

## **Upcoming Research Events**



21 JAN

09:00-17:00

Auditorium A1B

2025

Tuesday PIERRE DU BOIS

22 Wednesday JAN NORRAG | BOOK

Brokers in Global

**Education Governance** 

14:00-15:30 online



Health? UN Decisions

on Digital Sequence

Information and the

**Pandemic Agreement** 

13:00-14:15 online



GHC | WEBINAR NO EVENTS What Does Biodiversity The Rise of Knowledge Have to Do With Public

PIERRE DU BOIS ANNUAL CONFERENCE ANNUAL CONFERENCE LAUNCH 2025

The Cold War in the The Cold War in the Middle East And North Middle East And North Africa Africa

08:30-17:15

Auditorium A1B PIERRE DU BOIS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

2025 | KEYNOTE LECTURE Jussi Hanhimäki |

Cauldron of Conflict: The Cold War and the Middle East 09:10-10:15 Auditorium A1B





NO EVENTS





Wednesday 1AN



GC & GHC The Pushback on Women's Rights Must Be Stopped 10:00-12:00 hybrid



NO EVENTS

See all events >

# Gateway to Publications by Themes



## **Gateway to Other Relevant Information**



# **Publications by Themes**



## **Education, Information & Media**



## EDITED BOOK & CHAPTERS

## The Rise of Knowledge Brokers in **Global Education Governance**

How do policymakers orient themselves in an era of surplus information? This insightful book, edited and with a conclusion by Chanwoong Baek and Gita Steiner-Khamsi, presents a multidisciplinary investigation into the growing influence of knowledge brokers and how they utilise data to support education policy and planning (Edward Egdar, December 2024).

In her chapter "Knowledge Brokers in Education and International Cooperation: A Typology with Blurred Boundaries", Professor Steiner-Khamsi draws on the two-communities framework (science and politics) and situates knowledge brokers as intermediaries between the two communities. After presenting a few push factors (how to better communicate research) and pull factors (how to improve uptake), the author focuses on an underexplored area of research: institutionalised forms of knowledge brokerage and, more specifically, international organisations as intermediaries. She recommends that we differentiate between different purposes of knowledge brokerage in terms of the policy cycle and finds that there has been a move from using evidence for agenda-setting to promoting the use of evidence for implementation. Finally, she makes a case for the study of institutional strategies in order to understand how organisations make their policy advice heard in an era of "Governance by Numbers 2.0", that is, in an era in

which the world of international cooperation is filled with intermediaries that use evidence-based policy advice as a tool of global governance.

#### DOI (open access) >

In his chapter "Navigating the Terrain: Global Knowledge Brokering and Use in Education Policy", Professor Baek investigates the underexplored terrain of knowledge brokering and use in education policy, planning, and implementation. He dissects knowledge brokerage and evidence use across institutions and regions, drawing on the findings and insights from two empirical studies. He first examines the knowledge-brokering strategies employed by two major global actors in education (the OECD and the World Bank) and then looks into the use of research evidence by identifying existing global, regional, and national knowledge sources in education as well as their respective relationships. The findings reflect the idiosyncrasies of knowledge brokerage in terms of institutional and policymaking contexts.

Widespread discourses of evidence use in policy claim that by grounding development policies in evidence more effective and cost-efficient interventions will be implemented. While many decision-makers and researchers present evidence as a technical process for identifying "what works", others argue that policymaking is run through with politics and power. In their chapter **"What Works"? Power and Politics in Studies of Evidence Use in Policy"**, **Moira V. Faul**, Executive Director of NORRAG and Senior Lecturer, Anna Numa Hopkins and **Bart Sebastiaan Gabriel**, PhD Researcher in International Relations and Political Science, subject these claims to bibliometric analyses, mapping the structure of academic research communities for evidence use in public health and education research. Despite many differences in the structuring of these two intellectual communities, the similarities between them reveal how politics and power intersect with evidence production and use, and also affect the evidence-informed recommendations provided. The chapter thus undermines claims of rationality and context-free "what works" agendas in evidence use in development, revealing that researchers overwhelmingly fail to cite works from the very geographies and epistemologies that are most affected by evidence-informed recommendations.

## DOI (open access) > Publisher's page >

- Don't miss the online book launch on Wednesday 22 January at 14:00 >
- Watch videos in which the authors present their chapters >



## Sustainability, Environment, the Anthropocene & SDGs

∧ Top



#### WORKING PAPER

## Land Use in the Long Run: What Is the Future of Biodiversity

Human appropriation of land use for agriculture has long been the primary determinant of the level of global biodiversity. However, over the past fifty years technological change in the agricultural sector has enabled the accommodation of larger populations without greater land use

requirements. The current situation is singular, in that the population will continue to expand over the coming century, but in combination with very substantial fertility decline. This will result in substantial increases in the dependent population, at the same time that there is a reduction in the supply of labour. What does this imply for land use in the coming century? Pedro Naso and **Timothy Swanson** demonstrate in an endogenous growth model how this combination of peak population and declining fertility could result in technological regression in agriculture, due to the myriad pressures on the labour supply, and the reversal of the longstanding trend toward reduced land use in agriculture (CEENRG Working Papers no. 2024-2, Cambridge Centre for Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Governance, University of Cambridge, October 2024). In this sense, the long term future for biodiversity is not so bright. Repository (public access) >

**^** Тор



## **Diplomacy & Global Governance**



#### ARTICLE

## The Law Behind Dispute Onset: How Legal Uncertainty Drives Maritime Boundary Disputes

The making of international law through multilateral conventions and adjudication often leads to periods of legal uncertainty, times in which there are alternative rules and divergent views on how they ought to be applied to

particular cases. **Umut Yüksel**, Postdoctoral Researcher in the Global Governance Centre (GGC) at the time of writing, argues that legal uncertainty gives states opportunities and incentives to formulate excessive unilateral claims, thus making disputes more likely to arise (in *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, online December 2024). He illustrates his argument with a comprehensive analysis of maritime boundary disputes in the aftermath of the Second World War. In this period, the law regulating maritime boundary-making has been marked by varying degrees of uncertainty due to different rules and interpretations proffered by various multilateral and judicial lawmaking attempts. The author finds strong evidence that high legal uncertainty is associated with an increased probability of dispute onset. The analysis calls for an important rethinking of the impact of legalisation on international affairs, both in maritime boundary-making and in other issues areas.

