

An aerial photograph of a village with many houses having red-tiled roofs. In the background, there are lush green mountains, but a large, exposed brown earth landslide is visible on the left side of the mountain range. The sky is overcast with grey clouds.

**GENEVA
GRADUATE
INSTITUTE**

**CENTRE ON
CONFLICT,
DEVELOPMENT &
PEACEBUILDING**

CCDP Annual Report 2023

CCDP Annual Report 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. OVERVIEW	1
2. STAFF SITUATION	1
3. ACTIVE, ONGOING PROJECTS AT THE CCDP.....	4
3.1 RESEARCH PROJECTS	4
3.2 MANDATES AND POLICY WORK OF THE CCDP	21
4. LONG-TERM COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVES.....	24
5. PROPOSALS SUBMITTED DURING 2023, INCLUDING STATUS ...	27
6. EVENTS CALENDAR.....	36
7. PROFESSIONAL TRAININGS.....	42
8. PUBLIC IMPACT OF THE CENTRE'S WORK AND RELATIONSHIP WITH INTERNATIONAL GENEVA.....	43
8.1 PUBLIC OUTREACH	43
8.2 ONLINE PRESENCE	45

1. Overview

The Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP) is the Geneva Graduate Institute's focal point for research in the areas of conflict analysis, peacebuilding, and the complex relationships between security and development. Its research agenda hosts projects on issues as diverse as gangs, digital technologies, and illicit financial flows related to the commodity trading sector of resource-rich developing countries.

2023 was a transition and transformation year for the CCDP, which included new collaborators and collaborations, plans for a move to new offices (co-located with other research centres), and launching of new projects. This was accompanied by a strengthening of the research protocols and oversight procedures at the Centre, the organisation of a training on security and research practices during fieldwork, as well as a consultative process to develop a forward-looking CCDP strategy for 2024 and beyond.

In terms of our projects, field travel and in-person events were up to the same levels as before the pandemic, with the advantage of greater outreach of our work through hybrid meeting formats and increased collaborations with local researchers on the ground.

2023 was also a proactive year in terms of fundraising, with the submission of 15 new project proposals worth just above CHF 5,969,737 million. Of this amount, over 97% was submitted to competitive funding sources or public tenders. As the Annual Report went to press, 1 submitted proposal was accepted, while 1 was refused and 13 funding decisions remain pending.

At the end of 2023, the Centre counted 28 colleagues (not including the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform team). Major changes included the welcoming of Eliza Urwin, who started as Head of Research in Spring 2023, and the departure of our long-time Operations Coordinator, Sina Zintzmeyer, at the end of 2023.

2. Staff situation

Below is a list of Geneva Graduate Institute faculty members and employed staff who worked with the CCDP over the past year. The Centre prides itself of being an inclusive, thriving community of creative individuals working jointly on cutting-edge projects and research activities. For all grant applications and mandates, the emphasis is on involving as many senior and junior staff as possible, including students at the Master's level. Wherever possible, all research positions are openly advertised and follow a competitive, gender-sensitive recruitment process. Longer-term employees, notably those who are part of the CCDP "core team" (see below) undertake an annual meeting with their respective line manager, as encouraged by and following the guidelines offered by the Human Resources Department. The CCDP also encourages this practice for project staff hired for more than 1 year.

In 2023, 12 recruitments took place for new staff positions. Additionally, the continuation of the collaboration between the CCDP and the Department of Executive Education through the hosting of Margaux Pinaud as Academic Coordinator for the Graduate Institute's Executive

Master in Development Policies and Practices stands for the importance given to cross-fertilisation and the strengthening of ties with other Departments within the Institute.

Faculty Associates

Prof. Riccardo Bocco
Prof. Filipe Calvão
Prof. Gilles Carbonnier
Prof. Dêlidji Eric Degila
Prof. Alexandre Dormeier-Freire
Prof. Stephanie Hofmann
Prof. Anna Leander
Prof. Mohammad Mahmoud Mohamedou
Prof. Alessandro Monsutti
Prof. Dennis Rodgers
Prof. Davide Rodogno
Prof. Martina Viarengo
Prof. Christiana Parreira
Prof. Michelle Weitzel
Amb. Fred Tanner

Core Staff

Brianna Elder, Student Researcher (37.5%) from September 2023
Maëlys Glück, Outreach Coordinator and Knowledge Manager (100%)
Zachariah Jambo, Student Researcher (37.5%) until September 2023
Prof. Keith Krause, Director
Augusta Nannerini, Research Assistant (PhD 50%)
Margaux Pinaud, DPP-CFM Coordinator (40%)
Eliza Urwin, Head of Research from March 2023
Sina Zintzmeyer, Operations Coordinator until December 2023 (60%)

