



GENEVA
GRADUATE
INSTITUTE

ALBERT
HIRSCHMAN
CENTRE ON
DEMOCRACY

ALBERT O. HIRSCHMAN, 1962 © HERNÁN DÍAZ

“A BIAS FOR HOPE”: REVISITING ALBERT HIRSCHMAN’S LEGACY

WEDNESDAY 13 & THURSDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2024

> [Geneva Graduate Institute, Maison de la Paix](#)

Albert O. Hirschman made a series of invaluable contributions to the social sciences - not just in economic and political theory, but also in area studies and comparative history, always with a “bias for hope” in favour of constructive policies of reform. He responded to the tragedies of interwar Europe first through personal commitment (as a member of the resistance), and later with organised redesign (working for the Marshall Plan). Then, in the 1950s, he turned to Latin America. His 1958 *Strategy of economic development* provided a powerful framework for the analysis of the sub-continent’s developmental challenges as it experimented with import-substituting industrialisation and the first generation of national economic planning endeavours. In *Journeys Toward Progress*, he followed up with more specific and historically-grounded studies of key issues such as drought control in North-East Brazil (SUDENE), inflation management in Chile, and land reform in South America. These were specific studies of contemporary relevance, but always couched in generalisable form and geared towards practical recommendations.

His later work may have seemed more universal in outlook (notably *Exit, voice and loyalty* and *The rhetoric of reaction*), yet it was also informed by his expertise on Latin America, whose major development challenges he continued to engage directly with (authoritarian rule, how investment can be leveraged for local development in Latin America, and why, etc). Many of his insights remain relevant to the very different conditions of the region in the 2020s, and his overall approach to development still provides a salutary corrective to narrower and more conventional orthodoxies that remain current.

This international workshop will explore Albert O. Hirschman’s seminal insights and how they enable to grasp specific research and policy issues. Co-organised by the Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy, Oxford University and the RedGob network and supported by the Société suisse des américanistes (SSA) de l’Académie suisse des sciences humaines et sociales, it will bring together social scientists informed by a Hirschmanian tradition.

www.graduateinstitute.ch/democracy

Registration: democracy@graduateinstitute.ch

TUESDAY 13 FEBRUARY

11:30 - 13:00 AHCD COLLOQUIUM

18:30 - 20:00 PUBLIC EVENT A BIAS FOR HOPE - REVISITING ALBERT HIRSCHMAN'S LEGACY

Panelists:

SANTIAGO GERCHUNOFF, Professor of Political Theory, Universidad Carlos III, Madrid

SHALINI RANDERIA, Professor of Anthropology and Sociology & President and Rector, Central European University, Vienna

LAURENCE WHITEHEAD, Politics fellow, Nuffield College, Oxford University, Oxford

Moderation **CHRISTINE LUTRINGER** Senior Researcher and Executive Director, Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy, Geneva Graduate Institute

WEDNESDAY 14 FEBRUARY

8:45 - 9:00 Welcome coffee

9:00 - 9:15 Introduction

9:15 - 10:45 **PANEL 1: PARADIGMS AS OBSTACLES TO UNDERSTANDING: RETHINKING DEVELOPMENT**

Chair **GRAZIELLA MORAES SILVA**, Co-director, Albert Hirschman Centre On Democracy, Associate Professor, Anthropology And Sociology

JACQUELINE BEHREND, Professor of political science at the Universidad Nacional de San Martín

- > Democracy, Development and Subnational Variations

LAURENCE WHITEHEAD, Politics fellow, Nuffield College, Oxford University, Oxford

- > Hirschman's ideas and their relevance to 'governability for development' in contemporary Latin America

JUAN FLORES ZENDEJAS, Associate Professor, Université de Genève

- > Central banks as agents for development in Latin America

10:45 - 11:00 Coffee Break

11:00 - 12:30 **PANEL 2: PARADIGMS AS OBSTACLES TO UNDERSTANDING**

Chair **LAURENCE WHITEHEAD**, Politics fellow, Nuffield College, Oxford University, Oxford

MATÍAS DEWEY, Associate prof of LA studies, University of St Gallen

- > The Political Economy of Non-Enforcement: Informality, Fintechs and Digital Payments in Latin America

SUNG MIN RHO, Associate Professor, International Relations/political Science, Geneva Graduate Institute

- > Structural Labor Market Changes and Gender Polarisation in Deindustrializing Countries

EDOARDO ALTAMURA, Lecturer, Department of History, University of Manchester

- > Latin American Neoliberal Turn in the 1980s

14:00 - 15:30 **PANEL 3: RETHINKING "EXIT, VOICE AND LOYALTY"? INTERNATIONAL AND TRANSNATIONAL RECONFIGURATIONS**

Chair **SHALINI RANDERIA**, Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy, the Graduate Institute, Geneva

MARIA VARAKI, Lecturer in international law, King's College, London

- > Hirschman and the quest for Tragic Justice

EMMANUEL DALLE MULLE, Post-Doctoral Researcher, Complutense University of Madrid

- > Secession, autonomy and assimilation: A first attempt to rethink the history of national diversity along with Albert Hirschman's exit, voice, loyalty

MARTIN HÁJEK, Associate Professor Department of Sociology, Charles University

- > "Watch out for politics": Exit, voice and other strategies of discontent in late Czech socialism.

15:30 - 15:45 Coffee break

15:45- 17:15 **PANEL 4: RETHINKING "EXIT, VOICE AND LOYALTY"? DEMOCRACY AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION**

Chair **YANINA WELP**, Research fellow at the Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy

SANTIAGO GERCHUNOFF, Professor of Political Theory, Universidad Carlos III, Madrid

- > Vote inexpressiveness and public action crisis. An intuition of social networks in Hirschman's political thought

LAURA BULLON-CASSIS, Post-Doctoral Researcher, Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy

- > Voice, Exit, and Loyalty among the Parisian youth: the case of the Paris Climate Academy

MARA MATTA, Associate Professor, University of Rome La Sapienza

- > Civic activism through art

17:30 - 18:00 **WRAP UP AND NEXT STEPS**

