

Research Bulletin

Upcoming events, latest publications and other research activities

12 October 2026 (no. 8, 2026)

Upcoming Research Events

12 OCT Monday	13 OCT Tuesday	14 OCT Wednesday	15 OCT Thursday	16 OCT Friday
GGC CONSORTIUM TALK Rosemary Foot Bounded Ambition: China as a Multilateral Actor in World Politics 17:00–18:00 online AHCD & IL DEP. LECTURE Christopher Gevers Law by Colour Code Lecture: International Law in Times of Genocide 18:15–19:30 Room S5	CFD & ANSO DEP. TALK Daromir Rudnyckij What Do We Mean When We Say Money is Social? Toward a Theory of Immanent Credit 12:15–13:45 Room S8 TALK Heidi Hardt Adaptation in International Security Organizations: How Crises Transform NATO 12:30–14:00 Room S12 VILFREDO PARETO RESEARCH SEMINAR Antonin Bergeaud Lost in Transition: Financial Barriers to Green Growth 14:15–15:30 Room S5 ENSURED & GMC BOOK LAUNCH	GENEVA GRADUATE INSTITUTE & CCIG CONVERSATION War in the Middle East: What Future for the Global Order? 12:00–14:00 CCIG, bd du Théâtre 4, Geneva CONFÉRENCE DE LA CHAIRE YVES OLTRAMARE Jean-François Bayart Au revoir! 15:15–19:30 salle C1 GGC PUBLIC EVENT How Well Are National Climate Plans Protecting Health? Launching the 2026 Healthy NDC Scorecards 18:30–20:00 Auditorium A	IHP FORUM Harshan Kumarasingham Constitution and Empire 12:15–13:45 Room S10 IL COLLOQUIUM Deborah Casalin Obligations to Facilitate Durable Solutions to Internal Displacement: Normative Contributions of the UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies 12:45–14:00 Room S11 & online	IHP FORUM Martin Evans Algeria and Morocco, 1954–64: Othering and the Transformation from Resistance Solidarities to Geo-political Rivalries in the Context of the Cold War 12:15–13:45 Room S11

Felix Peerboom, Lilian Tsourdi, Madeline Garlick & Vincent Chetail | Migration Governance Transformation through and beyond the UN Global Compacts: Multilateralism and Minilateralism
18:15–20:00 Room S8

IGF, SCNAT GRP-ALLIANCE & CFD | LAUNCH OF 2026 SWISS ACADEMIES' REPORT
Commodity Trade and Sustainable Development
18:30–20:30 Room S12

19 OCT	Monday	20 OCT	Tuesday	21 OCT	Wednesday	22 OCT	Thursday	23 OCT	Friday
NO RESEARCH EVENTS		VILFREDO PARETO RESEARCH SEMINAR Anna Vitali Causes and Consequences of Labor Utilization: Evidence from Ugandan Firms 14:15–15:30 Room S5		NO RESEARCH EVENTS		NO RESEARCH EVENTS		NO RESEARCH EVENTS	

ANSO CONVERSATIONS | BOOK LAUNCH
Umut Yıldırım | Everyday Decolonization: War and Resistance in Turkey's Extractive Regime
16:15–17:45 Room S5

LLM IL PROGRAMME & IL DEP. | BOOK LAUNCH
Joe Klingler | 3rd edition of Oxford University Press' volume *Treaty Interpretation* (2026)
18:30–19:30 Auditorium A2

PIERRE DU BOIS CHAIR PUBLIC LECTURE
Anthony Pagden | From Empire to Federation: Can the European Union Become the Paradigm for a New World Order?
18:30–20:00 Room A1B & online

[See all events >](#)

Gateway to Publications by Themes



Trade,
Finance,
Economies
& Work



Human Rights,
Humanitarianism,
Justice &
Inclusion



Gender,
Diversity,
Race &
Intersectionality



Democracy &
Civil Society



Education,
Information
& Media



Sustainability,
Environment,
the Anthropocene
& SDGs



Diplomacy &
Global
Governance



Cities, Space,
Mobilities &
Migrations



Technology



Global
Health



Peace, War,
Conflicts &
Security



Gateway to Other Relevant Information



Multimedia



Awarded
Grants



Visitors



Calls for
Papers



Awarded
Prizes



Upcoming
PhD Defences



Publications by Themes



Trade, Finance, Economies & Work



The White House, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

WORKING PAPER

Local Trade Wars

Modern protectionism has increasingly taken the form of decentralised trade coercion rather than multilateral escalation. What tariffs prevail in such local trade wars? How are welfare consequences shared between participants and bystanders? And can targeted economies credibly deter unilateralism? Using a multi-country, multi-sector Armington model that distinguishes the elasticity

of substitution between domestic and imported goods from that across foreign varieties, Wei Li, Jie Ouyang, Bin Qiu, Zi Wang and **Yuan Zi** show that bilateral tariffs generate substantial third-market leakage (Working Paper no. 26/2026, Geneva Graduate Institute, August 2026). Applied to recent US trade policy, this leakage magnifies US losses and bystander gains under Trump 1.0, with bilateral Nash tariffs that are lower but more costly than those implied by standard models with a uniform trade elasticity. Trump 2.0's Liberation Day tariffs reverse these patterns by largely shutting down third-market leakage through broad-based tariff escalation. In a dynamic setting, no individual trading partner can credibly deter US unilateralism: bilateral retaliation is either too weak or too costly. Only a near-universal coalition, broadly resembling the WTO membership, can flip US incentives.

