



snis
innovative research
easy access



2022 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. It supports research on issues that are pluri-disciplinary, relevant to the international agenda, and for whose solutions international cooperation is required. Investigated topics may involve political, economic, social, environmental, historical, legal, health, and development dimensions of complex societal questions.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

04 EDITORIALS

06 CALL FOR PROJECTS

09 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

10 WOMEN'S REPRESENTATION

12 ACCEPTED PROJECTS

22 PROJECT RESULTS

28 AWARDS

30 EVENTS

33 SCIENCE@PLAY

34 SNIS STRUCTURE



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

BERNHARD FUHRER

SNIS Director

Research projects to overcome wicked problems

We are a small organisation with a great and – somewhat sadly – ever more pressing mission: we finance pluri- and trans-disciplinary academic projects that contribute to overcome some of the wicked problems humanity currently faces. In 2022, we received 60 project submissions, and could support eight more projects. The subjects cover the transnational challenges of public health, biodiversity, clean air, peacebuilding, economic inequalities, migration, and sovereign debt. Beyond the newly launched projects, this report also features five recently concluded projects on the topics of human rights, transnational justice and public health, sustainable agriculture, and affordable housing.

Women in leading roles

This year's account of SNIS efforts additionally takes an important look at women's participation in funded projects. Since we have always felt privileged to have women lead research, we had a hunch that the percentage of women in SNIS projects was higher than in overall Swiss academia. As our account 'women representation in project leading roles' reveals for the period 2014-2022, women's overall participation in SNIS proposals stood at 39% - significantly above the share of female professors in Swiss academia (26%). Likewise, the percentage of women active in accepted projects stood at 39%, an indication that our Scientific Committee did not express any gender bias.

Strengthening science communication activities and partnerships

In close collaboration with the Swiss National Science Foundation and Science et Cité, the SNIS has been active in shaping the ScienceComm'22 in Bern. The event brought together the SNSF's Agora funding scheme (geared at science communication), Science et Cité's annual Science Communication conference and the SNIS's well-established mobile interview studio. Having closely cooperated with the SNSF in 2021 to create the Agora (Forum) Day and looking back on a 5-year cooperation with Science et Cité, the SNIS helped broker and craft this unified event that turned out to be an ideal networking and learning experience for the science communication community in Switzerland. It has also been a natural occasion to interview science communication specialists like Yannick Heiniger. In the same cooperative vein, the SNIS partnered with the University of Geneva-backed Science and Policy Interface to present our respective funding opportunities in Zurich. Beyond these established activities and partnerships, the SNIS could also delve into new realms by developing an app for its Scientific Committee and creating a game for its applicants. Overall we are pleased to be able to implement innovative initiatives and share broadly our experiences in this area.



GUEST EDITORIAL

KERSTIN ULLMANN

SNIS Intern - 2022-2023

MOUSTAPHA BAMANGA ABBAS

SNIS Intern - 2021-2022

ASMITA SCHOETTLI

SNIS Intern - 2020-2021

Imagine this: It's the first day of your SNIS internship. You are excited to get some work experience in your field of studies, perhaps for the first time. And the director of this research funding agency greets you with the question: Have you ever developed a game? Knowing next-to-nothing about coding, and most certainly nothing-at-all about game development, the game is now available for download on the SNIS website, after two months filled with progress and setbacks.

All three of us can testify to living up to new challenges similar to Kerstin's role in developing the SNIS Call for Projects Game, in as much as the SNIS experience mirrors the network's core value: innovation. As interns, we are encouraged to think outside the box and try unconventional methods that often clash with the streamlined approach academia has instilled in us. Nevertheless, this drive to push interns into the ominous deep end, albeit at times perplexing, comes hand-in-hand with a willingness to lend us enough space and independence to try and err. For example, this being the first guest editorial we have ever written, it came with zero instructions whatsoever. Thus unsurprisingly, our first, more sleek draft has been lovingly dubbed as 'having the appeal of a hospital waiting room'.

We found the learning-by-doing approach is complemented by genuine mentoring, which far exceeds the limits of the 10-month internship. Without micromanaging the intern's learning curve, the entire team is quick to point to effective resources and to provide useful feedback. We also appreciate not only the support lent at work, but also the engagement on a personal level. Since the SNIS team is small, one gets to work closely with one another, and you therefore get to know everyone very well. The variety of the team – three permanent members, interns or 'civilistes' and potential stipendees from abroad - gives the office a truly unique ambience. Many precious relationships are thus maintained even past the time spent at the SNIS.

Taking a broader perspective, SNIS' mission to bridge academia and practice is also coded within the internship, as it quite literally sits at the crossroads. While in alignment with the international studies all three of us pursued, our time with the SNIS allowed us to look beyond the sheltered university experience to gain a sense of what opportunities even exist 'out there'. Coupled with comprehensive competence building as well as avenues to network, the internship offered a steppingstone after our degree programmes to pursue different pathways in academia, the not-for-profit or private sector. Moustapha now works with for a Big Four company in sustainability, whereas Asmita has secured a place with Doctors Without Borders. After the 10-months at SNIS, Kerstin will return to university to finish her undergraduate degree at the University of Exeter.



