubscribe rate of 0.1% (vs 0.23% industry average) demonstrates that the audience chooses to stay
- Centre-specific subscriber list grew from zero to 321 by July 2025 and 1,034 by December 2025, with 86% of new subscribers acquired through events — reflecting strong community-event integration
- Spring 2025 Hoffmann Advanced Research Seminar Series: sessions consistently filled to or near capacity, with strong audience evaluation scores (mostly 4–5/5)
- Launch of the Hoffmann Centre Fellows Programme with 22 external fellows appointed from institutions including Imperial College London, Potsdam Institute, University of Oxford, LSE, EPFL, and University of Lausanne
- Hoffmann Circle inaugural dinner held 2 December 2024, establishing a confidential, high-trust dialogue format for senior sustainability leaders

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1. MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS AND KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The Centre in 2024–2025

Four strategic achievements define this first year:

RESEARCH EXCELLENCE | GLOBAL CONVENING POWER

01

BUILDING THE ECOSYSTEM

The Centre established itself as a convening hub at the heart of International Geneva, forging active partnerships with Building Bridges, the World Economic Forum, WWF, the Villars Institute. Through 20+ events, co-hosted initiatives, and participation at Davos, HCGS connected researchers, policymakers, and practitioners across sectors and borders. The Fellows Programme launched with 22 external fellows

02

BUILDING A LOYAL, ENGAGED COMMUNITY

High retention across all channels signals genuine relevance. A newsletter unsubscribe rate of 0.1% — less than half the industry norm — and a subscriber list that grew from zero to 1,034 by year end speak to a community that keeps coming back. Spring seminars filled to capacity. The Hoffmann Circle held its inaugural high-level dinner followed by four more in 2025.

03

PUTTING THE CENTRE ON THE MAP

Within its first year, HCGS achieved significant international visibility. The inaugural Flagship Conference co-organised with CEPR drew world-leading scholars and senior decision-makers to Geneva. The LinkedIn following grew by 1600+, newsletter open rates reached 48.7% — well above the industry benchmark — and media coverage spanned NZZ, Euronews, RTS, and Swissinfo.

04

ABOUT THE CENTRE

EXPLORE HCGS
WEBSITE



THE CENTRE'S DUAL MISSION

- Conduct cutting-edge academic research on the complex interactions between natural, economic, social, legal and political systems
- Inform, through research and outreach, decision-making on global sustainability for a peaceful, equitable and sustainable world for current and future living communities

2. ABOUT THE HOFFMANN CENTRE FOR GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY

In September 2024, the Hoffmann Centre for Global Sustainability (HCGS) was established with the generous support of the Hoffmann Foundation. This new research centre represents a natural and positive evolution from the Centre for International Environmental Studies (CIES), building upon its strong legacy while expanding its focus and impact. The HCGS emerges as a leading research and policy hub in Europe, dedicated to advancing integrated sustainability that is both nature-positive and socially equitable.

Founded in 2010, CIES served as the Geneva Graduate Institute's primary centre for research on environmental issues, focusing on the social, legal, economic, and political dimensions of global environmental challenges, particularly in the context of international relations and North-South dynamics. The transition to the HCGS marks a significant step forward in addressing the growing complexity of global sustainability. The HCGS aims to further elevate academic research on the intricate interactions between natural, economic, social, legal, and political systems, while influencing global decision-making and action toward a peaceful and equitable future for all communities.

The Centre's expanded mission reflects a broader and more integrated scope. It addresses critical sustainability challenges across governance and the international order; peace and trade in a fragmented global economy; financial systems and sustainable finance; climate change and biodiversity loss; nature and food security; the transformation of energy systems; and the geopolitics and supply chains of critical minerals essential to the green transition.

This broader mandate recognises that these domains are deeply interconnected. The Centre therefore approaches sustainability not as a sectoral agenda, but as a systemic challenge requiring rigorous analysis, cross-disciplinary perspectives, and sustained engagement with policy and market actors.



3. GOVERNANCE AND STAFFING

The Centre in 2024–2025



MANAGEMENT OF THE CENTRE



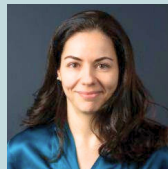
Beatrice Weder di Mauro

HCGS Co-Director
since September 2024



Dominic Rohner

HCGS Co-Director
since September 2024



Ioana Popp

HCGS Managing Director
since November 2024

HOFFMAN CENTRE ADVISORY BOARD



André Hoffmann

Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors, Roche Holding Ltd.

Grethel Aguilar

Director General, International Union for Conservation of Nature

Brende Borge

President and Chief Executive Officer, World Economic Forum

Sandrine Dixson-Declève

Former President, Club of Rome

Marco Dunand

Chief Executive Officer and CoFounder, Mercuria Energy Group

Naoko Ishii

Executive Vice President, University of Tokyo

Michel Jarraud

Former Secretary General, World Meteorological Organization

Andréa Mächler

Deputy General Manager, Bank for International Settlements

Claude Martin

Former Director General, WWF International

Julia Marton-Lefèvre

Chair, Villars Institute Foundation

Maria Mendiluce

Chief Executive Officer, We Mean Business Coalition

Arnold Kreihuber

Regional Director, UN Environment Programme's Europe Office in Geneva

3. GOVERNANCE AND STAFFING

The Centre in 2024–2025

CENTRE RESEARCHERS

In 2024–2025, the research staff was composed of

- 2 Postdocs in Peace and Conflict
- 1 Postdoc in Trade
- 1 Pre-doc in Peace and Conflict
- 2 Pre-docs in Climate and Nature
- 1 Pre-doc in Trade

Research projects brought together

3 Postdoctoral researchers

Aliki Semertzi

Diego Silva

Simon Lobach

9 PhD Research Assistants

Portia Karegeya | Yuchen Zhou

Jael Tan | Genevieve Sekumbo

Matteo Ficarra | John Paulraj

Agnese Zucca | Arne Olesen

Ayse Nihal Yilmaz

3 Predoctoral researchers

Marco Matani

Francesco Tripoli

Chen Yu Shen

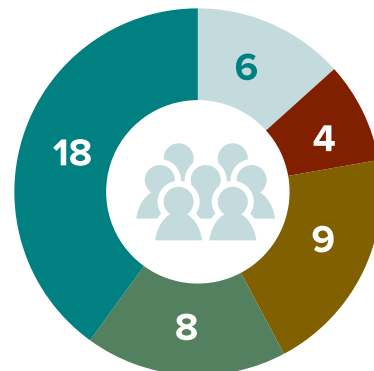
3 other staff

Administration
and Communications

Asheleigh Anderfuhren

Lucile Mougeat

Isabel Garcia Godoy



- Faculty Members
- Administration Team
- Predocctoral Researchers
- Postdoctoral Researchers
- PhD Research Assistants

FACULTY MEMBERS

Beatrice Weder di Mauro

Dominic Rohner

Liliana Andonova

Julia Cajal Grossi, Hoffmann Chair

Timothy Swanson, Hoffmann Chair

Imelda, Hoffmann Chair

Johannes Boehm

since October 2024

Filipe Calvão

Christophe Gironde

James Hollway

Minhua Ling

Lucile Maertens

Joelle Noailly

Alice Pirlot

Marc Hufty

Shaila Seshia Galvin

Anne Saab

Umut Yildirim

RESEARCH & SCHOLARLY OUTPUTS

EXPLORE ALL HCGS
RESEARCH PROJECTS



EXPLORE ALL HCGS
PUBLICATIONS



4. RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY OUTPUT

4.1 Selected High-Impact Publications

THE ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF THE SECOND TRUMP ADMINISTRATION: A PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT

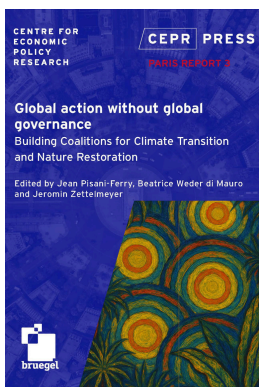


EDITORS: GARY GENSLER, SIMON JOHNSON, UGO PANIZZA, BEATRICE WEDER DI MAURO (EDS)

CEPR Press First edition June 25, Second edition : December 2025

This book draws on rich historical anecdotes and cutting-edge academic evidence to outline the 'peace formula' – a set of key policies that are crucial ingredients for curbing armed conflict and achieving transition to lasting peace and prosperity. These policies include providing jobs (work), democratic participation (voice), and guaranteeing the security and basic functions of the state (warranties). Investigating specific political institutions and economic policies, this book provides the first easily accessible synthesis of this work and explains how 'smart idealism' can help us get the incentives of our leaders right. The stakes could hardly be higher.

