

Research Bulletin

Upcoming events, latest publications and other research activities

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Publications by Themes



Global Governance



ARTICLE

Cutting off the King's Head: Rethinking Authority in International Law

The renewed attention to the concept of authority in the literature of international law and international relations has allowed to gain a better understanding of the phenomenon of authority in international affairs. But even recent works remain focused on “authority figures” in the form of

persons, offices and institutions. Building on an approach proposed by Kim Scheppele and Karol Soltan, **Fuad Zarbiyev** frames authority as a matter of attractiveness in a choice situation, showing a way to go beyond the dominant actor-focused conception of authority (in *Journal of International Dispute Settlement*, idad014, July 2023). What he proposes, in particular, is to revisit the existing understanding of authority by shifting the focus from authority figures to authoritative resources. The practice of authority assertions and authority contestations in international law shows that rather than being “agent-centred”, claims and challenges to authority primarily turn around attributes that pass for “authoritative resources” in the relevant contexts.

[DOI](#)

ARTICLE

Checking for Updates: Ratification, Design, and Institutional Adaptation

Although most international agreements are concluded for indefinite periods, the issues they address and parties' preferences are constantly evolving. In some cases, parties seek to close any growing gaps between negotiators' expectations and the changing context by updating their original agreement to its new circumstances. States have several formal tools at their disposal to do so, such as protocols, amendments, and addenda. **Noémie Laurens**, Postdoctoral Researcher in International Relations, **James Hollway** and Jean-Frédéric Morin refer to this process as institutional adaptation (in *International Studies Quarterly*, vol. 67, no. 3, September 2023, sqad049). They seek to explain why some agreements are adapted numerous times during their lifetime while others are not. They argue that state parties are more likely to adapt their international agreements when they acquire new information about their partners' behaviour, preferences, or the state of the environment. They focus on two key elements facilitating this process. The first consists of unexpected variation in treaty participation, and the second concerns the design features of the agreement. Relying on event history analysis and an original dataset of design features and membership of 371 multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), the authors find that low levels of ratifications, high levels of accessions, highly institutionalised MEAs, and anticipatory design features are associated with more frequent

institutional adaptation. These findings provide important lessons for the design of dynamic treaties.

[Repository](#) (public access)

ARTICLE

Conceptualizing Legal Change as “Norm-Knitting” through the Example of the Environmental Human Right

Understanding law as a continuous process with circular and interacting phases of selection, construction, and reception makes it possible to account for the variety of actors and resources implicated in the process of incrementally changing a norm of international law. This process is visualised through an analogy to knitting. One can start the knitting project with one needle, but to actually construct anything, more than one needle is necessary: at least two actors need to collaborate and build upon each other’s work. If those two actors neatly agree upon the pattern to be knitted, the resulting product may be uniform and dense, able to cover all situations it is intended for. However, it is not that easy to knit in exactly the same pace and pattern. The constructed law may not fit perfectly all situations it is intended for, because the different actors may have had different patterns in their head. Also, sometimes, the wool is held too tightly, and the net becomes too dense; sometimes the wool is held too loosely, and the net will have holes. With this visualisation in mind, we can think of legal changes as continuously intermingling and building upon each other: international law is generally knitted with different colours of wool, each colour representing a different normative resource. Thus, “norm knitting” provides for an analytical tool that makes it possible to demonstrate the variety in “successful” change of a given norm in international law in response to specific challenges which the actors face, argues **Dorothea Endres**, PhD Researcher in International Law (in *Leiden Journal of International Law*, August 2023).

[Repository](#) (public access)

ARTICLE

Why the Quad Is Not NATO: The Indo-American Impediments to Its Intergovernmental Structure

In the post-COVID 19 global order, rising geopolitical tensions in Eastern Europe and East Asia reflect the boiling tensions States face on multiple fronts. Within this, the United States is on two fronts as a major player and supporter of its allies that are directly facing hostility. Since the start of 2020, China’s hard, military power manoeuvring in the South China Sea, deteriorating political relations with Japan and Australia, and the Himalayan standoff against India have seemingly further substantiated the need for the formulation of The Quad, a proposed quadrilateral arrangement with a varying mandate of operations. The proposed structure would constitute India, Japan, Australia, and the United States. The grouping has repeatedly been touted as not as “anti-China.” However Chinese interpretation of the mutual intent has equated them to being an “Asian NATO.” Keeping this in mind, **Ryan Mitra**, PhD Researcher in International History and Politics, draws upon Duncan Snidal and Felicity Vabulas’ works on Informal Intergovernmental Organizations and considers the inherent pitfalls that states may incur while negotiating through the contours of such a structure, particularly in regards to strategic autonomy, asymmetry in resource contribution and control, and agreeing on a set of fundamental driving philosophies that are certain enough to tie the parties together for the foreseeable future (in *India Review*, vol. 22, no. 4, July 2023). He focuses on contemporary international relations theory, secondary research in the subject countries’ Indo-Pacific policies, and the more significant geopolitical trends of securitisation in Asia.

[Repository](#) (public access)

ARTICLE

The Rule of Law Deficit in EU Competition Law – A Time for Reassessment

The ongoing rule-of-law crisis in the European Union (EU) has given a new lease of life to a long-forgotten discussion about the relationship between the rule of law and EU competition law.

Cristina Teleki, Research Associate at the Global Governance Centre, explains that the current system of competition-law enforcement in the EU suffers from a rule-of-law deficit attributable to a constitutional set-up in which the EU Commission does not comply with EU fundamental rights, in particular due process, when it enforces EU competition law (in *Giornale di Storia costituzionale / Journal of Constitutional History*, no. 45, 1st semester 2023).

[PDF](#) (open access)

EDITED BOOK CHAPTER

Bertha von Suttner: Locating International Law in Novel and Salon

This portrait of Bertha von Suttner brings us to study sources traditionally not considered relevant within the scope of international legal history. Such as female diaries and a bestselling novel, *Die Waffen Nieder!* (1889), which is the first war novel to have a female protagonist. Not allowed access to the formal sessions of the 1899 and 1907 Hague Peace Conferences, Von Suttner resorted to a female practice to influence intellectual and political debates. As *Salonnière* in The Hague during these Conferences, she created an informal social space for frank conversations among the small cosmopolitan elite of diplomats, journalists and international legal experts to influence negotiations and to contribute to the “peace through law” project. Locating international law in her novel and Salon, this portrait by **Janne E. Nijman** connects loosely with a more socio-legal and materialist approach to international legal history (in *Portraits of Women in International Law: New Names and Forgotten Faces?*, I. Tallgren, ed., Oxford University Press, May 2023). It shows Suttner held a rather well-developed – and at times fairly sceptical – outlook on international law.

[Publisher's page](#)

This chapter was already published as ASSER Research Paper 2022-05 (see [Research Bulletin no 6, 2022](#)).

PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/POLITICAL SCIENCE, 2023

The Constitution of Objects within the Middle Spaces of Global Governance: The Politics of Food and Eating

Using the case of food and nutrition, **Juanita Uribe** investigates how authoritative knowledge about governance objects is established in a contemporary landscape characterised by collaborative forms of governance, greater participation, and politicisation. She argues that the expert practices that shape governance objects have become increasingly detached from the substance and thematic content of these objects, shifting to a greater focus on their procedural and managerial dimensions.

Read more about Juanita's research and findings in this [interview](#)

[Repository](#) (PhD thesis embargoed until June 2026; for access, contact the author at juanita.uribe@graduateinstitute.ch).

PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL LAW, 2023

International Arms Transfer Law: Implementation and Accountability

Dawn Lui introduces the novel concept of arms transfer law, which encapsulates the body of rules that regulate the international arms trade. Arms transfer law aims to maintain international peace and security and prevent human suffering by imposing restrictions on when and to whom states can authorise arms exports. Drawing on international instruments and regional conventions, the author presents an up-to-date and systematic analysis of the obligations of states under existing international arms transfer law. She finds that the reason conventional arms continue to be sold to various states and actors that are involved in armed conflicts and commit human rights abuses is due to not only the gaps in implementation, but also the lack of consequences for states that openly violate their obligations under international arms transfer law. In order to address the dual challenge of universal implementation and domestic accountability, she argues that not only are strong domestic oversight mechanisms essential, but also that non-state actors have an important role to play in the effort towards ensuring universal implementation and domestic accountability of states under arms transfer law.

Read more about Dawn's research and findings in this [interview](#)

[Repository](#) (PhD thesis embargoed until March 2026; for access, contact the author at lui.dawn@graduateinstitute.ch).

