



REACHING OUT SNIS ANNUAL REPORT 2009

The SNIS mobilizes actors
of International Studies
across Switzerland



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Reaching out

In 2009, the SNIS has continued on its path to become a truly Swiss Network, mobilizing actors in International Studies across the country. This is nowhere more apparent than in the applications for funding that were received throughout the year. The large geographical scope was particularly striking in the annual call for projects (see page 7: Funding Activities). More than half of the 100 submitted projects emanated from the German speaking cantons and universities. This demonstrates that the SNIS has clearly increased its visibility beyond Geneva and that it now encompasses the entire specialized academic community in Switzerland.

“ The SNIS has succeeded in bringing Geneva to Switzerland and Switzerland to Geneva ”

Dr. Markus Zürcher
Secretary-General, Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences

If the SNIS has succeeded in bringing Switzerland to Geneva and Geneva to Switzerland then this is in large part due to its rich set of activities and events that took place during the year (see page 16: Events). These activities took place in almost all major Swiss cities, helped increase the scope of the network and bring together academic partners and representatives of the International Organisations. A particular success in this respect was the SNIS annual conference held in Berne.

Bringing together over 80 specialists the conference attracted well known personalities from academia, politics and International Organisations. Roger de Weck, now elected director of the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation (SGR SSR idée suisse), held a captivating keynote on Switzerland's often ambivalent stance to international affairs. Martin Dahinden, Director of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation delivered a grounded view on "Overcoming Barriers between International Studies and Policy-Making" while Cécile Moliner, Director of UNDP in Geneva, introduced the largely interdisciplinarily constructed Human Development Report 2009 with its focus on migration. This migration focus was embedded in the larger theme of 'European Integration and Swiss Foreign Policies' and a series of focused panels led to animated debates on issues as diverse as "impact of the financial crisis on the Swiss EU relations" or "European

Integration and challenges to democracy". Participants lauded the open discussions that took place between academics and practitioners and they also underlined that the SNIS had managed for the first time to federate the academic community of International Studies around a common event in Switzerland.

Headquartered in Geneva, the SNIS secretariat has also evolved considerably over the year (see page 18: Financial and Administrative Matters). Tobias Haller, first Director of the SNIS and instrumental in shaping the SNIS's identity after its predecessor organisation GIAN (Geneva International Academic Network), left to become assistant professor of anthropology in Berne. Bernhard Fuhrer, the new Director since August 2010, has an academic background in innovation studies and is dedicated to pursuing the core mission of the SNIS while at the same time balancing the budget in favour of scientific activities. Thus 2009 saw the science related expenditure rise by 13% while the administrative costs decreased by a corresponding figure. Staff was reduced so that by the end of 2009 the SNIS headquarter permanently employed 4 people with a total of only 2.8 full time equivalents (down from 3.6 full time equivalents).

The SNIS structure remained largely unchanged and contributed to the overall effort in different ways (see page 21: Structure of the SNIS). The Governing Committee functions as a steering board, the Scientific Committee supervises the important selection process for the annual call for projects, and the Academic Council of International Geneva links the SNIS academic activities with the International Organisations. Jointly these three bodies help the secretariat fulfil its key mission, i.e. to foster and network International Studies in Switzerland.

Building Bridges by Bernhard Fuhrer

Being at the helm of the SNIS is a personal dream come true. It is a dream come true because the challenge consists in fostering academic research in International Studies and linking this research to practical applications. With an academic background in innovation studies I know the value added that lies in linking different strands of academic knowledge and in linking the generated academic knowledge to practice. The SNIS is about both things: it is about fostering pluri-disciplinary research and it is about linking the generated academic knowledge to practice. In this sense, the SNIS is a network-oriented funding agency that puts innovation to practice.



Dr. Bernhard Fuhrer
Director of the SNIS

The SNIS is about funding pluri-disciplinary research addressing cross-boundary, real-world questions and building all the necessary bridges that boost the relevance, the quality and the impact of this research.

The SNIS is a network-oriented funding agency

Active in International Studies, the SNIS brings together academics, international practitioners, politicians and civil society. All are faced with the same burning issues of our increasingly 'complicated' world where problems no longer stop at borders. And if problems no longer stop at borders one needs to build bridges linking competencies to adequately respond to them. Consequently, the SNIS builds three types of bridges.

Bridges among academics

The SNIS builds bridges among those experts that scientifically tackle such internationalized, real-world questions. Examples of such 'hot' and essentially pluri-disciplinary topics are: Migration, climate change or international governance. In these overlapping fields of research, political scientists, demographers, anthropologists, economists, geographers, sociologists, biologists, meteorologists and many other disciplinary specialists combine their relevant knowledge and skills to produce answers to trans-boundary problems. Built on such a broad disciplinary range, chances are that these results directly feed into practical application. To this end the SNIS builds bridges between academics and international and domestic practitioners.

Bridges between academics and international and domestic practitioners

The collaboration between academics and international practitioners is far from obvious since their relevant timeframes and languages differ. International Organisations and policy makers often need quick answers while academics invest in in-depth analyses that require more time. Academics insist on precise wording and use a highly complex language while practitioners underline the need for condensed and accessible information. With efforts on either side, however, both benefit. The academics through the practical relevance and applicability of their results, and the international practitioners by a larger contextualization of the problems at hand. For both actors, constant exchange with the civil society to whom they are responsible is paramount. This is why the SNIS also builds bridges to civil society.

Bridges to civil society

The SNIS builds bridges to civil society in two ways: firstly, it fosters an ongoing dialogue so that the specialists 'pick up' on the burning issues at hand. Secondly, it helps in making the results of the collaboratively obtained research available by innovative means of communication. Taken together the three bridges make for the value added in SNIS operations.