GLOBAL ACTION WITHOUT GLOBAL GOVERNANCE: BUILDING COALITIONS FOR CLIMATE TRANSITION AND NATURE RESTORATION

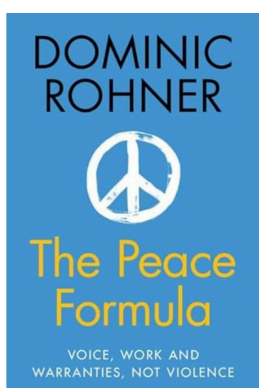


EDITORS: JEAN PISANI-FERRY, BEATRICE WEDER DI MAURO, JEROMIN ZETTELMEYER (EDS)

CEPR Press June 2025

Global Action Without Global Governance: Building Coalitions for Climate Transition and Nature Restoration, is the second output from the ITCEI initiative. It is a response to a sobering geopolitical reality: that the multilateral order is faltering just as the urgency to address climate change and biodiversity loss reaches a critical juncture. This third volume in the CEPR Paris Report series departs from conventional approaches by proposing a new architecture of international cooperation: one that does not rely on universal consensus, but instead builds momentum through coalitions of willing actors. The report contends that success in climate and nature restoration now hinges on emerging and developing economies, and it offers a pragmatic strategy to align global environmental goals with national economic interests.

THE PEACE FORMULA: VOICE, WORK AND WARRANTIES, NOT VIOLENCE



AUTHOR: DOMINIC ROHNER

Cambridge University Press October 2024

This book draws on rich historical anecdotes and cutting-edge academic evidence to outline the 'peace formula' – a set of key policies that are crucial ingredients for curbing armed conflict and achieving transition to lasting peace and prosperity. These policies include providing jobs (work), democratic participation (voice), and guaranteeing the security and basic functions of the state (warranties). Investigating specific political institutions and economic policies, this book provides the first easily accessible synthesis of this work and explains how 'smart idealism' can help us get the incentives of our leaders right. The stakes could hardly be higher.

4. RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY OUTPUT

4.2 Active Research Projects Managed by the Centre : Overview

The Centre maintained an active portfolio of research projects throughout 2024–2025, funded by various external sources including the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), the European Research Council (ERC), and the Solution-oriented Research for Development (SOR4D).

RESEARCH PROJECTS



4.3 Ongoing Research Projects

PROJECT TITLE

Synthetic Lives: The Futures of Mining

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Filipe Calvão

Associate Professor, Anthropology and Sociology, Geneva Graduate Institute

Timeline:

April 2021 – April 2026

Project Description

The global extractive industry is undergoing three critical transformations: the advent of synthetic or lab-grown minerals, the creation of fully automated mining operations, and the introduction of digital data and disintermediation technologies for mining management and traceability. This project responds to these changing conditions with a novel conceptualisation of the emergent relationship entangling synthetic and natural objects, humans and machines, material and digital spaces.

Funding Organization: European Research Council

Budget: EUR 1.5 million

PROJECT TITLE

Accounting for Nature: Agriculture and Mitigation in the Era of Global Climate Change

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Shaila Seshia Galvin

Associate Professor
Anthropology and Sociology
Geneva Graduate Institute

Project Description

This project examines how the mitigation of agricultural greenhouse gases is emerging as a sphere of knowledge and an arena of management through the development of accounting practices and protocols.

Timeline: September 2021 – August 2026 (extension)

Funding Organization: Swiss National Science Foundation

Budget: CHF 811,818

PROJECT TITLE

Critical Minerals and the Clean Energy Transition

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Joëlle Noailly

Senior Lecturer,
International Economics,
Geneva Graduate Institute

Project Description

The overall objective of this research project is to examine policy solutions to mitigate disruptions in the supply of critical minerals for the clean energy transition. Research explores the geopolitical and environmental challenges in the supply of minerals such as lithium, cobalt, and nickel.

RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

Ayse Nihal Yilmaz, Miao Da, Fábio Bentz Maciel, Pedro Cayul, Soupama Maji, Milena Sassi

Timeline: October 2023 – September 2027

Funding Organization: Swiss National Science Foundation

Budget: CHF 810,723

CO-PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS

Gerard van der Meijden
Steven Poelhekke

4.3 Ongoing Research Projects, continued

PROJECT TITLE

PANARCHIC: Power and Networks and the Rate of Change in Institutional Complexes

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

James Hollway

Associate Professor
International Relations and
Political Science
Geneva Graduate Institute

RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

Henrique Sposito, Jael Tan

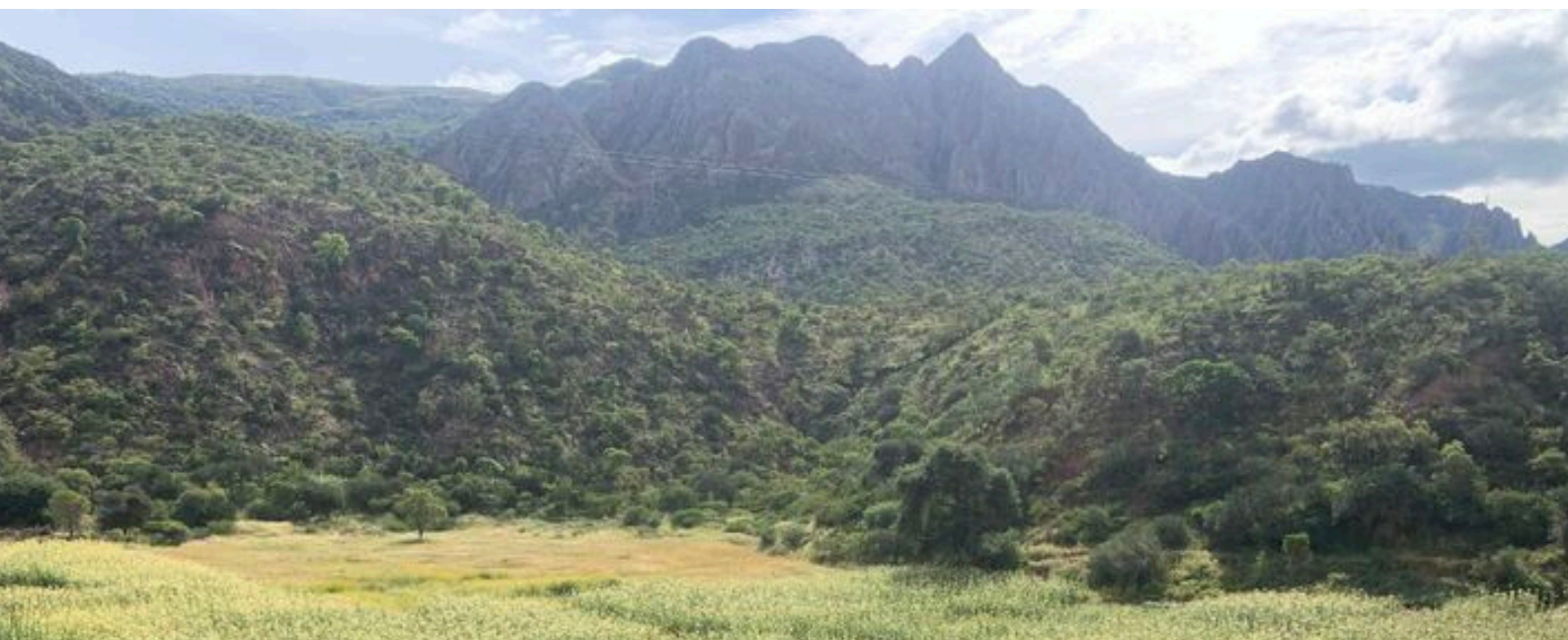
Project Description

The project studies the effects of network and power on how quickly states join, reform, or create international institutions by examining the historical dynamics of three institutional networks from different domains: military alliances (security), trade (economics), and fisheries agreements (environment).

Timeline: September 2021 – August 2026

Funding Organization: Swiss National Science Foundation

Budget: CHF 695,961



PROJECT TITLE

Environmental Protection and Economic Growth: Challenges and Opportunities

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Matteo Ficarra

PhD Candidate
International Economics,
Geneva Graduate Institute

Project Description

This research project examines the economic and environmental impact of green public spending. Understanding the effectiveness of these large and unprecedented investments in reducing emissions and protecting the environment, as well as the extent to which they can have an impact on the economy, is crucial to tailor government action against climate change.

Timeline: September 2023 – August 2026 (extension)

Funding Organization: Swiss National Science Foundation

Budget: CHF 125,503

4.3 Ongoing Research Projects, continued

PROJECT TITLE

SCALAGRO - Scaling Agroecology

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Christophe Gironde

Timeline:

April 2024 – March 2027

Project Description

SCALAGRO investigates the conditions under which agroecological practices can be scaled across different geographical and institutional contexts, with field sites in India, Bolivia, and Burkina Faso.

Funding Organization:

SNSF / SOR4D

Budget: CHF 873,773



PROJECT TITLE

Hired Eyes: Incentives and Compliance in Supply Chain Auditing

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Julia Cajal-Grossi

RESEARCH ASSISTANTS TBD

Timeline: July 2025 – ongoing

Funding Organization: Various

Project Description

Social compliance auditing in global supply chains faces a fundamental principal–agent problem: when facilities pay for their own assessments and select the audit implementation company that evaluates them, structural conflicts of interest can undermine the credibility of compliance reporting. Drawing on proprietary longitudinal data from the largest independent third-party auditor in textile supply chains, this project investigates how audit allocation rules, payment structures, and oversight mechanisms shape auditors' reporting behavior and the reliability of information on labor standards.

4.3 Ongoing Research Projects, continued

PROJECT TITLE

Emotions and International Law

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Anne Saab

Associate Professor,
International Law,
Geneva Graduate Institute

Timeline:

September 2023 – August 2027

Project Description

The central objective of this research project is to open up a new field of study on emotions and international law and thereby to help adapt the field of international law to addressing today's complex global problems.

Funding Organization: Swiss National Science Foundation

Budget: CHF 708,081



PROJECT TITLE

What Drives Compliance? Monitoring, Accountability, and Labor Standards in Global Garment Supply Chains

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Julia Cajal-Grossi

RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

Rodrigo Chenú

Project Description

The governance of labor standards in global supply chains relies heavily on social compliance monitoring, a system in which factories are periodically assessed against national laws and international labor standards and supported through advisory and training services to remediate violations. Using a unique longitudinal dataset from one of the largest monitoring and improvement programs in the garment sector, this project examines how compliance outcomes evolve across countries and factories over time, and how monitoring, advisory interventions, and public reporting influence sustained improvements in labor standards.

Timeline: July 2025 – ongoing

Funding Organization: International Labour Organization

4.3 Ongoing Research Projects, continued

PROJECT TITLE

COUNTING CARBON: THE SHAPING OF LOW-CARBON LANDSCAPES AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN COLOMBIA

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Shaila Seshia Galvin

Geneva Graduate Institute

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Laura Gutierrez Escobar

Pontificia Universidad Javeriana

Timeline: Jan 2023 - Dec 2024

Budget: CHF 45,880

Project Description

This project examines how climate-change mitigation programmes reshape socio-environmental relations in Colombia under a nature-based solutions (NBS) framework. Focusing on two major carbon emissions reduction programmes — Visión Amazonía (linked to reducing deforestation) and Biocarbón (linked to changes in agrarian practices) — the research investigates how carbon accounting transforms landscapes, governance, and environmental justice. research and decision-making communities. The project addresses two central questions: Do carbon-accounting practices subject diverse socio-ecological relations to homogenising forms of quantification? How do these programmes reconfigure socio-environmental relations in ways that may either jeopardise or enhance environmental justice?

Funding Organization: Leading House for the Latin American Region, University of St. Gallen



PROJECT TITLE

ACCOUNTABILITY OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Liliana Andonova

RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

Agnese Zucca, Nina Kiderlin, Arne Olesen, Giada Giacomini, Gergana Dimova

CONTRIBUTORS

Simon Montfort, Christian Jian, Antoine Pawletta

Project Description

This project developed a new theoretical framework demonstrating that accountability is not a static feature but an evolving system, shaped by institutional design and political dynamics. The research focused on five international organizations including the ICRC, UNICEF, the World Bank, the IMF, and the WHO selected for their structural and contextual diversity. Key outcomes include a peer-reviewed article accepted for publication in International Theory and comparative empirical analyses of major international organizations.

Timeline: September 2019 - February 2025

Funding Organization: Swiss National Science Foundation

4.3 Ongoing Research Projects, continued

PROJECT TITLE

LITHIUM NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN SOUTH AMERICA AND EUROPE: TOWARDS A NETWORK AND RESEARCH AGENDA FOR A SUSTAINABLE AND JUST ENERGY TRANSITION

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Marc Hufty

Geneva Graduate Institute

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Martin Obaya

Timeline: Jan 2022 - Dec 2024

Budget: CHF 45,880

Project Description

This project examined the relationship between the global energy transition and social and environmental justice, focusing on negotiations between the European Union and major lithium-producing countries in Latin America — Argentina, Bolivia, and Chile. In the context of the European Green Deal and the European Battery Alliance, the research analysed how efforts to build a European lithium battery industry may reproduce unequal relations between producer and consumer regions and longstanding extractivist dynamics. The project mapped stakeholders, interests, and governance challenges along the lithium commodity chain and consulted a broad range of civil society, scientific, policy, and corporate actors to strengthen research networks and inform socially relevant policy agendas.

Funding Organization: Leading House for the Latin American Region, University of St. Gallen



PROJECT TITLE

GREEN DEALINGS? - NEGOTIATING LITHIUM BETWEEN SOUTH AMERICA AND EUROPE FOR BATTERIES THAT FUEL A JUST ENERGY TRANSITION

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

SWITZERLAND

Marc Hufty

Geneva Graduate Institute

Co-PI: Morgan Scoville-Simonds

RESEARCH ASSISTANT:

Jonas Niederberger

Project Description

This project developed a new theoretical framework demonstrating that accountability is not a static feature but an evolving system, shaped by institutional design and political dynamics. The research focused on five international organizations including the ICRC, UNICEF, the World Bank, the IMF, and the WHO selected for their structural and contextual diversity. Key outcomes include a peer-reviewed article accepted for publication in International Theory and comparative empirical analyses of major international organizations.

