



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Sustainability

GENEVA
GRADUATE
INSTITUTE

SUSTAINABILITY
INITIATIVE

Contents

4	FOREWORD BY THE DIRECTOR
6	INITIATIVE TEAM MEMBERS
8	GUIDING PRINCIPLES
10	ACTIONS HIGHLIGHTS 2023
11	Energy at the Institute? Interview with David Gaymard
12	Enhancing Mobility at the Institute Interview with Marc le Hénanf and Vanessa Valerio
13	Impact of the Initiative on the Institute Interview with Camille Darbo
14	Waste Management at the Institute Interview with Varun Vithalani
14	Sustainability News
18	STRATEGIC PLAN
20	SUSTAINABILITY AT THE INSTITUTE
21	1. Teaching, Research and Outreach
33	2. Communication and Engagement
38	3. A Sustainable Campus

Foreword from the Director



Marie-Laure Salles
Director, Geneva Graduate Institute

L'Institut que je dirige est né en 1927 avec une boussole claire: accompagner le développement d'une collaboration internationale et multilatérale pour la paix. Presque cent ans plus tard, la paix reste un axe fort de notre boussole institutionnelle. Mais nous sommes aussi convaincus qu'un projet de paix aujourd'hui doit être intégré à deux autres objectifs – la durabilité et l'équité. Les défis du jour sont tous interconnectés, et sans un véritable engagement collectif pour un monde plus durable et équitable, il est illusoire de penser que nous pourrions avancer un agenda de paix dans le monde qui est le nôtre. C'est ainsi que ces trois dernières années la durabilité est devenue à l'Institut l'un de nos axes stratégiques principaux, que nous nous sommes engagés à déployer et à décliner à travers nos trois missions – l'enseignement, la recherche mais aussi le déploiement d'expertise avec et pour la société – et dans toutes nos activités.

Aujourd'hui, 70% des cours offerts dans notre master interdisciplinaire, qui forme les prochaines générations de décisionnaires, que ce soit dans les organisations internationales, le secteur public ou le secteur privé, intègrent les thématiques croisées des objectifs de développement durable. Notre corps étudiant est sensibilisé aux questions de durabilité en général et bien sûr de climat en particulier, et nous les intégrons à toutes nos réflexions au sein de l'initiative multipartenaire soutenabilité.

La réponse au défi climatique et aux enjeux environnementaux plus largement est complexe et implique inévitablement une analyse et une projection systémiques et transdisciplinaires. Les centres de recherche à l'Institut s'inscrivent depuis longtemps dans une logique transdisciplinaire que nous renforçons encore aujourd'hui, mais ils étaient jusqu'à peu structurés de manière thématique, autour de l'environnement, de la santé, du commerce international ou des migrations

par exemple. En 2023, nous avons lancé une réforme importante de nos centres de recherche pour les amener à une plus grande fluidité de fonctionnement et à plus d'interconnexion dans une perspective systémique qui répond à la réalité du moment: il nous faut désormais penser non pas simplement la question de l'environnement mais bien la projection nécessaire de nos sociétés et de nos organisations vers un projet de durabilité véritablement intégrée, où les progrès climatiques et environnementaux sont étroitement associés aux progrès sociaux et politiques.

Enfin, pour ce qui est de notre troisième mission, l'expertise, nous collaborons avec tous les acteurs de la Genève internationale, bien sûr, comme avec les autorités publiques suisses et genevoises ou les acteurs du secteur privé. La Maison de la paix est l'un des premiers bâtiments à avoir bénéficié de la technologie GeniLac mise en place par les SIG, ce qui en fait un bâtiment relativement vertueux. Pour les années à venir, nous nous donnons l'objectif d'aller plus loin encore en travaillant à la faisabilité financière d'un plan d'installation de panneaux solaires sur les toits de la Maison de la paix et de nos résidences étudiantes. En parallèle, l'ensemble de notre communauté s'est mobilisée ces deux dernières années pour réduire la consommation d'énergie, en déployant et en partageant des bonnes pratiques qui deviennent progressivement de bonnes habitudes. Nous nous apercevons ce faisant que nous pouvons déjà beaucoup améliorer la situation simplement par ce genre de mobilisation.

S'engager collectivement pour la durabilité est une formidable opportunité de réfléchir ensemble, et d'accélérer et d'approfondir toutes les actions que nous avons déjà engagées. Nous nous réjouissons de continuer à développer des actions ambitieuses et à fort impact.

Initiative Team Members

JOËLLE NOAILLY

Associate Professor in Environmental Economics,
VU Amsterdam · Senior Lecturer, Geneva Graduate
Institute, Co- facilitator of the Initiative

CARINE LEU

Head of Alumni Relations and Professional
Networks, Co-facilitator of the Initiative

CÉCILE DE GARDELLE

Initiative Coordinator

CAMILLE DARBO

Master Student, Member of the Environmental
Committee

KERRIN DIECKMANN

Master Student, Member of the Environmental
Committee

ALINE DIMITRIOU CRUZ

Senior Career Services Adviser

JÉROME DUBERRY

Managing Director of the Tech Hub, Academic
Advisor - Executive Education, Senior Researcher
AHCD / CIES

CLAIRE FRANCIOLI

Programme Assistant for our Executive Education
programmes on Development Policies and Practices

ISABEL GARCIA GODOY

Coordinator, Centre for International Environmental
Studies (CIES)

DAVID GAYMARD

Director of Real Estate

DAN GRAHAM

Head of Communications

MARC LE HÉNANF

Librarian

SIMON LOBACH

PhD Student

LIVIO MILES SILVA MULLER

PhD Student

WANGCHOK NAMGAIL

Master Student, Member of the Environmental
Committee

VARUN PARESH VITAHLANI

Master Student, President of the Environmental
Committee

EMMELINE PERREVE

Master Student, Member of the Environment
Committee

ANNE SAAB

Associate Professor, International Law

VANESSA VALERIO

Project Manager and Assistant to the
Administrative Director

ACHIM WENNEMANN

Director of Strategic Partnerships

Guiding Principles

The Geneva Graduate Institute Charter established in 2021 defines the Institute's wide mission and vision:

Vision

A pioneer in the exploration of global issues, the Geneva Graduate Institute opens creative spaces for diverse communities and fosters the understanding and engagement essential to a peaceful, equitable and sustainable world.

Mission

Located in the heart of International Geneva, the Institute produces and shares academic knowledge and expertise on international relations, development issues, global challenges, and governance. Through a combination of scientific excellence, transdisciplinarity, and critical thinking, we nurture students and professionals to become decision-makers open to the world. We equip them with the skills, confidence, and sense of responsibility necessary to drive positive transformation.

“

Sustainability implies striving for building a green, peaceful, and equitable world for current and future living communities.

We aim to integrate considerations of sustainability in research questions, teaching objectives, engagement projects, our daily lives in Geneva and around the world.

Our actions are driven by a sense of responsible and authentic leadership for positive transformation.

”

Actions Highlights 2023



Energy at the Institute?
David Gaymard, Director of Real Estate

Can you describe the new tool to track energy consumption in collaboration with SIG?

Last year, we collaborated with SIG to develop a new tool for tracking energy consumption (Smart Visio) that provides us with real-time data and insights into our energy, allowing us to identify areas for improvement and implement more targeted energy-saving measures. It has been instrumental in helping us monitor our progress towards reducing our energy footprint and achieving our sustainability goals.

Can you share a few actions implemented in 2023 to reduce energy consumption?