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Global Health



ARTICLE

Amulets and Cord Blood: Understanding Banking and Regenerative Medicine in Chennai, India

Umbilical cord blood stem cells can be extracted and collected in cord blood banks, potentially to be used for stem cell transplants in the case of blood and related disorders. But some women in

Tamil Nadu store dried cord tissue in an amulet to protect their children from harm and to restore health when required. In this article which builds upon her [PhD thesis](#), **Amishi Panwar**, an alumna (ANSO, 2020) of the Institute, traces the *sakthi* (power) of the amulet and its contents by following puberty rites, pre-delivery rituals and food consumed, which the pregnant mother embodies, eventually to be reproduced in an amulet (in *Medical Anthropology: Cross-Cultural Studies in Health and Illness*, vol. 42, no. 2, 2023). What makes the amulet and its contents medicine and a symbol of regeneration, just like cord blood stem cells? Why is the amulet a preferred mode of storing cord tissue in Chennai?

[DOI](#) (open access)

REPORT

First, Do No Harm: Examining the Impact of the IFC's Support to Private Healthcare in India

Anjela Taneja and **Amitabha Sarkar**, Swiss Government Excellence Fellow at the Global Health Centre, examine the support to private healthcare provision in India by the World Bank's private sector arm, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) (Oxfam International, June 2023). They discuss the IFC's global policy framework in the health care sector and accordingly map its funding instruments. The IFC uses both conventional (loan and equity financing) and innovative financing instruments (private equity funds and assets management companies) along with its traditional advisory services to stimulate the private health care sector. The IFC's India portfolio (1997–2021), being the largest IFC lending market for the past fifteen years, is assessed to study the corresponding development outcomes (IFC being a development financing institute) of these investments. Finally, the authors analyse how effectively the investments are contributing to the goal of universal health coverage (UHC). The findings essentially refute the claims made by the IFC in its self-evaluated success reports for all these years. The authors call for a coherent and nationally coordinated policy framework to effectively use IFC investments in the private health care sector for supporting the goal of UHC.

[Oxfam's page](#) (open access)

DISCUSSION PAPER

Implementation and Compliance in International Law: Implications for Pandemic Rulemaking

This discussion paper has been prepared for the workshop of the same name, which took place in July at the Geneva Graduate Institute (Global Health Centre Discussion Paper, July 2023). It includes contributions from **Gian Luca Burci, Mélanie Chabert, Stefania Di Stefano, Giovanni Gallo, Stefanie Holling, Sophie Meingast, Suerie Moon, Daniela Morich, Adam Strobeyko, Fuad Zarbiyev** and **Christos Zois**. The workshop offered an opportunity to initiate reflections on the wide range of implementation and compliance mechanisms available under international law and their relevance in light of the ongoing negotiations of Member States of the World Health Organization (WHO) about an international agreement on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response (WHO CA+) and amendments to the International Health Regulations (IHR). The paper begins by introducing theories of compliance in international law. It then presents examples of institutions and practices related to implementation and compliance within three distinct regimes: human rights, anti-corruption, and multilateral environmental agreements. Finally, it provides a synthesis of the main elements of implementation and compliance present across various international legal frameworks and compares them with specific provisions of the Bureau's Text of WHO CA+ and proposed amendments to the IHR.

[Repository](#) (public access)

DISCUSSION PAPER

Averting a Collision Course? Beyond the Pandemic Instrument and the International Health Regulations

COVID-19 exposed major gaps in global pandemic preparedness, prevention and response (PPR) and prompted profound debates on how to reform the global legal landscape to better respond to the next pandemic. As a result, two concurrent lawmaking processes are currently underway under the auspices of the World Health Organization (WHO). They could lead to the adoption of a new pandemic legal instrument and to amendments to the 2005 International Health Regulations (IHR), the existing WHO instrument governing the cross-border spread of infectious diseases. This unprecedented parallel unfolding of two negotiating processes raises many questions. What are the political implications for negotiators? How will power dynamics affect the processes? Will it be possible to ensure complementarity between instruments? What are the possible outcomes on issues such as One Health and Pathogen- and Benefit-Sharing? Ultimately, is avoiding a collision course between these complex negotiations possible? On 26 April, the **International Geneva Global Health Platform** and **Governing Pandemics Initiative** of the **Global Health Centre** organised an event at the Geneva Graduate Institute to discuss these questions and negotiating processes ([full event recording](#)). This publication compiles short papers written by the speakers, Pedro A. Villarreal, Hélène de Pooter, Elisa Morgera and Daniel Warner.

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Cities, Space, Mobilities & Migrations



ARTICLE

L'instrumentalisation des migrations et la tentation de l'état d'urgence permanent: le droit européen d'asile en question

Cet article de **Vincent Chetail** porte sur l'instrumentalisation de la migration par la Biélorussie et son impact dans l'Union européenne (dans *Annuaire français de droit*

international 2021, CNRS Éditions, décembre 2022). Durant l'hiver 2021-2022, l'Union européenne s'est rapidement enfermée dans une logique d'escalade qui l'a conduite à endosser une rhétorique martiale et déshumanisante des migrants, en assimilant leur arrivée à une «attaque hybride». Ce faisant, elle a précisément contribué à l'effet recherché par la Biélorussie de créer une crise politique pour mieux la déstabiliser. La notion d'attaque hybride n'a aucune signification en droit international. D'un point de vue strictement juridique, le comportement de la Biélorussie constitue une violation du principe de non-intervention dans les affaires intérieures et extérieures au sens de la Charte des Nations Unies. Il s'agit d'une contre-mesure illégale organisée en représailles aux sanctions décidées par l'Union européenne suite à la répression de l'opposition biélorusse. Cependant, un tel fait internationalement illicite de la Biélorussie doit être dissocié des victimes collatérales de cette instrumentalisation que sont les migrants eux-mêmes et à l'égard desquels les Etats européens ont des obligations. L'auteur analyse et documente les nombreuses violations perpétrées à l'encontre des migrants par la Biélorussie, la Pologne et la Lituanie. Il souligne également les risques de voir instaurer un régime d'exception permanent, à travers la proposition de la Commission européenne d'un nouveau règlement sur l'instrumentalisation de la migration. Cette batterie de mesures attentatoires aux droits fondamentaux contraste singulièrement avec l'accueil des réfugiés ukrainiens et la mise en place d'un régime de protection temporaire destiné à protéger les victimes de la guerre.

[Disponible sur SSRN](#)

ARTICLE

Giving up Control: Devaluation of Railway Work in Luxembourg's Fare-Free Public Transportation System?

Luxembourg's implementation of a nationwide fare-free public transport (FFPT) policy in March 2020 transformed the everyday work and imaginaries of railway accompaniment personnel who had previously been responsible for fare control. It also sparked debate among both workers and the public about the value of their work. Dialoguing with discursive uses of devaluation as a shorthand for specific hopes and fears about the future of transit work, **Sonja Faaren Ruud**, PhD Researcher in Anthropology and Sociology, explores railway workers' experiences and perceptions of the transition and proposes a new framework for conceptualising devaluation (in *Anthropology of Work Review*, July 2023). Drawing from ethnographic research with the Luxembourgish national railway agency, Société Nationale des Chemins de fer Luxembourgeois (CFL), she interrogates what it means for accompaniment personnel to give up the task of fare control by tracing the effects on their work rhythms, interactions with passengers, sense of authority, and visibility. In the absence of fare control, accompaniment personnel continue to produce value for a broader public and largely see their own work as valuable, yet there has been a rupture in the social validation of their labour, which produces feelings of devaluation.

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The above article is based on Sonja's PhD THESIS IN ANTHROPOLOGY AND SOCIOLOGY, which she defended in May at the Graduate Institute:

Price versus Worth: The Value and Devaluation of Public Transportation in Luxembourg before and after Fare Abolition

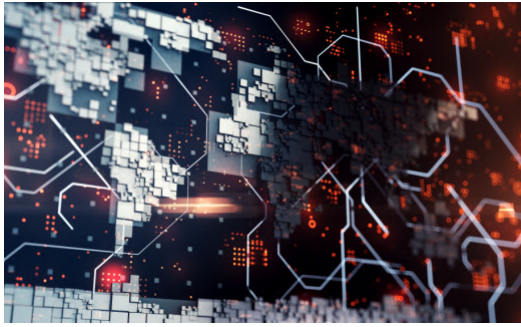
Read more about Sonja's research and findings in this [interview](#)

[Repository](#) (access restricted to members of the Institute community; others may contact the author at sonja.ruud@graduateinstitute.ch).

