



Autumn 2019 NEWSLETTER

CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES
GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AND
DEVELOPMENT STUDIES
Case postale 136, 1211 Genève 21
T +41 22 908 44 61 - cies@graduateinstitute.ch

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Geneva Dialogue Resource extraction, climate change and the right to live well

by **Anthony Bebbington**, Higgins Professor of Environment and Society in the Graduate School of Geography, Clark University



Monday 14 October 2019

18:30 - 20:00

Auditorium A1B

Maison de la Paix

Welcome address by

Prof. Susanna Hecht

Natural resource extraction has returned with a vengeance: as a model of development, as illicit activity, and as survival strategy.

Combined investment in extractive industry, large scale infrastructure and the expansion of the agricultural frontier are often put forward as essential for the generation of government revenue, energy provision, and employment.

Yet, this emphasis on resource extraction raises serious challenges for climate change, biodiversity and community rights, not least through its impacts on land cover change and water resources.

Can these challenges be addressed in ways that combine – at least to some extent – extractivism with the right to live well?

This keynote lecture will aim to shed light on potentially fruitful responses at the interface of social mobilization and policy innovation within large-scale bureaucracies, without underestimating the constraints to change.

The future of our global food system



On **12 November 2019**, the Graduate Institute will have the honour to welcome **Prof. Sir Charles Godfray**, Director of the Oxford Martin School. Prof. Sir Charles Godfray is also Hope Professor of Zoology at Jesus College, Oxford. He is a population biologist with research interests including ecology, epidemiology and evolutionary biology. On that occasion, the CIES, Graduate Institute and the University of Oxford will organise a panel event on «the future of our global food system», with the participation of **Prof. Timothy Swanson**, CIES Co-Director.

The event is timely as Prof Swanson's project, *Human Niche*, funded by MAVA foundation is coming to an end this December 2019.

Human Niche has been focusing on food security in the 21st century, and throughout the project's timeline, Prof. Swanson has collaborated with various actors such as the University of Cambridge, the University of Cape Town, the University of Beijing and many other actors active in the field.

More on Food security and Land Use on page 3.

CIES News

Book launch: Anne Saab "Narratives of Hunger in International Law"



On 2 October 2019, Anne Saab, Assistant Professor in International Law and Associated Faculty for the Centre for International Environment Studies (CIES) presented her book: "*Narratives of Hunger in International Law: Feeding the World in Times of Climate Change*". Dario Piselli and Malavika Rao (both PhD candidates in International Law at the Graduate Institute), accompanied her to introduce her book through a set of questions. Many students, faculty members, and professionals attended the book launch which resulted in a strong interaction between the participants and the audience. Joëlle Noailly, Head of Research at the CIES, opened the conference by introducing the book as a major contribution to the field of environmental studies, for providing critical thinking on the various narratives around food and climate change.

Across her book, Anne Saab discusses how international law as a language constructs narratives of hunger in international law. To start, Dario Piselli questioned the author about these contrasting narratives. Anne Saab discussed the main two narratives: neoliberalism - how climate change and technological innovations are affecting the food system - and the food system narrative - which deals with a better distribution of food to fight hunger.



As emphasized by Malavika Rao, Anne Saab's book aims to remain objective and to settle in a space between these extreme positions. The book underlines the limitations of these two narratives, bringing to light other narratives from an international law perspective, which may be better able to provide solutions.

Welcome event: Environmental Studies & Research at the Graduate Institute



As part of the first week of the Autumn Semester at the Graduate Institute, the Centre for International Environmental Studies (CIES) and the Environmental Committee (EC) co-organized a welcome event for the incoming students. Every year, the CIES has for objective to help new students to familiarize with the environmental sphere of the Graduate Institute. This was an opportunity to discuss with faculty members as well as familiarizing themselves with the work of the CIES; the Environment, Resources and Sustainability Track of the MINT teaching programme; and with the EC. Students were able to meet with the professors, the associated faculty and other actors involved in the environmental field at the Graduate Institute. Welcome speeches were given by Prof. Andonova, Head of the Interdisciplinary programmes and CIES Co-Director, and Spencer Williams, President of the EC.

Prof Liliana Andonova awarded at ISA Annual Convention



At this year's 60th Annual International Studies Association (ISA) Conference in Toronto, Prof Liliana Andonova has received two prizes for her book *Governance Entrepreneurs: International Organizations and the Rise of Global Public-Private Partnerships*: the Margaret & Harold Sprout Award of the Environmental Studies Section and the Chadwick Alger Prize of the International Organization section.