While the Core Team works to manage and support all CCDP activities, mandates and research proposals (19 research projects, 30 staff positions, 20 research associates and 3 visiting fellows), each member of the team also has their own substantive expertise and engages in research projects and/ or mandates. Sina Zintzmeyer continued to support organisations working on Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning, Keith Krause and Augusta Nannerini worked closely with the Principles for Peace Foundation on the Principles for Peace initiative, and Maëlys Glück worked on different mandates with the EU and Swiss FDFA on Track 2 mediation and conflict sensitivity in Yemen and Lebanon. Zachariah Jambo and Brianna Elder were in charge of communications, social media content, and the CCDP seminars (along with Augusta Nannerini). All positions in the team are highly flexible and there are many connections between these different activities and the wide range of CCDP projects.

Research Staff

Alice Daquin, Doctoral Researcher, (ERC “Gangs, Gangsters and Ganglands” project)

Chiara Feliciani, Doctoral Researcher, (ERC “Gangs, Gangsters and Ganglands” project)
Lene Swetzer, Doctoral Researcher (ERC “Gangs, Gangsters and Ganglands” project)
Dr. Maroussia Ferry, Postdoctoral Researcher (ERC “Gangs, Gangsters and Ganglands” project)
Dr. Rahul Mehrotra, Postdoctoral Researcher and Project Coordinator (SNSF “Illicit Financial Flows” project)
Pedro Dos Santos Maia, Doctoral Researcher (various project)
Lucas Perez, Student Researcher (SNSF “Infrastructuring Democracy” project)
Dr. Andreas Hirblinger, Senior Researcher (Ambizione “An Apomediated peace?”)
Fabian Hofmann, Junior Researcher (Ambizione “An Apomediated peace?”)
Sara Kallis, Junior Researcher (Ambizione “An Apomediated peace?”)
Dr. Xinyu Yuan, Postdoctoral Researcher (SNSF “Peace by Other Means” project)
Emilian Berutti, Doctoral Researcher (SNSF “Peace by Other Means” project)
Agnieszka Fal-Dutra Santos, Doctoral Researcher (SNSF “Peace by Other Means” project)
Dr. Sara Hellmüller, Senior Researcher (SNSF “A Child of its Time” Prima project)
Bilal Salaymeh, Doctoral Researcher (SNSF “A Child of its Time” Prima project)
Rosalind Tan, Doctoral Researcher (SNSF “A Child of its Time” Prima project),
Dr. Fanny Badache, Postdoctoral Researcher (SNSF “A Child of its Time” Prima project)
Flavia Keller, Student Researcher (SNSF “A Child of its Time” Prima project)
Zoia Suleiman, Student Researcher (SNSF “A Child of its Time” Prima project)
Marie Holch, Student Researcher (SNSF “A Child of its Time” Prima project)
Chiara Lanfranchi, Student Researcher (SNSF “Communicating About Peace: United Nations Peace Missions and Their Mandates” Agora project)
Dr. Abdulla Ibrahim, Researcher, (RBF “Future of Arms Control” project)
Dr. Elena Butti, Postdoctoral Researcher (SNSF Postdoctoral “Young Venezuelan migrants in Colombia” project)
Souhail Belhadj Klaz, Research Associate (EUI-FDFA “EUROMED” project)
Dr. Israel Nyaburi Nyadera, Postdoctoral Researcher, (FCS “The crisis of liberal peacebuilding efforts in multi-cultural societies” project)
Amrita Aryaman Massaguer Garcia, Doctoral Researcher (SNSF advanced “State-building and Security Sector Reform” project)
Victoria Motta De Lamare França, Doctoral Researcher (SNSF advanced “State-building and Security Sector Reform” project)
Jean-Baptiste Sebgo, Student Researcher (SNSF advanced “State-building and Security Sector Reform” project)
Mergim Bajrami, Student Researcher (SNSF advanced “State-building and Security Sector Reform” project)
Prof. David Wood, Senior Researcher (various projects)
Dr. Caitlin Procter, Marie Skłodowska Curie Research Fellow (Marie Skłodowska Curie “REACT” project)

Staff of the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform

Dr. Annyssa Bellal, Executive Coordinator (100%)
Annika Erickson-Pearson, Head of Community Management (100%)
Dany Diogo, Geneva Peace Week Lead (100%)
Maria Baltag, Administrative Coordinator (50 %)

Gabriela Buser, Fundraising and hospitality Coordinator (60%)