The value added of the three bridges in International Studies

In sum, the SNIS funds academic research in International Studies and it does so by building inner-academic bridges and by building bridges between academics, practitioners and civil society. The SNIS is about funding pluri-disciplinary research addressing cross-boundary, real-world questions and building all the necessary bridges that boost the relevance, the quality and the impact of this research.

Bernhard Fuhrer, Director of the SNIS

Guest editorial

Connecting academics and practitioners the view from UNDP by Cécile Molinier



Cécile Molinier
Director of the UNDP Office

I was introduced to the SNIS through the Graduate Institute, with which I became acquainted shortly after being transferred to Geneva as Director of the UNDP Office, from a field position as UNDP Resident Representative and UN Resident Coordinator.

As a former academic, I was interested in discovering the intellectual and academic side of "la Genève internationale". As a former UN Resident Coordinator, used to holding regular coordination and information sharing meetings with my UN colleagues, I reactivated the organization of periodic meetings between the Directors of the liaison or regional offices of non Geneva based UN agencies on specific topics, and the Graduate Institute was a natural partner, in light of its strong development and humanitarian curriculum - and that is how I became acquainted with the Institute, and by extension the RUIG/GIAN, which soon after morphed into the SNIS.

Bernhard Fuhrer, the Director of the SNIS, invited me to participate in the SNIS annual conference and then to become a member of the Academic Council of International Geneva, as representative of the non Geneva based UN agencies. As a member of the Council, I participated in the selection of the Academic Council Awards, and particularly appreciated the open-mindedness and thoroughness of the assessment done by my fellow jury members.

Many years ago, as a graduate student and later on as a teacher, I was challenged by research but even more so by its application to teaching, and how teaching could help awaken the curiosity of students and make them discover new ground. Unfortunately, after I joined the UN and moved horizontally and upwards into a variety of positions, my reading became more and more circumscribed to the immediate object of my job responsibilities and, as a generalist senior manager, I had less and less time for specialized or expert reading - with the welcome exception of UNDP's annual Human Development Report, which I had to launch every year.

Thanks to my contacts with the SNIS and the Graduate Institute, I became reacquainted with the world of academia and research and, through the bridging role of the SNIS, I discovered the complex relationship between academics and policy makers in the development and humanitarian communities. It is reassuring to see how much the UN means to a number of bright and idealistic young people - each semester, we get about three times the number of internship applications that we can handle. It is also gratifying for me, as a long-time UN insider, first in the administration and management department of the UN Secretariat and then as a UNDP manager in the field, to be able to discuss concrete applications of development theories.

The SNIS is definitely on the right track - it allows academics and development practitioners to cross-fertilize, and by organizing academic debates far from Geneva, it shows universities in other parts of Switzerland that UN people are interested in and wish to contribute to their work.

Cécile Molinier, Director of the UNDP Office in Geneva

“ I was interested in discovering the intellectual and academic side of "la Genève internationale". ”

“ The SNIS is definitely on the right track - it allows academics and development practitioners to cross-fertilize. ”

FUNDING ACTIVITIES

In 2009 the SNIS has supported a large array of activities to foster International Studies in Switzerland. Thus the SNIS dedicated CHF 1.73 million to its annual Call for Projects, it invested CHF 50'000.- to support International Studies Conferences and it granted CHF 20'000.- to different academic prizes and awards.

2009 Call for Projects

The 2009 Call for Projects was launched in December 2008 under the newly defined two-step tendering procedure. Research teams were invited to electronically submit pre-proposals with a short description (500 - 1000 words) of the project. A full proposal was only requested from the 17 teams that passed the first selection. Both first and second round evaluations were carried out entirely by the SNIS Scientific Committee.

The submission and selection criteria remained unchanged. Formal criteria provide that at least one Swiss University or Swiss institution of tertiary education and/or research must be involved as the leading institution of the project. Furthermore, the project coordinator must be a professor or academic staff member employed on a multiple-year contract at the post-doctoral level. Finally, the projects must necessarily be multi- and/or interdisciplinary.

The tendering procedure as defined for the 2009 Call for Projects requires that projects deal either with a topic related to International Studies or with a specific theme proposed every year by the Academic Council of International Geneva (AC). For 2009 the AC chose the special focus "Climate Change" from a social and humanities-based perspective since this topic seemed most pressing with the International Organisations.

The call was met with a very high number of qualified submissions. A total number of one hundred pre-proposals were received by the deadline of 31 January 2009, two of which did not meet the formal requirements, so that finally a total of 98 projects were submitted to the Scientific Committee for evaluation.

