



snis
innovative research
easy access



Swiss Network for
International Studies



Funding
policy-relevant
research



Promoting
international
studies in Switzerland



Connecting
Switzerland's academia to
international science

FNF

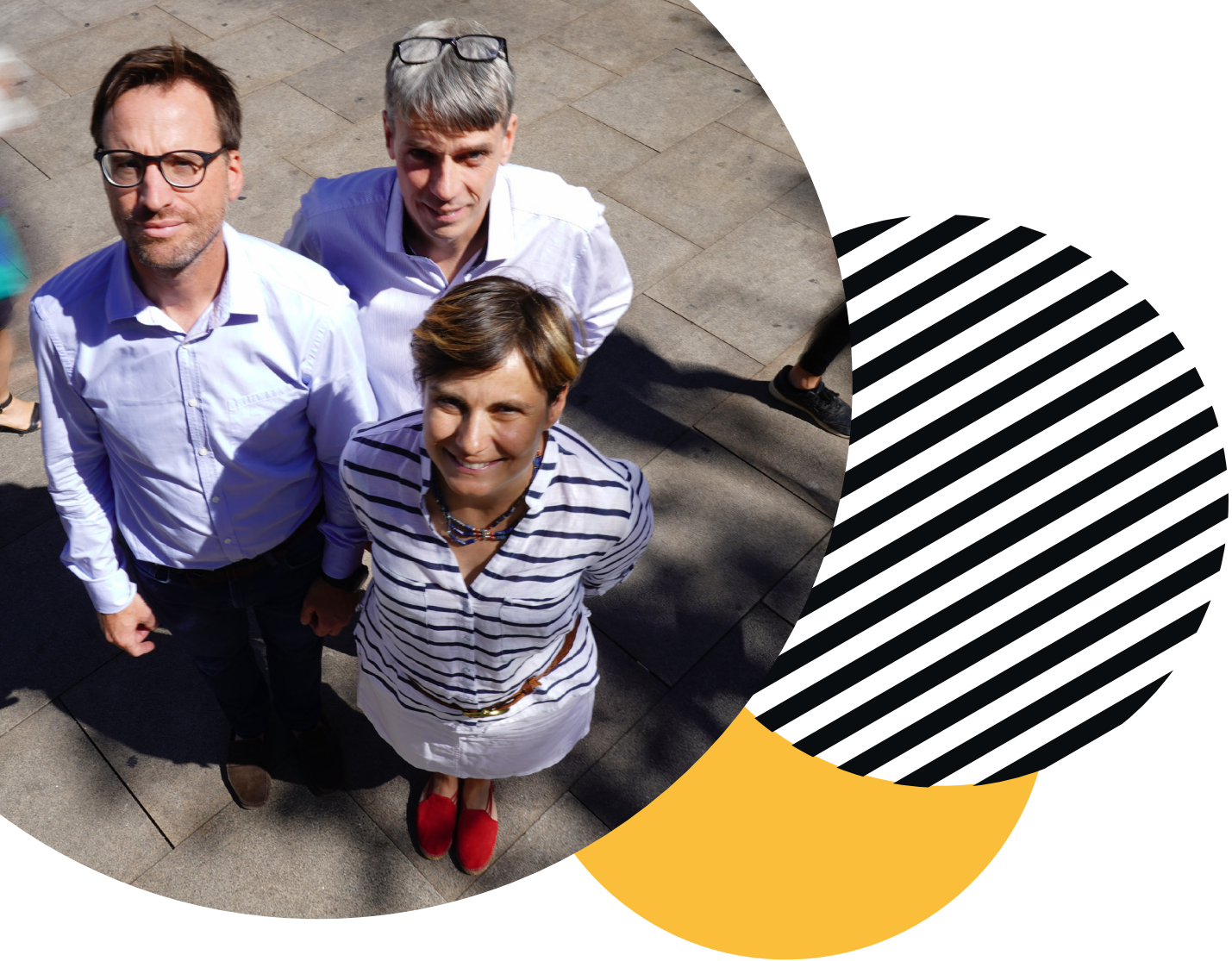
FONDS NATIONAL SUISSE
SCHWEIZERISCHER NATIONALFONDS
FONDS NATIONALES SUISSES
SWISS NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Schweizerischer
Nationalfonds
Fonds national suisse
Fondos Nacionales
Foundation

Forschung schafft Wissen.
La recherche génère le savoir.
Research creates knowledge.

