

GENEVA
GRADUATE
INSTITUTE

Research Bulletin

Upcoming events, latest publications and other research activities

15 May 2023 (no. 6, 2023)

Tomorrow 16 May at The Fab, 10:00–18:00

FIRST BOOK & PODCAST FESTIVAL OF THE GENEVA GRADUATE INSTITUTE

Edition 2023: Thinking through the Climate Change Crisis

Join us for a day of exploration, curiosity and excellence as we dive into the deep worlds of the latest books and podcasts produced at the Institute. More info [here](#)

Upcoming Research Events

15 MAY	Monday	16 MAY	Tuesday	17 MAY	Wednesday	18 MAY	Thursday	21 MAY	Sunday
IHP DEP. Jeffrey Lesser Living and Dying In the “Worst Neighbourhood” of São Paulo: Immigrants, the Health State, and the Built Environment, 1860–2020 12:15–14:00 Room S2 RESEARCH BROWN BAG LUNCH Luana Bermudez Access to COVID-19	BOOK AND PODCAST FESTIVAL Thinking through the Climate Change Crisis 10:00–17:30 The Fab, Petal 2, 4th floor VILFREDO PARETO RESEARCH SEMINAR Marijke Verpoorten Ecooking for Sustainable Development: Experimental Evidence from Eastern Congo 14:15–15:30 Room S4	CTEI, GTP & ITC MAJOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE REPORTS SYMPOSIA 2023 Barbara Oliveira Ramos ITC 2022 SME Competitiveness Outlook Report 12:15–14:00 CFD WORK-IN-PROGRESS SEMINAR (CLOSED SEMINAR) With Tanushree Kaushal 12:30–13:30	NO EVENTS	GHC WHA 76 SIDE EVENT 75 Years of Global Health Governance: WHO’s Legacy and the Making of Its Future 11:00–13:00 hybrid					

Vaccines in Latin America
12:15–13:30 The Fab, Petal 2, 4th floor

GLOBAL GOVERNANCE TALKS

Electric Shock Belts, Spiked Batons, and Pepper Spray: Regulating the Trade in Torture Tools
16:15–18:00 Auditorium A2

CFD

Impact Seminar on Effective Altruism
18:15–20:00 Room S1

JOINT ANSO/IHP SEMINAR

Amita Baviskar | From Dust to Dust: Air Pollution and Urban Experience in the Indian Anthropocene
16:15–18:00 hybrid

CONFÉRENCE DE LA CHAIRE YVES OLTRAMARE

Patrice Yengo | Ressentiment sorcellaire et révolution conservatrice en Afrique centrale
18:30–20:00 salle S12

CCDP RESEARCH SEMINAR (INTERNAL)

Caitlin Procter | The Return and Reintegration of Children from Islamic State: Developing a Longitudinal Research Agenda
15:00–16:15 Room P1-647

CFD

Douglas R. Holmes | What Is an Anthropologist Doing in a Central Bank?
18:15–20:00 Room S8

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MAY**

Monday

GHC

Liberty Chee | Seeing Women's Labor: The Problem of Domestic Work at the ILO
12:15–14:00 Room S7

GHC | WHA 76 SIDE EVENT

Synergies in Global Health and Why They Matter
13:00–15:00 hybrid

IL DEP. | BOOK LAUNCH

Angel Horna | Law of the Sea and Maritime Delimitation: State Practice and Case Law in Latin America and the Caribbean
18:30–20:00 Auditorium A2

CFD

Impact Seminar on Effective Altruism
18:15–20:00 Room S3

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MAY**

Tuesday

VILFREDO PARETO RESEARCH SEMINAR

Pamela Campa | Facing the Hard Truth: Evidence from Climate Change Ignorance, Joint with Ferenc Szucs
14:15–15:30 Room S4

GHC | WHA 76 SIDE EVENT

Beyond Panic & Neglect: Building a Human Rights Framework for Public Health Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response
17:00–19:00 hybrid

CONFÉRENCE DE LA CHAIRE YVES OLTRAMARE

Politique du prophétisme au Congo-Brazzaville
18:30–20:00 S12

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MAY**

Wednesday

GHC | WHA 76 SIDE EVENT

How Can Global Action Really Meet Local Needs in Emerging Outbreaks?
13:00–15:00 hybrid

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MAY**

Thursday

CIES

INTERDISCIPLINARY SEMINAR (RESTRICTED TO INSTITUTE MEMBERS)

Agnese Zucca | What Makes International Organizations Salient in the Public Eye?
12:15–13:30 Room P1-847

GENDER SEMINAR

Anna Dobrowolska | "Naked Girls and Bare Shelves": Transformations of Heteronormative Gaze in Late State-Socialist Poland
12:30–13:45 Room S11

