

Research Bulletin

Upcoming events, latest publications and other research activities

24 June 2024 (no. 6, 2024)

Gateway to Publications by Themes



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Publications by Themes



Trade, Finance, Economies & Work



ARTICLE

Exchange Rate Regime Choices in Small Open Economies from Bretton Woods to Inflation Targeting

After centuries of metallic monies, for a long time, our understanding of fiat money had remained rudimentary and often controversial. Successive regimes eventually failed. The end of the Bretton Woods system marked the moment when the link

between fiat money and gold was severed and when the possibility of letting exchange rates float became possible. The small open economies adopted various arrangements. Informed by these experiments, the understanding of monetary policy substantially progressed, leading to the widespread adoption of the expected inflation-targeting strategy with similar inflation targets. As a result, exchange rate variability has declined. The US dollar dominance was maintained and even increased. Yet, new challenges have emerged. The long period of interest rates stuck at the effective bound effectively suspended the use of the strategy. Then, during the post-pandemic surge in inflation rates, inflation forecasts became highly imprecise, conclude **Nathan Sussman** and **Charles Wyplosz** (in *Comparative Economic Studies*, online June 2024).

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

ARTICLE

Merit-Based Scholarships for University Graduates: A Generation of Italian Economists

Enrico Nano, Ugo Panizza and **Martina Viarengo** examine the role of financial aid in shaping the formation of human capital (in *Labour Economics*, vol. 29, October 2024, online May 2024). They study the impact of a large merit-based scholarship for graduate studies in affecting individuals' occupational choices, career trajectories, and labour market outcomes of a generation of Italian economists, with special focus on gender gaps and the role of social mobility. They construct a unique dataset that combines archival sources and includes microdata for the universe of applicants to the scholarship program and follow these individuals over their professional life. They discuss five main results: (1) it is easier to become a high achiever for individuals from households with a lower socio-economic status if they reside in high social mobility provinces; (2) women are less likely to be shortlisted for a scholarship as they tend to receive lower scores in the most subjective criteria used in the initial screening of candidates; (3) scholarship winners are much more likely to choose a research career and this effect is larger for women; (4) women who work in Italian universities tend to have less citations than men who work in Italy. However, the citation gender gap is smaller for candidates who received a scholarship and (5) women take longer to be promoted to the rank of full professor, even after controlling for academic productivity.

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

This article was originally published as an essay in alumnus Enrico Nano's [PhD thesis](#) (2022).

ARTICLE

Trade in the Shadows: Empirical Challenges in Measuring Illicit Financial Flows

Accurate, timely and reliable statistics on international trade in goods and services are of considerable academic and policy relevance. A major source of illicit financial flows (IFFs) out of developing countries accrues from the under-invoicing of commodity exports. Researchers have highlighted the critical importance of reliable trade data to estimate the magnitude of IFFs and the related channels and drivers which erode the tax base of resource-rich low-income countries, and hence their capacity to mobilise domestic resources for development. Yet, data flaws and methodological weaknesses represent obstacles to identify the drivers and magnitude of the phenomenon, limiting the ability of developing countries to effectively curb IFFs. Drawing on six-year interdisciplinary research on commodity trade-related IFFs, **Gilles Carbonnier** and **Rahul Mehrotra**, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, examine the weaknesses of existing trade data repositories, notably, with regard to data aggregation, quality and consistency as well as missing data (in *World Economics*, vol. 24, no. 1, January–March 2024). They discuss the scope for improved data generation and transparency required to inform evidence-based policy debates and action. This, together with global taxation reform, can greatly contribute to effectively enhancing domestic resource mobilisation in developing countries.

[Journal's page >](#)

ARTICLE

Obscure Contract Terms: An Inadvertent Pricing Experiment

Contract terms that improve or reduce the likelihood of repayment of a debt should impact its price. That is basic economics. But what about a contract that is hundreds of pages long and has lengthy and complex terms that even the lawyers are unwilling to read? Believers in efficient markets might predict that variations that affect the likelihood of repayment in such obscure contract terms will be priced at the outset if there are profits to be made by exploiting these variations. An alternate view is that little attention is paid to the fine print in highly standardised contracts until the likelihood of default becomes sufficiently salient to make reading the fine print worthwhile. Using several inadvertent real-world experiments, Stephen J. Choi, Mitu Gulati, **Ugo Panizza**, Robert E. Scott and Mark C. Weidemaier examine the question of how and when variations that are assumed to be standardised in obscure contract terms are priced (in *Capital Markets Law Journal*, online June 2024).