ISA is a world-renowned academic association that endeavours to create communities of scholars dedicated to international studies. With 6,500 members globally, its goal is to provide opportunities for an exchange of ideas and research between colleagues on a local level and within specific subject areas.

CIES Staff

News on staff member



Cecilia Morin joins CIES as Junior Researcher in Fall 2019.

Cecilia Morin is a rising third-year undergraduate student from Waterville, Maine at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire, USA. She is studying anthropology and global health, and she has received five citations for academic excellence from four different departments at Dartmouth. Cecilia joined Prof. Andonova's team to contribute to the SNF "Accountability of International Organizations" project.



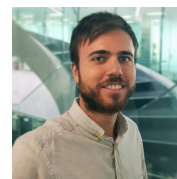
Céline Khan joins CIES as Communication assistant in Fall 2019.

Student at the Graduate Institute, Céline Kahn is doing a Master in Development Studies with a specialization in Environment, Resources, and Sustainability. Her focus is on Ecosystem management and more specifically in the marine ecosystem. Céline joined CIES as of fall 2019 to support CIES office in communication, events organisation and web editing.



Katja Doose, previously visiting fellow from the the University of Birmingham, she started as Lecturer as of Fall 2019.

Katja co-teaches with Prof. Liliana Andonova, the course "*Global Environmental Governance*". Her part addresses the historical roots of global environmental governance with a specific focus on Eastern Europe.



Pedro Guimaraes Naso defended his PhD thesis on 27 September 2019.

Pedro joined CIES in 2014 as research assistant and throughout his employment at the Centre, he has worked on various CIES projects while writing his PhD dissertation "*Impacts of Legal and Regulatory Institutions on Economic Development*" under the supervision of Prof. Tim Swanson.

Food Security and Land Use in the 21st Century: the return of Malthusianism?

By Prof. Tim Swanson

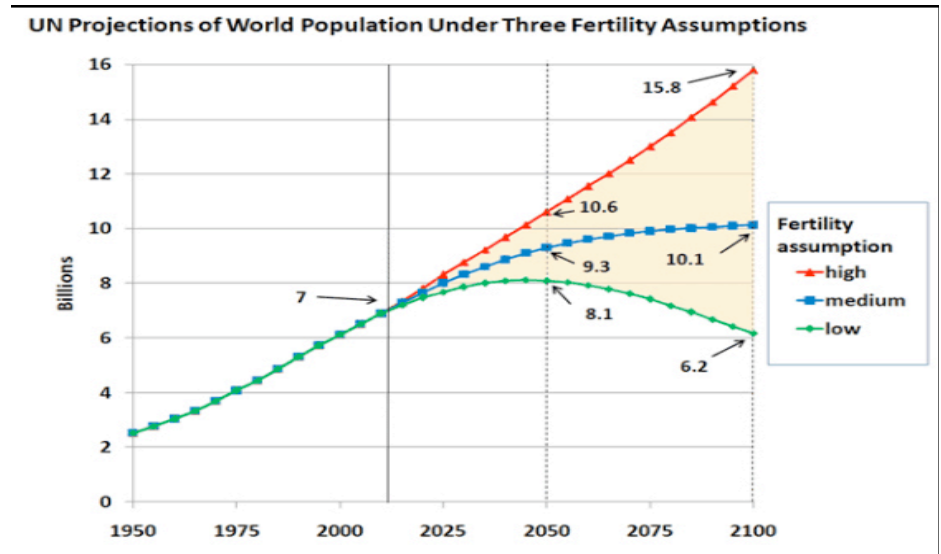
The coming century is set to pose many important problems regarding population, food requirements and land use. In many ways, the problem facing us is a stark reminder of Malthus' predictions regarding the importance of resource constraints in the face of population growth.

Despite questions concerning the core of the problems to be solved, there is little issue concerning the manifestations of these problems. First, we are seeing the culmination of a long-term process of human population growth, which commenced in earnest about 250 years previously (about the time of Malthus) and escalated thereafter, continuing to this day. A global population that was only about a million individuals in 1750, escalated to about two billion individuals in 1950, and has since increased to approximately seven billion.