GHC | WHA 76 SIDE EVENT

Breathing Life with Clean Air Action: Civil Society Drives Change
13:00–15:00 hybrid

CCDP RESEARCH SEMINAR (INTERNAL)

Margaux Pinaud | Strategic Management in Conflict-Affected and Fragile Contexts: Designing a Curriculum for Professionals
15:00–16:15 Room P1-847

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MAY**

Friday

NO EVENTS

[See all events >](#)

Gateway to Publications by Themes



Cities, Space,
Mobilities &
Migrations



Education,
Information
& Media



Trade,
Finance,
Economies
& Work



Human Rights,
Humanitarianism,
Justice &
Inclusion



Democracy,
Civil Society &
Sovereignty



Peace, War,
Conflicts &
Security



Global
Governance



Sustainability,
Environment,
the Anthropocene
& SDGs



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Calls for
Papers



Awarded
Prizes



Publications by Themes



Cities, Space, Mobilities & Migrations



LIVRE

Destiny / Destination

Cet ouvrage est né comme projet collaboratif de la rencontre de deux vagabonds de l'âme, un artiste aux multiples facettes, Carlo Vidoni, et un anthropologue itinérant, **Alessandro Monsutti** (emuse, avril 2023). Dans l'idée d'aller au-delà des angoisses et des peurs face à un monde perçu comme incertain, dans lequel la mobilité de

certaines personnes est vécue comme une menace pour la stabilité de la vie d'autres personnes, les auteurs ont confronté les trajectoires de migrants qui ont quitté l'Italie ou sont arrivés en Italie à des moments différents et poussés par des motivations tout autant diverses. Le point de départ visuel, esthétique et narratif a été inspiré par les lignes de la main qui, symboles du destin de chacun et dans le même temps caractéristique universelle, racontent différentes histoires unies par leur commune humanité.

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- Retrouvez Alessandro Monsutti le mardi 16 mai au [Festival du livre et du podcast](#)

EDITED BOOK CHAPTER

Italy's Mixed Response to the Syrian Refugee Crisis

Augusta Nannerini, PhD Researcher in International Relations and Political Science, shows that there has not been a single or unified Italian response to the Syrian refugee crisis (in *Policy and*

Politics of the Syrian Refugee Crisis in Eastern Mediterranean States: National and Institutional Perspectives, M.O. Stephenson Jr. and Y.A. Stivachtis, eds., E-International Relations, April 2023). Instead, she outlines three different ways refugees, including those fleeing the Syrian Civil War, have recently been received in Italy. To do so, she frames her analysis by referring to the dangerous routes by which Syrian refugees can reach the country, paying particular attention to the Central Mediterranean Route. Next, she discusses the safe pathways to reach Italy put in place by the Ministry of the Interior with its resettlement programme and the initiative of the Humanitarian Corridors led by faith-based organisations and civil society groups. She argues that the refugees who arrive in Italy by these means constitute a category dubbed “administrative arrivals”, which entails special rules and procedures to apply for asylum and to be part of programmes to foster social integration. She suggests that the difference between the categories and related treatments of the “spontaneous arrivals” and the “administrative arrivals” demonstrates that how Syrian refugees arrive in Italy has played a critical role in determining the different responses they have confronted.

Free PDF available [here](#)



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Education, Information & Media



ARTICLE

How (Do) School Experiences Contribute to Students' Sense of Belonging?

Scholars have long documented the positive influence of students' sense of belonging on their achievement and retention; however, the variation in students' sense of belonging has been underexplored. **Chanwoong Baek** extends

previous research examining the effects of student-level characteristics (e.g., student achievement, learning attitude, experience of being bullied) and school-level characteristics (e.g., location, emphasis on academic success, disciplinary climates) on students' sense of belonging in five East Asian educational systems (Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Singapore, and Taiwan) (in *Asia Pacific Journal of Education*, online April 2023). He analyses data from the 2015 Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study, using two-level hierarchical linear models (42,201 students in 1,241 schools). The results show that variance in students' sense of belonging was mainly at the school level and that predictors were differently associated with sense of belonging according to systems. Despite the differences, students' learning attitudes had the strongest association with students' sense of belonging in all educational systems included in the study, followed by their experiences with bullying. These results suggest that fostering academic belonging could be vital to increasing students' sense of belonging, in addition to addressing their socio-psychological formation.