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

PHD THESIS IN DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS, 2026

Three Essays in Digital Development

This thesis by **Hossein Tohidimehr** consists of three standalone chapters on telecom infrastructure, provision of credit by market place platforms, and the welfare impacts of ride sharing. The first chapter, “**Electricity Constraints and Mobile Service Prices in Sub-Saharan Africa**”, examines how poor electricity infrastructure contributes to the high prices of mobile services in Sub-Saharan Africa. Using cross-country data and a structural model of entry and Cournot competition, the author quantifies how electricity constraints shape costs and market structure. The findings show that unreliable electricity increases both fixed and marginal costs, discourages entry, and weakens competition. Counterfactual simulations suggest that universal electricity access could reduce mobile prices by 42% on average, more than improvements in ICT regulation or market size. The second chapter, “**Marketplace Platforms' Seller Credit and Financial Inclusion**”, explores why digital platforms offer credit to small sellers. The author develops a theoretical framework focusing on commission-based incentives and the use of platform access as intangible collateral. These features are especially effective in settings with weak legal enforcement and high borrowing costs, conditions common in developing economies. The third chapter, “**Money on the Way**”, studies the effects of a ride-sharing platform in Iran on labour, income, and expenditure variables. Using variation in platform roll out across cities, the author finds that ride-sharing increases employment and income only in large cities, while also raising informality and reducing access to social protections.

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

WORKING PAPER

A Thirst for Silver: Trade Shock, Taxation, and Local Unrest in Nineteenth-Century China

Under what conditions can globalisation become a source of state fragility? Ting Chen, Jianan Li, Chong Pang and **Yuan Zi** provide the first systematic evidence that rigid trade and taxation systems, together with the collapse in global silver production following the Spanish American wars of independence, fueled rising silver prices and social instability in early nineteenth-century Qing China (Working Paper no. 24/2026, Geneva Graduate Institute, June 2026). Using newly assembled county-level panel data and historical commercial routes, they show that regions

farther from Canton — the empire's sole legal international port — experienced larger increases in silver prices and greater social unrest following the shock. Silver-denominated taxation was central to this relationship: because taxes were largely fixed in silver terms, rising silver prices sharply increased real tax burdens and fueled instability. Quantitatively, the silver shock reduced China's aggregate welfare by 1.16%, with fiscal rigidity accounting for most of the loss. Opening additional international ports would have mitigated the destabilising effects of the shock, but only modestly. By contrast, fiscal reform would have been far more effective.

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

DISCUSSION PAPER

Payment Design and Price Elasticity

Prepaid electricity meters change when consumers pay, but not the price they face. Using household billing data from Indonesia and overlapping reforms to metering and electricity tariffs, **Imelda**, Anna Lou Abatayo and Budy Resusodarmo show that payment design affects both the level and price responsiveness of electricity demand (CEPR Discussion Paper no. 19778, CEPR Press, August 2026). Conversion to prepaid metering reduces consumption by 12% before prices change; when prices increase, the price elasticity doubles. Greater responsiveness persists for at least six years. An incentivised survey shows that 80% of prepaid users would forgo compensation rather than return to postpaid billing. Payment design can therefore strengthen the effectiveness of electricity pricing policy.

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

Revised version of a paper published in December 2024.



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Human Rights, Humanitarianism, Justice & Inclusion



The National Archives UK, OGL v1.0/OGL v1.0, via Wikimedia Commons

PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL HISTORY AND POLITICS, 2026

Perpetual Transitions: Psyscientific Observations of Child Rearing Practices in East Africa, ca. 1930–1980

This thesis by **Pokuua Oduro-Bonsrah** examines the psyscientific observations of child rearing practices in East Africa, focusing on Uganda and Kenya from the interwar period to the early postcolonial era. It situates these observations

within broader historical entanglements of science, empire and social change, demonstrating how African children became central figures through which political, social and economic changes were seen and interpreted. Children were simultaneously objects and subjects in the production of knowledge about social transformation, modernisation and cultural change. Drawing on archival research, ethnographic accounts, newspapers, oral histories and cross-cultural studies, the thesis traces the networks, institutions and methods — including photography, film and tests of bodies, minds and personalities — through which children were observed, measured and interpreted. Psyscientists' observations highlighted key themes including motherhood, family structures and their intersections with education, health, nutrition and child development. By identifying these issues as arising amidst social transitions, these observations prompted interventions, creating a recursive relationship between knowledge production, social engagement and scientific intervention often within intimate and closely observed spaces. Ultimately, the thesis demonstrates how psy scientific practices, shaped by disciplinary backgrounds and networks,

both reflected and influenced understandings of East African children and social change, while these contexts also shaped the adaptation of methods and theories for observing children.

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

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Gender, Diversity, Race & Intersectionality



Marie Stopes House Central London Clinic. [Kim Traynor](#), CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

ARTICLE

Race, Population and the Family Planning Association in Britain (1950s–1970s)

This article focuses on the ways the Family Planning Association (FPA), the leading charity providing family planning services, dealt with migrants' fertility in post-war Britain. Drawing on the files of the FPA and the Eugenics Society and media coverage of their work, and newspaper

debates about migration, **Caroline Rusterholz** examines the racialisation of family planning services from the 1950s to the 1970s (in *Contemporary European History*, vol. 35, online September 2026). She situates these developments within national debates about migrants' place in Britain and global anxieties about population growth in developing countries. Her article shows how the FPA's work produced a racialised, homogenised image of the "migrant woman" through efforts to promote contraception, family planning and population control. These practices also reinforced racialised, gendered and classed notions of "modern", "respectable" and "rational" sexual behaviour — ideals rooted in White, middle-class norms. In so doing, it nuances the dominant feminist narrative of progressive sexual liberation by highlighting the paradoxes within the FPA's services. Alongside an agenda of empowerment and reproductive autonomy for migrant women, there was also an agenda of assimilation and control. This tension between empowerment and control can be explained by the model of the modern reproductive subject that the FPA aimed to convey. Family planning services and provision played a role not only in the integration of migrant populations but also in the stabilisation of the vision of the modern reproductive subject. In this vision, modernity was based on White middle-class values of responsibility and rationality, in which married women controlled their fertility according to their economic situation.

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

WORKING PAPER

Empowered Young Women: Trade Liberalization and Women's Family Decisions in China

Difei Ouyang, Weidi Yuan and **Yuan Zi** study how trade affects women's marriage and fertility decisions in China (Working Paper no. 28/2026, Geneva Graduate Institute, August 2026). Exploiting regional variation in the exposure to the US granting of Permanent Normal Trade Relations, they find that more exposed Chinese prefectures experience relative increases in the fraction of unmarried young women and women without children. These shifts in family decisions coincide with a trade-induced increase in female workforce participation and reallocation of women relative to men to the service sector, where wages are higher. Additionally, women in more exposed areas experience greater gender empowerment, as measured by their attitudes toward work, family, and gender equality.

