

Research Bulletin

Upcoming events, latest publications and other research activities

22 January 2024 (no. 1, 2024)

Upcoming Research Events

22 JAN	Monday	23 JAN	Tuesday	24 JAN	Wednesday	25 JAN	Thursday	26 JAN	Friday
GHC RESEARCH CAFÉ Anthony Rizk No Manufacturing Like Crisis Manufacturing: Lebanon's Pharmaceutical Shortage Crisis from Within 12:30–13:30 The Fab, petal 2 GGC, GALIANZA AMERICAS & MIGRANT FORUM IN ASIA Grassroots Forum on Migration Governance 18:00–20:00 hybrid		NO EVENTS		NORRAG LAUNCH OF NSI 09 Foundational Learning: Current Debates and Praxes 13:00–14:30 online		GGC GENEVA INTERNATIONAL SANCTIONS NETWORK (GISN) Anton Moiseienko Freeze to Seize: Do Sovereign Immunities Prevent the Seizure of Central Bank Assets? 14:30–16:00 hybrid		NO EVENTS	
29 JAN	Monday	30 JAN	Tuesday	31 JAN	Wednesday	01 FEB	Thursday	02 FEB	Friday
NO EVENTS		NO EVENTS		NO EVENTS		NO EVENTS		NO EVENTS	

[See all events >](#)

Gateway to Publications by Themes



Gender,
Diversity,
Race &
Intersectionality



Democracy,
Civil Society &
Sovereignty



Peace, War,
Conflicts &
Security



Sustainability,
Environment,
the Anthropocene
& SDGs



Diplomacy &
Global
Governance



Global
Health



Cities, Space,
Mobilities &
Migrations



Education,
Information
& Media



Development &
Cooperation



Human Rights,
Humanitarianism,
Justice &
Inclusion



Gateway to Other Relevant Information



Multimedia



Awarded
Grants



Visitors



Calls for
Papers



Calls for
Prizes



Awarded
Prizes



Upcoming
PhD Defences



Publications by Themes



Gender, Diversity, Race & Intersectionality



ARTICLE

Researching the Gap: Women in Latin American Political Science

In order to map the gender balance in the discipline of political science in Latin America, Benjamin Goldfrank and **Yanina Welp**, Research Fellow at the Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy (AHCD), examine data from 16 countries where they could find the number of

female professors in political science departments (over 100 departments), from 69 journals publishing political science research in Latin America, and from 16 Latin Americanist journals in Canada, the United States and Europe (in *Journal of Politics in Latin America*, vol. 5, no. 3, November 2023). They compare the proportion of female political science faculty members to the proportion of women serving as editors and as members of editorial and advisory committees for relevant academic journals. They find that a significant gender gap remains, both in political science departments and in journals, and that the gender gap is worse in journals based in Latin America than in those based outside the region.

[DOI >](#)

EDITED BOOK CHAPTER

Marginalizing the Matriarchal, Minority Subject: A Critical Analysis of Human Rights and Women's Reform Projects in Colonial and Postcolonial India through the Case-Study of the "Mahari-Devadasi"

This chapter focuses on life-histories of the now-extinct community of Mahari-Devadasis, temple-dancers in the Jagannath Temple of Orissa, whose quotidian cultures and performative rituals played a formative role in the making of the classical dance-form Odissi (in *Borders: Physical, Social and Cultural*, R. Srinivasan, ed., How Academics, January 2024). Under the colonial disciplining of deviant sexualities together with racialised bio-politics, they were conceptualised, categorised and criminalised as “religious prostitutes”. However, the abolition of this tradition, instead of ameliorating women’s life circumstances, constituted their growing marginalisation in postcolonial India. In problematising human rights discourses surrounding this community, **Shriya Patnaik**, PhD Researcher in International History and Politics, delineates how legal statutes on Devadasi abolition silenced minority voices by distorting the complex relationship between bodily agency, informal economies of sexual commerce and women’s socio-economic autonomy. Methodologically incorporating interviews with the last surviving Maharis, she posits the need to recuperate such subaltern voices from the margins in historiographies on gender, sexuality and human rights.

[Publisher’s page >](#)

This chapter was previously published as an [article](#) in Electronic Journal of Social and Strategic Studies (vol. 2, Special Issue 1, February 2021).

PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL LAW, 2023

The Gender Politics of International Legality: Exploring the Failures of Feminist(-Inspired) International Lawmaking

Feminist endeavours to make international laws often yield “soft law”, “marginalised treaties”, or mere political recommendations. Against this background, feminist scholars have assumed that these outcomes only attest to the exclusion of feminist plights from international law more broadly. However, rather than seeing these outcomes as failed attempts to make law and using this as a critical departure point, **Juliana Santos de Carvalho** proposes re-evaluating whether those outcomes are indeed failures in and of themselves. For that, instead of drawing a clear line between law and non-law and testing feminist endeavours in international law against it, she suggest discarding this binary perspective, focusing instead on three key aspects: (1) recognising legality perceptions as culturally and plurally constructed; (2) understanding lawmaking as a contingent and performative practice; and (3) acknowledging that law is made amid dynamic gender knowledges. To illustrate these aspects, she introduces three methodological concepts – shadows, drag and silence – derived from empirical investigations of three feminist international lawmaking endeavours: (1) UN Security Council’s Women, Peace and Security agenda; (2) Yogyakarta Principles on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity rights; and (3) the non-definition of gender in international criminal law.