(1) We transitioned our lighting to low-energy LED bulbs, which not only reduce energy consumption but also have a longer lifespan, resulting in cost savings in the long run (ex : replacement of fluorescent tube lights with LED lights in the parking area = 24,100 kWh saved); (2) We adjusted the overall temperature settings in our facilities from 23 to 20 °C; (3) We implemented strategies to reduce unnecessary cooling and heating throughout the year, further conserving energy (e.g. reduction in heat consumption achieved through discontinuing the distribution of cold air in the building during winter and adjustments to ventilation systems + reduction in cold consumption during winter and shoulder seasons due to discontinuation of cold air distribution on the floors = 416,709 kWh saved).

Additionally, we prioritised cost-effective solutions and began by implementing no-cost measures before considering other options (e.g. reduction in electricity consumption due to optimisations in ventilation, lighting, and the operating mode of the SIG thermal plant = 363,171 kWh saved).

SIG asked all their clients to reduce energy consumption by 10% due to the energy crisis. How did you tackle this?

Yes, SIG requested a 10% target reduction in energy consumption as part of a national four-step action plan named the "OSTRAL" plan. The above measures were taken in order to meet this energy saving target. However, we also acknowledged that adjusting to these changes would require an adaptation period, as comfortable working conditions are a significant factor for our community. Therefore, we focused on changing our habits and promoting behavioral recommendations to ensure a smooth transition while still achieving our energy-saving objectives. We remain committed to working closely with SIG and our community to meet these challenges and continue our efforts.

What about solar panel solutions ?

We are currently investigating the feasibility of expanding our solar panel infrastructure. With the possibility of adding up to 847 solar panels for the Maison de la Paix and the two student residences de Picciotto and Grand Morillon, we are carefully considering factors such as cost and available space, given that our roof already accommodates various installations, including light windows and other infrastructure. To assess the viability of this initiative, we are conducting a thorough feasibility study covering aspects such as cost analysis, return on investment (ROI), minimum surface requirements, exposure considerations, and other relevant factors and constraints. This said, it is to be noted that the newly renovated Auditorium Jacques-Fremont at the Villa Barton will benefit from solar panels on the roof.



Enhancing Mobility at the Institute

Marc le Hénanf, Librarian

Vanessa Valerio, Project Manager and Assistant to the Administrative Director

Can you provide an overview of your roles within the Sustainability Initiative?

As a member of both the “Travel and Mobility” and the “Biodiversity” Taskforces, we work to improve current transportation solutions and to preserve local biodiversity. This involves promoting soft mobility options, conducting research on the environmental impacts of transportation, and engaging with stakeholders to advocate for eco-friendly policies. We collaborate with 2050Today to align our initiatives with global sustainability goals, aiming to foster a healthier and more sustainable community for both people and wildlife. Additionally, we manage the “Jardin de la Paix” community garden, which fosters a sense of community not only within the Institute but also with our partners — the State of Geneva, the Rigot Refugee Centre, and the Entraide Protestante Suisse — while promoting sustainability and enhancing personal well-being through hands-on connection with nature.

Can you tell us about the main actions of the “Travel and Mobility” workforce in 2023?

In 2023, the Institute’s “Travel and Mobility” taskforce reviewed our current policies facilitated by Mabilidée and identified areas for improvement in facilitating sustainable transportation amongst our community members as action points for 2024. Additionally, we reviewed our current Travel Policy and drafted a “Business Travel Research and Recommendation Report” on how to travel more sustainably for work. Lastly, members of the GISA Environmental Committee who also belong to the Sustainability Initiative organised a bike repair shop for the community as part of the Geneva Sustainability Week.

How else are you engaging the Institute’s community regarding mobility?

We polled the community on their mobility habits in an attempt to evaluate modal shares, CO2 emissions, and commuting distances. Out of 212 answers, 83.5% of the respondents walk, cycle, or take public transport to travel to the Institute, and 5.5% use P+R. Moving forward, we plan to conduct this survey annually to track changes and update our mobility strategies effectively.

You mentioned that you drafted a “Business Travel Research and Recommendation Report”, can you discuss the importance of travel in the context of university life and the challenges it poses in terms of sustainability?

Business travel is a vital aspect of university life, facilitating research, teaching, and academic exchange. However, intense travel significantly contributes to global warming. Air travel alone accounts for approximately 2.4% of global carbon emissions, without accounting for the effects of nitrogen oxides, soot, water vapour, and sulphate aerosols. Recognising this challenge, the Institute is committed to reducing its carbon footprint in alignment with the sustainable development goals outlined in our Charter and reflected in our focus on sustainable practices in teaching and research.



Impact of the Initiative on the Institute

Camille Darbo, Master Student, President, Environmental Committee

Tell us about your role in the Environmental Committee.

I am the 2023-2024 president of the Environmental Committee (EC), the Institute’s student association that promotes environmental awareness, organises events on topics related to sustainability and incentivises our community to have a more sustainable lifestyle. An important part of my role is to use and expand the EC’s network. For instance, last semester I contacted a small NGO in Geneva that teaches people to repair their clothes and asked its founder to give us a workshop during Sustainability Week. It was a real success and taught a dozen students about repairing and upcycling! The great thing is that everyone knows interesting people whom we could all learn from, and the EC is a safe space for students to organise events and bring positive change to the Institute.

What is sustainability to you in your daily life?

To me, sustainability means making efforts to act and consume more responsibly. No one is perfect but everyone can reflect on their actions and attempt to reduce their impact on the environment. This drove me to follow the Environment and Sustainability track of the Interdisciplinary Master at the Institute and to hopefully find a job that coincides with my values after I graduate. In my daily life, I have stopped buying new clothes unless really necessary; I volunteer with other charities; I refuse single-use cups; I stopped eating meat; and I love cycling in Geneva.

Tell us about the impact the Target Initiative on Sustainability has had on the Institute.

The Target Initiative on Sustainability (TIS) consists of a group of professors, staff, and students eager

to make the Institute a more sustainable place. Last year, monthly meetings were organised around themes such as sustainable travel, food, IT, curriculum, and waste management. Our partnership with the organisation 2050Today helped us to start a discussion around a food charter in collaboration with Novae, to initiate a reflection on professional travel and develop a survey about mobility, to implement a charter on sustainable IT and to launch a zero waste campaign with the distribution of reusable cutlery. The vegetable gardens in Grand Morillon and Parc Rigot are also an accomplishment of Marc Le Hénanf and Vanessa Valerio, members of the TIS. I am personally part of the taskforce working on sustainable food, and we aim to increase vegetarian options at the cafeteria, reduce red meat and seafood options, and to favour organic production and ban single-use containers and cutlery.



Waste Management at the Institute

Varun P. Vitahlani, Master Student, President of the Environmental Committee

Can you tell us about your involvement in waste management initiatives at the Institute?

As a member of both the Sustainability Initiative and the Environmental Committee, I've been actively involved in promoting waste management practices at the Institute. One of our key initiatives was raising awareness with new students at the orientation session. I pitched the importance of recycling in Geneva and provided guidance on how students can effectively segregate and manage their waste.

What specific actions have you taken to promote waste management among the Institute community?

In addition to the orientation session, I produced a communication piece aimed at synthesising waste management practices in a digestible manner. This resource is designed to help everyone, both at the Institute and in their households, improve how they

sort and recycle waste. By providing clear guidance and actionable tips, we aim to empower individuals to make sustainable choices in their daily lives.

How do you believe these initiatives contribute to the Institute's sustainability goals?