Repository (public access) >

#### ARTICLE

## Diplomatie universitaire suisse dans les Caraïbes: de l'accord politique à la pratique du terrain (1962-1974)

En 1962, Eric Williams, chef du gouvernement de Trinité-et-Tobago et leader de l'indépendance face aux Britanniques, fait appel à la Suisse pour former ses diplomates. La collaboration d'un État neutre lui permet de se prémunir du communisme, très influent dans les Caraïbes, et de sortir de la pesante tutelle américaine. Une collaboration relative à des échanges académiques et à un institut de relations internationales se met en place entre les deux pays. Outre la dimension politique particulièrement forte de ce projet éducatif, **Charlotte Roy**, chercheuse postdoctorante au Centre for Digital Humanities and Multilateralism (CDHM), examine aussi les pratiques à l'œuvre (in *Relations internationales*, no. 199, octobre-décembre 2024). Une fois l'accord politique conclu, les acteurs académiques suisses et trinidadiens entrent en scène et la réalité du terrain montre des désaccords et des tensions qui contrastent largement avec leur entente sur le plan

politique.

DOI >

#### EDITED BOOK CHAPTER

## The Accession of British Colonies to the League of Nations and the "Third" British Empire

The membership of colonies to an international organisation would be seen by many today as an anomaly or a farce. Yet the League of Nations saw many British colonies take a seat as full member states in Geneva. A position unique to the British Empire, many have seen this as a form of "vote-stuffing", yet the lack of reciprocity from other empires suggests a more complex reason. **Thomas Gidney**, Research Associate at the Global Governance Centre (GGC), examines how fundamental changes in imperial governance within the British Empire led to the accession of their colonies to the League, and how their membership set a precedent for its successor organisation, the United Nations (in *The League of Nations Experience: Overlapping Readings*, A. Almada e Santos and Y. Santos, eds. De Gruyter Oldenbourg, January 2025).

Тор

This article is based on the author's PhD thesis (2021).



## **Cities, Space, Mobilities & Migrations**



#### ARTICLE

## To Make a Difference: Responding to Migration's Demands in Returns to Cuba

**Valerio Simoni**, Faculty Lead for the Applied Research Projects' part of the Interdisciplinary Master (MINT), focuses on the predicaments faced by return migrants to Cuba and how they respond to societal pressures to make a valuable

difference "back home", opening analytical avenues at the juncture of the anthropology of ethics and morality and migration (in *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, online January 2025). He does so by uncovering five distinct but complementary ways in which returnees respond to migration-related demands. Conceptualising these ways as efforts to "make a difference", he first considers the importance for returnees to exemplify and share the economic gains that are widely expected from a successful migration, before addressing alternative attempts to carve out other sources of prized difference from experiences abroad. To deflect the pressure that weighs on them as (ex)migrants and generates feelings of exhaustion and estrangement, returnees also endeavour to "unmake" migration-related differences. They do so by deconstructing migration promises, reframing notions and forms of belonging, and downplaying the possibilities afforded by life in Cuba. While the combination of different anthropological approaches to ethics and morality befits the analysis, the returnees' resistance to scrutiny of their moral lives questions the limitless reach and suitability of such interpretative lenses. Ultimately, this helps assess their relevance and pitfalls in research on migration and beyond. **Repository (public access) >** 

#### ARTICLE

Fleeing Deprivation: Deducing *Non-Refoulement* Obligations from Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Developments of the content of he principle of non-refoulement have focused on risks of harm to civil and political (CP) rights, while factors affecting economic, social and cultural (ESC) rights have been addressed only indirectly, where socio-economic deprivation is deemed to amount to inhuman and degrading treatment. Nevertheless, not every instance of severe harm to ESC rights will necessarily equate to ill-treatment. Failure to recognise an autonomous basis for nonrefoulement obligations in ESC rights may thus lead to gaps in protection and contribute to the trend of underdevelopment of the legal content of ESC rights in comparison to CP ones. Mariana Ferolla Vallandro do Valle, PhD Researcher in International Law, addresses whether obligations of non-refoulement can be autonomously deduced from treaty provisions on ESC rights (in International Journal of Refugee Law, online December 2024). She takes into account the practice of all regional human rights frameworks (African, European, and Inter-American) and United Nations treaty bodies that have dealt with the principle of *non-refoulement*, seeking to discern a common foundation to this principle's rationale and scope. She submits that nonrefoulement qualifies as a positive obligation to prevent risks of severe harm to rights by third parties and is, accordingly, inherent in all human rights. She then analyses the compatibility between ESC rights obligations and non-refoulement and identifies ways to render practicable the application of *non-refoulement* in connection with these rights. Finally, she addresses the objections to non-refoulement based on socio-economic grounds, namely concerns regarding the potential increase of mass migratory influxes and the added value of such a norm. She concludes that neither legal nor non-legal considerations bar deducing non-refoulement obligations from ESC rights and that much of the reasoning applied to non-refoulement assessments in cases involving CP rights can be transposed to cases involving ESC rights, especially when immediate ESC rights obligations are at stake.

Repository (public access) >

### ARTICLE

## Earthquake Hazard and Risk Profiling for Syrian Refugees at Country, City, and Neighbourhood Levels Based on Their Multi-scalar Location Choice Patterns

**Z. Ezgi Haliloğlu Kahraman**, Senior Fellow in the Global Migration Centre (GMC) and Research Fellow in the Centre for Trade and Economic Integration (CTEI), scrutinises earthquake hazards and risks (EHR) for Syrian refugees in Turkey at country, city, and neighbourhood levels in reference to multi-scaled patterns of their location choice (LC) (in *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*, vol. 115, December 2024). Her comprehensive investigation employs thematic analysis to review scholarly studies about the earthquake-related vulnerability and LC of Syrian refugees together with relevant national and international resources subsequent to the February 2023 earthquakes. Findings reveal that multiple LC factors contribute to the refugees' EHR profile. The absence of national population distribution and refugee resettlement policies, an ineffective and insufficiently inclusive regulatory and mitigation framework to cope with Turkey's earthquake risks, refugee-related data deficiencies, Syrian refugee influx into earthquake-prone cities, and substandard housing conditions and weak building codes in Syrian settlements may have significantly increased EHR for Syrian refugees in Turkey. This was further compounded by competition for scarce resources, livelihood problems, anti-refugee sentiment, and displacement following the earthquakes.