CALL FOR PROJECTS

SUBMITTING INSTITUTIONS

Region	Coordinating institution	Submissions	
		Institution	Region
Basel	University of Basel	4	
	Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute	2	6
Bern	University of Bern	5	
	Bern University of Applied Sciences	1	6
Fribourg	University of Fribourg	3	
	University of Applied Sciences & Arts	-	
	Western Switzerland Fribourg	-	3
Geneva	Geneva Graduate Institute	6	
	University of Geneva	9	
	Geneva Centre of Humanitarian Studies	-	15
Luzern	University of Lucerne	-	
	University of Teacher Education Lucerne, PHL	1	1
Neuchâtel	University of Neuchâtel	1	1
St. Gallen	University of St. Gallen	1	
	University of Applied Sciences St. Gallen	-	1
Ticino	Università della Svizzera Italiana , USI	-	
	SUPSI	1	
	Franklin University Switzerland, Lugano	-	1
Vaud	University of Lausanne	5	
	Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, EPFL	3	8
Valais	University of Applied Sciences and Arts, Valais	-	
	Swiss Distance University of Applied Sciences, FFHS	-	-
Zürich	Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, ETH Zurich	6	
	University of Zurich	2	
	Zurich University of Teacher Education, PHZH	-	
	Zurich University of Applied Sciences, Kalaidos	-	8
Interregional	University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland, FHNW	3	
	University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland, HES-SO	7	
	University of Applied Sciences of Eastern Switzerland, FHO	-	10
Total			60

SUBMISSION DETAILS

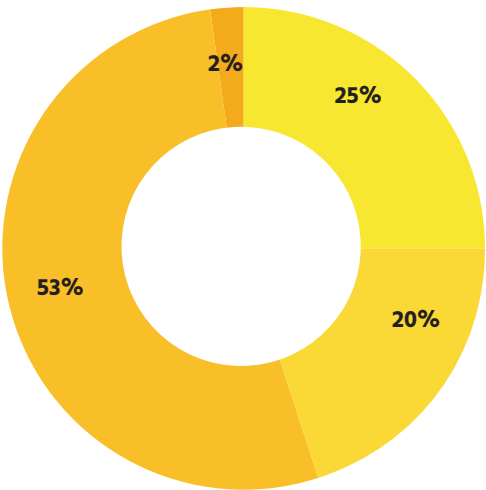
Among the four different funding opportunities offered by the SNIS, the Annual Call for Projects is the core activity absorbing more than 80% of the overall budget. In 2022, the SNIS funded eight additional projects bringing the total count of funded projects since 2008 over the 110 mark. Over 90 projects have been completed and have produced actionable results and policy recommendations.

The Call for Projects remained highly competitive. The 2022 optional theme was: ‘The role of data in achieving the SDGs, in the context of a post pandemic recovery.’ One-third of the submissions aligned with this theme, and the final results were consistent with that proportion.

In the first round, the Call received 60 submissions.

The number of average partnerships per submitted project has increased, as did the **number of average partnerships per funded project**. This bears witness to SNIS’ success in fostering collaboration between academia and International Organisations, and between academia and civil society institutions.

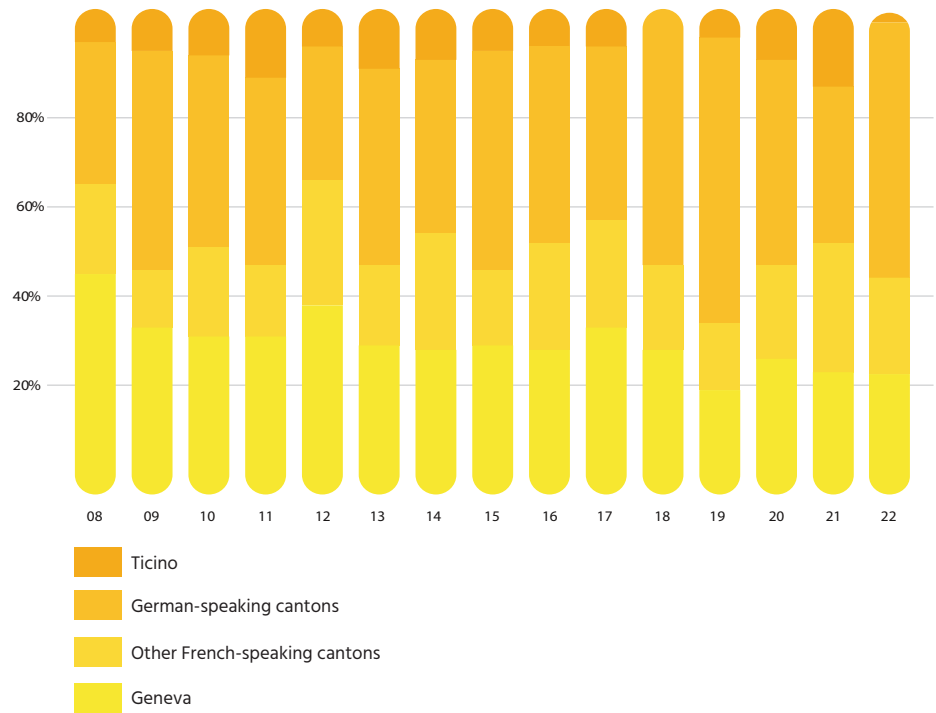
Distribution of received project proposals by linguistic area



- 1 Ticino
- 32 German-speaking cantons
- 12 Other French-speaking cantons
- 15 Geneva



GEOGRAPHICAL EVOLUTION



AVERAGE PARTNERSHIPS/PROJECTS

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
AN of partners per funded project	7,00	6,25	6,75	9,88	8,13	7,38	7,00	7,13	12,25	10,00	11,75	16,75
AN of partners per project	5,80	6,49	5,17	6,11	7,34	7,75	5,45	7,23	8,49	10,07	9,97	10,35
AN of universities involved	3,12	3,61	3,48	3,34	4,03	3,39	3,01	3,75	4,08	5,36	5,14	4,75
AN of Swiss universities involved	1,59	1,74	1,77	1,80	1,92	1,68	1,49	1,85	2,09	2,13	2,38	1,95
AN of foreign universities	1,52	1,87	1,71	1,54	2,10	1,72	1,53	1,89	1,99	3,23	2,87	2,80
AN of non-governmental Organizations	0,76	0,86	1,19	1,43	1,38	1,5	1	1,33	1,51	4,76	1,96	2,27
AN of International Organizations	0,86	0,88	1,05	1,27	1,25	1,63	1,24	1,91	1,68	1,64	2,25	1,72
AN of public / state institutions	0,88	0,91	0,82	1,31	0,38	0,93	0,85	0,86	1,03	0,29	0,87	1,03
AN of private companies involved	0,18	0,23	0,19	0,30	0,26	0,2	0,18	0,39	0,19	0,10	0,26	0,13