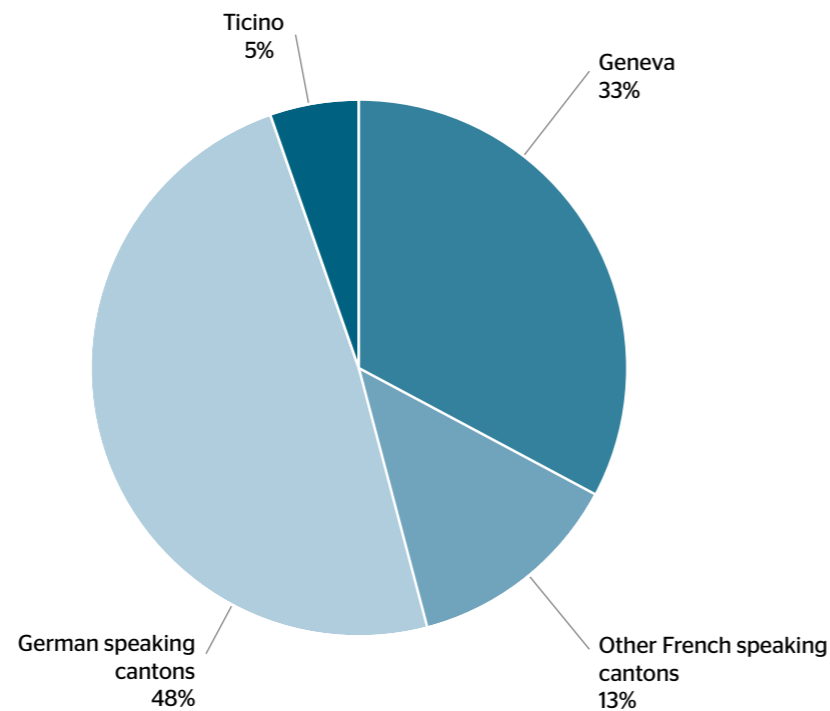


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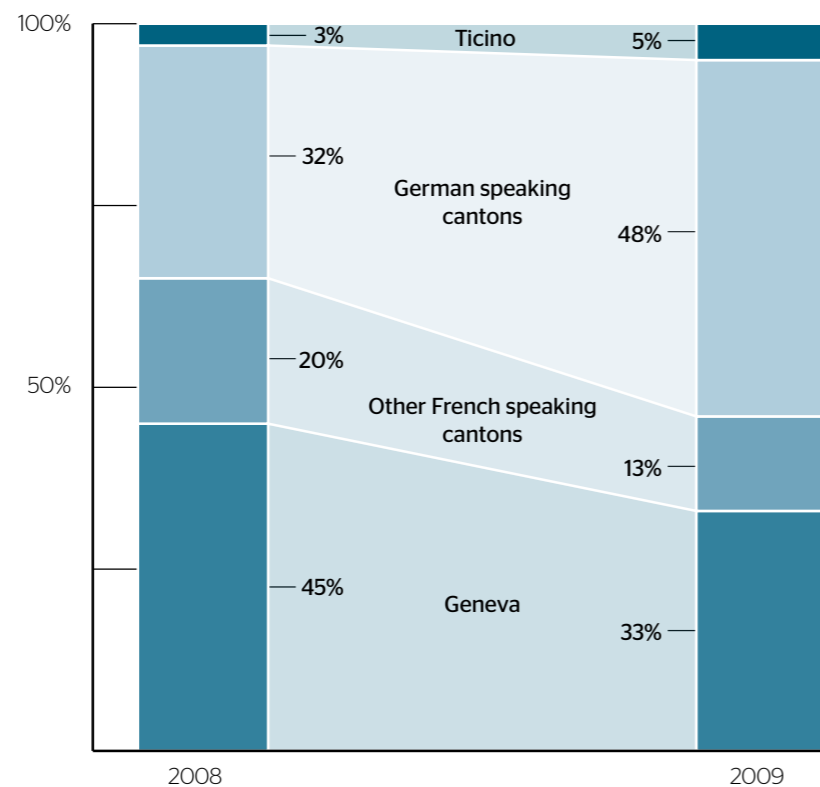
Geographical breakdown of coordinating institutions

The SNIS now reaches all actors of International Studies across the country.

Call for Projects 2009: Received Projects in first round



Call for Projects 2008 and 2009: Received Projects in first round



The 2009 geographical breakdown by coordinating institutions is more homogenous than in the previous year. The number of submitted pre-proposals from Swiss German universities increased by 17% in 2009 compared to 2008.

Partnerships with International and Non-Governmental Organisations and Universities in Switzerland and abroad

Four observations stand out

1. Compared to 2008, the average numbers of partners per project slightly increased in 2009.

2. While the numbers of Swiss universities involved diminished slightly, the number of foreign universities as project partners increased, which can be interpreted as an increased interest from academic institutions abroad and an "internationalised" collaboration.

3. Although partnerships with International Organisations lowered in 2009 in comparison to the year before, it has been compensated by an increased collaboration with Non-Governmental Organisations.

4. Contrary to the previous year, a private partnership was observed.

Average number (AN) of partners per project

	2008	2009
AN of partners per project	3.95	4.08
AN of universities involved	2.65	2.86
AN of Swiss universities involved	1.73	1.64
AN of foreign universities	0.92	1.22
AN of Non-Governmental Organisations	0.40	0.61
AN of International Organisations	0.67	0.38
AN of public / state institutions	*	0.16
AN of private companies involved	*	0.07

Received proposals per coordinating academic institution

Region	Coordinating Institution	Projects	2009
Basel	University of Basel	9	9
	World Trade Institute (WTI)	4	
Berne	University of Berne	4	11
	Swiss College of Agriculture (SHL)	3	
Fribourg	University of Fribourg	2	2
Geneva	The Graduate Institute	17	32
	University of Geneva	15	
Lucerne	University of Lucerne	1	1
St. Gallen	University of St. Gallen	1	1
Ticino	La Scuola Universitaria Professionale della Svizzera Italiana (SUPSI)	5	5
Valais	Institut Universitaire Kurt Bösch (IUKB)	1	1
Vaud	University of Lausanne	4	9
	Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (EPFL)	5	
	Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETHZ)	10	
Zurich	University of Zurich	10	
	Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology (EAWAG)	2	25
	Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research (WSL)	2	
	Center for Comparative and International Studies (CIS)	1	
Various	Globethics.net	1	
	Swisspeace	1	
	Global Risk Forum Davos	1	4
	University of Applied Sciences - Western Switzerland (HES-SO)	1	
Total			100

Abstracts of funded projects

After the evaluation and the recommendation by the SNIS Scientific Committee, the Governing Committee officially approved the following seven research projects for funding.