[Repository](#) (public access)



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Trade, Finance, Economies & Work



ARTICLE

A Brief Encounter: North Korea in the Eurocurrency Market, 1973–80

Seung Woo Kim, Research Fellow in International History, examines the engagement of North Korea in the Eurocurrency market in the 1970s (in *Cold War History*, online April 2023). In the Cold War regime competition for economic prosperity, the Communist regime turned to the

City of London to raise capital for economic development. Despite the diplomatic efforts of South Korea against its rival, the judges were international banks. The failure to manage its indebtedness resulted in the retreat of the North in the Western financial market. Lost creditworthiness was hard to restore. The divergence in the access to foreign capital resulted in the different paths of economic growth of the two Koreas.

[Repository](#) (public access)

ARTICLE

Carbon Taxation and Greenflation: Evidence from Europe and Canada

This paper studies the effects of carbon pricing on inflation dynamics. **Maximilian Konradt**, PhD Researcher in International Economics, and **Beatrice Weder di Mauro** construct a sample of carbon taxes implemented in Europe and Canada over three decades and estimate the response of inflation and price components to carbon pricing (in *Journal of the European Economic Association*, jvad020, March 2023). Their empirical results suggest that carbon taxes did not significantly increase inflation, with dynamic effects estimated around zero in most specifications. Instead, they find support for relative price changes, increasing the cost of energy but leaving the price of other goods and services unaffected. This is consistent with previous findings on the limited aggregate economic costs of carbon taxes. Based on the cross-section of taxes in Europe, the authors provide suggestive evidence that the response of inflation was especially muted in countries with revenue-neutral carbon taxes and autonomous central banks that can accommodate potential inflationary pressure associated with carbon pricing.

[Repository](#) (public access)

This article is the edited version of an International Economics Department Working Paper (see [Research Bulletin](#) no 5, 2022).

DISCUSSION PAPER

Bank Ownership around the World

This paper builds a dataset on bank ownership that covers more than 6,500 banks in 181 countries – 59 low-income economies, 72 middle-income economies and 50 high-income economies – over 1995–2020 (published as Discussion Paper DP18106, Centre for Economic Policy Research, April 2023, and as International Economics Department Working Paper no. 07/2023, Geneva Graduate Institute, March 2023). **Ugo Panizza** shows that until 2010, there was a reduction in state-ownership of banks and an increase in foreign ownership. However, the Global Financial Crisis interrupted or reversed these trends. At the country level, the relationship between bank ownership and each of GDP growth and financial depth is mixed: regressions with country fixed effects indicate that the presence of foreign-owned banks is positively associated with future economic growth and state-ownership is negatively but not robustly associated with future financial depth. Bank-level regressions show that state-owned banks are less profitable and have a higher share of non-performing loans than their private (domestic or foreign) counterparts. State-owned and foreign-owned banks located in developing economies pay and charge lower interest rates than their domestic private counterparts. There is also evidence that state-owned banks stabilise credit in the presence of domestic shocks while foreign banks amplify external shocks. In terms of domestic shocks, foreign banks are not significantly different from their

domestic private counterparts.

[Repository](#) (public access)

WORKING PAPER

Foreign Linkages, Innovation & Productivity: Evidence from Enterprise Surveys

This paper studies the firm-level dynamics of foreign linkages, innovation and productivity in developing economies (CTEI Working Paper, December 2022). Using harmonised firm-level data from the World Bank Enterprise Surveys, **Anmol Kaur Grewal**, PhD Researcher in International Economic, constructs a panel dataset for 47 developing countries spanning 2003 to 2019. She estimates a three-stage structural model of how foreign linkages affect innovation which in turn affects firm productivity. She distinguishes between four types of foreign linkages: exports, imports, inward FDI and the use of foreign-licensed technology, and two types of innovation: product innovation and process innovation. She uses a Heckman selection model followed by a control function approach to address the endogeneity between foreign linkages and firm productivity. She finds that in the first stage, the use of foreign inputs and the use of foreign-licensed technology are both associated with increases in innovation effort as well as innovation output, relative to firms without such foreign linkages. In the second stage, while increases in R&D expenditure per worker tend to increase the likelihood of introducing a product innovation, they have no statistically significant effect on the likelihood of introducing a process innovation. In the third stage, being a product innovator or a process innovator is associated with increases in firm-level productivity, relative to other firms. These results remain robust across alternative measures of innovation and firm productivity.

[Repository](#) (public access)

ARTICLE

Il dollaro e le petromonarchie

The currencies of the Gulf countries are linked to the dollar by fixed exchange rates. They have freely convertible currencies but the dollar remains the main reference point. In essence, these countries have thus relinquished monetary sovereignty. This means that they remain exposed to the – generally procyclical – consequences of US monetary policy. The oil-dollar ratio is not enough to justify maintaining fixed exchange rates, which Russia has, for example, abandoned, argues **Giacomo Luciani** in this article in Italian (in *Aspenia: rivista di Aspen Institute Italia*, no. 96, March 2022).