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Democracy, Civil Society & Sovereignty

ARTICLE

Three Fallacies Undermining Participatory Constitution Making

In recent years, many emerging actors (for instance new social movements and parties) associate democratic problems with representative institutions. Accordingly, as a solution, they propose to introduce direct citizen participation in constitution and law making. However, three fallacies undermine the potential benefits of citizen participation: (1) attributing a moral and/or epistemic superiority to “the people”; (2) assuming that superiority, expecting to replace representation with



direct participation; and (3) supposing that the legitimacy deficit will be resolved automatically by introducing inclusive direct participation. **Yanina Welp**, Research Fellow at the Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy (AHCD), argues against these three ideas by providing a framework to understand participatory constitution making and briefly examining the cases of Chile and Iceland. Her article is part of the Politics Symposium

“Constitution-Making in the 21st Century: Lessons from the Chilean Process”, published in *PS: Political Science & Politics* (online January 2024).

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

PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL HISTORY, 2023

Commemoration and the Politics of History: Continuity and Change in the “National Days” of Turkey

The national days have always been a controversial issue in Turkish political life. Adopted as a part of Turkish nation-building after the War of Independence between 1919 and 1922, the concepts of national days and state rituals allow for a realm of interpretation of the tension between secular and religious worldviews. Beyond the research of the history of their establishment on an administrative level, **Egemen Bengisun** demonstrates how they were embraced or criticised by the Turkish society. He thus fills the gap of an extensive study on Turkish national days and creates an opportunity to evaluate modern Turkish political history through national days. On a social level, the analysis relies on a variety of resources including but not limited to video archive, photographs, postcards, newspapers, interviews, written correspondence, while postal stamps, posters, archives, and records of parliamentary sessions inform the administrative level.

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

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Peace, War, Conflicts & Security



ARTICLES

Civil Wars has produced a Silver Anniversary Special Issue to celebrate its 25th anniversary (vol. 25, no. 2–3, online December 2023). Contributors include **Rebecca Tapscott**, Ambizione Research Fellow at the Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy (ACDH), and **Daniel Rincón Machón**, Research Assistant at the ACDH at the time of writing, who authored two

articles:

– 25 Years of *Civil Wars*: Identifying Key Developments through the Reviews Section

This introductory essay explores key paradigms in the field of conflict studies, and how they have evolved, ranging from new and critical approaches to knowledge production; to conceptualisations of political violence and civil war as dynamic, relational, and potentially order-making and a new

demand to centre research ethics in our work. Among other things, this introduction calls on scholars of civil wars to cultivate and maintain spaces for critical dialogue and reflection – not just on methods and findings but also on broader questions of the processes and politics of knowledge production – to ensure the health and advancement of our sub-field.

[DOI >](#)

– Reviews, Otherwise: Introducing the New Reviews Section of *Civil Wars*

The conclusion to this reviews section reflects on the role that reviews play in the sub-discipline of conflict studies, and – from this vantage point – it takes stock of the reviews section in *Civil Wars* since its inception. Its authors find that the reviews section to date both reflects and to some extent reproduces hierarchies and power dynamics that are well-recognised in the academy. With this in mind, they have set out a proposal for “reviews, otherwise”, including several new review types intended to further cultivate critical reflection and engagement while also opening the reviews section to new and different perspectives.

[DOI >](#)

EDITED BOOK CHAPTER

“Equals, but not Equals”: The Paradox of Amnesties and Armed Groups in Non-international Armed Conflict

In non-international armed conflicts (NIACs), armed groups are “equal in arms”, but not in status: they have the same obligations as states with regard to the conduct of hostilities, as granted by customary international humanitarian law, but their use of force remains strictly prohibited in domestic law. At the same time, the amnesty clause enshrined in the 1977 Additional Protocol II to the Geneva Conventions encourages parties to a NIAC to grant the broadest possible amnesty to persons who have participated in the armed conflict. By inserting this provision in AP II, states recognised that armed groups should be offered a form of “combatant immunity” for participating in hostilities. In doing so, states remained caught in their own state-centric logic by refusing to recognise explicitly, in AP II, the principle of equality of belligerency. **Annyssa Bellal**, Senior Researcher at the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP), demonstrates that the result of this uncomfortable compromise has led to an unclear rule on amnesties in AP II – and to go even further, it will contribute to questioning the efficiency of the entire Protocol when it comes to its applicability to armed groups (in *Armed Groups and International Law*, K. Fortin and E. Heffes, eds., Edward Elgar, online September 2023). More generally, the hesitant approach states have adopted in 1977 to regulate armed groups’ behaviour seems to fail to adequately govern the complex reality of contemporary non-international armed conflicts.

[DOI >](#)

SPECIAL ISSUE

The Law of the Outlaw: Law and Order with, within, and beyond Criminal Groups

This special issue of the *Swiss Journal of Social and Cultural Anthropology* examines the relationship between the law and different types of criminal and criminalised groups (no 29, 2023). While anthropology has produced a large body of work on legal issues, little research has been done on the relationship between the law as a heuristic category and criminal groups such as gangs, mafias or triads. Most representations of these criminal groups tend to see them as outlaws, often in active opposition to the established order. The special issue brings together contributions from two different academic traditions, the Francophone and Anglophone, which reflect on the relationship between the law and criminal groups in a different way. In their bilingual introduction, Martin Lamotte and **Dennis Rodgers** review these two different legal anthropology traditions, before situating the way in which the law of the outlaw has been apprehended, and highlighting the potential contribution its study can make to the development of a pragmatic approach to law.

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

PAPER

Rethinking the Climate Change–Conflict Nexus: Evidence From South Sudan

Israel Nyadera, Swiss Government Excellence Fellow and Visiting Fellow at the Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy (AHCD), observes that the resurgence of conflict in 2013 in South Sudan has further been exacerbated by the negative impacts of climate change (Horn of Africa Bulletin, Life & Peace Institute, November 2023). The study is approached from a human security perspective and debates the nexus between climate change and conflict. It situates how climate change is worsening an already fragile context by aggravating food insecurity and contributing to a humanitarian crisis. It offers several policy recommendations, including the inclusion of climate forecasting tools and early warning mechanisms for pre-emptive responses, afforestation, and the accounting of climate change in peace negotiations.