DOI >

#### ARTICLE

### Failing Asylum-Seekers: Limited Judicial Review of Refugee Status Determination Decisions in Brazil

**Mariana Ferolla Vallandro do Valle**, PhD Researcher in International Law, shows how Brazilian courts' unwillingness to perform judicial review over the merits of administrative refugee status determination (RSD) decisions is both founded on unfounded premises and incompatible with Brazil's obligations under international law (in *Refugee Survey Quarterly*, online January 2025). To that effect, she promotes an analysis of the case law issued by Brazilian appellate courts on this

issue until April 2024. These courts have overwhelmingly held that RSD decisions are political acts over which the executive branch of government holds absolute discretion and are thus excluded from judicial review. Nevertheless, this reasoning is based on misconceptions about the normative refugee protection framework and is inconsistent with the declaratory nature of refugee status. Lack of a review of the merits of RSD decisions also goes against the right to judicial protection under Article 25 of the American Convention on Human Rights, ultimately voiding the right to asylum in its Article 22(7) for many asylum-seekers. The author finds that Brazilian courts' erroneous conclusions about the nature of RSD decisions compromise effective refugee protection in the country, essentially subsuming this protection into a policy choice. Repository (public access) >

#### PAPER

## Decolonizing Migration and Development: Readmission Clauses in Development and Cooperation Agreements

**Federica Nucita**, Master Student in International Law at the time of writing, examines in her master's dissertation the colonial legacies entrenched within the complex dynamics of migration governance (Global Migration Research Paper no. 34, Global migration Centre, December 2024). Looking at this particular aspect of global justice from a critical yet pragmatic perspective, she analyses the provisions related to the readmission of migrants residing illegally in foreign countries, which, (un)surprisingly, are included in development and cooperation agreements as a condition for providing development aid, under the guise of solidarity. She argues that this is ultimately a strategy used by states to reinforce securitisation and border control policies, and reiterate pre-existing power dynamics.

#### Repository (public access) >

In September 2024, Federica Nucita won the Mariano Gracia Rubio Prize for the best master's dissertation in International Law.

**^** Тор



## **Global Health**



#### ARTICLE

A Pharmaceutical Policy Accident: Collision of Shareholder Capitalism and Chinese State Capitalism Driving the Shortage of an Essential Antibiotic An explosion in a Chinese factory in 2016 caused a global shortage of essential broad-spectrum antibiotic piperacillin-tazobactam. Hitherto, no detailed, policy-relevant analysis has been

conducted on this major shortage event. Thus, **Nadya Wells**, Senior Research Adviser at the Global Health Centre, **Vinh-Kim Nguyen** and Stephan Harbarth (1) investigate causes, (2) describe supply chain challenges, and (3) uncover policy gaps to support possible mitigation actions (in *Journal of Pharmaceutical Policy and Practice*, vol. 17, no. 1, 2024). Applying an analytical framework for security of medical supply chains, they investigate the changing roles of Pfizer-led and Chinese API suppliers. They identify demand surge, capacity reduction and coordination failures. Triangulating between scientific literature, corporate, and regulatory documents, they analyse the impact of Western and Chinese policy contexts on supply chain resilience. They uncover "red flags": geographically dispersed manufacturing failures due to complexity of sterile production; undetected supply chain concentration and interlinkages; and

Chinese policy-led API supplier consolidation. These warning signals were ignored in the absence of a co-ordinated policy framework to identify and mitigate emerging global supply risks. Firstly, policymakers lacked visibility on growing "volume dependency" in the chain. Secondly, national policy makers lacked a global view of supply risk. Thirdly, antibiotic API manufacturing economics were impacted by a number of non-pharmaceutical policy decisions (e.g. state aid, environmental standards, procurement rules) which contributed to supply chain vulnerability. These findings confirm suggestions from previous studies that international data sharing would be beneficial considering the global shortage effects which can emerge from a single point of failure. Repository (public access) >

### ARTICLE

## Patterns of Cesarean Birth Rates in the Public and Private Hospitals of Romania

Caesarean sections (CSs) are essential surgical procedures that can save lives during childbirth, but can also pose health risks for mothers and infants. However, CS rates continue to rise globally beyond recommended values. Iulia Slovenski, Researcher and Project Coordinator at the Global Health Centre (GHC), Nadya Wells, Senior Research Adviser at the GHC, and David Evans, Visiting Professor, provide a national and regional analysis of CS rates in Romania in 2020 across public and private hospitals, probing the influence of financial incentives on CS overuse, under the Romanian Diagnosis-Related Group (Ro-DRG) payment system (in Discover Public Health, vol. 21, art. no. 246, December 2024). Ro-DRG data was aggregated from all 191 Romanian hospitals (171 public, 20 private) that reported deliveries in 2020, and described using quantitative methods. For each hospital, the Ro-DRG data included the total number of deliveries, the distribution across relevant Ro-DRG codes, and the average length of hospital stay. In 2020, 149,466 childbirth cases were reported through the Ro-DRG system; 89% in public and 11% in private hospitals. The national CS rate was 52.9%, with public hospitals reporting a rate of 49.7% compared to 79.8% in private hospitals. Regionally, CS incidence ranged from 29.89 to 71.42%. The Ro-DRG analysis revealed a high prevalence of high-complexity codes for both CS and natural deliveries, associated with higher payments. Additionally, the average length of hospital stay for CSs was longer in public (5.24 days) than in private hospitals (3.31 days), raising questions about hospital practices and resource utilization. The study suggests that financial incentives might be a contributing factor increasing Romanian CS rates. Targeted policy interventions are essential for aligning financial incentives with clinical necessity and ensuring the efficient use of healthcare resources.