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Technology



ARTICLE

When the Digits Don't Add Up: Research Strategies for Post-Digital Peacebuilding

Contrary to narratives in policy and practice that tend to fetishise the digital, digital peacebuilding cannot be meaningfully separated from peacebuilding before digitalisation, argues

Andreas T. Hirblinger, Senior Researcher at the

Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (in *Cooperation and Conflict*, online August 2023). Resisting the call for a “digital turn”, a post-digital lens helps to research, rewrite, and rework the digital while simultaneously staying with and moving beyond digitalisation. It aims to demystify the role of digital technologies while enabling critical scrutiny of their impact on contemporary and future peacebuilding. More specifically, the post-digital helps us to (1) establish a critical distance to narratives of fast-paced innovation and progress that fetishise the digital, (2) scrutinise how digitalisation compounds contemporary approaches and constellations of peacebuilding, (3) engage with the uneven temporalities of digital peacebuilding and its diverse global manifestations, (4) shed light on its real, embodied, and tangible effects on conflict-affected populations, (5) hold digitalisation accountable by unearthing disillusionments and failures, (6) re-adjust our focus on human agency in the development and use of the socio-technical systems that constitute digital peacebuilding, (7) and finally, take a rhizomatic view that is concerned with how power relations make and break digitalised peacebuilding networks.

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Trade, Finance, Economies & Work



ARTICLE

Global Value Chains in Developing Countries: A Relational Perspective from Coffee and Garments

There is a consensus that global value chains have aided developing countries' growth. Laura Boudreau, **Julia Cajal-Grossi** and Rocco Macchiavello highlight the governance complexities arising from participating in such

chains, drawing from lessons learned conducting research in the coffee and garment supply chains (in *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, vol. 37, no. 3, Summer 2023). Market power of international buyers can lead to inefficiently low wages, prices, quality standards, and poor working conditions. At the same time, some degree of market power might be needed to sustain long-term supply relationships that are beneficial in a world with incomplete contracts. The authors discuss how buyers' market power and long-term supply relationships interact and how these relationships at the export-gate could be leveraged to enhance sustainability in the domestic part of the chains. They hope that the lessons learned by combining detailed data and contextual knowledge in two specific chains – coffee and garments – have broader applicability to other global value chains.

[DOI](#) (PDF accessible at no charge)

ARTICLE

The WTO's Multi-Party Interim Appeal Arbitration Arrangement (MPIA): What's New?

To preserve the functioning of WTO dispute settlement following the blockage of the Appellate Body, a subset of WTO Members created the Multi-Party Interim Appeal Arbitration Arrangement (MPIA). In the wake of the first appeal award rendered under the MPIA, **Joost Pauwelyn** describes how the MPIA process works and lists some of the innovations that can be found in the first MPIA procedure (in *World Trade Review*, June 2023). More innovations can be expected as arbitration under Article 25 of the Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU) (be it ad hoc or under the MPIA) can be adjusted and moulded case-by-case by the disputing parties in their appeal arbitration agreements. In this sense, the MPIA can serve not only as an interim stop-gap to preserve WTO dispute settlement. It can also function as a laboratory to explore and test new ways of making WTO dispute settlement more efficient and in line with WTO Members' goals and interests: experimental reform by doing, rather than one-off, formal DSU review.

[Repository](#) (public access)

ARTICLE

On Debt and Climate

Ugo Panizza, Beatrice Weder di Mauro and others discuss the links between climate and debt sustainability by focusing on how climate mitigation and adaptation are paid for, and who pays for it (in *Oxford Open Economics*, vol. 2, July 2023, odad005). This requires thinking about instruments such as sovereign bonds, carbon credits, conditional official grants and debt relief from both public and private sources. The authors discuss the role of green bonds, carbon offsets, grants and debt relief. Among these solutions, no single instrument appears to be right for all countries or at all times. To move forward, the authors make six proposals and policy recommendations that can jointly address climate change and debt sustainability.

[Repository](#) (public access)

ARTICLE

Eyes (Not) on the Ball: The EU Court of Justice AG Rantos Argues That a football Federation's Exclusion of a Rival Football Competition Is Not a Restriction by Object and Is Necessary to Protect the European Sport Model (ESLC / UEFA / FIFA)

Petros C. Mavroidis and **Damien Neven** consider the opinion put forward by Advocate General (AG) Rantos regarding the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA)'s power to exclude clubs wishing to participate in rival competition (in the context of the ESL litigation) (in *e-Competitions Bulletin*, Art. no. 112799, December 2022). They focus on two of his main findings, which, in their view, raise significant issues with a potentially systemic dimension going well beyond the facts of this case. The AG first finds that UEFA regulation which sets out the exclusive right does not involve a restriction of competition by object because (*inter alia*) one cannot take it for granted that UEFA would exclude competitors in a way that is anti-competitive and because the regulation could be seen as merely involving a prohibition of dual memberships. The authors doubt that these considerations can challenge the strong premise (from economic principles) that a monopolist that has conferred on itself the power to vet entrants will have the ability and incentive to reduce competition. The AG also finds that the exclusion of a rival competition can be seen as pursuing the legitimate objective of supporting the European Sport Model, in the light of Art 165 of the Treaty (TFEU), so that it does not involve a restriction of competition under Art 101. The authors argue that there is limited ground within the realm of Art 165 on which the promotion of the European Sport Model could be qualified as a legitimate public policy objective that could trump competition concern.

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[Also available on SSRN](#)

ARTICLE

Buyers' Sourcing Strategies and Suppliers' Markups in Bangladeshi Garments

Julia Cajal-Grossi, Rocco Macchiavello and Guillermo Noguera study differences in markups earned by Bangladeshi garment exporters across buyers with different sourcing strategies and make three contributions (in *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, qjad026, corrected proof, June 2023). First, they distinguish buyers with a relational versus a spot sourcing strategy and show that a buyer's sourcing strategy is correlated across products and origins. Buyer fixed effects explain most of the variation in sourcing strategies, suggesting that these depend on organisational capabilities. Second, they use novel data that match quantities and prices of the two main variable inputs in the production of garments (fabric and labour on sewing lines) to specific export orders. They derive conditions under which these data allow measurement of within exporter-product-time differences in markups across orders produced for different buyers. Third, they show that exporters earn higher markups on otherwise identical orders produced for relational, as opposed to spot, buyers. A sourcing model with imperfect contract enforcement, idiosyncratic shocks to exporters, and buyers that adopt different sourcing strategies trading off higher prices and reliable supply rationalises this and other observed facts in the industry. They discuss alternative explanations and policy implications.

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ARTICLE

Chronicle of a Crisis Foretold: How the WTO Appellate Body Drove Itself into a Corner

With 146 decisions delivered since 1995, the Appellate Body of the World Trade Organization (WTO) stands as one of the world's most prolific and accomplished international courts. However, the Appellate Body finds itself currently embroiled in a crisis that has crippled it. Jorge Miranda and **Manuel Sánchez Miranda**, PhD Researcher in International Law, delve into the reasons that may account for this state of affairs (in *Journal of International Economic Law*, jgad023, July 2023). They examine a sample of Appellate Body decisions, that, on the one hand, had significant policy and systemic implications for WTO dispute settlement, but on the other hand, are beset with notable flaws. While it is human to err, and there is no reason why this old adage should not be applicable to international tribunals, by developing an overly dogmatic jurisprudential tradition that has the potential to perpetuate even the most deficient rationale, the Appellate Body invited at least some of the criticism that escalated into political manoeuvring that rendered it inoperative. The authors hope that this crisis can serve as a source of valuable lessons regarding how to mitigate the risks that international adjudicators must inevitably bear when interpreting international treaties. In an effort to trigger a scholarly discussion on how to make the work of the Appellate Body more sustainable, they outline a possible blueprint to resolve the current deadlock.

[Repository](#) (public access)

REPORT

Post-War Macroeconomic Framework for Ukraine

More than 500 days since the start of the full-scale Russian invasion in 2022, the scale of destruction in Ukraine is staggering. However, it is vital to develop plans for Ukraine's reconstruction so that the recovery can start as soon as possible. This report by **Beatrice Weder di Mauro** and others propose a macroeconomic framework for the post-war period that can support a successful recovery (Rapid Response Economics no. 3, CEPR Press, July 2023). It stresses that sustainable public finances, sound monetary policy, a predictable and fair regulatory framework, and flexible labour markets provide the foundation for the success of human capital development, foreign direct investment, technological leapfrogging, and many other elements of reconstruction. An overarching objective of these policies is to deliver a stable macroeconomic environment that can facilitate the flow of resources to most efficient uses and to lay foundations

for durable economic growth.

