

Research Bulletin

Upcoming events, latest publications and other research activities

9 December 2024 (no. 10, 2024)

Upcoming Research Events

9 DEC Monday	10 DEC Tuesday	11 DEC Wednesday	12 DEC Thursday	13 DEC Friday
<p>NORRAG Osmany Porto de Oliveira UNESCO Chair Series in Comparative Education Policy 12:30–14:00 hybrid</p> <p>MIGRATION TALKS Hein de Haas Rethinking Human Mobility: The Need for a new Migration Paradigm 18:15–19:30 hybrid</p> <p>CONFÉRENCE DE LA CHAIRE YVES OLTRAMARE Cécile Laborde Discrimination et religion 18:30–20:00 Auditorium A2</p>	<p>VILFREDO PARETO RESEARCH SEMINAR Morgan Kelly Some Pitfalls in Causal Inference with Spatial Observations 14:15–15:30 Room S5</p> <p>GIIA PART OF BUILDING BRIDGES ACTION DAYS Intergenerational Collaboration in Impact Investing 15:00–16:30 Room F, CICG, rue de Varembe 17</p> <p>ANSO GUEST SEMINAR Caitlin Procter & Elena Butti Towards an Inclusive Ethnography: Making Fieldwork Safer, Healthier, and More Ethical 16:15–17:45 Room S5</p> <p>CTEI Lucian Cernat The “Hidden Giant”: What</p>	<p>CFD PART OF BUILDING BRIDGES ACTION DAYS Scale Local Currency Solutions in Emerging Markets and Developing Economies 10:00–12:00 Room F, CICG, rue de Varembe 17</p> <p>INTERNATIONAL MACRO HISTORY ONLINE SEMINAR Mark A. Carlson & Rui Esteves The Young Fed: The Banking Crises of the 1920s and the Making of a Lender of Last Resort 17:00– 18:15 online</p>	<p>INTERNATIONAL HISTORY AND POLITICS FORUM George Karekwaivanane Disinformation on a Shoestring: Examining the Anatomy and Strategies of the Pro-State Network in the Zimbabwean Twitterverse 12:15–13:45 Room S2</p> <p>INTERNATIONAL LAW COLLOQUIUM Anna Pertig The Protection of People at Sea 12:30–14:00 hybrid</p> <p>GENDER CENTRE & IRPS DEP. Claire Duncanson Economies for Peace and Planet 16:15–18:00 Room S8</p>	<p>NO EVENTS</p>

**Mode of Supply Will
 Matter the Most for the
 Future of Services
 Trade?**
 16:30–18:00 Room
 S11
 CFD
**2024 Poster
 Competition in Climate
 Finance and Impact
 Investing**
 18:00–20:15 The Fab
 CONFÉRENCE DE LA
 CHAIRE YVES
 OLTRAMARE
**La virginité comme art
 de résister dans le
 premier christianisme**
 18:30-20:00 Salle S5

**16
DEC**

Monday

CONFÉRENCE DE LA
CHAIRE YVES
OLTRAMARE

**Blandine Chelini-Pont |
 Le sionisme chrétien et
 son influence sur la
 politique israélienne
 des États-Unis: une
 comparaison
 historique avec le
 sionisme chrétien
 britannique**
 18:30-20:00
 Auditorium A2

**17
DEC**

Tuesday

NO EVENTS

**18
DEC**

Wednesday

NO EVENTS

**19
DEC**

Thursday

NO EVENTS

**20
DEC**

Friday

NO EVENTS

[See all events >](#)

Gateway to Publications by Themes



Diplomacy &
Global
Governance



Cities, Space,
Mobilities &
Migrations



Global
Health



Trade,
Finance,
Economies
& Work



Peace, War,
Conflicts &
Security



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Publications by Themes



Diplomacy & Global Governance



ARTICLE

Governing on Par with States: Private Power and Practices of Political Normalisation