[DOI >](#)

*This article was originally published as International Economics Department **Working Paper no. 05-2024**, Geneva Graduate Institute, 2024.*

ARTICLE

Distance(s) and the Volatility of International Trade(s)

Arnaud Mehl, Giulia Sabbadini, Martin Schmitz and **Cédric Tille** show that distance matters for the volatility of international trade and financial transactions on top of its well-known impact for their levels (in *European Economic Review*, vol. 167, August 2024, online May 2024). They conduct event studies on the global financial crisis and the Covid-19 pandemic with country-level and product-level data, and a longer panel data analysis. They consider measures of physical, virtual, and language distance jointly – the latter two proxying for ease of communication. They find evidence of larger trade declines in more distant country dyads and underscore the relevance of information frictions rather than shipment costs. Physical distance matters for trade volatility beyond goods, as do virtual and language distances. Physical and virtual distances amplify each other's effects at the country level, as do virtual and language distances at the product level. Distance effects are also weaker for homogenous products and foreign direct investment and banking activity entailing local presence, again pointing to the importance of information frictions.

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

Replication files are available on [Zenodo](#).

WORKING PAPER

“Delicate and Embarrassing”: US Loans to Suppress Haitian Independence

This paper by Mitu Gulati, Kim Oosterlinck, **Ugo Panizza** and Mark C. Weidemaier describes George Washington's administration response to a plea for emergency war financing from French colonists who were trying to quash a slave rebellion in Haiti (then Saint Domingue) (International Economics Department Working Paper no. 07-2024, Geneva Graduate Institute, May 2024). Washington bypassed Congress and authorised assistance to the French planters, hoping that France would recognise and repay the resulting debt to the United States. The exploration of this episode offers insights on how legal constraints can be overlooked in times of crisis due to political imperatives. On the international law front, it reveals that legal norms perceived as firmly established today were more malleable in the late 18th century. To place the story of US loans and foreign interference in Haiti in historical context, the authors provide a brief overview of Haiti's independence debt to France and the US loans that led to the American occupation of 1915–1934. This exploration, primarily sourced from secondary materials, raises more questions than answers. Nonetheless, the authors hope that by outlining the bare bones of the story and posing pertinent questions, they can inspire further research that digs deeper into this fascinating historical record.

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

WORKING PAPER

Drivers of Abnormal Pricing in Switzerland's Commodity-Trade

Gilles Carbonnier and **Siddhant Marur**, PhD Researcher in Development Economics, provide an in-depth investigation into trade misinvoicing by examining abnormal pricing patterns in Switzerland's imports of key commodities such as coffee, cocoa, gold, and copper (Working Paper R4D-IFF-WP01-2024, February 2024). Positioned within the broader context of illicit financial flows (IFFs) and the "resource curse", this research leverages transaction-level data from the Swiss Federal Customs Administration to offer a nuanced understanding of the role of tax rate differentials between Switzerland and its trading partners in driving abnormal pricing. The authors find that a one-percentage-point increase in this tax rate differential leads to a 0.27% to 0.32% increase in abnormal pricing. Their study employs an interdisciplinary framework, incorporating factors like governance and commodity-specific attributes, and reveals significant policy implications for both Switzerland and its trading partners. It contributes to the ongoing discourse on trade misinvoicing and tax evasion, offering actionable insights for policymakers and serving as a foundation for subsequent academic inquiry.

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

This paper, which is part of the project [Curbing Illicit Financial Flows from Resource-Rich Developing Countries](#), will also be a chapter in Siddhant Marur's PhD thesis.

WORKING PAPER

Environmental Damage News and Stock Returns: Evidence from Latin America

Eduardo Cavallo, Ana Cepeda and **Ugo Panizza** study the interplay between environmental performance and financial valuation of firms in Latin America and the Caribbean (International Economics Department Working Paper no. 08-2024, Geneva Graduate Institute, May 2024). They provide insights into how environmental considerations are integrated into financial decision-making and investor behaviour by analysing the stock market reaction to environmental news of firms with different levels of carbon emission intensity. They find that high emission intensity firms tend to underperform after the release of environmental damage news. Their baseline estimates indicate that, after the release of such news, firms at the 75th percentile of the distribution of emission intensity experience stock returns that are 17% lower than those of firms at the 25th percentile of the distribution of emission intensity. These results suggest that investors care about and price carbon risk, but only when this risk is salient.

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

PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS, 2024

Essays on International Trade, Technology Adoption, and Innovation

This thesis by **Anmol Kaur Grewal** consists of three independent chapters contributing to the literature on international trade, technology adoption and innovation.

In Chapter 1, “**Does Gravity Matter for Trade in Intermediate Services?**”, the author constructs a novel bilateral dataset of trade in services differentiating between final consumption and intermediate consumption. Then, she estimates a gravity model of trade in intermediate and final services for a sample of 48 economies between 2010 and 2019. She shows that intermediate services tend to be more sensitive to distance relative to final services due to the distinct nature of these services.

