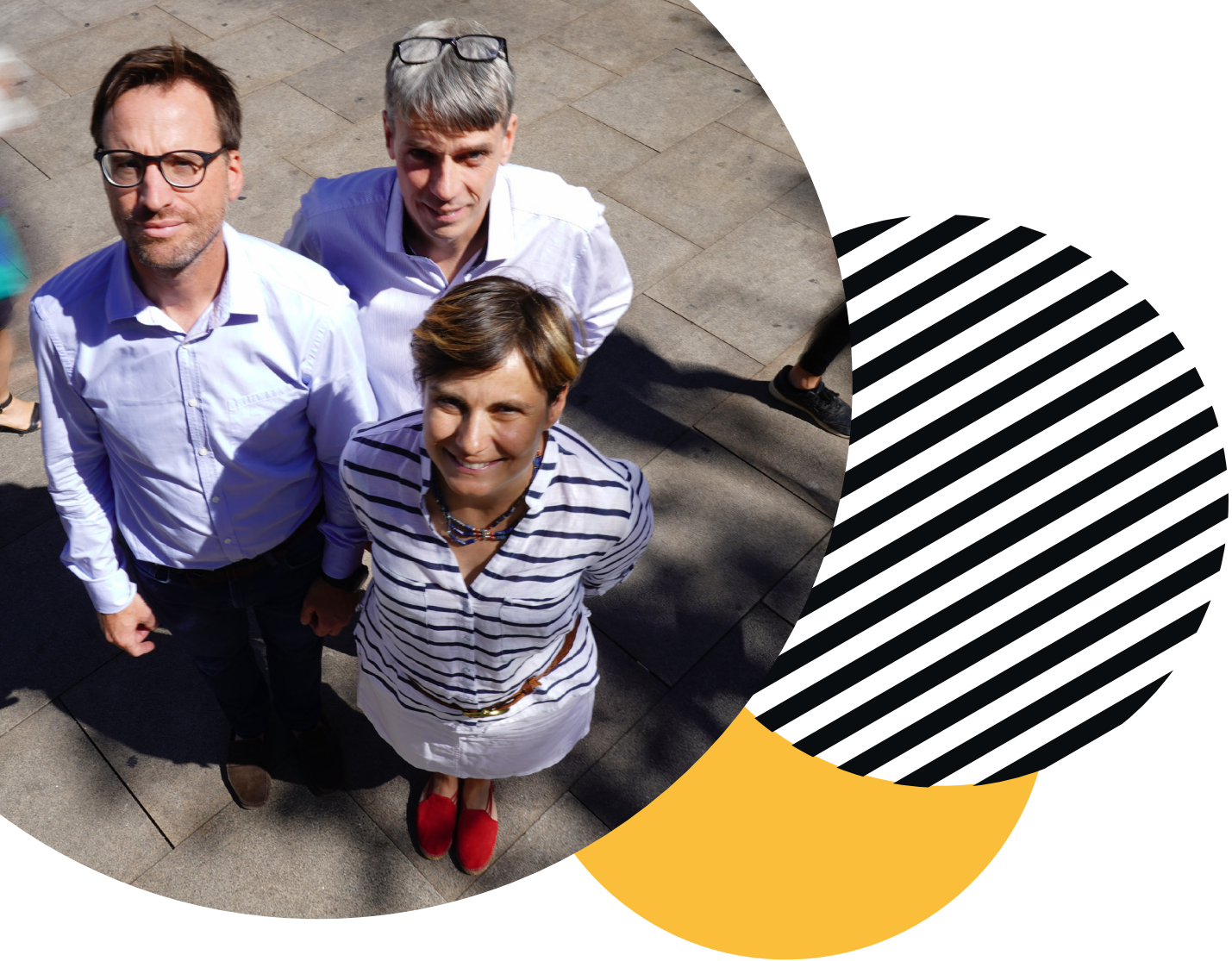




snis

innovative research
easy access

2020 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.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

04 EDITORIALS

06 CALL FOR PROJECTS

09 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

10 ACCEPTED PROJECTS

14 PROJECT RESULTS

22 AWARDS

24 EVENTS

26 STRUCTURE



MESSAGE OF THE DIRECTOR

BERNHARD FUHRER

SNIS Director

2020 will be remembered as the Covid-19 year and will likely be associated with much uncertainty and stress even in the academic domain. At the SNIS, we took a proactive stance and interpreted the pandemic as an opportunity rather than just a nuisance. Indeed, we saw the situation as an opportunity to catalyze our already ongoing digital transformation. We quickly discovered that the ensuing technological push further helped us strengthen our partnerships in science communication.

Accelerating the ongoing digital transformation

As a funding agency, our primary focus during the restriction-laden 2020 was to maintain our offerings' rhythm and be flexible and reactive towards our ongoing projects. Thanks to a rapid uptake of videoconferencing and highly adaptive committees, we could keep all funding opportunities in their regular calendar slots and therefore provide our community with a dependable destination for their projects. At the same time, ongoing projects received Covid-related extensions with minimal administrative overhead. We also ensured that coordinators received tailored support to tackle the myriad of practical questions they faced. At the same time, we re-thought and re-designed our web presence to make research results even more accessible, and we complemented this increased offering by an expanded presence on social media. Overall, the technological dividend spurred by Covid-19 also helped us strengthen our partnerships in science communication.