The following evaluation criteria were applied by the Scientific Committee in the selection process:

- **Academic excellence and originality**
- **Policy relevance and assets such as the joint research with International Organisations and/or Non-Governmental Organisations**
- **Involvement of two or more universities in Switzerland**
- **Involvement of researchers from abroad**
- **Credibility of pluri- or interdisciplinary approach.**

Negotiating Climate Change

Lead: Prof. Katharina Michaelowa, Institute of Political Science, and Center for Comparative and International Studies (CIS), University of Zurich.

Partners: Institute of Psychology, University of Zurich; Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies; Perspectives GmbH, Zurich; Germanwatch e.V., Berlin.

The project investigates the power resources and the choice of bargaining strategies by member states in the current United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations leading to the Post-Kyoto agreement in Copenhagen. A systematic collection of negotiation positions and interviews on the choice of negotiation strategies with negotiation observers will shed light on questions whether external power resources such as economic size can be compensated by the use of strategies. The determining factors explaining choice of positions and strategies will be investigated in a second step. The analysis will contribute to ongoing research on power resources and strategies in international institutions. Given the strong salience of climate change for many developing countries, the project team aims at deriving the determinants of successful negotiation strategies for these countries. While they are traditionally looked at as weaker players given that their power resources are limited, climate change negotiations provide evidence for a number of exceptions to this rule.

Refugee Flows and Transnational Ethnic Linkages

Lead: Prof. Lars-Erik Cederman, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich.

Partners: Department of Political Science and Department of Geography, University of Geneva; Department of Political Science, University of North Texas; United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

One of the most significant external effects of civil war is massive population dislocations and refugee flows across national boundaries. The effects of refugee flows remain poorly understood, however. One of the most plausible links between cross-border refugee flows and the spread of conflict has to do with the impact of migration flows on the ethnic balance of host countries. However, there is a lack of systematic data on the ethnic composition of refugee flows, making it difficult to test these claims. In conjunction with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the research team proposes the creation of two datasets, a global one on the primary ethnic groups of refugee flows between states, and a geographically disaggregated one listing refugees' point of origin in the sending country and point of settlement in the receiving country. These datasets will be used to assess the effects of refugee flows.



Socio-Psychological Impacts of the Agricultural Policies: An Interdisciplinary and Comparative Study (Switzerland, France and Quebec)

Lead: Dr. Yvan Droz, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies.

Partners: Pôle "Genre et développement", Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies; Anthropology Institute, University of Neuchâtel; Department of Sociology and Anthropology, and Department of Medicine, University of Franche-Comté; Department of Psychology, University of Québec; Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Laval University, Québec; AGRIDEA, Swiss Association for the Development of Agriculture and Rural Areas, Lausanne; Coop fédérée, Montréal.

Do agricultural policies affect the social and psychological situation of farmers? The answer appears evident. But three studies conducted in France, Switzerland and Quebec seem to give a negative answer. Their findings are very similar in spite of their different disciplinary and methodological approaches. Is the farmer's 'blues' so widespread that it is not affected by the agricultural and economical settings? Is the structural evolution of agriculture so deep that the agricultural policies cannot affect the farmer's socio-psychological situation? The research team will compare the agricultural setting in France, Switzerland and Quebec to evaluate the impact of the political, economical and juridical context on farmer's situation. The interdisciplinary perspective will associate anthropology, sociology, psychology, economy, political sciences and public health, in order to define quantitative and qualitative indicators to assess the socio-psychological situation of farmers in the three regions. Furthermore, the project team will also take into account the international environment - which has deep effects on farmer's local situation - by studying the WTO negotiations on agriculture to analyze their potential impacts on the three local settings.



Climate Change, Economic Growth, and Conflict

Lead: Prof. Vally Koubi, University of Bern.

Partners: Department of Social Sciences and Humanities, and Institute of Environmental Engineering, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich; Columbia Water Center, The Earth Institute, Columbia University.

The relationship between climate change and conflict (interstate and/or intrastate) has been the subject of voluminous recent research. With a few exceptions, this literature has not been able to establish the existence of a robust, systematic, causal relationship. This may reflect the absence of such a relationship in the real world. Or, and this is the view of the research team, this is simply a consequence of the theoretical and methodological limitations of existing work. This project revisits this issue along two dimensions. First, it carefully specifies the mechanism through which climate may affect the incidence of conflict. In particular, by focusing on the chain linking climatic conditions, economic welfare, and conflict, the study emphasizes how the latter part of this link critically depends on the institutional features of the political system. Second, at a methodological level the research team's measures of key climatic conditions (temperature and precipitation) are of superior quality: they are exogenous to both economic conditions and conflict. Thereby, it solves the simultaneity problem that has plagued the literature in the past. Consequently, the results provide a more reliable basis for testing the theoretical predictions of the project team and for evaluating policy.



Development Myths in Practice: the «Feminisation» of Anti-Poverty Policies and International Organisations.

The cases of Brazil, the Philippines and Mozambique

Lead: Dr. Francois-Xavier Merrien, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, University of Lausanne.

Partners: Institute of Anthropology, University of Lausanne; Centre for Asian Studies, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Swisspeace, Berne; University of the Philippines, Diliman; Federal Research Institute of Applied Economics, Brazil; United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); International Labour Organisation (ILO).