The involvement of private actors in global policymaking has received significant scholarly attention in international relations. Existing accounts have shown how entities such as corporations, businesses, and philanthropies build

their authority to become legitimate actors and shape global politics. **Juanita Uribe**, Postdoctoral Researcher at the Global Governance Centre, argues that contemporary global dynamics, such as the financialisation of development and the rise of multistakeholderism, have ushered in a trend where private actors are not only seen as legitimate delegated authorities but also embraced as fully fledged political equals indispensable for addressing societal problems (in *Review of International Studies*, online November 2024). To understand this shift, it is necessary to move beyond an examination of legitimation strategies to interrogate, instead, how private actors shape what are seen as “apt” or “deviant” ways of knowing and acting upon problems. Through an examination of what she calls “political normalisation” in the field of global food governance, the author shows how through concrete practices – individualising social problems, defining institutional aptness, and cultivating the landscape – private actors not only cultivate a perception of themselves as rightful global governors but also shape the parameters of what rightful governing ought to be. More broadly, this shift invites us to further complicate the public–private divide and assess the novel ways through which private actors “do” politics.

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

MONOGRAPH

International History of the Twentieth Century and Beyond

Using their thematic and regional expertise, Antony Best, **Jussi M. Hanhimäki**, Joseph A. Maiolo and Kirsten E. Schulze have produced an authoritative yet accessible and seamless account of the history of international relations in the last century, covering events in Europe, Asia, the Middle East, Africa and the Americas (4th ed., Routledge, September 2024). They focus on the history of relations between states and on the broad ideological, economic and cultural forces that have influenced the evolution of international politics over the last 120 years. This fourth edition is thoroughly updated to take account of the most recent research and global developments, including new material on the impact of the Trump administration on international politics, the rise of China under the leadership of Xi Jinping and the origins of the wars in Ukraine and Gaza. The book is supported by a fully revised [companion website](#) including links to further resources and self-testing material.

[Publisher's page >](#)

ARTICLE

Contestation, Emulation, Reformation: Latin American Legal Thought at the Hague Academy of International Law

Rodolfo Ribeiro C. Marques, PhD Researcher in International Law, reflects on how different Latin American jurists have approached the academic discipline of (public) international law in

their courses at the Hague Academy (in *European Journal of International Law*, online November 2024). Instead of focusing on their individual “contributions”, he discusses how their lectures were framed as principled statements about international law. He argues that these different views may well indicate that Latin American international legal thought is more nuanced than what some might have expected.

[DOI >](#)

EDITED BOOK CHAPTER

Self-Determination: The Major Contributions of the ICJ in Understanding and Applying a Fundamental Principle

Marcelo Kohen, Emeritus Professor of International Law, focuses on self-determination, a fundamental principle of international law that the International Court of Justice has made a large contribution in elucidating, both in terms of its scope and its application (in *New Trends in International Law: Festschrift in Honour of Judge Hisashi Owada*, Chia-Jui Cheng, ed., Brill, August 2024). He considers the right of peoples to self-determination as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, and the legal developments that occurred as a result of such inclusion. For the first time in history, a treaty – and none less than the Charter responsible for creating an international organisation having a universal goal – incorporated self-determination among the principles governing that institution. The author addresses the entrance of the principle into the corpus iuris gentium and its legal character, discusses its material content, and ends by describing the holder of the right to self-determination.

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Cities, Space, Mobilities & Migrations



EDITED BOOK CHAPTER

Reconfiguring Home: Rural-Bound Return and Translocal Householding in Postreform China

China’s entrenched rural-urban disparity and local-non-local divide built on and sustained by the *hukou* (household registration) system continues to shape over 280 million internal migrants’ everyday experiences of mobility.

Institutional barriers on top of sociocultural discriminations have been channeling a large number of them to return to their registered home villages. **Minhua Ling** examines how those migrants prepare for a presumed but indeterminate rural-bound return and reveals the ways in which material and nonmaterial aspects of return have been changing the physical and social landscapes in the countryside even before or in place of the return of migrants (in *States of Return: Rethinking Migration and Mobility*, D.A. Boehm and M.H. Rogozen-Soltar, eds., New York University Press, 2024). She also exposes how state-sanctioned structural inequality orchestrates rural-bound return but simultaneously renders return uncertain, incomplete, and sometimes impossible.