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PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & POLITICAL SCIENCE, 2023

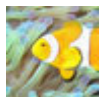
Sparing Civilians: A Political Case for Restraint in War

Social scientists have studied why rebels deliberately kill civilians. Explanations of rebel group propensities to target civilians include reference to economic factors, organisational dynamics, and military power asymmetries. What binds this diverse scholarship together is the premise that armed non-state actors use violence against non-military targets strategically to gain and sustain power. Instead of analysing why and when targeting civilians during wartime can benefit rebels, **Urban Reichhold** builds a political case for restraint in warfare. His aim is to understand the conditions under which restraining violence against noncombatants makes political sense for armed non-state actors.

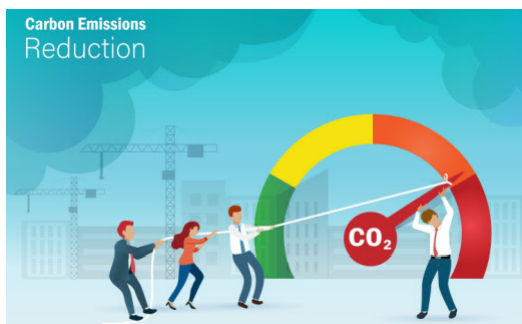
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Sustainability, Environment, the Anthropocene & SDGs



ARTICLE

Designing Role-Play Simulations for Climate Change Decision-Making: A Step-by-Step Approach to Facilitate Cooperation between Science and Policy

Literature has demonstrated the benefits of role-play simulations (RPS) for decision-making and social learning in the field of climate change and

environmental policy. Despite growing interest, step-by-step guidelines are still rare when it comes to the practical design and implementation of RPS, which hinders the adoption and implementation of this promising approach. **Lucile Maertens** and others aim to facilitate the development of RPS by proposing a step-by-step framework for designing role-play simulations around three stages – before, during, and after the simulation (in *Environmental Science & Policy*, vol. 152, February 2024, online December 2023). To develop the methodology, they use as a starting point a pilot simulation on decision-making and knowledge production in contexts of uncertainty and complexity. Focusing on negative emission technologies in Switzerland, the pilot simulation involved 12 scientists and 12 politicians who role-played each other for half a day. Overall, the authors propose an actionable framework for RPS designed to facilitate cooperation between groups with different socialisations, timelines, and imperatives towards more informed and collaborative decision-making practices. Doing so, their article contributes to making RPS

more accessible to a broad audience as a method supporting cooperation between science and policy in the field of climate and environmental politics and beyond.

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SPECIAL ISSUE EDITORIAL

The Agrarian Transition in the Mekong Region: Pathways towards Sustainable Land Systems

The agrarian transition, with its rapid growth in land-based investments, has radically altered agrarian and forest landscapes across the Mekong Region. These processes were enabled and accelerated by choices of actors in the public and private sectors with the aim of alleviating poverty and boosting socioeconomic development. **Christophe Gironde**, Senior Lecturer in Development Studies, and others examine to what extent these goals were achieved and for whom, with a focus on poverty alleviation, gender equality, and forest conservation (in *Journal of Land Use Science*, vol. 19, no. 1, online December 2023). Their descriptive assessment shows that the sustainability outcomes of the agrarian transition offer a highly variegated picture that is often not reflected in national level statistics used for monitoring the distance to target towards achieving the 2030 Agenda. Based on these findings, they sketch pathways for a more sustainable agrarian transition in the region.

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

Christophe Gironde has also co-authored the following articles of the special issue:

- [“Surviving Cassava: Smallholder Farmer Strategies for Coping with Market Volatility in Cambodia”](#) (see [Research Bulletin no 4, 2023](#))
- [“Agricultural Commercialization in the Mekong Region: A Meta-Narrative Review and Policy Implications”](#) (see [Research Bulletin no 5, 2023](#))
- [“The Recognition and Formalization of Customary Tenure in the Forest Landscapes of the Mekong Region: A Polanyian Perspective”](#) (see [Research Bulletin no 6, 2023](#))
- [“Agroecological Initiatives in the Mekong Region: A Systematic Literature Review and Mapping Reveals Their Implications for Transitioning to Sustainable Food Systems”](#) (see [Research Bulletin no 10, 2023](#))

EDITED BOOK CHAPTER

Fossil Fuels from Extraction to Emissions

When fossils became fuels, the path towards the current crisis of climate change might seem to have been set. However, their use as energy sources and the unfolding of the current climate crisis was neither inevitable nor predetermined, but rather the result of complex historical processes and decisions. To truly understand the all-encompassing position fossil fuels have come to take in modern societies, we must understand their entire lifecycle from extraction to emission and how these processes engendered dynamics of dependency and domination on our way into the Anthropocene. By approaching this topic from diverse perspectives located within the Global South, **Antoine Acker**, SNSF Eccellenza Professorial Fellow, and others highlight the global and interconnected character of this phenomenon (in *The Routledge Handbook of Environmental History*, Routledge, December 2023). In re-mapping the historical structures underlying fossil fuel expansion, the authors show that these structures paradoxically centre both on processes of empire making and unmaking and on patterns of colonial resource exploitation continuing in altered forms in the construction of postcolonial developmental regimes. In this way, the aim is not only to tease out the genealogy of the climate crisis, but also to demonstrate the importance and utility of history as a discipline within environmental debates, helping understand our current situation and our future still unknown.