DOI (open access) >

#### ARTICLE

## The Digital Transformation and the Right to Health of Young Adults in Bangladesh and Colombia: A Community-Engaged Study

In her 2023 report to the United Nations Human Rights Council on digital innovation, technology, and the right to health, the Special Rapporteur on the right to health underscored the positive impact of the digital transformation on young people, but also noted serious concerns, calling for greater efforts to consult and engage with youth and civil society. In this article, early-career researchers from Bangladesh and Colombia collaborated with the **team of the** Digital Health and Rights Project, hosted at the Global Health Centre (GHC) until May 2023 and led by **Sara (Meg) Davis**, to investigate how diverse young adults experience digital health and to invite their recommendations and collaborative advocacy (in *Health and Human Rights*, vol. 26, no. 2, December 2024). Researchers held focus group discussions and interviews with young adults aged 18–30; in Bangladesh, these were predominantly men; in Colombia, people living with HIV, gay men, and transgender women. In both countries, young adults said the digital turn had transformed their access to sexual and reproductive health and HIV information, highlighting both the positive role of young social media influencers and the harms caused by misinformation, lack of confidentiality, and widespread stigma. They called for greater government efforts to develop digital health, including through social media platforms. The authors find that transnational

collaborations like this one offer the potential to generate actionable insights and inform the development of rights-based digital governance. Repository (public access) >





## Trade, Finance, Economies & Work



### SPECIAL ISSUE & ARTICLES

### **Package Treaties**

This special issue, coedited and introduced by Charlotte Sieber-Gasser, Senior Researcher at the Centre for Trade and Economic Integration (CTEI), and Noémie Laurens, Postdoctoral Researcher at the Global Governance Centre (GGC), brings together leading scholars in the fields of law, international relations, and

economics to consider how governments have traditionally addressed the negative effects of trade liberalisation (in *World Trade Review*, vol. 23, Special Issue 5, December 2024). What are the limits of the traditional approach? How has the practice evolved? And what is to be done to further overcome the shortcomings of current trade policymaking?

Researchers from the Institute have written the following chapters:

### Addressing Negative Effects of Trade Liberalization: Unilateral and Mutually Agreed Flanking Policies

The conventional approach to trade liberalisation has been to liberalise trade through international agreement and address subsequent domestic fallout and spillovers through domestic policies. In consequence, international obligations in trade liberalisation are not legally connected with "flanking" measures to address their negative effects. **Joost Pauwelyn** and **Charlotte Sieber-Gasser** discuss the shortcomings of this conventional approach with respect to labour adjustment and environmental protection: for political reasons, trade liberalisation requires today the simultaneous regulation of labour and environmental spillovers. They suggest a novel approach to trade liberalisation that includes the necessary flanking policies as part of, or linked to, the international agreement itself. This novel approach seeks to achieve the best of both worlds: reaping the benefits of international trade while making sure that negative spillovers are effectively addressed. To illustrate the intricacies of this approach, the authors introduce a new conceptual framework covering the negative effects of trade liberalisation packages and package treaties. Trade liberalisation packages and package treaties are currently emerging around the world (e.g. sustainable palm oil in EFTA–Indonesia) and deserve our close attention.

#### DOI >

# Identifying Spillovers of Trade Agreements through Impact Assessments: A New Database

In the past decades, a backlash against globalisation has been brewing, especially in advanced economies. Despite this backlash being only partly determined by trade, Richard Baldwin, **Giovanni Donato**, PhD Researcher in International Economics, and **Camille Reverdy**, Postdoctoral Researcher at the Centre for Trade and Economic Integration (CTEI), observe an increasing demand for transparency on procedures, methodologies, and results. Impact assessments (IAs) aim at identifying expected effects of trade agreements and at highlighting policymakers' concerns, thus representing an important tool to foster public acceptance. To help them identify spillovers of trade liberalisation, the authors construct a country and sector-specific

database of impact assessments. This database provides an overview of the evolution of the coverage and methodological approaches taken by the EU and US for their IAs over the period 1990–2023. The authors first observe differences in terms of methodology and institutional framework within and between the two regions. Secondly, the coverage of non-trade outcomes has evolved over time both for the EU and the US, with the inclusion of more labour, environmental, and human rights indicators as well as cross-cutting issues. The depth of the evaluation is correlated with the partner country's social protection and environmental performance. Lastly, the authors find that the inclusion of a sector in the analysis is driven by economic reasons in the EU but by political reasons in the US.

#### PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS, 2024

#### Four Essays on International Trade Networks

This dissertation by **Felipe Bahamondes** consists of four essays on international trade networks. The first essay, co-authored with Mauricio Pinzón-Latorre, presents basic facts of the exporterimporter relationships, taking the age of these relationships as a proxy of their value. The second essay, also co-authored with Mauricio Pinzón-Latorre, leverages the fact that firms enter sequentially into international markets and investigates the effect of a free-trade liberalisation episode on revenue inequalities across exporters. The third essay explores global firms – companies that simultaneously engage in exporting and importing activities. Specifically, the author examines the interaction between their export and import dimensions from a geographical perspective. The fourth essay, co-authored with Israel Gutierrez, examines rules of origin and their effect on importers' sourcing methods. The authors find that the probability of using a free-trade agreement is higher for importers under relational sourcing trading products with more restrictive rules of origin.

Repository (access to the PhD thesis restricted to members of the Institute community; others may contact Dr Bahamondes).

Тор



## Peace, War, Conflicts & Security



#### ARTICLE

## DIY-Online Reconciliation? The Role of Memes in Navigating Inter-Group Boundaries in the Context of Sri Lanka's 2022 Political Crisis

Social media is increasingly viewed as a venue for organised peacebuilding efforts. However, current research has paid little attention to the vast array of everyday, self-organised social

media interactions that could help overcome societal divisions. **Andreas T. Hirblinger**, Senior Researcher at the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP), Sara Kallis and Hasini A. Haputhanthri analyse the role of online memes in everyday online reconciliation, using Sri Lanka's 2022 political crisis as a case study (in *Social Media + Society*, online December 2024). They argue that memes contribute to a DIY-approach to dealing with the past, helping to renegotiate inter-group boundaries in the aftermath of conflict. Memes articulate grievances, but they also engage with inter-group relations in a playful manner, thus enabling both a "sincere" and a "subjunctive" approach to group relations by describing them both as they "are" as well as how they "could be." In combination, they can be used as a "weapon of the weak," through which

vulnerable social media users may communicate in ways that transcend dominant perspectives on group relations.