Strengthening partnerships in Science Communication

If organizing hybrid or online events has become almost commonplace in 2020, the audio-visual quality of these replacement formats still mostly leaves to be desired and therefore often impairs their perceived effectiveness. Luckily, however, technology has progressed spectacularly in this domain. Having upgraded our equipment recently, we were very honoured to be the streaming and multimedia coverage partner at the 2020 ScienceComm20 held in autumn in Solothurn and organized by Science & Cité. The partnership with the event's main organizer was both a technological and an intellectual one as both the SNIS and Science et Cité are active players in the domain of science communication. Our presence at the event also caught SNF Agora's eye, which will lead to a close collaboration for a major Agora event in 2021. The SNIS is thrilled to pursue partnerships with these major players in Swiss science communication. We are confident that our upcoming 'SNIS Geneva & online studio' and our 'Zoombox-interview-series' will further establish the SNIS as an innovative actor in this continually evolving field.



GUEST EDITORIAL

PETRU DUMITRIU

Former Head of the UN Joint Inspection Unit
and IG Award Committee member

Our optimism concerning digital transformations should be tempered. One of the main challenges we must face is to handle the flood of information enabled by the technical ease with which content is generated and disseminated rather than a source of reliable actionable insights, the Internet has become a gigantic advertising billboard.

Indeed, the easiness of access to information does not come with the assurance of quality. On the contrary, the more information available, the more difficult it is to discern the reliable one. The public can frequently fall into the trap of manipulation and mischief.

Uncertainty on the quality of the communication and its sources and the risk of intoxication challenge decision makers' capacity to optimize their decisions and the public's aptness to make a value judgment.

Users may end up feeding themselves with information in hastiness and carelessness because accountability has disappeared in the fogs of the freedom of expression.

While this situation is not new, the Covid-19 crisis has brought it into sharp focus. Thus, we keep seeing a cacophony of reports, studies, and theories about Covid-19 that are often contradictory and seldomly scientifically grounded. Suddenly, Rather than being a reliable source of quality information and actionable knowledge, the internet has become a giant advertising billboard.

Information quality and relevance emerge as crucial issues in the era of the superabundance of news.

That is why the challenge of the digital transformation accelerated by the current crisis is to find a way of going back to the primary function of human communication: discovering and revealing the truth.



CALL FOR PROJECTS

SUBMITTING INSTITUTIONS

Region	Coordinating institution	Submissions	
		Institution	Region
Basel	University of Basel	5	
	Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute	1	6
Bern	University of Bern	5	
	Bern University of Applied Sciences	-	5
Fribourg	University of Fribourg	2	
		-	2
Geneva	The Graduate Institute	10	
	University of Geneva	9	19
Luzern	University of Lucerne	2	
	University of Applied Sciences Lucerne	-	2
Neuchâtel	University of Neuchâtel	2	2
St. Gallen	University of St. Gallen	3	
			3
Ticino	Università della Svizzera Italiana , USI	-	
	SUPSI	4	
	Franklin University Switzerland, Lugano	1	5
Vaud	University of Lausanne	2	
	Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, EPFL	1	3
Zürich	Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, ETH	8	
	University of Zurich	6	
	Zürcher Fachhochschule, ZFH	1	
	Zurich University of Applied Sciences, Kalaidos	1	16
Interregional	University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland, FHNW	2	
	University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland HES-SO	4	
	University of Applied Sciences OST, FHO	1	7
Total			70

SUBMISSION DETAILS

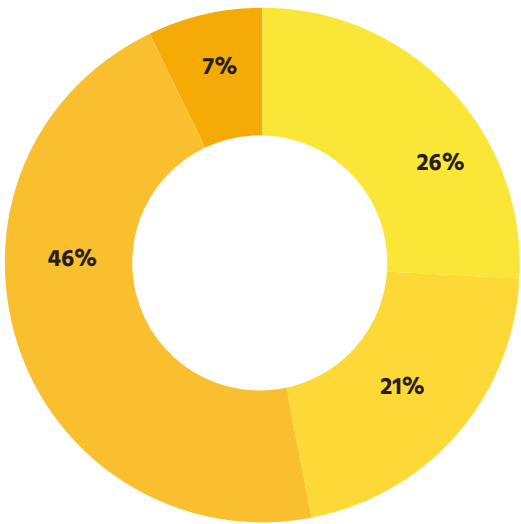
Among the four different funding opportunities offered by the SNIS, the annual Call for Projects is the core activity absorbing 80% of the overall budget. In 2020, the SNIS funded eight additional projects bringing the total count of funded projects since 2008 over the 100 mark (103 to be precise). Over 80 projects were completed and have produced theoretical advances, actionable results and policy recommendations.

The Call for Projects remained highly competitive. The 2020 special theme was: «What promising new forms of global governance and cooperation in response to the changed geopolitical order? Opportunities and challenges for non-state actors.»

In the first round, the Call totalled 70 submissions. Overall, there were fewer submissions than in 2019, due to the call wording which was carefully reviewed to be even more precise when it comes to the eligibility criteria. At the same time - compared to the previous year - the diversity of the Call's geographical breakdown has increased. For the first time, the SNIS received submissions from Universities of Applied Sciences from Lucerne and Valais.