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EDITED BOOK CHAPTER

Crisis, Deregulation and the Rise of the Gig Economy: Greek Industrial Relations and Social Partnership under Stress?

The consequences of the global financial crisis and the implementation of austerity measures in Greece have been extensively documented. Less well-documented are the effects of the measures on collective bargaining, labour relations, and the overall state of the labour market following the termination of the financial assistance programmes. **Maria Mexi**, Research Fellow at the Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy, and Chara Kokkinou investigate this from both theoretical and empirical angles, together with the relevant labour disruptions brought on by the emergence of the digital gig economy during the crisis and the role of social partners (in *Work and Employment Relations in Southern Europe*, C.L. Fernández Rodríguez and M. Martínez Lucio, eds., Edward Elgar, June 2023). They argue that policy and regulatory responses leaned more heavily on the reconfiguration of Greek labour relations along with the weakening of traditions and institutions of tripartite social dialogue and collective bargaining mechanisms that could have potentially facilitated innovative and sustainable policy solutions to the challenges posed by the crisis and the rise of the gig economy. Developments that are due, as they argue, to a combination of both the long-term effects of the recent regulatory interventions as well as of historical legacies. Thus, at a period of multiple disruptions in industrial and labour relations brought on by the economic crisis and the concurrent growth of the gig economy, they evaluate the significance of policy legacies and the degree to which they affected social partner responses and adjustments, and in what manner.

[DOI](#)

RESEARCH PAPER

The 2012 Greek Retrofit and Borrowing Costs in the European Periphery

Patrick Bolton, Xuewen Fu, Mitu Gulati and **Ugo Panizza** examine the impact of Greece retroactively, via legislation, changing the terms in hundreds of billions of euros worth of Greek government bonds governed by domestic Greek law (Virginia Public Law and Legal Theory Research Paper no. 2023-55 and Virginia Law and Economics Research Paper no. 2023-14, University of Virginia School of Law, August 2023). As the abrogation of gold clauses in US government bonds by the US Congress in 1933 had been, the Greek action was decried as violative of the rule of law and sure to negatively impact the future ability of Euro area sovereigns to borrow. The authors test whether the Greek action had negative spillovers on European government debt markets. They find no evidence of increased borrowing for even the most peripheral European economies from the Greek action.

[Available on SSRN](#)

WORKING PAPER

The Elusive Link between FDI and Economic Growth

Agustin Benetrix, **Hayley Pallan**, PhD Researcher in International Economics, and **Ugo Panizza** revisit the link between FDI and economic growth in emerging and developing economies (Policy Research Working Paper no. 10422, World Bank Group, April 2023). Analysis of the early decades of the sample shows that there is no statistically significant correlation between FDI and growth for countries with average levels of education or financial depth. In line with previous contributions, this correlation is positive and statistically significant for countries with sufficiently well-developed financial sectors or high levels of human capital. However, the findings also show that the link between FDI and growth varies over time. For more recent periods, there is a positive and statistically significant relationship between FDI and growth for the average country, with local conditions having a negative effect on this link. The authors also develop a novel instrument aimed at addressing the endogeneity of FDI inflows. Instrumental variable estimates suggest that the results are unlikely to be driven by endogeneity, and the results on the role of absorptive

capacities may be due to the GVC revolution in the 1990s.

[Repository](#) (public access)

This paper is a slightly updated version of International Economics Working Paper no 26, 2022 (see [Research Bulletin](#) no. 1, 2023).

REPORT

Social Dialogue with and for Youth: Challenges and Opportunities in the Evolving World of Work

This report adds to knowledge of how social dialogue can address the multiple challenges that young people face (ILO, June 2023). Combining conceptual insights with global evidence, **Maria Mexi**, Research Fellow at the Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy, maintains that social dialogue will require a collective vision and action by all world of work actors – social partners particularly – in shaping a robust landscape of social dialogue with and for youth. By shedding light on the challenges and opportunities of inclusively involving young people in social dialogue, her report contributes to the growing policy interest in youth issues and makes a case for a youth-inclusive social dialogue.

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Human Rights, Humanitarianism, Justice & Inclusion



ARTICLE

The Near East Relief and the American Board Commissions for Foreign Missions: Humanitarian Partnership and Divorce in the Near East (1918–1929)

The active involvement of missionaries was an essential element in the history of Near East Relief (NER), the largest private and American

humanitarian association in the Middle East from 1915 to 1930. Most of these missionaries were associated with the American Board Commission for Foreign Missions. They often spoke local languages and may have been living in the Ottoman Empire for many years, in regions where some of them had indeed been born. The presence of these missionaries was key to NER's performance as a large operational organisation. These missionary women and men functioned as NER humanitarians and NER “experts” alongside agronomists, sanitary engineers and university professors. They were themselves welfare specialists, medical doctors, teachers and administrators. While their presence shaped the practices and vision of the NER, tensions arose between the more secular arm of NER and these missionaries over the place of religion in their common project and relations with local populations, highlights **Davide Rodogno** (in *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, July 2023).

[DOI](#)

ARTICLE

“Holding Fast to the Heritage of Freedom”: The Grotian Moment(s) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Early United Nations (1941–1949)

As our contemporary international order seems to come apart at its seams in the trenches of Eastern Europe, many observers have sought solace in the promises made by the historical

crucible in which this order was forged. It was, after all, in the aftermath of a previous global conflagration that a planetary constellation of statespeople attempted to create an architecture that would save “succeeding generations from the scourge of war” under the aegis of the “United Nations Organization” (UNO). In hindsight, it is easy to look at the years that led to the creation of this international institution – and the proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) of 1948, one of its central pillars – as a decisive “Grotian moment”, insofar as it promised a new age for international ordering. And yet, the historical record shows that those contemporary to the making of the UNO and the UDHR were less certain about the “Grotianness” of the moment they were living. In this sense, **Daniel R. Quiroga-Villamarín**, PhD Researcher in International Law, argues that the plural legacies of the years 1941–1948 have been contested and disputed from the outset (in *Grotiana*, vol. 44, no. 1, August 2023). In his article, he thinks with, and perhaps against, the notion of “Grotian moments” to interrogate how a narrative of the UDHR as a watershed period for secularised individual rights came to eclipse another account of the UDHR, which highlighted the centrality of collective welfare for the post-war settlement.

[DOI](#)

REPORT

Global Study on the Impact of Counter-Terrorism on Civil Society & Civic Space

This study by **Fionnuala Ni Aoláin**, UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism and Visiting Fellow at the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding, builds from the ground-up in the collection and collation of data driven by civil society, including through a participatory, civil society-engaged-and-led process alongside a commitment to mainstream gender equality and women’s rights from its inception (Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, June 2023). It documents the restrictions on civic space across every region, and finds they are directly linked to the regulatory and institutional practices of counter-terrorism and preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE). Civil society experiences complex and compounding misuse of counter-terrorism and P/CVE measures and practices. When States deploy counter-terrorism or P/CVE measures, they enter a realm of exceptionality where human rights deficits pervade and the normal rules of due process and procedural protections generally do not apply. Monitoring and evaluation, as well as independent oversight of human rights abuses perpetrated in the name of countering terrorism and/or (violent) extremism, remain limited. The study ends with general recommendations addressing these findings.

[PDF](#) (open access)

WORKING PAPER

Inequality and Social Unrest in India

Mathieu Couttenier, Jeremy Laurent-Lucchetti and **Lore Vandewalle** show that inequality triggers social unrest in rural India (International Economics Department Working Paper no. 08/2023, June 2023). They develop a theoretical framework where social unrest is rationally used by civilians to oppose (unfair) surplus sharing by the elite. They predict that the probability of observing social unrest in a village increases with the sum of distances between the (log) average and the lowest incomes. They bring our measure to the data using bank account details in 2,197 Indian villages. They document that a 10% increase in our inequality measure increases by 6.5% the unconditional probability of observing social unrest in a village in a given month.

[Repository](#) (public access)

This paper is a substantially modified version of an earlier paper published in November 2022 (see [Research Bulletin](#) no. 3, 2023).