More importantly the global population is expected to increase to about eight to ten billion individuals by the year 2050. This projection is based on the inherent momentum built into a population of the current size and demographic structure (i.e. age distribution). More strikingly the UN mid-point projections find that the population by the end of the century will be peaking in the region of eight to twelve billion people. So we can anticipate an approximate doubling of the human population over the course of the 21st century, at a time when the globe is already experiencing human pressures that have been previously unknown.

The earth has never before experienced population pressures of this nature. The amount of land in use for agricultural production reached about 1.3 billion hectares in 1960, and has since expanded to nearer 1.6 billion hectares. Most analysts have suggested that the limit to arable land available is about 2 billion hectares, or a further 25 percent increase in land availability.

In line with population changes, the primary locations for further land use allocations have been in developing countries, with sub-Saharan Africa being the main source of new agricultural lands. On the other hand, the developed world has used less land for agriculture due to a slowing of population growth in that region and advances in agricultural research and development.



Source: UN Population Projections (DESA 2014)

To ascertain whether research and development can avoid resource constraints, we have estimated the global agricultural production function for the period 1960-2010, and then extrapolated from it to the globe for the remainder of this century. The results are striking, in that they indicate that vast amounts of global land may be released from agricultural production, with relatively minor consequences for overall food production. It is feasible to substitute R&D for land use to a large extent.

This brings us to the fundamental problem facing the 21st century – which (ironically) is the declining population growth rates that are accompanying the currently increasing levels of population. It is the combination of high population levels and low growth rates that will effectively “invert” the population pyramid in coming decades, resulting in vastly increasing dependency rates in the global population.

UN Dependency Rate Forecasts

Year	Dependency Ratio
2010	7%
2015	9%
2020	10%
2025	12%
2030	13%
2040	17%
2050	19%
2060	22%
2070	24%
2080	26%
2090	28%
2100	29%

Notes: Dependency ratio refers to the proportion of the population that is neither in the labour force or in training during the period concerned. Source: World Population Forecast, United Nations (2015).

An inverted population pyramid implies a very large older population, unlikely to contribute to the R&D sector, reliant upon a reduced labour force. This means that the source of the solutions to the food security problems of previous decades is now significantly handicapped by this switch in sizes.

Is there a solution to this problem of increasingly constrained resources (human and natural) in the context of increasing global populations? If there is, it lies in the immediate investment of global funds into the human capital of developing nations. It is only in these regions of the world that both resources will continue to increase – with both populations and arable lands increasing in certain parts, principally sub-Saharan Africa.

The solution to the problems of the 21st century probably lies in replicating the experience of the developed world in the developing. If the developed world has been successful at substituting human capital (and resulting R&D) for natural capital in the recent past, then this is likely to be possible in the developing as well. The human capital in developing regions needs to be a crucial part of the solution to the food security problems of the 21st century.

Full article will be published in the Issue no. 6 of Global Challenges - <https://globalchallenges.ch/>

CIES Events - Fall 2019

CIES public events

- **Tuesday 17 September 2019, from 13:00 to 14:00**, outdoor area between P1&2, «Welcome event - Environmental studies and research», co-organised with the Environmental Committee
- **Wednesday 2 October 2019, from 12:15 to 13:30**, Auditorium A2, «Narrative of Hunger in International Law», Book Launch with **Prof. Anne Saab**, International Law
- **Monday 14 October 2019, from 18:30 to 20:00**, Auditorium A1B «Resources Extraction, Climate Change and the Right to Live Well», CIES Geneva Dialogue with **Prof. Anthony Bebbington**, Higgins Professor of Environment and Society, Clark University
- **Monday 12 November 2019, 18:30-20:00**, Auditorium Ivan Pictet «the Future of our Global Food System - Food Security in the 21st Century», with **Prof. Sir Charles Godfray**, co-organised with the University of Oxford

Seminar on Resources and Development Economics

- **Thursday 26 September 2019, 16:15 - 18:00**, Room P1-847, «Participatory Resource Management, Elite Capture and Local Livelihoods: Experimental Evidence from Rural Ethiopia», **Erwin Bulte**, Professor in Development Economics Wageningen University (NL)
- **Thursday 10 October 2019, 16:15 - 17:15**, Room P1-847, «Green finance and climate policy», **Julien Daubanes**, Assistant Professor in the Institute of Economics and Econometrics, University of Geneva (GSEM)
- **Thursday 24 October 2019, 16:15 - 18:00**, Room P1-847, «Food for the Soul: Measuring the Impact of the Reintroduction Fish Friday for (some) British Catholics», **Shaun Larcom**, Lecturer in Environmental Economics and Policy, University of Cambridge (UK)

