

Research Bulletin

Upcoming events, latest publications and other research activities

18 August 2026 (no. 7, 2026)

Upcoming Research Events

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Friday

GGC
Lucas Perez Florentino
& Anna Leander |
Playful Design, Playful
Politics: Making
International Relations
Differently?
08:00–18:00 P1-847

[See all events >](#)

Gateway to Publications by Themes



Human Rights,
Humanitarianism,
Justice &
Inclusion



Arts,
Culture &
Religion



Gender,
Diversity,
Race &
Intersectionality



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Gateway to Other Relevant Information



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Upcoming
PhD Defences



Publications by Themes



Human Rights, Humanitarianism, Justice & Inclusion



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ARTICLE

Genocide by Killing: International Humanitarian Law and the Identification of Underlying Acts

Paola Gaeta examines whether the legal assessment of killings under international humanitarian law (IHL) bears upon the determination of genocide by killing members of a protected group under Article II(a) of the Genocide Convention (in *Journal of International*

Criminal Justice, online July 2026). While the Convention applies equally in time of peace and war, not all killings in armed conflict are prohibited under the rules of IHL governing hostilities. This raises the question whether, in the context of an armed conflict, only unlawful killings under IHL may qualify as underlying acts of genocide, or whether the notion of “killing” under Article II(a) remains autonomous from its qualification under the IHL. The author moves from the position of the International Court of Justice in the *Croatia v. Serbia* genocide case, where the Court appears to suggest that killings of members of the protected group resulting from attacks not deliberately directed against civilians may fall outside the scope of Article II(a). She argues that this approach risks introducing an IHL-based filter into the definition of genocide and conflates intentional killing and the IHL prohibition of deliberate attacks against civilians. She further examines the two possible theoretical premises underpinning this approach and demonstrates that neither provides a convincing basis for it. The author further demonstrates that conditioning the identification of the underlying acts of genocide upon their prior assessment under IHL entails systemic consequences. It risks fragmenting the application of the prohibition of genocide depending on the applicable IHL framework, in light of the differences between international and non-international armed conflicts. It also risks displacing the central element of genocide — namely, the intent to destroy a protected group — by shifting the analytical focus from the purpose of the conduct to its classification under IHL. The author concludes that the prohibition of genocide retains an autonomous normative function, centred on the protection of groups as such, which cannot be

subordinated to the regulatory logic of IHL.

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

ARTICLE

The International Community as Victim of Crime against Cultural Heritage at the ICC: A Critical Appraisal

The international community, while being mysterious and elusive, is playing an increasingly significant role in modern-day international law. The International Criminal Court (ICC) took an innovative step to formally recognize the international community as a victim of crimes committed against cultural heritage, yet many crucial conceptual questions remain unexplained by the Court and underdiscussed in scholarship. This article by **Liyu Wu**, PhD Researcher in International Law, critically examines the idea of the international community, per se, being a victim under the ICC system from different angles (in *Journal of International Criminal Justice*, online July 2026). First, this article briefly recalls the limited existing discussion on the international community's victimhood and a selected set of discussions on the diversification of victimhood phenomena to underline the special difficulties in the international community's key features. Secondly, this article explores the legal basis of the international community's victimhood, including its (in)compatibility with the statutory definition of victim in the ICC context and the justifying rationale behind it; it further examines the limited potential such victimhood could realistically have in ICC proceedings, especially in reparations, and explores its autonomous contribution to justice. Thirdly, this article pays special attention to the question of 'representation' of the international community, which is a necessary precondition to the realization of such victimhood in the courtroom. While the ICC contends that the international community "is best represented by UNESCO", this article argues that such "representation" is not self-evident, entails inherent difficulties in its assessment, and risks placing overly heavy reliance on an external "representing" body. This article theorises the difficulties in "realising" the international community's victim status as mainly the fundamental mismatch between its conceptual nature and the premise of the design of the ICC regime on victims. It calls for greater caution, as well as rigour, in the recognition of the international community's victimhood in future practice.

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

ARTICLE

Inequality and Social Unrest in India

Mathieu Couttenier, Jeremy Laurent-Lucchetti and **Lore Vandewalle** show that inequality can lead to social unrest in rural India (in *World Development*, vol. 205, September 2026, online April 2025). They develop a theoretical framework in which civilians rationally engage in social unrest to oppose the (unfair) distribution of surplus by the elite. Their model predicts that the likelihood of observing social unrest in a village increases with the sum of distances between the (log) average and the lowest incomes. They test this prediction using unique microdata on bank account information covering 2,197 Indian villages. Guided by their theoretical framework, they propose an instrumental variable strategy based on the idea that positive water shocks disproportionately benefit the highest incomes in a village. Their analysis then shows that a 10% increase in their inequality measure leads to a 6.5% rise in the unconditional probability of social unrest in a given village and month.

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

The article was previously published as a [working paper](#) of the Geneva Graduate Institute's International Economics Department.

PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL LAW, 2026

Competition among International Courts and Tribunals

This research adopts a novel concept — social ecology — to study the relationships among international courts and tribunals (ICTs). Social ecology refers to a social environment that consists of a set of actors who share a common pool of resources and interact with each other. Drawing on this concept, **Zelin Li** understands ICTs as actors who employ strategic measures to

compete for resources in the international judicial community. Accordingly, she asks three research questions: first, what are the conditions for inter-court competition to take place? Second, how have ICTs engaged in competition, both inside and outside the courtroom? And third, to what extent have the dynamics of inter-court competition influenced the judicial and legal orders of the international community? While inter-court competition may have specific, and thus varying, conditions depending on the circumstances, these conditions are invariably rooted in the fundamental features of the international legal structure. The fact that international law is a decentralised system, where actors struggle to gain dominance and cultivate recognition by their respective audiences, is a driving force for competition. Therefore, the central argument of this research is that competition is an indispensable part of the relationships between ICTs. It also illustrates the power dynamics of the international judicial community, and more specifically, the fact that inter-court competition is essentially a “wrestling match” between institutions vying for power, that gives rise to uneven distribution of resources and ultimately leads to a social hierarchy within the international judicial community.

[Read more about Dr Li's thesis in this interview.](#)

[Repository](#) (as the thesis is embargoed until May 2029, please [contact Dr Li](#) for access).



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Arts, Culture & Religion



UNESCO, *A Report on Race Relations in Brazil*, *Courier*, vol. 5, no. 8–9, August–September 1952, p. 1.

PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL HISTORY AND POLITICS, 2026

From the Field to the Self: Ethnopsychology and the Politics of Culture Contact, 1930–1980

Joshua Ben Klein traces the concept of “culture contact” and its epistemic and political consequences for the human and social sciences in the middle of the twentieth century. From the consolidation of acculturation as a research

category in American anthropology in the 1930s, through its translation into international social science in the 1950s, and to its reformulation in French debates on applied anthropology and ethnopsychiatry in the 1970s, his thesis follows the biography of a contested idea: How did this formerly colonial and politically charged concept create a supposedly neutral yet highly normative framework and inform both applied and reflexive projects in nascent decolonisation? The thesis uses the field of acculturation studies and the discourse of “culture contact” as a lens through which it historicises a body of knowledge at the intersection of anthropology and the psychodisciplines: ethnopsychology. It does not tell the origin story of a new discipline but argues that the politics of culture contact became — and ceased to be — a privileged forum for the discussion of the use of psychological methods in anthropology and beyond. It demonstrates how subject formation and self-observation came to be seen as resources for the human and social sciences, as they were negotiated across ethical and epistemological registers.