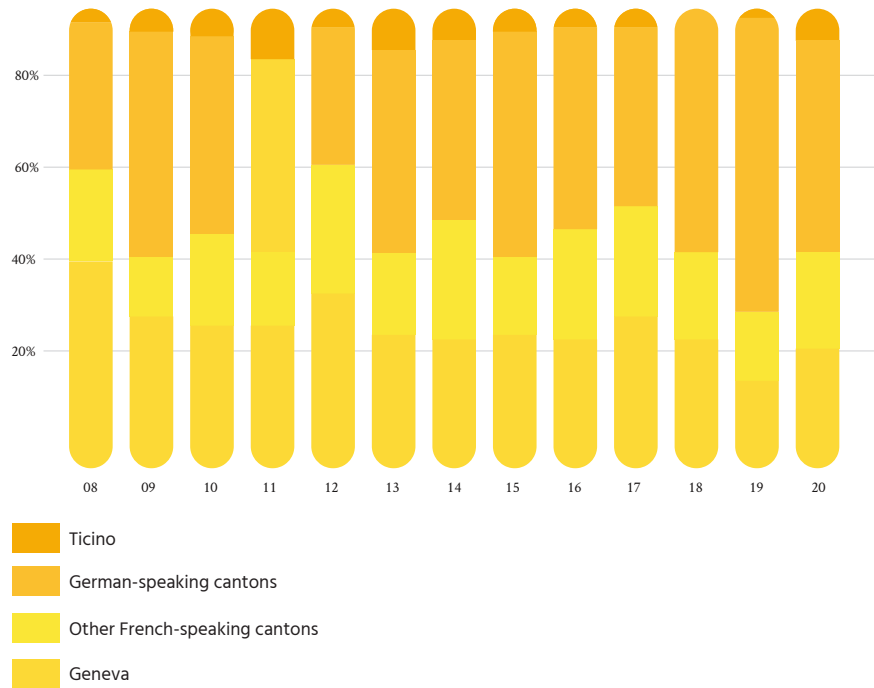
The number of average partnerships per submitted project is continuing on an ascending path. This increase bears witness to the success of SNIS' proposal of fostering collaboration between academia and International Organizations as well as between academia and civil society institutions.

Distribution of received project proposals by linguistic area



- 5 Ticino
- 32 German-speaking cantons
- 14 Other French-speaking cantons
- 19 Geneva

GEOGRAPHICAL EVOLUTION



AVERAGE PARTNERSHIPS

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
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
AN of partners per project	4,08	3,95	5,80	6,49	5,17	6,11	7,34	7,75	5,45	7,23	8,49	10,07
AN of universities involved	2,86	3,14	3,12	3,61	3,48	3,34	4,03	3,39	3,01	3,75	4,08	5,36
AN of Swiss universities involved	1,64	1,88	1,59	1,74	1,77	1,80	1,92	1,68	1,49	1,85	2,09	2,13
AN of foreign universities	1,22	1,26	1,52	1,87	1,71	1,54	2,10	1,72	1,53	1,89	1,99	3,23
AN of non-governmental Organizations	0,61	0,29	0,76	0,86	1,19	1,43	1,38	1,5	1	1,33	1,51	4,76
AN of International Organizations	0,38	0,31	0,86	0,88	1,05	1,27	1,25	1,63	1,24	1,91	1,68	1,64
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	0,29
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	0,10

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

In 2020 the SNIS has kept in financial good health, within the framework of its allocated budget. The expenditure allotments have remained constant, with an overwhelming proportion of the funds going towards research activities. The paid internship position was renewed and a shorter internship was added.

The variation in the sum allotted to salaries is explained by a maternity leave and the fact that intern salaries were paid throughout the Covid-19 lockdown period.

The year closed on a projected negative balance which has helped even out surpluses from previous years.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Income

Swiss Confederation Subsidy	1'268'339.00
Canton of Geneva Subsidy	1'157'843.00
Dissolution of Remainders (Project Funds)	124'533.00
Total	2'550'715.00

Expenses

Scientific Activities	2'178'932.00
Operational Costs (Administration and Salaries)	421'215.00
Total	2'600'147.00

Net Income	-49'432.00
-------------------	-------------------

EXPENDITURE

Scientific Activities	2'178'932.00	83.80%
Call for Projects	2'091'001.00	80.42%
Other science-related Activities	32'008.00	1.23%
Scientific Committee	55'923.00	2.15%
Operational Costs	421'215.00	16.20%
Salaries	380'261.00	14.62%
Administration	40'954.40	1.58%
Total	2'600'147.00	100%



ACCEPTED PROJECTS

Navigating Institutional Complexity: Actors and Strategies in Densely Populated Global Governance Spaces

Political Economy, Political Science

Oliver Westerwinter
University of St. Gallen

Multilateral diplomacy is one of the core topics in many SNIS-funded projects. This project looks at the increasing complexity of multilateral governance mechanisms and aims to describe and analyse the global governance landscape. It looks to answer the following questions: (1) How do patterns of overlap within institutional complexes evolve over time? (2) What strategies do states and non-state actors choose to navigate institutional complexes? (3) To what extent do these strategies empower otherwise weak players in institutional complexes?

Results will be beneficial to policymakers and activists, who seek to engage the myriad of contemporary global governance institutions in a way that best serves their goals.