Effective waste management is a crucial component of our sustainability efforts. By raising awareness and providing practical guidance, we are encouraging members of the Institute community to reduce their environmental impact and contribute to a more sustainable future. These initiatives align with our broader sustainability goals and demonstrate our commitment to responsible stewardship of our resources. Our goal is to create a culture of sustainability where waste reduction and recycling are integral parts of daily life at the Institute.

Sustainability News



The Geneva Graduate Institute Signs the Sustainable IT Charter from INR

As a major emitter of greenhouse gases, digital technology is a major contributor to climate change. This is why the Geneva Graduate Institute has committed to a more sober digital future, in particular through the Sustainability Initiative, the IT department, and more recently, the Tech Hub. In May 2023, the Institute signed

the Sustainable IT Charter developed by the Institut du numérique responsable (INR). This commitment is part of the Institute's Digital Sobriety action plan, which was presented in autumn 2023. The five point Charter has already been signed by 443 organisations in France, Belgium, and Switzerland. The commitments made by the signatories relate to the environment as well as to accessibility, ethics, transparency, and the emergence of new behaviours and values.

Sustainable IT Day: Discover the Challenges of Digital Responsibility

In a world where digital technology plays a central role, public institutions have a crucial role to play in promoting digital responsibility, and must act on the negative environmental, social, economic and political consequences of digital technology.

The digital sector is responsible for almost 4% of global greenhouse gas emissions, a figure that could double by 2025. The principle of digital sobriety aims to reduce the ecological footprint of information technologies. With 15% of the world's population living with a disability, digital accessibility remains insufficient. Moreover, gender disparities in access to and use of digital technologies, as well as in digital-related careers, remain significant. Digital technology represents both a challenge and an opportunity for greater inclusion.

Faced with these challenges, the commitment of institutions to digital responsibility is more than a necessity: it's an imperative for a more sustainable, equitable and autonomous society.



L'Institut signe la Charte de décarbonisation

À l'initiative de 2050Today et du Forum d'action climatique de Genève, l'Institut a signé, avec 39 institutions internationales, la Charte 2050Today instituant un cadre de référence pour décarboniser la Genève internationale.

En présence des représentantes de la Ville de Genève, de l'État de Genève, de la Confédération suisse, de l'Université de Genève (UNIGE) et des Services Industriels de Genève (SIG), les signataires se sont engagés à mettre en œuvre un plan d'action pour réduire leurs émissions de gaz à effet de serre (GES) et s'associer aux efforts engagés par les stratégies climat de la Ville et de l'État de Genève.

Avec l'objectif d'une Genève internationale sans carbone à l'horizon 2050 devant se mettre en place dès aujourd'hui, la Charte stipule cinq principes :

1. La mesure régulière de l'empreinte carbone ;
2. L'évaluation précise de la situation initiale pour les secteurs d'intervention retenus ;
3. La définition et la mise en œuvre d'un plan d'action pour atteindre les objectifs choisis ;
4. Le partage de la démarche de décarbonation avec la communauté 2050Today ;
5. La communication sur l'action climatique entreprise.



Coordonnée et promue par 2050Today, cette charte est le fruit d'un travail conjoint des membres de 2050Today durant une année. En souscrivant à un cadre commun pour réduire les émissions de GES, la Genève internationale, centre mondial de gouvernance, se montre résolue à agir pour le climat. [...] Les services publics compétents et les meilleur·es expert·es de chaque domaine traité par la Charte ont été associés à son élaboration.

JEAN-PIERRE REYMOND
Directeur exécutif, 2050Today



S'engager avec nos partenaires de la Genève internationale pour le climat, c'est s'engager pour une transformation positive de notre monde. Les défis d'aujourd'hui sont tous interconnectés – l'action pour le climat et l'environnement, le travail de la paix, la lutte contre les inégalités, le combat pour la démocratie et pour une technologie responsable doivent être envisagés de manière intégrée. 2050Today est une boussole collective efficace, une formidable opportunité de réflexion collective et de progrès, qui nous permet de diriger nos actions et de mobiliser efficacement notre communauté et nos partenaires.

MARIE-LAURE SALLES
Directrice, Geneva Graduate Institute



Strategic Plan

Tracking Progress in 2023

In 2022, the members of the Target Initiative on Sustainability developed a Strategic Plan to guide our actions over the period 2023-2027. The actions below track our progress over the year 2023 on the various themes of the Strategic Plan and benefited from guidance and workshops organised by 2050Today.

Teaching

Embed Sustainability in the Curriculum

We have integrated sustainability into the MINT Core Courses to ensure that students are educated on this critical issue as part of their foundational learning.

Promote Sustainability Careers

To increase awareness of sustainability careers, we improved our data collection on alumni who are engaged in environmental careers. This effort aims to inspire current students by showcasing real-world examples of impactful work in the field.

Communication & Visibility

Promote Community Engagement on Sustainability

We are committed to promoting and supporting the students' Sustainability Week at the Institute. This annual event fosters community engagement and encourages active participation in sustainability initiatives.

Increase Visibility of Sustainability Initiatives

A comprehensive communication strategy is being developed to raise awareness about the Sustainability Initiative. This strategy will highlight ongoing projects and successes to the broader community.

Travel and Mobility

Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions From Travel

To address the environmental impact of travel, TIS members drafted a "Business Travel Research – Recommendation Report" (see interview with Marc Le Henanf and Vanessa Valerio) to support the future implementation of a travel policy at the Institute aiming to significantly reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

Green Spaces & Biodiversity

Support the Community Garden

In support of the Community Garden, we organised events and workshops to raise awareness and participation. Additionally, we are developing policies to ensure a functioning composting system within the garden.

Food

Increase Vegetarian Meal Options in the Cafeteria

We made progress towards assessing the feasibility of increasing vegetarian options in the cafeteria. Alongside this, we are improving data collection on the consumption of vegetarian meals to better understand and meet the demand.

Raise Awareness about the Carbon Footprint of Food

An awareness campaign is being developed to promote the benefits of vegetarian meals and reduce the carbon footprint associated with food choices.

Seek Alternatives to Nespresso Coffee

We explored the use of organic coffee machines as an alternative to Nespresso coffee, aiming to offer fair trade and environmentally friendly options.

Recycling & Waste

Increase Recycling and Reduce Non-Recycled Waste

To enhance our waste management practices, we are collecting detailed data on waste and installing additional recycling facilities based on expert recommendations.

Raise Awareness on Recycling

We are developing presentations targeted at students during Orientation Days and organising events related to waste and recycling during Sustainability Week.

Energy

Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions From Heating and Electricity

We explored feasible options to reduce our carbon footprint (see interview David Gaymard). We signed the 2050Today Decarbonization charter.

Sustainable IT

Raise Awareness about Sustainable IT

To promote sustainable IT practices, we organised two participatory workshops and two podcast interviews. The Institute signed the Sustainable IT Charter developed by the Institut du numérique responsable (INR).

Sustainability at the Institute

1. Teaching, Research and Outreach

1.1 Interdisciplinary Programmes

Given its educational mission, the Geneva Graduate Institute strives to ensure that students are familiar with the most important principles and concepts of sustainable development and can incorporate them into their actions during their future professional and private lives. Due to its unique position in the international hub of Geneva, the Geneva Graduate Institute offers a very large range of high-quality courses on SDG-related issues.

Our flagship programme, the Interdisciplinary Master Programme (MINT) offers courses along seven specialised tracks linked to SDG topics.

