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2019
ANNUAL REPORT

SWISS NETWORK FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

The SNIS promotes academic research in the interdisciplinary area of international studies. The SNIS adopts an inclusive understanding of international studies. Therefore, research in international studies concerns issues that are pluri-disciplinary, relevant to the international agenda, and for which international cooperation is required to produce policy-relevant outputs. Investigated issues may combine political, economic, social, environmental, historical, legal, health, scientific, and development dimensions of complex societal questions.

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MESSAGE OF THE DIRECTOR

BERNHARD FUHRER
SNIS Director

In 2019 we faced a challenge: We wanted to quadruple our video output for social media, but this would have taken too long with a traditional approach. Indeed, producing short films with academic content hitherto involved a two-stage process of interview-capture followed by time-consuming post-production.

Shortening the media production cycle

It was clear to us that using the traditional approach we 'lost' too much time with post-production. The solution? Shorten the production cycle by eliminating post-production! This meant we needed to gear up for live-grade recording. In other words, we needed to function like a TV station running a live newscast. Luckily, technology has progressed so quickly that this has become possible with a relatively simple setup. We have dubbed this setup the 'SNIS Mobile Studio' and have deployed this new tool at two events during the year: the ScienceComm 2019 in Bienne, and the joint SNIS-WTI conference in Bern (see page 26). You can read about these events on these pages, and you can also discover the 30+ videos produced on these occasions on our Twitter account and Youtube channels respectively.

A new section highlighting academic output

Last year was the beginning of the new format for our annual report, and we continue the transformation this year. The main novelty in the current edition is to give much more space to academic output, underlining the different papers, books and reports our projects manage to produce during their two-year grant period. We hope you enjoy the new section 'project results' starting on page 14.

Of course, our annual report also holds the 'traditional' sections on the newly accepted projects (page 10), our award program (page 24), events (page 26) and our financial matters (page 9). We wish you a good read and are looking forward to interacting with you during the year on our social media channels.

Bernhard & the SNIS team

GUEST EDITORIAL

ROMAIN BOILLAT
Former President of the Assembly of the University of Geneva

Experimenting to increase reach in science communication

One of the first rules of communication is to adapt one's message to the receiver and not the other way around. Rather than simplifying the substance, it is a matter of adhering to the language, form and medium of the audience we are addressing. It doesn't help - in other words - to shorten texts ultimately still laden with scientific jargon. We need to rewrite them with the reader in mind - and this means we need to start from scratch.

This simple insight might explain why the 'Youtuber' David Louapre, who runs a channel called "science étonnante", has a Youtube audience that is about eight (!) times larger than all Swiss universities combined. And despite his impressive reach he hasn't sacrificed complexity or forfeited scientific quality. His episodes break down theories, hypotheses and discoveries, conveying an understandable message structured by the three cornerstones of excellent scientific communication; interest, passion and astonishment.

Interest, passion and astonishment, these are the ingredients that good science communication should be built on. But this does not mean that the three components always lead to the same recipe. One needs to experiment and to explore different formats adapted to different content while at the same time tackling institutional and resource challenges. And this is what the SNIS has been doing. The SNIS has been exploring new multimedia formats boosting its reach, but with a keen eye on costs and efficiency. To me, the SNIS has become a laboratory of scientific communication, experimenting with the right ingredients, therefore holding its own against institutions many times their size and resource endowment. I hope the wider community will recognize this role since it will ultimately benefit from it.

ANNUAL CALL FOR PROJECTS

SUBMITTING INSTITUTIONS

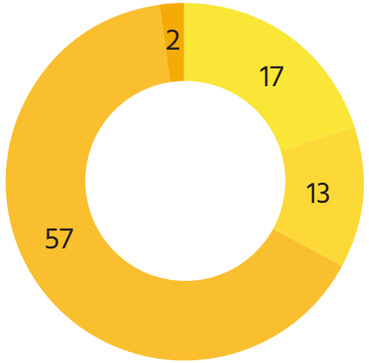
Region	Coordinating institution	Submissions	
		Institution	Region
Basel	University of Basel	9	**9**
Bern	University of Bern	11	
	Bern University of Applied Sciences	2	**13**
Fribourg	University of Fribourg	3	**3**
Geneva	The Graduate Institute	5	
	University of Geneva	12	**17**
Luzern	University of Lucerne	-	
	HSLU	-	**0**
Neuchâtel	University of Neuchâtel	-	**0**
St. Gallen	University of St. Gallen	5	**5**
Ticino	Università della Svizzera Italiana	-	
	SUPSI	2	**2**
Vaud	University of Lausanne	6	
	Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, EPFL	3	**9**
Zürich	Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, ETH	12	
	University of Zürich	4	
	Zürcher Fachhochschule, ZFH	9	
	Pädagogische Hochschule Zürich, PHZ	-	**25**
Interregional	Fachhochschule Nord-West Schweiz	2	
	HES-SO	4	**6**
Total			**89**

SUBMISSION DETAILS

Among the four different funding opportunities offered by the SNIS, the annual Call for Projects remains the core activity absorbing 79% of the overall budget. This year, the SNIS has funded eight additional projects, which brings the total count of funded projects since 2008 close to the 100 mark (95 to be precise). As of today, over 60 projects have been completed and have produced tangible results and policy recommendations. 2019 also saw the premiere of the SNIS produced documentary 'Pestrop' on one of its funded projects. It was received very well and underlined the success of film as a research dissemination tool.