A Quantitative Textual Approach of the European Consensus Method of Interpretation in the European Court of Human Rights

Law, Political Science

Jonathan Slapin
University of Zürich

The European Court of human rights (ECtHR) has the final say in human rights protection in Europe. The Court has developed a method of interpretation, European consensus (EuC), which it can use to decide on morally, politically or socially sensitive issues. This project aims to clarify its functioning by answering the following questions: (1) What is the EuC? (2) How does the consensus function within the ECtHR system? (3) How can an appropriate measure of the framework for EuC be built?

The aim is to identify the methods of the European Consensus elaboration in order to test complex and controversial moral and political questions surrounding human rights law in Europe, such as whose views are reflected in consensus judgments.

These measures will be of interest to international Human Rights lawyers who are looking to understand how to argue cases.

**Gender, Return Migration and Reintegration in
Gambia, Guinea and Senegal**

Human Geography, Social Anthropology, Sociology

Eveline Odermatt
University of Fribourg

Since the peak of the 'refugee crisis' in 2015, migration policies have become more restrictive in Europe, including measures of increased deportation and repatriation. This project looks at the relationship between gender, return and reintegration policies in three settings, examining the following questions : (1) How does gender shape the reintegration process of migrants? (2) How do patterns of return mobilities and reintegration impact gender in Gambia, Guinea and Senegal? (3) What are the similarities and divergences between the return policy discourse and migrants' personal experiences?

The project's results will enable a wide range of actors – governments, IOs/NGOs etc.– to obtain knowledge on gender aspects inherent to return and reintegration processes, so as to optimise their return infrastructure.

**When Money Can't Buy Food and Medicine:
Banking Challenges in the International Trade of Vital
Goods and their Humanitarian Impact in Sanctioned
Jurisdictions**

Law, Political Science, Political Economy,
Social Medicine

Grégoire Mallard
Graduate Institute Geneva

The past decade has seen a significant shift in global sanctions. This has resulted in financial sector over-compliance in this area and a subsequent reduction in activities of humanitarian organisations. This project explores the following questions: (1) What challenges do humanitarian IOs and NGOs that deliver food and medicine face in heavily sanctioned countries? (2) What role does the regulation by the three major powers, US, Europe and China play in the delivery of food and medicine? (3) Which are the best ways of securing the continuation of food and medicine provision during a humanitarian crisis?

The research aims to identify better ways of securing the continuation of food and medicine delivery in contexts of humanitarian crises.

What International Negotiators Promise and Domestic Policymakers Adopt: Policy and Politics in the Multi-Level Climate Change Regime

Environmental Science, Political Science

Marlene Kammerer
University of Bern

Countries face many difficulties when it comes to translating their international promises and goals into domestic policies on the climate issue.

This project aims to quantify and qualify the gap between international promises and national implementation by creating a vertical policy harmonization index.

The following questions are addressed: (1) To which degree and under which conditions do countries translate their international commitments regarding climate change mitigation into their domestic policies (i.e. policy objectives and instruments)? (2) What drives countries to under- or overperform?

The results will provide actionable insights for actors striving to reduce the gap between international commitments and domestic policy adoption. The results also provide a basis for a more realistic prediction of what can be termed ‘the ambition gap’.

Transactional Sex and the Health Repercussions in Forced Migration

Ethnography, Human Geography, Political Economy,
Political Science, Social Medicine

Shirin Heidari
Graduate Institute Geneva

Due to the lack of decent job opportunities during forced displacement, many refugees may resort to transactional sex for survival, to meet their basic needs. This project seeks to uncover some of the impacts this has on their health. The leading research questions of the study are: (1) Why do refugees engage in transactional sex? (2) How do refugees engage in transactional sex? (3) What is the impact of transactional sex on refugees’ sexual, reproductive, and mental health? (4) What is the connection between gender and transactional sex?

This project hopes to generate evidence to inform local and international gender-responsive policies and to train health personnel to better identify cases of transactional sex. It further strives to identify appropriate care practices and suggest pathways for removing barriers to appropriate health services.

Effects of an Exercise and Sport Intervention Among Refugees Living in a Greek Refugee Camp on Mental Health, Physical Fitness and Cardiovascular Risk Markers: A Randomized Controlled Trial

Anthropology, Ethnography, Human Geography,
Psychology, Public Health, Social Medicine

Markus Gerber
University of Basel

Refugees are exposed to severe mental and physical strain, as well as traumatic experiences during their journey. This project aims to find out if and how exercise can have an impact on mental health in the context of refugee camps.

The project uses a randomized controlled trial (RCT) design to examine the following questions: (1) Does a 3-month sport and exercise intervention among refugees living in a Greek camp reduce symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder? (2) Does a 3-month sport and exercise intervention have a positive impact on a series of further outcomes including perceived stress, depressive symptoms, anxiety, sleep complaints, health-related quality of life, pain, cardiorespiratory fitness, upper-body muscular strength, physical activity, cognitive function and cardiovascular risk markers? (3) How can one develop standardised exercise and sports programs that take into account the cultural particularities of the target populations?

This project hopes to enhance the quality of life of refugees residing in a Greek camp by helping them to adopt and maintain a physically active lifestyle.