This essay was originally published in September 2023 as a [CTEI Working Paper](#).

Chapter 2, “**Technology Adoption and the Role of R&D Spending: Evidence from South Korea**”, which is co-authored with **Sang Hyun Park**, PhD Researcher in International Economics, focuses on how firm-level spending on research and development (R&D) affects the adoption of Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) technologies in South Korea. The authors propose an instrumental variable (IV) approach based on “election closeness” to address endogeneity concerns and find that an increase in R&D intensity increases the likelihood of adopting digital technologies but has no statistically significant effect on the likelihood of adopting automation technologies.

In Chapter 3, “**Foreign Linkages, Innovation and Productivity: Evidence from Enterprise Surveys**”, the author estimates a three-stage structural model of how foreign linkages affect innovation which in turn affects firm productivity using firm-level data from the World Bank Enterprise Surveys for 47 developing countries between 2003 and 2019. She finds that while increases in R&D intensity increase the likelihood of product innovation, they have no statistically significant effect on the likelihood of process innovation. Additionally, undertaking product or process innovation is associated with increases in firm-level productivity.

This essay was originally published in September 2023 as a [CTEI Working Paper](#).

[Repository](#) (access to the PhD thesis restricted to members of the Institute community; others may [contact Dr Grewal](#)).

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Peace, War, Conflicts & Security



ARTICLE

How Loyalty Trials Shape Allegiance to Political Order

“Loyalty trials” are common to a range of conflict settings, with consequences that range from harassment to imprisonment, torture, or death. Yet, they have received little if any attention as a general phenomenon in studies of state repression, civil war, or rebel governance, which

focus on particular behaviours that authorities use to put people on trial, such as dissent, defection, and resistance. Using a computational model and data on the German Democratic Republic and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Mirko Reul and **Ravi Bhavnani** focus on the dynamics of “loyalty trials” held to identify enemy collaborators – the interaction between expectations, perceptions, and behaviour (in *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, online December 2023). They use their framework to explore the conditions under which trials result in widespread defection, as in the German Democratic Republic, or in conformity as illustrated by our study of the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The polarising nature of loyalty trials and the propensity to over- or under-identify threats to political order have notable implications for democratic and non-

democratic societies alike.

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

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Human Rights, Humanitarianism, Justice & Inclusion



EDITED BOOK CHAPTER

The Muse of Rural Assistance in Greece for Relief and Rehabilitation: The Near East Foundation and United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, 1944–47

Joshua Thew, PHD Researcher in International History and Politics, looks at the participation of the Near East Foundation (NEF) as part of the

United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration's Greek mission following WWII (in *Relief and Rehabilitation for a Post-War World: Humanitarian Intervention and the UNRRA*, S.K. Knapton and K. Rossy, eds., Bloomsbury, December 2023). The definitions of relief and rehabilitation as part of the Greek postwar context were articulated from the top down. Within UNRRA, individual interpretations such as Near East Foundation's civilizational education model found continuity as part of relief and rehabilitation for national reconstruction. These ideas reimaged postwar Greece in utopian and civilisational terms. The case of Emilie Willms, an NEF nurse working with UNRRA, illustrates the individual, organisational, and institutional ethos of UNRRA's Greek mission. NEF's ethos of relief and rehabilitation as part of UNRRA's Greece Mission connects the interwar to the Cold War through early Western international education cooperation.

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ARTICLE

Doubly Destabilizing Definitions by Doing Ethnographic "Concept Work"

In her conclusion to the forum "Critical Ethnography" in *Public Anthropologist* (vol. 6, no. 1, May 2024), **Anna Leander** argues that the turn to ethnography in the International Social Sciences is doubly unsettling. Focusing specifically on the usage of definitions, she underscores both that International Social Sciences practices are turned upside-down as definitions become the result not the start of research and that ethnographic practices are reconfigured towards the critical.

[Journal's page >](#)

PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL LAW, 2024

Responsibilities to Prevent: Responsibilities of Supply-Side Actors to Prevent the Adverse Human Rights Impacts of Arms Exports to Conflict Zones

The adverse human rights impacts of arms exports to conflict zones are routinely ignored in favour of the security and commercial interests that drive the arms trade. Employing an interdisciplinary approach which incorporates elements from transnational law and virtue ethics, **Hiruni Alwishewa** argues that arms exports to conflict zones require the implementation of preventive responsibilities which elevate human rights considerations and extend to all key supply-side actors.