Repository (public access).

The *first draft* of this discussion paper was published in October 2022.



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Democracy & Civil Society



In the heart of New Delhi, the Jantar Mantar protest site is shrinking as mobile police barricades close in on protesters at this designated protest space in the world's largest democracy. © Riddhi Gyan Pandey

PHD THESIS IN ANTHROPOLOGY AND SOCIOLOGY, 2026

Policing Cities and Citizens of India: Ethnographic Notes from Delhi-NCR and Beyond

The ethnography in this dissertation by **Riddhi Gyan Pandey** expands on the role of urban policing in city-making, and in crafting the lived citizenship of the citizens who inhabit Delhi-NCR and urban India. Drawing on over 18 months of fieldwork between 2022 and 2024, primarily

conducted in India's national capital region (NCR), its four chapters ask and respond to the questions: How do urban citizens negotiate a city that is subjected to varying forms and intensities of policing and surveillance? What are the ways in which citizens encounter, confront, demand, accept, or at times even disregard the policing infrastructures and policing actions that they are exposed to in the everyday? And, finally, how do diverse forms of policing limit and curtail the lived citizenship of a city's policed inhabitants? Chapters 1 and 2, through their attention on police barricades and on the use of cameras and visualisation of policework, examine the somewhat overlooked and yet crucial elements of street-level policing which shape everyday life in Delhi-NCR as an urban centre. In contrast, chapters 3 and 4 are concerned with those aspects of policing that instead respond to Delhi-NCR as the political centre of the country. These latter chapters on policing of protests and civic engagement, and on the politicised wielding of incarceration, reckon with how political action is policed in India.

Repository (as the thesis is embargoed until May 2029, please **contact Dr Pandey** for access).



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Education, Information & Media



SPECIAL ISSUE

Innovative Financing for Education: Potentials, Challenges and Learnings

Spending on education globally remains insufficient despite long-standing promises. In this context, innovative financing for education (IFE) has evolved from a niche set of tools into a broader arena of practices that are reshaping how education is funded, with significant implications

for how education is governed and may be valued. The articles in this issue navigate a crucial

systemic tension. On one hand, advocates argue that blended finance, results-based mechanisms, and impact bonds can mobilise private capital, mitigate risks, and enhance efficiency. On the other, sceptics warn that these instruments risk commodifying students and learning and privatising public goods; undermining governments' role as duty bearers for the right to education and distracting from necessary public reforms; replacing accountability to learners and local communities toward investors; and shifting finance away from sustainably funding future educational needs to shorter time horizons. The issue is edited by **Arushi Terway**, Academic Director and Lead Instructor of the Certificate of Advanced Studies in Innovative Financing for Education and Senior Lead Research Associate at NORRAG, Archana Mehendale and **Moira V. Faul**, Executive Director of NORRAG (NORRAG Special Issue no 12, September 2026). [NORRAG's dedicated page.](#)

DISCUSSION PAPER

Educating Like China

This paper shows that human capital accumulation can accelerate structural transformation without accelerating growth (Working Paper no. 27/2026, Geneva Graduate Institute, August 2026). Federica Coelli, Difei Ouyang, Weidi Yuan and **Yuan Zi** study China's 1999 higher education expansion, a large, rapid, and largely unanticipated increase in college graduates. They find that more exposed prefectures experienced larger increases in the skilled-labour share and shifted employment and value added from agriculture toward services. The reallocation extended to low-skilled workers. Consumer services absorbed most of the increase in employment, while producer services accounted for a disproportionate share of high-skilled employment growth. Yet more-exposed prefectures did not grow faster. A four-sector model rationalises these patterns, showing how greater skill supply can generate broad-based servitisation, but also a Baumol-type growth penalty when labour reallocates toward slower-growing sectors. These findings highlight that the payoff to higher education depends not only on how much skill it creates, but also on whether the resulting structural transformation directs resources toward the economy's engines of productivity growth.

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


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Sustainability, Environment, the Anthropocene & SDGs



Marc-Lautenbacher, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons.

ARTICLE

Future Directions for Anthropocene Research and Its Applications

The term “Anthropocene” was coined in recognition that human activities have ended the relatively stable environment of the Holocene epoch. However, its widespread adoption across the humanities, arts and sciences has led to diverse and sometimes incompatible definitions.

Jan Zalasiewicz, Julia Adeney Thomas, Kim M.

Cohen, **Jacques Grinevald** and others argue for a stabilised definition of the Anthropocene epoch to help address contemporary environmental challenges, and explore various applications of the Anthropocene across disciplines (in *Nature Reviews Earth and Environment*, vol. 7, no. 9, September 2026). The Anthropocene epoch, with a proposed start point in 1952, underscores that human-driven global-scale environmental disruption differs from earlier human impacts of the Holocene, which did not cause such profound destabilisation. This clear distinction enables

quantitative and qualitative comparisons between the Holocene and Anthropocene epochs, as already utilised, for instance, within the planetary boundaries framework. As the Anthropocene Earth system transformation is systemic, political responses also need be systemic, rather than ad hoc. A unified Anthropocene epoch would help facilitate systematic, actionable climate and environmental policies. By contrast, alternative, extended interpretations of the Anthropocene are used to reflect accumulated human environmental impacts over many millennia. These broader interpretations portray the totality of anthropogenic change but obscure the quantitatively established departure from Holocene conditions. Applying a consistent Anthropocene epoch definition will improve its utility to science, scholarship and policy.

[DOI](#).