[Publisher's page >](#)

EDITED BOOK CHAPTERS

The *Handbook on Climate Change and International Security*, edited by Maria J. Trombetta and published by Edward Elgar last December, contains two chapters by **Lucile Maertens**:

– Climate Change at the United Nations Security Council: Securitization, Climatization and Beyond

This chapter (co-written with Maria J. Trombetta) explores the evolution and the implications of the debate about climate change at the UN Security Council, from the first open meeting in April 2007 to the one in December 2021, which saw the rejection of a draft resolution aimed at consolidating the role of the Council in dealing with climate change. Despite the contested debate, climate change has been incorporated in several aspects of the Council's work. The chapter analyses these developments through the lenses of securitisation and climatization. While failing to mobilise exceptional measures, as securitisation would suggest, the climate security discourse has been framed according to the specific competencies of the Council. Hence conflicts (seen as those mainly located in the Global South) and peacekeeping play a dominant role in the discussion. States remain central, even if framings in terms of human security and threats to humanity are also often used. At the same time, the debate has contributed to a transformation of the understanding of security and of the role of the Council through a process that scholars have defined as a climatization of the security field and is contributing to establishing a specific climate security field.

[DOI >](#)

– The United Nations Environment Programme, Climate Change and Security: Between Functional Necessity and Practical Rationality

Since the 1980s, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has been addressing the links between the environment and security, progressively questioning the security implications of climate change. Relying on its scientific expertise and partnerships with other international organisations (IOs) and think tanks, UNEP plays a critical role in raising awareness on climate security and in formulating potential institutional responses. Drawing on the sociology of IOs, this chapter retraces UNEP's action in the field of climate security, especially looking at its boundary work between climate experts and policy-makers. Relying on data generated through online observation and qualitative analysis of UNEP's publications, it sheds light on the functional and practical rationality which supports UNEP's mandate expansion and institutional positioning in this emerging field. Based on this case, the chapter contributes to a better understanding of the role of environmental IOs in framing and responding to the security implications of climate change.

[DOI >](#)

EDITED BOOK CHAPTER

The Political Life of Mitigation: From Carbon Accounting to Agrarian Counter-accounts

Shaila Seshia Galvin and **Diego Silva Garzón**, Postdoctoral Researcher at the Centre for International Environmental Studies (CIES), seek to stimulate analysis of how accounting knowledge, techniques, and practices work to incorporate agriculture and land use into climate mitigation (in *Climate Change and Critical Agrarian Studies*, I. Scoones and others, eds., Routledge, November 2023). Accounting plays a significant role in the ways that capitalism inserts itself into, reworks, or reorganises agrarian webs of life. To study these processes, the authors train their critical gaze on accounting itself – its epistemic foundations, instruments, and narratives, and their implications for agrarian livelihoods and relations. Through the notion of “agrarian counter-accounts”, they conclude by considering the potential of alternative methodologies and understandings of account-giving, taking, and holding in struggles for agrarian climate justice.

[Publisher's page \(book in open access\) >](#)

This chapter was originally published in [The Journal of Peasant Studies](#) (online January 2023).

PHD THESIS IN ANTHROPOLOGY AND SOCIOLOGY OF DEVELOPMENT, 2023

Lithium Trajectories in Bolivia and Beyond: Encounters against the Supply Chain

This thesis by **Jonas Köppel** is the result of an anthropologist's sustained engagement (2017–2023) with a chemical element that matters particularly at the current juncture of energy transition,

namely lithium. It consists of a carefully curated collection of stories that tell about lithium's converging and diverging significance in Bolivia and beyond. In particular, it probes the promises and pitfalls of the Bolivian government's state lithium project, which around 2008 set out with the ambitious goal to build a truly national industry that not only extracts raw materials but also produces batteries. Most of the events and voices featured in this thesis are situated at the margins of that project, from where they highlight its many failures and unintended consequences. Emphasising these, however, is not about judging the intentions or capacities of those who planned and implemented the project. Rather, it is about learning from those moments in which everything does not go according to plan. The thesis centres on one particular moment, namely the failure of a joint venture that became the subject of major controversy and was finally cancelled amid political turmoil. Unpacking such controversy from different points of view, the thesis seeks to unsettle lithium's significance according to globally prevailing stories that tell it as a strategic, or "critical," raw material for the batteries that will power the energy transition. If battery supply chains are about the uninterrupted flow of lithium, among other materials, then what are the stakes involved in the encounters that make up these chains? Or in other words: Lithium is critical how, where and for whom?

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Diplomacy & Global Governance



EDITED BOOK CHAPTER

Consenting to Treaty Commitments: Endorsing Rules or Endorsing a Regime of Discursive Commitments?

Fuad Zarbiyev examines the place of consent in treaty interpretation at the time of the marginalisation of the role of the intention of the parties (in *Consenting to International Law*, S. Besson, ed., Cambridge University Press, online

November 2023, print December 2023). Whether the characterisation of international law as a legal system grounded in State consent has ever been empirically true is, as he argues, open to discussion. For him, the law of treaties, however, is commonly seen as "a bastion of consensualism". This sense of confidence has, however, never sat easily with treaty interpretation. The author claims that, despite the lip service sometimes paid to the fiction of the common intention of the parties, the official doctrine of treaty interpretation rests on the primacy of the terms of the treaty.

DOI >

ARTICLE

Inherent Jurisdiction in the Practice of the International Court of Justice: A Tool to Trespass on or to Protect States' Consent?

The jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) is based on consent. However, at the same time, the ICJ has affirmed that it possesses an inherent jurisdiction, a set of powers not expressly conferred to it by its constitutive or regulatory documents but, nevertheless, available due to its intrinsic nature. Born in the context of domestic adjudication, the concept of inherent jurisdiction can raise suspicion when applied at the international level. Its contours and definition being unclear, inherent jurisdiction can be easily employed to circumnavigate State consent,

giving too much flexibility to the ICJ. Departing from these premises, **Irene Miano**, PhD Researcher in International Law, analyses how the ICJ has framed and used the concept of inherent jurisdiction in its case law (in *The Law & Practice of International Courts and Tribunal*, vol. 22, no. 3, December 2023). Does the ICJ use the concept of inherent jurisdiction to trespass on States' consent? Or, looking closer, is the ICJ, by emphasising the limits of inherent jurisdiction, using it to protect States' consent?

[Journal's page >](#)

PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL LAW, 2023

Public International Law as a Complex Adaptive System: How the Rules and Regimes of International Economic Law Interact and Adapt

Vincent Beyer introduces a new analytical paradigm to research public international law. He employs complex adaptive systems (CAS) theory to analyse the interacting and evolving network of international rules and regimes, focusing on the systemic nature of international law, its structure and the patterns of interaction that arise between its elements. To explore different micro- and macro-level regularities in the interaction of norms and regimes, the author uses international trade, investment and tax as a case study. His core argument is that international law and its regimes can be conceptualised as nested CAS whose elements and meta-elements organise in the absence of central control. This conceptualisation can help answer questions as to the system's future development and how its evolution can be directed.

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Global Health



PAPER

Intervention Programs of Public Health: Rockefeller Fellowship, Dr. Adetokunbo Lucas, and the Development of Public Health in Nigeria, 1963–1986

Bidemi Oladayo Balogun, PhD Researcher In International History and Politics, looks at conversations around global exchanges through

fellowship programmes for public health development by the Rockefeller Foundation (RF), focusing particularly on Dr. Adetokunbo Lucas (Rockefeller Archive Center, November 2023). Studies about the history of transnational scholarships designed by RF have often centred on Western/Asian recipients with little or no significant discourses on fellows of African descent. By focusing on Dr. Lucas and the University of Ibadan, the author examines how campus-based politics, fuelled and shaped by larger Cold War politics, interfered with the implementation process of the global public health agenda of the RF in Nigeria.

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Cities, Space, Mobilities & Migrations



PHD THESIS IN ANTHROPOLOGY &
SOCIOLOGY, 2023

The Rohingya (non) Living "Statelessness" in Bangladesh: Survival and Subversion

This thesis unveils the exclusion, counter-resistance and self-resilience of Rohingya refugees surviving in camps of Bangladesh, devoid of citizenship status, known as "stateless"

and fleeing persecution in Myanmar. **Sucharita Sengupta** shows how, through the production of new and changing social relations, Rohingya refugees can challenge the classical understanding of citizenship and call for a renewed understanding of the term "stateless". The refugees are products of politics inside sovereign states and their "statelessness", a part of the dynamics of border politics. In this kind of a survival, precarity becomes the new normal. Through these perspectives, the author provides insights to the changing character of refugee camps. Based on Rohingya land documents of Myanmar, she also explores whether the Rohingyas are attempting to subvert their statelessness through different ways, wherein changing nationality (or creating new ones) through documents has become their most tangible option of survival. On the other hand, gripping on to the Rohingya identity and living in camps provide access to benefits or dolls by local NGOs, which also leads to a complexity among the Rohingyas on the way forward to wriggle out of their camp existences. How do the Rohingyas perceive themselves in this context? For the Rohingya women especially, is this step towards refugeehood more bonding or liberating in certain ways?

[Read more about Sucharita Sengupta's research and findings in this interview > Repository](#) (file embargoed until August 2026; for access, contact the author at sucharita.sengupta@graduateinstitute.ch).



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Education, Information & Media



ARTICLE

Education Governance and Digitization: Inherent Conflicts and Potential Safeguards for a New Social Contract

Business strategies often utilise economies of scale, standardisation and internationalisation to maximise profits. These strategies are diametrically opposed to education as a public endeavour and as a reflection of humanity's

diverse ways of knowing and being in various local contexts. Technology industry strategies tend to emphasise the disruption of sectors and encourage entrepreneurialism and innovation with an emphasis on outputs, measurement, and impact. These strategies often recast the "good" of education from public to private returns. While appropriate engagement of non-state technology actors in education governance can offer solutions in support of global education goals and a new

social contract for education, **Lara Patil**, Advisor at NORRAG, argues that such mobilisation is multi-sided, simultaneously pushing through innovative, yet untested, education agendas (in *Prospects*, December 2023). She identifies potential risks to systems of public education and reflects upon safeguards, which fall into two main categories: issues of transparency, accountability and legitimacy; and issues of technology management and governance. Proactively addressing inherent conflicts and potential safeguards is a key step to identifying ways to strengthen motivations for corporations to forge meaningful long-term investment in a new social contract for education and for the development of education governance structures that are equitable and democratic.

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

PAPER

Refugee Teachers: The Heart of the Global Refugee Response

Refugee teachers and teachers of refugees play a vital role in providing education to refugee children and youth and by contributing in myriad ways to refugee communities. In many contexts, refugee teachers are at the heart of humanitarian response efforts. And yet, refugee teachers are all but invisible in global and national refugee and education policies, strategies, and frameworks. In addition, they face significant challenges in terms of recruitment, recognition, compensation and professional development, which in turn contributes to high rates of attrition within this vital workforce. In recognition of these facts, this publication by NORRAG, introduced by **Christopher Henderson**, Education in Emergencies Specialist, brings together 48 authors from academia, humanitarian agencies and think tanks to produce 27 papers that showcase current evidence and offer policy directions to prioritise and protect the work and well being of refugee teachers everywhere (Policy Insights no. 2, NORRAG, December 2023).