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Expenditures in 2022 remained within the framework of the allocated budget.
Cost positions have remained constant, with 84% of the funds going towards research activities.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Income

Swiss Confederation Subsidy	1'268'339.00
Canton of Geneva Subsidy	1'157'842.00
Dissolution of Remainders (Project Funds)	105'306
Total	2'531'487.00

Expenses

Scientific Activities	2'130'345.00
Operational Costs (Administration and Salaries)	428'867.00
Total	2'559'212.00

Net Income	-27'725.00
-------------------	-------------------

EXPENDITURE

Scientific Activities	2'130'344.00	84%
Call for Projects	2'044'182.00	78.16%
Other science-related Activities	29'446.00	2.92%
Scientific Committee	56'716.00	2.04%
Operational Costs	428'868.00	16.88%
Salaries	383'568.00	15.14%
Administration	45'300.00	1.74%
Total	2'559'212.00	100%



WOMEN REPRESENTATION IN SNIS PROJECTS (2014-2022)

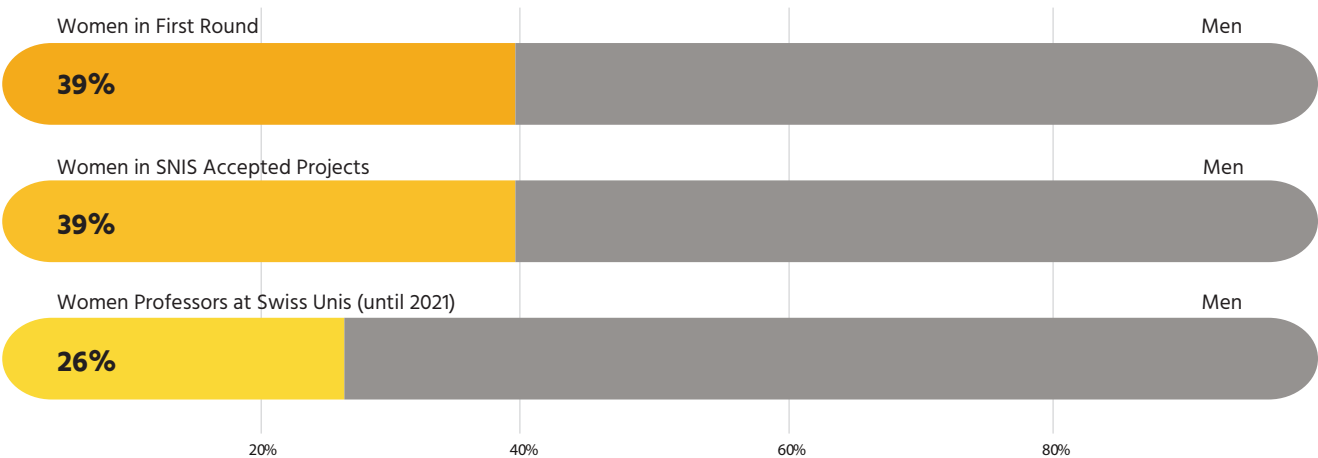
At SNIS, we have always felt proud to have many female scholars in leading project roles. We analysed the numbers, and illustrated them in the charts below.

A first chart illustrates how the SNIS global picture compares favourably with overall female representation in leading academic roles in Switzerland. Swiss Universities report a share of female professors amounting to 26%. In comparison, SNIS projects, whether proposed or accepted, had a share of 39% of women in leading project roles.

As a further encouraging measure for women’s participation, the SNIS Governing Board has decided to amend the text of the Call for Projects to ensure a fair representation of female researchers and diversity of topics..

In addition, we broke down the total number of women’s involvement to the different project roles for the 2014-2022 period.