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Gender, Diversity, Race & Intersectionality



ARTICLE

«Soy feminista y me gusta el perreo»: les conflits de (re)signification dans les politiques sexuelles du reggaeton

Cet article porte sur le reggaeton, une des musiques les plus écoutées à l'échelle mondiale, et sa danse emblématique, le *perreo* (in *GLAD!*, no 14, juillet 2023). **Victor Santos Rodriguez**, chargé de cours en relations

internationales/science politique et superviseur académique, montre en quoi l'étude de ce genre musical et chorégraphique enrichit la compréhension des politiques sexuelles dans les musiques populaires. Si la logique ultra-sexualisée du reggaeton/perreo s'est traditionnellement muée en sexisme désinhibé, elle a en même temps servi de point d'appui à des opérations de *retournement* féministe telles que conçues par les théories queer. L'auteur met en relief la centralité du *corps dansant* (le perreo) comme espace sémiotique où se jouent les redéfinitions du régime de genre/sexualité hétéropatriarcal, apportant ainsi une contribution à la littérature sur les musiques populaires qui peine à embrasser ce tournant épistémologique. Le contraste entre les exemples des reggaetoneras Ivy Queen et Chocolate Remix permet, parallèlement, d'explorer la complexité des politiques de réception. L'auteur montre comment des entreprises de resignification antisexiste et antihomophobe peuvent rencontrer des résistances, *a priori* moins attendues, à l'intérieur même des mouvements féministes queer dans un contexte où la transnationalisation du reggaeton pose la question du difficile équilibre entre réappropriation émancipatrice et effacement du patrimoine culturel de cette musique.

[Repository](#) (accès public)

ARTICLE

Seeing Race like a State: Higher Education Affirmative Action Verification Commissions in Brazil

A growing body of literature has focused on how different states continuously "make race" by legitimising certain racial categories while invisibilising others. Much less has been written on the actual processes of transforming race into a bureaucratic category when implementing antiracist public policies. **Graziella Moraes Silva**, Veronica Toste Daflon and **Camille Giraut**, PhD Researcher in Anthropology and Sociology, focus on the recent use of verification commissions to validate the racial self-identification of potential beneficiaries of racial quotas at federal higher education institutions in Brazil (in *Latin American Politics and Society*, online July 2023). They argue that through their choices, particularly through their definition of what race is, of who can see race, and of how to see race, these commissions are transforming not only understandings about affirmative action's aims but also understandings of race. The study focuses on three potential consequences of commission practices for Brazilian racial boundaries: the disciplining of racial identifications, the decontextualisation of race, and the individualisation of racial injustice.

[Repository](#) (public access)

PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/POLITICAL SCIENCE, 2023

The Violence of War: Intensifications of Bodies and Political Communities

Focusing on the case of Syria, **Ceren Bulduk** shows that in times of war emotions are key in understanding the productive power of sexual and gender-based violence and that they play a significant role in shaping the identities of individuals and communities.

Read more about Ceren's research and findings in this [interview](#)

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Democracy, Civil Society & Sovereignty



ARTICLE

The Authoritarian Roots of India's Democracy

India is now widely considered to be drifting into the realm of “electoral autocracy”, steadily falling lower in democracy indices, with study after study seemingly confirming the erosion of the country’s democratic credentials since Narendra Modi took power in 2014. But according to **Tripurdaman**

Singh, Researcher at the Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy, this is an ahistorical contention that rests on shaky political and constitutional foundations, and suffers from a high degree of temporal myopia (in *Journal of Democracy*, vol. 34, no. 3, July 2023). An historical perspective would suggest that Indian democracy remains within the broad continuum it has inhabited since 1950, and that there is little to indicate that this continuum is anything but intact.

DOI (open access)

ARTICLE

Images of Social Policy in Brazil: A Comparison between Government Frames

The analysis of official representations of social policy in Brazil illustrates the relevance of the concept of framing, as used by cultural sociologists, in comparative studies. **Mario Luis Grangeia**, Research Associate at the Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy, focuses on the discourse of federal governments subsequent to the restoration of democracy (1985–2016) and the mandates of Getúlio Vargas, once called “father of the poor” in the 1930s–1950s (in *Sur le journalisme, About journalism, Sobre jornalismo*, vol. 12, no. 1, June 2023). Two challenges in framing research are discussed: the nature of the concept (what is framing) and its operationalisation (where is it). Having clarified the theoretical and methodological use of the concept, the author compares framings in 12 inaugural speeches and 39 annual accountability reports of the Executive Branch. Government understandings of four aspects of social policy are more closely analysed: diagnoses, prognoses, goals, and framing devices. Significance attributed to social policy (such as justice, modernisation and redistribution) undergoes major changes; however, continuities also appear, such as the correlation between social development and economic development. Additionally, the author highlights the advantages of this lens, such as addressing processes in the change of framing, and some of its difficulties, such as minimising the relational aspect of discourses and reducing framings to more traceable and measurable themes. Intersecting culture and politics enable the identification of the political effects of framings on the evolution of social policy and inequality in Brazil – as demonstrates the representations given of inequality in governmental plans and annual reports.

DOI (open access)

REPORT

The Right to Seeds in Africa

Karine Peschard, Research Associate at the Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy, **Christophe Golay**, Visiting Professor, and Lulbahri Araya explore the implications of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP) for the right to seeds in Africa (Academy Briefing no 22, Geneva Academy, February 2023). “For too long, peasant seed systems in Africa have been neglected and marginalised by laws, regulations and public policies geared toward the needs and interests of the corporate sector. The implementation of UNDROP represents a unique opportunity to redress this imbalance and is essential for the protection of the lives and livelihoods of hundreds of millions of African peasants. It is also in the interest of all to ensure the rights to food and food sovereignty, preserve crop biodiversity, and fight climate change”, explains Dr Golay.

[Repository](#) (public access)

A research briefing about this study is also available in the [repository](#) (public access).

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Arts, Culture & Religion



ARTICLE

Religion et révolution conservatrice en Afrique: note de recherche

Les transformations politiques en Afrique sont comparables avec celles que connaissent différents pays de par le monde, tels que la Russie, l'Inde, Israël, la Turquie, le Brésil, la Pologne, les États-Unis. Elles relèvent d'un paradigme de la révolution conservatrice que l'on

peut élaborer à partir de l'expérience historique de l'Europe de l'entre-deux-guerres. Dans ce cadre, la place politique de la religion procède moins de la foi que de la définition ethno-religieuse de la citoyenneté, concomitante du passage d'une domination impériale à une domination stato-nationale. La révolution conservatrice en Afrique met en forme une conscience du ressentiment que nourrit la mémoire traumatique de l'esclavage et de l'occupation coloniale, y compris par le biais de relations de sorcellerie au sein des familles, fait valoir **Jean-François Bayart** (dans *Sociétés politiques comparées*, no 59, janvier/avril 2023).

[Repository](#) (accès public)

ARTICLE

"Suitable Palaces": Navigating Layers of World Ordering at the Centre William Rappard (1923–2013)

International law “moved to institutions” in the early twentieth century. While recent literature has explored the intellectual trajectories of these international organisations, most accounts divorce their analysis from the seemingly banal histories of the “buildings, staffs, and letterheads.”

Conversely, **Daniel R. Quiroga-Villamarín**, PhD Researcher in International Law, puts the spatiality of the Centre William Rappard at the forefront of the history of interwar internationalism – and its echoes throughout the century (in *Architectural Theory Review*, online July 2023).

Erected in 1926 to serve the International Labour Organisation, this building was repurposed to host the World Trade Organisation in 1975. The author reconstructs how struggles over claims of the (in)dignity of international order can be explored through disputes related to the political economy, material culture, and architecture of this infrastructure of global governance.

[Repository](#) (public access).

Os Paralamas do Sucesso: *Selvagem?*

When *Selvagem?* was conceived, Os Paralamas do Sucesso needed to meet the expectations of the public and the record company, both impacted by the success of *O passo do Lui* (1984) – which had charted a series of hits on the radio – and by the performance at Rock in Rio in 1985, one of the most acclaimed of the festival and broadcast nationwide. *Selvagem* represented a watershed in the band's trajectory: the romantic songs of the previous album gave way to the politicised lyrics of *Alagados* and *Selvagem*, reflecting on the politically turbulent moment in the country. With innovative mixtures of rock with Brazilian sonorities and Caribbean and African rhythms, they consolidated the nod to reggae as one of their trademarks. The disc brought hits such as the irreverent *Melô do marinheiro* and established a meeting with other generations with *A novidade*, a partnership with Gilberto Gil, and *Você*, a re-recording of Tim Maia's song. **Mario Luis Grangeia**, Research Associate at the Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy, takes a behind-the-scenes look at the creation of *Selvagem?* by drawing parallels with the reception in the press, the political context of redemocratisation and testimonies from the band, showing how this record, which sold more than 700,000 copies, established itself as an iconic album in Brazilian discography (in Portuguese, Cobogó, 2023).