Repository (public access) >

#### ARTICLE

### **Urban Political Settlements: A New Lens for Peacemaking in Cities**

This article presents the conceptual lens of the urban political settlement. **Emilian Berutti**, PhD Researcher in International Relations and Political Science, and **Achim Wennmann** argue that ordering actors in cities and towns in contexts marked by conflict, violence, and fragile institutions can form urban political settlements independently from those actors at the national level, providing trajectories for stabilising cities (in *Conflict, Security & Development*, December 2024). They discuss the shortcomings of the literature on political settlement analysis and its recent efforts to subsume political settlements at the city level to those at the national level. In response, they present the lens of the urban political settlement through its various components. First, they highlight the actors involved, and why they are required to have capacities to engage in ordermaking processes. Second, they advance the discussion by presenting the control spheres of cities under conditions of conflict, violence, and institutional fragility – territory, population, and the economy – and the control capacities of ordering actors – violence, financial, and institutional. Third, based on the presentation of the heuristic lens of the urban political settlement, they present a research agenda able to respond to contemporary pressures that cities are exposed to. **Repository (public access)** >

#### ARTICLE

### Syrian Jihadis' Reaction to the Gaza Conflict

Jihadi groups in Syria that initially had a unified stance on the eve of the Syrian conflict in 2011 – marked by their opposition to Muslim regimes and a Salafi outlook – later fractured during the Syrian conflict, leading to divergent positions on the ongoing war on Gaza. Global Jihadis, including al-Qaeda and Islamic State (IS), adopted very different stances. Al-Qaeda has attempted to soften its previous theological criticisms of Hamas with a cautious praise for the organisation and timid attempts at promoting unity. In contrast, IS has remained vehemently opposed to Hamas, arguing that the group fights for non-religious reasons, allies with "enemies of Islam", and does not seek to implement Islamic law. Perhaps the most intriguing perspective comes from former Jihadis, who view Hamas as a political and military model, although they are cautious about the Palestinian group's praise for Iran and renewed links to the Syrian regime. **Jerome Drevon**, Research Associate at the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP), argues that political considerations – such as the need to appeal to specific audiences and the dynamics of cross-factional competition – take precedence over theological concerns (in *Mediterranean Politics*, online December 2024). Additionally, he finds that these divergent positions have not led to any violent actions from Syria.

Repository (public access) >

#### EDITED BOOK CHAPTER

# Not Just a Ballistic Affair: Firearms Trafficking, Crime, and Violence in the Caribbean

**Nicolas Florquin** and **Anne-Séverine Fabre**, from the Small Arms Survey, and others examine the trafficking of firearms in the Caribbean, including the sources of these weapons, the actors involved – notably gangs and organised crime groups – and the impact of these activities on violence and crime (in *Illicit Firearms Markets and Organized Crime: Global, Regional, and Local Perspectives*, David Bright, ed., Oxford University Press, print 2025; online December 2024). Given that firearms are the most commonly used weapon in homicides in a number of Caribbean countries, the chapter pays particular attention to the impacts of trafficking and violence on public health and highlights the need for measures to reduce the burden of firearm injuries. When reviewing trends in illicit firearms in the region, it examines the types of firearms, sources, concealment methods, and modes of transport used by criminals. The chapter finally explores the policy implications for the region and reviews key regional efforts underway to counter the twin challenges of firearms trafficking and violent crime.

### **^** Тор

## **Development & Cooperation**



## PHD THESIS IN DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS, 2024

## Three Essays in Development Economics

This thesis by **Rui Ma** consists of three essays focusing on various facets of China's economic development. Chapter 1 builds a disease-level dataset and finds that a 1% increase in market size corresponds to a 7% increase in

pharmaceutical patent applications by domestic applicants. Chapter 2 uses a difference-indifferences method to demonstrate a positive impact of the industrial policy "Made in China 2025" on listed firms' invention patents. Chapter 3 uses the foreign affiliates data of listed firms to find that the higher the tax rates faced by a multinational's (non-tax haven) foreign operations, the higher the probability of investing in tax havens.

Read more about the PhD thesis in this interview > Repository (file embargoed until October 2027; for access, contact Dr Ma).

### PHD THESIS IN DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS, 2024

### **Essays in Conflict and Development Economics**

This thesis by Siddhant Marur delves into the intricate interplay between Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and global economic practices, examining their impact on socio-political dynamics and economic governance. Through three comprehensive studies, it presents a nuanced exploration of how technological advancements and global trade mechanisms shape political mobilisation, electoral outcomes, and economic transparency. The first study, "ICT in an Insurgency: The Case of Kashmir", focuses on the Kashmir conflict, revealing how mobile phone infrastructure expansion influences political mobilisation and conflict dynamics, suggesting a complex relationship between technology and violence. The second study, "Mobile Phones and Political Outcomes: Evidence from India", shifts the lens to India, analysing mobile technology's role in electoral politics, demonstrating its capacity to reshape voter behavior and party performance. The third study, "Drivers of Abnormal Pricing in Switzerland's Commodity-Trade", investigates trade misinvoicing in Switzerland's commodity trade, highlighting the economic and policy implications of such practices. Collectively, these chapters contribute significantly to the fields of Development Economics and Political Economy, offering actionable insights for policymakers and underscoring the need for informed, context-specific strategies to leverage technology for socio-political advancement and ensure economic integrity in a globalised economy.

Repository (access to the PhD thesis restricted to members of the Institute community; others may contact Dr Marur).





### DÉBAT

L'Occident et l'altérité: fractures, valeurs, déclins et convergences Mohamed Mahmoud Mohamedou, professeur d'histoire et politique internationales et directeur adjoint de l'Institut qui nous a quittés en septembre dernier, avait invité en 2023 d'éminents spécialistes, historiens – dont Davide Rodogno et Gopalan Balachandran –,

politologues, sociologues, philosophes, journalistes et écrivains à partager leur analyse de la double question, plus que jamais d'actualité, de la place de l'Occident dans le monde et de son rapport à l'autre. «Cerner les dynamiques contemporaines entre l'Occident et l'altérité n'est pas affaire de mise sous infrarouges réductionnistes et clivants, de hâtives formules d'une époque impatiente ou de bons mots essentialistes et éphémères. Il s'agit plutôt de chercher, patiemment, modestement et difficilement, à démêler les fils d'une relation étagée qui a été et demeure problématique», précisait alors le professeur Mohamedou. Paru originalement dans *Le Temps* en août 2023, ce débat est reproduit dans cette publication conjointe de l'Institut de hautes études internationales et du développement et du *Temps*, qui s'ouvre par un éditorial de **Marie-Laure Salles**, directrice de l'Institut (juin 2024).