WOMEN IN SWISS ACADEMIA AND SNIS PROJECTS



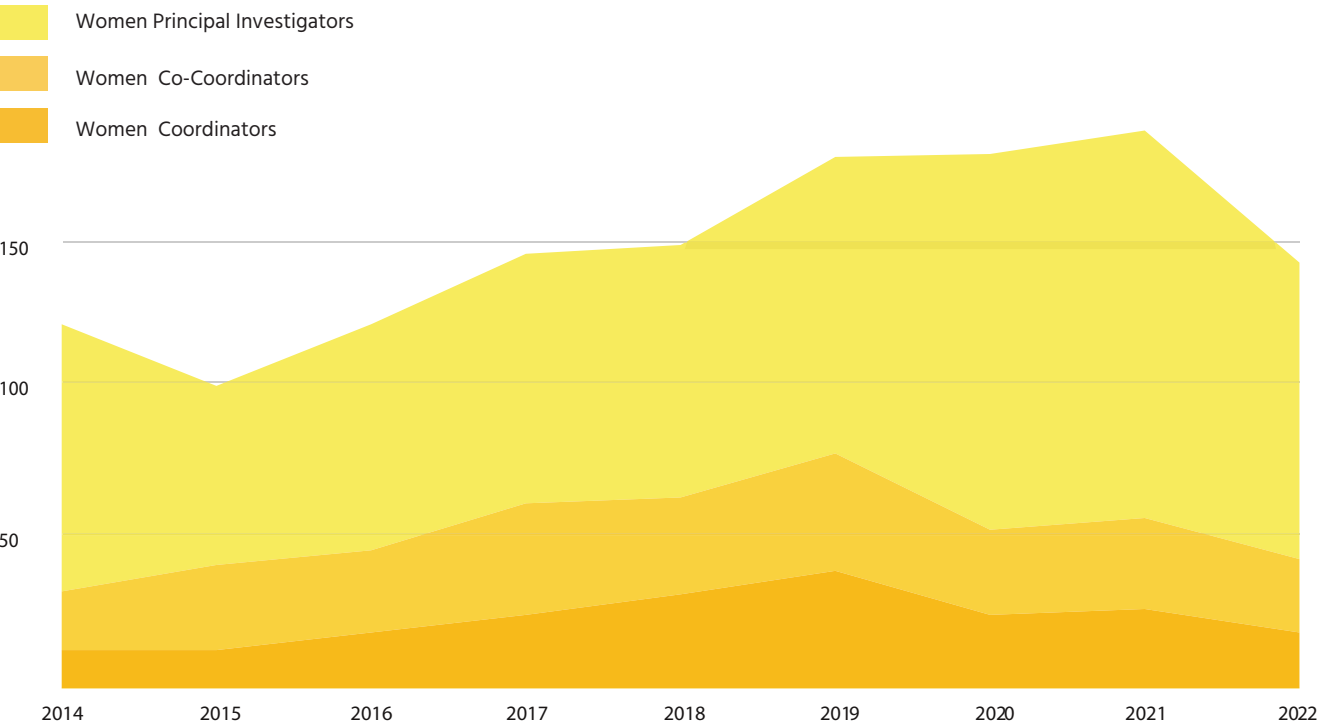
For the first round of the Call for Projects, the numbers of female coordinators, co-coordinators and principal members is illustrated in a stacked graph below.

Considering this overall picture, we can discern an upward trend of women representation in the first round. In absolute numbers, the past nine years, have seen little fluctuation from year to year in terms of women applying as project lead (coordinator and co-coordinator) in the first round. The

situation is similar in the case of accepted projects. In the 2022 edition of the Call, the SNIS Scientific Committee selected eight projects for funding, encompassing three female coordinators, five female co-coordinators and 11 female principal members, which reflects the existing pattern.

Given the evolving nature of this matter, the SNIS is committed to continuously monitor the data on the topic, in order to remain ahead of the curve.

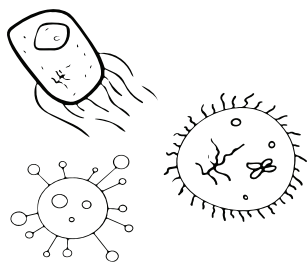
INVOLVEMENT IN LEADING PROJECT ROLES



ACCEPTED PROJECTS



One Health and Citizen Science Approaches for Contextualised Community-Led Interventions Tackling Water-Borne Parasitic Diseases in Chad



Environmental Science, Geography, Public Health,
Social Science

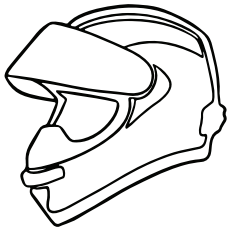
Helena Greter, Salome Dürr
Swiss TPH

Parasitic diseases such as schistosomiasis, which is transmitted via infested waters, continue to pose a significant health and poverty challenge for communities across Africa. The disease persists in areas of low sanitation and low or non-existent separation between fresh and used waters. It flourishes mainly in conditions of subsistence agriculture, where the snails that carry the schistosomiasis larvae abound and move unchecked.

The project adopts the OneHealth approach promoted by the United Nations and will examine the interplay of socio-economic, cultural, and ecological factors that sustain infections and their consequences. It will delve into the intricate transmission mechanism of the schistosomiasis parasite, exploring the role of humans, animals, and of the intermediate host snails.

The project engages local communities and involves farmers in the design of strategies to interrupt parasite transmission cycles and reduce risk factors for humans and animals. Using this participatory approach, the project aims to serve as a model for future interventions.

Sovereign Debt in the Aftermath of the Pandemic



Economics, Law, Political Economy, Statistics

Ugo Panizza, Juan Flores
Geneva Graduate Institute

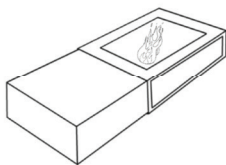
Given the Coronavirus pandemic and the Ukraine-war fuelled inflation, states increasingly use sovereign debt as a means to support the economy and alleviate the burden for its citizens faced with strongly increasing energy prices.

There is a prevailing belief that governments are inclined to default on debt payments, but are restrained by reputatio concerns. However, data shows that poorer and developing nations are more susceptible to the risk of default compared to wealthier ones because they have fewer options for choosing the debt repayment currency.

This project sets out to challenge the assumption of the “ill-willing debtor” by harnessing machine-learning and a vast dataset of financial and legal clauses in sovereign bonds, covering over 60 years and tens of thousands of bonds.

By conducting in-depth analysis of the data and incorporating expertise from fields such as law, political science, and economic history, the research will shed light on the risks associated with sovereign borrowing, with the ultimate goal of minimising them for the borrowers.

Fire Regimes and Ecosystem Services in African Biodiversity Hotspots



Economics, Environmental Science, Geography,
Political Economy

Christian Kull, Gretchen Walters
University of Lausanne

Fires on the African continent account for over 70% of burned lands and contribute to an equivalent of 14% of the global CO₂ emissions. By comparison, the EU accounts for 15% of global emissions (imports and exports included).

In grasslands, savannahs and biodiversity hotspots, fire is an integral part of the social fabric and has been used for centuries for various purposes, including preventing more intense fires and preparing land for agriculture. Consequently, recent government policies that restrict the use of fire clash with the practices of local populations.