- Conflict, Peace and Security;
- Environment and Sustainability;
- Gender, Race and Diversity;
- Human Rights and Humanitarianism;
- Mobilities, Migrations and Boundaries;
- Sustainable Trade and Finance;
- Global Health.

75 MINT students (1st and 2nd year Master students)

were part of the Environment, Resources and Sustainability specialisation in the spring semester of 2023).

10 Applied Research Projects (ARP) on environmental topics

ARP bring together groups of students from the Geneva Graduate Institute with partners from diverse sectors of International Geneva to conduct innovative research that addresses realworld challenges.

Examples of Applied Research Projects in the Environment, Resources and Sustainability MINT Track

- Agroecology and the Challenges of Food Conservation and Transformation in Sub-Saharan Africa
Organisation: **Antenna**
- Decarbonizing the Inland Waterways Cruise Sector by implementing the EU Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Directive
Organisation: **Tralib**
- Climate-Driven Migration: Towards a New Global Governance Framework
Organisation: **United Nations University**
- Comparative Multi-Dimensional Analysis of Food Crises and Resilience Building Efforts. Case studies of the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of Niger
Organisation: **FAO**
- Unlocking Green Futures: Bridging the Financial Divide for Young Eco-Entrepreneurs
Organisation: **International Trade Centre**
- Global Overview of Approaches to Protect Human Health and Environment from Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals Along Value Chains and Quantify Their Economic Impacts
Organisation: **UNEP**
- Urban Waste Management and Its Impact on Biodiversity
Organisation: **UN Habitat**
- Effects of Global Warming on Global Migration and How Climate Change, and Flooding in Particular, Contribute to Triggering Migration Within the Country and Across Borders?
Organisation: **Terre des Hommes**

MINT Students Gain Real-life Exposure to the SDG Trillion-Dollar Agenda

Visiting Lecturer Brindusa Burrows taught “Financing the SDG Agenda: Unpacking the Trillion Dollar Opportunity”, a highly interactive course part of the MINT programme that introduced students to types of actors, mechanisms, strategies, and opportunities available to public and private financing institutions, with guest experts including Jennifer Blanke (ex VP African Development Bank), James Cameron (Pollination, UK), Valerie Harrington (Blue Orchard, Switzerland), David Taylor (Cardano Foundation, Switzerland), Christine Coignard-Haas (BoD member Eramet, France), Xavier Pierluca (Enabling Capital, Switzerland), Almira Cemmell (FTI, UK) and Kostis Tselenis (Swiss Impact Office).

Students worked in groups on real-life projects, solving relevant and cutting-edge current research questions in partnership with key external organisations highly active in the space of SDG finance. Several groups were invited to present their findings directly to the company leadership and all students received inspiration for their future careers.

1.2 Executive Education Programmes

The Geneva Graduate Institute Executive Education programmes leverage the Institute’s cutting-edge research, responsible policy engagement, and trusted voice on international affairs to drive inclusive growth for sustainable impact. Our expertise on sustainability issues spans across most of our programmes, some of which are highlighted below:

- LL.M. in International Law: This one-year postgraduate degree programme provides advanced, comprehensive and practice-oriented training in international law, with the possibility of concentrating on International Environmental Law.
- CAS in Nature-Positive Economy: Drive Social and Economic Transformation for Sustainable Prosperity (start date July 2024)

This transversal, interdisciplinary executive programme addresses crucial sustainability challenges from economic, legal, social, and ecological perspectives, from the local to the global and to drive impact in the public, private or non-profit sectors.



“

Action is urgently needed to address the triple planetary challenge of climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss. This Executive Certificate will equip you to lead in the systemic shift toward sustainable futures. You will strengthen your skills, knowledge, and network to address the urgency of transitioning from an extractive to a regenerative economy, fostering nature-based solutions for sustainable, shared prosperity.

”

GILLES CARBONNIER

Professor of Development Economics, Geneva Graduate Institute
Vice-President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

1.3 Research

The Geneva Graduate Institute hosts 10 Research Centres working on SDG-related themes:

- Centre on Conflict, Development & Peacebuilding
- Centre for Finance and Development
- Centre for International Environmental Studies
- Global Migration Centre
- Centre for Trade and Economic Integration
- Gender Centre
- Global Health Centre
- Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy
- Global Governance Centre
- Network for International Policies and Cooperation in Education and Training (NORRAG)

Activities and academic publications of each centre can be found on the websites of each respective centre. In the following we describe a few highlights of the year 2023.



1.3.1 Centre for International Environmental Studies

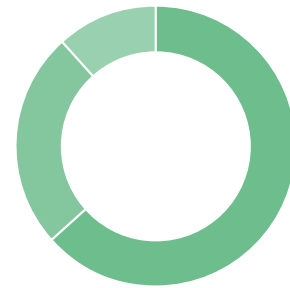
Established in 2010, the Centre for International Environmental Studies (CIES) is the Institute's focal point for research on environmental issues.

58
Total members

38
Researchers

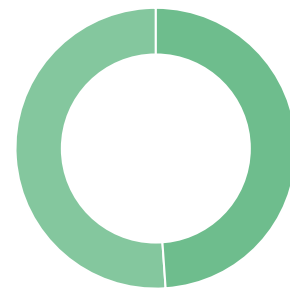
15
Faculty members

7
Administrative staff members



27
Female members

26
Male members



The Centre for International Environmental Studies in 2023:

12 Research projects	53 Publications	53 CIES members
7M Research funding	25 Public events/seminars	13 Executive Education courses
17 Media appearances	3,432 Mailing list subscribers	

The Centre for International Environmental Studies on social networks in 2023:

2,530 LinkedIn followers	662 Facebook followers	396 Twitter/X followers
------------------------------------	----------------------------------	-----------------------------------

The CIES organised around 4 research programmes:

- Environmental Governance
- Climate, Energy and Innovation
- Resources and Development
- Agrarian Environment and Food Systems

Within these programmes, "Biodiversity" and "Land Use" are considered another important research area of CIES. In 2023, there were 12 active and ongoing projects funded by various external sources, including Swiss public research funding organisations (SNSF, SNIS, and University of St. Gallen) and private foundations. Four new projects started in 2023, 8 project proposals were submitted and 3 SNSF projects were accepted.

12 Ongoing projects in 2023	4 New projects started in 2023	1 Completed project in 2023
---------------------------------------	--	---------------------------------------

8 Project proposals submitted in 2023	CHF 7,328,264 Total research funding of all ongoing projects in 2023
---	--

* 3 accepted and 5 under review

1.3.2 Centre for Finance and Development

2023 was a special year for the CFD since the one-year MAS in Sustainable Finance and Development (60 ECTS) was successfully launched in September. CFD also partnered with Building Bridges to write the 2023 Building Bridges Report on Aligning Finance with Sustainability and sponsored high level conferences and in-house events led by both international organisations and Institute students specialising in sustainable finance and development.

One-year MAS in Sustainable Finance and Development (60 ECTS) launched in September 2023.

TEAM: (Co-Directors) Nathan Sussman and Dawid Bastiat-Jarosz (Member of the European Platform on Sustainable Finance, European Commission and Co-Director, MAS in Sustainable Finance and Development) Patricia Arnold (Senior Coordinator); Ka Lok Wong and Joshua Ostry, PhD candidates in International Economics (Affiliated Researchers); and Luz Stecca (Communication Officer).