[Read more about the PhD thesis in this interview >](#)

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



Gender, Diversity, Race & Intersectionality



ARTICLE

Women Political Scientists, Academic Journals, and Their “Gatekeepers”

Recent studies dedicated to Latin American political science have focused on the institutionalisation of the discipline as the principal line of research. Much progress has been made in our understanding of this issue, yet the gender perspective remains little explored. As one step

towards including the gender perspective, **Yanina Welp**, Research Fellow at the Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy, and Benjamin Goldfrank (1) estimate the prevalence of female political science professors in 107 departments of 16 countries in the region and (2) on the editorial teams and (3) boards of 85 political science or Latin Americanist journals and then (4) evaluates a survey of editors in 48 of these journals (in *Revista Mexicana de Ciencias Políticas y Sociales*, vol. 69, no. 251, May 2024). They find a significant gender gap in both departments and journals (especially on editorial boards) that does not correlate with the institutionalisation of the discipline. Furthermore, the slightly greater presence on editorial teams represents a double-edged sword. The rise of female editors is an opportunity for professional recognition and to influence the discipline, but it requires working more without significant compensation, while the more symbolic and easier role – being a member of an editorial board – remains dominated by men.

[DOI >](#)



Arts, Culture & Religion



PHD THESIS IN ANTHROPOLOGY AND SOCIOLOGY OF DEVELOPMENT, 2024

Wine Complexities: Post-Industrial Production and Sentiments in Turkey

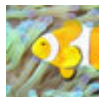
This dissertation examines boutique (small-scale and quality-oriented) wine production in Turkey. **Atak Ayaz** seeks to understand how moral ideals and sentiments regarding modernism and rural development undergird new forms of agrarian

entrepreneurialism that have transformed the structure and composition of agrarian society in Turkey's northwest amid increasing religious conservatism and hyperinflation. He explores how boutique wineries' secular, well-educated, and (upper-)middle-class owners reinvent themselves as post-industrial entrepreneurs. Though Turkey is not widely known as a wine-producing country, these entrepreneurs aim to be a part of the global fine wine circle despite the country's authoritarian regime, which increasingly forces religious norms through excessive taxation and strict alcohol-related legislation. During thirteen months of ethnographic research focusing on

post-industrial entrepreneurs, grassroots farmers, and state institutions and their control, the author primarily collected data as a resident anthropologist in post-industrial wineries in Turkey's Thrace, the region adjacent to Greece and Bulgaria. Focusing on the Thrace Wine Route, Turkey's first wine trail established in 2013, he theorises how "taste" and "quality" are situated vis-à-vis the political climate in the country. His thesis advances two parallel concerns: it uncovers how the market for quality wine in Turkey has emerged through the country's developmental and secular aspirations, and it considers how bureaucratic and legislative complications stemming from Islamist neoliberalism create an "anxious modernism" amongst the burgeoning post-industrial wine producers.

[Repository](#) (file embargoed until February 2027; for access, [contact Dr Ayaz](#)).

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Sustainability, Environment, the Anthropocene & SDGs



ARTICLE

A Springboard or a Safeguard? The Repercussions of Affinity on Environmental Treaties' Adaptability

If international environmental agreements (IEAs) are to remain relevant over time, the institutional capacity to adjust them to changing circumstances, referred to here as adaptability, is an important asset. Yet, while some IEAs include

various adaptability features, others do not. **Noemie Laurens**, Postdoctoral Researcher, develops the concept of affinity, defined as the varying sense of connection between negotiating countries, and argues affinity is a major driver of adaptability variation (in *Earth System Governance*, vol. 21, August 2024, online June 2024). Two rationales may explain why negotiators include adaptability provisions in IEAs. When affinity is low, negotiators likely use adaptability as a safeguard in case cooperation does not go according to plan or to gather more information about other signatories before further cooperation. By contrast, when affinity is high, they can use adaptability as a springboard for long-term expansive cooperation. The author tests both hypotheses on a sample of 1137 IEAs and finds that adaptability is negatively associated with affinity, supporting the safeguard rationale.

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Diplomacy & Global Governance

EDITED BOOK AND CHAPTERS

Informal Governance in World Politics

Throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, cooperation among nations was based on international regimes and formal intergovernmental organisations. However, since the 1990s, informal modes of global governance, such as informal intergovernmental organisations and transnational public-private governance initiatives, have proliferated. Even within formal



intergovernmental organisations, informal means of influence and informal procedures affect outcomes whilst, around all these institutions, even more informal networks shape agendas. This volume, edited and **introduced** by Kenneth W. Abbott and Honorary Professor **Thomas J. Biersteker**, analyses these three types of informality in governance: informality of, within, and around institutions (Cambridge University

Press, May 2024).

Among the empirical chapters is “**The Role of Transnational Policy Networks in Informal Governance: Creating the Office of the Ombudsman at the United Nations**”, in which Thomas J. Biersteker focuses on transnational policy networks (TPNs). TPNs participate in global governance by formulating ideas and policy options around and through formal and informal intergovernmental organisations and as such illustrate the third type of informal governance. A heuristic case shows how a TPN functioned to create the Office of the Ombudsman at the UN – securing rights protection for individuals targeted for UN sanctions – despite the initial opposition of all five Permanent Members of the Security Council. The chapter concludes with reflections on the potential benefits of applying the concept to other emergent policy domains.