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



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Gender, Diversity, Race & Intersectionality



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ARTICLE

Defending Gender Equity and Scientific Integrity in the Face of White House Executive Order 14168: Why the SAGER Guidelines Matter

One of the Trump administration's first executive orders, issued on 20 January 2025, was framed as an effort to defend women from "gender ideology extremism". It defines sex as binary and attempts to erase gender as a scientific topic of

inquiry. **Shirin Heidari**, Senior Researcher at the Gender Centre, and Thomas F. Babor argue that these efforts are unscientific and unrealistic (in *American Journal of Public Health*, online July 2026). In contrast to the White House's contention that sex is strictly binary, they point out that human gonadal development is more complicated and multifaceted, and that gender shapes exposure to health risks, access to care, interactions with health workers, resource allocation, and service availability within health systems, ultimately affecting health outcomes. The denial of gender as a scientific concept undermines decades of work toward evidence-based standards such as the Sex and Gender Equity in Research (SAGER) guidelines, which aim to strengthen scientific rigor by systematically integrating sex and gender analyses. More importantly, such measures are detrimental to the health of all populations, as neglecting sex and gender dynamics compromises evidence, skews public health responses, and deepens inequities.

[Article's page.](#)

ARTICLE

A Tribunal Only in Name: Anarchic Sensibilities at the International Tribunal on Crimes Against Women, 1976

In March 1976, around 2,000 women from 40 countries arrived at the Palais des Congrès in Brussels to participate in the first International Tribunal on Crimes against Women. Explicitly positioning themselves against the United Nations-led "International Year of the Woman", the organisers and participants of the tribunal proclaimed a global sisterhood — to be achieved through the sharing of personal experience and by testifying against the litany of patriarchal crimes committed against women. **Nivedita Joon**, PhD Researcher in International Relations and Political Science, analyses the proceedings of the Brussels Tribunal to recover a fractious episode of the transnational feminist movement of the 1970s (in *History*, online June 2026). She argues that by examining how the participants navigated their deep-seated feminist disagreements, the Brussels Tribunal complicates our understanding of the politics of sisterhood and identity politics in the international women's movement. She also explores the controversies surrounding the event and the revolt against the organisers to understand how the anarchic sensibilities and praxis of the participants were productive for generating an alternative feminist vision.

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

PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL HISTORY AND POLITICS

Familles publiques ou familles privées: les politiques familiales sous le regard de la presse brésilienne (1930-1945)

This thesis (in French) by **Clara Silveira** aims to trace the discourse surrounding the image of Brazilian families in the press from 1930 to 1945. This discourse evolved over the centuries and crystallised with the arrival of Getúlio Vargas' government in 1930. Families then became the focus of national concern, as society underwent transformations that were noticeable from the end of the 19th century with the abolition of slavery and continued with the emergence of the European eugenics discourse and the rise of feminist organisations. Families found themselves at

the centre of state policies that sought to promote the image of the Brazilian national family. A family that was closer to the ideal of the white bourgeois family. However, Brazilian society, with its different social classes and mixed population, did not correspond to the ideal promoted by the state. This research therefore focuses on the different types of Brazilian families that coexist in the cities of Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, starting from the central question: what is a family? The study of press discourse on Brazilian families touches on various topics, such as choosing the ideal partner to start a family, the roles assigned to each one, the issue of intimacy and sexuality within couples. Furthermore, the author examines the evolution of the discourse between the traditional family and the modern Brazilian family.

[Read more about Dr Silveira's thesis in this interview.](#)

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



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Democracy & Civil Society



Alexandros Michailidis/Shutterstock

MONOGRAPH

Defending Democracy in the European Parliament: An Institutional Drama

In recent years, far-right political parties have grown in influence not only in the domestic politics of such countries as Hungary, Brazil, and the United States but also in international institutions ranging from the United Nations Human Rights Council to the European Union. Have these international platforms contributed to the rise of

the far right in liberal democracies? **Christin Tonne**, alumna and Postdoctoral Researcher at the Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy, examines the far right's role in the European Parliament and the institution's response (Princeton University Press, July 2026). A former aide to a member of the European Parliament, she provides a rare insider's view of the far right's ascent in that organisation. Drawing on three years of ethnographic research — observations and interactions in corridors, meetings, and plenary sessions — she traces how the far right seamlessly integrated into EU politics, often with the support of mainstream political parties. Many of Europe's far-right parties, including the French National Rally and Alternative for Germany, incubated at the EU level, using the European Parliament as a laboratory for experimentation with far-right ideas and as a springboard for a new, more self-assured and ambitious generation of far-right leaders. Exploring the responses of the Parliament's traditional political factions, the author traces the emergence of a quiet yet persistent opposition movement as the institution tries to defend itself and its mission. Her account raises important questions about the ongoing normalisation of far-right politics at the EU level and beyond

[Publisher's page.](#)

This book is based on Christin Tonne's [PhD thesis \(2022\)](#) and incorporates substantial updates and follow-up research carried out as part of the [project](#) in which she is currently involved.

ARTICLE

Comparison-Making towards Empire's End: Algeria and Native Americans in Postwar French Letters and Comics about the United States

With the decline of the European empires, decolonisation, and the rise of the US empire, comparisons became ever more vital for people to understand their times. **Cyrus Schayegh** studies a fourfold comparison set that postwar Frenchmen and -women developed about the US

(in *Comparativ*, vol. 35, no. 1-2, 2025, online January 2026). Algeria was key to comparing the French with the American empire. The US nation-state-settler-colony was a lens onto French Algeria. Native Americans informed thinking about France's relationship with Algerians. And Native Americans' ambiguous depiction mirrored fears about France in a US-dominated world. This case helps study how historical actors use comparisons in three ways. First, here, actors' comparison set included not just two polities but also third parties: Algeria and/or Native Americans. Second, the comparison set's key polities, America and France, were not uni-dimensional. Rather, America was three things at once that were being glued together (a nation-state, settler colony, and empire), and France, four things becoming unglued (a polity dominated by the US; a nation-state; a nation-state-settler-colony [French Algeria]; and an empire). This multidimensionality complicated comparison-making. And third, while French comparison-makers had their own mind, they were influenced by how postwar Americans were rethinking the US and its past, too.

[DOI](#).



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Education, Information & Media



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ARTICLE

"Through Teaching I Found Myself Again": The Role of Self-Efficacy in Rohingya Refugee Teachers' Motivation to Teach in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

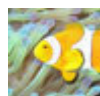
Teacher shortages and working conditions are linked to a global "teacher motivation crisis", while teachers' pedagogical capacity often explains a "global learning crisis". These tensions are acute

in conflict-affected contexts, where teachers' work conditions are associated with burnout and high attrition. Yet little evidence exists on refugee teachers who often teach without pre-service training, all the while navigating profound liminality in their lives. To examine how this reality shapes refugee teachers' commitment to the teaching profession, this study of Rohingya refugee teachers ($n=301$) in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, investigates the relationship between teachers' experiences of self-efficacy and their motivation to teach (in *Compare: A Journal of Comparative and International Education*, online July 2026). **Chris Henderson**, Education in Emergencies Specialist at NORRAG, finds that self-efficacy ($B=0.51$, $p<0.001$) is positively and significantly associated with teacher motivation. However, Rohingya narratives reveal how a more complex repatriation agenda underpins their commitment. Moreover, gendered differences in how self-efficacy is experienced highlight the inherently political and humanistic foundations of teaching.

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



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Sustainability, Environment, the Anthropocene & SDGs



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ARTICLE

Certification and Credibility: Do Seed Certification Systems in Uganda Help Signal Quality to Farmers?