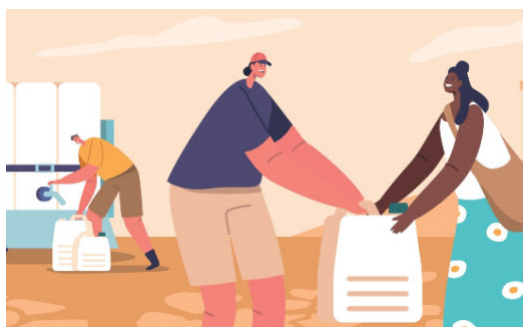
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Development & Cooperation



PHD THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & POLITICAL SCIENCE, 2024

Why Do States Give? State Altruism in International Policy, Politics, and Theory

States give a certain amount of their own wealth every year to countries that are objectively worse off, often at polar opposites of the affluence spectrum. Previous literature has explored

whether this aid was given to enrich the donor state through a trade-for-aid structure or whether the more powerful donor state was exerting its influence over a fledgling recipient state. But could aid be given altruistically? **Alessandro Regio** tests whether states have the capacity to give altruistically, and if so, what factors motivate that altruistic giving. A panel analysis is employed to create a workable measurement of state altruism using development aid, the state equivalent of giving, as the dependent variable. Tested against it are three main motivations of aid, including sentiments of giving generated by recipient-side state conditions. These sentiments are measured using a novel text analysis technique for determining the sentiment of state action. Further, qualitative analysis of statements about aid provides further context about the quality of altruistic giving and state altruism. The author ultimately argues that state altruism not only exists when it comes to giving aid but that the United Kingdom, the donor country chosen for this research, has

its altruism motivated by the acute and chronic human suffering of aid recipient nations.

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Human Rights, Humanitarianism, Justice & Inclusion



ARTICLE

Conceptualising and Challenging Child Neglect in Humanitarian Action: Protecting Displaced Children in Jordan and Palestine

Humanitarian organisations commonly identify neglect as a specific form of harm from which children should be protected. However, lack of debate about the aetiology of child neglect has

left intact a tendency to assume that it is due to a failure of caregivers. Obscured by this assumption are the role of the humanitarian system in supporting or, indeed, undermining the efforts of primary caregivers. **Caitlin Procter**, Research Fellow at the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP), and others aim to bring together insights from the literature on child neglect in humanitarian settings with findings from empirical research in the Middle East (in *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol. 147, January 2024). Their fieldwork revealed neglect in three distinct areas: educational participation, access to healthcare and physical safety. This neglect can be related to the humanitarian system (including humanitarian agencies, host government, donors, etc.), that is both directly neglectful and undermining the efforts of caregivers faced with the impossibility of exercising constant vigilance over children within conditions of extreme social and economic marginalisation. Thoroughgoing debate about child neglect is needed to address this situation and ensure that caregivers receive adequate support to meet their children's needs. Such support should be offered in a manner that upholds the dignity of displaced people – adults and children alike.

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

ARTICLE

The Reproduction of American Identities in Somalia through Terrorism and Ethnicity

Manifestations of American identities have been reproduced in Somalia by diverse US diplomacy actors in the 2000s. Following a knowledge/power nexus, Pablo Victor Fontes and **Victoria Motta de Lamare França**, PhD Researcher in International Relations/Political Science, argue that Orientalist discourses establish alterity politics in global South countries by managing and controlling postcolonial bodies (in *Critical Studies on Security*, online November 2023). They explore different expressions of the American self's reflection by comparisons to Somalia in discourses on terrorism and ethnicity. To do this, they understand American identity based on the notions of Americanness and Puritanism. Their article contributes to debates on identity/difference among foreign policy, critical security and terrorism studies by combining academic, journalistic and political sources as expressions of US discourse.

[DOI >](#)



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Other Relevant Information



Multimedia



PUBLIC ROUNDTABLE | GLOBAL GOVERNANCE CENTRE

What's the Future of Humanitarian Design? A Critical-Pragmatic Debate

In order to launch the Swiss National Science Foundation funded project “The Future of Humanitarian Design”, **Jonathan Luke Austin**, Associate Professor of International Relations at the University of Copenhagen, **Gilles Carbonnier**, Vice President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Professor of Development Economics at the Geneva Graduate Institute, **Javier Fernández Contreras**, Associate Professor of Interior Architecture and Dean of the Department of Interior Architecture/ Space Design at HEAD – Genève (HES-SO), **Pascal Hufschmid**, Director of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum, and **Anna Leander**, Professor of International Relations and Political Science and Chair of the Department of International Relations and Political Science at the Geneva Graduate Institute, gathered on 27 November 2023 to explore the possible futures of humanitarian design.

[More details and recording >](#)



TABLE RONDE INAUGURALE | COLLOQUE ANNUEL DE LA CHAIRE YVES OLTRAMARE

Guerre culturelle et religion

Le 23 octobre dernier, **Olivier Roy** (Institut universitaire européen – IUE) et **Florence Sarah Scholl** (Faculté de théologie de l'Université de Genève) ont participé à la table ronde qui ouvrait le colloque 2023 de la Chaire Yves Oltramare Religion et politique dans le monde contemporain, dont le thème était «Religion et révolution conservatrice: perspectives comparatives».