[Repository](#) (access access restricted to the Institute community)

[Aspenia](#)

PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS, 2023

How do Monetary Policy and Uncertainty Shocks Affect Financial and Non-Financial Firms' Behavior? A Granular Analysis

The three empirical essays of **Jeanne Verrier's** PhD thesis focus on the transmission of monetary policy and uncertainty shocks to financial and non-financial firms:

- **“Uncertain Times for the Bank Lending Channel”** asks how shocks in aggregate uncertainty (proxied by the dispersion in professional forecasts) affect the transmission of monetary policy through the bank lending channel. The empirical analysis, based on a difference-in-difference approach, finds that uncertainty significantly reduces the impact of a monetary policy shock on bank lending.
- **“U.S. Monetary Policy Shock Spillovers: Evidence from Firm-Level Data”** examines the transmission of U.S. monetary policy shocks to foreign firm investment through three main channels: the balance sheet channel, the financial channel of the exchange rate and the trade channel. Based on microeconomic data from a large set of countries, the results suggest that all three channels play an important and independent role, and that the balance sheet channel is the most important channel of all three.
- *“Global Risk Factors and Foreign Currency Funding Choices: Evidence from Swedish Financial*

Institutions” investigates how net foreign currency funding choices of financial institutions are affected by changes in global risk factors (proxied by the VIX and the VSTOXX). The analysis, based on a novel dataset of Swedish financial institutions, reveals that the response depends on their pre-existing foreign currency exposure. The granularity of the data allows for a deep dive into some of the key factors driving this behaviour.

Repository (thesis not available; for access, contact the author at jeanne.verrier@graduateinstitute.ch)

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Human Rights, Humanitarianism, Justice & Inclusion



ARTICLE

Ableism in the College of International Lawyers: On Disabling Differences in the Professional Field

In the wake of the #metoo and #blacklivesmatter movements, the masculine and “methodologically white” nature of the core of the international legal profession has received renewed attention, and attempts to diversify it are well underway. **Lys**

Kulamadayil, Research Associate at the Global Governance Centre, deplors that reflections on the pervasiveness of ableism in the profession are absent from the conversations that accompany such diversification efforts (in *Leiden Journal of International Law*, online April 2023). Ableism describes implicit assumptions about the species-typical condition of the human body and the ways in which it interacts with the material and social world. The importance of ableism in excluding and marginalising persons with disabling differences in international legal academia has been widely overlooked. This neglect simultaneously contributes to ableist re-productions of the profession and affects how international law understands and governs disability.

Repository (public access)

PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/POLITICAL SCIENCE, 2023

Co-Producing Shadows: The Colonial Gaze of Humanitarian Security Management and Parallel Violences

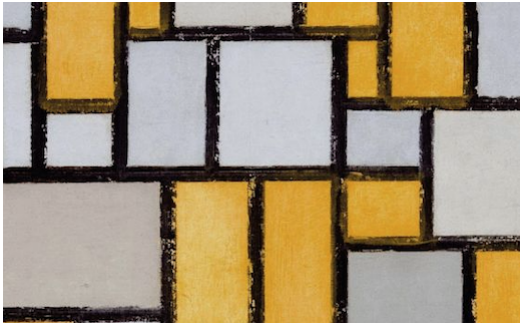
This thesis examines the security management practices of humanitarian organisations based on empirical research in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and Geneva, Switzerland. **Janine Elena Bressmer** conceptualises these practices as a device which sees the urban landscape through a colonial gaze. This gaze manifests itself in exclusions and violences that (re)produce colonial durabilities which the author investigates in different textures of the device: material boundaries, informational exclusions and epistemic violences. In drawing a parallel between the object of study and how she studies it – her methods –, she argues for two methodological contributions in the project: (1) including exclusions in the analysis of security management and recognising the colonial durabilities that result from these exclusions, and (2) co-producing differently through a diffractive methodology that centres on the experiences of the neighbours to international humanitarian organisations in Addis and challenges the colonial gaze of the device.

Repository (thesis embargoed until March 2026; for access, contact the author at janine.bressmer@graduateinstitute.ch)

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Democracy, Civil Society & Sovereignty



EDITED BOOK AND CHAPTER

Sovereignty, Nationalism, and the Quest for Homogeneity in Interwar Europe

Interwar European majority-minority questions have been predominantly discussed in the context of the East until now. This volume, edited and **introduced** by **Davide Rodogno, Emmanuel Dalle Mulle**, Research Associate at the Albert

Hirschman Centre on Democracy, and **Mona Bieling**, PhD Researcher in International History and Politics, challenges that geographical emphasis by examining both Eastern and Western European experiences (Bloomsbury, online April 2023, print May 2023).