WORKING PAPER

Coal, Weather Shocks, and Electricity Reliability: Evidence from South Africa

Can weather shocks undermine energy security in coal-dependent economies? Using matched high-resolution rainfall data at South Africa's coal power plants and their contracted supplier mines — where coal accounts for about 80% of electricity generation — **Imelda** and Suchita Srinivasan estimate how upstream rainfall shocks propagate through the coal supply chain to affect plant performance and electricity reliability (WIDER Working Paper no. 69/2026, United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research, June 2026). They find that heavy rainfall at supplier mines reduces plant availability, primarily through unplanned outages. We also find evidence that upstream rainfall shocks increase the severity of load shedding. These results imply that rainfall-driven supply-chain disruptions can compound existing reliability constraints, and that ignoring these channels understates the social cost of coal dependence.

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

ARTICLE

Reach and Retrenchment of the Environmental State: Global Climate Politics in the Amazon Rainforest

How do states build and lose the capacity to decarbonise? Based on a comparative-historical analysis of Brazil's drastic reduction and later resurgence of CO₂ emissions from 1985 to 2022, **Livio Silva-Muller**, an Academy Scholar at the Harvard Academy and an alumnus of the Geneva Graduate Institute, conceptualises climate change as an emerging state-building domain with global and scientific dimensions (in *American Journal of Sociology*, vol. 132, no. 1, July 2026). He uncovers a novel pathway to state performance: national actors can pursue state building outside its traditional terrain, the nation-state. Bureaucrats and scientists leverage transnational ties that provide shelter from politics and resources for bureaucratisation and experimentation. Over time, this transnational embeddedness helps consolidate the infrastructural reach of decarbonisation policies. New policies trigger economic elite attention and opposition, yet capacity persists as long as decarbonisation is minimally recognised as a state responsibility. Democratic backsliding collapses that agreement: Opponents occupy the bureaucracy and erode the foundations of decarbonisation capacity. The author concludes with a comparative framework and its contributions to political and environmental sociologies.

[DOI](#).

This article is a lightly revised version of a dissertation paper contained in Dr Silva-Muller's [PhD thesis \(2025\)](#).

DISCUSSION PAPER

Designing Low Emission Zones: Theory and Evidence

Low Emission Zones (LEZs) — urban areas that exclude vehicles failing to meet certain environmental standards — have become increasingly prominent. Yet little is known about their optimal design: which vehicles to restrict, on what timetable, and over how large an area. Unlike price-based instruments, LEZs ration access inefficiently: their welfare cost is also borne by inframarginal drivers of restricted vehicles. As a result, welfare is quasi-convex in LEZ size,

yielding three bang-bang design principles: (i) the LEZ should be either as large as politically feasible or, if it falls below a minimum scale, not implemented at all; (ii) less polluting vehicles, such as hybrids, should be treated as transition technologies — temporarily exempt, but later subject to the same restrictions as dirtier vehicles, and (iii) these later restrictions, which must be announced in advance, require commitment from the planner. Nano Barahona, Natalia Fabra, **Imelda** and Juan Pablo Montero use data on new-car prices and purchases to assess Madrid's LEZ through the lens of this bang-bang logic (CEPR Discussion Paper no. 21931, CEPR Press, September 2026). The policy shifted buyers toward cleaner cars, but the surplus lost by inframarginal drivers outweighed the gains from the emissions saved by the switchers.

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

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Diplomacy & Global Governance



UN Secretary-General António Guterres by Kiara Worth, CC BY-NC-SA 2.0.

ARTICLE

Global Policy Entrepreneurs as Agenda-Keepers: The UN Secretary-General's Climate Action during the COVID-19 Crisis

Crises tend to redirect political attention toward urgent relief efforts, often sidelining long-term policy priorities. Luis Rivera-Velez and **Lucile Maertens** examine the role of agenda-keepers — policy entrepreneurs who work to preserve

attention to existing issues when crises threaten to displace them (in *Global Policy*, online September 2026). Bridging the literature on policy entrepreneurship and crisis governance, they identify a repertoire of five strategies operating across different dimensions of agenda-keeping: problem reframing (cognitive), solution repurposing (programmatic), resource preservation and reallocation (material), support reactivation and diversification (relational), and multi-scale and multi-temporal planning (spatiotemporal). Empirically, their article analyses how UN Secretary-General António Guterres sought to maintain climate change on the global agenda during the COVID-19 pandemic. Drawing on qualitative analysis of speeches, reports, and interviews with UN officials, it shows how the Secretary-General integrated climate objectives into the recovery narrative and sustained visibility for climate action despite the dominance of health and economic concerns. Although the “Recover Better Together” programme ultimately failed to influence most national recovery plans, the case illustrates how global actors can act as agenda-keepers aiming to preserve issue visibility, policy continuity, and political support under conditions of overlapping crises.

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

FORUM ARTICLE

Matter That Matters: The Rule of Law and Continuity of Care in Colombia

Anna Leander tells the story of how Matter Matters for the argument Deval Desai develops in *Expert Ignorance: The Performance and Practice of Rule of Law Reform* (in *London Review of International Law*, online September 2026). Vignettes from her recent research on the “continuity of (health) care” in Norte de Santander (Colombia) provide the context through which this story unfolds. She begins by connecting the continuity of care in Colombia to the rule of law and expert ignorance. It then follows Desai's reasoning and discusses the politics of ignoring the embodied and material when “practising”, “performing” and “projecting” the rule of law — the focus of

chapters 2–4 in his book. Showing the significance of the material and embodied in these processes that make the rule of law, she spells out the political implications of experts and scholarly observers ignoring them. Her article makes explicit the inequalities, exclusions and closures such ignorance enshrines and perpetuates.

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Cities, Space, Mobilities & Migrations



Amsterdam City Archives, [010097005158](#).

EDITED BOOK & CHAPTER

Amsterdam: Sovereignty and Legal Agency of a 17th-Century Commercial City

This volume, edited by Dave De ruyscher and **Janne Nijman**, examines the sovereignty and autonomy of the city of Amsterdam in the seventeenth century (Brill, October 2026).

Amsterdam was part of the institutional landscape of the county of Holland and the Dutch Republic,

though its economic power encompassed the globe and elevated its political clout at home.