The Call for Projects remains highly competitive. This year's special theme was 'What options for climate change mitigation without multilateralism?'. In the first round, the Call totalled 88 submissions. Compared to the previous year, the diversity of the Call's geographical breakdown has increased. French-speaking cantons other than Geneva were more involved, and we were pleased to have submissions from the canton of Ticino.

The number of average partnerships per submitted project is continuing on its ascending path. This increase is witness to the SNIS's success in fostering collaboration between academia and International Organizations as well as between academia and civil society institutions.



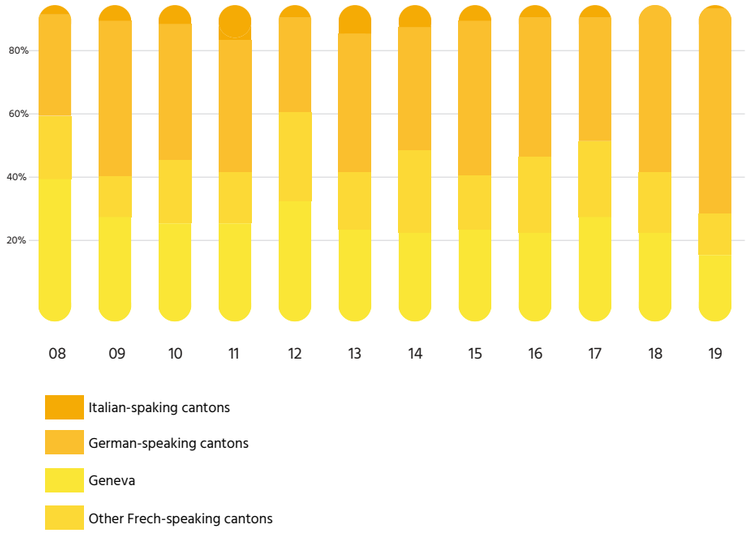
2 Ticino

57 German-speaking cantons

13 Other French-speaking cantons

17 Geneva

GEOGRAPHICAL EVOLUTION



AVERAGE PARTNERSHIPS

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
AN of partners per funded project			4,56	7,00	6,25	6,75	9,88	8,13	7,38	7,00	7,13	12,25
AN of partners per project	3,95	4,08	3,95	5,80	6,49	5,17	6,11	7,34	7,75	5,45	7,23	8,49
AN of universities involved	2,65	2,86	3,14	3,12	3,61	3,48	3,34	4,03	3,39	3,01	3,75	4,08
AN of Swiss universities involved	1,73	1,64	1,88	1,59	1,74	1,77	1,80	1,92	1,68	1,49	1,85	2,09
AN of foreign universities	0,92	1,22	1,26	1,52	1,87	1,71	1,54	2,10	1,72	1,53	1,89	1,99
AN of non-governmental Organizations	0,40	0,61	0,29	0,76	0,86	1,19	1,43	1,38	1,5	1	1,33	1,51
AN of International Organizations	0,67	0,38	0,31	0,86	0,88	1,05	1,27	1,25	1,63	1,24	1,91	1,68
AN of public / state institutions	*	0,16	0,14	0,88	0,91	0,82	1,31	0,38	0,93	0,85	0,86	1,03
AN of private companies involved	*	0,07	0,07	0,18	0,23	0,19	0,30	0,26	0,2	0,18	0,39	0,19

FINANCIAL
INFORMATION

The financial year 2019 was marked by subsidy cuts that resulted from 'haircut' programs put in place by our public donors. The SNIS steered a cautious course and managed to balance the revenue loss with returned project funds that were re-injected into the operation.

Strict financial control over the budgets of the approved projects has indeed helped the SNIS to ascertain that projects don't always exhaust their allocated grants. On the whole, science expenditure has increased slightly while salaries and other administrative costs remain historically low. The additional revenue (CHF 178'000) stems from the periodic liquidation of reserves associated with the Call for Projects.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Income	
Swiss Confederation Subsidy	1'268'339.00
Canton of Geneva Subsidy	1'157'843.00
Dissolution of Remainders (Project Funds)	204'702.96
Various Others	178'702.32
Total	**2'809'587.28**

Expenses	
Scientific Activities	2'176'130.84
Operational Costs (Administration and Salaries)	394'235.84
Total	**2'570'366.68**