[DOI >](#)

EDITED BOOK CHAPTER

Internal Migration and Diversification of Foodscapes in Urban China

The influx of internal migrants has not only stimulated demand for new flavors and cookeries but also provided essential labor to sustain a growing food and catering industry in Chinese cities like Shanghai. Their cheap labour, hard work, and entrepreneurial operations have significantly increased affordable food options for the natives and migrants alike. By introducing, incorporating, and innovating regional and ethnic culinary practices, they have actively participated in reshaping the urban foodscape. In addition, migrant workers have manned the rise of online food ordering and delivery especially during the COVID pandemic. However, the convenience of pre-cooked food ordering and delivery can threaten traditional restaurants, eateries, and vendors that serve lower-income customers and may eventually reduce urban culinary diversity, observes **Minhua Ling** (in *Handbook of Migration, Ethnicity and Diversity*, T. Tsuda, ed., Edward Elgar, July 2024). [DOI >](#)

PAPER

Rightful Voices: Refugee Participation in Humanitarian Programming: The Example of CARE International in the Azraq Camp

Nora Diethelm, Master Student in International and Development Studies at the time of writing, identifies the drivers and constraints of refugee participation in humanitarian programming and examines CARE's mechanisms in the Azraq camp to facilitate such participation (Global Migration Research Paper no. 33, November 2024). She combines a literature review with qualitative field research, including observations and interviews. While there are few compelling incentives for organisations to implement participation, numerous constraints, including legal restrictions and structural issues in the sector, hinder refugees' influence on humanitarian activities. CARE has established several mechanisms to involve residents, including community representation, consultations, project evaluations, a camp-wide accountability mechanism, and the implementation of most activities by residents working as volunteers. While these mechanisms enable refugee participation, they have diverse limitations.

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

This paper reproduces Nora Diethelm's master dissertation, which won her the Global Migration Centre's Global Migration Award.

PHD THESIS IN ANTHROPOLOGY AND SOCIOLOGY, 2024

Cargando con Cuba: The Embodied Labor of Becoming Transnational among Cuban Migrants in Spain

This thesis investigates the everyday material, ethical, and emotional quandaries of transnational living navigated by Cuban migrants in Spain. Moving beyond reductive accounts of economic migration for which Cuba is often taken as an exemplar writ large, **Elise Hjalmarson** proposes an expansive, inclusive, and feminist approach to the "economic" that reveals the myriad gendered demands, dilemmas, and desires generated by diasporic living. Drawing on thirteen months of ethnographic fieldwork in Spain among Cuban migrants and their relations, she illuminates transnationalism as a way of being, seeing, and feeling in the world that comes to inform people's expectations about what makes for a meaningful life and where it can be found, in addition to their perspectives on moral personhood, relationality, and belonging. Transnational ways of being, she demonstrates, are not limited to the diaspora, but also permeate social life in Cuba, affecting those who remain on the island. For Cuban migrants in Spain, she posits that becoming transnational entails *cargando con Cuba* – taking on, carrying, and reckoning with "Cuba" – a form of embodied labor that shapes and is shaped by their perceptions of self, orientations toward migration, desires to depart, stay, or return, and perspectives on how to engage ethically with the world around them. *Cargando* exemplifies the inherent relationality and materiality at the heart of migrant struggles.

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

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





Global Health



DISCUSSION PAPER

From Negotiation to Implementation: Crafting Effective Governance for the WHO Pandemic Agreement: Interviews with Juliette Voinov Kohler, Malgosia Fitzmaurice and Fuad Zarbiyev

This publication was prepared as part of the lead-up to the 29 October 2024 workshop, "From Negotiation to Implementation: Crafting Effective

Governance for the WHO Pandemic Agreement" (Global Health Centre Discussion Paper, Geneva Graduate Institute, November 2024). The workshop explored key steps in the treaty-making process, including the critical phase of moving from negotiation to effective implementation. To enhance the discussion and prepare for the event, GHC staff members interviewed the expert speakers invited to the workshop, including **Fuad Zarbiyev** on the role and power of the COP.

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



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Trade, Finance, Economies & Work



ARTICLE

International Community in the Global Digital Economy: A Case Study on the African Digital Trade Framework

Global digital integration is desirable and perhaps even inevitable for most States. However, there is currently no systematic framework or narrative to drive such integration in trade agreements. **Neha Mishra** and Kholofelo Kugler evaluate whether

community values can offer a normative foundation for rules governing digital trade (in *International and Comparative Law Quarterly*, online November 2024). Using the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Digital Trade Protocol as a case study, they argue that identifying and solidifying the collective needs of the African region through this instrument will be key to shaping an inclusive and holistic regional framework. These arguments are substantiated by analysis of the regulation of cross-border data flows, privacy and cybersecurity.

