

Spring 2020 NEWSLETTER

CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES
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New SNF Project: PANARCHIC

Power and Networks and the Rate of Change in Institutional Complexes

Led by **James Hollway**, Associate Professor in Political Science / International Relations



President Trump's moves to withdraw from, amend, or recreate US' international institutional commitments across various policy domains is indicative of a transactional attitude to international institutions, expecting that at least powerful states can quickly change them when domestic priorities change. However, this clashes with usual expectations that international institutions establish enduring expectations that weather the whims and winds of governmental change.

Indeed, many policy domains today are characterised by complex networks of overlapping international institutions that may be even less (or more) responsive to powerful actors.

This project seeks to better understand how quickly institutional complexes change. It plans to study the effects of networks and power on how quickly states join, reform, or create international institutions by examining the historical dynamics of three institutional networks from different domains: military alliances (security), trade (economics), and fisheries agreements (environment).

A better understanding of the rate of change in institutional complexes can tell us more about what a "sweet spot" of embeddedness might be so that the network as a whole remains both responsive and resilient.

SNIS' «Effectiveness of Partnership» project final workshop

On March 19-20, the Centre for International Environmental Studies will host the final workshop of its 'Effectiveness of Partnerships' research project. The project, which has been coordinated by **Prof Lilianna Andonova** and funded by the Swiss Network for International Studies (SNIS) since Fall 2017, seeks to offer a novel interdisciplinary methodology and in-depth comparative analysis of different pathways to the effectiveness of global public-private partnerships and their contribution to sustainable development.

During the final workshop, the latest drafts of the project's publications will be discussed and finalised by the research team. As part of the meeting, a public event «**Are Global Partnerships Effective in Advancing the Sustainable Development Goals?**» will also be organised to present the project's main outcomes and analyse them with the help of policy-makers and experts from different issue areas. **This event will take place on March 19 from 18.30 to 20.00 in the Auditorium A2 of the Graduate Institute.**



CIES News

A short letter from Bolivia - LITHIUM Project

By Jonas Köppel, PhD Candidate in ANSO

Bolivia is going through a period of profound political crisis and my research on lithium got caught up in the middle of it. Since Evo Morales' government was forced to resign last November various actors have staked their claims on what they see as the country's most promising natural resource. In light of this the deposed president has denounced a "lithium coup" staged by vested geopolitical interests. In a matter of weeks the future of the government project, which had been in the making for more than a decade, has become radically open. No one can really tell how things will evolve.

Only once the new government assumes office in July will we know more. Meanwhile, I am trying to focus on the more subtle realities of lithium extraction, working with the Bolivian scientists and engineers who have been trying to build up the industry from scratch. Their task is anything but an easy one and it has gotten even harder with the political turmoil of the last months. My task has not gotten easier either, as the current uncertainty is making it increasingly difficult to get in touch with my interlocutors. Politics have become part of my research, whether I want it or not.



CIES faculty members featured on *Global Challenges*

CIES produced, in collaboration with the Graduate Institute's Research Department, a series of short publications on the topic «Endangered Earth» published in *Global Challenges*, the Graduate Institute's biannual research dossiers. Less publicised than biodiversity loss and climate change, land degradation has taken centre stage in 2019. Environmental experts call for urgent sustainable soil management to curb global warming and feed humanity. Soil and land degradation has reached such a level that the Earth is now considered endangered. Is the process irreversible?

CIES faculty members contributed the following short experts' articles: **Shaila Seshia Galvin** on «food, agriculture and climate change»; **Timothy Swanson** on «Food Security and Land Use in the 21st Century»; **Marc Hufty** on abandoned mines; **Christophe Gironde** on land grabs and their damages; and **Susanna Hecht** on deforestation in the new authoritarian era.

Check out the full dossier here:
<https://globalchallenges.ch/issue/6/>

CIES Staff

News on staff member



New affiliations for **Joëlle Noailly**, CIES' Head of Research

As of January 2020, Joëlle Noailly will have two additional affiliations, first as Associate Professor in the Department of Spatial and Environmental Economics, School of Business and Economics, at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, and second, as Tinbergen Institute Research Fellow.



Helena Ting joins CIES as Research Assistant in Spring 2020.

Helena is a PhD student in Development Economics at the Graduate Institute. Her research interests lie in the nexus of health and economics, particularly the relationship between health, diseases, and economic parameters for households. She will join CIES in February 2020 as a research assistant on the Human Niche Project (MAVA).



Agnese Zucca joins CIES as Research Assistant in Spring 2020.