Net Income	**239'220.60**

EXPENDITURE

Call for Projects	2'039'999.00	79.37%
Other science-related Activities	75'834.18	2.95%
Scientific Committee	60'297.66	2.35%
Salaries	343'048.20	13.35%
Administration	46'224.40	1.79%
Various Others	4'963.24	0.19%
Total	**2'570'366.68**	100%

ACCEPTED PROJECTS

Corporate Symbolic Reparations in Transitional Justice Contexts. Case Studies from Colombia, Germany, and South Africa

Political Science, Economics, Management, Business Ethics, International Law, Transnational Justice

Florian Wettstein
University of St. Gallen

This project aims to answer the following questions: (1) When and why do companies, after they have supported, participated in, or benefitted from violent regimes and conflicts, engage in symbolic acts of reparation? (2) How do they engage with victims in this process? (3) Does it matter whether or not companies acknowledge their wrongdoing?

The findings will provide policymakers, scholars, and practitioners with a more nuanced and comprehensive understanding of the contributions that corporations can make to transitional justice processes through symbolic reparations.

Coalstake: The Political Economy of Coal Policy – Comparative Analyses of Stakeholder Strategies and Resource Industries' Embeddedness in the International Economy

International Political Economy, Political Science, Sociology, Transition Studies

Aya Kachi
University of Basel

The project focuses on the following questions: (1) What are the critical energy stakeholders' interests related to coal and what coalitions emerge among them? (2) Why are some actors more influential than others in translating their interests into policy outcomes? (3) What lessons can countries draw from coal policy trajectories in other countries?

In addition to providing insights into political drivers and barriers of a coal phase-out, this project will yield practical insights relevant to policymakers and coal phase-out advocates. Comparative analysis in four different countries will elucidate on the drivers and barriers as well as effective strategies for initiating coal phase-out and tackling specific issues such as labour relations.

Political Prioritisation of the Prevention and Control of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI): a Global Challenge

Anthropology, Biostatistics, Epidemiology, Gender Studies, Media Analysis, Policy Analysis
Nicola Low
University of Bern

This project is structured around three questions: (1) What are the factors that influence the political prioritization of STIs as a global health issue? (2) Based on statistical methods; what is the total global burden of disease caused by STIs? (3) What are community views about STIs in pregnancy?

This project's findings will help public health officials formulate policies that will help prioritize the prevention and control of STIs worldwide.

Governance Processes and Sustainability Impacts of the Extractive Industries: Generating Transformation Knowledge in the Biodiversity Hotspot of Madagascar

Political Science, Sociology, Environment, Geography

Julie Zähringer
University of Bern

The project investigates the following questions: (1) Who takes the decisions regarding environmental and social impact assessments? (2) At what point in the process of large-scale extractive investments are such evaluations conducted? (3) How are local farmers and cattle herders involved?

This project will produce scientific and transformative knowledge that helps devise policy measures to improve the extractive industries' contribution towards the SDGs in Madagascar and other developing countries.

Tackling the Global Housing Challenges: Relevance and Replicability of Switzerland's and Uruguay's Housing Cooperatives' Policies and Strategies

Urban Studies, Political Economy, Sociology

Jennifer Duyne Barenstein
ETH Zurich

The project addresses the following questions: (1) What is the global relevance and replicability of Swiss and Uruguayan approaches? (2) What are their international cooperation strategies? (3) What are the socio-economic, cultural and institutional conditions for housing cooperatives to play a role in the provision of adequate and affordable housing?

The project will lead to a better understanding of housing cooperatives and their best practices as well as a better understanding of their international cooperation in addressing the global affordable housing crisis.

Governing Plastic: The Global Political Economy and Regulation of Plastic Production and Pollution

International Political Economy, Ecology, Law, International Trade

Annabelle Littoz-Monnet
Graduate Institute

This project aims to answer the following questions: (1) What is the global political economy of growing plastic pollution? (2) What is the lifecycle of plastic production and pollution? (3) What could be the impact of economic instruments, international policy tools and legal frameworks for the reduction of both plastic production and pollution and the transformation of the global plastics economy?

The expected policy outcomes of this project include greater general recognition of the problem, an understanding of its political economy dimensions, as well as greater appreciation of the need to reframe the 'marine litter'-problem as a broader plastics-economy issue.

Noma, The Neglected Disease. An Interdisciplinary Exploration of Its Realities, Burden, and Framing

Medicine, Epidemiology, Global Health Studies, Social Theory, International Human Rights Law, History of Public Health, Health Economics

Emmanuel Kabengele Mpinga
University of Geneva

The project seeks to address three main questions: (1) What are the epidemiological evidence and global burden of Noma? (2) What are the key risk factors of Noma? (3) Does the framing of Noma as a cause and effect of human rights violations contribute to greater awareness and action amongst stakeholders?

The results of this project should provide stakeholders with rigorous scientific evidence and the operational framework to adopt tailored interventions for the prevention, early detection, and treatment of Noma.