Over the past ten years an ever growing epistemic community has advanced a paradigm of the woman as the principal agent in the struggle against poverty. In countries from the south, it is embodied in a specific series of policies, projects and programmes, supported by the major International Organisations and defended by NGOs and opinion leaders. Recent research shows to what extent this issue embraces contradictory aspects. In many cases the «feminisation of the struggle against poverty» entails strengthening the stereotyping of women and an increase in the traditional roles of «care» attributed to women. These ambiguities reinforce the need for international comparative studies attempting to answer the central questions: How and in what way have these types of discourses, policies and programmes been adopted by countries in the south? What are the strategies of different kinds of actors concerning the implementation of Conditional Cash Transfers (CCT) programs? How are these narratives entangled with local cultures and the specific structures and gender relations in which they are embedded? How do people from different communities react to the implementation of CCT programmes and why? What are the results of these programmes in different southern countries? Have they reinforced or deteriorated the position of women in society and have they contributed effectively to fight poverty? Under which conditions are these programmes efficient? The research project is based on a comprehensive study of the implementation of Gender Discourses and Cash Transfers programmes in three countries: Brazil, the Philippines and Mozambique.

Transnational Senegalese Migration, Integration and Development: A Comparative Analysis of Migrant Organisations in Four European Receiving Contexts

Lead: Prof. Sandro Cattacin, Department of Sociology, University of Geneva.

Partners: Research Centre for Methodology, Inequalities and Social Change (MISC), Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, University of Lausanne; Centre of Studies of International Politics (CeSPI), Rome; Section of International Migration and Multicultural Policies, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), Paris; International Organisation for Migration (IOM), Paris; Association des Sénégalais de Genève (ASG), Geneva; SUNUGAL, socio-cultural association, Milan.

The transnational turn in migration studies leads to consider migrant organisations not only as actors of integration in the receiving country, but also as privileged actors of development of origin-countries. Surprisingly, despite the importance attributed to migrant organisations, research on these actors is not extensive in the literature. In a bid to better understand the relationship between integration and transnationalism, their multilayered role(s) will be examined with particular focus on their embedding in both governmental and non-governmental networks. The planned study integrates sociology, social psychology, anthropology and economy, and focuses on Senegalese migrant organisations in four receiving contexts (Geneva, Milan, Paris and Barcelona). The results will highlight the impact of contextual migration, integration, and development policies on these organisations' dynamics.



Psychology, Mental Health and Law: Integrating Psychological Knowledge in the Cambodia Trials

Lead: Dr. Julia Müller, Department of Clinical Psychology and Psychotherapy, University Hospital, University of Zurich.

Partners: Faculty of Law, and Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Zurich; Centre for the Study of Emotion and Law, London; Trauma Clinic, University College London; War Crimes Studies Centre, University of California, Berkeley, USA.

Trials against the Khmer Rouge leaders started this year. In these trials young lawyers will be involved as monitors, in addition to local and international judges. The professionals will be confronted with traumatized survivors of genocide and crimes against humanity. Many of these individuals will suffer from Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, which, amongst others, severely impedes memory processes. Although these disturbances directly influence the trial situation, judges know little about them. The research project therefore wants to bridge the gap between psychological and legal knowledge and offer training and support to legal professionals. Consequently, it is planned to compare psychological and legal reports on the same hearings, and to establish/evaluate continuous psychological training and supervision of the monitors/lawyers of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) during the trials. Finally, reconciling psychological and legal knowledge will not only allow judges to interact with victims and witnesses more consistently, but it will also contribute to the overall purpose of the Court: to establish reconciliation.

Support to International Studies Conferences in Switzerland

In spring 2009, a new funding programme was launched to assist with the organisation of conferences dealing with International Studies in Switzerland. Among the fourteen submitted requests, the Governing Committee selected and approved the co-financing of the following conferences:

Regional Environmental Governance: Interdisciplinarity Approches, Theoretical Issues, Comparative Designs

Main applicant: Professor B. Debarbieux

Organizing body: University of Geneva, Department of Geography

Date: 16 - 18 June 2010

Duration: 2 days

SNIS amount: 21'500

Partnership: ETHZ, IHEID, EAWAG, University of New Hampshire

Critical Appraisals of Global Governance

Main applicants: Professor J.-C. Graz and Professor S. Lavenex

Organizing body: University of Lausanne, University of Lucerne

Date: 10 - 11 June 2010

Duration: 2 days

SNIS amount: 8'500

Partnership: University of Geneva, IHEID

Legal Pluralist Perspectives on Development and Cultural Diversity

Main applicant: Professor S. Randeria

Organizing body: University of Zurich, Department of Ethnology

Date: 31 August 2009

Duration: 4 days

SNIS amount: 20'000

Partnership: Commission on Legal Pluralism

The SNIS Award for the Best Thesis in International Studies

Aiming to encourage outstanding young research scientists at the beginning of their careers, the SNIS has established a prize to reward the best thesis received in a Swiss University in International Studies. The CHF 5'000 prize is allocated annually and awarded to a thesis that convinces the jury beyond disciplinary boundaries.

Formal criteria required that:

- **Entrants must have received their Ph.D. degree in a Swiss University with «summa cum laudae» or a mark equal or superior to 5.5, within the previous 12 months before the submission deadline.**
- **Entrants must be under 35 year old at the time of the submission. They do not need to be citizens or residents of Switzerland.**
- **The research described in the thesis must be in the field of International Studies**
- **The thesis must be written in one of the three national languages (German, French and Italian) or in English.**

The Governing Committee has appointed a special Committee – the SNIS Award Jury –, composed of six professors from Swiss Universities with expertise in one or several areas of International Studies, to evaluate the thesis received and select the winner.



The winner of the 2009 SNIS Award is Dr Gabrielle Ruoff, postdoctoral researcher at the Center for Comparative and International Studies (ETH Zürich and University of Zurich) for her thesis: «Growing rich and clean up later? Joint effects of International Integration and Democracy on Environmental Quality in Developing Countries».

The prize with a face value of CHF 5000.- will be officially awarded at the Launch Event of the SNIS 2010 funded projects on 30 September 2010.

