

CONCEPT NOTE EVENT

Publishing in Academia: Bridging the Gap between Academic Insights and Policy Implementation

Event date and time: November 7, 2024; 12:15-13:30 CEST

Venue: Geneva Graduate Institute, Auditorium A2

Event type: Moderated panel discussion, hybrid format

Host: PhD Year 1 Cohort, International Relations / Political Science

Event description

Wars erupt, climate disasters strike, pandemics come and go - what is our contribution as academics in this state of world affairs?

Join us for a dynamic roundtable event titled “*Publishing in Academia: Bridging the Gap between Academic Writing and Policy Implementation.*” This interdisciplinary discussion will examine how academic insights are translated into actionable policy, focusing on the challenges and opportunities at the intersection of academia, governance, and international relations.

Experts from diverse fields, including global health, humanitarian action, international organisations, and governance, will share their experiences in translating scholarly work into practical policy solutions. They will share best-practices on how to increase the relevance and impact of academic research on urgent global challenges, and attempt to answer some relevant questions: How can we build stronger collaborations between researchers and policymakers/how can they collaborate more effectively, and what can academia contribute to the resolution of current world crises? Can the gap between theory and practice be overcome?

Structure

Introduction: Amena Elashkar, PhD Candidate, IR/PS department, IHEID

Panellists:

- Dr. Fiona Terry (ICRC, Head of the Centre for Operational Research and Experience)
- Dr. Maria Klara Kuss (Senior Researcher, International Consultant - UNICEF HQ, Programme Group & Gender Team)
- Dr. Christiana Parreira (Assistant Professor, IR/PS department, IHEID)

Moderator: Tommaso Fonti, PhD Candidate, IR/PS department, IHEID

Bios and Pictures:**Dr. Fiona Terry**

Fiona Terry is Head of the Centre for Operational Research at the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva. She is a scholar-practitioner with over three decades of field- and management-experience in humanitarian affairs, including assignments for Médecins Sans Frontières, the ICRC and UNHCR in Iraq, Somalia, Rwanda, Liberia, Sudan, Myanmar, Nepal, Afghanistan and Tanzania. Terry has a Ph.D. in International Relations from the ANU and has made significant scholarly contributions to understanding humanitarian policies and politics. Her book *Condemned to Repeat: The Paradox of Humanitarian Action* (Cornell University Press, 2002) won the Grawemeyer Award for Ideas Improving World Order and remains highly cited. An outline of Terry's recent theory-practice engagement can be seen in an interview that appeared in 2020 in *Violence: An International Journal* as "Fiona Terry of the International Committee of the Red Cross talks about The Roots of Restraint in War and the intersection of research and humanitarianism,"

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/2633002419899796>.

Dr. Maria Klara Kuss



Dr. Maria Klara Kuss is an interdisciplinary researcher whose work sits at the intersection of politics, development sociology, and social anthropology. Her expertise focuses on Political Economy, Social Protection, Social & Gender norms. She completed her PhD in Public Policy & Policy Analysis at the United Nations University (UNU-MERIT)/Maastricht University – supervised by J Allister McGregor (Bath), Mark Bevir (UC Berkeley), and Franziska Gassmann (Maastricht). Her PhD analyses the de facto negotiations of Zambia’s welfare regime and the transformative implications of Social Cash Transfers for women and girls. This research evolved from her earlier work as a Research Officer at the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) - University of Sussex (UK) and her practical experience in developing countries, gained through her engagement with UN Women and her work as a gender advisor for the GIZ.

Maria Klara’s current work continues to connect academic research and development practice. As such she leads the synthesis of the five-year research programme on Gender-Responsive and Age-Sensitive Social Protection (GRASSP) at the UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti; and utilises the research insights to inform her work at UNICEF HQ’s Programme Division (New York) where she offers practical support to integrate gender into social protection systems in several African countries.

[Dr. Christiana Parreira](#)



Christiana Parreira is an Assistant Professor in the Department of International Relations and Political Science at the Graduate Institute. Her research focuses on the role of local political institutions and actors in governance, looking primarily at post-conflict contexts in the Middle East and North Africa. Her forthcoming book project examines how local governments and elections facilitated predatory state-building practices in Lebanon. In other research, she examines determinants of governance quality and distributive outcomes in Lebanon, Iraq, and elsewhere in the Global South. She received her PhD from Stanford University in 2020. Before joining the Graduate Institute, she served as a postdoctoral associate in the Department of Near Eastern Studies at Princeton University and a pre-doctoral associate at the Harvard Kennedy School's Middle East Initiative.