Tatiana Avanthay, Communications Coordinator (80%)

3. Active, ongoing projects at the CCDP

In 2023, the CCDP had a broad portfolio of 19 projects encompassing fundamental research, applied research, policy work and consultancy mandates. We believe that opportunities to learn and feed research into applied work and vice versa are particularly inspiring for innovation and mutual enrichment. Thus, many CCDP projects do not fit neatly into one specific category. The CCDP continues to foster interaction and synergies across researchers, associates and visiting fellows through social events, online connectivity, seminars and reading groups. In this way, the academic quality of research associated with the Centre continues to grow and an inspiring, innovative research environment is established and nurtured. The list of projects below, in alphabetical order, offers an overview of all active initiatives. For multi-year activities, only CCDP collaborators who were actively involved during the reporting period have been listed below. Core CCDP faculty and staff members contributed to the conceptualisation, implementation and reporting phases of all projects throughout the year, ensuring quality assurance and peer review, financial oversight, and dissemination activities.

3.1 Research Projects

A child of its time: the impact of world politics on peacebuilding

“A child of its time” is a five-year project (2020-2024) funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) PRIMA Grant. The project analyses how the emerging multipolar world order influences UN peace missions. In a first phase (2020), the team established a dataset on UN peace missions (UNPMM) to analyse how their mandates have changed. In a second phase (2021), the project analysed how conceptualisations of security, sovereignty, and peacebuilding have changed, arguing that this constitutes the intervening mechanism between world politics and UN peace missions. In a third phase (2022-2023), in-depth studies of six cases were produced, namely on the UN peacekeeping missions in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, and South Sudan, and the UN political missions in Libya, Syria, and Yemen.

In 2023, the team finalised the interviews with key stakeholders in the case study contexts, transcribed them, and analysed them with NVivo. Based on the dataset on UN peace missions (UNPMM) developed in the first phase of the project, the team is also organising an exhibition on UN Peace Missions that will show throughout Switzerland in 2023 and 2024. It also launched the UN Peace Missions Website and the UN Peace Missions App (www.peacemissions.info). Both were made possible thanks to additional funding from an SNSF Agora Grant and from the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA).

Insights from the three phases of the research project were shared in several journal articles, including in the Journal of Conflict Resolution, Global Governance, the International Journal of Conflict Management, International Peacekeeping, and Insight Turkey. Moreover, Sara

Hellmüller published on knowledge production on peace and mediation in International Affairs and her book “Partners for Peace” was translated into German; Fanny Badache co-edited a book on International Organizations and Research Methods with University of Michigan Press and a special issue in the Swiss Journal of Sociology; and Bilal Salayme published a book review in International Peacekeeping and wrote numerous commentaries, including for Aljazeera, Arabic Post (Huffpost Arabi), and the Syrian News Website EnabBaladi.



© A Child of It's Time Team, Hosting a workshop on World Politics and UN Peace Missions.

The team also hosted a workshop on the project with key scholars working on world politics and peace missions in the framework of the European Workshops in International Studies (EWIS) at the University of Amsterdam. Moreover, team members presented at several international conferences, such as the Annual Congress of the Swiss Political Science Association and the Annual Convention of the International Studies Association as well as at events hosted by Birzeit University, Doha Institute for Graduate Studies, Geneva Graduate Institute, Geneva Centre for Security Policy, ETH Zurich, University of Oxford, University of Manchester, European University Institute, and Panthéon-Sorbonne University.

Team members also engaged in teaching. Sara Hellmüller taught two courses in the MINT programme of the Geneva Graduate Institute in the spring semester: one course on “Going to “the Field”: Ethics, Risks, and Practicalities of Research in Conflict-Affected Contexts” and one course on “Diversity in Peacebuilding: Women and Civil Society Inclusion.” Moreover, she taught two one-day sessions on mediation in English and French at the Executive Master in Development Policies and Practices. Bilal taught graduate courses at the International Institute in Geneva on "International Relations of the Middle East" and "International Security" in spring and fall 2023.

Collaborators: Sara Hellmüller, Fanny Badache, Flavia Keller, Bilal Salaymeh, Xiang-Yun Rosalind Tan

Funding: PRIMA Grant, Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)

Key Publications: Cooperation and Conflict ([Link](#)), Contemporary Security Policy ([Link](#)), Review of International Studies ([Link](#)), Global Studies Quarterly ([Link](#)), and Global Policy ([Link](#)) and a policy brief on Libya ([Link](#)).