EVENTS

Academic Council Debate Series

In line with the objective to bring together the academic community in Switzerland with International Organisations based in Geneva, the SNIS has organised a series of round-table debates in the framework of the **Academic Council of International Geneva**. The unifying theme was the financial and economic crisis and its implications on development, public health, environmental organisations as well as on arising security issues. Four debates were held throughout the year in various locations across Switzerland (c.f. program below).



Academic Council Debate Series

Perspectives within International Organisations on the Financial and Economic Crisis

Development implications of the financial and economic crisis
Mr Charles Gore, UNCTAD
Mrs Katja Hujo, UNRISD
Chair: Prof. Thomas Cottier
23.03.2009 12.00 – 14.00 World Trade Institute, Auditorium Anna Nussbaum
Hallerstr. 6, Berne

The financial crisis and public health
Mr Diarmid Campbell-Lendrum, WHO
Mr Michael O'Connor, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
Mr Robert Greener, UNAIDS
Chair: Prof. Jaya Krishnakumar
30.04.2009 16.00 – 18.00 Uni Mail, Room M 1140
Boulevard du Pont d'Arve 40, Geneva

The financial and economic crisis and its impact on environmental organisations
Joint event: SNIS, Institute for Environmental Decisions (IED), Centre for Comparative and International Studies (CIS)
Mr Hans Friederich, IUCN
Mr Moustapha Kamal Gueye, UNEP
Mr Timothy Geer, WWF International
Chair: Prof. Thomas Bernauer
29.05.2009 16.00 – 18.00 ETH Zurich, CHN Building, Universitätsstr. 16,
Room CHN P12

Security issues and the financial and economic crisis
Mrs Corinne Momal-Vanien, Senior Political Advisor, United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG)
Mr Oliver Jütersonke, Head of Research of the Centre of Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding, IHEID
Mrs Christine Aghazarm, Research Officer, International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Chair: Prof. Michel Carton, Vice-Director, IHEID
02.10.2009 16.15 – 18.30 IHEID, Room Bungener
rue Rothschild 20, Geneva



For exact places of debates and latest version of this programme, see www.snis.ch. Chatham House Rules apply.

A highly interested audience participated in the animated debates. A follow-on series will take place in 2010, mainly in the Swiss German part, where International Organisations are less present on a daily basis.

Annual Conference

The first Annual Conference of the Swiss Network for International Studies took place on 15th and 16th October 2009 in Berne and provided the opportunity to bring together representatives of the Swiss public administration, the academic world, as well as high-ranking personalities from the International Organisations.

“ [The SNIS] is a true network that connects institutes in Switzerland that are doing research in the field of international affairs with the International Organisations based in Switzerland ”

Jürg Burri,
Deputy Secretary of State for Education

“ In the next decade International Organisations will also rely more and more on research that will allow policy assessments and provide expertise to the many generalists working in IOs ”

Corinne Momal-Vanien,
Senior Political Advisor, UNOG

Variegated Public

The conference drew a variegated public with over eighty participants. Academic institutions accounted for 69% of attendants, followed by International and Non-Governmental Organisations that contributed 10%. Federal and cantonal administrations were also represented (7%); embassies (5%) and various others (4%) completed the total. The various regions of Switzerland were all also represented rather homogeneously, with a small lead of participants from the German speaking part of Switzerland (mainly Berne, Zürich and Basel) summing up to 51% of the audience. Geneva alone brought 27% of the total of participants. The choice of Berne as a host city was widely appreciated as it is easily accessible from all parts of Switzerland.

This first annual conference was co-organised in collaboration with the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences. A special feature offered an exchange with the conference “Africa on the Move” that took place at the same time in Neuchâtel.

Broad Theme

Thematically, the subjects of **European integration, international migration and Swiss foreign policies** were addressed in captivating keynotes as well as in focused panels. Topics covered very diverse themes such as “challenges to democracy”, “migration patterns and multilateral solutions in Europe” or “the impact of the financial crisis on the Swiss-EU relations”. Panels and keynotes saw a wide array of experts from academia, International Organisations and from the public sphere exchange views and discuss topics that were academic in nature, but practical in outlook.

Rich Discussions

This practical link was illustrated in the faceted discussion of the Human Development Report 2009 on Human Mobility that had been released only days before. Representatives of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) introduced the main results while Martin Dahinden, Director of the Swiss Development Agency gave comments on these findings from a (national) policy point of view. Academics completed the picture with their comments on the methodologies that were used to compile such a demanding report. It was generally agreed that academic research often lays the groundwork for well grounded policy, but the question as such, i.e. how important International Studies are for policy making was also addressed in a special session.

From Research to Policy

In the special session chaired by Prof. Philippe Burrin from the renowned Graduate Institute in Geneva, participants went beyond the simple “more research is needed” mantra and sought to pinpoint the cornerstones of successful AND policy relevant academic research.

The podium speakers expressed the view that the interaction between policy and science can be enhanced with the help of professional intermediaries that help bridging the gap. It was highlighted that these mediators need sufficient resources and skills to establish such a dialogue and create the necessary bridges based on credibility, competence and trust.

It was reminded by Dr Bernhard Fuhrer, SNIS Director, that there was not one solution, but a whole set of measures to achieve policy relevance. The SNIS is committed to this process in many ways. Its Academic Council of International Geneva functions as a barometer of current issues and trends within the International Organisations and defines the theme for the annual Call for Projects. The SNIS furthermore keeps close contacts with research teams of funded projects right from the start in order to reflect on the outcome and applicability for policy makers.

The SNIS is planning to hold its second annual conference in spring 2011.