The value of purchased seed is a product of its underlying genetic information. However, farmers purchasing seed face a classic information asymmetry problem, as varietal identity is not directly observable. Nicholas Tyack, Martina Bozzola, **Tim Swanson** and Helena Ting

investigate the effectiveness of two certification systems in addressing this issue in the context of Uganda: the formal certification system (predominantly private sector) and the FAO's quality declared system (certification for seed produced mainly by farmers' groups) (in *Journal of Agricultural Economics*, vol. 77, no. 1, February 2026). Using a large, nationally representative panel dataset spanning 13 growing seasons, and controlling for time-invariant household and plot-level unobservables, they find that cultivating purchased quality declared improved seed results in measurable yield increases relative to saved seed. Surprisingly, however, certified improved seed is shown to provide no yield benefits over seed saved from previous seasons, despite its higher cost. These findings suggest that input heterogeneity and information asymmetry in seed markets may be key constraints to the successful diffusion of improved maize varieties in Uganda, and that the formal seed certification system may not have provided an adequate signal of seed quality to farmers during the time period covered by the panel.

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

ARTICLE

The Environmental Impact of Multinational Firms in Africa

Whereas environmental conditions are improving in many developed countries, environmental degradation is still widespread. Multinational enterprises could play a central role in solving or fuelling these global environmental problems. They could help to transfer clean technologies and sustainable management practices to less developed regions or they may shift polluting production to developing countries with lower environmental standards. Frederik Noack, **Dominic Rohner** and Tommaso Sonno use a unique geospatial panel of millions of multinational and domestic companies to quantify their impact on the environment in Africa (in *Nature Climate Change*, vol. 1, May 2026). They show that an expansion of multinational activity causes severe loss of forest cover, erodes local crop diversity and, to some extent, increases greenhouse gas emissions. Further, they find that the adverse environmental impact of multinationals is significantly larger than the impact of domestic firms. These results highlight the trade-offs that many developing countries face, and the authors also suggest a solution to this dilemma.

[DOI](#).

ARTICLE

The Nature that Green Finance Can See: Nature-Related Risk and the Climatization of Biodiversity

Sylvain Maechler, Postdoctoral Researcher at the Global Governance Centre (GGC), examines why and how biodiversity enters finance through its alignment with the climate risk agenda, a process he conceptualises as the climatization of biodiversity (in *Journal of Cultural Economy*, online July 2026). He argues that this development is rooted in the historical failure to financialise biodiversity due to its misalignment with the logics of finance, namely profitability and calculability, to which climate is more readily compatible. Drawing on expert interviews and analysis of policy and methodological reports, his article focuses on two key institutional sites: the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) and the Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS). It identifies two pathways through which climatization unfolds. First, a strategic pathway, exemplified by the TNFD, involves a process of translation whereby biodiversity actors replicate climate-risk templates to render biodiversity attractive to private finance. Second, a path-

dependent pathway, illustrated by the NGFS, reflects a process of extension through which central banks build on existing climate-based analytical tools to incorporate biodiversity. In both cases, biodiversity is reframed as “nature” in an effort to align more closely with the logics of finance. In this sense, climatisation functions as an emerging, though still unproven, route toward the financialisation of biodiversity.

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

PHD THESIS IN ANTHROPOLOGY AND SOCIOLOGY, 2026

Rights of Nature and Nature of Rights: (Un)Settling Urbanization and Socio-Ecological Conflicts in Asunción, Paraguay

Facundo Rivarola examines how urban floodplains are governed and contested in Asunción, Paraguay, focusing on the Bañados — riverine communities portrayed as informal, precarious, and out of place. Drawing on multiyear ethnographic fieldwork, his thesis proposes the concept of (un)settling urbanisation to analyse how riverfront redevelopment, legal–fiscal regimes, and environmental governance seek to settle urban space while simultaneously unsettling historically rooted forms of dwelling and belonging in the floodplains. Centred on the Costanera Norte and Sur avenues and the emergence of rights-of-nature frameworks, the study argues that these interventions do more than reorganise infrastructure; they transform the very “nature of rights”. Claims grounded in dwelling, cyclical mobility, and collective labour confront an environmental and legal order that recasts inhabited wetlands as ecological reserves, fiscal assets, or zones of risk. Floodplains are reframed as “nature” requiring protection, while residents are rendered provisional or removable. Against narratives of informality, the dissertation reconceptualises the Bañados as historically rooted socio-ecological formations — (un)settled urban commons — where human and more-than-human life persist through seasonal flooding, incremental construction, and collective organisation. Tracing governance across infrastructure, property law, and conservation policy, it shows how urban order is pursued through fragmentation and moral–ecological classification. Riverfront redevelopment thus unsettles not only settlements, but the political grounds of belonging, legitimacy, and justice.

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



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Diplomacy & Global Governance



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ARTICLE

The Pluralization of Expertise: The Good, the Glamorous, and the Political

In the realm of global governance, the unique status and authority of expertise have traditionally been associated with its claims to rely on science and its often-associated qualities of “neutrality”, “impartiality”, and “objectivity”. Policymakers and technocratic experts have widely resorted to these attributes to render their knowledge credible

and authoritative. While such claims to scientificity remain significant, **Annabelle Littoz-Monnet**, Juanita Uribe and Leandro Montes Ruiz contend that contemporary global governance increasingly relies on alternative practices to confer knowledge its expert status (in their introduction to “The Pluralization of Expertise: The Good, the Glamorous, and The Politic”, special issue, *Review of International Studies*, online June 2026). Global sites of governance are nowadays engaging in a broader set of practices of knowledge production and packaging, which

include *participatory experiments*, *aesthetic performances*, *calls to the imagination*, and *repertoires of benevolence*. Such practices of knowledge pluralisation have largely been seen as positive and unproblematic moves. Without contesting the need to pluralise expertise, the authors argue that such practices are not inherently democratising, but part of an evolving technocratic repertoire of governing.

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

ARTICLE

Ad Hoc Coalitions across Time: Shaping International Cooperation amid Political Rivalry

Ad hoc coalitions (AHCs) have been a persistent feature of global governance. However, only recently have they become the focus in governance scholarship. Why are they created, and how do they vary in their composition and afterlife? **Stephanie Hofmann**, Raffaele Mastrorocco and Anastasia Prokhorova examine AHCs since 1919 across health and security governance challenges (in *Review of International Studies*, online July 2026). Their analysis rests on archival material from international organisations (IOs) and national governments. They argue that, in bringing together political rivals, AHCs serve three primary purposes. Firstly, as agenda setters, they address new governance challenges. Secondly, as capacity generators, they reshuffle membership compositions. Finally, as decision accelerators, they enable their members to bypass existing IOs. Beyond these commonalities, notable differences exist that are rooted in relative issue salience. Less salient issues are often led by bureaucrats and experts, glossing over political agendas and mediating between rivals. This set-up often leads to permanent cooperative structures. Issues that decision-makers perceive as highly salient occupy the attention of politicians who want to keep the coalition small. As a result, rivalries can easily come to the fore, leading to short-lived coalitions. Overall, AHCs point to more or less exclusionary action that serves as a testing ground for international cooperation in times of uncertainty and (geo)political crises.