Analysing aspects of the city's institutions, trade, art, and religion, the chapters in this volume shed new light on Amsterdam's history during its "Golden Age". Janne Nijman has also written a chapter with Arjan de Koomen titled "**Amsterdam's Seventeenth-Century City Hall: A Cosmological Iconography of Local Government, Global Trade and Universal Law**", offering an interpretation of the cosmological iconography of Amsterdam City Hall and its sculptures by situating it in the development of the legal-political ideas of its times. The authors argue that many parts of the city hall reflect the new science of *ius naturae et gentium*, for which Hugo Grotius (d. 1645) was so important, as well as humanist ideas that considered cities as being part of as well as in touch with the cosmic order. Their account maintains that the city of Amsterdam accepted rule by the universal laws of nature (directly), and that guidance by these laws would serve urban harmony and universal peace. While some have argued that Amsterdam City Hall was all about visualising an Amsterdam-centric world in which its local government boasted of its global reach and riches, De Koomen and Nijman contend that Van Campen's emphasis on the importance of law and justice for the good government of the city is extended through the cosmological iconography beyond the limits of local law. The city hall depicts Amsterdam's subjection to the universal law of nature and nations, which should guide and constrain the government, judiciary, and citizenry of Amsterdam — a powerful seafaring and trading global city nonetheless.

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Technology

EDITED BOOK CHAPTER



NIAID, CC BY 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons

The Brain as a Battlefield: Current Status, Opportunities, and Challenges of Defence-Relevant Neurotechnologies

The development of neurotechnologies is progressing at an accelerated pace. While practical and technical limitations remain, medical breakthroughs have enabled further advances and commercial neurotechnologies drive broader proliferation. However, civilian neurotechnologies,

including medical and commercial, possess significant dual-use potential as they can be repurposed in defence contexts. As the cognitive domain becomes increasingly central to modern warfare, neurotechnologies have also shifted into the focus of defence actors due to their perceived and anticipated benefits for future military operations. Although defence-relevant neurotechnologies are at an even earlier stage, several applications are already crystallising, ranging from restorative and enhancing functions to more seamless forms of human–machine integration (HMI). Simultaneously, they introduce novel vulnerabilities and risks, and it remains yet to be seen whether their potential benefits outweigh associated costs. Considering the rapid pace of development and remaining uncertainties, Jean-Marc Rickli, Tobias Knappe, and **Tanya Gill** and **Matteo Drozynski**, students in International and Development Studies, assess the current state of the weaponisation of neurotechnologies and its opportunities and challenges (in *DefenceTech Governance: AI, Biotech, Materials, Neurotech and Quantum – Crucial Frontiers for European and International Security and Defence*, A.H. Kammel, A. Heinz and D. Hikes-Wurm, eds., Springer Cham, June 2026). The comparatively early stage of development and deployment of neurotechnologies provides a window of opportunity, including for European actors, to address emerging political, ethical, and legal issues of dual-use neurotechnologies through responsible governance and regulation.

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

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Global Health

ARTICLE

Preparing Current and Emerging Health Leaders: An Innovative Competency-Based Framework for Health Diplomacy

Health diplomacy is increasingly recognised as a critical domain of practice for advancing global health equity, navigating political complexity, and fostering cooperation across sectors and borders.

Yet formal training opportunities remain limited worldwide, with existing programmes differing in length, depth and content, and lacking a shared core curriculum. To address these persistent gaps, the Health Diplomacy Institutional Network (HDIN) developed a globally informed, competency-based training framework that contributes to the professionalisation of the field by offering a shared foundation for capacity building in health diplomacy. Co-developed by global experts and practitioners, the framework identifies five key competencies — global health knowledge, political and diplomatic acumen, strategic leadership, cross-cultural communication, and advocacy and coalition-building — each articulated across four progressive levels of mastery,



from basic to expert. This structure enables institutions to align training content with learners' roles, experience levels, and contexts. The framework's flexible, outcomes-based design allows for adaptation across institutional missions, educational formats, and geopolitical settings. Accompanied by practical implementation tools, the HDIN Training Framework supports high-quality, context-responsive capacity-building for academic institutions, governments, NGOs, and multilateral organisations, underline Esperanza Martinez, **Ellen Roskam**, Coordinator of the International Geneva Global Health Platform at the time of writing, Garry Aslanyan and others (in *PLOS Global Public Health*, online September 2026). It aims to equip a health diplomacy workforce capable of advancing health priorities amid intensifying global interdependence and uncertainty.

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

TEXTBOOK

Understanding Public Health: Clear Thinking for Effective Action

Offering a concise yet comprehensive overview, this textbook by Julio Frenk, Claire Chaumont and **Suerie Moon** explains the fundamental concepts and frameworks that underpin the field of public health (Cambridge University Press, September 2026). Chapters define key terms and cover topics such as measuring health, technology, equity, leadership, health systems and reform. Real-world health issues, including COVID-19, obesity, HIV/AIDS and climate change, are used to make abstract ideas more easily digestible. Designed for students and professionals interested in public health, it includes learning objectives, illustrative examples, summaries of key takeaways, and comprehension and discussion questions to aid navigation and learning. An instructor manual and test bank are available as supplementary resources.

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Peace, War, Conflicts & Security



Entry-Ban by İhsan Oturmak, 2019.

MONOGRAPH

Extractive States: War and Resistance in Turkey's Kurdish Heartland

The Turkish state and the Kurdistan Workers' Party engaged in a counterinsurgency war for decades. Diyarbakır was a site of sieges and ceasefires, welfare and humanitarian relief, NGO interventions and decolonial resistance — the complementary, intertwined processes of low-intensity war. Through committed and engaged

ethnography, **Umut Yıldırım** reveals how destruction and displacement became structures of extraction, by which the Turkish state subjugated the Kurdish population into an object to be intervened in, traded, and contained (Stanford University Press, October 2026). She also tracks Kurdish efforts to reassert their own stories of war through fact-building, welfare and compensation, women's wellbeing, acts of solidarity, and environmental politics. Her book offers a compelling example of how low-intensity war transforms everyday needs, embodied knowledges, and uprooted populations into securitised knowledge — and how sites of perseverance can reveal such extraction, and thus help conceive of novel modes of resistance.