This project aims to enhance our understanding of fire management by investigating population dynamics, economic ecosystems, land distribution, and information management. It will use satellite imagery, field sampling, and interviews to gather data. Researchers will collaborate with international actors and practitioners to conduct controlled fire experiments.

The primary goal of the project is to showcase the impact of different fire regimes on carbon dynamics and plant diversity in fire-prone areas within the Madagascar and Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany biodiversity hotspots. The research findings will contribute to the development of well-balanced fire management policies in these regions.

Power-Sharing for Peace? Between Adoptability and Durability in Lebanon, Syria and Iraq



Law, Political Economy, Political Science

Sibel Gürler, Laurent Goetschel
University of Basel

It is notoriously difficult to set up a stable governance environment in post-conflict societies. Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon are good examples highlighting how fragile emerging power-sharing agreements can be. These agreements, aimed at distributing resources and political power, often falter due to a disconnect between elite arrangements and the wider population's needs and expectations.

The study will analyse the sustainability and adoptability of power-sharing agreements in these three countries, exploring the factors that contribute to their formation and the obstacles that prevent long-term peace and stable governance. The research will engage with civil society organisations to gain insight into the expectations surrounding power-sharing and assess its effectiveness in practice.

Drawing on political science, comparative constitutional law, and political economy, the study aims to deepen understanding of power-sharing theory and provide practical recommendations for national, international, and non-state actors.

Designing Environmentally Effective and Politically Feasible Policies for Cleaner Urban Air



Environmental Science, Political Science, Public Health

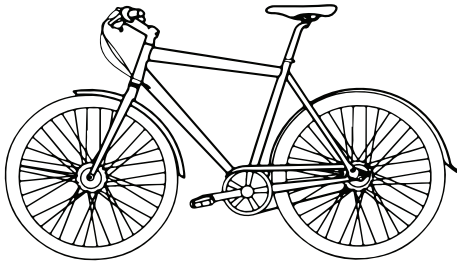
Thomas Bernauer, Keith Smith
ETH Zurich

Vehicles, industry, households, and construction are the biggest sources of air pollution in many developing countries. Policy makers in these contexts often try to transfer solutions that have been proven effective elsewhere. However, such policies may not be politically feasible as competing interests and preferences collide.

This project aims to help policymakers design effective and politically feasible policy packages to address air pollution in six democratic regimes (Ghana, Senegal, India, Indonesia, Peru, San Salvador).

The team will gather information from expert and stakeholder interviews to identify relevant policy instruments and their potential to overcome political dissonance and obstacles. Their effectiveness will be tested through choice experimental designs.

Democracy and Redistribution in the Global South: From Fear to Policy



Political Economy, Political Science

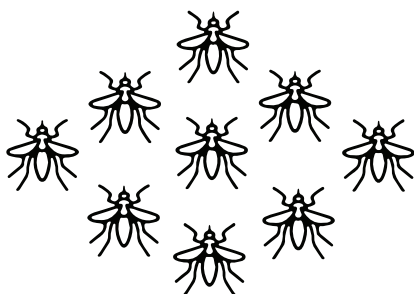
Matias Lopez, Graziela Silva
Geneva Graduate Institute

Social inequality can lead to various forms of conflict, including crime and insurgency. It arises from unequal distribution of resources and opportunities in society. In the Global South, elites have traditionally repressed demands for equal distribution through authoritarian rule.

The project seeks to understand how fear of the consequences of inequality affects the openness of elites to support redistribution and how policy coalitions are formed in the Global South.

The project uses a multi-method approach to create a new global dataset of elites' attitudes across nations and time. This dataset will provide insights into the factors that explain the behaviour of elites in the Global South towards redistributive policies.

Combining Sociological, Economic and Epidemiological Evidence to Target Malaria Interventions



Economics, Public Health, Sociology, Statistics

Manuel Hetzel, Emilie Pothin
Swiss TPH

Malaria remains a significant health burden in many tropical countries. For decades this disease has been managed through interventions focused exclusively on its transmission risk. The deployment of mosquito-nets has been one of the key push-back approaches.

Recent research suggests a more customised approach is needed to potentially eradicate the disease. This project focuses on Papua New Guinea (PNG), a model country due to its complex malaria landscape, which requires the inclusive analysis of the local health infrastructure, the natural environment, the cultural context, levels of urbanisation, and the economic situation of affected populations.

The overall aim of this analysis is to identify ideal-type interventions that take the plethora of disease-relevant factors into account. Crucial sub-national regions and priority areas in PNG will be specifically addressed.

The project's findings seek to inform practitioners and policy-makers in other malaria-endemic countries on how to implement the most effective combination of malaria interventions in a given setting.

Tracing Syrian Refugee Return Dynamics across South/North Divides



Law, Political Science, Sociology

Lisa Marie Borrelli, Stefania Kurt
HES-SO

The wave of refugees spurred by the war in Syria has prompted the European Union and its members to tighten their asylum regimes. Today, some countries, such as Denmark, even deem Syria safe for return.

The project examines the connections between return decisions issued in European countries, and refugee return dynamics in Jordan and Lebanon, two major regional host countries. It thus combines the North–South and South–South migration research strands.

The researchers will use case studies on the use of law – both formal and informal - to regulate migration. Another inquiry will highlight the spatial dynamics of the migratory movements. The project is constructed as a collaborative research effort with NGOs and will draw on interviews with state officials as well as representatives of civil society organisations.

The project aims to produce actionable insights into how refugee protection is weighed against states' political interest in return processes.



**PROJECT
RESULTS**



A QUANTITATIVE TEXTUAL APPROACH OF THE EUROPEAN CONSENSUS METHOD OF INTERPRETATION IN THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Jonathan Slapin | University of Zurich

The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) delivers judgments on fundamental issues of human rights, with impact on citizens' lives in Europe and beyond. The European Consensus (EuC) method is a legal interpretation approach used by the Court in the elaboration of its judgements, that involves comparing the laws and practices of Council of Europe member states, as well as other sources of law like international standards and case law from other courts. It helps the Court interpret human rights law in a way that reflects current conditions and attitudes.