Governance, conflict, security, health

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

RESEARCH REPORT

Pathways for Global Governance Transformation: Evidence from 15 Case Studies

The demand for global governance remains high, yet effective multilateral cooperation is increasingly scarce. Governments continue to rely on international cooperation to address climate change, pandemics, digitalisation, migration, and global inequality. However, both increasing rivalry among major powers and political polarisation within established democracies make reaching agreements within existing multilateral institutions more difficult. As a result, cooperation occurs across a broader range of institutional settings. Drawing on 15 ENSURED case studies and the ENSURED expert survey, this report by Henning Schmidtke and **Stephanie Hofmann** traces these transformations across five policy areas: trade and inequality, climate and biodiversity, global health, migration and human rights, and digitalisation (ENSURED Research Report, no. 26, March 2026). The analysis focuses on three pathways of global governance transformation: minilateralisation, regionalisation, and counter-institutionalisation. Across all five policy areas, governance has become more institutionally diverse. While multilateral institutions remain important, they rarely fulfil all essential governance functions — such as agenda-setting, regulatory decision-making, or operational implementation — independently. Taken together, these dynamics give rise to a system best described as *variable geometry*, in which different institutional forms interact in shifting, contextspecific ways. The concrete geometry of governance varies across policy areas and over time, shaped by problem structures, power dynamics, and political alignment. This system produces trade-offs in the robustness, effectiveness, and democratic quality of global governance.

[Read the report](#).



Cities, Space, Mobilities & Migrations



Illegal immigrants on boat to UK. Public domain under CC0.

ARTICLE

“Humanity Washed Ashore”: Can Migrants and Refugees Constitute a Collective Civilian Population in the Sense of Crimes against Humanity?

In light of ongoing reports of grave human rights violations against migrants and refugees in different parts of the world, **Alexandra Keller** discusses whether, in specific contexts, migrants and refugees can be considered a civilian

population that may constitute the main object of potential crimes against humanity (in *Journal of International Criminal Justice*, online July 2026). As the analysis of relevant case law and academic debate shows, the notion “population” and its entailed collective dimension have so far not been interpreted in a uniform manner. Nonetheless, two main strands of argumentation can be identified in the debate on the meaning of this term: one focusing on the “quantitative” and one on the “distinguishable group” approach. While the first interprets the term “population” mostly as a group consisting of a relatively high number of people, the second interprets it above all as a group of people that share (a) certain distinguishable feature(s), which often also make(s) them the target of the attack. The author suggests that both of these approaches can be useful in establishing the collective nature of a potential crime against humanity, highlighting, however, that the “distinguishable group” approach must be interpreted broadly, so as to avoid reintroducing the discriminatory intent requirement for all underlying material acts of the crime. Using a combination of the two approaches, she argues that, in specific contexts, migrants and refugees can constitute a population in the sense of crimes against humanity.

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

This article builds on the *master's dissertation* that the author completed at the Geneva Graduate Institute in 2022.

PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL HISTORY AND POLITICS, 2026

The Origins of Alpe-Adria: Inventing Borderscapes across Austria, Italy and Yugoslavia against the Background of Nationalist Conflicts (1945–1978)

Due to nation-building processes between the 19th and 20th centuries, people living in the Alps-Adriatic region suffered the effects of disintegration and violence. During the Cold War, central authorities and international actors such as the CIA and NATO militarised the territory and controlled national borders meticulously. A climate of suspicion persisted and transformed the border into a symbolic periphery of confrontation between “East” and “West” blocs. **Alessandro Ambrosino** analyses how border communities challenged this divisive imaginary and disrupted hegemonic narratives of an ideologically segregated Europe. By developing crossborder cooperation initiatives since the late 1950s, local intellectuals, policymakers, tourist operators and other actors devised the idea of “Alpe-Adria” to depict the area as a transnational region where friendship, peace and common development could be cultivated. Using a variety of archival documents on these initiatives, as well as oral testimonies of “key witnesses” of cross-border practices, including both officers and common people, the author questions the binary vision of a divided continent and challenges the history of Cold War Europe by highlighting the perspectives from borderlands. His study thus illuminates the autonomy of borderlanders and stands out as a paradigmatic example to reorient the focus towards the lived experience of the nation-state in

borderland contexts.

way.

[Read more about Dr Ambrosino's thesis in this interview.](#)

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

PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL LAW, 2026

Seeking Asylum beyond the Refugee Convention: Exploring Non-Party States' Obligations under International Law

Jittawadee Chotinukul identifies and examines an emerging phenomenon in the international refugee regime: the growing practice of non-party states establishing formal asylum or status determination procedures on a permanent basis while remaining outside the 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1967 Protocol. Her study addresses two central questions. First, has the refugee definition under Article 1A(2) of the 1951 Convention attained customary international law status and become binding on non-party states? Second, do rules and standards of international law outside the Refugee Convention impose obligations on non-party states in relation to asylum procedures? It focuses on Thailand as a paradigmatic case of this phenomenon. The study argues that the Article 1A(2) refugee definition has not crystallised into customary international law and therefore does not bind non-party states. It further demonstrates that when non-party states assume responsibility for determining the status of persons seeking protection within their jurisdiction, they do not operate in a legal vacuum. Rather, they remain subject to obligations arising primarily from international human rights law, including ensuring access to asylum procedures without discrimination and guaranteeing the procedural safeguards required for their conduct. The study provides a systematic legal analysis of this emerging phenomenon and offers new insights into the legal obligations of non-party states, the broader implications for refugees and asylum seekers, and the evolving architecture of international refugee protection beyond the Refugee Convention framework.

[Read more about Dr Chotinukul's thesis in this interview.](#)

[Repository](#) (as the thesis is embargoed until June 2029, please [contact Dr Chotinukul](#) for access).

PHD THESIS IN ANTHROPOLOGY AND SOCIOLOGY, 2026

In the Light and Shade of Movement: Defiance and Deportation among Afghans in Turkey

Alexander Ephrussi examines how people strive to make a space liveable and imbue meaning into their emplaced presences, when arrest and deportation is never far. Following a group of young men from Afghanistan living in Istanbul who do not possess residence permits, he explores how the state determines whose presence is deemed "legitimate" or who should be removed, and how the politics of fear become a mode of control over mobility. By focusing on this case, he is proposing conceptual analytical entry points to show how people navigate a racialised state order, and how they make habitable political landscapes marked by layers of violence in their encounters with the city and all that it holds. Mobilising a broad field of anthropological literatures and ethnographic research, he develops a perspective on movement that counters the idea of mobile people on solid ground, and rather explores how movement imbues racial politics and border regimes. Movement becomes a method too, as he paces the city with his interlocutors whose itinerancies teach them how the gaze of the other falls on their body, in the light and shade of movement. The thesis follows a narrative arc that starts with the arrival of his interlocutors into a context pre-laden with political meanings and hierarchies. It progressively explores how they navigate their relations with the state and their surroundings through the circulation of documents, the development of humanitarian relief, movements of the body and sartorial practices.

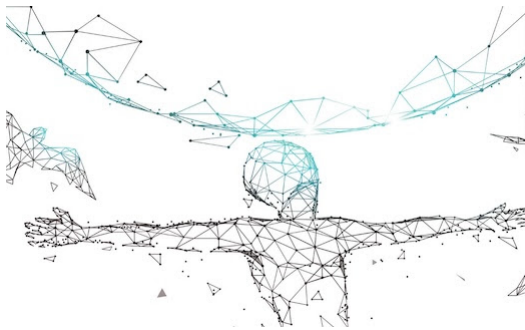
[Repository](#) (as the thesis is embargoed until May 2029, please [contact Dr Ephrussi](#) for access).