[Publisher's page.](#)

There will be a **book launch** at the Geneva Graduate Institute on **20 October at 16:15**.

Understanding and Responding to Violent Extremism: A Multidisciplinary Framework

Why do individuals turn to violent extremism, and how can understanding their motivations inform efforts to respond to it? **Shahrbanou Tadjbakhsh**, Visiting Professor in the Interdisciplinary Master in International and Development Studies (MINT), brings together seven disciplinary perspectives (security, ideology, sociology, socio-economics, psychology, gender and youth) to examine the push and pull factors that can shape pathways towards violent extremism (Routledge, forthcoming 16 October 2026). The book shows how these perspectives complement each other and why effective responses depend on combining them. Each chapter guides students through the material step by step, combining conceptual frameworks with case studies, real-world profiles and discussion questions that encourage critical reflection and debate.

Designed as a learning and practical tool for academics and practitioners alike, the textbook builds on the author's experience as a UN advisor and on her academic research. It also draws on teaching a class on this topic at Sciences Po (Paris) since 2018 and at the Geneva Graduate Institute since 2024, with contributions from students at both institutions and research assistance from MINT graduate student **Tommaso Savelli**.

[Publisher's page](#).

ARTICLE

"The Only Option"? Cyber Scams, Civilian Survival and Civil War in the Thai–Myanmar Borderland

Since Myanmar's 2021 military coup, the Thai–Myanmar borderland has become a major hub for cyber scam operations. Karen armed groups have enabled and profited from this illicit economy by facilitating, taxing and protecting scam compounds. **Shona Loong**, Researcher at the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP), and Laure Siegel discuss the involvement of Myanmar nationals, especially Karen civilians, in the scam economy as a means of surviving a protracted conflict and its multifaceted impacts (in *Civil Wars*, online September 2026). In so doing, they illustrate the connections between civilian survival and rebel financing. They also argue for a qualitative and interpretivist approach to this topic, which connects the literature on rebel financing with ethnographic approaches to rebel governance.

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

ARTICLE

What Is in a Word? Discourse and Practice of International Security in a New World

The world order is undergoing significant changes, marked by growing contestation of the liberal international order (LIO). **Sara Hellmüller**, Fanny Badache and **Bilal Salaymeh**, Postdoctoral Researcher at the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP), examine how these shifts are reflected in the way international security is conceptualised (in *European Journal of International Security*, online September 2026). Their article analyses changes in security conceptualisations at the level of both discourses and practices. At the discursive level, it examines speeches by the five permanent members (P5) of the UN Security Council. It shows increasing contestation among the P5 over three interconnected dimensions of security: whether external interventions constitute security threats; whether individuals threatened by their own governments qualify as referent objects of security; and what role the UN should play as a subject providing security compared to host states. At the level of practice, the article analyses the evolution of UN peace operation mandates. It finds a gradual shift towards more state-centric security conceptualisations, reflected in a rise of minimalist mandates and a relative decrease of human-centric tasks. The findings indicate that the decline of the LIO is accompanied by growing competition in security understandings and a partial reassertion of state-centric approaches in both discourse and practice.

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

The Creation of Urban Conflict Agreements in Armed Conflicts

This dissertation by **Emilian Berutti** examines in four articles how order is negotiated, produced, and sustained in urban areas affected by armed conflict through urban conflict agreements. Its central argument is that urban conflict agreements constitute a distinct form of order-making in urban areas affected by armed conflicts. Article 1, “**From Non-settlement to Political Settlement: The Types of Urban Conflict Agreement**”, establishes the conceptual foundations for understanding urban conflict agreements, offering a theoretical framework that distinguishes these agreements through a typology based on process inclusion and governance content. Article 2, “**Urban Political Settlements: A New Lens for Peacemaking in Cities**”, coauthored with **Achim Wennmann**, zooms into the discussion of urban political settlements, engaging in a conceptual discussion on how ordering actors through ordering capacities seek to control spheres in urban areas. Article 3, “**Ordering the City: Customary Authorities and the Making of Urban Conflict Agreements**”, examines urban conflict agreements globally, identifies patterns across cases, and analyses the varied roles played by one specific type of ordering actor — customary authorities. It shows how these are central to these agreements not only in rural settings, but also in urban areas. Article 4, “**‘Dancing with the Bullets’: Civilian Protective Agency in Civil Wars**”, expands the theoretical framework of civilian protective agency to analyse how civilians shape order-making during armed conflict. Drawing on fieldwork in the Philippines, it presents a case study of the 2017 Marawi Siege to demonstrate the influence civilians exert on urban conflict agreements.

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

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Other Relevant Information



Multimedia



VIDEO | WEBINAR | GLOBAL HEALTH CENTRE

Access to Health Products for Ebola-Bundibugyo: Implications for the PABS Annex

On 8 September 2026, the Global Health Centre’s **Governing Pandemics Initiative** and **International Geneva Global Health Platform** organised a webinar on how access to health products is being negotiated amidst the ongoing Bundibugyo virus disease (BVD) epidemic and potential implications for the design of the Pathogen Access and Benefit Sharing (PABS) Annex.

[Watch the recording on YouTube.](#)



VIDEO | WEBINAR | WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT INNOVATIVE FINANCING FOR EDUCATION E1 | NORRAG

Fostering Scalable Solutions and Systemic Change with OBF: Evidence from the Haryana Early Literacy Development Impact Bond

This webinar held on 8 September 2026 presented findings from an independent impact evaluation of the **Haryana Early Literacy Development Impact Bond (DIB)** — India’s first outcomes-based

financing (OBF) mechanism for education to mobilise Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funding. It brought together researchers, practitioners, policymakers, funders, and corporate and philanthropic actors for a discussion on what the Haryana DIB can teach us about applying outcomes-focused approaches to achieve more and better financing for education.