State-Building and the Global Practices of Security Sector Reform

The security apparatus - armed forces, police, gendarmerie, border guards, customs and immigration, and intelligence and security services, as well as security oversight bodies (ministries of defence and internal affairs, financial management bodies and public bodies) - lies at the heart of the state's legal monopoly over the use of force. Security institutions are meant to fulfil a protective function from both external and internal threats, providing security as a public good subject to civilian control and oversight accountable to the polity. Yet in many regions, the security sector is institutionally and politically powerful, absorbs considerable financial resources, and is weak, ineffective, or even violent and predatory.

Efforts to reform and reconstruct security institutions and practices have also become a major tool of international interventions in conflict-affected and fragile states. Yet there are significant shortcomings in both knowledge and practice regarding these large-scale efforts to reform and re-engineer security institutions. To begin, there is no cross-national and longitudinal data collection on the scope, scale, duration, type and focus of security sector reform (SSR) projects worldwide, and little systematic analysis of the conditions or definitions of success and failure that could inform global SSR practices. There is also no coherent account of the causal mechanisms and processes by which 'pacific states' and institutions emerge and become socially and politically embedded.

These weaknesses in existing knowledge generate the three research puzzles guiding this project. Firstly, what are the normative and conceptual foundations that inform the cognitive authority and institutional imaginary of externally-led programmes to re-engineer, reconstruct or reform security institutions in states that are conflict-affected, fragile or in transition? Secondly, how do these map onto (or not) the historical experiences of the states and institutions that are taken as models for these efforts? And finally, what are the consequences of this for SSR programming in states that are conflict-affected, fragile or in transition, and can they explain (or not) the persistence of particular global practices?

Collaborators: Keith Krause, Amrita Massaguer Garcia, Victoria Motta De Lamare França, S Boimale Jean Baptiste Sebgo, Mergim Bajrami

Funding: Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)

An Apomediated Peace? The Role of Digital Technologies in International Peacebuilding

In 2023, the project “An Apomediated Peace” continued its research on digital peacebuilding, with an empirical focus on Sri Lanka, South Sudan and Northern Ireland, as well as on the global dimensions of digital peacebuilding practice and policy.

In February, Dr. Andreas Hirblinger concluded a second visit to Sri Lanka, where he conducted research in Colombo and Jaffna. Sri Lanka witnessed a disruptive economic and political crisis in 2022, accompanied by large-scale popular protests and the ousting of its government. During his visit, Andreas met with social media activists and peacebuilding actors to learn about the role of online and social media platforms in the protests and to understand if and how they enabled new forms of citizen activism that could help to overcome Sri Lanka’s long-standing societal divisions. In collaboration with Hasini Haputhantri and Sara Kallis, he collected and analysed hundreds of social media memes produced in the context of this crisis and conducted interviews and focus group discussions with social media activists to discuss their content and impact on group relations.



© Investigating the Impact of Social Media on Peacebuilding in Sri Lanka: A Food Stall in Jaffna (Researcher behind the Camera)

A lot of additional empirical research was pursued remotely. Amongst others, the team studied the use of social media and online consultative platforms in the context of the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF), supported by the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), the impact of several community-based conflict early warning systems in South Sudan, and the efforts to counter disinformation and dangerous speech on social media through partnerships between civil society and social media platforms in Northern Ireland and Sri Lanka. These empirical case studies complement the team’s comparative research of apomediated peacebuilding dynamics across various cases that differ in their degree of digitalisation and political contexts, which has been completed this year and is currently under review. Furthermore, to study the effects of digitalisation of peacebuilding at the global level, Andreas worked with junior researcher Fabian Hofmann and Kristoffer Lidén (Peace Research

Institute Oslo – PRIO) on an analysis of the normative claims made about PeaceTech in policy- and practice-oriented guidelines and documents. This activity aimed to understand better how the emerging discourse on global PeaceTech ethics distributes risks and responsibilities across various actors and scales.

The team presented this research at various scientific and practitioner-oriented events, including the International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention Montréal, the Conflict Research Society (CRS) annual conference in London, the Science Peace and Security (SPS) Conference in Darmstadt, the annual conference of the Protestant Academy Loccum and the Dresden Science Slam. In November and December this year, the team also organised a series of online workshops to explore the merits of what a “post-digital” perspective on peacebuilding could look like. The team had more than ten speakers, covering topics such as crowdsourcing for conflict analysis and early warning, social media activism for peace, or the use of artificial intelligence for reconciliation and transitional justice. The participants engaged with a range of post-digital concerns, such as the co-constitution of the social and the technical, the opportunities and limits of a pluriverse perspective that could help us move beyond unitary and homogenous notions of digitalisation, or a grounded perspective on the digital that can account for its tangible and embodies effects. The team is currently working on a Special Issue to document the results of this initiative.