Urban Sanitation Technologies as International Power Structures (U-STASIS)

Environmental Science, Political Economy, Political
Science, Public Health

Olivier Crevoisier
University of Neuchâtel

Centralized Urban Sanitation Infrastructure is something taken for granted worldwide. The proposed U-STASIS research project aims to explain the persistence of this system from an international political-economy perspective and to uncover potential for change.

This multidisciplinary and collaborative project asks: (1) Why and how does centralized sanitation infrastructure persist despite the continued crisis in this type of system? (2) What is the international political economy of defining and implementing SDG 6.2? (3) What is the role of multilateral development banks in the provision of urban sanitation infrastructure?

The expected results will provide new entry points for overcoming the deadlock and advancing the implementation of SDG6 and to further the rapid expansion of inclusive, urban sanitation coverage.

PROJECT RESULTS

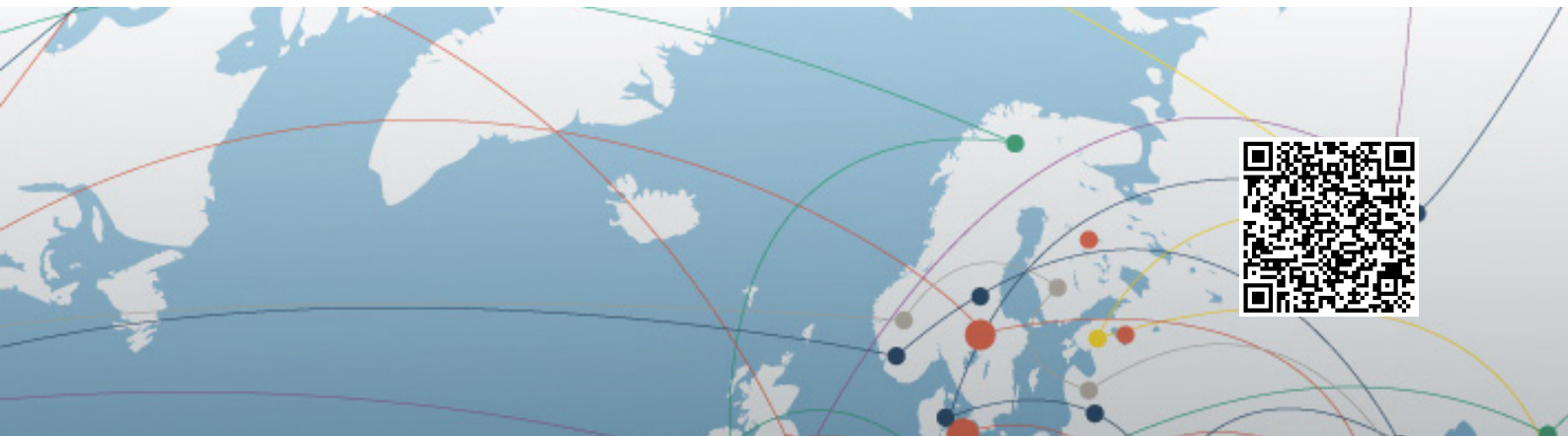


EFFECTIVENESS OF PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT – BEHAVIORAL PATHWAYS AND IMPACTS

Liliana ANDONOVA | Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies

This project explored the question of partnership effectiveness by applying the analytical framework developed by Andonova and Faul (2021, forthcoming) to three case studies in the areas of biodiversity and clean energy. The framework focuses on five criteria: (1) goal attainment, (2) creation of value for the partners, (3) increased collaboration inside the partnerships; (4) impact on affected populations and (5) influence on collaboration and institutions outside the partnerships. The results of the project include empirical findings and the overall development of a conceptual framework to analyse partnership effectiveness. They are as follows:

- There are three essential elements to partnership effectiveness: sophisticated contracting, credible commitment of resources, and adaptability.
- Local conditions, the livelihoods of affected populations, and the mediating role of domestic may play a crucial role in determining overall partnership effectiveness. Social, economic and environmental effects of partnerships are a necessary condition for a partnership's ability to contribute to problem-solving for sustainability.
- High-order impacts of partnerships can contribute to problem-solving for sustainability through spill-over effects on organizational learning, capacity- building and dissemination of new knowledge and practices.



GIG ECONOMY AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR SOCIAL DIALOGUE AND WORKERS' PROTECTION

Jean-Michel BONVIN | University of Geneva

This project focused on the «gig economy» and its actors: employers, workers and public policy institutions facing the changing dynamics of the workplace, particularly impacted by the platform business model. The study examined how social partners responded to the challenges for social dialogue, what were the forms of representation of the interests of gig workers and businesses, and what were employment relations and protections in the labour market? The case studies were Switzerland, Germany, Greece and the United Kingdom.

Results include the following aspects:

- National case studies indicate that policymakers and social partners do not agree on the issues raised by the gig economy (mostly focusing on the worker status or on issues related to tax avoidance or unfair competition), and about the actual practices and experiences by gig workers themselves.
- There is low-to-moderate mobilization on the part of traditional social partners. This points to the existence of a discrepancy between traditional employees' interests and gig workers' claims, as well as between existing trade unions' competencies and those technological abilities that would be needed to tackle algorithmic and data-driven management. Such discrepancies in interests and competencies tend to reinforce insider-outsider dilemmas and their implications.
- There is a lack of coherent fully-fledged policy and legal responses. Policy-makers action, although important, will not be able to tackle all issues through the adoption of legislation; the social dialogue is a necessary complement to public policy, and public policy needs to support such dialogue by providing adequate procedural rights.