Financial statement for the year 2009

Overview of the results of the financial year 2009

Incomes

Subsidies		
Swiss Confederation	SFr.	1'350'000.00
Canton of Geneva	SFr.	1'217'800.00
Various others	SFr.	8'875.00
Total	SFr.	2'576'675.00

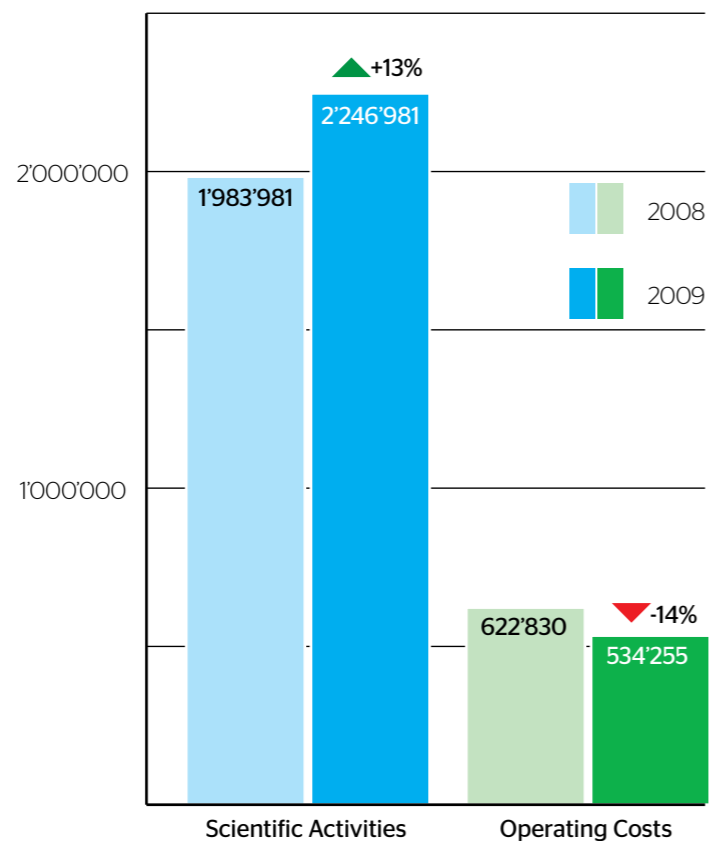
Expenses

Scientific Activities	SFr.	2'246'981.00
Operating Costs (Administration and Salaries)	SFr.	534'255.00
Total	SFr.	2'781'236.00

Result -Negative Balance SFr. -204'561.00

The financial year 2009 was closed with a negative balance of CHF -204'561. This was in line with budget projections.

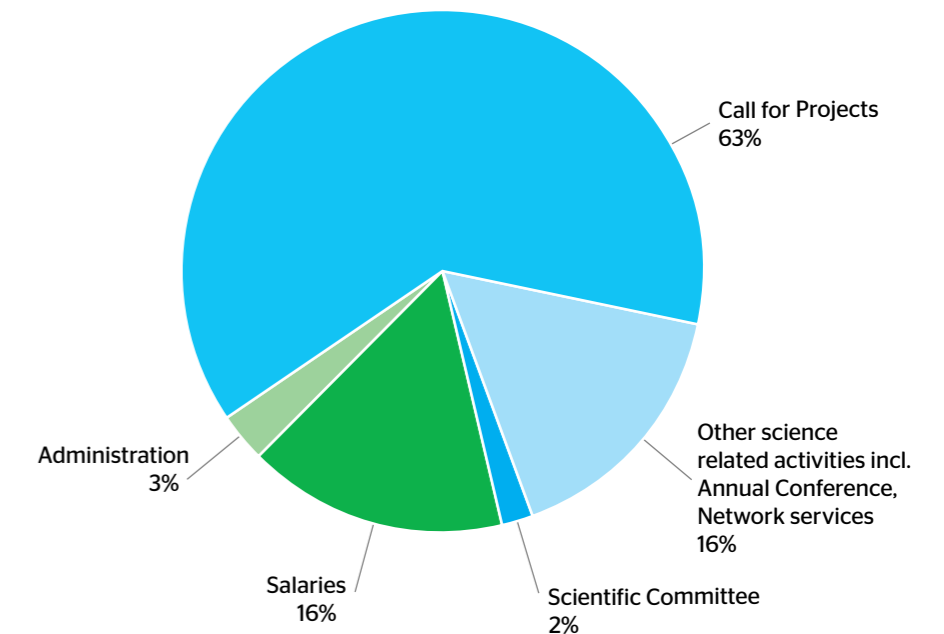
Scientific activities and expenses 2008 / 2009



Increased funding for projects 2009 compared to 2008

Thanks to an efficient control of operating costs, the SNIS increased the amounts allocated to scientific activities by 13%, while the operating costs were reduced by 14%.

Distribution of costs 2009



Staff

The SNIS Secretariat has seen a change in its management in 2009

The SNIS Secretariat has seen a change in its management in 2009 as Dr Bernhard Fuhrer took up his position as the new Director of the SNIS in August 2009. A graduate of the University of Basel, Dr Fuhrer obtained his PhD in innovation studies from the University of Hamburg. He has had a research career to date in several universities in Switzerland and abroad including in Boston and Paris. Most recently, he has been a researcher and lecturer at the universities of Berne and Neuchâtel. He has also coordinated a pan-European research network.

The former SNIS Director, Dr Tobias Haller, who successfully directed the starting phase of the SNIS, has been moving on to new challenges as an Assistant Professor at the Institute of Social Anthropology at the University of Berne.