The MAS curriculum includes ten core courses:

- Finance, Development and Inclusion (6 ECTS - N. Sussman)
- Sustainable Finance in Practice (6 ECTS - N. Sussman/D. Bastiat-Jarosz)
- Foundations in Macroeconomics (3 ECTS - U. Panizza)
- Corporate Finance (3 ECTS - U. Panizza)
- Social Finance for Sustainable Development (6 ECTS - A.R. Kauppinen/K. McNeill)
- Sustainable Finance and Impact Investing (6 ECTS - B. Weder di Mauro)
- Empirical Methods for Evidence-Based Policy Research (6 ECTS - Imelda)
- Foundations in Microeconomics (3 ECTS - F.R.-Nicoud)
- Principles of Finance (3 ECTS - L. Zacharia-Trabelsi)
- Coding in Python (3 ECTS - I. Pla)
- Specialisation in Sustainable Finance and Development within the Master in International Economics (Head: Nathan Sussman)
- Specialisation in Sustainable Trade and Finance within the Master in International and Development Studies (Head: Ugo Panizza)

1.3.3. Gender Centre

New Research Project – Supporting Women-led Innovations in Farming and Rural Territories (SWIFT)

Grant CHF 523,889 – Duration 1 January 2023-31 December 2026 (48 months)
Funder SEFRI, as part of Horizon Europe Horizon 2.6: Food, Bioeconomy Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment.

1.3.4 Centre for Trade and Economic Integration

Event – CTEI Hosts the Forum on Trade Environment and SDGs (TESS)

In 2023, the Forum on Trade, Environment, & the SDGs (TESS) continued to support the inclusive international cooperation and policy action necessary to align trade and trade policies with the urgent need for environmental action, sustainable development, and just transitions.

Amongst other achievements, TESS produced a report authored by an international legal expert group offering guidance on the design and implementation of trade-related climate measures and policies, supported the work of the High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution in the UN-led plastics treaty negotiations, and contributed to discussions across the WTO on the achievement of concrete sustainability outcomes at the next ministerial conference.

TESS also helped build the political support that led to the successful launch of the Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate, mobilised stakeholders on the trade dimensions of circular economy, and convened discussions on fostering access to environmental technologies in developing countries.

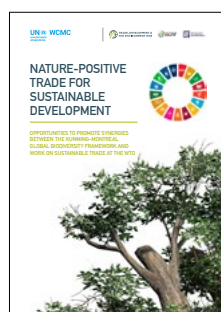
Event – The Role of Trade & Policy in Advancing Action on the SDGs

To open Geneva Trade Week 2023, TESS hosted a plenary session to offer perspectives on how trade and trade policies are relevant to efforts to advance implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Geneva Trade Week is hosted annually at the Geneva Graduate Institute alongside the WTO Public Forum. The resultant panel highlighted both challenges and opportunities for multilateral cooperation on trade and sustainable development, and speakers offered leadership on political strategies for catalysing action.



Policy Outreach

As interest in the shift to a circular economy grows, there is also growing attention to the trade and supply chain dimensions and the relevance of trade policies. To support a fair transition to a more resource-efficient, low carbon, and safe circular economy that supports sustainable development, inclusive international cooperation on the trade dimensions will be vital. To contribute to this cooperation, TESS mobilised a group of leading international experts from the trade, environment, and sustainable development communities to develop guidance on best practices and approaches on the trade dimensions of circular economy policies and measures, with the overarching goal of advancing sustainable development goals.



Nature-Positive Trade for Sustainable Development

Marianne Kettunen

TESS - Forum on Trade, Environment and the SDGs. Co-published with UN environment Programme; Trade, Development and the Environment Hub; Global Challenges Research Funds; UK Research and Innovation.

This policy brief seeks to present a mutually supportive vision for biodiversity, sustainable trade, and sustainable development towards 2030 and beyond, using the World Trade Organization's multilateral trade framework as its backdrop. It provides an overview of the global biodiversity framework and how efforts to shape and implement this agenda are linked to trade and trade policies and measures. It focuses on identifying how work on sustainable trade at the WTO can contribute to the delivery of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, adopted in December 2022, while supporting sustainable development. It argues that realising these opportunities will require fostering a shared understanding between biodiversity and trade stakeholders of how different trade and trade-related policies and measures could be used so that they deliver benefits across all three agendas of biodiversity, sustainable trade, and sustainable development.

Research Project

FAO; "FAO / Dialogues on Trade, Agriculture and Fisheries"

Dmitry Grozoubski

Dec 2021 – March 2023 (1.4 years); FAO; CHF 73,700.00; Non-competitive

Throughout 2022, the Geneva Trade Platform and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) collaborated on a series of research backed events exploring the nexus between sustainability and agriculture, and exploring innovative ways the multilateral trading system could support positive change. This project looked at areas as diverse as LDC participation in global agricultural trade, the possibilities offered by digitalisation and what the global community could do to better channel subsidies in sustainable directions. A particular highlight of the project was a student hackathon, which challenged student teams from all over the world to conceptualise an app which could support farmers, or agricultural policymakers in improving their sustainability. The winning team, which featured a student from the Graduate Institute, would go on to present their prototype at an FAO webinar in 2023.



1.3.5 Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy

Events

19 March: Enabling the Youth for Just Transitions: The Way Ahead

This international policy workshop co-organised with UNRISD explored the implications of the just transition for young people. It examined aspects relating to labour, participation, and innovation, in a dialogue between academics and policymakers, including several representatives of the International Labour Organization. Participants from international organisations, academia, and youth organisations discussed their own experiences and expertise on the topic, shedding light on the importance of the often-ignored youth perspective in just transition discourses and policymaking.

1-2 February: Development, Welfare and Democracy in Fragile Contexts

Gathering 16 scholars from multiple territorial and disciplinary perspectives, this conference sought to produce theoretical and applied knowledge for better development, welfare, and democracy practices in fragile contexts in the Global South and North. These are understood as those that concentrate on vulnerable populations, due to climate change, economic and energy crises, supply chain breakdowns, poverty, the weakening of liberal democracies, pandemics, and endemics. The conference examined the structural and conjunctural factors that have the greatest incidence in the formation and exacerbation of contexts of fragility.

It culminated with a public event with Gilles Carbonnier, Professor of Development Economics at the Graduate Institute and Vice-President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

7 June: Agir pour le climat

On June 18, Switzerland held a vote on the Climate Law aimed at achieving climate neutrality by 2050. The Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy organised this civic action and comedy workshop on 7 June, featuring an interactive session led by the Swiss Association for Climate Protection and a performance by Brazilian artist Nathaly Leduc. The event highlighted the importance of civic participation in Switzerland and the urgency of combating climate change, with speakers Nathaly Leduc and Laure Delory leading the discussions.

Research Project

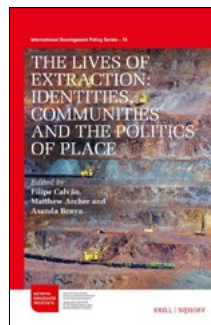
Youth Climate Activism and Local Institutions: Reframing Democratic Spaces at a Time of Polarisation

Christine Lutringer

Private Foundation in Geneva.

The proposal was accepted and the project will start in January 2024.

1.3.6 Publication Highlights



The Lives of Extraction: Identities, Communities and the Politics of Place

Filipe Calvão / Matthew Archer / Asanda Benya

International Development Policy | Revue internationale de développement. No 15 (Graduate Institute Publications, Brill | Nijhoff). 290 p.