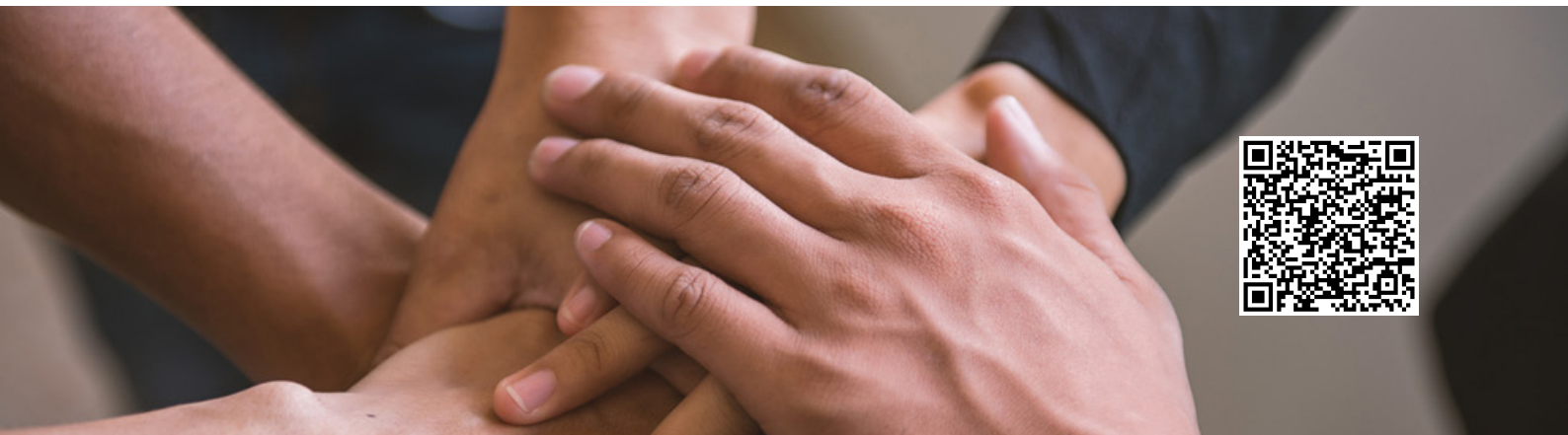
SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY, URBAN COMMUNITIES AND THE PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS

Marco GIUGNI | University of Geneva

This project focused on the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE), a sector which in the past decade has been called upon to contribute to the mitigation of pressures exerted in society by refugee flows, rising unemployment and growing economic precariousness. The aim of the research was to generate evidence-based policy suggestions on the potential of SSE actors to integrate refugees, migrants, and the native-born unemployed into local communities and labour markets, and to create spaces and relationships of solidarity in times when integration can become a contentious issue.

By examining three case studies, Italy, Switzerland and Greece, the research has yielded a complex picture that should inform future decisions within this sector. Key findings include:

- The SSE is a sector of untapped potential, which could play more than a 'buffer role' in people's lives, specifically because it is centred on the individual.
- There is a need for enabling policy environments which allow the actors of the SSE sector to become valid players in the wider economic context.
- Partnerships and networks are crucial in this sector.
- The SSE ecosystem is a vehicle for individual empowerment.



ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE AND MIGRATION: THE ROLE OF URBANIZATION IN CONFLICT PROCESSES

Vally KOUBI | ETH Zurich

This project focused on understanding the dynamics between climate change, migration and conflict in the context of rural-urban migration and the advent of urban conflict. Researchers focused on the link between climate change, the ensuing motivation to migrate and urban violence. The project was deployed in Kenya and Vietnam and yielded the following findings:

- Environmental migration results in both heightened conflict perceptions and an increased potential for political violence.
- Sudden-onset events, including storms or floods, lead to increased support of low-intensity political violence, such as riots and protests.
- Gradual events like droughts or desertification are linked to more salient and intense attitudes and conflict behaviour.
- Governments and International Organizations need to adopt proactive rather than reactive policies in order to ensure planning and preparedness for climatic changes. Policymakers also need to increase the resilience of rural communities vulnerable to the effects of climate change in order to prevent future urban conflicts.



IMPROVING RURAL LIVELIHOODS THROUGH PROMOTING HIGH-QUALITY COFFEE AND COFFEE CHERRY PRODUCTS IN THE ORIGIN COUNTRIES COLOMBIA AND BOLIVIA

Chahan YERETZIAN | Zurich University of Applied Sciences ZHAW

Coffee has a significant trade value internationally, while origin countries like Bolivia and Colombia principally export green beans, and coffee farmers receive only a small share of the final profits made from each cup of coffee. This trend puts rural livelihoods at risk and endangers the future of coffee production by rural families. To improve the livelihoods perspectives of coffee farmers, the proposed project aimed to generate and promote knowledge on domestic quality markets, increased awareness of the added value of coffee products for coffee farmers and their organisations within origin countries and beyond.