Academia's Third Mission

2021
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, and development dimensions of complex societal questions.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

04 EDITORIALS

06 CALL FOR PROJECTS

09 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

10 ACCEPTED PROJECTS

14 PROJECT RESULTS

24 AWARDS

26 EVENTS

30 STRUCTURE



MESSAGE OF THE DIRECTOR

BERNHARD FUHRER

SNIS Director

The validation of science communication during the pandemic

For the second year in a row, the pandemic has NOT had a negative impact on the SNIS operations. The funding scheme with the annual call for projects, the different prizes and the IO research stipend remained in high demand (see funded projects p 10). Some projects were slightly delayed but still an impressive number of 'Covid-era' projects came to a successful conclusion (see section project results p.14). Additionally, despite sometimes challenging framework conditions for fieldwork, eight additional projects on such crucial questions as the lithium negotiations between producer and manufacturing countries, began their research operations. Science, in short, was not halted by Covid. Rather, the pandemic has made it clear that effective policy measures need a scientific base as well as effective communication thereof. At the same time, the pandemic has also shown that science communication cannot be a one-way street and must evolve into a true science-society dialogue.

From science communication to science-society dialogue

While the shift from 'normal' science communication toward true science-society dialogue is relatively new in the wider academic landscape, SNIS projects have embarked on this transition relatively early as their research design often involves transdisciplinary work bringing together civil society as well as private actors (c.f. Plastics project p. 20). In 2021, the SNIS secretariat has also debuted a tailor-made science-

communication training for all new PIs, further 'nudging' our academics to actively seek dialogue with society DURING their investigation (see p. 26). These efforts have also resulted in two high-profile collaborations with fellow actors in the field, namely Science et Cité and the Swiss National Science Foundation.

Collaboration with Science et Cité and the Swiss National Science Foundation

In the fall of 2021, two important science-society dialogue events took place almost back to back in Fribourg and the SNIS was involved in both of them (see page 26). In her guest Sylvia Jeney, from the Swiss National Science Foundation, calls on all science communication actors to build on the current momentum to federate and further enhance dialogue efforts (see p. 26-28). In this vein, the traditional involvement of the SNIS with the team of Science et Cité for the annual ScienceComm event was further increased, since the board of the SNIS agreed to sponsor the conference. As a result, SNIS-produced video summaries & interviews of both events are now available to the public on dedicated multimedia pages of our main website. These materials will contribute to the overall effort of making science more transparent to the public and further incentivize academics to dialogue with society. At SNIS we believe that this large dialogue is a key ingredient in solving many of the complex problems we face today and we do our utmost to fund projects that do this. We are thrilled to pursue partnerships with the major players in Swiss science communication and we are confident that our upcoming 'SNIS Geneva & online studio' will further establish the SNIS as an innovative actor in this continually evolving field.



GUEST EDITORIAL

SYLVIA JENEY

Swiss National Science Foundation

The current pandemic has highlighted the importance of having reliable access to firsthand, scientifically sound information. A practical and timely communication of scientific discoveries is crucial. It empowers politics, society, and individuals to make informed and sustainable decisions for their present and future well-being. In addition, such a process is the key to turning discoveries into innovation, as innovation is not possible if society doesn't recognize and adopt it.

In September 2021, we celebrated the 10th anniversary of Agora, a Swiss National Science Foundation instrument dedicated to science communication. We organized an event matching Agora's mission: encouraging scientists to step out of their ivory tower and engage in a dialogue with a broad lay public. Over the last ten years, Agora has financed more than 200 projects that share the push for two-way communication between scientists and society.

For the organization of the AgoraForum'21, we could rely on our lively partnership with the SNIS. Together, we set up a unique training program dedicated to scientists willing to enhance their communication skills. While the SNSF identified interested scientists, the SNIS mobilized a network of experts in very diverse communication fields. The secretariat's creativity in organizing the event and the subsequent cost-effective multimedia production during the day made the encounter between scientists and communicators a real success. Indeed, the videos documenting the event now serve as instructional materials for other interested scientists, as they are freely available on the AgoraForum'21 website.

As we write these lines, several new Agora projects emerge from this event. In the face of challenges, such as fake news or COVID 19, all actors in scientific communication have recognized the need to intensify their collaboration. Overall, this SNSF – SNIS momentum should be turned into long-term endeavors to serve society with accurate, understandable and coherent information.



CALL FOR PROJECTS

SUBMITTING INSTITUTIONS

Region	Coordinating institution	Submissions	
		Institution	Region
Basel	University of Basel	9	
	Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute	-	9
Bern	University of Bern	3	
	Bern University of Applied Sciences	1	4
Fribourg	University of Fribourg	3	
	University of Applied Sciences & Arts	-	
	Western Switzerland Fribourg	-	3
Geneva	Geneva Graduate Institute	10	
	University of Geneva	4	
	Geneva Centre of Humanitarian Studies	-	14
Luzern	University of Lucerne	-	
	Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts, HSLU	1	1
Neuchâtel	University of Neuchâtel	2	2
St. Gallen	University of St. Gallen	1	
	University of Applied Sciences St. Gallen	-	1
Ticino	Università della Svizzera Italiana , USI	4	
	SUPSI	2	
	Franklin University Switzerland, Lugano	2	8
Vaud	University of Lausanne	8	
	Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, EPFL	1	9
Valais	University of Applied Sciences and Arts, Valais	-	
	Swiss Distance University of Applied Sciences, FFHS	-	-
Zürich	Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, ETH	4	
	University of Zurich	4	
	Zurich University of Applied Sciences, ZHAW / ZFH	3	
	Zurich University of Applied Sciences, Kalaidos	-	11
Interregional	University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland, FHNW	2	
	University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland HES-SO	4	
	Fachhochschule Ost-Schweiz, FHO	1	7
Total			69