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

PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS, 2024

Essays in Capital Flow Management

Capital flow management measures (CFMs) are policy instruments that can be used to smooth economic shocks. However, there is limited understanding of the use of CFMs due to data limitations. In the first chapter of her thesis, **Wenjie Li** develops a new index to measure CFMs for

42 emerging and developing countries (EMDEs) from 1960 to 2022. She estimates the initial CFM level in 1960 and updates the index daily. The index captures granular changes in CFMs and allows comparison across countries and over time, helping to assess the evolving CFM role in the EMDE policy toolkit. In the second chapter, she uses a generalised ordered logit model to analyse the drivers of CFMs in EMDEs. Findings suggest that authorities adjust CFMs largely for countercyclical reasons. In the third chapter, she identifies that the previously positive and significant correlation between capital openness and foreign flows has disappeared after the Global Financial Crisis. While the policy implications of this new index are still preliminary, its high-frequency nature allows for analysing within-year effects of CFMs, paving the way for future research to better understand their nuanced impacts on macroeconomic conditions.

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

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Peace, War, Conflicts & Security



MONOGRAPH

From Jihad to Politics: How Syrian Jihadis Embraced Politics

The Syrian regime unleashed unprecedented violence to suppress large-scale non-violent protests amid the Arab uprisings. Hundreds of armed groups formed throughout the country to defend the protesters and fight back. However, in contrast to other conflicts previously dominated by

al-Qaeda and Islamic State, the two largest Syrian Jihadi groups, Ahrar al-Sham and then Jabhat al-Nusra, rejected global jihad and began to cultivate new ties with the population, other armed opposition groups, and even foreign states. This strategic shift is a response to the Jihadi paradox – a realisation that while Jihadis excel at leading insurgencies, they fail to achieve political victories. **Jérôme Drevon**, Research Associate at the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding, offers an examination of the Syrian armed opposition, tracing the emergence of Jihadi groups in the conflict, their dominance, and their political transformation (Oxford University Press, September 2024). Drawing upon field research and interviews with Syrian insurgents in northwestern Syria and Turkey, he demonstrates how the context of a local conflict can shape armed groups' behaviour in unexpected ways. Further, he marshals unique evidence from the Arab world's most intense conflict to explain why the trajectory of the transnational Jihadi movement has altered course in recent years.

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

ARTICLE

Crumbling in the Face of Cost? How Cost Considerations Affect Public Support for European Security and Defence Cooperation

In surveys, Europeans routinely express high levels of support for a common security and defence policy of the European Union. Do these responses reflect real demands or superficial support that would crumble if the issue was politicised? **Stephanie Hofmann** and others provide new answers to this question (in *European Union Politics*, vol. 25, no. 3, 2024). They conducted pre-registered survey experiments with more than 40,000 respondents from 25 European countries in which they randomly varied whether respondents received information about potential costs of two hypothetical cooperative activities: military operations and defence procurement. Support for these activities was systematically lower when costs were mentioned. The authors

conclude that, in the event of politicisation, there is considerable potential for shifts in opinion and that caution is required in deriving a mandate for specific activities from high approval rates for cooperation in general.

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

ARTICLES

Hiruni Alwishewa, today Postdoctoral Researcher at the University of Geneva, has written three articles that build on and refine chapters from her [recent PhD thesis](#):

– Supranational Small Arms Control and the Challenges of Dichotomization

Since the end of the Cold War, the focal points of international and regional small arms control instruments have expanded to include issues such as lack of transparency, diversion of weapons, and adverse human rights impacts. This article traces the evolution of small arms control since the 1990s and exposes the ongoing challenges posed by entrenched dichotomies (in *Journal of Conflict and Security Law*, online November 2024). It highlights three critical dichotomies within supranational small arms control instruments: the regulatory distinction between legal arms exports and illicit transfers (structural dichotomy), the definitional divide between small arms and firearms (definitional dichotomy), and the divergent obligations for arms sales and military aid (practical dichotomy). The article argues that, despite significant advancements in small arms control, the potential of these instruments to effectively address issues of transparency, diversion, and human rights impacts continues to be undermined by embedded dichotomies.