Timeline: July 2021 - December 2023

Funding Organization: Swiss National Science Foundation

Budget: CHF 266,000

4.4 Projects Launched in September 2024 – December 2025

PROJECT TITLE

Global Value Chains and Spatial Frictions in the Labor Market: Evidence from Bangladesh

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Julia Cajal-Grossi

RESEARCH ASSISTANT:

Lucia Maldonado

Timeline: Sept 2024 -- ongoing

Budget: CHF 754,216

Project Description

This project combines theory and empirical analysis to answer the question: are cities in developing countries reaching their full potential for labour market connectivity in exporting sectors? The research hypothesises that distance-dependent informational frictions and highly localised urban labour markets are important barriers to the distribution of benefits from Bangladesh's participation in garment global value chains (GVCs). By quantifying this barrier, the research identifies policy instruments best suited to creating functional urban labour markets that benefit from international trade.

Funding Organization:

Fonds National Suisse (FNS)

PROJECT TITLE

BATTERY PASSPORT FOR RESILIENT SUPPLY CHAIN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF CIRCULAR ECONOMY (BASE)

BASE COORDINATOR:

Sahin Jamali, Fraunhofer

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS

Marc Hufty

Morgan Scoville-Simonds

RESEARCH ASSISTANT:

Jonas Niederberger

Timeline: Jan 2025 - May 2027

Budget: CHF 1,071,505

Project Description

This project examines how the European Commission's Digital Battery Passport (DBP) can improve transparency, sustainability, and material traceability across the battery life cycle. Led by the Fraunhofer Research Institution for Energy Infrastructure and Geothermal Systems (IEG) and supported by a multinational consortium of research and private-sector partners, the project develops a system that tracks battery "State of Health," supply chains, manufacturing processes, and material composition in a decentralised and tamper-proof data infrastructure. The Geneva Graduate Institute contributes by analysing the social, economic, governance, and environmental dimensions of battery supply chains, in collaboration with partners across Europe and South America.

Funding Organization:

European Commission under the Horizon Europe programme

4.5 Projects Launched in September 2024, continued



TRADE AND COMPARATIVE DEVELOPMENT IN THE LONG RUN

RESEARCHERS

Johannes Böhm

Professor, International Economics
Geneva Graduate Institute

Thomas Chaney

University of Southern California

Danial Lashkari

Federal Reserve Bank of New York

Project Description

The project investigates how trade shapes long-run growth through two dynamic channels not captured by standard trade models. Subproject A studies technology diffusion through trade networks from antiquity to the medieval period, using ML-extracted museum artifact data to measure material culture and coin hoard data to estimate trade flows, embedded in a quantitative spatial model of trade and endogenous growth. Subproject B studies how Arab–Eastern European silver trade contributed to the formation of the first Polish state (c. 960 AD), using digitized medieval coin hoards to estimate trade barriers and market access, combined with a structural model of trade and endogenous state boundaries. Main output will be two research papers and a conference.

Timeline: January 2026 – December 2029

Funding Organization: Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)

ASSESSING THE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS OF SOUTH AFRICA'S ELECTRICITY CRISIS

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Professor Imelda at the Department of Economics, Geneva Graduate Institute

Timeline: March 2026 – December 2030

Funding Organization: Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)



Project Description

Reliable electricity is essential for everyday life and a well-functioning economy, but many countries still face regular power shortages. Despite how widespread these issues are, we still don't fully understand what causes them or how they affect people and businesses. When these shortages become severe or prolonged, they can lead to an electricity crisis, with far-reaching social, economic, and environmental consequences. This project, led by Professor Imelda at the Department of Economics, Geneva Graduate Institute, will investigate the root causes and consequences of electricity crises by analyzing supply disruptions in the power sector, examining how firms and individuals adapt, and estimating the broader economic and environmental impacts. Using South Africa's serious electricity shortages and access to unique, anonymized tax data, the study will provide a micro-founded analysis with macroeconomic implications, offering insights for policies aimed at building a more resilient and sustainable electricity grid.

4.5 Projects Launched in September 2024, continued

WORKSHOP ON THE “DYING SEAS: THE INTERSECTION OF CAPITAL, SOVEREIGNTY, AND LOGISTICS IN THE MARITIME CRISIS.



WORKSHOP RESEARCH PRESENTERS

Umut Yildirim
Edyta Rozko
Andrea Muehlebach
Liam Campling
Asli Odman
Femke Vulto
Jatin Dua
Nikolas Kosmatopoulos
Karin Ahlberg
Surabhi Rangadan
Marta Gentilucci
Raffaele Maddalena
Amir Ahmadi
Gopalan Balachandran

Project Description

This workshop will address the issue of dying seas. The modern marine environment is in a critical state, facing a multitude of challenges that are putting its vital systems under pressure. On the one hand, oceans are being monetised, converting thriving ecosystems into quantifiable fish supplies and financial obligations. On the other, the expansive network of global logistics is changing coastlines and sea lanes, sometimes under the banner of blue growth, but causing new forms of pollution and displacement. This workshop is based on the need for a cross-disciplinary conversation to untangle this complex web.

Timeline: This two-day event is scheduled for 10-11 September 2026

Funding Organization: SNF Scientific Exchange

Budget: 9900 CHF

4.6 Research Project Events

The following events were organised directly in connection with active HCGS research projects during 2024–2025:

- Seed Stories Film Screening (7 November 2024)
- Accountability of International Organisations (12 February 2025)
- Emotions in International Law (21 February 2025)
- The Future of Global Governance: Data and Data in the Future of Global Governance (4–5 June 2025)
- Counting Carbon: the Shaping of Low-Carbon Landscapes and Environmental Justice in Colombia (17–19 June 2025)
- Scaling Agroecology in India, Bolivia and Burkina Faso (17 October 2025)
- Synthetic Lives Documentary Screening (23 October 2025)
- Challenges and Successes in the Energy Transition (2 December 2024)
- Policy Roundtable: Counting Carbon – Natural Climate Solutions, Low-Carbon Landscapes, and Environmental Justice (10 December 2024)



TEACHING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

5. TEACHING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Hoffmann Advanced Research Seminar Series

The Hoffmann Advanced Research Seminar Series is a curated programme of academic seminars featuring top international scholars.

Cattle Supply Chains and Deforestation in Brazil | 25 February 2025

Matthieu Stigler (Université de Genève)

How Does Government Funding Fuel Scientists? | 13 March 2025

Eugenie Dugoua (LSE & CEPR)

Intensive Nature Seminar | 14-16 March 2025

Seminar in Villars, led by Prof. Beatrice Weder di Mauro

Virtual Power Plants & Emissions Reduction | 18 March 2025

Mirabelle Muuls (Imperial College London)

Pricing Job Priorities in Coal Communities | 20 March 2025

Michael Aklin (EPFL)

Cascading Change in Non-Targeted Firms | 27 March 2025

Matthew Amengual (Oxford University)

Endogenous Degrowth and Environmental Sustainability | 3 April 2025

Michael Peters (Yale University)

Tech Clinic – Programming in Julia | 10 October 2025

Marko Milkota (Geneva Graduate Institute)

Hoffmann Advanced Research Seminar Series Continued

SEMINAR HIGHLIGHT INTENSIVE NATURE SEMINAR

From March 14th - 16th, 2025, students of the Master of Advanced Studies in Sustainable Finance and Development participated in an enriching Intensive Nature Seminar in Villars, led by Prof. Beatrice Weder di Mauro. This hands-on course, offered by the Institute's Centre for Finance and Development, delved into financial mechanisms for biodiversity conservation and climate adaptation.