SUBMISSION DETAILS

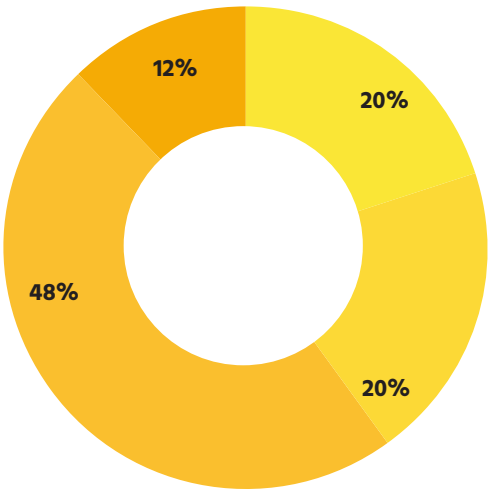
Among the four different funding opportunities offered by the SNIS, the Annual Call for Projects is the core activity absorbing more than 80% of the overall budget. In 2021, the SNIS funded eight additional projects bringing the total count of funded projects since 2008 well over the 100 mark. Over 85 projects have been completed and have produced actionable results and policy recommendations.

The Call for Projects remained highly competitive. The 2021 theme was: Covid - 19: What lessons for multilateralism? (Particularly in view of climate change action)

In the first round, the Call received 69 submissions. Compared to the previous year, the diversity of the Call's geographical breakdown has increased. We were delighted to welcome submissions from higher education institutions in the canton of Ticino, with a first-time application (and subsequent success) from Franklin University in Switzerland.

The number of average partnerships per submitted project continued its ascending path. This increase bears witness to SNIS' success in fostering collaboration between academia and International Organizations and between academia and civil society institutions.

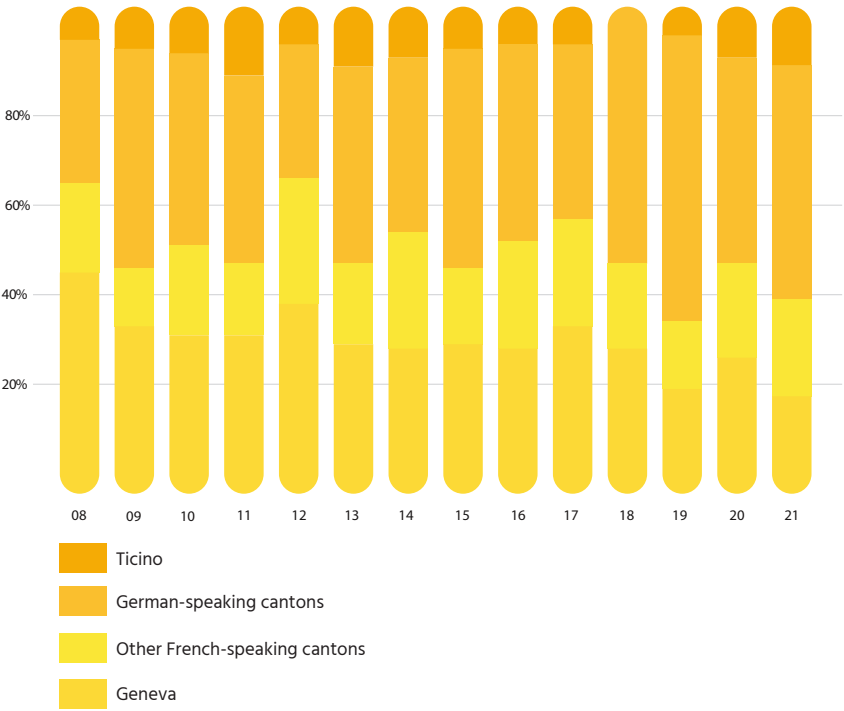
Distribution of received project proposals by linguistic area



- 8 Ticino
- 33 German-speaking cantons
- 14 Other French-speaking cantons
- 14 Geneva



GEOGRAPHICAL EVOLUTION



AVERAGE PARTNERSHIPS

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
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	10,00	11,75
AN of partners per project	3,95	5,80	6,49	5,17	6,11	7,34	7,75	5,45	7,23	8,49	10,07	9,97
AN of universities involved	3,14	3,12	3,61	3,48	3,34	4,03	3,39	3,01	3,75	4,08	5,36	5,14
AN of Swiss universities involved	1,88	1,59	1,74	1,77	1,80	1,92	1,68	1,49	1,85	2,09	2,13	2,38
AN of foreign universities	1,26	1,52	1,87	1,71	1,54	2,10	1,72	1,53	1,89	1,99	3,23	2,87
AN of non-governmental Organizations	0,29	0,76	0,86	1,19	1,43	1,38	1,5	1	1,33	1,51	4,76	1,96
AN of International Organizations	0,31	0,86	0,88	1,05	1,27	1,25	1,63	1,24	1,91	1,68	1,64	2,25
AN of public / state institutions	0,14	0,88	0,91	0,82	1,31	0,38	0,93	0,85	0,86	1,03	0,29	0,87
AN of private companies involved	0,07	0,18	0,23	0,19	0,30	0,26	0,2	0,18	0,39	0,19	0,10	0,26