[Regardez la table ronde >](#)

Deux ateliers organisés pendant le colloque peuvent aussi être visionnés:

- [Religion et révolution conservatrice en Europe orientale et balkanique](#)
- [Religion, révolution conservatrice et fantômes impériaux](#)



LES ENTRETIENS DE LA CHAIRE YVES OLTRAMARE

Religion, migration et politique en Corée du Sud | Entretien avec Hui-Yeon Kim

Adrian Gasser Monterrubio, doctorant en anthropologie et sociologie, s'entretient avec **Hui-Yeon Kim**, maîtresse de conférence à l'Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales (INALCO), qui mène des recherches sur la circulation des biens matériels et symboliques entre la Corée du Sud et d'autres pays du monde, principalement en Asie du Sud-Est, en montrant notamment comment des Églises protestantes coréennes participent activement à cette circulation.

[Regardez l'entretien >](#)



PANEL DISCUSSION | GHC'S INTERNATIONAL GENEVA GLOBAL HEALTH PLATFORM

Psychedelics: Medical Miracle or Illicit Drug?

On 4 December 2023, **Barbara Broers**, Professor in Addiction Medicine, Geneva University Hospitals, **Maxime Mellina**, Coordinator, Groupement Romand d'Etudes des Addictions (GREAA), **Dilkushi Poovendran**, Technical Officer, Expert Committee on Drug Dependence, Health Products Policy and Standards Department, WHO, and **Adeeba Karamulzaman**, President & Pro Vice Chancellor, Monash University Malaysia, took part in an insightful discussion about the current state of play in the governance and use of psychedelics in connection with mental health.

[Watch the panel discussion >](#)



PANEL DISCUSSION | GHC'S INTERNATIONAL GENEVA GLOBAL HEALTH PLATFORM, GENDER CENTRE, CONCEPT FOUNDATION, GENEVA HEALTH FORUM & GENDRO

Dying for Life: Are Mothers Still a Global Health Priority?

Postpartum haemorrhage (PPH) affects 1 in every 6 women giving birth and is the leading cause of maternal mortality globally. Would this situation be the same if men, not women, were dying from PPH? How can national governments ensure that mothers do not fall down on the health agenda? What is the effect of empowering leadership in a ministry of health? How might a gender-sensitive dimension be integrated into health sector policymaking with access to medicines and trained health workers for safe maternity? On 27 November 2023, **Metin Gülmezoğlu**, Executive Director, Concept Foundation, **Femi Oladapo**, Head, Maternal and Perinatal Health Unit, WHO Department of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Research, **Shirin Heidari**, Senior Researcher, Gender Centre, Geneva Graduate Institute and Founder and Director of GENDRO, and **Maya Hidayati**, Midwife, Tamiajeng village, East Java, Indonesia, discussed these questions.

[Watch the panel discussion >](#)



EL PUENTE, E6 | CENTRO INTERNACIONAL DE ESTUDIOS POLÍTICOS Y SOCIALES (CIEPS) EN COLABORACIÓN CON AHCD

¿Puede Panamá generar oro verde?

Después de que la Corte Suprema de Justicia declarara inconstitucional el contrato-ley con Minera Panamá, S.A., nos preguntamos: ¿Puede Panamá convertirse en un país verde? Para una parte importante de la ciudadanía panameña, que durante el último mes de protestas consignó que "Panamá vale más sin minería" y "El oro de Panamá es verde", sí es posible. En este episodio de El Puente, entrevistamos a **Leonardo Merino Trejos** y **Erika Chacón Araya** del Programa Estado Nación para entender el éxito medioambiental del país vecino, Costa Rica. Escúchalo el episodio en [Spotify](#) o [Youtube](#).



EL PUENTE, E7 | CENTRO INTERNACIONAL DE ESTUDIOS POLÍTICOS Y SOCIALES (CIEPS) EN COLABORACIÓN CON AHCD

El 9 de enero, ¿hay un pueblo panameño?

Este 9 de enero se conmemora 60 años del Día de los Mártires, fecha señalada cada vez que reaparece el pueblo panameño para reivindicar su soberanía. De la misma manera que sucedió entre octubre y noviembre del año pasado durante las protestas en contra del contrato

minero que firmó el gobierno con la compañía canadiense First Quantum Minerals. Así que en este nuevo episodio de El Puente buscamos contestar, con la ayuda de la historiadora **Ana Elena Porras**, la politóloga **María Esperanza Casullo** y los investigadores **María Teresa Torrez** y **Stephanie Espinosa**, si hay un pueblo panameño. Escúchalo el episodio en [Spotify](#) o [Youtube](#).



DEMOCRACY IN QUESTION? S8:E1 | CENTRAL EUROPEAN INSTITUTE & GENEVA GRADUATE INSTITUTE

Nancy Fraser on "Cannibal Capitalism"

This episode explores the pitfalls of understanding capitalism as a merely economic system. How does this narrow conventional view obscure distinct sources of non-economic wealth? And what is revealed by examining capitalism instead as a social order including aspects of expropriation, domestic labour and depletion of nature? Finally, why must progressive social movements recognize the common roots of structural problems against which they struggle?

[Listen to the episode >](#)

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Awarded Grants

APSIA JUNIOR FACULTY FUND | JUNE 2024–MAY 2025 | USD 15,000

Platform for Digital Research on the MENA

Michelle Weitzel (Geneva Graduate Institute) and Lama Mourad (Carleton University) received support from the Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs (APSIA) to design a virtual, searchable, platform for digital research on the Middle East and North Africa. The digital site, developed in conversation with leading experts, will serve as the basis for a future co-taught and co-developed, graduate-level Middle East politics course.

[Read more >](#)

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Visitors

📅 8 Jan–30 May 2024
📍 GHC

Christopher Colvin

Coming from the University of Virginia, Visiting Fellow Christopher Colvin is doing research on "Qualitative Evidence in Global Health Policymaking".