Students explored critical topics such as Payments for Ecosystem Services, biodiversity offsetting, and blue carbon credits. The seminar featured insights from three expert guest lecturers and included a guided walk in the Alps to observe climate adaptation in mountain ecosystems.

Hoffmann Advanced Research Seminar Series Continued

SEMINAR HIGHLIGHT

A THEORY OF ENDOGENOUS DEGROWTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

On 3 April 2025, The Centre welcomed Professor Michael Peters to present his co-authored research on how structural change and consumer preferences can drive environmentally sustainable growth. The theory of endogenous degrowth suggests that as economies evolve, innovation shifts from quantity to quality—lowering environmental impact without sacrificing welfare. Key insights included the potential of green growth, the role of policy and trade, and the social implications of quality-led development.



SEMINAR HIGHLIGHT

TECH CLINIC – PROGRAMMING IN JULIA, A COMPUTATIONALLY FAST AND ENERGY-SAVING SOFTWARE.

The Centre's faculty have contributed to students' training and teaching through the Master's programmes at the Geneva Graduate Institute. Faculty teach a wide range of students from various disciplines, including students from the interdisciplinary Master in International and Development Studies (MINT) and disciplinary programmes including Anthropology and Sociology, International Economics, International History and Politics, International Law and International Relations/Political Science. This one-day Tech Clinic was taught by Prof. Marko Mlikota, Assistant Professor in Economics at the Geneva Graduate Institute, PhD UPenn, covering programming in Julia, a computationally fast and energy-saving software.





ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

6. ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

Convened and Hosted by HCGS

CENTRE LAUNCH: 23 SEPTEMBER 2024



The Hoffmann Centre for Global Sustainability formally launched on 23 September 2024 with a high-profile event "Why Global Sustainability?" at the Geneva Graduate Institute. The event featured a discussion on André Hoffmann and Peter Vanham's book "The New Nature of Business," followed by an engaging panel discussion.

Why Global Sustainability?

Launch of the Hoffmann Centre for Global Sustainability

Panel Discussion

André Hoffmann, Vice Chairman, Roche Holding

Patrick Odier, President, Swiss Sustainable Finance and Chairman, Building Bridges

Dominic Rohner, André Hoffmann Chair in Political Economics and Governance and Co-Director of the Hoffmann Centre for Global Sustainability, Geneva Graduate Institute

Marie-Laure Salles, Director, Geneva Graduate Institute (Moderator)

Mark Salway, Chief Operations Officer, International Union for Conservation of Nature

Béatrice Weder di Mauro, André Hoffmann Chair of Global Economics, Climate and Nature Finance and Co-Director of the Hoffmann Centre for Global Sustainability, Geneva Graduate Institute



6. Engagement and outreach, continued



HCGS-CEPR FLAGSHIP CONFERENCE: 1-3 OCTOBER 2025

The Centre's First Annual Conference, co-organised with CEPR, marked a defining moment in the Centre's first year. Held 1-3 October 2025 alongside the Building Bridges conference and as the anchor event of a Geneva Sustainability Week, the conference brought together world-leading economists, policymakers, finance leaders, and sustainability practitioners for three days of high-level exchange — demonstrating the Hoffmann Centre's capacity to convene the conversations that matter.

The programme was built around the Centre's core thematic pillars — climate and nature, peace and conflict, and global sustainability issues — with dedicated sessions co-designed with Building Bridges to bridge academic research and the sustainable finance community. The Grand Finale session, 'The Rise of Populism and Sustainability', was opened to all Building Bridges participants and drew a standing-room audience to the Graduate Institute Auditorium.



6.2. BUILDING BRIDGES COLLABORATION

In October 2025, the Hoffmann Centre and Building Bridges ran their flagship events alongside one another, creating a landmark collaboration in International Geneva. With the Hoffmann Centre bringing academic leadership on sustainability and Building Bridges driving action on sustainable finance, the partnership offered four joint moments where research excellence and capital met for impact:

- 30 Sept 2025, Action Event: 'Pricing Nature on the Balance Sheet' – Co-organised event at CIGG
- 1 Oct 2025, Joint Plenary: 'Building Bridges and Coalitions for Climate Transition and Nature Restoration' – Speaker exchange at the Graduate Institute Auditorium
- 2 Oct 2025, Building Bridges Closing Ceremony: 'COP30, the Road to Bélem' – Speaker exchange at CIGG
- 3 Oct 2025, Hoffmann Centre Grand Finale: 'The Rise of Populism and Sustainability' – Open to Building Bridges participants at the Graduate Institute

Full details of the collaboration are available at: buildingbridges.org

BUILDING BRIDGES 2025 30 SEPT–2 OCT GENEVA		GENEVA GRADUATE INSTITUTE		HOFFMANN CENTRE FOR GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY	
30 Sept, 16:00–17:00 Action Event Pricing Nature on the Balance Sheet Co-Organisers Room E, Level 3, CIGG	1 Oct, 17:00–18:00 Joint Plenary Building Bridges and Coalitions for climate transition and nature restoration Speaker Exchange Auditorium Ivan Pictet, Graduate Institute	2 Oct, 17:15–18:30 Building Bridges Closing Ceremony COP30, The Road to Belem Speaker Exchange Plenary Room A, CIGG	3 Oct, 11:45–13:00 Hoffmann Centre Grand Finale The Rise of Populism and Sustainability Followed by a light aperitif Open Access Auditoire Jacques Freymond, Graduate Institute		



6.3 HOFFMANN LECTURE AND CIRCLE DINNERS

The Hoffmann Lecture Series provides a public engagement platform for global thought leaders in sustainability. The Hoffmann Circle is a curated, high-level network of interdisciplinary collaborators and systems-change practitioners convened by the HCGS to foster high-level, informal dialogue at the frontier of sustainability research and practice.

- 2 December 2024, "Challenges and Successes in the Energy Transition" by Prof. Mar Reguant.
- 10 March 2025, "The Peace Formula" book launch, by Dominic Rohner
- 27 November 2025, The Adaptation Economy, by Simon Zadek

Advisory Board Meetings: 10 March 2025 and 6 October 2025

The two inaugural meetings of the Advisory Board of the Hoffmann Centre for Global Sustainability, held on 10 March and 6 October 2025, marked an important milestone in strengthening the Centre's strategic trajectory and global engagement. As a strategic advisory body rather than a governing board, members provided independent, high-level guidance to the Centre's leadership on long-term vision, priority research themes at the climate–nature nexus, partnership development, and pathways to impact. The March meeting focused on shaping strategic priorities and positioning the Centre for influence across policy, finance and philanthropy, while the October meeting reviewed progress and offered constructive challenge on implementation, impact measurement, cross-disciplinary collaboration, and the scaling of flagship initiatives. Together, the meetings established a strong foundation for sustained strategic counsel and external connectivity in support of the Centre's mission.

Book Launch: 18 June 2025, *The Economic Consequences of the Second Trump Administration: A Preliminary Assessment*, co-edited by Beatrice Weder di Mauro, Co-Director of the Centre and President of CEPR

Bringing together contributions from 40 leading economists, the book provides a timely, evidence-based analysis of the domestic and global economic implications of policy shifts in the United States, including trade, fiscal policy, deregulation, climate policy, and multilateral cooperation. The volume assesses risks to growth, financial stability, and the rule-based international order, while offering early insights to inform policymakers navigating heightened uncertainty and global economic fragmentation.