In their **conclusion**, the editors set out a research agenda on informality in global governance, including its normative implications.

[DOI of the book >](#)

ARTICLE

A Reversible Mantle: How Giulio Andreotti Used Summit Diplomacy to (Not) Reform the Italian Economy

Samuel Beroud and **Mattia Ravano**, PhD Researcher in International History, reassess Italy’s relationship with its closest and most powerful allies in the late 1970s, questioning the dominant narrative of an «international mantle» driving Italy’s economic reforms (in *Rivista italiana di storia internazionale*, no.1-2024). Contrary to the idea that international circumstances forced Italy’s hand, the authors suggest that the Italian government led by Giulio Andreotti (1976–1979) used the *vincolo esterno* to advance domestic policy objectives. Leveraging an array of sources, including American, German, and British archives, documents from the Bank of Italy, and Andreotti’s personal papers, their analysis proposes two key reinterpretations: first, foreign pressures primarily sought political stabilisation, driven by geopolitical considerations, and not the imposition of a neoliberal agenda; second, Italian policymakers significantly shaped the *vincolo esterno* and Andreotti’s government aptly used international pressure and diplomacy to influence public opinion, facilitate economic reforms, solidify its leadership, and build domestic consensus for unpopular reforms. Therefore, Andreotti’s government was an active player in international negotiations, not the passive recipient of externally imposed economic policies

[Journal’s page >](#)

ARTICLE

Revisiting the Challenges and Opportunities for Emerging Powers in a Multipolar International System: Lessons from Turkey

What are the challenges and opportunities facing emerging powers in an increasingly complex international system? While existing studies on emerging powers have looked at their potential impact on the international order, fewer studies have focused on the challenges and opportunities that can negatively or positively impact the progress of emerging powers. **Israel Nyaburi Nyadera**, Visiting Fellow at the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP) and holder of a Swiss Excellence Scholarship, and Ayten Ceter examine the experiences of Türkiye as an emerging power since the turn of the new millennium and use it to illustrate the potential challenges and opportunities (in *International Journal*, online May 2024). They adopt five pillars which include: (1) domestic political and international ideological pillars; (2) geopolitical pillars; (3)

success in international broadcasting; (4) economic pillars; and (5) institutional pillars (regionalism and international cooperation) to assess how emerging powers navigate the complexities that come with such status. Using a case study approach, the authors argue that emerging powers are likely to remain as “emerging” if they do not capitalise on their strengths and/or reduce the negative effects of threats that come with being an emerging power. The findings of the study aim to inform policy and open a new front to assess and understand emerging powers.

[DOI >](#)

PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL HISTORY, 2024

Handling a Collective Interest: The G7 and the Euro-Atlantic Club's Interaction with the Rest of the World in the Long 1980s

This thesis by **Mattia Ravano** investigates the longevity of the G7 throughout the last two decades of the Cold War, looking at the collective interest that kept the leading industrial countries together against the predominant narrative of transatlantic drift. The research draws two principal meaningful conclusions. The first relates to the G7's historical role. The G's interactions illustrate the Western countries' intent to maintain unity in response to external challenges, preserving their international primacy. The G7 exemplifies efforts to make US hegemony more acceptable and sustainable, acting as a forum for controlled disagreement while displaying essential unity. Secondly, the research underscores that foreign economic policy is driven by the tension or alignment between long-term strategic objectives and immediate political exigencies. This dynamic interplay includes partisan politics, electoral logic, and economic nationalism, allowing a reading of foreign policy that transcends overarching structures like personal leadership or ideological legitimisation. Eventually, the G7's communicative potential has been crucial in presenting a unified Western front, managing divergent national priorities, and reinforcing a narrative of cohesion and shared values.

[Read more about the PhD thesis in this interview >](#)

[Repository](#) (file embargoed until May 2027; for access, [contact Dr Ravano](#)).

PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL LAW, 2024

Extinctive Prescription in International Law

Since Roman times, the lapse of time has entailed a legal effect. **María Florencia Sarmiento** focuses on a specific aspect of the lapse of time: the loss of a right to bring a claim before an international tribunal, known as extinctive prescription. She provides a comprehensive analysis of extinctive prescription in international law, examining its application by international courts and tribunals, clarifying its status within international law sources as a general principle of law, and determining the constitutive elements that trigger its application. Moreover, specific issues that arise in practice when determining whether a claim is time-barred are addressed, such as the starting point, the suspension, and the interruption of the limitation period. The thesis contributes to the existing but outdated scholarship on the subject in international law, enhances our understanding of extinctive prescription and its role in international dispute settlement, and provides a foundation for a clearer application of the principle by international adjudicators.