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

In 2021 the SNIS has kept in financial good health, within the framework of its allocated budget. The expenditure allotments have remained constant, with over 83% of the funds going towards research activities.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Income

Swiss Confederation Subsidy	1'268'339.00
Canton of Geneva Subsidy	1'157'843.00
Dissolution of Remainders (Project Funds)	213'605.00
Total	2'639'787.00

Expenses

Scientific Activities	2'169'719.00
Operational Costs (Administration and Salaries)	440'604.00
Total	2'610'323.00

Net Income	29'464.00
-------------------	------------------

EXPENDITURE

Scientific Activities	2'169'719.00	83.12%
Call for Projects	2'040'000.00	78.16%
Other science-related Activities	76'219.00	2.92%
Scientific Committee	53'500.00	2.04%
Operational Costs	440'604.00	16.88%
Salaries	395'232.00	15.14%
Administration	45'372.00	1.74%
Total	2'610'323.00	100%



ACCEPTED PROJECTS

Green Dealings – Negotiating Lithium between South America and Europe for Batteries that Fuel a Just Energy Transition

Economics, Human Geography, Political Economy

Marc Hufty
Geneva Graduate Institute

Lithium batteries are at the core of the energy storage revolution in general, and electric vehicles in particular. As part of this response, major industrial countries are implementing industrial policies promoting domestic battery production.

The project's first goal is to study negotiations between various European and South American actors along the lithium battery chain. It will assess how they are shaped by «green» norms and standards («Green Dealings»). It will also study how norms and standards undergo influence from these different actors.

Second, it will facilitate conversation and exchange between actors the in stakeholder engagement activities and seek to understand how relations between Europe and South America could lead to a just energy transition.

The Political Economy of Meat System Transformation

Economics, Political Economy, Political Science

Lukas Fesenfeld
University of Bern

This project's main aim is to investigate the socio-technical conditions, policy narratives, and feedback dynamics that shape the current meat production and consumption regime in the world's top three meat suppliers and consumers – China, the EU, and the US.

This project builds on transdisciplinary cooperation between various scientific disciplines and decision-makers from international and non-governmental organizations. The study aims at a high policy impact by continuously integrating insights from policymakers and stakeholders during interactive workshops, regularly publishing policy briefs, and organizing a public conference on meat system transformation.

What Explains Ambitious Climate Policy? Comparing Updated Climate Targets and Covid-19 Recovery Packages and Their Drivers

Economics, Political Economy,
Political Science, Statistics

Tobias S Schmidt
ETH Zurich

The early 2020s represent a crucial moment for climate change mitigation. National climate targets, or Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), are updated for the first time. Simultaneously, countries introduce vast COVID-19 economic recovery packages that might entrench or disrupt the current carbon-intensive economic system.

This project helps with understanding the climate ambition of both NDC updates and COVID-19 recovery packages and their coherence. Second, it uncovers the political and economic drivers underlying differences in climate ambition across countries.

Unblocking the Flow of Biodiversity Data for Multi-Stakeholder Environmental Sustainability Management

Economics, Environmental Science, Political Economy

Luca Fumagalli
University of Lausanne

Biodiversity loss is one of the foremost challenges of our age. To tackle it, we need to have accurate and comprehensive information available worldwide to a variety of relevant actors.. Currently, this is not the case.

Solutions proposed to unblock the flow of biodiversity information include the development of guidelines and tools for collecting, analyzing and interpreting data, and building capacity for their use. However, for such solutions to be developed, it is important to understand better the blockages preventing people from accessing the information they need.

This project will enhance and complement global efforts by international organizations like IUCN and GEOBON to share and publicize data sources and make existing tools and data freely available.

Citizen Action for Sustainable Dengue Control in Sub-Saharan Africa

Public health, Urban studies

Pie Müller
Swiss TPH, Basel

The project aims to mobilize and engage local residents in the sustainable control of Aedes mosquitoes by removal of potential larval breeding sites and trapping egg-laying females.

In consultation with local residents, the researchers will design a community-based intervention to reduce Aedes breeding sites. To test whether the intervention in this African context reduces mosquito densities, the process involves implementing a cluster randomized trial over the course of one year.

The key outcomes of this project are clear policy recommendations for the control of Aedes-borne arboviruses with community mobilization in urban sub-Saharan Africa.