[Read more and watch the webinar.](#)

*Running from September 2026 to June 2027, the new webinar series “What We Know about Innovative Financing for Education” is produced by the **Innovative Financing for Education (IFE) to Leave No One Behind** project team at NORRAG. It aims to create a platform where rigorous evidence and practical experience come together to inform future policy, practice and research on innovative financing for education.*



VIDÉO | ENTRETIENS DE LA CHAIRE OLTRAMARE

L’ethnographie: une manière d’être au monde | Entretien avec Alessandro Monsutti

Filippo Bozzini, doctorant en sciences sociales et politiques à l’Université de Lausanne et chercheur associé de la chaire Yves Oltramare, et **Noa Magnin**, doctorant en anthropologie et sociologie au Geneva Graduate Institute, échantent avec **Alessandro Monsutti**, professeur dans le Département d’anthropologie et sociologie de l’Institut, au sujet de l’ethnographie comme une manière d’être au monde en tant que chercheur mais aussi en tant que citoyen.

[Regardez la vidéo sur YouTube.](#)



VIDEO | BOOK LAUNCH | GENEVA GRADUATE INSTITUTE

Season of Wolves: A History of the Post-9/11 World

Season of Wolves is the final work of Professor **Mohammad-Mahmoud Mohamedou**. Left unfinished at the time of his passing in 2024, the monograph was brought to completion through the dedicated efforts of his PhD students, former students and family, who worked together to preserve and share his final scholarly contribution. The book was launched on 16 September 2026, with contributions from **Marie-Laure Salles**, Director of Geneva Graduate Institute, **Davide Rodogno**, Head of MINT and Professor of International History and Politics at the Geneva Graduate Institute, **Bahiya Mohamedou**, **Kemal Mohamedou**, and Geneva Graduate Institute **students** and **former students** of Professor Mohamedou.

[Watch the recording on YouTube.](#)



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Awarded Grants

SNSF AMBIZIONE | 01.01.2027–31.12.2030 | CHF 729,166 | ALBERT HIRSCHMAN CENTRE ON DEMOCRACY (AHCD) & DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY AND SOCIOLOGY (ANSO)

The New Stewards: Earth Observation and the Public–Private Reordering of Climate Governance

This project, led by **Laura Bullon Cassis**, Research Fellow at the AHCD, will examine how the growing role of private actors in Earth observation is reshaping climate knowledge, authority and governance. As commercial satellite companies expand their influence over environmental data and analytical infrastructures, new relationships are emerging between corporate elites, scientific experts and international institutions. Combining institutional mapping, ethnographic fieldwork and interviews, the project will investigate how these actors negotiate the production and use of satellite data, particularly in climate adaptation. It asks how emerging public and private arrangements shape which environmental risks become visible, whose expertise informs adaptation priorities, and who acquires the authority to define and govern responses to climate change.

[SNSF page](#).



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Visitors

📅 01.10.2026–

01.08.2027

📍 GC

Jaciane MILANEZI

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

📅 15.10.2026–

15.10.2027

📍 IHP Dep.

Mengqi WANG

Coming from Nanjing University, Junior Visiting Fellow Mengqi Wang is doing research on “**Safeguarding Childhood: International Organizations and the Emergence of International Child Welfare c. 1924–1946**”.



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Calls for Papers

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ORGANISED AS PART OF THE CENTENARY OF THE GENEVA GRADUATE INSTITUTE | *COLLOQUE INTERNATIONAL DANS LE CADRE DU CENTENAIRE DU GENEVA GRADUATE INSTITUTE*

Thinking, Training, and Teaching in International Affairs (Late 19th Century–21st Century): Intellectual, Institutional, and Practical Approaches | *Penser, former et enseigner l'international (fin XIXe s.-XXIe s.): une approche intellectuelle, institutionnelle et pratique*

This conference, which will be held at the Geneva Graduate Institute on 27–29 May 2027, offers an occasion to reflect on how the Institute — alongside other institutions — has contributed to training generations of internationalists who have gone on to serve as researchers, experts, diplomats and international civil servants since the 1920s.

Organisers invite contributions on

– individuals who have contributed to the thinking and teaching of international relations and international affairs on a global scale;

- Institutions and programmes that have played a formative role in the teaching of international relations, international affairs and diplomacy since the 1920s;
- works (reference texts or practical handbooks) that have had a significant impact on the teaching of international relations, international affairs and/or diplomacy;
- teaching practices;
- methodological developments.

The final articles will be published in the journal *Relations internationales*, subject to the assessment of the editorial board.

- Proposals submission deadline: **1 December 2026**

[Read the full call.](#)

Les propositions en français sont aussi bienvenues. *Les articles définitifs donneront lieu à une publication dans la revue *Relations internationales* en fonction de l'appréciation du comité de rédaction.*

[Lire l'appel complet.](#)



Awarded Prizes

Prizes Awarded at the 2026 Geneva Graduate Institute's Graduation Ceremony

During the Geneva Graduate Institute's Graduation Ceremony held on 11 September, the following prizes were awarded in recognition of outstanding master's dissertations and PhD theses:

- The **ANTHROPOLOGY AND SOCIOLOGY PRIZE** was awarded ex aequo to **Shruti Merin Lal** for her master's dissertation "The Kazhiva of Christ: Development, Faith, and Affect in Bihar" and to **Sofia Isabel Fernandes** for her master's dissertation "Navigating the Land-Sea Continuum: Politics of Governance in the Traditional Fishing Community of Huanchaco (Peru)".
- The **RUDI DORNBUSCH PRIZE** was awarded ex aequo to **Valerie Umaña** for her master's dissertation "Educational Cost of Export Monocultures: Evidence from Banana-Producing Districts in Costa Rica" and to **Halvard Bonde** for his master's dissertation "The Long Way Back: Asymmetry, Timing and Risk in Eurozone Bank Responses to Quantitative Easing and Tightening".
- The **LEONID HURWICZ PRIZE** was awarded to **Simeon Oliver Lauterbach** for his PhD thesis ["Three Essays in Development Economics"](#).
- The **INTERNATIONAL HISTORY AND POLITICS PRIZE** was awarded ex aequo to **Oscar Tornare** for his master's dissertation "Wings on the Walls: The Political Life of Birds in Northern Irish Murals, 1981–2026" and to **Annouk Buess** for her master's dissertation "Echoes of the Past: Historical Legacies and Women's Reproductive Choices in China".
- The **PIERRE DU BOIS PRIZE** was awarded ex aequo to **Atwa Jaber** for his PhD thesis ["Remembering a Fading Past: The Israeli Occupation of the Jordan Valley Re-Examined through Oral History"](#) and to **Michele Zampa** for his PhD thesis ["Essays on Public Investment and Economic Development in Postwar Italy"](#) (read read more about the thesis [here](#)).
- The **MARIANO GRACIA RUBIO PRIZE** was awarded to **Bianca Zancan** for her master's dissertation "Return Hubs and the Draft Returns Regulation: Extraterritoriality in European Migration Governance".