The key findings of the study are the following:

- In Bolivia and Columbia, there is a positive relationship between the involvements of farmers in high-quality value chains and their livelihoods. Sales of either green coffee for international clients or roasted coffee in the local market are the most beneficial value chain models. Given the lack of knowledge in financial planning and bookkeeping, however, this does not necessarily translate into an overall improvement of the household situation.
- In Colombia, the coffee sector focuses on the technical aspects of coffee production. In order to increase farmers' competitiveness, the project recommends to include a sustainability concept in coffee production and to promote inclusivity for the whole coffee value chain. The project proposes improving structural conditions in rural areas, providing quality education, safety measures, access to public services and improving road infrastructure. Promoting local coffee businesses selling high-quality coffee (products) encourages domestic coffee consumption which could reduce farmer's dependence on exports.
- In Bolivia, there are multiple organizations representing the coffee sector. The parallel organization has jeopardized efficient support of the coffee sector because the focus lies on the ongoing conflicts between these organizations and producers in Bolivia are not well connected with other actors (consumers, baristas etc.). Future collaboration among these organization is possible, but the reduction to one organization remains the key recommendation.



UNDERSTANDING THE NORMS AND PRACTICES OF PATHOGEN-SHARING TO IMPROVE GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY

Suerie MOON | Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies Geneva

The global community faces difficulties managing the fair, reliable and rapid international sharing of pathogens and derived benefits (PBS).

This research project was motivated by the need to clarify current practices in PBS and identify workable solutions for their improvement.

Some of the key findings of the project are:

- In light of the coming into force of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit- Sharing in 2014, there is a need for coherence across international and national principles, guidelines, rules, and regulations. There is only little consensus on what constitutes fair, equitable and reasonable benefits, and the study found large variations in practices and views among different groups and across global divides.
- Trust, personal relationships, and long-term collaborations play a defining role in the success or failure of effective PBS. The absence of trusted collaborations creates barriers which make it difficult to access pathogen samples quickly in times of crises.
- Researchers reported being able to get desired pathogens under certain conditions and in normal (non-outbreak) situations. However, timely sharing during outbreaks was more problematic, and numerous barriers to PBS were described, including those related to biosecurity concerns and the involvement of commercial interests.
- The project identified many options to address PBS governance. For instance, including fewer formal principles or codes of conduct, binding or non-binding formal rules, and expanded use of standardized Material Transfer Agreements (MTAs) for PBS to be more efficient.





AWARDS

SNIS AWARD

The SNIS Award is granted every year to the best thesis in International Studies. In 2020, The Jury attributed the award ex aequo to Anna Wyss and Nils Redeker.

Anna Wyss, «Interrupted Journeys – Disrupted Control. Male Migrants with Precarious Legal Status and the European Migration Regime», University of Bern under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Christian Joppke.

The thesis addresses the pressing question of how – and at what costs – migrants with precarious legal status navigate the migration regime on their interrupted journeys throughout Europe. The study seeks to understand the consequences and implications of migrants' everyday resistance both for themselves and for migration governance. The focus on migrants' experiences goes beyond a single nation-state and reveals the inadequacy of limiting research to actors in only one country. Its research design allows capturing the transnational elements at play when it comes to migrant practices, the repercussions of supranational policies and national policies on individual and as well as on social networks.

Nils Redeker, «The Politics of Too Much: Essays on the Emergence and Persistence of Current-Account Surpluses», University of Zurich under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Stefanie Walter.

This thesis asks what domestic institutional factors lead some countries to accumulate large surpluses and focuses on the private sector. It shows how domestic labour-market institutions affect both the profit shares of private firms and the question of whether firms reinvest these profits or stash them on financial markets, thereby aggregating savings and boosting capital exports. Furthermore, the thesis studies political factors that impede or facilitate current-account adjustment in surplus countries during balance-of-payment crises.

IO STIPEND

In 2020 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.

Krittika Uniyal is a Ph.D. scholar at the Institute of Environmental Governance and Territorial Development (GEDT), University of Geneva. She has been awarded the SNIS IO Research Stipend 2020.

Her Ph.D. research is titled Challenging the Status Quo: Critical Geopolitics of the Belt and Road (BRI) Initiative through the Trans-Himalayas of Nepal and Tibet Autonomous Region, in which she examines the Belt and Road Initiative in Nepal. She argues that culture and value systems play an essential part in determining the behaviour of a nation-state in the international system, and she looks at the discourses of critique and justification concerning Nepal's participation in China's BRI.

As a part of the research stipend, she was hosted at the SNIS office for the duration of three months, where she participated in SNIS activities that assisted her to build her network with other researchers. She used the technical resources at SNIS to make a short video visualizing and communicating her research.



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.-

- African leaders and the geography of China's foreign assistance / Axel Dreher, Andreas Fuchs, Roland Hodler, Bradley C. Parks, Paul A. Raschky, Michael J. Tierney

This paper investigates whether foreign aid from China and the World Bank are prone to political capture in aid-receiving countries. It examines whether more aid is allocated to the birth regions of African political leaders. Based on their provenance, the results show that political leaders' birth regions receive substantially larger financial flows from China in the years when these hold power as compared to what these same regions receive at other times. Observations show no such pattern of favouritism in the spatial distribution of World Bank development projects. This paper is relevant from the perspective of International Organizations documenting political leaders of African countries who capture/misuse foreign aid.