[Repository](#) (file embargoed until April 2027; for access, [contact Dr Sarmiento](#)).

PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL HISTORY, 2024

The European Identity on the Way to Maastricht: 1973–1993

This PhD thesis focuses on the development of the European Economic Community (EEC) and its visionary idea of Europe since the joint declaration on European identity in 1973. **Achim Merlo** examines the dual vision for Europe, which aims to establish both an external identity for the European Community in terms of joint external relations, and an internal strengthening of the European spirit among its member states. He adopts a dialectic approach to the issue of identity, considering the interplay between internal and external factors. The theoretical framework draws on constructivist theories of international relations, which are applied in the case study analysing Japan during the Shōwa era as an external entity reflecting the concept of a common European identity. The academic scope of this interdisciplinary thesis fills an analytical gap in the field, as

highlighted in alumna [Sophie Huber's PhD thesis](#). Following Huber's findings, Achim Merlo extends the research beyond the 1973 European Identity Declaration to explore the European external identity and its evolving context, also within the framework of the Cold War and decolonisation. Additionally, he examines the discourses surrounding the idea of Europe in the intellectual milieu. In conclusion, his thesis offers a dialectic perspective on the intersection of intellectual and political history. It provides insights into how politics, identity, and international relations intersect and mutually influence each other during 20 years of European integration. [Repository](#) (file embargoed until May 2027; for access, [contact Dr Merlo](#)).



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Cities, Space, Mobilities & Migrations



ARTICLE

Comparative Moves: The Pursuit of Value and Belonging in Transnational Migration toward a “Better Life”

Moving beyond comparison as a method that juxtaposes community-based case studies, **Valerio Simoni**, Visiting Professor of Anthropology and Sociology and Senior Research Fellow at the Global Migration Centre, **J r mie**

Voiron, Visiting Professor of Anthropology and Sociology, and **Elise Hjalmarson**, PhD Researcher in Anthropology and Sociology (at the time of writing), explore how migrants with different backgrounds and trajectories themselves deploy comparison in their everyday lives and decision-making (in *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, online May 2024). To do so, they examine Cuban and Ecuadorian migrants' comparative appraisal of different places, values, and visions of a “better life”, shedding new light on the motives, stakes, and effects of their endeavours. The proposed approach advances understandings of how migrants cope with the dominant comparative scripts and hierarchies that migration activates, notably by either conforming to, subverting, or unravelling them. Also highlighted are comparison's entanglements with questions of choice, belonging, and its experiential and emotional effects, including the suffering it elicits. A multidimensional exploration of how comparison plays out among migrants opens research avenues related to transnational living and people's pursuits of a “better life”, while also raising ethical and epistemological questions for comparative research on migration and beyond.

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

ARTICLE

Were Post-Colonial Cities US Imperial Cities?

In this exploratory text, **Cyrus Schayegh** proposes a US imperial “research perspective” on postwar postcolonial cities – cities that the United States did not colonially occupy, i.e. not cities like Manila, 1898–1946 (in *Urban History*, online June 2024). US imperial actors and interests helped shape such cities, and in turn were shaped by their people and structures. Importantly, the US case seems to strengthen the general recent view, also regarding formal empires, that it makes little sense to posit the existence of an imperial city type, and more sense to use “the imperial urban” as a research perspective.

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



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Other Relevant Information



Multimedia



PANEL DEBATES | AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY'S COLLEGE OF LAW & GENEVA INTERNATIONAL SANCTIONS NETWORK

Transferring Russia's Frozen Assets to Ukraine: Legal and Policy Debate

On 16 May, leading experts came together to debate the lawfulness and prudence of transferring USD 350 billion of Russia's foreign currency reserves, which have been immobilised across the G7 nations since Russia's invasion of Ukraine over two years ago. [Watch here >](#)



PUBLIC EVENT | GLOBAL GOVERNANCE CENTRE & INTERNATIONAL LAW DEPARTMENT

Curbing the Trade in Policing Equipment to Rights Abusers

International law currently does not regulate trade in policing equipment, enabling that equipment to flow easily to police forces with poor human rights records. Civil society groups, in collaboration with supportive states, are advocating for a "Torture-Free Trade Treaty" that aims to fill this gap. Drawing on the findings of an expert workshop and recent research, this event held on 17 May outlined how a treaty could establish a robust process for states to account for risks in export control processes, and explored the types of institutional arrangements a treaty could establish to ensure its effectiveness in practice. [Watch here >](#)



WORKSHOP KEYNOTE LECTURE | NEW DIRECTIONS IN THE THEORY & HISTORY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

The Political Economy of Representation: Counter-Archiving and International Legal History