This research project sheds light on the legal reasoning processes involved in developing the European Consensus.

Using a combination of quantitative text-analytic methods, including AI classifiers and hand-coding, the research team analysed a random sample of 236 Grand Chamber judgments and used the resulting dictionary to identify direct and indirect language referring to the European Consensus.

This, in turn, allowed researchers to identify the issues, types of arguments, and logics that are used in delivering decisions and opinions on human rights.

Most notably, researchers found that since the adoption of Protocol 11 of the ECHR, which empowered the European Court of Human Rights to hear individual cases rather than only interstate disputes, the use of EuC has seen a significant increase. Among respondent countries, the United Kingdom has the most cases and judgments involving consensus, followed by Italy, France, and Turkey. The consensus is most commonly associated with Article 8 (right to respect for private and family life), followed by Articles 6 (right to fair trial), 10 (freedom of expression), 14 (prohibition of discrimination), and 2 (right to life).

In terms of using AI for analysing legal texts, it appears machine-learning classifiers can identify consensus language with high specificity, but this method is not one hundred percent accurate as the team found many false positives.



NOMA, THE NEGLECTED DISEASE. AN INTERDISCIPLINARY EXPLORATION OF ITS REALITIES, BURDEN, AND FRAMING

Kabengele Mpinga | University of Geneva

Noma, also known as cancrum oris, is a gangrenous disease that primarily affects children living in extreme poverty, with an untreated mortality rate estimated at up to 90%.

Survivors often experience significant disabilities, social isolation, stigmatisation, and discrimination. This project is unique in its analysis of Noma as a neglected disease but also as a condition that leads to human rights violations and hardships.

The multidimensional nature of the disease could be successfully demonstrated and analysed thanks to a systematic literature review, world maps illustrating Noma's global epidemiological information, statistical analysis of patient files, semi-structured interviews with affected individuals, legal analysis of human rights violations, and Noma's economic and social burden estimation.

The project's findings were used to provide concrete contributions to the dossier recommending the adoption of Noma as a Neglected Tropical Diseases and to show that consistent incorporation of human rights-based approaches in health programming will expand the capacity of interventions to also include and address the social realities of Noma.



CLOSING THE FOOD-WASTE-FARMING CYCLE: COMPOSTING AND URBAN AGRICULTURE IN CAMEROON AND SWITZERLAND

René Véron | University of Lausanne

Effective strategies to mitigate climate change require multiple types of intervention. This study tested a unique approach for mitigating climate change by simultaneously examining evolving food (wasting) practices, municipal (organic) waste management, and urban agriculture. Two locations were compared: Lausanne in Switzerland and Dschang in Cameroon.

The locations have different administrative structures, income levels, and soil qualities; consequently, mixed methods were used to collect data from stakeholders in urban agriculture and waste management. Questionnaire surveys, semi-structured interviews and focus groups were employed. In parallel, natural science methods were applied to analyse soil texture, nutrient content, organic matter, and contaminants.

Overall, the study found that combining these three practices can be a viable approach to mitigating climate change. It also identified location specific obstacles to change, such as government subsidies for fertilisers and pesticides in Dschang and a mismatch between municipal waste management and waste separation at the source in Lausanne.

The study's most significant contributions lie in drawing attention to these challenges and proposing solutions, such as better coordination between municipal and national administrations and empowering local populations in the climate mitigation process.



CORPORATE SYMBOLIC REPARATIONS IN TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE CONTEXTS. CASE STUDIES FROM COLOMBIA, GERMANY AND SOUTH AFRICA

Florian Wettstein | University of St. Gallen

Transitional justice processes are crucial in post-conflict societies, as they help restore political and social peace by addressing the need for reparations towards victims. This project focused on corporate symbolic reparations in Germany, Colombia, and South Africa as a tool for transitional justice. It aimed to understand why and how corporations and victims engage in such practices and what the impacts of such practices were.

The research team conducted literature reviews, analysed publicly available documents, interviewed experts, undertook archival work, and examined media reports to map the connection between corporate accountability and engagement in transitional justice.

Before this research, a majority of studies focused on material reparations, largely ignoring the role of corporations in post-conflict contexts was not addressed properly. By shifting the analytical focus, this inquiry sheds light on the importance of reputation upkeep as a reason for initiating corporate symbolic redress and the different stages that corporate symbolic reparations undergo.

The study's recommendations were shared with the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights and were included in the report to the UN Human Rights Council.

The recommendations emphasised the importance of gender justice and inclusion, the responsibility of companies to engage in a full range of reparative initiatives, the need to address an exhaustive array of corporate responsibilities for human rights abuses, and the importance of acknowledging corporate harms.



TACKLING THE GLOBAL HOUSING CHALLENGES: SWITZERLAND AND URUGUAY

Jennifer Duyne Barenstein | ETH Zurich

Housing is a basic human need, yet many people worldwide struggle to find affordable and adequate lodging. One potential solution is the revival of housing cooperatives, which can provide low-cost housing while promoting social cohesion and limiting speculation.

To explore this trend, this project analysed successful examples of cooperative housing in Switzerland and Uruguay, as well as examples from El Salvador and Colombia. It deepened the general understanding of how cooperative housing works in relation to local politics, cultures, and housing requirements. The aim was to develop a set of urban planning and architectural principles and recommendations adaptable to various contexts.