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

– Addressing the Human Rights Risks of Financing the Arms Industry: Insights from Banks' Corporate Policies

This article examines recent measures undertaken by major commercial banks to mitigate and address human rights risks associated with their financial dealings in the arms industry (in *Business and Human Rights Journal*, online November 2024). By reviewing the corporate policies of 20 leading banks that provide financing to top arms manufacturing and exporting companies, the article provides insights into three significant aspects of banks' efforts: the development of defence sector policies, the implementation of risk assessments for adverse human rights impacts, and the application of exclusion clauses. These measures highlight the increasing recognition by banks of the need to address the ethical, social and human rights implications of financing arms deals, contributing to the broader regulatory and normative framework governing the arms industry.

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

– Human Rights Due Diligence for Arms Companies: Lessons from Supply Chain Regulations

In comparison to other high-risk industrial sectors, human rights due diligence (HRDD) in the arms sector remains unclear and underdeveloped. This article elucidates how supply chain regulations can provide pertinent guidance for clarifying and elaborating the standards and requirements of the HRDD obligations of arms companies (in *European Journal of Risk Regulation*, online November 2024). Part I reaffirms the importance of independent HRDD obligations for arms companies due to the significant human rights risks posed by arms exports. Part II contextualises the limitations in the development of HRDD in the arms industry by examining the corporate policies of major arms companies. Part III explicates why supply chain regulations for conflict minerals are suitable guidance for clarifying and elaborating the HRDD obligations of arms companies. Part IV details five elements of an HRDD framework for arms companies that are essential for comprehensively identifying, evaluating and addressing the human rights risks of arms exports. Part V offers concluding remarks.

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

PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/POLITICAL SCIENCE, 2024

Beyond Blood and Treasure: Political Will and State Behavior in Mass Atrocity Response

Why do some external actors in the international system accept considerable risk in both blood and treasure to protect civilians from mass atrocities while others do not? Despite significant gains during the last three decades in scholarly understanding of atrocities, the early 21st century continues a grim record of state violence targeting civilians. **Mark Whitlock** deconstructs the theoretical prevention space in International Relations (IR) by presenting three interlinked papers that engage these central concepts and questions animating the atrocity prevention puzzle, eventually isolating one variable, political will, as both a crucial construct, and core explanatory variable, for theorising and understanding external actor behavior in mass atrocity prevention and response. The first two papers provide descriptive and conceptual contributions to the literature on early warning and political will in atrocity scholarship. The third paper deploys a controlled comparison of external decision making in response to atrocity violence in Libya and Syria using Mill's Method of Concomitant Variation to argue that variation in political will explains much of the variation in state behavior in response to mass atrocities.

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

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

PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/POLITICAL SCIENCE, 2024

The State of the Islamic State: Four Papers on the Rebel Governance and State-Building Project of the Islamic State

On 4 July 2014, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi declared the establishment of an Islamic caliphate, marking the onset of an unprecedented period of state-building by the Islamic State (IS) across Iraq and Syria. **Matthew Bamber-Zryd** provides four papers that focus on under-studied aspects of IS's rebel governance and state-building efforts, offering insights into the civil resistance, the rebel governance, and the broader state-building literature. The first paper challenges prevailing ahistorical narratives of IS's governance by introducing a novel framework, the "governance cycle", to better understand IS's historical and contemporary governance dynamics. The second paper delves into the effectiveness of IS's governance, revealing variations in governance phases at the sub-national level. The third paper explores the categorisation and roles of employees within jihadist groups, demonstrating that IS had two distinct categories of employees who had different roles, benefits, and levels of agency. Finally, the fourth paper analyses the strategic narrative which surrounds IS's state-building project, highlighting its conventional nature, compared to mainstream state-building narratives. These papers are based on extensive primary data collection consisting of 117 interviews with IS members and civilians who lived in IS-controlled territories and an original database of more than 1000 documents, published by IS's governing institutions.

[Repository](#) (file embargoed until June 2027; for access, [contact Dr Bamber-Zryd](#)).