Closing the Food-Waste-Farming Cycle: Composting and Urban Agriculture in Cameroon and Switzerland

Geography, Sociology, Soil Science, Agro-Climatology, Civil Engineering, Urban Planning

René Véron
University of Lausanne

This project aims to examine the following issues: (1) How is municipal waste managed at the neighbourhood and city-level? (2) How is compost used in local urban agriculture? (3) What are the barriers and opportunities that exist for closing the food-waste-farming cycle?

The project not only seeks to engage with key stakeholders in both Switzerland and Cameroon but also to facilitate knowledge exchange to develop policy context-specific recommendations for closing the food-waste-farming cycle.

Impression from the projects launch workshop

PROJECT
RESULTS

EVALUATING THE IMPACT OF ASYLUM POLICIES ON REFUGEE INTEGRATION IN EUROPE

Dominik Hangartner | University of Zurich

Against the background of the 2015 European refugee crisis, this project conducted actionable research into the impact of various asylum and integration policies, and the drivers of public attitudes towards refugees. In particular, this research focused on five sub-projects, and it's most important findings can be summarised as follows:

- Longer employment bans considerably slow down the economic integration of refugees and reduce their motivation to integrate rapidly after arrival.
- Living and working in locations with many co-nationals encourages refugees' entry into the labour market, and refugees who live in enclaves can move to high-skilled jobs more quickly.
- Dual citizenship reforms alone are often not an effective policy tool to increase naturalization rates.
- The project proposes a new integration index – the IPL-Integration Index - as a pragmatic and multidimensional measure of immigrant integration. The hopes are that scholars will take up this proposal and put the measure to good use so that it can be refined further.
- Most major studies on attitudes towards migrants have focused on developed countries. The project addressed this sample bias by conducting a large-scale representative survey of public attitudes toward Syrians in Jordan. The findings weaken the case for egocentric economic concerns as critical drivers of anti-migrant attitudes.

This research has been published in several peer-reviewed papers, mentioned in international media outlets, and was referenced in policy reports.

VALUEWORKS: EFFECTS OF FINANCIALIZATION ALONG THE COPPER VALUE CHAIN

Rita Kesselring | University of Basel

Valueworks involved in-depth research into the supply and value chain of copper across three countries, Zambia, Switzerland, and China. The main interest was the role of Switzerland and its impact on lifeworlds along the copper value chain. Based on their research findings and having the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 in mind, the team issued several recommendations for Swiss policymakers. The main message is that Swiss regulators should increase their control over the commodity trading sector. Here is an overview of those recommendations:

- The regulator should envisage the creation of a central market authority to supervise the commodities traders' activities on legal and ethical terms.

- Inter-state and sub-state structures should be strengthened to increase the commodity-exporting governments' capacity to monitor and regulate multinational companies and augment transparency.

- Since Switzerland's tax environment is an important factor in why companies choose to locate in Switzerland, the country should join global efforts to tax multinational corporations and help curb tax avoidance effectively.

- Switzerland should involve producing countries in political debates. This cooperation is necessary in order to recognize violations in human rights, raise environmental concerns, and foster equal trading relationships.

- Since the problems associated with the Swiss commodity trading hub represent a reputational risk for Switzerland, the country should commission a National Research Program which would benefit both policymakers - at national and international levels AND representatives of the trading sector. Such a program would signal to the world that Switzerland is interested in furthering transparency of its commodity trading sector.

FOOD PRICE VOLATILITY: POLITICAL CAUSES, EFFECTS ON HUNGER AND POVERTY, SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

Matthias Huss | University of Zurich

In the wake of the global food crisis of the years 2007 and 2008, ending hunger remains central to all global development efforts. It has a prominent position on the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030. This project yielded results in three main areas:

- What are the effects of national trade policy interventions on global food price volatility? The results show that the announcement of trade policy changes can lead to short-term increases in global food price volatility. Yet, these short-term effects have little persistence beyond the announcement day, and, in particular, are conditional on low stock levels.

- What are the effects of global food price increases on local food insecurity? The findings suggest that an increase in global food prices results in higher food insecurity in low-income countries. In contrast, the opposite effect is observed for middle- and high-income countries. For urban households, a rise in global food prices consistently increases food insecurity in low-income countries. However, the effect is seasonality-dependent for rural households in low-income countries.

- What is the role of improved on-farm storage in reducing seasonal food price fluctuations in Sub-Saharan Africa? The results highlight the need to consider the promotion of enhanced on-farm storage as a policy and development option, not only to further year-round food security but also to reduce the seasonality of food prices.

The results were disseminated during several stakeholder events and were also in the focus of numerous international media publications.

SKILLED MIGRANTS' CONTRIBUTION TO INNOVATION

Gaétan de Rassenfosse | EPFL

The overall objective of this project was to address whether and how skilled migrants affect the host country's innovative capacity. The attention of policymakers in high-income countries is on the potentially positive role played by skilled immigrants in boosting technological development and innovation.