- **Thursday 21 November 2019, 16:15 - 18:00**, Room P1-847, Title to be confirmed, **Daan van Soest**, Professor of environmental economics (Department of Economics and CentER), and Academic Director of the Tilburg Sustainability Center (NL)

Lunch Seminar series

- **Thursday 3 October 2019, 12:15 - 13:30**, Room P1-847, «Is the 2015 Paris Agreement likely to achieve its goals? A skeptical assessment», **Urs Luterbacher**, Professor Emeritus in IR/PS, Graduate Institute
- **Tuesday 15 October 2019, 12:15-13:30**, Room P1-847, «Political settlements and the challenge of mining governance reform: reading across Indonesia, El Salvador and Honduras», **Anthony Bebbington**, Higgins Professor of Environment and Society, Clark University
- **Thursday 14 November 2019, 12:15 - 13:30**, Room P1-647, «Sovereign Debt Stability and the Effectiveness of Transnational Governance Regimes», **Jamie Fraser**, PhD candidate in Economics, the Graduate Institute
- **Thursday 21 November 2019, 12:15 - 13:30**, Room P1-847, Title to be confirmed, **Lavina Daria**, Visiting Fellow, International Law Department and Jurist, European Parliament
- **Thursday 5 December 2019, 12:15 - 13:30**, Room P1-847, «The Ocean Forests Foundation: can seaweed help avoid a climate crisis?», **Tim Flannery**, Segré Foundation Distinguished Visiting Professor

Meet our students

Laura Nowzohour, PhD Candidate in International Economics, joined CIES in January 2018.



In July, CIES gave me the opportunity to spend two weeks at the University of Ottawa to attend a summer school on the Economics of Environmental Policy and Innovation organized by Prof. Carolyn Fischer. The topics included the Porter hypothesis, policy interactions with induced in-

novation, overlapping policies in the presence of multiple market failures, the green paradox and directed technical change. Apart from engaged and renowned lecturers, among them my supervisor Dr. Joelle Noailly, I also had the chance to present my own research on the effect of policy uncertainty on the transition to clean technologies. I am writing this paper as part of the NRP73 Project on Financing Investments in Clean Technologies and it was my first experience presenting outside of the “comfort zone” fenced by IHEID – an opportunity I would not have wanted to miss as the audience was very diverse and thus able to give critical but valuable feedback from different angles I had not considered before.

During all this, I also enjoyed connecting with fellow PhD and master students, both from local universities as well as from a wide range of other places. It was both reassuring and inspiring to discuss my research with junior researchers working in the same field. And, of course, we also spend time enjoying Ottawa in the summer. The friendships I formed there are still active now that up to 10 hours of flight divide us – one might be surprised how much common interests and, particularly, common struggles can bond.

CIES Latest Publications

- Bianchi, A. & **Saab, A.** Fear and international law-making: An exploratory inquiry. *Leiden Journal of International Law*, 32, 351–365 (2019)
- Caddell, R., & Molenaar, E.J. (Eds.). *Strengthening International Fisheries Law in an Era of Changing Oceans*; **van der Marel, E.**, Chapter 13. «Problems and Progress in Combating IUU Fishing», pp. 291-318, September 2019, Oxford.; Hart Publishing.
- aus dem Moore, N., **Großkurth, P.** & Themann, M. Multinational corporations and the EU Emissions Trading System: The specter of asset erosion and creeping deindustrialization. *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*, 94, 1–26, 2019.
- **Naso, P.**, «Environmental Regulation in a Transitional Political System: Delegation of Regulation and Perceived Corruption in South Africa», *CIES Research Paper series*, 59-2019, Centre for International Environmental Studies, The Graduate Institute.
- **Naso P.**, «Impacts of Legal and Regulatory Institutions on Economic Development», *CIES Research Brief series*, 3-2019, Centre for International Environmental Studies, the Graduate Institute.
- **Ravetti C.**, «The Perils of Development Aid in Resource-Rich Countries», CIES Policy Brief 3, Visiting Fellow at the Department of Management Engineering of Polytechnic of Turin.
- **Saab, A.** *Narratives of Hunger in International Law: Feeding the World in Times of Climate Change*, Cambridge University Press, 2019.
- **Srinivasan, S.** The light at the end of the tunnel: Impact of policy on the global diffusion of fluorescent lamps. *Energy Policy*, 128, 907–918, 2019.