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Technology



Excerpt from the book's cover image

MONOGRAPH

Digital Peacebuilding? The Socio-Technicality of Transforming Armed Conflict

How can we make sense of the increasing use of digital technology in peacebuilding? This book by **Andreas Hirblinger**, former Senior Researcher at the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP) and now a Senior Research Fellow at the Norwegian Institute of

International Affairs (NUPI), studies digital peacebuilding at different stages of conflict, including conflict prevention, conflict mitigation, peace mediation, and sustainable transitions from armed conflict (Oxford University Press, July 2026). Moving beyond a focus on individual tools, the book encourages a “post-digital” posture that enables a reflexive position vis-à-vis the appeal of digital innovation. It suggests exploring how technologies are always socially embedded, and how the socio-technicality of digital peacebuilding conditions prospects of conflict transformation. To this end, the book develops the concept of apomediated peacebuilding, which suggests that authoritative knowledge about conflict and peace that underpins digital peacebuilding is generated in decentred peer-to-peer networks that involve both humans and machines. It also encourages a critical-reflexive engagement with how claims about technology and society shape digital peacebuilding. In addition, the book is interested in how these dynamics and outcomes differ globally depending on variations in the degree of digitalisation of the conflict context and levels of political repression. The book presents comparative empirical research on digital peacebuilding initiatives in South Sudan, Sri Lanka, and Northern Ireland, as well as illustrative examples from several other cases. It delves into a variety of applications, including social media monitoring to counter harmful speech, the use of mobile phones and mobile apps to enable localised early warning and early response, the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) in digital dialogues to support peace processes, and everyday online interactions that can foster societal reconciliation and political change.

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

Much of the research underpinning the book was developed during the author's years at CCDP, including through the project [An Apomediated Peace?](#)

ARTICLE

How FinTech Affects Banking Efficiency: Evidence from Sub-Saharan African Countries

This paper by **Aurelien Kamdem Yeyouomo**, Research Fellow at the Centre for Finance and Development (CFD), and Amadou Bobboa examines the relationship between Financial Technology (FinTech) development and banking efficiency in 28 Sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries over the period 2007–2018 (in *International Economics*, vol. 187, October 2026, online June 2026). Using a two-way fixed effects framework, supplemented by dynamic, timing-based, and falsification checks to mitigate endogeneity concerns, it shows that FinTech development is positively associated with banking efficiency. FinTech is associated with improvements in the composite banking-efficiency index, and this association is reflected primarily in narrower lending-deposit spreads, stronger non-interest income generation, and higher returns on assets and equity. The findings remain stable across alternative econometric approaches, measurement choices, and finite-horizon persistence checks. Overall, the paper suggests that FinTech can strengthen financial intermediation in structurally constrained banking systems and that policy frameworks fostering complementarity between FinTech providers and incumbent banks may

support efficiency gains and broader financial sector development in the region.

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

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Global Health



Shutterstock AI Generator

ARTICLE

Alternative Innovation Models for Medicines in the Public Interest: A Typology, Evidence and Comparison with the Mainstream Model

Discontent with the mainstream commercial pharmaceutical innovation system's shortcomings (e.g., missing innovation, high prices, limited availability) has catalysed experimentation with alternative innovation models (AIMs). However,

the study of AIMs is conceptually and empirically fragmented, with open questions regarding definitions, therapeutic focus, functioning, achievements and comparison with the mainstream. In this article, **Suerie Moon, Iulia Slovenski, Adrián Alonso Ruiz, Marcela Vieira and Kaitlin Elizabeth Large**, from the Global Health Centre (GHC), present the conclusions of a **seven-year research project on AIMs** (in *BMJ Innovations*, online June 2026). They defined AIMs as having a public interest mission and differing from the mainstream model, for instance, in organisational form, financing, priority setting, role in research and development phases, knowledge management, and regulatory, manufacturing or pricing strategy. They constructed a database of 138 initiatives, conducted interviews with 47 and carried out case studies of three. They iteratively developed novel conceptual frameworks at the system, model and initiative levels and used framework analysis to analyse the data. Their findings show ample evidence that AIMs can develop new medicines addressing unmet health needs. AIMs cluster in four "niches" in the innovation system: pandemic preparedness, neglected tropical diseases, rare diseases and antibiotics. AIM initiatives have in common a public interest mission but vary widely in their organisational form and strategies. Nevertheless, the authors discern three archetypal AIMs: national government driven, socially redirected private sector and collaborative network, each able to deliver innovation but with different strengths and weaknesses for meeting the public interest. They conclude that AIMs have demonstrated their feasibility, advantages and potential to challenge the mainstream model but remain small scale and relatively fragile. Institutionalising them requires stable expanded public and philanthropic financing; enhanced sharing of scientific, regulatory and manufacturing knowledge; and legal and policy changes that secure the resources they need to deliver.

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

ARTICLE

Int'l Health Regulations (2005) as Amended 2014, 2022, and 2024 (W.H.O.)

As well as adopting a new Pandemic Agreement in 2025, the "legal reaction" of the international community to the COVID-19 pandemic also included the adoption in 2024 of a substantial set of amendments to the World Health Organization's International Health Regulations, which had already been practically overhauled in 2005 from the previous model. The process was set in motion by the United States and ran in parallel with the negotiation of the Pandemic Agreement, thus creating evident political complexities but also laying the foundations for a synergistic and complementary relationship. The amendments entered into force on 19 September 2025, but their

universality and effectiveness are still a work in progress, **Gian Luca Burci** observes (in *International Legal Materials*, vol. 65, no. 3, June 2026).

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

ARTICLE

Network Fragmentation and the 2025 Funding Shock: Early Warning Signs of a Systemic Risk in Global Health Governance

Global health governance (GHG) has shifted from polycentric coordination to topological fragmentation. COVID-19 expanded World Health Organization (WHO) financing participation but eroded cohesion, producing dispersed connectivity. The 2025 contraction, driven by major donor withdrawal, intersected with existing fragilities. **Adela Santos**, Postdoctoral Fellow at the Global Health Centre (GHC), and Carlos Ballesteros Pérez aim to assess whether changes in WHO's financing architecture (2016–2025) exhibit early-warning patterns of declining resilience and critical transition dynamics (in *McGill Journal of Global Health*, vol. 15, no. 1, April 2026). Their social network analysis of WHO Programme Budget data across five biennials reveals that pre-pandemic networks showed declining density and rising modularity. During COVID-19, participation surged but cohesion eroded, with density halving, clustering declining sharply, and weakly connected components multiplying. Post-pandemic stabilisation retained a segmented and concentrated structure, while temporal autocorrelation increased across biennia, indicating reduced flexibility. The WHO financing network exhibits patterns compatible with lower-resilience configurations approaching critical thresholds. For WHO leadership, topology-based metrics may offer diagnostics of systemic vulnerability. For donor states, findings suggest that concentrated bilateral funding can affect multilateral resilience through network cohesion.

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

PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL LAW, 2026

International Law and the Financialization of Global Health

This PhD thesis examines the intersection of global health, law, and finance, exploring how law facilitates the financialisation of global health through three case studies of innovative financing initiatives for health (IFI-Hs): the Solidarity Levy (Unitaid), the Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine Advanced Market Commitment (GAVI), and the Affordable Medicines Facility for Malaria (Global Fund). **Dena Kirpalani** looks at the historical and institutional character of these IFI-Hs. Drawing on the theory that law and finance are co-constitutive, law and development scholarship, TWAIL, and Law and Political Economy scholarship, she treats these initiatives as legal artefacts through which power is organised. She argues that soft and informal international law, trust arrangements, contracting, and regulatory frameworks constitute a governance architecture that protects financial interests while embedding conditions on access to essential medicines. Her thesis concludes that IFI-Hs replicate a familiar civilising mission dynamic: framing the Global South's inability to deliver medicine access as a deficit requiring deeper integration into capitalist economic ordering, while privileging the interests of asset-holders and donor States. Law assists financialisation by establishing norms that prioritise financial actors, protecting assets as vehicles for extraction, and integrating financiers into global health governance. Though IFI-Hs produced real health outcomes, they also entrenched systemic inequalities and marginalised rights-holders. The thesis challenges the managerial framing of resource mobilisation and calls attention to how legal architecture determines whose interests global health ultimately serves.