The foundation of this project has been the construction of a novel database that allowed the tracking of international migration patterns of inventors at a worldwide level. The research team then used said information to provide a detailed and descriptive characterization of the phenomenon of international mobility of inventors.

Qualitative analyses have shown that migrant inventors become more productive after they have migrated as well as being intrinsically more productive than non-migrant inventors. Additional studies have shown that the intrinsic higher productivity that characterizes immigrant inventors affects the productivity of the native inventors through the diffusion of new knowledge in a positive manner. These findings suggest that immigrant inventors, being more productive than 'native' inventors, positively contribute to the level of innovation of the host country through knowledge spillover.

This project published several working papers that attracted significant interest and that were presented at various scientific events. The database created was released and rendered available to the academic community.

CIVIL WAR AND STATE FORMATION

Didier Péclard | University of Geneva

This project was built around three case studies, South Sudan, Côte d'Ivoire, and Angola, and analyzed the social construction of order and legitimacy during and after violent conflict. It focused on political orders put in place by armed groups, their strategies to legitimize their claim to power, and on the extent to which they managed to institutionalize their military power and transform it into political domination.

The research team organized its findings into three main categories playing an important role: Legitimacy matters, local dimensions, and continuities.

- Armed groups create narratives to garner support for their cause and legitimize disruption. Those narratives are central for their claim to international recognition and support. Legitimacy also depends on the armed group's ability to provide a 'normal life' despite the disruptions caused by the war. For this, they often rely on international actors to help them provide this normality. International aid influences the legitimacy of armed groups and state actors. It is vital that policymakers and practitioners critically reflect on the unintended consequences of aid on the public authority and conflict dynamics.

- This project shows that the micropolitics of civil wars differ when looked at from a local instead of a national perspective. Regional dynamics of conflict can ignite conflict on a much broader scale if not adequately addressed.

- War and peace stand in a continuum. Post-war stability and security are dependent on balances of power that developed during the civil war. It is also important to realize that peacebuilding efforts rarely start from a blank slate. Future peacebuilding and state-building endeavours should consider existing structures of public authorities, political dynamics as well as power relations and their institutionalization.

This team is working on several articles and is currently discussing the creation of an edited volume. Research results were and will be disseminated in training sessions and courses for professionals.

ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURES, HEALTH EFFECTS AND INSTITUTIONAL DETERMINANTS OF PESTICIDE USE IN TWO TROPICAL SETTINGS

Mirko Winkler | Swiss TPH

The main objective of this project was to assess the misfits between pesticide use-related environmental exposure, human health effects, and institutional determinants in the tropics and to identify what changes in pesticide application and policy are needed to reduce exposure levels. The team investigated using a comparative approach in two study areas located in Costa Rica and Uganda. Overall, the findings of this project demonstrate the need for better protection of human and environmental health. Accordingly, recommendations were formulated:

- Farmers: Many suggestions for improving the situation correspond to those included in good agricultural practices. However, such general advice needs to be adapted to the local context. Furthermore, the reduced educational level of many farmers and the limited access to training should be taken into account. It seems essential to leverage established information channels among pesticide users to promote safe use practices and make information available. Such aspects need to go hand in hand with making appropriate equipment for proper methods available.
- Policy recommendations: A key aspect seems to be strengthening the local levels of government and enhancing collaboration between the local and national level. Main shortcomings at the local level are resources and information. Along the same line, it may be useful to make policy measures more target group-specific. It is necessary to raise awareness about pesticide-related environmental and health problems with decision-makers at the national level. Scientific evidence needs to be presented in appropriate formats, such as policy briefs.

This team's dissemination activities were very diverse. Their results were published in international peer-reviewed journals, nine master theses have been produced in the context of this project, and they organized and participated in different forms of workshops, policy briefs, and conferences. The SNIS produced the documentary 'Pestrop' to aid with dissemination.

IMPROVING PROTECTION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES DURING ARMED CONFLICT

Andrew Clapham | Graduate Institute

Over one billion people worldwide suffer from some form of disability, half of which are in states affected by armed conflict. In contrast to other vulnerable groups, no research has been conducted on the medical and social needs of persons living with disabilities in situations of armed violence, nor on the precise scope and extent of the obligations defined in Article 11 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). This project raised awareness of the topic and provided legal and policy guidance. The key findings are outlined as follows:

- Armed conflict has a devastating and disproportionate impact on persons with disabilities. They are at increased risk of acute harm at all phases of armed conflict, at least in part because they are denied the rights and protections they are entitled to under international law.
- Reliable, comprehensive and disaggregated data is needed, especially because persons with disabilities are not a homogenous group. Only once complete data sets are available can advocacy, resources, policy, and practice be developed to respond to their lived experience and overcome the barriers faced in accessing their human rights.
- The CRPD continues to apply during armed conflict, alongside international humanitarian law (IHL) and may inform the content of the legal regulation of the given situation.
- Prevention of primary impairment is confused with disability rights resulting in dedicating resources and financing to prevention initiatives and strategies at the expense of giving effect to disability rights.
- IHL, states and humanitarian organizations don't approach persons with disabilities as full and equal rights-holders whose disability is the result of discriminatory barriers and attitudes in society.