Pandemics as Driver towards Modern Borders and International Collaboration in 19th Century Mediterranean and Southeastern European Periphery

History, Political Science, Public Health

Markus Pyka
Franklin University Switzerland, Locarno

This project explores the interconnection between epidemiological containment measures and the development of the modern state and the international state systems, as exemplified in the development of borders in South-Eastern Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean from the eighteenth to the early twentieth century.

The project will show how, after the last major plague epidemics, measures to contain infectious diseases were essential factors in the development of the idea of modern borders, the emergence of the modern state and even the international system.

Deliberative Quality in Trade-Related International Organizations

Political Economy, Political Science, Psychology

Jean-Patrick Villeneuve
Università della Svizzera Italiana

This project aims to develop the concept of Deliberative Quality, focusing on its application in trade-related International Organizations (IOs), analyzing decision-making processes and stakeholder engagement strategies of the World Trade Organization (WTO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and the International Trade Centre (ITC).

The concept of Deliberative Quality (DQ) is based on the idea that decision-making is not a simple aggregation of pre-existing preferences, nor an arena where the most powerful wins, but rather a process where different actors interact and justify their positions to find common ground for agreement.

Missed Opportunities in Responding to Violence against Women and Girls in the Health Sector (VAWG)

Economics, Ethnography, Political Economy, Public Health, Social Science, System Science

Daniel Cobos-Muñoz
Swiss TPH

Health sectors are often the first point of contact of survivors or victims and can positively influence their short- and long-term life trajectories. When a woman or girl suffering from VAWG attends a health service and is not detected, treated adequately or referred, this represents a missed opportunity. These occurrences lead to longstanding health, psychological, social and economic consequences that have global implications.

This study will apply a combination of epidemiology, ethnography, social and system sciences to understand the scale and determinants of missed opportunities to respond to violence against women and girls in primary care and emergency departments in Tirana, Albania and Belo Horizonte, Brazil.

PROJECT RESULTS



THE SEARCH FOR VICTIMS OF ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES: A MULTIDISCIPLINARY ANALYSIS OF CURRENT PRACTICES

Lisa Ott | University of Basel

« In the framework of the research process, « Victim » refers not only to the disappeared person but also to any individual who has suffered harm as a direct result of an enforced disappearance (ED) »

This project examined the Colombia and Ecuador cases, yielding a fundamental map of the international and national legal systems addressing enforced disappearances, thereby qualifying and extending the notion of victimhood in relation to this subject.

It highlighted the complexity of search processes, showing their

multiple dimensions for the first time in the relevant literature.

Policywise, the study :

- Produced a set of clarifying recommendations for practitioners ;
- Fostered interactions between communities affected by ED, NGOs, legal practitioners and policy experts;
- Stimulated an art project illustrating the search process for ED victims, which «translated» knowledge and practice for different stakeholders.



HOW TO DESIGN POLITICALLY SUSTAINABLE RESPONSES TO FISCAL PRESSURE

Evelyne Hübscher | University of Geneva

«Austerity politics over the past decades significantly contributed to a further polarization of the political landscape in many EU countries»

This project undertook important research on the relationship between austerity policies and political polarization in five EU countries. From a scientific point of view, highlights include an innovative method combining population survey experiments and political analysis of policy decisions; the confirmation of a causal link between austerity measures and political divisiveness; and evidence that greater polarization inhibits the ability to build viable and stable coalition governments, leading to more difficulties in creating a coherent policy agenda, ultimately leading to political instability.

In terms of policy relevance, the project has produced :

- Clear evidence of the mechanism of transmission between austerity measures and the electoral support of mainstream parties—the vote for mainstream parties decreases, and abstention increases. As a result, political polarization increases.
- A warning regarding the failure of mainstream parties to offer distinct fiscal policy propositions to voters, which can have long-term consequences for political stability.
- Recommendations regarding IMF interventions, which should adapt its policy to country specific conditions to protect legitimacy and hence the overall positive impact of its actions.



MARGINALIZED LIVES: INFERTILITY, CHILDLESSNESS, AND HEALTHCARE SEEKING IN RESOURCE-POOR SETTINGS IN NEPAL AND INDIA

Aditya Bharadwaj | Geneva Graduate Institute

«The notion of infertility is highly context-sensitive»

This project set out to bring to the fore the neglected topic of infertility and childlessness in Nepal and India. One of its main achievements in terms of academic process and research was to involve the full range of stakeholders surrounding the issue: individuals, NGOs, state institutions, community leaders and associations. This led to a form of co-creation research in which the various participants were able to provide their perspective on the issues of infertility and childlessness, thereby providing nuanced details not previously featured in the relevant literature.

In terms of policy relevance, the project contributed the following elements:

- Raising awareness of the issues under study nationally and internationally.
- Creating durable links with policy makers in the two research contexts.
- Enriching the Nepal census process through the creation of a specific infertility indicator.
- Communicating findings through a research documentary on the topic.