On 30 May, **Luis Eslava** (Kent Law School & La Trobe University) gave the opening keynote lecture of the workshop "The Province of International Law: Space, Time, and Representation in International Legal History", which is part of the series "New Directions in the Theory & History of International Law". [More info and video >](#)



GENEVA HEALTH WEEK 2024 – WHA 77 SIDE EVENTS | INTERNATIONAL GENEVA GLOBAL HEALTH PLATFORM

The annual Geneva Health Week took place from 26 to 29 May 2024 at the Geneva Graduate Institute. Watch the Open Briefing to the 77th World Health Assembly (WHA) and three WHA side events:

- ["Introduction to WHA77: Addressing Health Challenges in an Increasingly Polarized World"](#), co-organised with United Nations Foundation (UNF)
- ["Data for Forecasting a Healthier Future"](#), co-organised with Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation and *The Lancet*
- ["One Health and Pandemic Prevention in Practice: Is the Global South Leading Innovation?"](#), co-organised with Geneva Health Forum and Four

Paws International

– “[Replenish or Perish?](#) The Way Forward for Global Health Partnerships”, co-organised with the University of Oslo's Centre for Development and the Environment; read also a [report on this event](#) by Health Policy Watch



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS | NORRAG & TATA INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES – CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN TEACHER EDUCATION (TISS-CETE)

Strengthening Effective Partnerships to Address SDG 4: The Role of Impact Bonds on Education

This virtual workshop took place on 21 May as a part of the SUDAC & KFPE Annual Conference 2024: Sustainable, Equitable Partnerships in North-South Collaboration – Lessons Learned for Future Funding Models. In keeping with KFPE's goal to promote efficient, effective, and equitable research cooperation between Switzerland and low- and middle- income countries, the conference focused on several topics pertaining to North-South collaboration, including best practices in developing equal partnerships, funding models for collaboration and the design of potential future funding models. [More info and video >](#)



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS | NORRAG

The Right to Pre-School Education

The deceleration of preschool expansion began well before the outbreak of COVID-19. In addition to the children that are covered in official statistics, one out of five children in the Global South is attending an unregistered preschool, while many other preschool age children are in primary school. Both phenomena cause concerns about the quality and age-appropriateness of these children's education, but they also highlight the commitment of parents to early learning and their need for childcare. To respond to this situation, NORRAG hosted on 29 May a webinar that aimed at discussing the findings above in some detail, and looking for ways to escape the current lack of progress. [More info and video >](#)



PANEL DEBATES | DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL LAW & INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION

Commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the UN International Law Commission

On 24 May, this event marked the 75th anniversary of the International Law Commission. Speakers discussed the Commission and its work in three panels: “The Authority of the International Law Commission in the International Legal Order”, “The Topics of the International Law Commission: Scope and Limits”, and “The Role of the Commission in the Changing Landscape of International Law”. [Watch here >](#)



TECH HUB

Technology at the Geneva Graduate Institute

Did you know that we have been teaching and conducting research on technology since our founding in 1927? **Paul Deshusses**, PhD Researcher in International History and Politics, tells us all about the Institute's rich history of research into the societal and geopolitical implications of technology. [Watch here >](#)



BRIEFING | DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

ITLOS Advisory Opinion on Climate Change

The Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law submitted a request for an Advisory Opinion to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) in December 2022. The ITLOS delivered its Opinion on 21 May 2024. On 4 June, experts reflected on initial responses to the Advisory Opinion with legal experts who have been involved in this case, and covered some of the background of the case and the process leading up to the delivery of the Court's opinion. [Watch here >](#)



CCDP SPOTLIGHT E3 | CENTRE ON CONFLICT, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACEBUILDING

The Changing Nature of Conflicts and the Challenges to Mediators

With more than 30 years of experience, **David Harland**, Director of the Geneva-based Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD), reflects on discretion, neutrality, the UN, the rise of new mediators, and the contribution of carrots and sticks (or lack thereof) to the work of mediators. [Listen here >](#)



WHO'S VOTING IN 2024? E4 | ALBERT HIRSCHMAN CENTRE ON DEMOCRACY (AHCD)

South Africa: Democracy and the Promise of Redistribution

South Africa held national and provincial elections on 29 May, thirty years after the first post-apartheid elections. Yet democratic South Africa reproduces many of the inequalities and power structures that characterised apartheid, with much of the farmland and other wealth still owned by minority whites. What does this mean for the African National Congress (ANC), the ruling party since 1994? On 22 May, Professor **Mbongeseni Buthelezi** of the University of Johannesburg and **Matias Lopez**, Postdoctoral Researcher at the AHCD, debated this issue. [Listen here >](#)



WHO'S VOTING IN 2024? E5 | ALBERT HIRSCHMAN CENTRE ON DEMOCRACY (AHCD)

The European Parliament: Is the Far Right an Existential Threat?