The associated recommendations to those findings can be found in this project's final report and formed the basis of in-state workshops. The results are also contained in the Academy Briefing "Disability and Armed Conflict" which was widely disseminated to stakeholders.

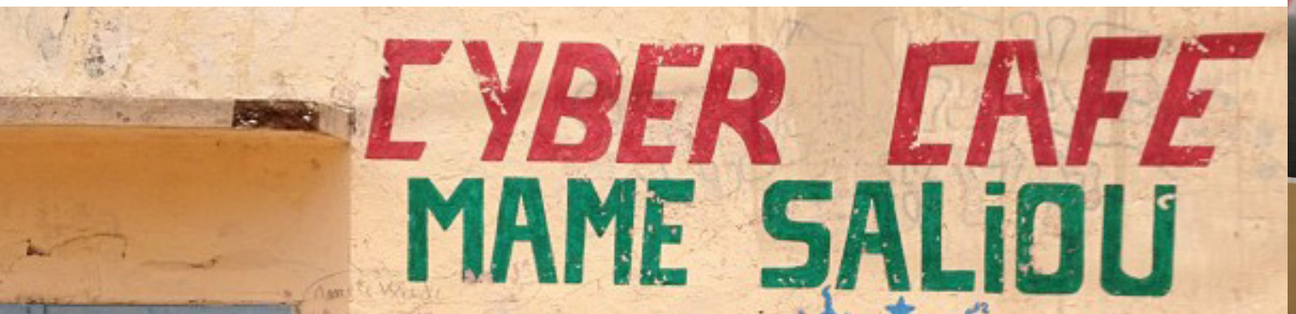
TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLITICS IN AUTHORITARIAN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Tina Freyburg | University of St. Gallen

This project investigated specific political and economic effects of the key properties of telecommunications companies providing access to internet services.

The research team achieved its main objectives: the creation of an original database of ownership structures of telecommunications companies operating on the African continent as well as the production of comprehensive knowledge about the consequences of varying practices in human resources management for development. Constant consultation with relevant practitioners and experts ensured the practical applicability of the project's findings. Some of this team's policy recommendations are as follows:

- Revise the provisions of the Constitution of the International Telecommunication Union as some of them have been used by state governments to justify the violation of human rights law.
- Develop the capacity of local staff to ensure the sustainability of infrastructure, by including them in the process from the start, training them, and instilling a culture of lifelong learning.
- Adopt a holistic view of development that is not limited to technology, by also addressing its social, cultural, political, economic and ecological dimensions;
- Develop new models of collaboration between technology, media, and telecommunication operators to ensure not only access to information but also the development and delivery of relevant local content in local languages to enhance the use of information.
- Address universal access to information, by exploring alternative business models based on elements such as subsidies and collaborative technological platforms to make increased coverage, especially in rural areas, economically viable.
- Ensure respect for human rights and avoid facilitating their infringement by foreign actors applying a level of standards that deviates from the one 'at home.'
- Engage in dialogue on the ethics of foreign direct investment to ensure ethical and efficient business conduct.



Impression from the joint SNIS WTI conference

AWARDS

SNIS AWARD

The SNIS award is granted to the best thesis in International Studies. In 2019, the SNIS Award celebrated its 10th edition and was met with a record number of submissions. The Jury attributed the award ex aequo to Dr Klara Polackova van der Ploeg and Dr Christoph Vogel:

Dr Klara Polackova van der Ploeg, "Collective Non-State Entities in International Law," Graduate Institute under the supervision of Prof. Andrea Bianchi

The thesis examines the adaptations of international law to a globalized environment by exploring the direct regulation of collective non-state entities. From the theoretical perspective of international law's dynamic nature, the thesis challenges the default conceptualization of binding international law as inter-state law, as well as the view of binding international law being principally inapplicable to collective non-state entities.

The Jury's comments:

"Excellent thesis on an emerging topic in global governance; the analysis is very thorough, excellently done and makes an important contribution to both IL and IR literature."

"The approach of studying largely different areas of international law: the law of peace and security, law of the sea, international investment law, international humanitarian law, and international human rights law, is interesting and ambitious. The work is overall extremely well done."