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Human Rights, Humanitarianism, Justice & Inclusion

ARTICLE

A "Grande Causa": missionárias do planejamento familiar no mundo em descolonização (The "Great Cause": Family Planning Missionaries in the Decolonising World)

Nicole Bourbonnais follows the work of three international fieldworkers who traveled abroad for the US-based Pathfinder Fund in the 1950s and 1960s to distribute contraceptives, promote the formation of family planning clinics, and support local advocates (in *Ler História*, vol. 85, 2024). These actors situated their work within longer traditions of maternalist humanitarian and Christian



missionary internationalism, while also portraying themselves as skilled inter-cultural interlocutors, cognisant of the changing winds prompted by decolonisation movements. Still, their insistence on particular methods, reliance on stereotypes, and sometimes aggressive approach fueled tension and undermined their efforts at solidarity. The author thus illustrates some of the central contradictions of post-WWII humanitarianism and

the broader entangling of missionary, maternalist, and family planning projects.

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

PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL LAW, 2024

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

The narratives that we tell shape the contours of legal reality. **Tomas Morochovic** enquires about how this world-building quality of narrative transpires in the new stories told under the rubric of international human rights law – especially those that define how human rights regulation develops within transnational governance spheres at the putative margins of international law. He argues that the international human rights regime is undergoing a process of intensive transnationalisation, affecting both the framework of legal governance and the sociocultural narratives on which it is based. This entails an ongoing contestation about the nature and uses of human rights, a re-arrangement of regulatory power dynamics between stakeholders, and the diversified usage of human rights claims. The author uses insights from narrative theory to account for the contingencies, assumptions, interests, and values that are obscured through the recourse to the legal form of human rights within transnational governance. He does so by analysing the narrative choices in the governance of eligibility requirements for the women's category within sports law; the positioning of online platforms as human rights duty-bearers; and the temporal connections between major regulatory initiatives within business and human rights. As a result, his thesis brings attention to the politics of these choices and critically questions the trajectory they give to the protection of human rights in a transnational, globalised context.

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

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

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Democracy & Civil Society



WEBZINE

Elections – What For?

While elections are doing well in quantitative terms, mistrust of democracy is on the rise. Doubts about its effectiveness benefit many authoritarian leaders who, taking nationalist or populist positions, have been easily re-elected in Russia, India, El Salvador or Venezuela. National elections serve to legitimise elected

representatives who have little respect for democratic values and practices. And authoritarian regimes often use elections as tools of control, while in established democracies illiberal forces manipulate the systems by marginalising minorities, distorting the media and exploiting distrust of

democratic institutions. **Faculty members and researchers of the Graduate Institute** examine the essential role of elections in the construction of democracy today.

[Start reading \(open access\) >](#)

Global Challenges is a series of dossiers designed to share with a broader, non-specialist audience the ideas, knowledge, opinions and debates produced at the Geneva Graduate Institute. The present issue was produced by the Research Office in collaboration with the Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy.

PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/POLITICAL SCIENCE, 2024

On Doing Politics: Authenticity, Problem-Construction, and Urgency in Political Discourse

Political discourses are fundamental to establish a connection between politicians and electorates. However, to date, we seem to know little about how politicians bond with electorates when speaking to them. In three articles, **Henrique Sposito** investigates three aspects of everyday discursive politics that help connect politicians and electorates: authenticity, problem-construction, and urgency. The first article conceives authenticity as a discursive performance and develops a framework to identify and compare how authenticity is performed in political discourses over time and across settings in the United States and Brazil. The second article (co-authored with **Livio Silva-Muller**, PhD Researcher in Anthropology and Sociology) demonstrates how transnational actors, as presidents, construct objects of policy, as the Amazon, into different policy problems depending on where and when they participate in politics. The third article (co-authored with Jael Tan and **James Hollway**) introduces urgency analysis, a new methodology for text analysis that combines natural language processing and survey validated dictionaries to provide an interpretable measure of the urgency of political priorities in discourses. Altogether, this dissertation furthers our understanding of how valence factors – as desirable traits disconnected from policies – performed in discourse can influence electoral choices.

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

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

PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/POLITICAL SCIENCE, 2024

“Dysfunctional Democracy”: Towards an Ergotherapy of the Political

The register of “dysfunctional democracy” haunts contemporary political theory and commentary. Echoing between diagnosis and elegy, it is not a simple observation of backsliding or shortcoming. Seeking to account for and respond to this curious formulation, which resonates today in diverse political and analytical settings, **Thomas Gmuer** traces political openings between ergonomics and inoperativeness. On the threshold of new democratic wanderings, what other ways of (dys)functioning politically might be possible? What conceptualisations of the body politic might accompany the transformations of the commons? What practices and inclinations would enable us to undergo the experience of its fragile emergence? What role could political thought play in this kind of shared embryology?