Emmanuel Della Mulle and **Mona Bieling** have co-authored the **chapter** “**Sovereignty and Homogeneity: A History of Majority-Minority Relations in Interwar Western Europe**”, in which they consider Belgium, Italy, and Spain as nationalising states and show how different political regimes within them adopted policies of cultural and linguistic homogenisation with varying degrees of coercion. In Italy and Spain, authoritarian governments pursued highly coercive forms of assimilation toward minority groups. In Belgium, homogenisation occurred at the regional level and was called for by the leaders of specific sub-state nationalist movements. The chapter thus dissects the built-in tendencies toward homogenisation promoted by the so-called Paris system after the First World War and debunks lingering myths of populations’ homogeneity in interwar Western Europe.

[DOI of the book](#) (open access)

ARTICLE

The 1939 Option Agreement and the “Consistent Ambivalence” of Fascist Policies towards Minorities in the Italian New Provinces

The 1939 Option Agreement between Italy and Germany concerning South Tyrol was the first population transfer agreement in Western European history. Its analysis offers a unique opportunity to shift the focus of the historiography on interwar minority questions from Eastern to Western Europe, thus challenging the lingering view of Eastern Europe as a land of endemic ethnic heterogeneity and conflict. Furthermore, the 1939 Option illuminates a form of “consistent ambivalence” that problematises dominant analytical frameworks concerning the management of ethnic differences. Italian fascists consistently affirmed the inevitable assimilation, and therefore inclusion, of minorities within the Italian nation, but they also deeply distrusted them. As this ambivalent attitude reached a climax in the 1939 Option, in order to understand fascist behaviour during the implementation of the agreement we need to consider the longer history of fascist attempts to homogenise the new provinces, argue **Emmanuel Dalle Mulle**, Research Associate at the Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy, and **Alessandro Ambrosino**, PhD Researcher in International History and Politics (in *The Historical Journal*, online May 2023). Three features structured these attempts: a belief that the assimilation of these minorities would be inevitable; the absence of means to carry out radical solutions; and a deep-seated distrust of the minorities. Fascist policy during the Option was simultaneously more ambivalent than the current historiography suggests and more consistent with the regime’s interwar homogenisation policies.

[DOI](#)

ONLINE PRIMARY SOURCE COLLECTION

International Dimensions of Decolonization in the Middle East and North Africa

The twentieth-century Middle East and North Africa (MENA) was a central arena of decolonisation, and decolonisation was, and remains, a key dimension of MENA history. **Cyrus Schayegh** is the editor of a primary-source collection covering the entire twentieth century, for different parts of MENA were involved in different waves of decolonisation (Wilson Center Digital Archive, April 2023). The collection focuses on international dimensions, roughly balancing Africa-, Asia-, Europe- and America-related stories to highlight MENA's linkage with the world. Using a mix of textual genres such as books, speeches, private notes, radio programme transcripts and government memoranda, it addresses not only politics but also socio-economics and culture. In his [introductory essay](#), the editor offers a few preliminary thoughts about MENA decolonisation through the lens of the collection, and includes a more extensive note on the nature and limitations of the collection. [Access to the collection](#)

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Peace, War, Conflicts & Security



NUMÉRO THÉMATIQUE

Guerre civile?

La notion de guerre civile est utilisée pour qualifier des réalités très hétérogènes allant des guerres internes, souvent à dimension internationale, aux situations de conflits politiques, sociaux et culturels. En interrogeant sa pertinence, ce numéro de Monde commun coordonné par Franck Mermier et **Alessandro**

Monsutti a pour ambition d'aller au-delà des catégorisations, qu'elles relèvent des sciences sociales ou du droit international (no 8, Presses Universitaires de France, avril 2023). Il propose de revisiter l'actualité des guerres contemporaines, de l'Afghanistan au Yémen, en passant par la Syrie, l'Éthiopie et la Birmanie, en retraçant les lignes de force, les dynamiques et les représentations vernaculaires de ces conflits hors du cadre géopolitique par lequel ils sont souvent perçus. Des parallèles sont en outre tissés entre les guerres de l'ex-Yougoslavie et celle d'Ukraine. Il nous plonge aussi dans les réalités contrastées des États-Unis et de la Colombie où des antagonismes politiques, sociétaux et raciaux attisent les braises de conflits jamais vraiment éteints. **Alessandro Monsutti** est l'auteur de la contribution «Faire de l'anthropologie en situation de conflit» où, de façon narrative, il évoque son travail de terrain dans le contexte de la guerre afghane.