SCHISTOSOMIASIS, AGRICULTURE AND MIGRATION IN AFRICA: A JOINT ECONOMIC AND ECOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

Jean – Louis Arcand | Geneva Graduate Institute

«Schistosomiasis is both a driver and a consequence of poverty and returns on water resource development are significantly reduced once the health effects of this sickness are considered»

This project's main aim was to systematize and quantify evidence that schistosomiasis has a negative impact on food security and poverty in the areas where it occurs. In pursuing this goal the research has achieved far more, thanks to an innovative method looking at trade-offs between water management and public health. The study used statistical and geospatial techniques to merge and synchronize existing survey datasets. The ensuing data platform provided key project outputs concerning geolocalization, precipitation, temperature and vegetation indices.

The project's policy implications are as follows:

- Before implementing agricultural developments, such as water dams and smaller scale livestock arrangements, it is vital to assess their potential in favouring the spread of schistosomiasis.
- To increase productivity, it is worth investing in morbidity decrease strategies of the disease.
- Development interventions that increase agricultural productivity and allow peasants to diversify into cash crops will both improve living standards and reduce the burden of the disease.



INFRASTRUCTURE SPACE AND THE FUTURE OF MIGRATION MANAGEMENT: THE EU HOTSPOTS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN BORDERSCAPE

Bilgin Ayata | University of Basel

«The Hotspot Approach constitutes a new form of multilateral migration management which turns particular border regions into special zones of governance, jurisdiction and enforcement»

This project's objective was to analyze the role of infrastructure in the enforcement of migration management, with a focus on the European Commission's Hotspot Approach, implemented in Italy and Greece in 2015. It developed an innovative method of visual analysis, combined with policy assessments and on-site ethnography.

Its results trace and map in an almost tangible fashion the qualitative and quantitative transformation of EU migration policy, going beyond abstract concepts and white papers.

In terms of policy relevance, highlights are as follows:

- The logic and design and planning practices are not based on human-centred design but are derived from the logistics industry.
- Infrastructure design prioritizes security over care.
- The Hotspot Approach has transformed the national migration management and the border regime at the Greek shores into an intransparent, complex operation with overlapping and often overriding authorities.



GOVERNING PLASTIC: THE GLOBAL POLITICAL ECONOMY AND REGULATION OF PLASTIC PRODUCTION AND POLLUTION

Annabelle Littoz – Monnet | Geneva Graduate Institute

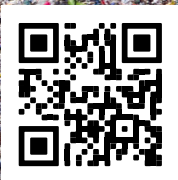
«Plastic pollution must be tackled starting with the production phase of plastic lifecycle»

This project's main aim was investigating and systematizing existing indicators and other types of measurement in the plastic production lifecycle with a view to identify gaps and to contribute to the ongoing debate on how to tackle plastic pollution worldwide.

Using a mix methods approach - data surveys & analysis, interviews with relevant stakeholders, desk-reviews and descriptive statistics - the project's most important achievement is a database on «hidden plastics», co-created with UNITAR. This data will help in the design of more effective plastic tracking policies and with the ability to target plastic pollution at the production level of its life cycle.

Several elements are relevant for policy:

- The project has involved many stakeholders, thereby opening several international communication and exchange channels on the topic, which were not previously activated.
- The many briefs and working papers produced throughout the project serve as baseline documents in ongoing talks for a «plastics treaty».
- The development and support of new research methods and papers on the petrochemical industry as the backbone of the plastics industry.



VALUE SENSITIVE INNOVATION: INTEGRATING ETHICAL VALUES IN THE HUMANITARIAN USE OF DRONES

Markus Christen | University of Zurich

« Is there such a thing as a «good drone?» »

This project's goal was to shed light on the ethics of drone use in humanitarian contexts and provide guidelines for such uses.

It contributed to the systematization of existing literature and, most importantly, produced a framework of evaluation of the use of drones that can be purposed as an analytical tool and as a set of guidelines for action.

The research highlighted the following policy relevant points:

- The use of drone technology in the humanitarian space may cause unintended harm, exposing affected populations to heightened risks and unnoticed vulnerability - such as lack of contact with help providers or inaccurate safety assessments.
- As drone technology advances, it can improve health supply chain performance and create more significant public health outcomes.
- Research and action in this area happen at the same time and therefore influence and co-constitute each other.



DESIGNING EFFECTIVE REGULATION FOR CARBON MARKETS AT THE INTERNATIONAL, NATIONAL, AND SUBNATIONAL LEVELS

Regina Betz | Zurich University of Applied Sciences ZHAW

«The keys to successful carbon markets are data sharing, transparency and coordination»

The project's main aim was to map and analyze carbon markets in their different worldwide arrangements. It used a comparative economics and policy approach, and outlined novel methods for detecting suspicious trading and incorporating AI surveillance in tracing and documenting abuses of the market mechanisms.

The research also highlighted that risks to carbon markets' environmental integrity and economic efficiency become larger when different markets – with diverse sets of rules, authorities, and participants – are linked with each other.