[Read more about Dr Kirpalani's thesis in this interview.](#)

[Repository](#) (as the thesis is embargoed until May 2029, please [contact Dr Kirpalani](#) for access).



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Aliaksei Marozau/Shutterstock

WORKING PAPER

An Autopsy of the Voluntary Carbon Market

The voluntary carbon market (VCM) rests on the premise that one carbon credit compensates for one tonne of emissions. While a growing body of evidence questions the integrity of many credits, much less is known about whether the ability to offset affects firms' incentives to reduce their own emissions. Using a buyer-linked dataset covering

the near-universe of offset retirements, **Ugo Panizza**, Francesco Tripoli and **Beatrice Weder di Mauro** exploit the 2023 carbon-market scandals as a quasi-natural experiment (International Economics Department Working Paper no. HEIDWP21-2026, Geneva Graduate Institute, July 2026). Firms that stop offsetting after the shock reduce their operational (Scope 1) emissions substantially more than firms that continue to purchase offsets. This finding is consistent with moral licensing: access to offsets weakens firms' incentives to undertake internal abatement. The authors also document persistent oversupply, opaque intermediation, and sharp price and volume responses to the scandals. Their results identify a demand-side problem in the VCM that is distinct from concerns about credit quality: even when credits represent genuine emissions reductions, the option to offset may slow decarbonisation within purchasing firms.

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

ARTICLE

Too Much Finance Redux

Jean-Louis Arcand, Enrico Berkes and **Ugo Panizza** revisit the “too much finance” hypothesis by reassessing the relationship between financial depth and economic growth using an expanded dataset (1960–2019) and a systematic estimation strategy that avoids reliance on any single, potentially arbitrary sample window (in *The Manchester School*, online June 2026). They estimate both cross-sectional and panel models for all feasible starting periods and focus on transparent specifications. They find a robust inverted-U relationship between private credit and growth: financial depth is growth-enhancing at low and moderate levels but exhibits diminishing returns and eventually becomes negative at high levels. The turning point generally lies between 70 and 120 percent of GDP, almost always below the 90th percentile of the global distribution of credit to the private sector.

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

The article is a lightly updated version of a [working paper](#) published in the series of the Geneva Graduate Institute's International Economics Department.

WORKING PAPER

ASEAN's Trade and Investment in a Fragmented World

Giovanni Donato, PhD Researcher in International Economics, and Emmanouil Kitsios examine the short- and medium-term effects of the 2018–19 China-US tariff increases on the trade and investment flows of ASEAN member economies (Working Paper no. 2026/118, International Monetary Fund, June 2026). Using granular trade data, they demonstrate that several ASEAN countries experienced a disproportionate growth in exports of products that were targeted by these tariffs. To further explore the dynamic and often immediate responses of international capital flows to these trade policy shifts, they leverage a novel firm-level FDI database that allows them to identify surges in sectoral investment inflows. Among ASEAN countries, Vietnam stands out as the one where FDI in targeted sectors grew notably faster during 2018–19, likely contributing to its observed export gains over the medium term. At the same time, the analysis reveals that trade gains in targeted products have not universally translated into stronger overall export performance across ASEAN. More generally, while trade reallocation may yield short- and medium-term gains,

these gains can be offset over time by the higher long-term aggregate losses associated with trade fragmentation.

[Read the paper.](#)

PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS, 2026

Four Essays in International Economics

The first paper in **Giovanni Donato's** PhD thesis is titled **“The Exceptions That Prove the Rule? Revisiting the Effectiveness of Capital Controls under International Investment Agreements”**. It examines how macroeconomic and financial stability exceptions in international investment agreements affect countries' use of capital flow management measures. Using a novel database of treaty provisions, it finds that broader safeguards are associated with a greater ability to implement capital controls during periods of financial stress. The second paper, **“International Investment Income: Patterns, Drivers, and Heterogeneous Sensitivities”** (written with **Cédric Tille**), investigates the determinants of countries' international investment income balances, an increasingly important component of the current account. It finds that exchange rates, interest rates, and macroeconomic conditions influence investment yields, with substantial variation across asset classes. The third paper, **“Identifying Spillovers of Trade Agreements through Impact Assessments: A New Database”** (written with Richard Baldwin and Camille Reverdy), introduces a comprehensive database of ex-ante trade agreement evaluations. It documents significant heterogeneity in methodologies, assumptions, and estimated impacts across assessments conducted in the US and the EU. Finally, the fourth paper, **“ASEAN's Trade and Investment in a Fragmented World”** (written with Emmanouil Kitsios), examines how the 2018–19 US–China tariff escalation affected trade and investment patterns in ASEAN economies. It has just been published as an IMF Working Paper (*see the publication above*).

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

PHD THESIS IN DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS, 2026

Three Essays in Development Economics

This thesis by **Hamidreza Bakhtiarizadeh** comprises three essays in development economics on cash transfer policies, digital platforms, and international investment strategies. The first chapter examines Iran's 2010 Universal Basic Income program, implemented to compensate for the removal of energy subsidies. Using panel data from the Household Expenditure and Income Survey (2009–2010), it shows that consumption does not respond in the short run but rises by 60% of the transfer amount within one year of implementation. Access to credit and trust in government affect the marginal propensity to consume of the universal basic income. The second chapter, joint with Hossein Tohidimehr, exploits the staggered rollout of Snapp across Iranian cities (2015–2021) to study the labour market and welfare effects of ride-sharing. Using a difference-in-differences framework, the authors find that platform access raises employment and net household income only in larger cities, revealing significant network effects, but is accompanied by a decline in formal employment and social security coverage. The third chapter, joint with Amelia U. Santos-Paulino and Claudia Trentini, assesses the performance implications of outward foreign direct investment for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The authors show that SMEs experience a drop in sales growth of approximately 6% during the first three years following a cross-border greenfield investment, recovering only from the fourth year onward, an effect concentrated in manufacturing firms.

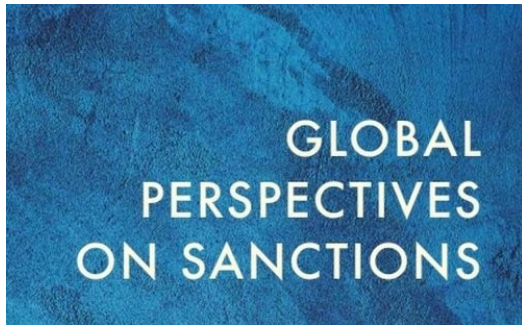
[Repository](#) (as the thesis is embargoed until June 2029, please [contact Dr Bakhtiarizadeh](#) for access).