Agnese is currently a first year PhD candidate at the IR/PS department at the Graduate Institute. Her research focuses on asylum and immigration politics and policymaking processes. Before joining the Institute for her PhD studies, Agnese worked as a Research Fellow for the Global Detention Project. She will join CIES as a Research Assistant for Professor Andonova's SNF Project on the Accountability of International Organizations.

Masters students collaboration with CIES

This semester, CIES is also pleased to collaborate with several Master students on Joëlle Noailly's project «Financing Investments in Clean Technologies», funded by SNF NRP73 programme: **Bettina Kast** (MIA), **Dario Siegen** (MDev), **Till Fust** (MEC), **Mihnea-George Filip** (Mdev) and **Sarah Schoch** (MDev).



Noémie Laurens joins as Visiting Fellow in Spring 2020.

Noémie Laurens is a Political Science PhD Candidate at Université Laval (Quebec city, Canada). She holds a Master's in Management from HEC Paris and a Master's degree in environmental economics from Université de Bordeaux. Her research interests include trade and environment politics, norm diffusion, complex systems and network analysis. More specifically, her PhD project focuses on the trade-offs between innovation and rule diffusion in the trade and environmental governance systems, relying on a combination of complex system and network theories. Since 2017, she works as a research assistant at the Canada Research Chair in International Political Economy. Noémie joins CIES since 17 February, and will be working on her research under the supervision of Prof James Hollway.

CIES Research

Project « Financing Investment in clean technologies » NRP73

In the next issue of the Graduate Institute's review, *Globe* (#25, Spring 2020), Joëlle Noailly discusses her ongoing research project 'Financing Investment in Clean Technologies'. Here is an extract of the article.

The topic of this research looks at how society can steer financing towards cleantech technologies. The objective is to empirically test whether uncertainty about future environmental and climate regulations is negatively associated with investments in cleantech. The project investigates the role of a stable and predictable policy framework and evaluates the role of new financing tools for generating cleantech financing.

The project uses a novel approach to quantify environmental policy uncertainty, namely a text analysis of newspaper articles using machine-learning algorithms. The research team was recently invited to present their results at the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) conference at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Boston. Overall, the project is part of a Swiss National Research Program (NRP73), which aims to provide practical solutions for developing the cleantech sector in Switzerland in partnerships

with business organizations to policy organisations from a national and international level. Investors are particularly interested in our index as it can provide a quantifiable measure of policy risk.

The research team applied the text-mining algorithm on articles in 10 US newspapers over the last 40 years and found that our index captures the history of U.S. environmental regulations quite well, giving us confidence about the algorithm's performance. They identified spikes around major domestic policies, such as the enactment of the Clean Air Act in 1990 or Obama's Green New Deal in 2009, as well as during important international climate policy events. At this stage, we are still refining the algorithm for the policy uncertainty part. At this stage, they are still refining the algorithm for the policy uncertainty part.

Research team: Professor Joëlle Noailly (Graduate Institute), Professor Gaétan de Rassenfosse (EPFL), Laura Nowzohour (PhD candidate, Graduate Institute), Matthias van den Heuvel (PhD candidate, EPFL).

Check out the next issue of the Graduate Institute's review *Globe* for the full interview!

NBER Conference in September 2020



The research on "Financing cleantech" has been selected for presentation at the NBER Conference on the "Economics of Innovation in the Energy Sector" which will take place in Cambridge, MA in September 2020.

The conference, which is the first in a multi-year series of meetings on the economics of innovation in the energy sector, will feature presentations of six research projects on energy innovation. The project will be directed by Ashley Langer (University of Arizona) and David Popp (Syracuse University and NBER).

The conference will draw together researchers from energy economics, innovation, industrial organization, productivity, and other related fields to address issues concerning innovation in the energy sector, with an emphasis on what can be learned from recent successes in energy innovation.

The Human Niche extension project (2020-2022)

Led by Prof. Tim Swanson

A two-year extension of the Human Niche Project has been accepted from January 2020 to January 2022. It has been put in place at the Graduate Institute Geneva since 2012, at which time it was instituted as a means for funding ongoing work in the field of environmental economics, biodiversity and sustainable development. The project has investigated the interaction between human population, food requirements, land use and sustainable development on local, regional and global bases.

The continuation and extension of the work undertaken in the Human Niche Project will further contribute in the areas of land use, population and food security as well as applying economics to issues of sustainable development in regions and countries possessed of important natural assets. Moreover, many academic workshops and meetings will also be organized in the field of sustainable development. The extension of the project will also put in place oversight and supervision of graduate studies and conducting



fieldwork on projects and in areas associated with the Human Niche Project. Overall, it will lead to the development of policy guidance and project implementation for purposes of effective governance and attainment of sustainable development objectives.