The last European elections took place from 6 to 9 June. On 29 May, **Christin Tonne**, Research Affiliate at the Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy, and **Natalie Brack**, Associate Professor at the Department of Political Science of the Université libre de Bruxelles, asked: What is different about these elections? And how resilient are the EU institutions to the rise of the extreme right? [Listen here >](#)



WHO'S VOTING IN 2024? & WHAT MATTERS TODAY – JOINT EPISODE | ALBERT HIRSCHMAN CENTRE ON DEMOCRACY (AHCD) & COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

India: Insights from the World's Largest Election


The Indian elections were held from 19 April to 1 June. **Mukulika Banerjee**, Associate Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the London School of Economics and Political Science, and **Gopalan Balachandran**, Professor of International History and Politics and Co-

Director of the AHCD, discuss and consider what is at stake in these elections for India and the world. [Listen here >](#)


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Visitors

 3 Jun–13 Sep 2024
 CCDP



Wladimir Santana Fernandes

Coming from Roskilde University, Junior Visiting Fellow Wladimir Santana Fernandes is working on “Justice for Syria: The Politics of a Transitional Justice without Transition”.

 15 Jun–15 Dec 2024
 CIES



Elisabetta Marzo

Coming from Università del Salento, Junior Visiting Fellow Elisabetta Marzo is researching “Large-Scale International Investments over Land and Natural Resources: Between ‘Control Grabbing’ and Sustainable Development”.

 17 Jun–25 Aug 2024
 IL Dep

Nathanael van der Beek

Coming from Freie Universität Berlin, Junior Visiting Fellow Nathanael van der Beek is researching “Parliaments’ Impact on International Law-Making”.

 15 Jul 2024–4 Apr 2025
 GGC

Jenniina Kotajoki

Coming from Uppsala University, Junior Visiting Fellow Jenniina Kotajoki will work on “Relations between the United Nations and Non-state Armed Groups”.


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Calls for Papers

EUROPEAN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS ACADEMY | EIBA 2024 CONFERENCE

Rethinking in IB Research for the Next 50 Years

The **2024 EIBA Conference** will be held at Aalto University, in Espoo, Finland, on 12–14 December 2024. In light of escalating global challenges and societal divides, the Conference calls for multidisciplinary collaboration to address complex issues facing internationalising firms. The organisers welcome novel research questions, theoretical frameworks and methodologies that foster an inclusive dialogue between established and emerging topics in IB.

- **15 July 2024:** submission deadline

[Full CfP here >](#)


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Awarded Prizes

Abhimanyu George Jain Wins the SNIS Award 2024

Abhimanyu George Jain's PhD thesis "**Fig Leaf: A Critical Analysis of the Balancing of Military Necessity and Humanity in the Law of Targeting**" has received the 2024 Swiss Network for International Studies (SNIS) Award for its interdisciplinary reach and policy relevance. The thesis explores the critical topic of international humanitarian law governing warfare, particularly the conduct of hostilities, known as the law of targeting. *In September 2023, Dr Jain presented his thesis in an [interview](#). Parts of the thesis can be downloaded from [SSRN](#).*

LASA Best Paper in Amazonian Studies for Livio Silva-Muller and Henrique Sposito

The article "**Which Amazon Problem? Problem-Constructions and Transnationalism in Brazilian Presidential Discourse since 1985**" has won the award for Best Paper in Amazonian Studies, presented by the Amazonia section of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA). Its authors are **Livio Silva-Muller**, PhD Researcher in Anthropology and Sociology, and **Henrique Sposito**, PhD Researcher in International Relations and Political Science. Using supervised machine learning, they investigate how the Amazon has been constructed as a problem in 6240 Brazilian presidential speeches since 1985.

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Upcoming PhD Defences

📅 Thursday 27 June
🕒 16:15–18:15
📍 Room S9, Pétale 2

INTERNATIONAL LAW

In Search of New Stories: Human Rights Narratives in the Transnational Governance of Sport, the Internet, and Corporations

By **Tomas Morochovic**. Committee members: Andrew Clapham, Professor, Thesis Director; Nico Krisch, Professor, President of the Committee and Internal Reader; Frédéric Mégret, Professor, Faculty of Law, McGill University, Montreal, Canada, and External Reader.

[More info >](#)

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

DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS

Three Essays in Development Economics

By **Dante Gerardo Sanchez Torres**. Committee members: Jean-Louis Arcand, Professor, Thesis Director; Martina Viarengo, Associate Professor, President of the Committee and Internal Reader; Luz Marina Arias, Personal Investigador, Universidad de Salamanca, Spain, and External Reader.

[More info >](#)

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