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Peace, War, Conflicts & Security



Excerpt from the book's cover

EDITED BOOK

Global Perspectives on Sanctions: Norm Contestation and its Impact on International Politics

This book, edited by Roberto Belloni, **Thomas Biersteker** and Francesco Giumelli, explores why sanctions are contested by so many countries around the world (Edinburgh University Press, August 2026). While most countries have declared their opposition to Russia's 2022

invasion of Ukraine, relatively few have taken any action to apply restrictive measures on Moscow. Is it because they do not share norms of non-intervention and opposition to the use of force, is it because they are protecting their self-interests, or is it because they oppose the self-appointed group of countries enacting sanctions, or do they object to the use of sanctions in general? This collection investigates these issues by undertaking a multi-perspectivist, empirical and historically grounded set of analyses from Europe, North America, Africa, Latin America, East Asia, South Asia and Southeast Asia. Resistance to the use of sanctions is typically not based on opposition to global norms themselves, but how they are interpreted, by whom, and on the instruments themselves.

[Publisher's page.](#)

ARTICLE

Fieldwork in Middle East Political Science: Misalignments in Training and Practice

The discipline of political science lacks a systematic understanding of how scholars studying Middle East politics prepare for and navigate in-country research, even as fieldwork plays a vital role in contemporary scholarship about the region. Drawing on evidence from an original survey of scholars studying the Middle East and North Africa, **Christiana Parreira** and **Michelle Weitzel** identify a training–practice misalignment wherein 38% of respondents reported having received no formal training before entering the field despite almost all respondents claiming to have conducted fieldwork (in *Political Science & Politics*, June 2026). Qualitative evidence from open-ended responses reveals the frustration that many scholars experience due to their lack of formal training and subsequent dependence on informal networks and knowledge. Conflict, authoritarianism, state surveillance, and repression in public space — characteristics that increasingly are prevalent in many parts of the world — have long shaped the practice of fieldwork in the Middle East, rendering these findings significant beyond this region alone. The authors discuss implications of this misalignment for this subfield and the discipline more broadly, as well as potential pathways forward.

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

ARTICLE

Moving Peace Forward: Negotiating Freedom of Movement in Peace Processes

Freedom of movement is a critical yet underexplored element of peace processes. During conflict, warring parties often restrict movement through checkpoints, curfews, blockades, or sieges, disrupting civilian life and obstructing humanitarian and peace operations. While peace negotiations frequently address such restrictions, existing literature tends to overlook freedom of movement or treats it as a secondary or technical issue. **Emilian Berutti**, PhD Researcher in International Relations/Political Science, Janek Bruker, Allard Duursma and Valentin Felix Geier seek to fill that gap by outlining a new research agenda at the intersection of political geography and conflict management (in *Political Geography*, vol. 130, September 2026, online June 2026). First, they conceptualise freedom of movement as the ability of people and goods to move

unobstructed through physical space. Coding over 10,000 negotiation rounds in inter-state, intra-state, and nonstate conflicts between 1989 and 2023, they then classify negotiation topics according to whether they concern the movement of actors, the movement of goods, or movement to and from specific spaces and highlight the prevalence of negotiations on freedom of movement in peace processes. Building on this, they illustrate how freedom of movement can function both as a negotiated outcome and a means for advancing peace processes and outline several avenues for future research.

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

ARTICLE

Adoption of Resolution 2744 (2024) on Strengthening the Mandate of the Focal Point: A Contextualisation

Aurélien Llorca, Senior Research Fellow at the Global Governance Centre, contextualises the evolution of due-process safeguards within United Nations Security Council sanctions regimes, culminating in resolution 2744 (2024), which strengthens the mandate of the Focal Point for delisting requests (in *UAEU Law Journal*, vol. 40, no. 1, January 2026). He first outlines the Council's shift from comprehensive embargoes imposed on entire states to targeted measures against individuals and entities under Article 41 of Chapter VII of the UN Charter, an evolution shaped by concerns over proportionality, fairness, and transparency raised by like-minded states and international legal scholars. Building on earlier developments, notably the Focal Point created by resolution 1730 (2006) and the Ombudsperson established by resolution 1904 (2009), resolution 2744 (2024) enhances procedural impartiality by empowering the Focal Point across sanctions regimes outside the counter-terrorism framework. The revised mechanism requires the Focal Point to gather and synthesise information, engage with petitioners and relevant states, and submit comprehensive reports to the competent sanctions committee, without issuing binding recommendations. The author finally situates these developments within broader trends in international law: delegating technical functions to independent subsidiary organs while retaining Member State oversight, and advancing a more human-being-oriented approach that better protects individual rights within a state-centred sanctions system.

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



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Development & Cooperation



ARTICLE

"An Island of the Third World"? Decolonization, Solidarity and the Critique of Development during the Long Sixties at the Institut Africain de Genève

Nicolas Hafner, PhD Researcher in International History and Politics, examines the transformations at the Institut Africain de Genève (IAG; later

Institut universitaire d'études du développement, IUED, one of the Geneva Graduate Institute's predecessor institutions) during the long 1960s, juxtaposing the tenures of its first two directors, Henri-Philippe Junod (1961–1962) and Pierre Bungener (1962–1975) (in *The Global Sixties*, online July 2026). Transcending its founding premises, IAG became more than a training facility for government officials; it evolved into a site of critique and experimentation. The author explores how engagement with the concept of the Third World led to a critique of Eurocentric development

models. Internationalist in outlook, these critiques framed struggles in the Third World as intimately linked to exploitative economic and asymmetrical political structures benefiting the West.

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



Other Relevant Information



Multimedia



VIDEO | WEBINAR | GLOBAL HEALTH CENTRE

Sharing Pathogen Data in Ebola and Hantavirus Outbreaks: Implications for Pathogen Access and Benefit Sharing

On 30 June 2026, the Global Health Centre's Governing Pandemics Initiative and International Geneva Global Health Platform organised a webinar to explore how pathogen data was shared during the 2026 Ebola and hantavirus outbreaks, and the implications of these experiences for the design of the Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing (PABS) system under the WHO Pandemic Agreement.

[Watch on YouTube.](#)



VIDEOS | GENEVA HEALTH WEEK 2026 – WHA 79 SIDE EVENTS | INTERNATIONAL GENEVA GLOBAL HEALTH PLATFORM

The annual Geneva Health Week took place from 17 to 20 May 2026 at the Geneva Graduate Institute. It included the Open Briefing to the 79th World Health Assembly (WHA) and two WHA side events:

– Introduction to #WHA79 | Can Global Health Make Progress amid Rupture?

[Watch on YouTube.](#)

[Read more in this article of *Health Policy Watch*.](#)

– Are We Ready for the Next Pandemic Threat?

[Watch on YouTube.](#)

[Read more in this article of *Health Policy Watch*.](#)

– From Preparedness to Crisis Response: Ensuring Equitable Access to Medical Countermeasures

[Watch on YouTube.](#)

[Read more in this article of *Health Policy Watch*.](#)



VIDEO | PANEL DISCUSSION | GLOBAL GOVERNANCE CENTRE & UNIDIR

Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Trends in the Middle East

This forum on the pursuit of a Middle East Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone was held on 8 June 2026. It opened with the release of UNIDIR's latest research on non-proliferation trends in the region, setting the stage for a wide-ranging panel discussion featuring Ambassador

Stephan Klement (EU Special Envoy for Non-proliferation and Disarmament), Dr **Robin Geiss** (Director, UNIDIR), Mr **Mohamed Gamal Ahmed ElGhitany** (Permanent Mission of Egypt to the UN in Geneva), Dr **Grégoire Mallard** (Geneva Graduate Institute), and Dr **Abdolasool Divsallar** (UNIDIR), moderated by Dr **Chen Zak Kane** (UNIDIR).