The frontiers of extraction are expanding rapidly, driven by a growing demand for minerals and metals that is often motivated by sustainability considerations. Two volumes of *International Development Policy* are dedicated to the paradoxes and futures of green extractivism, with analyses of experiences from five continents. In the first of these volumes, 16 authors offer a critical and nuanced understanding of the social, cultural and political dimensions of extraction. The experiences of communities, indigenous peoples and workers in extractive contexts are deeply shaped by narratives, imaginaries and the complexity of social contexts. These dimensions are crucial to making extraction possible and to sustaining its expansion, but also to identifying opportunities for resistance, and to paving the way for alternative, post-extractive economies.



The Afterlives of Extraction: Alternatives and Sustainable Futures

Filipe Calvão / Matthew Archer / Asanda Benya

International Development Policy | Revue internationale de développement. No 16 (Graduate Institute Publications, Brill | Nijhoff). 348 p.

In the second of the two volumes dedicated to the paradoxes and futures of green extractivism, 22 authors, using different conceptual approaches and in different empirical contexts, demonstrate the alarming obduracy of the logic of extractivism, even – and perhaps especially – in the growing support for the so-called green transition. The authors highlight the complex and enduring legacies of resource extraction and the urgent need to move beyond extractive models of development towards alternative pathways that prioritise social justice, environmental sustainability, democratic governance and the well-being of both humans and non-humans. They also caution us against the assumption that anti-extraction is anti-extractivist, that post-extraction is post-extractivism, and they critically attune us to the systemic nature of extractivism in ways that both connect and transcend any particular site or scale.



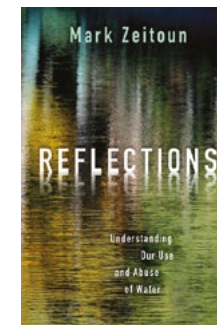
The Climatization of Global Politics

Stefan C. Aykut / Lucile Maertens

Palgrave Macmillan 172 p.

This volume, edited by Stefan Aykut and Lucile Maertens, examines the process through which climate change is transforming global governance, as both an increasingly central issue on the international stage and an increasingly structured policy domain with its specific modes of governing, networks of actors, discourses, and knowledge practices (Palgrave Macmillan, 2023). Since 2007, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has debated the security implications of climate change on several occasions.

This book was previously published as a special issue of *International Politics* (vol. 58, no. 4, August 2021).

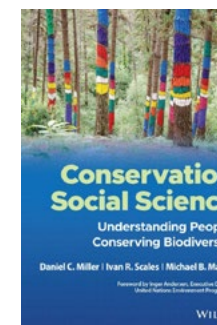


Reflections: Understanding Our Use and Abuse of Water

Mark Zeitoun

Oxford University Press. 136 p.

Water is central to all life, but we use it to destroy. Water can nourish, but we use it to starve. It can cleanse and unify, but we ensure it contaminates and divides. The consequences of continuing to desecrate or beginning to restore water's inner grace are tremendous – and will reflect as much on us as portend our future. Drawing upon twenty-five years of professional work as a water engineer, negotiator and scholar, Mark Zeitoun provides a unique insider's account of this phenomenon.

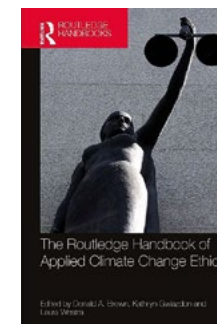


Human Geography and Conservation

Ivan R. Scales / William M. Adams. pp. 139-182.

This chapter was published in *Conservation Social Science: Understanding People, Conserving Biodiversity*. Daniel C. Miller, Ivan R. Scales, Michael B. Mascia. 384 p.

The authors provide a synthesis of how human geography understands and engages with conservation, both historically and by outlining future directions or research in the discipline. They discuss methodological and theoretical questions that have to be considered when conducting scholarship at the intersection of human geography and conservation such as particular ideas of nature and place.

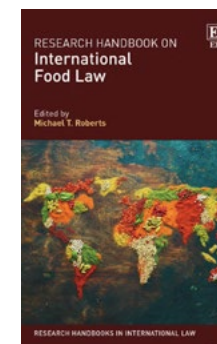


Human Rights-Based Approaches to Climate Litigation: A Critical Perspective of the Athabaskan Petition

Giada Giacomini. pp. 343-355.

This chapter was published in *The Routledge Handbook of Applied Climate Change Ethics*. Donald A. Brown, Kathryn Gwiazdon, Laura Westra. 488 p.

This chapter applies a critical legal and ethical perspective to the international human rights framework utilised in climate litigation. The author focuses on the limitations of international human rights law with regards to protection of the rights of Indigenous people in climate litigation.



What's the Use of Food Regime Analysis for International Law

Anne Saab. pp. 17-28.

This chapter was published in *Research Handbook on International Food Law*. Micheal T. Roberts / Edward Elgar Publishing. 580 p.

The chapter argues that food regimes, achieving food security, improving food systems, and ending hunger are an expansive topics spanning almost all areas of international law and that most legal scholars work on food especially when understanding international law work as a toll, language, and vector through which the world is analysed.

2. Communication and Engagement

2.1 The Geneva Challenge Celebrated Its 10th Anniversary in 2023

The Geneva Challenge brings together graduate students from diverse disciplinary and contextual perspectives to provide innovative and pragmatic solutions to some of the world's complex challenges. It aims to stimulate interdisciplinary problem solving and analysis on development, and encourages master students from around the world to bridge the gap between their studies and real development policy.

A total of 77 project entries were submitted by 317 students from teams hailing from all over the world in 2023. A team from Africa representing the Pan African University-Institute for Water and Energy Sciences won for their project "Grand-Guru Enclave – A Hybrid Community for Intergenerational Transfer of Knowledge and Laughter to Combat Loneliness," considering the unavailability of robust social support networks in urban Nigeria and ultimately contributing to achieving Sustainable Development Goals 3 and 4: "Good Health and Well-Being" and "Quality Education." The Grand-Guru Enclave will be piloted in Lagos, Nigeria; it is intended to be scaled up to all of Nigeria's states, sub-Saharan Africa and adapted by other isolated nations, such as Sweden, The United Kingdom, Japan, and Italy.



“ The Advancing Development Goals Contest is a worthy and important initiative and will encourage and inspire young students to be key agents for development and peace.

KOFI ANNAN
Late High Patron of the Geneva Challenge

”

“

In a world riven by geopolitical tensions, and with our common future hanging in the balance, it is undeniable that we need to aim for systemic and long-term sustainability.

What does systemic sustainability imply? First, it means an integrative perspective on contemporary challenges. This in turn calls for the courage to embrace complexity and decide under uncertainty. Second, it comes with a long-term projection and strong orientation to solutions. But what we need are solutions that break with the past and are in a deep sense (re)-generative. This again calls for courage — the courage to think critically and to combine critical with constructive thinking. Finally, systemic sustainability is impossible without the vital desire for hope and a powerful form of pragmatic utopianism. We have to believe in the future and construct it together — and here the role of younger generations is key!

MARIE-LAURE SALLES
Director, Geneva Graduate Institute

”

2.2 Sustainability Awards 2023

La 10^e Réunion internationale des alumnae-i de l'Institut s'est tenue le samedi 16 septembre 2023. Une table ronde modérée par Marie-Laure Salles a réuni près de 300 personnes réparties équitablement entre étudiant-es et alumnae-i autour du thème « From Environment to Sustainability: Time to Rethink Everything? ».