Policy Seminar: Alexander Raabe, 21 May 2025

Alexander Raabe (Asian Development Bank) delivered a policy-focused presentation based on his co-authored paper, *Investment Funds and Biodiversity Risks: Pricing Nature in Financial Markets* (with Daniel te Kaat, University of Groningen), examining how investment funds identify, assess and manage biodiversity-related risks, and highlighting the implications for regulators and asset managers seeking to integrate nature into financial decision-making.

6.6 WWF, AGA KHAN FOUNDATION, HCGS PHOTO EXHIBITION: MARINE ENCOUNTERS, 23 SEPTEMBER 2025

On 23 September 2025, the Hoffmann Centre for Global Sustainability co-hosted “**Our Living Ocean: Solutions for a Productive and Resilient Ocean**” at the Geneva Graduate Institute, bringing together leading voices in conservation, finance, and policy to explore pathways toward a sustainable blue economy. The event featured an exclusive underwater photography presentation by Prince Hussain Aga Khan from his exhibition *Marine Encounters*, alongside contributions from WWF’s Jessica Battle and Beatrice Weder di Mauro. Through inspiring visuals and interactive discussion, the evening highlighted science-based fisheries management, habitat protection and restoration, community-led conservation, and the critical role of nature finance in safeguarding ocean biodiversity while supporting resilient coastal communities and long-term economic sustainability



6.7 MARCO LAMBERTINI BOOK LAUNCH: 6 OCTOBER 2025

On 6 October 2025, the Hoffmann Centre for Global Sustainability co-hosted a special presentation of the landmark volume *Becoming Nature Positive: Transitioning to a Safe and Just Future*, in partnership with the Nature Positive Initiative. Held at the Geneva Graduate Institute, the event convened global leaders from business, finance, and policy — including André Hoffmann, Marco Lambertini, Akanksha Khatri, and Beatrice Weder di Mauro — to reflect on pathways toward a nature positive economy. The evening featured an exclusive preview of the forthcoming *Becoming Nature Positive* documentary (2026), followed by a book signing and a private dinner with Advisory Board members and invited guests, fostering deeper dialogue on accelerating collective action for a safe and just transition.



6.8 THE RISE OF THE ADAPTATION ECONOMY: 26 NOVEMBER 2025

On 26 November 2025, the Hoffmann Centre for Global Sustainability convened a high-level panel discussion, “*The Rise of the Adaptation Economy – From Financing Gap to Investment Arena*,” at the Geneva Graduate Institute. Building on a report launched at COP30 in São Paulo and developed with partners including Fundação Getulio Vargas (FGV), the Paulson Institute, Instituto Itaúsa, and Basilinna, the event explored how policy frameworks and market design can shift adaptation from a financing gap to a scalable investment opportunity. André Hoffmann, Simon Zadek, Jennifer Blanke, and Beatrice Weder di Mauro examined how to mobilise private capital, reward business innovation in adaptation solutions, and accelerate the development of resilient, affordable responses to climate risk.



6.9 SANS TRANSITION: UNE NOUVELLE HISTOIRE DE L'ÉNERGIE (26 NOVEMBER 2024), IN COLLABORATION WITH THE CITY OF GENEVA

As part of Climate Week 2024, the Hoffmann Centre for Global Sustainability co-hosted a public lecture with historian Jean-Baptiste Fressoz on his latest book, *Sans transition. Une nouvelle histoire de l'énergie*. Challenging the conventional narrative of linear energy “transitions,” Fressoz argued that modern industrial history has been characterised not by replacement, but by the accumulation and interdependence of energy sources. Moderated by Alice Pirlot and organised in partnership with the Institute’s Sustainability Initiative, the City of Geneva, TESS, and the Student Environmental Committee, the event fostered critical reflection on the myths of transition and the structural challenges facing genuine decarbonisation, followed by an open discussion and reception.

6.10 STUDENT BODY AND INTERNAL COORDINATION

Sustainability Week Switzerland 2025

During Sustainability Week Switzerland 2025, the Hoffmann Centre for Global Sustainability contributed to two student-led events organised by the Environmental Committee of the Graduate Institute: *When Climate Meets Conflict – The Socio-Economic Fallout of Climate Shocks and Agricultural Change* (18 March 2025) and a film screening in partnership with the Festival du Film Vert (20 March 2025).

Through its involvement, the Centre supported interdisciplinary dialogue on the social, economic, and legal dimensions of climate change, fostering critical reflection on climate-related conflict, agricultural transformation, environmental justice, and the broader societal implications of ecological transition.

Research Festival at the Institute

On 13 May 2025, the Hoffmann Centre for Global Sustainability participated in the **Graduate Institute's Research Festival**, an afternoon dedicated to showcasing the breadth and collaborative spirit of research across the Institute. The Centre contributed to discussions among staff on the implications of current geopolitical disruptions for research agendas and explored opportunities for strengthened cross-centre collaboration. Through its engagement in the festival's exchanges and networking sessions, the Hoffmann Centre highlighted the importance of interdisciplinary, policy-relevant research to address complex global sustainability challenges.

Geneva Exhibition: Education and the SDGs / Education in Genève Internationale (July 2025)

In July 2025, the Hoffmann Centre for Global Sustainability contributed to NORRAG's public exhibition *Harnessing Education for the SDGs: Mapping International Geneva's Impact* at the Rotonde du Mont-Blanc. The exhibition highlighted the central role of education in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals, from climate literacy and environmental stewardship to social inclusion and peacebuilding. Through its participation, the Hoffmann Centre underscored the importance of integrating sustainability and nature-positive thinking into education and research, supporting efforts to translate academic knowledge into accessible, action-oriented insights for policymakers, practitioners, and the broader public.

Young Activists Summit YAS Awards (November 2025)

In November 2025, the Hoffmann Centre for Global Sustainability contributed to the Geneva Graduate Institute's ongoing partnership with the Young Activists Summit (YAS) by co-hosting a screening of *Blue Carbon* at the Maison de la paix, followed by a panel discussion with 2025 YAS laureates. Moderated by Ioana Popp, the event highlighted the practical, solution-oriented leadership of young changemakers working at the intersection of human rights and environmental protection. Through this collaboration, the Centre reinforced its commitment to empowering youth leadership, fostering dialogue between activists and students, and bridging academic engagement with real-world environmental action.

Decoding COP30: Bridging the Gap Between Climate Science and Policy Outcomes

In December 2025, the Hoffmann Centre for Global Sustainability contributed to Decoding COP30: Bridging the Gap Between Climate Science and Policy Outcomes, an event organised by the Environmental Committee that combined documentary film and policy dialogue to unpack the outcomes of COP30 in Belém. Following a screening of *Decoded Climate* by ScienceEscape, which uses audiovisual storytelling to make complex climate science accessible, Ioana Popp joined a high-level expert panel to critically assess the political results of the negotiations. The discussion explored the persistent disconnect between scientific urgency and diplomatic outcomes, addressing climate finance, gender dynamics in negotiations, and the future of the UNFCCC process, while encouraging informed student engagement with the realities of multilateral climate governance.

6.11 BOOK LAUNCHES



BOOK LAUNCH — THE PEACE FORMULA: VOICE, WORK, AND WARRANTIES, NOT VIOLENCE | 10 MARCH 2025 | GENEVA

The Centre celebrated the launch of Professor Dominic Rohner's latest book exploring innovative approaches to conflict prevention and sustainable peace. The event featured keynote remarks by Professor Rohner, followed by a high-level discussion with Professor Gilles Carbonnier and Katia Papagianni. Bringing together scholars, practitioners, and policy actors, the launch fostered exchange on evidence-based strategies for addressing the root causes of violence and strengthening pathways to peace.