[Publisher's page](#)

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Peace, War, Conflicts & Security



ARTICLE

Radio Silences: The “Kidnapped Voices” and the Production of Political Memory in Colombia (1994–2018)

After being kidnapped by the FARC-EP guerrilla group in 1994, the Colombian war reporter Herbin Hoyos created the radio show *Las Voces del Secuestro* (roughly, *The Kidnapped Voices*).

Every morning, for 24 years, the families of those

abducted by the guerrilla group sent out public messages of remembrance, hoping that their loved ones, deep in the jungles of Colombia, would be able to hear the broadcasts on their radios.

Although the show closed in 2018, its legacy lives on, not only in the collective memory of many Colombians but also as an exhibition at the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum in Geneva (Switzerland). **Daniel R. Quiroga-Villamarín**, PhD Researcher in International Law, examines this show as a *dispositif* of power and knowledge that (re)produces a particular understanding of law, justice and memory (in *Israel Law Review*, July 2023). The show was used by far-right actors in Colombia to mobilise against the recent (2016) peace process – its crown jewel, the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP). As the JEP tackles the question of the FARC-EP kidnapping through its macro-case 01, the shadow of the Voces looms large over Colombia's transitional justice system. In the longest non-international armed conflict in Latin America, even radio waves served the continuation of war by other means.

[Repository](#) (public access)

ARTICLE

Crime, Inequality and Subsidized Housing: Evidence from South Africa

In order to study the relationship between housing inequality and crime in South Africa, **Roxana Elena Manea**, Research Assistant at the Centre for International Environmental Studies, Patrizi

Piraino and **Martina Viarengo** create a novel panel dataset combining information on crimes at the police station level with census data (in *World Development*, vol. 168, August 2023, art. no 106243). Their analysis shows that housing inequality explains a significant share of the variation in both property and violent crimes, net of spillover effects, time and district fixed effects. An increase of roughly one standard deviation in housing inequality explains 10–12 percent of total crime increases. Additionally, the authors analyse a prominent housing programme for low-income South Africans to show that policies that decrease inequality in housing conditions may also reduce crime. They suggest that these policies can help mitigate the societal and individual strains that are often correlated with criminal engagement.

DOI

*This article is a substantially revised version of **CIES Working Paper** no. 66, 2021 (see **Research Bulletin** no. 6, 2021).*

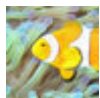
PHD THESIS, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/POLITICAL SCIENCE, 2023

Essays on Multilateral Sanctions and Conflict Resolution

Andre Alves dos Reis explores multilateral sanctions as conflict resolution tools. Conflict resolution is not only resolution *per se* but also conflict prevention, management and transformation. Thus, each of the three papers presented in this dissertation studies multilateral sanctions within one of many aspects through which a conflict resolution tool could be seen, investigated, and used. The first paper investigates sanctions as a strategic conflict resolution tool by building a model to explain the factors associated with the United Nations Security Council's use of sanctions. The second paper investigates regional organisations and their commitments, systems and sanctions practices against unconstitutional changes of government, most notably coups. The third paper brings back the discussion to the United Nations Security Council by looking at the effectiveness of sanctions on constraining and signalling when dealing with intra-State armed conflicts.

Repository (thesis embargoed until April 2026; for access, contact the author at andre.alves@graduateinstitute.ch).

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Sustainability, Environment, the Anthropocene & SDGs



EDITED BOOK AND CHAPTER

The Climatization of Global Politics

This **volume**, edited and **introduced** by Stefan Aykut and **Lucile Maertens**, who will join the Institute in September, examines the process through which climate change is transforming global governance, as both an increasingly central issue on the international stage and an increasingly structured policy domain with its

specific modes of governing, networks of actors, discourses, and knowledge practices (Palgrave Macmillan, 2023).

Since 2007, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has debated the security implications of climate change on several occasions. In her chapter “**Climatizing the UN Security Council**”, Professor Martens addresses these debates by exploring two interrelated questions: What drives the continuous efforts to place climate change on the UNSC's agenda and to what extent do the UNSC's debates illustrate an ongoing process of climatisation? To answer these, she draws on the concept of climatisation, which captures the process through which domains of international

politics are framed through a climate lens and transformed as a result of this translation. She suggests that climate change has become a dominant framing and an inescapable topic of international relations and that the UNSC debates follow a logic of expansion of climate politics by securing a steady climate agenda, attributing responsibility to the Council in the climate crisis, involving climate actors and advocating for climate-oriented policies to maintain international security.

DOI

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

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Other Relevant Information



Multimedia



RESEARCH BY STUDENTS | ANTHROPOLOGY & SOCIOLOGY and INTERNATIONAL LAW

Seven Podcasts by Students on Human Rights and Humanitarianism

As part of the course “Human Rights and Humanitarianism through the Concepts”, co-taught by Professor **Andrew Clapham** and Professor **Julie Billaud** in 2022, students produced high-quality podcasts based on interviews with professionals working in the humanitarian field:

– Understanding Afghan Women’s Agency

By Mary Morphew, Pedro Sanchez Llopis, Ishita Bathia and Poorvi Parakh

– Gender Matters: Women’s Representation and Participation in Humanitarian Aid

By Elvire Foua, Fatih Barsak, Simfora Bangasimbo and Claire Inderkummen

– International Indigenous Rights, from Theory to Practice: The Implementation of Indigenous Rights in Authoritarian Regimes

By Alexandre Hünenberger, Cristina Figueira Shah, Humberto Méndez Ramos and Hushitha Nandigam

– The Syrian Health Crisis: Comparing Human Rights and Humanitarian Perspectives

By Anais Brunier, Moe Shiojiri, Vrishalee Jadhav and Katie Maloan

– Human Rights Fact-Finding as Witnesses of Atrocities: What Are the Next Steps?

By Alessandra Leopardi, Maira Cardillo, Brianna Elder and Adriana Ramírez

– Tackling the Human Rights Violations of Frontex

By Shilpa Suresh, Marina Romanova, Anina Vogel and Nora Diethelm

– Protection for Whom?

By Rio Otsuka and Elis Castanheira Ribeiro

Abstracts and access to the videos are available [here](#).



AHCD

Las mil caras del populismo

Las mil caras del populismo (*The Thousand Faces of Populism*) is a new spanish-language podcast for scientific dissemination based on the academic production of the Jean Monnet project of the European Union: Impact, risks and opportunities of populism in Europe and Latin America. It seeks to convey the key features and policy dimensions that are useful to understand the populist phenomena. It is conducted by **Yanina Welp**, Research Fellow at the Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy (AHCD), and **Franco Delle Donne**, PHD in Communication.

[More info and episodes here](#)



EL PUENTE, EP2 | CENTRO INTERNACIONAL DE ESTUDIOS POLÍTICOS Y SOCIALES (CIEPS) EN COLABORACIÓN CON AHCD

Libre postulación en Panamá, ¿solución o un nuevo problema?

Panamá es uno de los ocho países de América Latina que permiten la libre postulación para la presidencia, una figura que se introdujo a partir de las elecciones del año 2014 buscando abrir el sistema electoral y quitarle el monopolio de la representación política a los partidos. Pero lo que se presentó en un principio como solución, ha provocado nuevos problemas que son necesarios considerar para evaluar a nuestros candidatos independientes tras consagrarse con una opción política real.

[Escucha el episodio](#)



DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

A Life Devoted to the Progress of International Law: Colloquium in Honour of Georges Abi-Saab

On 9 June a symposium was organised to celebrate the 90th birthday of **Georges Abi-Saab**, Professor of International Law for 37 years at the Institute. Professor Abi-Saab's vision of international law, expressed in publications, courses and conferences, but also as a practitioner, has had a profound impact on the discipline. Participants included Professor **Andrew Clapham**, Dr. **Daniel Warner**, Professor **Philip Alston**, Professor **Richard Falk**, Judge **Abdulqawi Yusuf**, Professeur **Laurence Boisson de Chazournes** and Professeur **Marcelo Kohen**.