Les panélistes (en photos ci-dessous) étaient Laure Waridel (promotion 2016), fondatrice d'Équiterre, Laurence Boisson de Chazournes (promotion 1991), professeure invitée au Collège de France, et Jacques Grinevald (promotion 1970), membre du Groupe de travail sur l'Anthropocène de la Commission internationale de stratigraphie (ICS), portraituré-es dans le Hall of Alumnae-i Inspiring Stories. Ils/Elles ont également reçu chacun-e un Lifetime Achievement Award* pour leur travail sur la soutenabilité** des mains de la nouvelle présidente de l'Association des alumnae-i de l'Institut (AAID).

*Prix pour l'ensemble des réalisations professionnelles (Lifetime Professional Achievement)

Ce prix récompense un alumnus ou une alumna qui s'est distingué-e par son excellence et ses réalisations, a fait preuve de leadership, a apporté une contribution positive au prestige, à l'influence et à la renommée de l'Institut, et continue d'exercer une influence forte et constructive au sein de la communauté.

**Peace and Sustainability Award

Ce prix récompense un alumnus ou une alumna pour ses réalisations exceptionnelles dans le domaine de la soutenabilité notamment en raison de leur impact significatif, leur travail de sensibilisation et leur influence sur le changement, qui a reçu des distinctions dans son domaine ou qui a été reconnu-e au niveau national ou international.



Par ordre d'apparition :

Laure Waridel (promotion 2016), fondatrice d'Équiterre;

Laurence Boisson de Chazournes (promotion 1991), professeure invitée au Collège de France;

Jacques Grinevald (promotion 1970), membre du Groupe de travail sur l'Anthropocène de l'ICS.

2.3 Sustainability Week 2023

Every spring, students in 15 cities across Switzerland organise their respective Sustainability Week, which aims to make sustainability a focal point of Swiss higher education institutions. Master students from the Graduate Institute Student Association's Environmental Committee organise and promote Sustainability Week Geneva events, in coordination with the University of Geneva, to ensure that engagement in sustainability remains a core subject at the Institute and beyond.

Discussing the importance of Sustainability Week, Camille Darbo and Yannic Bucher, master students and organising members of the Environmental Committee, said, "First and foremost, our main goal is to sensitise students to the ecological and climate emergencies we are facing. Climate change can be quite an overwhelming topic and it is often difficult to find an entry point for people who are not familiar with the issue."

The 2023 week, held on 20–24 March, was centred around sustainable food, with workshops around diet, seasonality and food waste, waste management with a visit to a waste management facility in Satigny, and a clothing repair workshop, aimed at giving participants new skills to make outfits last longer and counter fast fashion.



2.4 Tech Week 2023

Tech Week celebrates innovation and technological advancements in our community. It features workshops, panel discussions, and keynote presentations, fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing among students, faculty, and industry professionals. Tech Week highlights cutting-edge research and projects, underscoring our commitment to progress and innovation in the tech sector. Jérôme Duberry, Managing Director of the Tech Hub, discusses the Institute's first Tech Week which took place from 4 to 8 December, 2023.



The Institute's First Tech Week

Jérôme Duberry, Managing Director of the Tech Hub

Can you give us an overview of the inaugural Tech Week at the Institute?

The first Tech Week at the Institute was a dynamic and immersive experience aimed at engaging our community in discussions and activities centered around digital responsibility and cybersecurity. We designed thought-provoking discussions, interactive workshops, and activities to raise awareness and provide training in good cybersecurity practices.

What were some of the key highlights and activities throughout the week?

Throughout the week, our community participated in the Digital Cleanse initiative, focusing on optimising our email system. We also produced two tech-focused episodes of our *What Matters Today* podcast series, featuring discussions on Responsible Digital Technology and a conversation on cyberpeace. Additionally, our cafeteria offered special Tech Lunch Menus to join in the spirit of the week.

Can you tell us more about some of the standout events during Tech Week?

Certainly! One highlight was an AI Governance Workshop, which explored the participatory aspects of AI governance. We also screened the film

"Backlash: Misogyny in the Digital Age," shedding light on the impact of cyber violence on women leaders. Additionally, we hosted a challenge of Digital Detox, encouraging meaningful connections by stepping away from technology during specific hours.

What other events were organised during the remainder of Tech Week?

We had several exciting events lined up, including "Beyond Code: The Battle for Influence in AI's Global Rulebook," where we unpacked the complexities of AI governance. We also hosted a Cyber Wargame, offering participants cybersecurity awareness and skills training. Additionally, there was a workshop on password protection and a continuation of the film screening.

How do you envision Tech Week contributing to the Institute's mission and community engagement?

Tech Week aligns with our commitment to promoting digital responsibility and cybersecurity within our community. By providing engaging and informative events, we aim to raise awareness, foster discussion, and empower individuals with the knowledge and skills to navigate the digital landscape safely and responsibly.

What Matters Today Podcasts

1. The initial episode delves into Responsible Digital Technology with insights from Jérôme Duberry, Johan Den Arend, and Canopé founder, Ivan Mariblanca Flinch.
2. The second episode, "Think like a Hacker with Cyberpeace" features a dynamic conversation between Jérôme Duberry and Adrien Ogee from the CyberPeace Institute.

Events

4 December | Beyond Code: The Battle for Influence in AI's Global Rulebook

Unpacking the complexities of AI governance and exploring the power play that will determine the future.

5 December | Cyber Wargame

Cyber Wargame, a cybersecurity awareness tool that strengthens professionals' skills and prepares them to face digital threats as they arise to protect assets, sensitive data, and the company's reputation.

7 December, | Workshop – Passwords: Protect and Strengthen your Digital Fortress Training

A session delving into the art of crafting and managing secure passwords as well as understanding the crucial role of robust passwords.

7 December | Film Screening – Backlash: Misogyny in the Digital Age

A shocking story of four women leaders whose lives are overturned by cyberviolence. They share a common cause: refusing to be silenced.

2.5 Alumna Portrait: Brindusa Burrows

Brindusa Burrows is the Founder and CEO of Ground_Up Project, Visiting Lecturer at the Geneva Graduate Institute, and Member of the Alumnae-i Association.



Addressing the Critical Systemic Issue of Climate Change

Brindusa Burrows

Founder / CEO of Ground_Up Project, member of the Alumnae-i Association

Could you briefly trace your career path?

Since graduating in 2005, I have always followed the public good purpose as a guide to my work. I built international experience working in business and corporate affairs, international inter-governmental organisations and global think tanks, and as a founder and entrepreneur.

I was an Associate Director at the World Economic Forum, where I designed and led a multi-country programme for financing the green economy under the G20. For the past eight years I have been running my own company – Ground_Up Project – where we help small and mid-size (SMEs) impact enterprises from emerging markets prepare for and meet with international investors.

In 2014, I created a research centre that provided fundraising capacity building for climate-focused small businesses in multiple locations around the world, as part of a programme with the University of Oxford, UAT Barcelona, IASS Potsdam and Global Climate Forum in Berlin. In recent years, I advised the development of the first sustainability strategy for the International Olympic Committee.

I am also an adviser for the Romanian Business Leaders Foundation and an Advisory Board member of the Swiss Economic Forum Circular Economy Community. Since last year, I have also been a Visiting Lecturer at the Geneva Graduate Institute, where I teach an introductory, practical course on sustainable development goal (SDG) finance in the fall semester for the Master in International and Development Studies (MINT) programme.

How did your studies at the Geneva Graduate Institute help you in your career?