Repository (accès public) >

### PHD THESIS IN ANTHROPOLOGY AND SOCIOLOGY, 2024

## A Humanitarian Afterlife: Bureaucracy and the (Re)production of Syrians' Displacement in Jordan

Focusing on the so-called Syrian refugee crisis in Jordan – a "humanitarian hub" of the MENA region – **Hanna Berg** explores the role of bureaucracy in (re)producing what she conceptualises as a "humanitarian afterlife". What does it mean to live and work in an extended emergency that is simultaneously no longer and not over? She examines how, over time, humanitarian interventions transform into development programmes and traces the processes through which such transformations generate living conditions of "no exits". Through 16 months of ethnographic fieldwork engaging with local humanitarians and Syrian refugees in urban spaces, irregular tented settlements (ITSs) and in Azraq Refugee camp, she explores how bureaucratic processes at different levels thread humanitarianism as imagined, practiced, and lived together: how international organisations, states, and donors envision humanitarian operations, how these visions are framed and formulated in plans and policy documents, how they are implemented on the street-level, and how humanitarians and refugees navigate them. She proposes that bureaucracy is not an epistemological tool "of knowing and doing" humanitarianism but a condition through which certain humanitarian epistemologies are made.

### 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 Berg).



Gender, Diversity, Race & Intersectionality



#### ARTICLE

## Breadwinners and Caregivers: Examining the Global Relationship between Gender Norms and Economic Behavior

Gender norms are often emphasised to help explain gender gaps in the labour market. **Paula Gonzalez Martinez**, PhD Researcher in Development Economics at the time of writing,

Markus Goldstein, Talip Kilic, Sreelakshmi Papineni and Philip Wollburg examine global patterns of gender attitudes and norms toward the stereotypical gender roles of the *male breadwinner* and *female caregiver*, and broad support for *gender equality in opportunities*, and study their relationship with economic behavior (in *Scottish Journal of Political Economy*, online December 2024). Using data collected via Facebook from 150,000 individuals across 111 countries, they explore how gender beliefs and norms are related to labor supply, household production, and intra-household decision-making power within a country. They provide descriptive evidence that the more gender equitable or counter-stereotypical are beliefs and norms, the more likely women are to work, the more time men spend on household chores, and the higher the likelihood of joint decision-making among married couples. These findings suggest an underestimation of the support for gender equality globally and the extent of underestimation varies by gender and region. The authors conclude with a discussion of potential entry points for policy to help address gender norms.

### Repository (public access) >

This article was originally one of the chapters in Dr Gonzalez Martinez's PhD thesis (2024).

### THÈSE DE DOCTORAT EN ANTHROPOLOGIE ET SOCIOLOGIE, 2024

# L'intermédiation aux marges de l'État: une ethnographie du maternalisme politique dans un quartier populaire de Marseille

Cette thèse croise la socio-anthropologie politique, les études de genre et les approches spatiales, afin d'analyser les transformations des relations entre l'État et les quartiers populaires à l'aune des processus d'intermédiation politique des mères. À partir d'une ethnographie composée d'entretiens, d'observations, de dessins et de cercles de paroles menés au sein d'une cité d'habitat social marseillaise, **Alice Daquin** montre que certaines mères prennent en charge une partie des rencontres à l'État pour d'autres habitant·es. Elles réalisent ainsi une «intermédiation politique quotidienne», que l'on peut définir comme un processus matériel et symbolique de circulation de ressources, de traduction et de représentation, entre l'État et les habitant·es. La thèse explore quatre espaces-temps et pratiques de cette intermédiation de papier), les locaux associatifs féminins (intermédiation d'ancrage) et les réunions institutionnelles (intermédiation de parole. Qu'il s'agisse de se prémunir du contrôle des institutions ou de ramener des ressources à soi, ces intermédiations façonnent les distances matérielles et symboliques à l'État, tout en questionnant l'ordre du genre au sein de la cité.

### Read an interview in English about the PhD thesis >

Repository (accès à la thèse réservé aux membres de l'Institut; les autres personnes intéressées peuvent s'adresser à Alice Daquin).

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**Democracy & Civil Society** 



#### ARTICLE

## Do Promises of Support from Distant Buyers Bolster or Undermine Local Demands for Reform? Evidence from the Indonesian Apparel Industry during the Pandemic

Calls to improve labour conditions in global supply chains frequently urge more robust responsibilitytaking by brands/buyers, various forms of state

intervention, and respect for worker collective action. **Luisa Lupo**, PhD Researcher in International Relations and Political Science, and Tim Bartley examine perceptions of these paths to reform among workers and managers in Indonesia's export-oriented apparel sector during the COVID-19 pandemic (in *Journal of Industrial Relations*, online December 2024). Extending research on labour regimes and global supply chains, they consider how both workplace cleavages and signals from buyers may shape local demands for reform. They use survey data from 96 factories to gauge perceptions among workers and managers, including a survey experiment on the effects of a distant brand/buyer pledge of support. Amidst conflicting interests and pandemic-era precarity, they find broad agreement among workers and managers on some measures, including local government intervention, general references to collective action, and even the contested issue of labor market flexibilisation. A hypothetical promise of support from distant buyers had limited effects overall but did dampen some local demands among production workers. These findings imply that while combining responsible sourcing from above, mobilisation from below, and state intervention is often desirable, buyer initiatives could hinder grassroots mobilisation in some circumstances.

Repository (public access) >

Тор

## **Other Relevant Information**



Multimedia



## VIDEO | UNESCO CHAIR SERIES IN COMPARATIVE EDUCATION POLICY | NORRAG

Osmany Porto de Oliveira | Policy Transfer and International Cooperation: Lessons from the South To introduce the latest development in the field of policy transfer and its relative analysis to the global education arena, Professor Osmany Porto de Oliveira, from the Federal University of São Paulo, was invited on 9 December 2024 to discuss how public policies are transcending borders, evolving through adaptations and bringing transformational changes. Professor Chanwoong Baek, UNESCO Co-Chair in Comparative Education Policy and Academic Director of NORRAG, served as the chair for the event, which concluded with a lively Q&A session.