In terms of elements relevant for carbon markets policy design, the project emphasized the following:

- While baseline-and-credit systems appear to be vulnerable to conflict of interest situations at various steps along individual project approval processes, cap-and-trade systems are prone to the more systemic effects of lobbying by those industries that will be negatively affected by the policy.
- A list countries are more likely to support more environmentally integer carbon markets in the UN negotiations. international carbon market mechanisms..
- A call for data-sharing, transparency and tight rules and regulation coordination for carbon markets.





AWARDS

SNIS AWARD

The SNIS award is granted every year to one or several PhD theses in international studies.

From Home Gardens to the Palais des Nations. Translocal Action for Rural Women's Right to Land and Territory in Nariño – Colombia

Yira Carmiña Lazala-Silva Hernández

The thesis explores the case of indigenous women activists' claims about the human right to land and territory. The thesis highlights the importance of historical genealogies of rights claims, especially at the local level. It shows how local claims tend to be transformed into a statistical lexicon when moving to the international evaluation of rural women's living conditions. The research discusses the effect of the human rights discourse at the local level: it is relevant for grassroots activists to oppose the State, but this opposition also becomes a regulatory force.

IO STIPEND

In 2021 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. Shriya Patnaik of the Geneva Graduate Institute spent three months at the SNIS, working on her thesis «**The Minority Question: A Critical Analysis of Gender, Human Rights, and Women's Reform Projects in Colonial and Postcolonial India Through the Figure of the Mahari Devadasi**».

IG AWARD

The International Geneva Award honors three scientific articles published in peer-reviewed journals the year before. The articles distinguish themselves as particularly policy-relevant. Each of the three awardees receives a prize of CHF 5'000.-. In 2021, one of the prizes was attributed ex-aequo to articles relevant to current debates and struggles on the environment and human rights fronts.

The winning articles are:

Designing Effective and Equitable Zero-Deforestation Supply Chain Policies - Janina Grabs, Federico Cammelli, Samuel A. Levy, Rachael D. Garrett

In response to the clearing of tropical forests for agricultural expansion, agri-food companies have adopted promises to eliminate deforestation from their supply chains in the form



of 'zero-deforestation commitments' (ZDCs). While there is growing evidence about the environmental effects of these commitments, less is known about their implementation. The paper discusses the research gaps in examining farmers' opportunities to participate in these commitments and the effectiveness when implementing forest-focused supply chain policies. It underscores the importance of analyzing these aspects and identifies seven policy design principles likely to maximize synergies between effectiveness and equal access opportunities.

Envy Envy? Competition in African Mediation Processes and Ways to Overcome It - David Lanz

This article makes sense of the dynamics of competition in African mediation processes and outlines approaches for practical cooperation between mediators. To this end, it analyzes four cases of recent peace processes: Sudan (1994–2005), Kenya (2008), Madagascar (2009–2013) and South Sudan (2013–2015). The article identifies four driving forces of competition among mediators: clashing interests of states involved in mediation, overlapping mediation mandates, incompatible norms guiding conflict resolution, and mediators' lack of performance. These factors risk undermining peace processes unless the involved mediators and guarantors take active steps to mitigate the adverse effects of competition. This can be done through 'hierarchical coordination,' where a recognized authority takes the lead and allocates roles to other actors, or through 'collaborative cooperation,' where partners have unity of purpose and decide on a division of labour based on comparative strengths.

Understanding and Responding to the Environmental Human Rights Defenders Crisis: The Case For Conservation Action (awarded ex-aequo) - Philippe Le Billon, Mary Menton, José Aylwin, Peter Bille Larsen, Jörg Balsiger, David Boyd, Michel Forst, Fran Lambrick, Claudelice Santos, Hannah Storey, Susan Wilding

Close to 2'000 environmental human rights defenders have been killed in 57 countries since 2002, with about four losing their lives every week in 2019. Many of these defenders represent Indigenous Peoples and local communities protecting ecosystems from large-scale environmentally destructive projects. As the positive contributions of Indigenous and local communities to biodiversity conservation become better recognized, so should the losses and risks that they face. Despite significant efforts at documenting abuses and protecting defenders, many blind spots and gaps remain. The conservation community can respond in many ways, including reaching out to its constituencies, working together with the human rights community, and mobilizing its networks, field offices, and presence in remote areas to denounce abuses and counter isolation. The conservation community can advance the collective agenda by bringing conservation and environment-related human rights together through the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

Globalization Mitigates the Risk of Conflict Caused by Strategic Territory (awarded ex-aequo) - Quentin Gallea, Dominic Rohner

Globalization is routinely blamed for various ills, including fuelling conflict in strategic locations. To verify the soundness of these views, the paper used a specially generated database to assess any given location's strategic importance with specific connection to civil or intra-state wars (not inter-state wars). On the one hand, consistent with a game-theoretic model of strategic interaction, the paper finds that overall fighting is more frequent in strategic areas close to maritime chokepoints (e.g., straits or capes). On the other hand, booming world trade openness considerably reduces the risks of conflict erupting in such strategic locations. The impact is quantitatively sizable, as moving one standard deviation (1,100 km) closer to a choke point increases the conflict likelihood by 25% of the baseline risk in periods of low globalization, while reducing it during world trade booms. The results have important policy implications for supranational coordination in the case of intra-state wars.