The research methods combined historical and institutional analyses of housing cooperatives. It examines the influence of colonialism and modernisation in the Global South, and the emergence of cooperation and mutual aid practices in various

socio-historical contexts, including indigenous practices. The research team used interviews with stakeholders and analysis of contextual factors, as well as existing dissemination strategies. It also evaluated the replicability of housing cooperative models in different settings.

The project's results go beyond the initial aim of codifying the potential 'exportability' of cooperative housing models. By incorporating political and historical analysis, the research elucidated the dual role that housing cooperatives can fulfil as tools but also as catalysts for change in urban planning and local governance. The acknowledgement of the political dimension opens the space for the project's transformative message: to succeed, new housing cooperatives must not only address the lack of adequate housing, but also embrace principles that prioritise housing as a human right, rather than as a commodity.



AWARDS

IG AWARD 2022

The International Geneva Award honors three scientific articles that distinguish themselves as particularly policy-relevant. Each of the three articles receives a prize of CHF 5'000.-.

In 2022 the winning articles were:

Conflict versus Disaster-Induced Displacement: Similar or Distinct Implications for Security? - Heidrun Bohnet, Fabien Cottier, Simon Hug

Drawing on spatial data on flood-induced disasters and forced migration, this study stands out by examining internal displacement across multiple African countries, contrasting with previous single-country studies. It finds that migration triggered by natural disasters does not escalate social conflicts in host countries, unlike conflict-induced migration.

The analysis reveals that migrants fleeing natural disasters often endure severe hardships due to limited resources, highlighting the importance of facilitating their safe return to their homelands. For these individuals, the restoration of stability in familiar surroundings takes precedence.

Does Aid for Malaria Increase with Exposure to Malaria Risk? Evidence from Mining Sites in the D.R.Congo - Samuel Lordemus

This article focuses on the case of Democratic Republic of Congo, where mining activities have created pockets of high malaria transmission risk, surrounded by areas of relatively low

exposure to malaria.

Using financial and epidemiological data from local health facilities as indicators of the existence and distribution of aid, the analysis explores how well the areas of high malaria exposure are serviced by aid donors. Detailed data on mines and health infrastructure also helped determine that areas with increased exposure to malaria did not receive proportionately more aid, thereby prompting the recommendation to reform aid allocation processes, so as to reflect the needs in the field.

This highlights the need for better coordination and allocation of aid to ensure that it reaches those most at risk of contracting malaria.

Power/Resistance: External Actors, Local Agency, and the Burundian Peacebuilding Project- Elise Féron, Keith Krause

Peacebuilding policies and practices are attempts by external actors to exercise power in post-conflict settings. Focusing on the Burundian case, this article theorises the different dimensions of power/resistance encountered in peacebuilding processes. It deploys a tripartite conception to analyse how different forms of power and resistance act in peacebuilding practices. The article shows that local actors engage in long-term efforts to overtly and covertly bend and fuse peacebuilding practices to their ends, such as contesting free election results, ignoring gender mainstreaming recommendations and reproducing old and imbalanced power structures.

SNIS AWARD 2022

The SNIS award is granted every year to one or several PhD theses in international studies. In 2022 the winners were:

Lena Holzer with her thesis

The Binary Gendering of Individuals in International Law: A Plurality of Assembled Norms and Productive Powers of the Legal Registration of Gender

This thesis investigates how legal texts entrench binary gender notions and what could be done to dismantle them.

International law and organisations play a significant role in normalising the binary, men/women legal gender system. This has in turn facilitated entire systems of law based on the idea that gender identity matches the sex individuals are assigned at birth.

In recent years, there has been a trend of treating gender (identity) as a private property that individuals own and can capitalise. This approach is based on a liberal rights logic, which ignores the fact that legal gender categories only hold value because of their relationship to social and legal norms.

The author argues that legal gender should be 'de-propertised' to reduce its importance in the accumulation of economic, symbolic, and political capital. The author uses assemblage thinking as a method to understand how legal gender categories gain value through their entanglement with norms from different normative orders, as well as their interrelationship with other social categories such as race and class. This approach serves as a queer-feminist method in international studies, reflecting feminist concerns about difference and universalism, as well as the idea of law as a system of relations.

Christelle Molima with her thesis (original title in French)

La Question de la Responsabilité Pénale des Enfants Soldats dans le Contexte de leur Réinsertion Socio-Communautaire

This research explores the tensions that arise between the child's right to return to their family and the victims' right to justice during the implementation of the child soldier demobilisation process in the case of the Democratic Republic of Congo. It investigates how concerned actors deal with these tensions and whether they take into account the situation of victims of child criminal acts. Additionally, the study examines whether there are opportunities for recognising the fluidity of the child soldier status, as they are often both perpetrators and victims of violence by armed groups.

This thesis suggests that there is no one size fits all way of dealing with this thorny question. The prevalent approach of upholding that child-soldiers are essentially victims in virtue of them being minor must be adapted to the realities and community practices of the specific contexts confronted with this matter. Successful reintegration can only happen if community members' concerns are taken into account and strategies are put in place to address both sides of this painful situation.

EVENTS

Meet the Funders in Zurich, September 2022

In September 2022, the SNIS and the Geneva Science-Policy Interface joined forces and presented their funding opportunities at the University of Zurich. With the help of the University of Zurich's Research Office, interested researchers had the opportunity to be walked through the process and formalities of the SNIS Call for Projects.

The event aimed to inform researchers about SNIS' mission and attract project proposals beyond the International Geneva bubble.

The SNIS team presented the unique features of the SNIS main funding instrument, the Call for Projects: multi-disciplinarity and partnership with International and civil society organisations. It detailed the two-step submission procedure and brought forward projects that illustrated both the required academic rigour and policy relevance.

Participants found out more about how to design a successful SNIS project in terms of research team building and research question formulation.

This exercise boosted SNIS visibility and stressed the importance of policy-relevant interdisciplinary research.