Dr. Christoph Vogel, "Conflict Minerals, Inc. – Transnational Regulation, Fragmented Authority and Violent Resource Networks in Eastern Congo", University of Zurich under the supervision of Prof. Timothy Raeymakers

The thesis critically researches the impact of transnational mineral governance on eastern Congo's tantalum, tin, and tungsten (3T) markets, and analyses how different regulations influence patterns of access, authority, and power. A key question in this context is how such reform processes impinge on (in-)formal mineral markets in conflict areas as well as the everyday negotiation of political, social, and economic relations between the stakeholders. Across key mining sites in the provinces of South and North Kivu, it assesses emerging transnational 3T governance schemes, with a focus on the ITRI Tin Supply Chain Initiative (iTSCi).

The Jury's comments:

"The research question - critical focus on conflict minerals in DRC Congo and transnational regulation - is both original and courageous as a topic, and it is extremely challenging methodologically. The thesis excels in using an ethnographic approach to the original question, which overall translates into a high-quality piece of research."

IG AWARD

The International Geneva Award prizes three scientific articles published in peer-reviewed journals that distinguish themselves as particularly policy-relevant. Each of the three awardees receives a prize worth CHF 5'000.-

Are Foreigners Treated Equally Under TRIPS? / Gaétan de Rassenfosse, Paul H. Jensen, T'Mir Julius, Alfons Palangkaraya

Abstract: The WTO-administered TRIPS Agreement ensures the smooth functioning of the international patent system. It promises, among others, that local and foreign firms are treated in the same, non-discriminatory manner. We test for whether national treatment has been upheld in the five largest patent offices and document the existence of a systematic bias against foreign firms in patent examination decisions. We find that filing international patent applications under the Patent Cooperation Treaty can reduce some of the bias.

Population density and water balance influence the global occurrence of hepatitis E epidemics / Anna Carratalà, Stéphane Joost Scientific Reports 9, 10042 (2019)

Abstract: In developing countries, the waterborne transmission of hepatitis E virus (HEV), caused by HEV genotypes 1 (HEV-1) and 2 (HEV-2), leads to the onset of large recurrent outbreaks. HEV infections are of particular concern among pregnant women, due to very high mortality rates (up to 70%). Unfortunately, a good understanding of the factors that trigger the occurrence of HEV epidemics is currently lacking; therefore, anticipating the onset of an outbreak is not yet possible. To map the geographical regions at higher risk of HEV epidemics and the conditions most favourable for the transmission of the virus, we compiled a dataset of HEV waterborne outbreaks. We used it to obtain models of geographical suitability for HEV policy action.

The rise of democratic legitimation: why international organizations speak the language of democracy / Klaus Dingwerth, Henning Schmidtke, Tobias Weise European Journal of International Relations

Abstract: To justify their authority, international organizations (IOs) have long relied on a functional narrative that highlights active problem-solving based on rational-legal expertise and neutrality. Today, IOs increasingly legitimize their authority in the language of democracy. Yet not all of them do so to the same extent, in the same manner, or consistently over time. In this article, we offer a comprehensive theoretical and empirical account of democratic legitimation in global governance.

IO STIPEND

In 2019 the SNIS renewed its funding opportunity aimed at PhD students focusing their research on International Organizations. It offers the possibility to spend three to six months in Geneva, getting access to institutional archives and providing a base for frequent encounters with IO personnel. Cansu Ozmert was the second recipient of this form of funding. Her research project focuses on the role of digital platforms in the construction of market economies in refugee camps. Cansu greatly benefitted from the proximity to International Organizations as she was able to meet practitioners from UNHCR and ILO in person and build personal links for the continuation of her thesis. Cansu also learned a few 'tricks' about scientific communication during her stay and extended her network by participating in SNIS's events.

EVENTS

**'Pestrop' documentary film screening,
June, Geneva**

The 'Pestrop' documentary, based on the SNIS funded research project 'Environmental Exposures, Health Effects and Institutional Determinants of Pesticide Use in Two Tropical Settings' was shown in Geneva on June 17th, 2019, at the cinema 'Les Scala' in Eaux – Vives. Around 50 members of the public interested in the issue of pesticide overuse in agriculture attended the event. At the end of the screening, the well-known journalist Serge Michel, Editor- in - Chief of Heidi News, moderated the debate between researchers, producers and the public. The film has since entered the international festival circuit..

**ScienceComm 2019,
September, Biel**

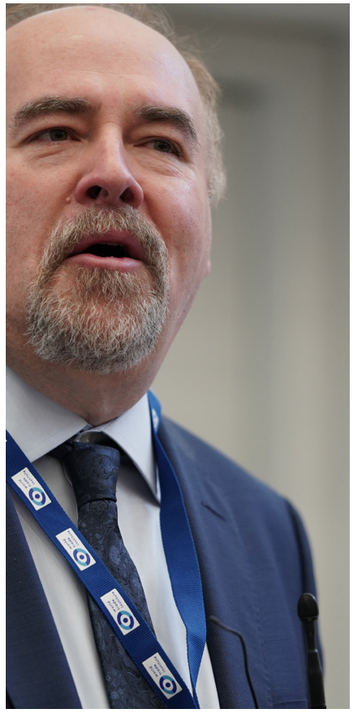
The bi-annual conference 'ScienceComm' organised by Science & Cité brings together science communicators from Switzerland and abroad. The 2019 edition became the birth-moment of the SNIS Mobile Studio; aiming to document some of the key findings of the conference, the SNIS built a production setup that allowed for quick-turnaround video production. Throughout the two short days, 18 experts were interviewed, covering keynote topics as well as special themes. The interviews were live-streamed on the SNIS' Twitter account (@SNISGeneva) and subsequently posted on the SNIS Youtube Channel for further dissemination. Science et Cité has since promoted many of these interviews on their network.