REPORT LAUNCH — THE ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF THE SECOND TRUMP ADMINISTRATION 18 JUNE 2025 | GENEVA & ONLINE

The Centre hosted the launch of a major new CEPR volume examining the domestic and global economic implications of policy shifts under the second Trump administration. Co-edited by Professors Beatrice Weder di Mauro and Ugo Panizza alongside leading international economists, the report brings together contributions from 40 experts to assess risks related to trade, fiscal policy, deregulation, climate governance, and multilateral cooperation. The event provided a timely platform for dialogue on global economic uncertainty and the future of the rules-based international order.

ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH



Convened and Hosted by HCGS



- Panels
- Seminars
- Public Events
- Book Launches





COMMUNICATIONS

GENEVA
GRADUATE
INSTITUTE

7. COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC PRESENCE

The Centre's communications strategy has shown strong growth across all channels since launch in September 2024.

LINKEDIN

In 2025, the Hoffmann Centre's LinkedIn presence experienced significant growth. The year began with 3,080 followers and ended with 4,695, representing a net increase of 1,615 followers (approximately 52% growth).

Growth was particularly notable around key moments in the Centre's annual calendar, including activities surrounding the World Economic Forum in Davos, the launch of Dominic Rohner's book, and the Hoffmann Centre's Flagship Conference on Global Sustainability. These milestones helped expand the Centre's digital reach and visibility within global sustainability and policy networks.



3080

Starting Followers
JAN 2025

4695

Ending
Followers
DEC 2025

Total New
Followers:

1,615

+52.4%

Increased
Growth

WEBSITE

The Hoffmann Centre's homepage (graduateinstitute.ch/hcgs) attracted more than 7,000 pageviews in 2025, while overall website content generated over 25,000 interactions.

Event-related pages were among the most visited sections of the site. The Flagship Conference event page received more than 3,400 visits, and the All Events page ranked as the third most visited page on the Centre's website. This pattern reflects the central role of events in driving digital engagement and connecting the Centre's work with its broader community.



7,000 Pageviews

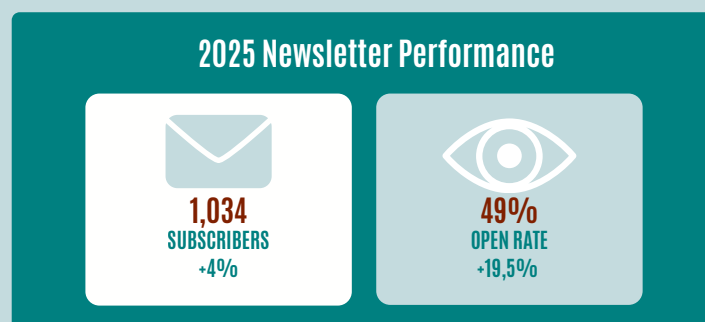
25,000+ INTERACTIONS

7. COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC PRESENCE

NEWSLETTER (MAILCHIMP)

The Hoffmann Centre distributes newsletters and event invitations through the Graduate Institute's Mailchimp system. The Graduate Institute Mailchimp account has approximately 6,600 subscribers; the Centre-specific list grew to 321 subscribers by July 2025 and 1,034 by December 2025. Approximately 86% of new subscribers were acquired through events, demonstrating strong integration between the Centre's convening activities and its communications channels.

Across campaigns, the newsletter achieved an average open rate of 48.7%, significantly exceeding the industry benchmark of 31.2%, while maintaining a very low unsubscribe rate of 0.1% (compared to the industry average of 0.23%). These indicators suggest strong audience engagement and sustained interest in the Centre's activities



BLUESKY

The Centre established a presence on the Bluesky platform in 2025, with 63 followers, 14 accounts followed, and three posts published. Activity on this platform has been temporarily paused while the Geneva Graduate Institute develops a broader institutional presence on Bluesky.

8. FELLOWS AND COMMUNITY BUILDING

8.1 LAUNCH OF THE HOFFMANN CENTRE FELLOWS PROGRAMME

In 2025, the Hoffmann Centre formally launched its Fellows Programme, establishing a structured framework for academic and practitioner affiliation. The programme builds a strong international community that regularly interacts with the Centre, positioning it on a global stage while cultivating a local community rooted in the Swiss ecosystem.

The Fellows Programme comprises two categories of internal affiliates and three categories of external fellows:

INTERNAL AFFILIATES

HCGS Faculty Associates: Graduate Institute Professors invited to bi-annual Faculty Associate meetings and to academic and social events.

HCGS Internal Affiliates: Loose affiliation status for non-professors from the Graduate Institute, as well as previous PhD students and alumni who are invited to selected events.

EXTERNAL FELLOWS

The Centre appoints a limited number of external fellows across three categories, with an initial cap of approximately 30 fellows to ensure quality and exclusivity:

Senior HC Fellows: Internationally renowned academics in the fields of environment, climate economics and governance. Fellows receive priority invitation to the Hoffmann Centre Flagship Conference, speaking engagement opportunities at the Graduate Institute, and support for collaborative research.

HC Léman Fellows: Internationally well-established scholars located in the wider Geneva area working on environment, climate economics and governance. Fellows receive invitations to all Geneva-based HCGS events, opportunities to present research in HCGS seminars, and access to Graduate Institute facilities.

HC Honorary Fellows: Experienced local and international practitioners who are committed to engaging with the Centre and participating in its activities. Fellows receive invitations to all Geneva-based HCGS events and access to Graduate Institute facilities. Fellows are appointed for a 2-year term, renewable based on engagement. The first round of appointments was proposed by the co-directors, with future nominations open to all academic members of the Hoffmann Centre.

8.2 INTERNAL AFFILIATES

HCGS Faculty Associates: Graduate Institute Professors invited to bi-annual Faculty Associate meetings and to academic and social events.

HCGS Internal Affiliates: Loose affiliation status for non-professors from the Graduate Institute, as well as previous PhD students and alumni who are invited to selected events.

17 AFFILIATED
FACULTY

Faculty Affiliates

Beatrice Weder di Mauro	Minhua Ling
Dominic Rohner	Lucile Maertens
Liliana Andonova	Joelle Noailly
Julia Cajal Grossi	Alice Pirlot
Timothy Swanson	Marc Hufty
Imelda	Shaila Seshia Galvin
Filipe Calvão	Anne Saab
Christophe Gironde	Umut Yildirim
James Hollway	

Internal Fellows

Sofia Simone	Alison Le France
Etienne Le Rossignol	Simon Lobach
Hanna Pacht	Mar Reguant
John Paulraj	

36 INTERNAL
& EXTERNAL
FELLOWS

8.3 SENIOR HC FELLOWS

Senior HC Fellows – Appointed 2025

Internationally renowned academics in environment, climate economics and governance

- Patrick Bolton, Imperial College London
- Estelle Cantillon, Université Libre de Bruxelles
- Ottmar Edenhofer, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research
- Eric Lambin, University of Louvain & Stanford University
- Jim Leape, Stanford Center for Ocean Solutions
- Frederick van der Ploeg, University of Oxford
- Mar Reguant, Northwestern University

8.4 HC LÉMAN FELLOWS

HC Léman Fellows – Appointed 2025

Well-established scholars in the wider Geneva area working on environment, climate economics and governance