- The **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/POLITICAL SCIENCE PRIZE** was awarded ex aequo to **Mattia Felice Melillo** for his master's dissertation "Rebels that Repress, Balancing Threat Reduction and Legitimacy: A Case Study of HTS's Rule in Northwestern Syria", to **Sylvia Ayesu** for her master's dissertation "Governing on Unequal Terms: African Contestation of AI Governance in the African Union Ecosystem", and to **Sophie Van Ijzendoorn** for her master's dissertation "The Right Tie for the Right Vote: How Interest Group Affiliations Shape Substantive Representation in Switzerland".
- The **ALUMNAE-I ASSOCIATION PRIZE** was awarded ex aequo to **Amal Shahid** for her PhD thesis "**The Political Economy of Famine Relief**: Labour, Colonialism, and Public Works in the North-Western Provinces of India, c. 1860–1920" (read more about the thesis [here](#)) and to **Pokuua Oduro-Bonsrah** for her PhD thesis "**Perpetual Transitions**: Psyscientific Observations of Child-Rearing Practices in East Africa, ca. 1930–1980".
- The **ARDITI PRIZE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS** was awarded to Daniela Wildi for her master's dissertation "Toward a Local-Visual Turn: Understanding Peacebuilding in Post-Conflict Cambodia through Documentary Filmmaking".
- The **LADISLAS MYSYROWICZ PRIZE** was awarded to **Liline Steyn** for her PhD thesis "**The Best Interests of the Child in the Context of Migration**" (read more about the thesis [here](#)).
- The **GENEVA-ASIA ASSOCIATION PRIZE** was awarded to **Sahar Bazaz** for her master's dissertation "Mediating Neo-Hindutva: Digital Influencers and the Mainstreaming of Hindu Nationalism in India".
- The **GLOBAL MIGRATION AWARD** was awarded ex aequo to **Francesca Diaz** for her master's dissertation "Philippine 'Migrant Ambassadors' in Rome: How the Philippine State Absorbed Its Global Diasporas into a National Identity and Brand, 1974–2000" and to **Bianca Zancan** for her master's dissertation "Return Hubs and the Draft Returns Regulation: Extraterritoriality in European Migration Governance".
- The **WAR AND PEACE PRIZE (IN HONOUR OF PROFESSOR MOHAMED MAHMOUD MOHAMEDOU)** was awarded to **Rana Nur Aydin** for her master's dissertation "Reconfiguration of Humanitarian Space in Gaza Post October 2023".


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Upcoming PhD Defences

📅 12 October 2026

🕒 14:00–16:00

📍 Pétale 2, Room S9, & online

ECONOMICS

Three Essays in Monetary Economics

By **Francesco Casalena**. Committee members: Professor Cédric Tille, Thesis Director; Professor Nathan Sussman, President of the Committee and Internal Member; Professor Gianluca Benigno, Department of Economics, University of Lausanne.

[Read more.](#)

📅 13 October 2026

🕒 15:30–17:30

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/POLITICAL SCIENCE

📍 Pétales 2, Room S9, & online

Beyond Treaty Amendments: The Role of Informality in the Adaptation of International Institutions

By **Jael Tan**. Committee members: Professor Cédric Dupont, Thesis Supervisor; Professor Sung Min Rho, President of the Committee and Internal Member; Associate Professor Heidi Hardt, Department of Political Science, University of California, USA.

[Read more.](#)

📅 14 October 2026

🕒 16:00–18:00

📍 Pétales 2, Room S9, & online

ANTHROPOLOGY AND SOCIOLOGY

The Labour of Living Together: Interethnic Life in Makassar's Gold Trading Street

By **Roy Thaniago**. Committee members: Honorary Professor Patricia Spyer, Thesis Co-Supervisor; Associate Professor Filipe Calvão, Thesis Co-Supervisor; Professor Graziella Moraes Dias Da Silva, President of the Committee and Internal Member; Professor Daromir Rudnykyj, Department of Anthropology, University of Victoria, Canada.

[Read more.](#)

📅 15 October 2026

🕒 16:00–18:00

📍 Pétales 2, Room S9, & online

ANTHROPOLOGY AND SOCIOLOGY

Carbon-Climate Imaginaries and the New Politics of Forestlands in Northeast India

By **John Paulraj**. Committee members: Associate Professor Shaila Seshia Galvin, Thesis Director; Professor Grégoire Mallard, President of the Committee and Internal Member; Professor Dolly Kikon, Department of Anthropology, University of California, Santa Cruz, USA; Associate Professor Maron E. Greenleaf, Department of Anthropology, Dartmouth College, Hanover, USA.

[Read more.](#)

📅 16 October 2026

🕒 16:00–18:00

📍 Pétales 2, Room S9, & online

INTERNATIONAL HISTORY AND POLITICS

Echoes of Empire: Counterinsurgency and Securitisation as Governing Paradigms from Algeria to France

By **Abha Anuradha Rohanna Calindi**. Committee members: Associate Professor Aidan Russell, Thesis Co-Supervisor; Professor Martin Evans, University of Sussex, Thesis Co-Supervisor; Assistant Professor Bernard Keo, President of the Committee and Internal Member; Distinguished Professor Dylan Rodríguez, University of California, Riverside, USA

[Read more.](#)



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