**Joint SNIS WTI conference 'World Trade Forum 2019',
October Bern**

In October, the SNIS and the World Trade Institute in Bern co-organized the World Trade Forum, hosted at the University of Bern. A wide range of law, trade and international relations experts were in attendance. Using the SNIS mobile studio, the team conducted 35 short interviews covering plenary topics and specialised panels alike. This broad coverage helped promote the theme of the conference, namely 'the future of multilateralism in trade and its impacts on the environment' on the SNIS' Twitter and Youtube channels. The SNIS also hosted a special panel addressing issues of communication in research and how to optimise resources for effective dissemination of information.

**SNIS 2019 projects launch workshop,
October, Geneva**

The SNIS Projects 2019 Launch Workshop was the third event to benefit from the Mobile Studio. Participating teams explained their research theme and outlined the methods that will be used. In addition, they told their peers where they hoped to be in two years at the closure of their projects. The interviews were added the relevant project pages on the SNIS webpage. Some teams have already reported increased use of this form of communication, as they can effectively share what they are doing with interested stakeholders and broader audiences.



Impressions from the ScienceComm and the joint SNIS WTI conference

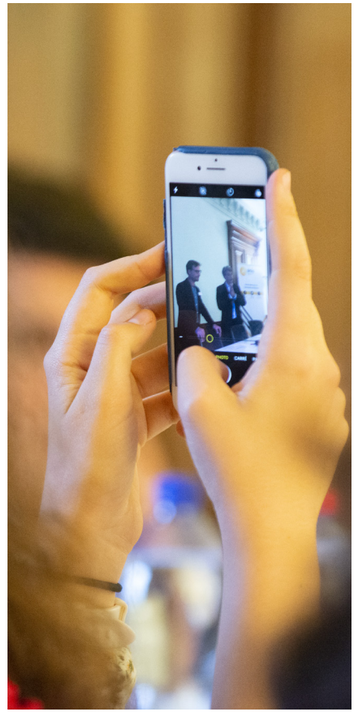
FOCUS
MOBILE STUDIO

Welcome to the SNIS Mobile Studio

As described in the event section, the SNIS Mobile Studio was explicitly developed to shorten the production cycle for multimedia products. We prototyped the setup at the 2019 ScienceComm, where we used it to conduct a total of seventeen interviews in just two days. The 'studio'-character, i.e. the fact that all interviews are streamed live to the internet made post-production a breeze. The formula 'more content in less time' was appreciated at ScienceComm '19 and was therefore used both for our bi-annual conference in Bern and for our internal launch workshop.

Esthetically, the Mobile Studio leverages the new SNIS visual identity. With its eye-catching design, the SNIS Mobile Studio attracts conference participants easily and helps win high-level speakers for quick returns on the treated topics. This high-quality and instantaneous feedback allows the SNIS to increase its presence and prestige on its different social media channels.

Luckily, the professionality of the setup does not come with the price of complexity. The studio is easy to set up and operate. Everyone in the SNIS team now masters the different roles - interviewer, technician, camera(wo)man, and together we can produce many high-quality interviews in a short period. Our social media engagement has significantly increased since the introduction of the mobile studio, and so have our interactions with our public.



Impressions from the SNIS mobile Studio

STRUCTURE

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Bernice Elger
University of Basel

Christophe Muller
University of Aix-Marseille

Silvia Ferazzi
Medicines for Malaria Venture

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Anki Sjoeberg
Fight for Humanity

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Vally Koubi
ETH Zurich and University of Bern

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United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)

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Richard Lukacs
World Economic Forum

Marie McAuliffe
International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Jyoti Sanghera
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

Maria Luisa Silva
UNDP Office Geneva

Charlotte Warakaulle
European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN)

SECRETARIAT

In 2019, the core team managing the day-to-day has stayed the same:

Bernhard Fuhrer, Director (80%)
Damien Marti, Project Manager (80%)
Ruxandra Stoicescu, Communications (50%)

This core team was supported by **Anne Witteveen** who filled the intern position (100%) until June and was then replaced by **Marta Zaragoza Navarro.** In addition, the civil service collaborator, **Guillaume Wegmüller**, joined the team in May.

This motivated, dynamic and highly polyvalent team made the variety of activities possible, and the day-to-day office work an enjoyable experience.

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