Michele Pellizzari, Université de Genève
 Jérémy Laurent-Lucchetti, Université de Genève
 Salvatore Di Falco, Université de Genève
 Matthieu Stigler, Université de Genève
 Sébastien Houde, Université de Lausanne
 Rafael Lalive, Université de Lausanne
 Marius Brühlhart, Université de Lausanne
 Dzhamilya Nigmatulina, Université de Lausanne
 Garen Markarian, Université de Lausanne
 Patrick Gaulé, University of Bristol
 Nina Von Uexkull, University of Konstanz
 Michaël Aclin, EPFL
 Eugenie Dugoua, London School of Economics

8.5 HC HONORARY FELLOWS

HC Honorary Fellows – Appointed 2025

Experienced practitioners committed to engaging with the Centre

Marco Lambertini, Nature Positive Initiative Convener
 Simon Zadek, Morphosis / NatureFinance – Founder & Managing Partner

8.6 RESEARCH FELLOWS (2024–2025)

The following visiting and research fellows contributed to the Centre's academic community during the reporting period:

Gergana Dimova, Senior Research Fellow, 2024
 Eugénie Dugoua, Senior Visiting Fellow (LSE & CEPR), 2024
 Björn-Ola Linnér, Senior Visiting Fellow, 2024
 Antonio Barchi, Junior Visiting Fellow, 2024
 Stefano Porfido, Junior Visiting Fellow, 2024
 Simon Lobach, Internal Fellow / Postdoc, Sept–Dec 2025
 John Paulraj, Internal Fellow, Sept 2025–Aug 2026



LOOKING AHEAD

MISSION, STRATEGY AND STRUCTURE 2026

9.1 DELIVERING RESEARCH, POLICY IMPACT, AND GLOBAL REACH

Since becoming operational one year ago, the Hoffmann Centre for Global Sustainability has rapidly expanded beyond its original ambitions. What began as a focused initiative has evolved into a dynamic platform for research collaboration, policy engagement, and global outreach. This early success now calls for a strategic adjustment: refining the Centre's mission, streamlining its structures, and aligning resources with a higher level of ambition. The next phase aims to consolidate what works, scale impact, and ensure that the Centre is well positioned to deliver lasting value to partners and donors.

OUR MISSION

The Hoffmann Centre for Global sustainability addressed challenges of climate change, nature loss, global governance upheaval, and the breakdown of rules and trust. We do this by supporting cutting-edge scholarship, connect it to decision-makers, and convene trusted spaces where academics, policymakers, and practitioners can jointly address today's most pressing sustainability challenges. By acting as a hub within the Léman ecosystem and beyond, the Centre amplifies ideas, builds trust, and helps shape solutions with real-world relevance. By bringing together these elements we act as multiplier of ideas and impact through strategic partnerships and global outreach.

9. LOOKING AHEAD

9.2 OUR STRATEGIC PILLARS

Leveraging cutting-edge research through partnerships

01

The Hoffmann Centre builds on the research excellence of the Graduate Institute while deliberately extending its reach through external collaboration. Rather than duplicating efforts, the Centre leverages established research networks to maximise impact.

A cornerstone of this approach is close collaboration with the Center of Economic Policy Research (CEPR), whose environmental, climate, and energy research programmes provide global visibility and deep policy traction. Joint initiatives — including the flagship conference — has demonstrated how combining CEPR’s policy networks with the Graduate Institute’s interdisciplinary strength can create high-impact research. An example is collaboration with CEPR’s Program on «Reducing Conflict and Improving Performance in the Economy», which links economic performance, environmental risks with conflict. These partnerships ensure that donor support translates directly into research that travels — across institutions, borders, and policy arenas.

02

Policy relevance and impact

Policy relevance is central to the Hoffmann Centre’s mission, be actively connecting research to those shaping policy and practice. The Centre maintains close engagement with decision-makers, regulators, business leaders, and international organisations, ensuring that research insights inform real choices. Flagship initiatives such as the Hoffmann Centre Circle Dinners provide confidential, high-level settings where evidence meets experience and where dialogue can lead to action. Donor support enables the Centre to sustain these trusted formats, expand participation, and translate research into policy-relevant outputs that matter.

A hub for the Léman sustainability ecosystem

03

The Hoffmann Centre plays a unique hub role in the Léman region — one of the world’s densest concentrations of international organisations, NGOs, academic institutions, and global initiatives on sustainability.

The Centre actively connects with platforms such as Building Bridges, the Villar Institute, The Club of Rome, and the World Economic Forum, creating bridges between research, finance, policy, and implementation. It also fosters a vibrant intellectual community through advanced research seminar series, establishing the Léman Fellows, and Honorary Fellow appointments that bring senior practitioners into sustained dialogue with scholars and students. This hub function ensures that donor contributions support not just individual projects, but an ecosystem that multiplies impact.

Global outreach and visibility

04

The Hoffmann Centre ensures that ideas reach the arenas where global agendas are shaped. Through participation in inTent at Davos and other international forums and conferences, the Centre brings rigorous research into high-level discussions on sustainability, governance, and trust-building. By convening sessions, contributing expertise, and partnering with global actors, the Centre helps translate research into narratives and solutions that resonate beyond academia. Our aim is to establish a global presence and an ability to influence debates at scale.

9. LOOKING AHEAD

9.3 A STREAMLINED STRUCTURE FOR AN EXPANDED AMBITION

After one year of operation, the Hoffmann Centre has reached a scale and visibility that go beyond its original design. Activities now span multiple research domains, policy communities, and global platforms. To sustain momentum while ensuring focus and accountability, the Centre will move to a streamlined, track-based structure that aligns leadership, resources, and delivery.

This structure is designed to:

- Concentrate effort around a small number of high-impact priorities
- Leverage internal expertise and external networks simultaneously
- Ensure predictable, high-quality outputs each year
- Strengthen governance while remaining agile

HOFFMANN CENTRE TRACKS (5 THEMATIC PILLARS)

At the core of the new structure are Hoffmann Centre Tracks. Each Track serves as a platform that brings together internal faculty, external research networks (notably CEPR), policymakers, and practitioners to develop a coherent agenda at the intersection of research excellence and policy relevance.

ROLE OF THE TRACKS

Each Track is expected to:

- Develop and maintain a research and policy agenda
- Contribute one session to the Hoffmann Centre flagship conference each year
- Organise one Hoffmann Centre public lecture annually
- Actively participate in the Advanced Research Seminar Series
- Nominate external Hoffmann Centre Fellows (senior practitioners or leading researchers)
- Allocate a small discretionary budget, notably to support PhD research project applications and early-stage research collaboration.

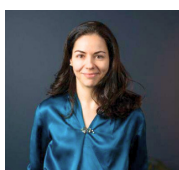
9. LOOKING AHEAD

9.4 NEW GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP



Director Beatrice Weder di Mauro

Provides strategic direction, external representation, and overall academic leadership of the Centre.



Managing Director Ioana Popp

Oversees operations, staffing, coordination across projects and tracks, delivery of events, budget execution, fundraising and relations with inTent and donor.

HOFFMANN CENTRE TRACKS LEADS



Peace and Conflict

Lead: Dominic Rohner (until Sept 2027)



Climate and Nature

Lead: Beatrice Weder di Mauro



Governance and Institutions

Lead: Liliana Andonova



Trade and Sustainability

Lead: Julia Cajal



History of Rules

Lead: Rui Esteves

HOFFMANN CENTRE FOR GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY

WHERE FINANCIAL, ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND SOCIAL RESEARCH
CONVERGE TO EQUIP DECISION-MAKERS WITH HOLISTIC INSIGHTS FOR
SUSTAINABLE, LONG-TERM VALUE CREATION FOR PEOPLE AND THE PLANET.

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HOFFMANN CENTRE FOR GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY

Maison de la paix

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