Read more and watch the video >



#### VIDEO | INTERVIEW | NORRAG

# Koumba Boly Barry | The Cultural Dimensions of the Right to Education

Dr **Koumba Boly Barry**, former UN Special Rapporteur on the right to education, talks about her 2021 report to the Human Rights Council on "the cultural dimensions of the right to education or the right to education as a cultural right".

Watch here >

#### THE RISE OF KNOWLEDGE BROKERSIN GLOBAL EDUCATION OVERNANCE 2:22

### VIDEOS | NORRAG

# The Rise of Knowledge Brokers in Global Education Governance

To mark the publication of *The Rise of Knowledge Brokers in Global Education Governance*, **authors** present their chapters in short videos. Watch here >



## VIDÉO | ENTRETIENS DE LA CHAIRE OLTRAMARE

### Patrick Haenni | Utopies militantes et ancrage social en Égypte et en Syrie

Dans un entretien avec **Noa Magnin**, doctorant en anthropologie et sociologie à l'Institut, **Patrick Haenni**, chercheur à l'Institut universitaire européen, conseiller spécial pour la région MENA au Centre pour le dialogue humanitaire et chercheur associé de la Chaire Yves Oltramare, livre une analyse sociologique du mouvement HTC, basée sur une longue expérience de terrain.

Regardez la vidéo >



## VIDÉO | ENTRETIENS DE LA CHAIRE OLTRAMARE

# Naïma Ghermani | La généalogie du droit d'asile à l'ère des persécutions religieuses

**Naïma Ghermani**, professeure d'histoire moderne à l'Université de Grenoble Alpes, est interviewée par **Adrian Gasser Monterrubio**, doctorant en anthropologie et sociologie à l'Institut, sur son dernier ouvrage *Le droit des exilés: généalogie du droit d'asile au XVIIe siècle*. Regardez la vidéo >



## VIDÉO | CONFÉRENCE DE LA CHAIRE OLTRAMARE

### Cécile Laborde | Discrimination et religion

Le 9 décembre dernier, **Cécile Laborde**, professeure de théorie politique à l'Université d'Oxford et membre de la British Academy et de l'Académie Royale de Belgique, a parlé des contextes dans lesquels des lois laïques discriminent de manière indirecte contre des groupes chrétiens dans le cadre européen. La conférence était suivie d'une discussion modérée par **Jean-François Bayart**, professeur d'anthropologie et sociologie et titulaire de la Chaire Yves Oltramare à l'Institut.

### Regardez la vidéo >



### VIDÉO | CONFÉRENCE DE LA CHAIRE OLTRAMARE

Blandine Chelini-Pont | Le sionisme chrétien et son influence sur la politique israélienne des États-Unis Né en Angleterre au XIXe siècle, le sionisme chrétien s'est diffusé dans la société américaine et dans d'autres pays accueillant des communautés évangéliques. Quel est aujourd'hui son poids dans la politique extérieure américaine vis-à-vis de l'État d'Israël? Le 16 décembre dernier, **Blandine Chelini-Pont**, professeure des Universités en histoire des relations internationales (Aix-Marseille), a exploré la question. La conférence était suivie d'une discussion modérée par **Jean-François Bayart**, professeur d'anthropologie et sociologie et titulaire de la Chaire Yves Oltramare à l'Institut. Regardez la vidéo >



## VIDÉO | INSTITUTE'S SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE, CITY OF GENEVA, HCGS, TESS & STUDENT ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE Jean-Baptiste Fressoz | Sans transition: une nouvelle histoire de l'énergie

On a coutume de penser que notre rapport à l'énergie est un rapport de transition: le bois est remplacé par le charbon, le charbon par le pétrole, le pétrole par le nucléaire, puis le tout par des sources vertes. Mais chaque nouvelle phase est restée presque totalement imbriquée dans la précédente, si bien que l'idée même de transition s'avère erronée. Cet argument est au cœur du livre de **Jean-Baptiste Fressoz**, *Sans transition: une nouvelle histoire de l'énergie*. Le 26 novembre dernier, l'auteur, chargé de recherche au CNRS, est venu présenter son livre à l'Institut. La présentation était suivie d'une discussion modérée par **Alice Pirlot**, professeure assistante de droit international à l'Institut. Regardez la vidéo >



**Awarded Grants** 

### SERI | HORIZON EUROPE CALL HORIZON-CL5-2023-D2-02-03 | CHF 1,071,505

## BASE: Battery Passport for Resilient Supply Chain and Implementation of Circular Economy Passport for Resilient Supply Chain and Implementation of Circular Economy

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In the race towards sustainable road transport, the EU faces a hurdle: the current battery supply chain lacks traceability, sustainability, and circularity. This is a challenge for the region's competitiveness in electric vehicles. This project aims to revolutionise this landscape with its Digital Battery Passport (DBP). By leveraging cutting-edge technologies such as distributed ledgers, BASE ensures transparent and secure data management from raw materials to end-of-life recycling. This innovation not only enhances battery performance and safety but also reduces dependency on critical raw materials from non-EU countries. Through pilot implementations and robust methodologies, BASE promises a greener future by extending battery life, marking a significant stride towards EU's climate neutrality goals. The participation of the Institute in this project is funded by the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) and is led by **Marc Hufty**, Professor of Development Studies.