Today the Institute covers a wide range of courses and degree pathways on international relations and sustainable development. At the time, I was lucky enough to pursue those two degrees independently,

not knowing they would eventually come together under the same roof! I was greatly influenced by my professors, in particular Urs Luterbacher, who ultimately inspired me to choose a career focused on addressing the critical systemic issue of climate change. I owe him a debt of gratitude for opening my eyes to this issue at a time when climate change rarely made the headlines.

What advice can you give our students?

Take advantage of your time at the Institute to sharpen and practice your critical ability. When you go out in the professional world, carry this healthy dose of thinking independently, hold yourself responsible and ask from others that they do the same. The world is changing at a very fast pace and much of the old paradigm needs to change. You – as us all – are each individually responsible for doing the right thing in the world and taking action for our collective future.

3. Sustainable Campus

Community Garden Testimonies

Testimonies from from Hamidreza Bakhtiarizadeh and Héctor Álvarez Gómez on finding community while gardening in the Jardin de la paix.



Hamidreza Bakhtiarizadeh

PhD student in Development Economics

I have always been interested in gardening, but I did not have a chance to do it as we live in an apartment. It was a great break from my research during the day, when the PhD work becomes frustrating. It was also a great place to have lunch and spend some time with friends. I learned a lot about gardening through my personal experience and talking to fellow gardeners

who were more professional than I was. I believe this experience would improve my gardening skills for next year. I would not grow celeries, spinach and big tomatoes next year; instead, I will grow cherry tomatoes, more variety of lettuce, and will plant them with lags, so I can smooth my consumption of lettuce throughout the growing season.



Héctor Álvarez Gómez

2nd year student, Master in International Economics

I used to have a garden in Chile with my parents, so I wanted to continue this activity here and obtain new experiences in a different type of environment. The people are really friendly and supportive. I like the location and how the space that surrounds the garden allows different animals and plants to coexist. Finally, I appreciate that we share the same opinion of not using fertilisers and rely on natural methods.

From my gardening experience, I can confirm that hardwork and persistence will bear fruit (sometimes literally). I would recommend it to anyone who is willing to learn and invest some time on this. Maybe a tip: 1) For compost, always mix the organic residuals from the kitchen with dry one (such as dry leaves or paper bags). 2) If a vole cuts your tomato, try to plant the cut branch.

I felt the sense of a “community”. It is possible to have your own time and also enjoy conversations with different people in the garden. I did not interact as much as I wanted with the refugees with whom we share the garden as I am not fluent in French, but sometimes I used google translate or we just shared seeds or cookies.

La campagne Rigot, qui s'étend sur 1 hectare entre la place des Nations et la Maison de la paix, appartient à l'Etat de Genève.

Depuis 2021, personnel et étudiant-s de l'Institut y gèrent le Jardin de la paix conjointement avec les demandeurs d'asile du foyer Rigot. En 2022, le collège Sismondi a rejoint cette communauté pour planter un verger, et une pépinière accueille provisoirement les arbres qui borderont la future ligne de tramway jusqu'au Grand-Saconnex. Les autorités cantonales souhaitent poursuivre et étendre ce projet, en diversifiant les activités et en en confiant la gestion aux personnes déjà impliquées, rejointes par des habitant-es du quartier.

La vidéo suivante (<https://vimeo.com/891007145>) explique l'historique et les enjeux environnementaux et sociaux de ce projet, ainsi que la notion de «gestion de commons», une gestion collective de ressources communes par une communauté ni privée ni publique.

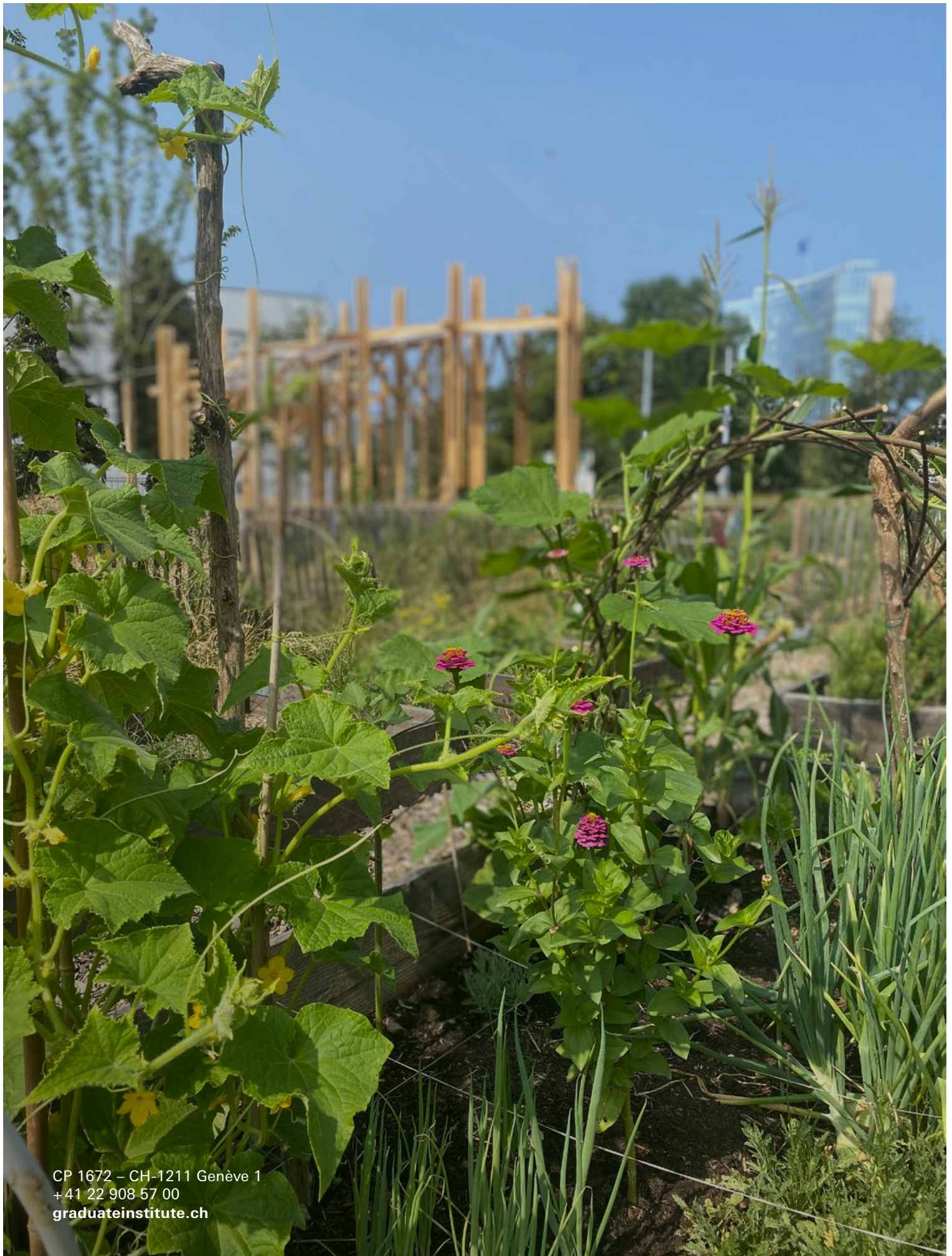




INSTITUT DE HAUTES
ÉTUDES INTERNATIONALES
ET DU DÉVELOPPEMENT
GRADUATE INSTITUTE
OF INTERNATIONAL AND
DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

Sustainability Initiative

www.graduateinstitute.ch/sustainability-initiative



CP 1672 – CH-1211 Genève 1
+41 22 908 57 00
graduateinstitute.ch