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

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Sustainability, Environment, the Anthropocene & SDGs

RAPPORT

Le droit à l'alimentation à Genève: pour une transition juste vers des systèmes alimentaires durables



Le 18 juin 2023, 67% des votant-es du canton de Genève ont accepté d'inscrire le droit à l'alimentation dans la Constitution genevoise. Cet exemple a inspiré des initiatives dans le canton de Vaud, au niveau fédéral, en France et au Conseil de l'Europe, et il a été présenté au Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale à Rome. Pour concrétiser le droit à l'alimentation, une loi d'application devrait être adoptée, et

plusieurs mesures ont déjà été prises au niveau communal. **Christophe Golay**, chargé de recherche à la Geneva Academy, formule des recommandations pour que le canton de Genève et les communes genevoises respectent, protègent et réalisent le droit à l'alimentation de toute personne à Genève et favorisent une transition juste vers des systèmes alimentaires durables (Academy Briefing no 24, Geneva Academy, novembre 2024).

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Other Relevant Information



Multimedia



VIDEO | *GLOBAL CHALLENGES* | RESEARCH OFFICE

Grand Entretien: Elections, What For?

Martin Chungong, Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), is interviewed by **Grégoire Mallard**, Director of Research at the Geneva Graduate Institute, for the latest issue of the webzine *Global Challenges* titled *Elections, What For?* In particular, he discusses the progress made towards more inclusive representation at the IPU, the IPU's oversight role in the evolving balance of powers, and the challenges of the digital age for the functioning of parliamentary life and democracy.

[Watch here >](#)



VIDEOS | FINPHARM CLOSING CONFERENCE | GLOBAL HEALTH CENTRE

Antibiotic Crises: A Global Ward Round

For the past five years the **FINPHARM** team has been analysing case studies on the impact of financialisation on the development and use of pharmaceuticals in several areas of global health significance. Their work on antibiotics has brought them into collaboration with researchers around the world who have published on antibiotic crises. On 25 October 2024, to close the project, the FINPHARM team held a conference titled "Antibiotic Crises: A Global Ward Round" including several presentations:

– "The Role of China in Today's Global Antibiotic Manufacturing Landscape and the Impact on Shortages" by **Mingyuan Zhang**, Researcher, Department of Community Medicine and Global Health,

University of Oslo

– “Lebanon’s Diasporic Microbiology? Biorepositories as Transnational Infrastructures” by **Anthony Rizk**, Researcher, Global Health Centre, Geneva Graduate Institute

– “Financing Phages in India: ‘Communist’ Viruses in Antibiotic Infrastructures” by **Victor Secco**, Researcher, Department of Philosophy and Cultural Heritage, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

– “Armed Conflict as an Under-investigated Pathway for AMR with Growing Significance” by **Antoine Abou Fayad**, Associate Professor, Department of Experimental Pathology, Immunology and Microbiology, American University of Beirut

– “AMR, Conflict and Humanitarian Healthcare” by **Aula Abbara**, Consultant in Infectious Diseases and Honorary Senior Clinical Lecturer at Imperial College, London

– “Identifying Novel Antibiotic Resistant Genes in the Context of Armed Conflict” by **Louis-Patrick Haraoui**, Associate Professor, Department of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, University of Sherbrooke and CIFAR Human and the Microbiome Program, Canada

– “Novel insights from Financial Analysis of the Failure to Commercialise Plazomicin” by **Nadya Wells**, Senior Research Adviser, Global Health Centre, Geneva Graduate Institute and Faculty of Medicine, University of Geneva

– “Financial Aspects of Antibiotic Development and Commercialization” by **Ryan Cirz**, Chief Executive Officer, Revagenix, Inc.

[Watch the videos of these presentations on the FINPHARM project page >](#)



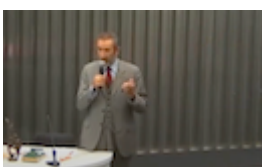
VIDEO | EVENT HIGHLIGHTS | UNESCO CHAIR IN COMPARATIVE EDUCATION POLICY & NORRAG

Batjargal Batkhuyag | How NGOs Can Keep the Balance between Their Independence and Their Reliance on Funding

On 11 November 2024, the UNESCO Chair Series on Comparative Education Policy held its second session at the Geneva Graduate Institute. It featured Mr. **Batjargal Batkhuyag**, Executive Director of the Mongolian Education Alliance (MEA), and focused on the pressing themes of the role of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in development and advancing educational equity, particularly for marginalised groups.