Following the event, the SNIS and GSPI teams answered specific questions during an informal lunch session.

SNIS 2022 Project Launch Workshop, Bern

On October 11, 2022, the SNIS held its annual Project Launch Workshop at the World Trade Institute in Bern. Eight teams presented and discussed their research plans.

The emerging trend, running through all the chosen proposals, is the development and consolidation of community-powered research, bringing together scientists and the main stakeholders in the issues.

To showcase the projects, the SNIS team produced short video clips in which scholars were asked to anchor the project description in an every day object. The result was a set of lively and accessible interviews, which can be viewed on the SNIS homepage and its social media channels.

ScienceComm'22 – 'Tensions between science and democracy'

In 2022, the ScienceComm conference took place in Bern's vibrant museum quarter, in the Natural History Museum. As a smaller event edition, it featured keynote speeches on the relationship between Science and Democracy and technical workshops on health data visualisation.

Within the event framework, and together with the SNF Agora funding scheme, the SNIS offered a hands-on training session in science communication techniques, including two work sessions in which teams of researchers tested new formats and provided feedback on their experiences. SNIS and Agora team members answered respective questions about their funding instruments.

The SNIS team filmed further interviews with some of the conference's key speakers aiming to document the different stages of science communication projects.

Speakers included Jan Freihardt of Wissenschaft Zukünfte, who illustrated his own design process for a science communication operation; Yannick Heiniger of Swissnex San Francisco who emphasised the importance of not being discouraged by failure and of "getting back in the saddle" in the process of refining proposals; and Nathaly Tschanz of the University of Lucerne who talked about the 'wow effect' of virtual media and innovative communication techniques.

The interviews provided roadmaps and techniques for successful science communication projects, including a look at impacts, audience definition and messaging strategies.

The videos are available on the SNIS Media Page and the Agora Forum website.





SCIENCE@PLAY

THE SNIS PROPOSAL GAME

If you have followed the SNIS over the last fifteen years, you know we are always quick to adopt new technologies to improve the communication of our projects. We started making short videos back in 2009, and branched out to create feature-length science documentaries a few years later. Podcasts followed; and even theater performances were used by some select projects. In any case, we were usually a bit quicker to take up new trends than the 'bigger players'. The lab like character of the SNIS allows for experiments for as long as the SNIS staff act as developers, ensuring the development process incurs no extra costs.

Following the template of 'SNIS staff oversees development of new technology', we wanted to address a simple issue. We often received the same questions asked for our Call, even though the Call is very detailed and there is a FAQ section on the website. We thought that maybe by gamifying these questions, we would have a better chance of getting the message across. To implement the game, we chose the Unity development platform, because it allows for the development of sophisticated

games without incurring licensing costs. Being a newcomer to Unity, Kerstin set out to creating the SNIS proposal game. Along the way, she found out how difficult it (still) is to create such a prototype game. She also discovered that the community of developers is quick to help, and that one can even employ highly specialised experts in all corners of the world. More importantly, Kerstin also managed to fathom the possible uses of this new type of tool for science communication.

In 2023, we will continue with game development as a communication strategy – with one PI who is very interested in exploring this possibility. You can expect more releases by the SNIS game studio.



STRUCTURE

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Susan Parnell

University of Bristol

Ellen Hertz

University of Neuchâtel

Corinne Pernet

University of Basel

Jan Klabbers

Academy of Finland

Jonas Tallberg

Stockholm University

Kenneth Harttgen

ETH Zurich

Peter Egger

ETH Zurich

Anders Vikat

UN Economic Commission for Europe

Andrea Sylvia Winkler

University of Oslo

GOVERNING COMMITTEE

Marie-Laure Salles Djelic

Geneva Graduate Institute

Manfred Elsig

University of Bern

Jürg Utzinger

Swiss Tropical and Public
Health Institute

Paul Ladd

UNRISD Director

Dominik Hangartner/Isabel Günther

ETH Zurich

James W. Davis

University of St. Gallen

Stéphane Berthet

University of Geneva

SNIS AWARD COMMITTEE

Mira Burri

University of Lucerne

Anki Sjoeborg

Fight for Humanity

Daniel Meier

Associated researcher
Sciences Po Grenoble

Siegfried Weichlein

University of Fribourg

Vally Koubi

ETH Zurich & University of Bern

IGC AWARD COMMITTEE

Antonia Mihaylova

International Union for the
Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Marcelo Di Pietro Peralta

World Intellectual Property
Organisation (WIPO)

Adam Day

United Nations University
Geneva Office

Francesco Pisano

UN Library – United Nations Office
in Geneva (UNOG)

Bernard Kuiten

World Trade Organisation (WTO)

Richard Lukacs

World Economic Forum (WEF)

Ana Luiza Thompson Flores

UNESCO liaison office Geneva

Marie McAuliffe

International Organization
for Migration (IOM)

Samir Yeddes

Permanent Mission of
Switzerland to the UN

Catherine Saget

International Labour Organization Research
Department (ILO)

Agi Veres

UNDP Geneva Head

Charlotte Warakaulle

European Organisation for
Nuclear Research (CERN)

Catalin Marinescu

Strategy & Planning division, International
Telecommunications Union (ITU)

SECRETARIAT

In 2022, the core team running the Secretariat stayed the same:

Bernhard Fuhrer, Director (80%)

Damien Marti, Project Manager (80%)

Ruxandra Stoicescu, Communication (80%)

This core team was supported by Moustapha Bamanga Abbas, who filled the intern position starting in September 2021.



Funding
policy-relevant
research



Promoting
international studies
in Switzerland



Connecting
Switzerland's academics
to International Geneva



SWISS NETWORK FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Phone : +41 22 525 05 47

Adresse : Rue Rothschild 20, 1202 Genève

Website : snis.ch