[Site de l'éditeur](#)

ARTICLE

Segregation and "Out-of-Placeness": The Direct Effect of Neighborhood Racial Composition on Police Stops

Differential police conduct may be attributed both to residential racial segregation and more general discriminatory attitudes and policies. **Laura Schenker**, PHD Researcher in International Relations and Political Science, **David Sylvan**, **Jean-Louis Arcand** and **Ravi Bhavnani** draw upon ethnographic and other studies of everyday policing to propose that police, in the context of racially segregated neighbourhoods, intensively surveil individuals who are "out of place" in terms of their race and the local geographical context in which they are found (in *Political Research Quarterly*, online April 2023). They then use statistical evidence from the New York City Police

Department to compare stops in different neighbourhoods. They find that the NYPD indeed carries out “stops” that differentially target African Americans and Hispanics present in predominantly white precincts, with the degree of surveillance increasing as precincts become more white, and as stops become more generic and less about specific, identifiable crimes.

[Repository](#) (public access)

ARTICLE

Statebuilding beyond the West: Exploring Islamic State’s Strategic Narrative of Governance and Statebuilding

Strategic narratives are employed by political actors as tools to pursue their goals, constructing a shared meaning of the past, present and future in order to shape behaviour. Building on discourse analysis of the magazine *Dabiq* and from in-depth, semi-structured interviews conducted between 2018 and 2019 with IS civilian employees and civilians living in IS-controlled territory, Raquel da Silva, **Matthew Bamber-Zryd**, PHD Researcher in International Relations and Political Science, and Nicolas Lemay-Hébert analyse how IS organised its strategic narrative of governance and statebuilding around three main themes considered as central in the statebuilding literature – the provision of security, the provision of basic services, and social cohesion – and how such a strategic narrative was received by citizens living in IS-controlled territory (in *European Journal of International Security*, online April 2023). They argue that the study of strategic narratives of governance and statebuilding casts light on the factors leading to the success or demise of emergent statebuilding efforts, equally demonstrating how IS’s project is quite conventional when compared to other mainstream statebuilding narratives.

[Repository](#) (public access)

REPORT

Weapons Compass: The Caribbean Firearms Study

The Caribbean region suffers from some of the world’s highest rates of violent deaths. In this report, **Anne-Séverine Fabre**, **Nicolas Florquin**, **Aaron Karp** and **Matt Schroeder**, from the Small Arms Survey, examine firearm holdings, illicit arms and ammunition, trafficking patterns and methods, and the socio-economic costs of firearm-related violence in the region (Small Arms Survey and Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Implementation Agency for Crime and Security, April 2023). They do so by drawing on data and information collected from 13 of the 15 CARICOM member states and from 22 Caribbean states in total. The study also incorporates the results of original fieldwork undertaken by regional partners, including interviews with prison inmates serving firearm-related sentences, and research in selected hospitals related to gunshot wounds and the associated medical costs and productivity losses for patients.

PDF available in open access [here](#)

FORUM ARTICLE

Making Peace with Un-Certainty: Reflections on the Role of Digital Technology in Peace Processes beyond the Data Hype

Recent years have seen the acceleration of data- and evidence-based approaches in support of peace processes, creating a renewed confidence that conflicts can be predicted, known and resolved, based on objective information about the world. However, new technologies employed by conflict parties, stakeholders and those who aim to make or build peace have also made peace processes less ascertainable, intelligible and predictable. Technology can thus create both more certainty and uncertainty in (and about) peace processes. This forum article presents a first collaborative attempt to explore how the use of technology by conflict parties and peacebuilding actors influences these dynamics. **Andreas T. Hirblinger**, Senior Researcher at the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding, Martin Wählisch, Kate Keator, Chris McNaboe, Allard Duursma, John Karlsrud, Valerie Sticher, Aly Verjee, Tetiana Kyselova, Chris M. A. Kwaja and Suda Perera examine various fields of engagement, ranging from conflict prevention to peace mediation, peacekeeping, and longer-term peacebuilding (in *International Studies Perspectives*, ekad004, online March 2023). Their discussion engages with a variety of related activities,

including predictive analysis and foresight, conflict analysis, cease-fire monitoring, early warning and early action, and problem-solving and trust-building dialogues. They suggest approaching uncertainty as a spectrum between uncertainty and certainty that can be studied across epistemic, ontological and normative dimensions, thus inviting further academic research and policy reflection.

[Repository](#) (public access)

PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE, 2023

Imperfect Struggles: Jewish-Israeli Activists for Palestinian Rights and the Paradoxes of Solidarity from a Position of Power

Alice Baroni explores the dilemmas and paradoxes involved in carrying out a political critique that attempts to be structural and yet is always, to some extent, embedded within the discourses, institutions, and practices that it sets out to challenge. She does so by looking into the “grey zones” – identitary, strategic and intersubjective – that activists navigate in their lived contextual experiences, in the struggle and in their everyday life. While highlighting the problems and failures of these “compromised” political engagements, she also interrogates the possibilities that accepting to be carrying out “imperfect struggles” opens for a decolonial and counter-hegemonic praxis.