[Watch the colloquium](#)



INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP | AHCD

On 9 March, the Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy (AHCD) and UNRISD co-organised a workshop exploring the implications of the just transition for young people worldwide. The workshop touched on aspects relating to labour, participation, and innovation, in a dialogue between academics and policymakers, including several representatives of the International Labour Organization. The workshop included two expert interviews:

- Interview with **Agata Meysner** President of **Generation Climate Europe**, by **Laura Bullon-Cassis**
- Interview with **Katja Hujo**, Senior Research Coordinator at **UNRISD**, by **Maria Mexi**

More info and interviews [here](#)



GENEVA HEALTH WEEK – WHA SIDE EVENTS | GHC

Last May, the **International Geneva Global Health Platform** held another successful edition of its Geneva Health Week at the Graduate Institute. Starting with its annual Open Briefing organised in collaboration with the UN Foundation, and followed by four side events co-organised with a wide range of partners, this edition gathered more than 1200 participants!

The full recordings of all five events are available [here](#).



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE | AHCD & TECH HUB

Moving Frontiers of the Demos

On 12–14 June, an international conference gathered over 30 scholars for an exploration of the evolving frontiers of the demos, influenced by various political, social, institutional, and technological factors. By examining innovative political participation practices, particularly those driven by youth, the conference sought to identify commonalities and distinctions among these innovations. As a result, it enabled to identify “weak signals” to guide future research and policy interventions, and work on joint project application.

[Read more](#)

The Conference’s keynote lecture was delivered by AHCD Distinguished Fellow and Research Associate **Irene Khan**. [Watch it here](#)



DEMOCRACY IN QUESTION? S7:EP1, 2 and 3 | CENTRAL EUROPEAN INSTITUTE & GENEVA GRADUATE INSTITUTE

Three episodes have been added to the podcast *Democracy in Question?*, in which CEU President and Rector **Shalini Randeria** invites a leading scholar or public figure to explore the challenges and dilemmas facing democracies around the world:

- **Ulrike Flader on Turkey at the Crossroads**
- **Kim Lane Scheppele on Destroying Democracy by Law**
- **Alejandra Ballo Gutierrez on Body Politics in Peru**

[Listen to the episodes](#)

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Awarded Grants

Two SNSF Swiss Postdoctoral Fellowships and five SNSF Doc.CH grants have been awarded to faculty members and researchers of the Graduate Institute. In addition, NORRAG has received additional funding from the GPE and IDRC to extend their current IDRC-KIX project. [Read more below.](#)

SNSF, SWISS POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP, CHF 282,300 | July 2023–June 2025

Cyber Operations, International Humanitarian Law, and Issues of Neutrality

Cyber operations pose a unique challenge in international law because of the lack of clear legal regulation of issues related to the cyber sphere in international legal acts. The military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine clearly demonstrates that armed conflicts can occur not only with the use of conventional weapons, but also with cyber weapons. This project by **Daryna Abbakumova**, Visiting Researcher/Professor at the Department of International Law, is

aimed at researching issues related to the application of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) norms to cyber operations in situations of international armed conflict. Firstly, the project will focus on cyber-attacks as a means of warfare during a full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation on the territory of Ukraine. Secondly, issues related to the application of the law of neutrality to cyber operations will be investigated. This will help to address the question of whether or how a neutral country can assist parties to a conflict in the cyber sphere. Thirdly, since the Russian military invasion of Ukraine is an international armed conflict under the IHL norms, Russian cyberattacks will be considered from the point of view of war crimes. Such a qualification could influence the application of the law of neutrality, as war crimes constitute grave violations of international law and the provisions of the UN Charter.

SNSF, SWISS POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP, CHF 266,310 | DECEMBER 2023–NOVEMBER 2025

Young Venezuelan Migrants in Colombia's Urban Peripheries: Criminals, Criminalized, or Change-Makers?

In recent years, the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela has led to a massive inflow of Venezuelan migrants to neighbouring Colombia. In the lack of proper reception facilities, the vast majority of these migrants resettle in city peripheries – spaces largely controlled by criminal narco-gangs, where the most disadvantaged sectors of the Colombian population live. Against this background, this project by **Elena Butti** seeks to ethnographically explore the experiences of the youngest of these migrants, and specifically their relationship with the criminal groups that operate in the areas where they settle. Are young Venezuelan migrants recruited into existing gangs, do they form gangs of their own, or do they resist gang engagement altogether? What role does nationality play, if any, in their (resistance to) criminal engagement? The project will answer this question by combining comparative ethnography with participatory action research, including a collaborative film-making component, across two different neighbourhoods of Medellín, Colombia's second biggest city. Theoretically, the project contributes to unpacking the "crime-migration nexus" in a rarely-explored case of South-South migration. Practically, it aims to inform more effective migrant reception and violence prevention policies.

SNSF, DOC. CH, CHF 213,898 | SEPTEMBER 2023–AUGUST 2026 | SUPERVISOR: CYRUS SCHAYEGH

"Le savoir et le faire": Decolonisation and Geneva as a Third World Studies Hub, c. 1961–1981

In 1961, the Centre genevois pour la formation des cadres africains (IUED) opened its doors. The responsible actors described this as an act of solidarity by a non-colonial and neutral Switzerland with recently independent nations needing development assistance to assert their freedom. In the following decades, IUED became a place known for robust debate, bringing together a vibrant and multi-disciplinary communauté de pensée of Third World anticolonial and anti-authoritarian activists, state functionaries and like-minded intellectuals – united in their commitment to the transformation of postcolonial societies, and divided in their approaches. **Nicolas Hafner** will study the people that populated IUED, their ideas and trajectories, and the socio-political context in which they worked. He will explore what these histories can tell us about the larger meaning of decolonisation and development in this period. By examining an extensive and rich body of archival resources, including the oral history testimonies of former professors, staff, and students, my research weaves together social, intellectual and institutional histories. Recounting how people at IUED devised and debated Third World approaches to development, he will contribute to a burgeoning literature that treats development as history. In particular, his PhD thesis will add nuance to our understanding of postcolonial development, beyond discussions of colonial continuities.

SNSF, DOC. CH, CHF 206,812 | SEPTEMBER 2023–AUGUST 2026 | SUPERVISOR: VINH-KIM NGUYEN

An Empirical Science of the Spirit: (Near-) Death and Postmaterialist Science in Japan, Switzerland, and North America

Mainstream bioscientific and biomedical models of human conscious experience are dominated by materialist explanations of its production (through the physical processes of the brain) and its limits (at biological death). Contrarily, the emergent discipline of near-death studies (NDS), concerned with explaining the experiences of those who have died and come back to life, offers an openness to the possibility of non-material characteristics or functions of conscious experience, and the potential for it to continue after biological death. NDS researchers often frame their work as an act of resistance against a stagnating scientific materialism, and express a moral impetus for their research by linking alienating and objectifying medical practices to the persistence of a materialist dogma in science and medicine. Building on literature that reveals death as a sociotechnical phenomenon, as well as a site of moral and political intervention, **Sam Nelson** will undertake a multi-sited anthropological analysis of the practices and narratives of postmaterialist NDS, in Japan, Switzerland and North America, to explore how ongoing struggles to understand and define the boundary between life and death are acting as a catalyst for a scientific and moral movement from the margins of institutional bioscience.

SNSF, DOC. CH, CHF 209,812 | SEPTEMBER 2023–AUGUST 2026 | SUPERVISOR & CO-SUPERVISOR: NICO KRISCH & PATRÍCIA GALVÃO TELES

From the Bottom Up: Incorporating Vulnerable Groups in the Norm Creation Process concerning Sea Level Rise and Climate-Induced Displacement in Oceania

The proposed research will explore processes by which international law may reorient the norm creation process in order to better respond and react to global issues using tailored and appropriate normative solutions. It posits that a failure to include the voices of affected populations in designing solutions runs the risk that our responses are, at best, non-responsive and, at worst, maladaptive in addressing the actual concerns and needs of those groups. This is important first because those groups have an interest, and in many cases a right, to participation, and, second, because vulnerable populations often possess situated knowledge that cannot be underestimated as an important, informative, and instructional element of an effective response.