- The Humanitarian Gap in the Global Sanctions Regime / Grégoire Mallard, Farzan Sabet, Jin Sun

This article asks: Why has the governance of international sanctions and sanctions exemption failed, and what can be done to fix the problem? It argues that a hybrid form of governance in the field of international sanctions is responsible for current humanitarian problems. Based on more than eighty interviews, this article assesses various possible fixes to the governance failures and proposes solutions to address the payment problems that exporters of vital goods in sanctioned jurisdictions face.

- Popular Urbanization. Conceptualizing urbanization processes beyond informality / Ozan Karaman, Lindsay Sawyer, Christian Schmid, Monika Streule

This article introduces the concept of popular urbanization to describe a specific urbanization process based on collective initiatives, self-organization and the activities of inhabitants. Popular urbanization is understood to be an urban strategy through which an urban territory is produced, transformed and appropriated by the people. The article focused on material interaction, territorial regulation, and everyday experiences. In this way, popular urbanization emerged as a distinct urbanization process.

A SPECIAL MENTION was awarded to:

- Masters of Disorder: Rituals of Communication and Monitoring at the International Committee of the Red Cross / Julie Billaud

The mandate of the ICRC as granted by the Geneva Conventions is to act as a 'guardian of International Humanitarian Law' on the frontlines of conflicts. This paper pays specific attention to activities carried out by ICRC delegates to protect various categories of victims in times of war. By focusing on the ways in which delegates interpret the principles ('neutrality', 'impartiality', 'confidentiality') that guide their actions, the author seeks to decipher the organisation's ethos and worldview. She examines how these techniques are changing as a result of external pressure for 'evidence-based programming', turning personalised and case-based monitoring into a new form of 'audit culture' based on statistical evidence.

EVENTS

ScienceComm'20, September, Solothurn

The annual conference 'ScienceComm' organized by Science & Cité brings together science communicators from Switzerland and abroad.

Science & Cité and the SNIS collaborated on this year's media coverage of the ScienceComm. The SNIS was in charge of the live streaming of keynote speeches and carried out 14 interviews throughout the whole event. The interviews and keynotes were live-streamed on the SNIS' Twitter account @SNISGeneva. The heart of the production was the SNIS Mobile Studio which was introduced last year.

This year's post-production team used a handier format for the publication of videos on Twitter. Science et Cité was in charge of publishing those clips on their network for further dissemination.

SNIS Project Launch Workshop 2020, October, Geneva

All SNIS 2020 project coordinators were invited to participate in the SNIS 2020 project launch workshop. The SNIS asked each of them to prepare a presentation in the short 'Pecha Kucha'-format (20 slides, 20 seconds per slide) in order to leave more time for Q&A exchanges. The coordinators found the experience refreshing and lauded the fact that there was more time for discussion. The researchers also presented their project in short interviews captured in the 'SNIS Mobile Studio'-format. In addition to these interviews, the coordinators also pitched their projects in condensed, one-minute clips that were published on Twitter.

The interviews were added to the relevant project pages on the SNIS website. 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.

Additional 'Pestrop'-documentary screenings in Echallens (September) and Bern (October)

The 15th «Festival du Film Vert» 2020 showcased «Pestrop – a Ugandan Story» the research documentary released by the SNIS in 2019. (19 September, 10 October)



STRUCTURE

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Jan Klabbers

Academy of Finland

Marion Jansen

International Trade Center

Dennis Rodgers

University of Amsterdam

Peter Egger

ETH Zurich

Jonas Tallberg

Stockholm University

Ulrike Müller-Böker

University of Zurich

Christophe Muller

University of Aix-Marseille

Andrea Sylvia Winkler

University of Oslo

Corinne Pernet

University of Basel

GOVERNING COMMITTEE

Philippe Burrin / Marie-Laure Salles Djelic

Graduate Institute of International
and Development Studies

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

Vally Koubi

ETH Zurich and University of Bern

Siegfried Weichlein

University of Fribourg

Peter Larsen

University of Geneva

IGC AWARD COMMITTEE

Téa Garcia-Huidobro C.

Special Advisor

Director General's Office

IUCN (International Union for Conserva

Marcelo Di Pietro Peralta

Director - World Intellectual Property Organi-
sation (WIPO)

Kerstin Vignard

Head, support team - UNIDIR

Francesco Pisano

Director - UN Library – UNOG

Bernard Kuiten

Head of External Relations

World Trade Organisation (WTO)

Richard Lukacs

Specialist, Global Risks and Geopolitical
Agenda - World Economic Forum

Vincent Defourny

Director - UNESCO liaison office Geneva

Marie McAuliffe

Head, Migration Research Division - Interna-
tional Organization for Migration (IOM)

Samir Yeddes

First Secretary, Global Affairs Team

Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the UN

Catherine Saget

Chief of Unit - ILO research Department

Maria Luisa Silva

Director - UNDP Office Geneva

Charlotte Warakaulle

Director for International Relations
European Organisation for Nuclear Research
(CERN)

SECRETARIAT

In 2020, the core team running the Secretariat stayed the same:

Bernhard Fuhrer, Director (80%)

Damien Marti, Project Manager (80%)

Ruxandra Stoicescu, Communications
(Jan-Aug 50%, Sep-Dec 80%)

This core team was supported by Asmita Schoettli who filled the intern position in September 2020. In addition, the civil service collaborator, Valentin Udriot, joined the team in mid-September 2020.

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