[Read more and watch here.](#)



VIDÉO | ENTRETIEN DE LA CHAIRE OLTRAMARE

Les trajectoires du conservatisme modernisateur russe | Entretien avec Juliette Faure

La professeure **Juliette Faure** (Université de Lille – CERAPS) discute de ses recherches, notamment sa **thèse**, *The Rise of the Russian Hawks: Ideology and Politics from the Late Soviet Union to Putin's Russia*, avec **Lara Sarem-Kalali** et **Matteo Zorra**, étudiant·es de master à l'IHEID.

[Regardez sur YouTube.](#)



PODCAST | RESEARCH AT THE ALBERT HIRSCHMAN CENTRE ON DEMOCRACY E10 & E11

– Youth Climate Activism: What's Left?

Co-hosts **Christine Lutringer**, **Yanina Welp**, **Maria Mexi** and **Laura Bullón-Cassis** are launching a six-episode podcast mini-series, part of *Research at the Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy*, bringing youth activists, scholars, policymakers and international organisation representatives into conversation on the future of climate politics, democracy and social justice in Europe.

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

– Youth Movements and the Crisis of Democracy

Christine Lutringer and **Yanina Welp** explore what European youth movements reveal about the crisis of democracy.

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

*The mini-series is a public engagement output of the **project** "Youth Climate Activism and Local Institutions: Reframing Democratic Spaces at a Time of Polarisation".*



PODCAST | NAVIGATING THE GOVERNANCE OF OCEANS AND OUTER SPACE E3 | IHEID LOS STUDENT SEMINAR

Soft Law in Space Governance: Space Law in the 21st Century, with Katja Grünfeld

In this third and final episode of the mini-series on the governance of seas and space, host **Catherine Lucas** is joined by **Katja Grünfeld** to consider the instrumentalisation of space law and the development of non-binding "soft law" guidelines to fill the gaps left by the outer space treaty regime. Katja Grünfeld is a research assistant, project manager and PhD candidate at the Institute of Air Law, Space Law and Cyber Law at the University of Cologne.

[Listen on Spotify.](#)



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Awarded Grants

SNSF RETURN CH POSTDOC.MOBILITY | 01.09.2026–31.08.2027 | CHF 121,850 | GLOBAL GOVERNANCE CENTRE

The International Legal Infrastructure Underpinning Food Flows and Distribution

As Amartya Sen argued, global hunger is not primarily a problem of food scarcity but of distribution and access. Despite the formal recognition of the right to adequate food as a fundamental human right in international law, recent crises such as disruptions to global supply chains during the Russia-Ukraine war, the prolonged conflict in Gaza and Sudan, and climate-induced drought in Madagascar have revealed persistent failures in ensuring equitable access to food. While international legal scholarship has extensively examined food production and humanitarian assistance, it has paid comparatively little attention to the legal infrastructure governing food distribution across borders and within crises. The project addresses this gap by examining how international law regulates food flows and by assessing whether fragmented legal regimes collectively enable or undermine equitable food distribution. It will be carried out by Postdoctoral Researcher **Malavika Rao** and is the continuation of an [SNSF Postdoc.Mobility grant](#) that she held in 2024–2026 at the University of Cambridge after [defending her PhD thesis at the Geneva Graduate Institute](#).

[Project's page](#).



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Visitors

📅 01.08.2026–
01.08.2027
📍 Gender Centre

Jaciane MILANEZI

Coming from the Brazilian Centre of Analysis and Planning (CEBRAP), Brazil, Visiting Fellow Jaciane Milanezi is doing research on “Governing Infertility in Brazil: Legislation, Statistics and Narratives.”



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Calls for Papers

MEDICAL HUMANITIES

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

Caroline Rusterholz, Professor of Social History at the University of Fribourg and Assistant Professor of International History and Politics at the Geneva Graduate Institute, **George Severs**, Postdoctoral Researcher at the Gender Centre, and **Naomi Samake-Bäckert**, PhD Researcher in International History and Politics, 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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Awarded Prizes

Dr Oluwaseun Williams Wins 2026 LSA Best Doctoral Thesis Award

The Lagos Studies Association (LSA) has awarded its 2026 Best Doctoral Thesis Award to Dr **Oluwaseun Williams** for his [PhD thesis](#) “The Meat of the Story: Cattle Capitalism and Veterinary Public Health in Colonial Nigeria”, which he [defended at the Geneva Graduate Institute](#) in February 2025. The thesis examines the role of food animals like goats, sheep and, most especially, cattle in the political economy of Nigeria. His findings reveal that colonial nutrition and veterinary sciences were essentially oriented towards serving imperial interests of control and capitalist extraction.

[Read the nomination in this post on LSA's Facebook page.](#)

2026 Lombard Odier Prize Awarded to Dr Marzia Marastoni

The 2026 Lombard Odier Biennial Prize has been awarded to Dr **Marzia Marastoni** for her [PhD thesis](#) “To Perceive or Misperceive Crises in International Law: The Role of Black Swans in International Legal Discourse”, which she [defended at the Geneva Graduate Institute](#) in March 2025. The thesis examines how international law perceives and interprets crises, focusing in particular on why certain major events are difficult to anticipate and how the international legal system adapts to such unforeseen situations.

[Read more.](#)

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Upcoming PhD Defences

📅 24 August 2026

🕒 15:00–17:00

📍 Online

DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS

Three Essays in Development Economics

By **Balasubramanyam Pattath**. Committee members: Professor Jean-Louis Arcand, Thesis Director; Professor Martina Viarengo, President of the Committee and Internal Member; Vijayendra Rao, Roberta Buffett Distinguished Scholar-Practitioner in Residence, Northwestern University, Evanston, USA.

[Read more.](#)

INTERNATIONAL HISTORY AND POLITICS

📅 25 August 2026
🕒 14:30–16:30
📍 Pétale 2, Room S9, & online

Between Faith and Critique: Decolonisation, Development and the Institut Africain de Genève, ca. 1960–1990

By **Nicolas Sebastian Hilarius Hafner**. Committee members: Associate Professor Nicole Bourbonnais, Thesis Co-Supervisor; Professor Cyrus Schayegh, Thesis Co-Supervisor; Associate Professor Aidan Russell, President of the Committee and Internal Member; Professor Adom Getachew, Department of Political Science, The University of Chicago, USA.

[Read more.](#)

📅 26 August 2026
🕒 14:00–16:00
📍 Pétale 2, Room S9, & online

ANTHROPOLOGY AND SOCIOLOGY

The Emergency Container: Humanitarian Protocols of Crisis and Reform

By **Julis Charlotte Koch**. Committee members: Professor Grégoire Mallard, Thesis Director; Associate Professor Julie Billaud, President of the Committee and Internal Member; Associate Professor Matthew Canfield, Law Faculty, Leiden University, The Netherlands.

[Read more.](#)

📅 27 August 2026
🕒 16:00–18:00
📍 Pétale 2, Room S9, & online

ANTHROPOLOGY AND SOCIOLOGY

The (Un)Makings of “Spice Islands” and the People with History

By **Danishwara Nathaniel**. Committee members: Honorary Professor Patricia Spyer, Thesis Director; Associate Professor Shaila Seshia Galvin, President of the Committee and Internal Member; Webb Keane, George Herbert Mead Distinguished University Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA.

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📅 28 August 2026
🕒 14:00–16:00
📍 Pétale 2, Room S9, & online

INTERNATIONAL LAW

Common Environmental Core Obligations in Times of Global Climate Change: How to Improve the Protection of the Climate System during Armed Conflicts

By **Romina Pezzot**. Committee members: Professor Andrew Clapham, Thesis Director; Assistant Professor Alice Pirlot, President of the Committee and Internal Member; Professor Karen Hulme, Law School, University of Essex, Colchester, USA.

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