EVENTS

Science Communication Training for SNIS Principal Investigators

Many SNIS funded researchers expressed an interest for getting training in science communication. In response, the SNIS secretariat has designed and offered an online introductory course to the subject in March 2021.

It comprised two structural elements: first, a video introducing participants to the newest principles of science communication as a practice and a discipline; second, a four-hour training session including exchanges with participants, two keynote speakers – Servan Grüniger (Reatch) and Dr. Peter Larsen (Unige) – and practical advice offered for specific questions and queries related to various projects.

The session was well received and highlighted the participants' need to talk about their research not only in academic terms but also in relation to the collective intellectual landscape. Participants were content with the advice offered and committed to put the insights into practice.

AgoraForum '21

«Science communication must have a purpose if it wants to have an impact»

The SNIS and the SNF Agora teams have jointly organized the 2021 AgoraForum. The event – held at the Blue Factory in Fribourg on September 3rd – combined two formats: grant writing workshops and a series of keynote speeches marking the 10th anniversary of the SNF AGORA funding scheme.

The event's main aims were a) to raise the scheme's profile amongst Swiss academic researchers and b) train participants in the most current and popular science communication formats and patterns.

Keynote speakers Ellen Hertz and Iain Stewart shared their analyses of current Swiss and international science communication practices. Their most salient arguments concerned the importance of the audience and the adaptation of the message to the formats and channels used for communication. Participants could also explore innovative ways of sharing their research ranging from role-playing to multimedia exhibitions.

As the Science Communication Training (see left column), this event addressed a gap in participants' science communication knowledge and practice.



ScienceComm'21 – «Science communication in a period of crisis.»**«Science communication can impact attitudes toward science and help build trust»**

Organized by Science et Cité with support from various public and private donors, Switzerland's annual conference on all things science communication gathered many experts in the field and attracted more than 200 attendants. The SNIS not only contributed as a multimedia partner, documenting keynotes and interviewing experts, but it also acted as a conference sponsor.

The event theme was communication in a period of crisis. Participants had the chance to attend keynote addresses delivered by André Simonazzi, Vice Chancellor and Spokesman for the Swiss Federal Council, Samia Hurst-Majno, Vice – President of the Swiss Task Force for tackling Covid19, and Georges Simon Ulrich, Director General of the Federal Statistical Office. The messages referred to the importance of trust, timing, and dialogue with the public, all necessary for successful science communication.

The interactive sessions of the conference offered the opportunity to test the latest science communication techniques and keep up to date with the evolution of the field in Switzerland.

Launch Workshop 2021

On 18 October 2021, the SNIS held its annual Project Launch Workshop. Eight research teams presented their project plans (see pages 10 – 13).

The SNIS team produced video interviews with the principal investigators, introducing a new format, in which researchers related the research to an everyday object, thus bringing the inquiry closer to a broader public.

A Twitter and LinkedIn campaign showcased these interviews and helped researchers spread the word about their project.



STRUCTURE

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Jan Klabbers

Academy of Finland

Jonas Tallberg

Stockholm University

Susan Parnell

University of Bristol

Peter Egger

ETH Zurich

Andrea Sylvia Winkler

University of Oslo

Corinne Pernet

University of Basel

Christophe Muller

University of Aix-Marseille

Dennis Rodgers

University of Amsterdam

GOVERNING COMMITTEE

Marie-Laure Salles Djelic

Geneva Graduate Institute

James W. Davis

University of St. Gallen

Jürg Utzinger

Swiss Tropical and Public
Health Institute

Paul Ladd

UNRISD

Manfred Elsig

University of Berne

Stéphane Berthet

University of Geneva

Dominik Hangartner

ETH Zurich

SNIS AWARD COMMITTEE

Mira Burri

University of Lucerne

Anki Sjoeborg

Fight for Humanity

Siegfried Weichlein

University of Fribourg

Vally Koubi

ETH Zurich and 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)

Paul Ladd

United Nations Institute for Research and
Social Development (UNRISD)

Francesco Pisano

UN Library – United Nations Office
in Geneva (UNOG)

Bernard Kuiten

World Trade Organisation (WTO)

Richard Lukacs

World Economic Forum (WEF)

Vincent Defourny

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 Europe and the CIS

Charlotte Warakaulle

European Organisation for
Nuclear Research (CERN)

Catalin Marinescu

International Telecommunications
Union (ITU)

SECRETARIAT

In 2021, 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 October 2021. In addition, our civil service collaborator, Malko Kehtari, joined the team in mid-September 2021.

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



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