Read more about Alice’s research and findings in this [interview](#)

[Repository](#) (PhD thesis embargoed until February 2026; for access, contact the author at alice.baroni@graduateinstitute.ch)

Top



Global Governance



ARTICLE

Porous Organizational Boundaries and Associated States: Introducing Memberness in International Organizations

The current binary understanding of membership in international organisations (IOs), especially regional organisations (ROs), creates blind spots and biases in our understanding of who matters in

IOs, as well as why and how they matter. Existing scholarship primarily looks at full member-states or non-state actors to capture who influences such organisations. Associated states are often portrayed as passive receivers of IO rules instead of active contributors. **Stephanie Hofmann, Erna Burai**, Postdoctoral Researcher, and **Anamarija Andreska** and **Juanita Uribe**, PHD Researchers in International Relations and Political Science, address this blind spot and resulting analytical bias by exploring what types of association relationships exist and how they impact IOs (in *European Journal of International Relations*, online April 2023). They propose a novel conceptualisation of membership that they call *memberness*. On the level of IOs, *memberness* is based on the relative openness of organisational boundaries and stratified access via material and ideational contributions. On the level of states, *memberness* captures associated states’ individual choices to contribute materially and/or ideationally to an IO. *Memberness* moves away from a purely rights-based understanding of membership (or *who* you are in an IO) to include a capacity-based understanding (or *what* you do in an IO). This shift in focus uncovers new channels of influence on IOs. Associated states’ material and ideational contributions to IOs constitute three *memberness* types: *payroller*, *sponsor*, and *advisor*. The authors argue that these

membership types impact IOs' vitality, design and performance in previously unrecognised ways. They illustrate these types with empirical examples from ROs across the globe and discuss the implications of membership for IO research programmes.

[Repository](#) (public access)

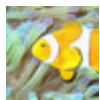
EDITED BOOK CHAPTER

Territorial Disputes

As international law has become more present in global policy-making, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) has come to occupy an essential and increasingly visible role in international relations. A recent book, *The Cambridge Companion to the International Court of Justice*, explores substantive developments within the ICJ and offers critical perspectives on its historical and contemporary role (C. Espósito and K. Parlett, eds., Cambridge University Press, April 2023). It includes a chapter by **Marcelo Kohen** and Mamadou Hébié on the growing role of the ICJ in the settlement of international territorial disputes.

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Sustainability, Environment, the Anthropocene & SDGs



ARTICLE

Progress versus Precaution: International Organizations and the Use of Pesticides, 1940s to 1970s

As part of a special issue titled "Historical Perspectives on the Global Environment", this article by **Amalia Ribí Forclaz** and Corinna R. Unger investigates how international organisations responded to the increased use of

synthetic pesticides in the decades after WWII (in *Zeitschrift für Globalgeschichte und vergleichende Gesellschaftsforschung*, vol. 32, no. 6, 2022, published in 2023). It does so by analysing and comparing the debates that took place among experts in the International Labour Organisation, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Health Organization, and the European Economic Community. As the archives of these organisations reveal, knowledge on the potential risks of pesticide use existed amongst international expert groups already from the late 1940s onwards, much earlier than commonly assumed. The new chemicals were discussed at various international meetings, and scientific evidence circulated that highlighted the multi-faceted risks of pesticide use and their toxic residues. Yet international bodies downplayed these risks and put the users in charge of their own safety. It was only in the late 1960s, in the context of the Common Agricultural Policy for predominantly economic reasons, that the European Commission took steps towards the establishment of a regulatory framework.

[Repository](#) (access restricted to the Institute community)

[Journal's page](#)

ARTICLE

The Recognition and Formalization of Customary Tenure in the Forest Landscapes of the Mekong Region: A Polanyian Perspective

Commodity-driven deforestation and forest conservation efforts in the Mekong region have placed multiple pressures on community-based resource systems, undermining tenure security and livelihoods. In response, several initiatives have been mobilised by states, communities, and civil

society organisations which aim to recognize and formalise customary forest tenure rights.

Christophe Gironde and others draw on insights from Polanyi's dialectical movement of market expansion and social protection to examine these protective measures as counter-movements that combine forms of state-controlled recognition, community pushback contestations, and more emancipatory movements (in *Journal of Land Use Science*, vol. 18, no. 1, 2023, online May 2023). They show the omnipresence and contradictions of the state in shaping these counter-movements and the multiple ways in which communities construct new forest tenure arrangements. While there have been important forest tenure reforms and the setup of state-sanctioned mechanisms to give communities greater rights and responsibilities over forests, the process and outcomes of community rights formalisation are found to be highly uneven and contingent.