Lillian Robb will take the case study of climate-induced displacement in Oceania, modelling and analysing the extant participatory mechanisms within that system and exploring their shortcomings. The resulting analysis of the selected case study will be used to inform a model of bottom-up norm creation and participation applicable to a wide issue base, ensuring the broad applicability and impact of the research for challenges beyond climate-induced displacement and beyond the Oceania region

SNSF, DOC. CH, CHF 156'831 | SEPTEMBER 2023–AUGUST 2025 | SUPERVISOR: ADITYA BHARADWAJ

Fertility on Ice: Medicine for Demographic Anxieties? Modern Reproductive Technology of Egg Freezing and Reimagined Traditions in Japan

Egg freezing, an emerging form of assisted reproductive technologies (ARTs), allows women to postpone motherhood by freezing and preserving their female reproductive cells. Whereas the technology has been marketed as offering women more reproductive choices, some countries with the lowering fertility rates have started to consider egg freezing as a tool to tackle low fertility. Noting that existing literature lacks discussions of technically assisted reproduction in the context of demographic anxieties, **Sachiyo Yagi** will bring together scholarly engagement with ARTs, reproductive politics, and critiques of modernisation theory. The overarching objective of this research project is to produce ethnographic accounts of how the egg freezing is mobilised in relation to competing desires, and how it shapes reproductive behaviours in the context of demographic anxieties. Using the lens of egg freezing, this research project asks: How is low fertility medicalised with the marketisation of egg freezing? What barriers and obstacles motivate women to opt for egg freezing? How are the cultural values of motherhood and reproduction constantly reimagined during the process? To address these questions, he will conduct ethnographic research involving semi-structured interviews, participant observation, and media analysis. The research outputs will provide further understandings of social and structural reasons

that encourage women to delay their motherhood and offer new insights into technologically inflicted struggles with the notions of traditional in the modern.

SNSF, DOC. CH, CHF 125,503 | SEPTEMBER 2023–AUGUST 2025 | SUPERVISOR & 2ND READER: CÉDRIC TILLE AND BEATRICE WEDER DI MAURO

Environmental Protection and Economic Growth: Challenges and Opportunities

Taking action to combat climate change is becoming an urgent matter for many governments worldwide. In the US and EU, billions are being and will be spent for the green transition through programs such as the IRA and NextGenEU. Will these large and unprecedented green public investments also have an effect on the economy? In the three chapters of his PhD thesis, **Matteo Ficarra** will study whether and how green public spending can spur economic growth, have unintended consequences for citizens, and how effective it is in protecting the environment. Understanding the effectiveness of these large and unprecedented investments in reducing emissions and protecting the environment, as well as the extent to which they can have an impact on the economy, is crucial to tailor future government action against climate change.

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR EDUCATION (GPE) & INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH CENTRE (IDRC), CHF 3,295,011 | UNTIL JUNE 2027

KIX Eastern Europe, Middle East and North Africa, Asia and Pacific Hub

NORRAG (Network for International Policies and Cooperation in Education and Training), an associated programme of the Geneva Graduate Institute, is the Regional Learning Partner for hosting the KIX Europe, Asia, Pacific Hub. It was awarded a grant for a 45-month project, starting in April 2020, to set up and manage a hub and platform for the 21 GPE partner countries in the region. This initiative corresponds to the core mission of NORRAG to mobilise, produce, and disseminate knowledge with a focus on providing a greater voice and enhanced visibility to expertise from the Global South. The project, led by **Gita Steiner-Khamsi**, Professor at Columbia University, UNESCO Chair in Comparative Education Policy at the Geneva Graduate Institute, and Senior Adviser for NORRAG, has received additional funding from the GPE and IDRC and is extended to June 2027.

[Project's page](#)

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Visitors

📅 28.08.–31.10.2023
📍 GHC

Alessio Azzariti

Coming from Università di Palermo, Junior Visiting Fellow Alessio Azzariti is working on “The Prevention of Epidemics in International Law”.

📅 01.09.2023–
01.09.2024
📍 IRPS Dep.

Fariba Alikarami

Coming University of Tehran, Visiting Fellow Fariba Alikarami, holder of a Swiss Excellence Scholarship, will work on “Pressure Threshold and Sanction Effectiveness: A Study of Sanctions against Iran”.

📅 01.09.2023–
01.09.2024
📍 IHP Dep.

Giulia Bosi

Coming from Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies (Pisa, Italy), Junior Visiting Fellow Giulia Bosi will work on “The Right of Everyone to Mental Health in Conflict and Post-Conflict Settings”.

📅 01.09.2023-
01.09.2024
📍 GC

Noelie Frix

Coming from Kansas State University, Junior Visiting Fellow Noelie Frix will work on “Sex Trafficking in Modern Japan: A Cultural, Gendered, and Legal Exploration of Japan’s Anti-Trafficking Efforts and Their Shortcomings”.

📅 01.09.2023-
01.09.2024
📍 GC

Corinne Moussi

Coming from Stellenbosch University, Visiting Fellow Corinne Moussi, holder of a Swiss Excellence Scholarship, will work on “Militarisation and Militarism in Cameroon: The Menace to Women’s Human Security”.

📅 01.09.2023-
01.09.2024
📍 CCDP

Israel Nyadera

Coming from Egerton University, Visiting Fellow Israel Nyadera, holder of a Swiss Excellence Scholarship, will work on “The Crisis of Liberal Peacebuilding Efforts in Multi-cultural Societies: Lessons from South Sudan and Ethiopia”.

📅 01.9.2023–30.8.2024
📍 GC

Laurie Yousman

Coming from Yale and Oxford, Junior Visiting Fellow Laurie Yousman, holder of a Swiss Excellence Scholarship, will work on “Sexual and Reproductive Health & Transactional Sex in Forced Displacement: A Multi-Country Study”.

📅 01.9.2023–31.07.2024
📍 GGC

Man Fung Yeung

Coming from Tamkang University, Junior Visiting Fellow Man Fung Yeung will work on “Exploring the Role of Sanctions Relief in the Denuclearization Process”.

📅 01.09.2023–
28.02.2024
📍 CFD

Stefano Battilossi

Coming from Universidad Carlos III Madrid, Junior Visiting Fellow Stefano Battilossi will work on “Historical Roots of Uneven Capital Market Development in Africa: The Legacy of Colonial and Postcolonial Policies” with Nathan Sussman.

📅 01.09.2023–
28.02.2024
📍 CFD

Pietro Bompreszi

Coming from the University of Milano-Bicocca, Visiting Fellow Pietro Bompreszi will work on Sovereign Risk with Ugo Panizza.

📅 01.09.2023–
17.02.2024
📍 CIES

Björn-Ola Linner

Coming from Linköping University, Junior Visiting Fellow Björn-Ola Linner will work on “Mistra Geopolitics & Systemic Governance in National SDG Implementation”.

📅 01.09.2023–
01.01.2024
📍 IRPS Dep.

Eva Hartmann

Coming from the University of Cambridge, Visiting Fellow Eva Hartmann will work on “Educational Diplomacy in Turbulent Times (edip)”.

📅 01.09.2023–
31.12.2023
📍 CFD

Youssef Ghallada

Coming from UCL Louvain Saint-Louis - Bruxelles, Junior Visiting Fellow Youssef Ghallada will work on “Determinants of the Emergence of International Currencies”.

📅 01.09.–31.12.2023
📍 CCDP

Christel Mobeck

Coming from the United Nations, Senior Fellow in Residence Christel Mobeck will work on “The Securitization of Climate Change - Human Rights as the Missing Link?”.

📅 01.09.–31.12.2023
📍 IHP Dep.

Amin Samman

Coming from City, University of London, Visiting Fellow Amin Samman will work on “Currency of Nihilism”.

📅 10.09.2023–
20.02.2024
📍 GGC

Yifan Jia

Coming from King's College London, Junior Visiting Fellow Yifan Jia will work on “Dealing with the Perpetrators of Gross Human Rights Violations Abroad: A Study of the Global Human Rights Sanctions Regimes in the EU, the UK and the US”.

📅 18.09.2023–
18.09.2024
📍 IRPS Dep.

Yumeng Wang

Coming from Zhejiang University, Visiting Fellow Yumeng Wang will work on “State's Ontological Security Anxiety Magnified by Digital Technology: A Case Study of China”.

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Calls for Papers

GLOBAL GOVERNANCE CENTRE

Workshop “Space and Scale in International Legal History”

For the third and last workshop of the Doc.CH “New Directions in the Theory & History of International Law” workshop series, to be held in Spring 2024, the GGC is interested in paper proposals that theoretically question the ways in which different spatial and temporal spaces and of inquiry limit – or enrich – our ways of seeing international law's “world making practices”.

- **15 September 2023:** abstract submission deadline

[More info](#)

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Upcoming PhD Defences

📅 Tuesday 29 August
🕒 15:00–17:00
📍 Room S9, Pétale 2

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS

Essays in International Trade: Theory, Policy, and Dynamics

By **Israel Gutierrez Treviño**. Committee members: Richard Edward Baldwin, Thesis Director; Ugo Panizza, President and Internal Reader; Robert Koopman, Hurst Distinguished Professorial Lecturer, School of International Service, American University, Washington

DC, USA.

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