The main responsibility of the SNIS funded projects - their day-to-day management and academic follow-up - was coordinated by Laurence Mortier in collaboration with Oran McKenzie, who left the SNIS in autumn. Khoa Hoang handled the graphic design of the communication materials, maintained the website and oversaw various IT tasks. In order to cope with the new tasks of organizing the recently created SNIS events, the Secretariat hired Christa Allot on a part-time basis.

Staff was reduced so that by the end of 2009 the SNIS headquarter permanently employed 4 people with a total of only 2.8 full time equivalents (down from 3.6 full time equivalents).

As in the past, the SNIS was offering to Civil Service applicants the possibility to carry out their duty within the Secretariat for short or long term missions (up to 6 months). Thus the SNIS Secretariat employed two civil service interns: Simon Alder (Institute for Empirical Research in Economics, University of Zurich) who helped with the 2009 Call for Projects procedure and Romain Angier, a graduate at the ETI (School for Translation and Interpretation) at the University of Geneva, who helped translating much of the website.

In line with its strategic perspective and as established at its creation, the SNIS signed a Convention with The Graduate Institute that sets the terms of the collaboration with the latter with regard to the accountancy and human resources management, in order to reduce the administrative work load of the Secretariat and to benefit of the Institute's existing structure and expertise in this field.

Conclusions and Outlook

From «reaching out» to «strengthening ties»

The year 2009 has clearly demonstrated that the SNIS could mobilize the academic base in International Studies. However, much still needs to be done when it comes to building a truly pan-Swiss community. In addition to this 'internal' consolidation the community also needs to solidify its engagement with the International and Non-Governmental Organisations. Both tasks, the strengthening of inter-academic and inter-institutional ties, are crucial tasks for the SNIS in 2010.

Strengthening ties between academic actors

The strengthening of ties between academic actors will succeed if they are either brought together on a unifying idea or on concrete projects. This is why the SNIS foresees two sets of activities: first, a launch event, where the projects to be supported in 2010 will be presented to a wider public. Second, a special workshop support programme that will bring active research teams together and in contact with representatives of the International Organisations. These workshops will be taking place during the second half of 2010.

Strengthening ties between academics, International Organisations and NGOs

From its regular contacts with International and Non-Governmental Organisations the SNIS knows that these institutions want to benefit from academic expertise and that they are willing to engage in partnerships. On the other 'side', academics want to include IO knowledge in their curricula and research. What is still lacking, however, is a systematic view of the needs on either side. What kind of partnerships are the IOs ready to engage in? What kind of expertise do academics want to add to their curricula? The SNIS will have to elucidate these and others needs before it can offer corresponding services. The SNIS will not engage in a pure supply logic, i.e. simply offering services without a preceding careful demand analysis. 2010 will represent the opportunity for such a careful analysis.

Focus on science related activities, strict cost control

In 2010 the SNIS will continue to leverage the maximum amount of the subsidies towards scientific activities. Cutting cost in administration will continue, while maintaining the level of service achieved. Structurally the SNIS will only change subtly, as the present configuration of the SNIS - its Governing and Scientific Committee, the Academic Council of International Geneva and the Secretariat - seems well positioned to fulfil the SNIS mission of funding and networking International Studies in Switzerland.

We thank all the people who are committed to helping us reach this goal and cope with new challenges that lie ahead.

Structure of the SNIS (as of 31.12.09 - current status available on the SNIS website)

Governing Committee

- heads the Swiss Network for International Studies and the bodies and organs created within
- validates the selection made by the Scientific Committee of projects that qualified for funding
- defines and takes decision with regard to the budget
- defines long term strategies
- approves the evaluations made by the Jury of the SNIS Award as well as of the International Geneva Award

Members

Thomas Bernauer

CIS, Zürich

Thomas Cottier

Director, WTI, Berne

Philippe Burrin

Director, The Graduate Institute

Yves Flückiger

Vice-Rector, University of Geneva

Michel Carton

Vice-Director, The Graduate Institute

Robert Roth

Faculty of Law, University of Geneva

Scientific Committee

- acts as an independent body in its decisions
- guarantees the selection and evaluation of the research projects funded by the SNIS
- selects research projects submitted in the annual Call for Projects
- evaluates the funded projects in their intermediary phase and their final version

President

Laurence Boisson de Chazournes

Members

Edouard Dommen

Till Förster

Adrienne Héritier

Christine Kaufmann

André Sapir

Pierre Sauvé

Gerald Schneider

Doris Wastl-Walter

The Secretariat

- is the executive body of the SNIS
- implements decisions taken by the Governing Committee
- organises the annual Call for Projects and supports the Scientific Committee
- ensures the follow-up of funded research projects
- involves the Academic Council of International Geneva in SNIS activities in order to create a network between IO's and researches in Switzerland
- promotes International Studies in Switzerland
- establishes the budget line and controls available funds
- is responsible for the SNIS communication through various tools, including the website
- organises events and conferences

Director

Bernhard Fuhrer

Members

Christa Allot

Laurence Mortier

Khoa Hoang

Academic Council of International Geneva

- is composed by representatives of scientific branches of International Organisations (IO's) in order to establish the link between Swiss scientists and IO's
- defines the yearly thematic issue for the Call for Projects
- contributes to the round-table debate series organised in various academic institutions in Switzerland
- acts as a Jury of the International Geneva Award that prizes three outstanding scientific articles from the point of view of policy relevance to IO's

Members

Willy Alfaro

Maurizio Bona

Jefferey Crisp

Jocelyn Fenard

Charles Gore

Fiona Gore

Theresa Hitchens

Carlos Lopes

Cécile Molinier

Gonzalo Oviedo

Philippe Petit

Boris Richard

Raymond Torres

Peter Utting

Charlotte Warakaulle

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External Relations Division,
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Philippe BURRIN
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