The project will proceed under the direction of Professor Timothy Swanson of the Graduate Institute Geneva, with the oversight and advice of representatives of the MAVA Foundation and the Advisory Board of the Centre of International Environmental Studies (CIES).

CIES Events - Spring 2020

CIES public events

- **Thursday 19 March 2020, from 18:30 to 20:00**, Auditorium A2, «Are Global Partnerships Effective in Advancing the Sustainable Development Goals?», Final Policy Conference of the SNIS' "Effectiveness of Partnerships" project
- **Monday 30 March 2020, from 18:30 to 21:00**, Auditorium Ivan Pictet, «Dark Eden», Film Screening and debate. The screening is organised in partnership with the *Festival du Film Vert*.

Lunch Seminar series

- **Thursday 27 February 2020, 12:15 - 13:30**, Room P1-847, «Leveraging the Power-Wielder: De Jure Accountability of International Organizations», **Simon Montfort**, Research Assistant at the CIES
- **Thursday 12 March 2020, 12:15-13:30**, Room P1-847, *Negotiating environmental protection in trade agreements: a regime shift or a tactical linkage?*, **Noémie Laurens**, PhD candidate in Political Science, Laval University (Canada), CIES Visiting Fellow
- **Thursday 19 March 2020, 12:15 - 13:30**, Room P1-847, «Environmental Governance and Human-Nature Interactions: A Network of Perspective», **Örjan Bodin**, Associate Professor, Stockholm Resilience Center
- **Thursday 2 April 2020, 12:15 - 13:30**, Room P1-847, «Emergent Technologies to Advance the Protection of the Environment», **Jérôme Duberry**, Visiting Lecturer at the Graduate Institute, and Post-Doc Researcher at the University of Geneva
- **Thursday 14 May 2020, 12:15 - 13:30**, Room P1-847, «Biodiversity in our food systems», **Roseline Remans**, Senior Scientist, The Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)

Seminar on Resources and Development Economics

- **Thursday 26 March 2020, 16:15 - 18:00**, Room P1-847, «Green Fiscal Multiplier and Employment Dynamics: Evidence from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act», **Francesco Vona**, Researcher at the OFCE and adjunct professor at SciencesPo (FR)
- **Thursday 7 May 2020, 16:15 - 18:00**, Room P1-847, «Pay it forward: Impacts of a rural livelihoods program with built-in spillovers», **Nicholas Magnan**, Associate Professor, Agricultural and Applied Economics, University of Georgia (USA)

CIES Latest Publications

Books and Articles

- Discrimination and favouritism among South African workers: Ethnic identity and union membership, Ravetti C., Sarr M., Munene D., **Swanson T.**, in *World Development* (123) (November 2019)
- A Dragon Eating Its Own Tail: Pollution Information and Pollution Control in China, **Swanson T.**, Ravetti, C., in *Environment and Development Economics*, 24:1-22 (November 2019)
- From Green Hell to Amazonia Legal: Land Use Models and the re-imagination of the Rainforest as a Development Frontier, **Hecht, S.**, and Rajao R. in *Land Use Policy* (2020)
- Legal pluralism in post-conflict Sierra Leone; **Naso P.**; Bulte E.; **Swanson T.** in *European Journal of Political Economy* 61, 1-21(2020)
- The Hazards of Mainstreaming: Climate change adaptation politics in three dimensions, **Scoville-Simonds M.**, Jamali H. and **Huffy M.**, in *World Development* 125 (2020)
- What we know (and could know) about international environmental agreements'. Mitchell, M., **Andonova, L.**, Axelrod, M., Balsiger, J., Bernauer, T., Green, J., **Hollway, J.**, Kim, K., and Morin, J.F. , in *Global Environmental Politics*. (2020)

Meet our students

Pedro Guimaraes Naso

PhD in Development Economics, CIES Alumni 2015-2019

In September 2019, I became the head of the department of Innovations at One Acre Fund Burundi. One Acre Fund is an agricultural NGO that works all over Africa and gives farmers agricultural inputs on credit. In Burundi, we serve more than 100,000 farmers every season, helping them to have greater yields at a smaller cost with improved seeds, fertilizers and training. My role at the department of Innovations is to test new products and practices that have the potential to improve farmers' lives. I am involved in three big projects: market access interventions, research on trainings and practices to foster asset accumulation, and the creation of cooperatives of farmers. Looking back, I find my experience at CIES very important to my new role at One Acre Fund. At CIES, I had the opportunity to work on several projects – from climate change to agriculture and education – with different researchers. It was an incredible experience. I am grateful to Joëlle and Andhina for making CIES to run smoothly over the years I was there, and to Tim for letting me work on several different projects. Often, when I am having a beer and a brochette at the beach in the lake Tanganyika, I think about the CIES family and the great time I spent in Geneva!