[DOI](#) (open access)

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Other Relevant Information



Multimedia



TRANSIMPERIAL HISTORY PODCAST | IHP DEP.

In this new podcast host David Motzafi-Haller and his colleagues discuss the meaning and evolution of trans imperial history, as well as its significance in pushing the boundaries of scholarship on empire and colonialism. Leading scholars in the field share their insights and perspectives on the key challenges and opportunities of trans imperial history today and its future prospects. The following episodes have already been broadcast:

- **David Motzafi-Haller & Professor Cyrus Schayegh | Introducing Transimperial History**
- **David Motzafi-Haller & Professor Cyrus Schayegh | Understanding Transimperial History**
- **Anshul Verma & Professor Harald Fischer Tiné | Practising Transnational History**
- **Atiya Hussein & Professor Nile Green | Placing Transnational History**
- **Shijie Zhang & Professor Martin Dusenberre | Tracing Transimperial History**

[More info and access to the podcast](#)



WORKSHOP VIDEO | AHCD & UNRISD

Enabling the Youth for Just Transitions

This [workshop](#), held on 9 March, explored the implications of the just transition for young people. It touched on aspects relating to labour, participation and innovation, in a dialogue between academics and policymakers, including several representatives of the International Labour Organization.

[Watch the workshop video](#)

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Awarded Grants

Xinyu Yuan Wins an Inaugural EISA Postdoctoral Bridge Grant

Thanks to this grant, **Xinyu Yuan**, Postdoctoral Researcher in International Relations and Political Science, will work on publishing her **PhD research** and developing a new project proposal based on the research findings. Her PhD dissertation seeks to unpack the multilayered restrictiveness that international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) have faced in China since 2017 following the government's shift to a security-centric approach to INGOs. Her new research proposal focuses on China's agency in global norm transformation, investigating its mixed role as a norm-taker and norm-maker by developing case studies on two arenas: peacebuilding and civil society governance.

[Read more](#)

*The **EISA Postdoctoral Bridge Grants** scheme was launched in 2022. It aims to help recently graduated or final-year PhD students bridge the gap between a doctorate and a postdoctoral funded/salaried position.*

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Visitors

📅 25 May 2023–24 May 2024
📍 IRPS Dep.

Bugra Güngör

Visiting Fellow Bugra Güngör will study “Aid, Nation-Branding, and Foreign Policy: Evidence from Turkey” with Anna Leander.

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Calls for Papers and Participation

INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF THE RED CROSS

Revisiting the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement has long relied on a foundational set of principles, the so-called “Fundamental Principles” – humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity, and universality – as pivotal tools that help to guide its humanitarian work around the world. As the 60th anniversary of the Fundamental Principles approaches, the *International Review of the Red Cross* invites proposals regarding those principles – how to understand them anno 2023, how they are applied in practice, how modern developments (in armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies, and society writ large) pose new challenges and opportunities for the principles and their effectiveness.

- **22 May 2023:** abstract submission deadline

[More info](#)

ALBERT HIRSCHMAN CENTRE ON DEMOCRACY

Call to Participate in the Next AHCD PHD Colloquium

The AHCD invites post-MPT doctoral candidates to share their work with colleagues, researchers and faculty members at the forthcoming PhD Colloquium on 13 June, 15:30-17:00. At each colloquium, several PhD candidates share an in-progress chapter of their dissertation. Each author is assigned a student and a senior discussant. The focus is on training and constructive feedback in a friendly and productive environment.

- **25 May 2023:** deadline for notification of participation by [filling this form](#)

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact yanina.welp@graduateinstitute.

10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE GENEVA PEACE WEEK

Building Trust, Building Peace: An Agenda for the Future

The Geneva Peacebuilding Platform has launched an open call for applications for the 10-year anniversary of Geneva Peace Week. Applicants have the opportunity to organise events or to produce digital content on the three following themes:

- Promoting peaceful and inclusive societies
- Addressing climate change through just transitions
- Harnessing technologies to build a better future

- **4 June 2023:** application deadline

[More info](#)


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Awarded Prizes

Prestigious Francis Lieber Book Prize Awarded to Ka Lok Yip

Institute alumna Ka Lok Yip was awarded the 2023 Francis Lieber Book Prize for her first monograph, *The Use of Force against Individuals in War under International Law: A Social Ontological Approach*, which is based on her [PhD thesis](#) completed at the Institute in 2018. Ka Lok's book is an overhaul of the long-standing debate over the relationship among different provisions of international law regulating the use of force against individuals in war.

[Read more](#)


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