📅 1 Feb–31 July 2024
📍 AHCD

Gabriel Mantelli

Coming from Universidade de Sao Paulo (USP), Junior Visiting Fellow Gabriel Mantelli will be researching "Climate Colonialism and Human Rights".

Mareen Brosinsky

📅 1 Feb–30 June 2024
📍 GMC

Coming from the University of Wollongong, Australia, Junior Visiting Fellow Mareen Brosinsky will do research on “Seeking Accountability for the Crime of Forced Displacement: The Effectiveness of Universal Jurisdiction as a National Response Mechanism”.

📅 1 Feb–31 May 2024
📍 GC

Aiko Iris Holvikivi

Coming from LSE, Visiting Fellow Aiko Iris Holvikivi will do research on “Agency, Victimhood and Deviance: Making Sense of “Sexual Exploitation and Abuse”.

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Calls for Papers

WORKSHOP | GLOBAL GOVERNANCE CENTRE & DEP. OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

Social Hierarchies in Catastrophic Times

How should legal scholars articulate critique in catastrophic times? Should critical voices tone it down, when faced with deteriorating social conditions, growing inequality, protracted violence, planetary collapse, authoritarianism, and xenophobia? Or, are they more urgently needed than ever? In view of the workshop “Social Hierarchies in Catastrophic Times: International Law, Critique, and Structural Change” that take place on 3–7 September 2024 in Kochi, Kerala, India, organisers invite contributions that think through international law and social hierarchies in interplay with nature, capitalism and borders.

- Abstract submission: **2 February 2024**

[Further details >](#)

SYMPOSIUM | UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN, HEAD-GENÈVE & GENEVA GRADUATE INSTITUTE

The Future of Humanitarian Design

Humanitarian design is growing in influence. A variety of vocations – engineering, computer science, architecture, law, political science, and beyond – are increasingly seeking to design interventions of relevance for humanitarianism broadly conceived. But the status of such interventions remains unclear. In view of the symposium of the Swiss National Science Foundation funded project “The Future of Humanitarian Design”, which will take place on 13–14 May 2024 in Geneva, organisers invite contributions exploring the social, political and critical status of humanitarian design across contexts (aesthetic, material, technological, engineering, architectural, commercial, ecological, digital, etc.).

- Abstract submission: **28 February 2024**

[Further details >](#)

WORKSHOP | PIERRE DU BOIS FOUNDATION

Minorities and the Making of Post-Colonial Europe

The Pierre Du Bois Foundation supports the organisation of workshops dedicated to PhD candidates and early-career scholars researching phenomena of the recent past and recent historiographical developments. This year’s workshop, to be held on 6–7 May 2024, will study migratory routes from ex-imperial colonies to Europe after the Second World War, with the ultimate target of deepening our current understanding of how state practices of decolonisation

and minorities' strategies of resettlement respectively interacted with each other. Organisers welcome, in particular, proposals concerning decolonisation strategies, migration policies, and cultural/political/social activism of immigrant communities.

- Abstract submission: **28 February 2024**

[Further details >](#)

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Calls for Prizes

INSTITUT D'HISTOIRE DES RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES CONTEMPORAINES (IHRIC)

Prix Duroselle 2024

Chaque année, l'IHRIC récompense les meilleures recherches francophones en histoire des relations internationales en offrant deux prix Jean-Baptiste Duroselle: l'un à l'auteur-e de la meilleure thèse (1500 euros), l'autre à l'auteur-e du meilleur mémoire de master (2750 euros). Les lauréat-es et les meilleur-es des candidat-es sont également invité-es à apporter leur contribution au numéro «Nouvelles recherches» de *Relations internationales*, une revue fondée en 1974 et parrainée par l'IHRIC, le Geneva Graduate Institute et l'Institut Pierre Renouvin (Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne).

- Délai de soumission: **15 février 2024**

[En savoir plus >](#)

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Awarded Prizes

Imelda and Anjali Verma Win the 2023 International Geneva Award

The SNIS International Geneva Committee has selected Imelda and Anjali Verma's article "*Clean Energy Access: Gender Disparity, Health and Labour Supply*" (in *The Economic Journal*, vol. 133, no. 650, February 2023) as a winner of this year's SNIS IG Award.

The award is given to the three best papers published on a subject related to international studies that are especially useful from the perspective of international organisations.

[Read more >](#)

Lena Holzer reçoit le Prix senior Maurice Chalumeau 2023 pour sa thèse sur le genre dans le droit international

Le Centre Maurice Chalumeau en science des sexualités à l'Université de Genève a récompensé Lena Holzer pour sa *thèse en droit international* obtenue au Geneva Graduate Institute en 2022. La lauréate, aujourd'hui professeure assistante à la Faculté de droit de l'Université de Cambridge, a analysé la manière dont le droit international a contribué à faire de la catégorie du genre une caractéristique d'identité juridique attribuée aux individus à la naissance.

Le Prix senior Maurice Chalumeau récompense chaque année des thèses de doctorat non encore publiées, dans le domaine des sexualités.

[En savoir plus >](#)

[Lire aussi un entretien avec Lena Holzer réalisé peu après l'obtention de sa thèse >](#)



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Upcoming PhD Defences

📅 26 Jan 2024

14:00–16:00

📍 Pétale 2, Room S9

DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS

Essays in Development Economics

By **Siddhant Marur**. Committee members: Gilles Carbonnier, Thesis Director; Julia Cajal Grossi, President and Internal Reader; Ugo Panizza, Internal Reader; Jérémy Lucchetti, Associate Professor, Institute of Economics and Econometrics, Geneva School of Economics and Management.

[More info >](#)



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