### CORDIS page >

### SNSF | PROJECT FUNDING | 01.09.2025-31.08.2029 | CHF 1,200,000

## The Role of Corporate Internal Carbon Pricing in Climate-Change Mitigation Policy

A growing number of corporations are embracing internal carbon pricing (ICP) as part of their sustainability efforts. This project will explore why firms choose to diverge from static profit

maximisation and impose self-regulatory carbon taxes. The starting hypothesis is that ICP adoption may help firms mitigate transition risk and achieve net-zero objectives cost-effectively compared to alternative decarbonization strategies. Additionally, the project will assess the implications of voluntary ICP adoption for designing a green fiscal programmer that promotes emissions reduction and internalises carbon emissions among firms. Concretely, it will address the following questions: (i) Does adopting internal carbon pricing lead to effective carbon emissions reduction by firms? (ii) Does internal carbon pricing enable firms to reduce emissions in an efficient manner? (iii) Does internal carbon pricing mitigate firms' exposure to transition risk? (iv) How can internal carbon pricing be incentivized as part of a emissions-reducing tax reform that is Pareto-improving? The project is run by **Ugo Panizza**, Professor of International Economics, and Julien Daubanes (Technical University of Denmark), with Saraly Andrade de Sa (IFRO University of Copenhagen), Patricia Crifo (CREST and École Polytechnique), Gilbert Metcalf (MIT Sloan School) and Emmanuel Milet (University of Geneva).

## SNSF | PROJECT FUNDING | 01.01.2025 - 31.12.2027 | CHF 534,628

## Chemical Crossroads: Agrarian Transitions, Pesticide Controversies and International Governance, 1940–1970

This project examines the pivotal role of UN specialised agencies – ILO, WHO, and FAO – in shaping early debates on the risks and benefits of synthetic pesticides during the 1940s–1960s. While pesticide use has increased dramatically since World War II, it remains controversial due to concerns over health, biodiversity, and food safety. Some argue for the necessity of pesticides to control pests and ensure food security, while others call for stricter regulations. Run by **Amalia Ribi Forclaz**, Associate Professor of International History and Politics, with Professor Corinna Unger (European University Institute), this project will analyse archival records to trace scientific debates within these agencies and examine the interactions between governments, experts, agricultural trade unions, farmers' organisations, and commercial lobbies. By situating new empirical research within the geopolitical, economic, and scientific contexts of the period, the project challenges the narrative that environmental awareness only emerged in the 1960s. Instead, it shows that UN agencies voiced concerns about pesticide risks to health, labour, and food safety long before, though these concerns were often overshadowed by developmental priorities. This research reshapes our understanding of the historical foundations of today's pesticide debates.

SNSF page >

# SNSF | BILATERAL PROGRAMMES (TRANS-ATLANTIC PLATFORM CALL, 06.11.2023) | 01.10.2024-30.09.2026 | CHF 231,756

Global Governance, Trust and Democratic Engagement in Past and Present We live in an era of resurgent populist movements that seek to defend national sovereignty against the perceived threat of "globalism". However, mistrust of the existing or potential mechanisms for global governance is not confined to one particular part of the political spectrum, especially when it comes to questions of representation and legitimacy. If citizens lack trust in international cooperation, it can have wide-ranging implications: it risks undermining cross-border efforts to tackle global challenges, for example humanitarian crises, health inequalities and the climate emergency. addresses this urgent contemporary problem from a historical perspective: it traces popular engagement with bodies that sought to regulate or resolve global matters, from the aftermath of the First World War to the early 2000s. By recovering the past relationship between political participation, democracy and international institutions, the project enables us to better understand how we might reimagine global cooperative mechanisms in the present. It is led by Carolyn Biltoft, Associate Professor of International History and Politics, with Daniel Gorman (University of Waterloo), Daniel Lagua (Northumbria University), Anne-Isabelle Richard (University of Leiden Johan Huizinga) and Susan Stokes (University of Chicago). SNSF page >

## Depoliticizing Uncomfortable Knowledge: Why and How Some Central Banks Evade Environmental Issues

This research project, led by **Sylvain Maechler**, Postdoctoral Researcher at the Global Governance Centre (GGC), is the return phase of an SNSF Postdoc.Mobility grant launched in 2023 at Goethe University Frankfurt and continued in 2024 at the University of Ottawa. It investigates the evolving role of central banks in global environmental politics, with earlier phases focusing on how they address environmental issues, particularly biodiversity loss and its associated uncertainties. The phase hosted at the Geneva Graduate Institute examines why and how some central banks resist engaging with these challenges, using the Swiss National Bank (SNB) as a case study. Drawing on literature on expertise in international political economy, the project hypothesises that environmental issues generate "uncomfortable knowledge" within central banks, prompting the adoption of various depoliticisation strategies. Based on interviews and document analysis, the research aims to uncover the political implications of environmental crises for central bank governance and decision-making practices, contributing to broader debates on the intersection of environmental crises and global financial governance.



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ASIL - IRLIG

## **10th International Refugee Law Student Writing Competition**

The International Refugee Law Interest Group (IRLIG) of the American Society of International Law (ASIL) is the organiser of this competition, which is co-sponsoded by the Global Migration Centre (GMC). Papers may address any topic related to international law and refugees, stateless persons, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and/or forced displacement.

• 15 February 2025: submission deadline

### Find out more about submission conditions and the award >

### IHRIC

### Prix Duroselle 2025

Chaque année, l'Institut d'histoire des relations internationales contemporaines (IHRIC) récompense les meilleures recherches francophones en histoire des relations internationales en offrant deux prix Jean-Baptiste Duroselle: l'un à l'auteur e de la meilleure thèse (1200 euros), l'autre à l'auteur e du meilleur mémoire de master (800 euros). La thèse récompensée bénéficiera également, en plus du prix, d'un important soutien financier du ministère français de l'Europe et des Affaires étrangères en vue de sa publication, dans la collection «Diplomatie et histoire» du ministère ou dans une autre maison d'édition.

• 15 février 2025: délai de soumission

### Comment candidater >

Le Geneva Graduate Institute parraine, conjointement avec l'IHRIC et l'Institut Pierre Renouvin (Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne), la revue d'histoire Relations internationales, qui publie régulièrement des recherches de lauréat·es des Prix Duroselle.



## Upcoming PhD Defences

Tuesday 28 Jan
14:00-16:00
Pétale 2, Room S9

#### INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/POLITICAL SCIENCE

Power, Capital and Contestation: Towards a Critical Pedagogy in International Relations and Political Science

By **Bart Sebastiaan Gabriel**. Committee members: Honorary Professor Thomas Biersteker, thesis director; Professor Elisabeth Prügl, president of the committee and internal reader; Professor Inanna Hamati-Ataya, Faculty of Arts, University of Groningen, The Netherlands, external reader.

Read more >



For comprehensive information please visit the Research website.

Notes to members of the Geneva Graduate Institute:

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