[Watch here >](#)

There are also interpretations of the session in [Arabic](#), [Mongolian](#) and [Russian](#).



VIDEOS | INTERNATIONAL LAW

Africans and International Law: A Long Walk out of Colonial Darkness – From Sovereign Subjugation to Individual Self-Determination

In November, Judge **Fatsah Ouguergouz**, Visiting Professor at the Geneva Graduate, Judge at the African Development Bank, and Rector of the African Institute of International Law, gave a series of four conferences on the theme “Africans and International Law: A Long Walk out of Colonial Darkness – From Sovereign Subjugation to Individual Self-Determination”:

1) [The Public Law of Europe and the Denial of African Sovereignty](#)

- 2) [The Reform of International Law and the Emergence of African Statehood](#)
- 3) [The Public Law of Africa and the Consolidation of African Statehood](#)
- 4) [The Public Law of Africa and the Self-Realization of African Individuals and Peoples](#)



PODCAST | THE CCDP SPOTLIGHT 4 | CENTRE ON CONFLICT, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACEBUILDING

The Evolving Dynamics of Today’s Multilateral System

Research Associate **Robert Watkins** speaks with **David Chikvaдзе**, GCSP Associate Fellow and former UNOG Chief of Staff, on the current political climate and evolving multilateral dynamics of today’s multilateral system.

[Listen here >](#)



PODCAST | WHO IS VOTING IN 2024 E8 | ALBERT HIRSCHMAN CENTRE ON DEMOCRACY

Uruguay: The Switzerland of Latin America

On 27 October, Uruguay conducted elections. As expected, Yamandú Orsi, the candidate of the center-left Broad Front (Frente Amplio), received 44% of the votes, far from the second, the candidate of the National Party, the party of the current president Luis Lacalle Pou, who got 27%. However, as none of the candidates received more than 50% of the votes required by the law, there was a second round on 24 November with Yamandú Orsi defeating Álvaro Delgado. To know more what was at stake in the election, **Yanina Welp** interviewed **David Altman**, professor at the Catholic University of Chile and director of the Latin American chapter of the Varieties of Democracy project, known as Vdem, and **Camila Zeballos**, political scientist and historian, researcher at the University of the Republic, in Uruguay.

[Listen here >](#)

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Visitors

📅 1.12.2024–1.9.2026
📍 ANSO Dep.

Lorenzo Feltrin

Coming from Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Marie Curie Fellow Lorenzo Feltrin is researching “Labour and Ecology in an International Perspective: Porto Marghera in the Phosphates Archipelago”.

📅 1.12.2024–16.9.2025
📍 GMC

Roeland de Wilde

Coming from the International Organization for Migration, Senior Fellow in Residence Roeland de Wilde is working on “Institutional Barriers to Migrant-Driven Solutions for Climate Resilience and Safe Migration”.

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Calls for Papers

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS | WORLD RESOURCES FORUM 2025

New Resource Strategies for a Fair and Sustainable Future

The World Resources Forum (WRF) will hold its annual conference in Geneva on 2–3 September and online on 4–5 September 2025. Organisers invite scientific contributions that propose innovative strategies and tools to enhance sustainability and fairness across three sectors: the extractive sector, the built environment, and consumer and industrial goods. Authors of accepted abstracts will later have the opportunity to publish an article in the *Global Sustainability Journal*.

- **14 January 2025:** abstract submission deadline

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Upcoming PhD Defences

📅 Friday 13 Dec
🕒 14:00–16:00
📍 Pétales 2, Room S9

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/POLITICAL SCIENCE

From Gender-Responsive Provisions to Gender-Equal Peace: Exploring the Implementation of Gender Provisions in Peace Agreements through the Lens of the Final Agreement to End Armed Conflict and Build Stable and Lasting Peace in Colombia

By **Agnieszka Marta Fal-Dutra Santos**. Committee members: Professor Elisabeth Prügl, thesis director; Associate Professor Sung Min Rho, president of the committee and internal reader; Senior Lecturer Claire Duncanson, School of Social and Political Science, University of Edinburgh, external reader.

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