This year also saw the publication of the first set of contributions and one additional article from Andreas’ earlier project on the role of “subjunctive technologies in peacebuilding. In addition, Andreas published a [report](#) on the effects of digitalisation on National Dialogues with the Berghof Foundation.

Collaborators: Andreas Hirblinger, Fabian Hofmann, Sara Kallis (until September 2023)

Funding: Ambizione Grant, Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)

Key Publications:

Hirblinger, Andreas T., Julie Marie Hansen, Kristian Hoelscher, Åshild Kolås, Kristoffer Lidén, and Bruno Oliveira Martins. 2022. “Digital Peacebuilding: A Framework for Critical–Reflexive Engagement.” *International Studies Perspectives*, November, ekac015. <https://doi.org/10.1093/isp/ekac015>.

Hirblinger, Andreas T. 2023a. “Building a Peace We Don’t Know? The Power of Subjunctive Technologies in Digital Peacebuilding.” *Peacebuilding* 11 (2): 113–35. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21647259.2022.2154957>.

Hirblinger, Andreas T. 2023b. “When the Digits Don’t Add up: Research Strategies for Post-Digital Peacebuilding.” *Cooperation and Conflict*, August, 00108367231184727. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00108367231184727>.

Hirblinger, Andreas T., Ville Brummer, and Felix Kufus. 2023. “Leveraging Digital Methods in the Quest for Peaceful Futures: The Interplay of Sincere and Subjunctive Technology Affordances in Peace Mediation.” *Information, Communication & Society* 0 (0): 1–20. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1369118X.2023.2247070>.

Curbing Illicit Financial Flows from Resource-rich Developing Countries: Improving Natural Resource Governance to Finance the SDGs

Building on economics, law, and political science, this interdisciplinary research project aims to analyse how commodity-trade-related illicit financial flows (IFFs) from resource-rich countries can be substantially reduced to finance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The research specifically targets IFFs associated with trade mispricing and abusive transfer pricing, as well as (informal) trade in minerals, which have been recognised as a significant contributor to tax-base erosion in developing countries with low tax-to-GDP ratios. The project aims to advance shared knowledge and advocate for policy options to effectively reduce illicit financial flows related to commodity trade (SDG 16.4), with the ultimate objective of supporting resource-rich developing countries in mobilising their domestic resources (SDG 17.1). The North-South research collaboration, led by Gilles Carbonnier (Principal Investigator) at the CCDP, Rahul Mehrotra (until September 2023) and Joschka J. Proksik (Project Coordinator based at ETH Zürich starting September 2023), involves partners from the University of Ghana, the National Institute for Economic Research of Laos, University of Bern, and ETH Zurich.

Renewed for a concluding three-year phase in 2020, the Swiss Programme for Research on Global Issues for Development (r4d) project is expanding its evidence base by implementing regional validation of research frameworks developed in the initial phase. It is also intensifying engagements with stakeholders at national, regional, and international levels to drive policy changes. In the past final year of our research, the project has made significant strides, publishing multiple papers in peer-reviewed journals and participating in various international policy forums, including the World Resource Forum 2023. Further key activities involve the successful implementation of multi-stakeholder workshops in Laos and Ghana in November 2023 to disseminate research findings and engage academics, policymakers, civil society, and the media in discussions on major findings and policy recommendations. Additionally, the project team has convened an international authors' workshop, uniting researchers both from within and beyond the project, to contribute to the production of a special journal issue on the topic. By December 2023, the project team will mark the release of a short, powerful documentary produced in collaboration with a senior journalist in Ghana. The documentary aims to heighten global government, academic and civil society awareness regarding the magnitude, drivers, and impacts of IFFs as well as policy solutions. For a comprehensive list of research papers, policy briefs, and events in 2023, please visit the project website: <https://curbing-iffs.org/>.

Principal Collaborators: Gilles Carbonnier, Rahul Mehrotra

Funding: Swiss Programme for Research on Global Issues for Development, jointly set up by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)

The crisis of liberal peacebuilding efforts in multi-cultural societies: lessons from South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Ethiopia

This project is being conducted as part of the 2023/2024 Swiss Government Excellence Postdoctoral fellowship funded by the Federal Commission for Scholarships for Foreign Students (FCS). It argues for the rethinking of liberal peacebuilding approaches within the broader literature of peace and conflict studies. The liberal peacebuilding approach is based on the assumption that conflicts can be resolved through reforms in the market, adopting liberal democratic political practices and formulation/adoption of norms, doctrines and institutions. While these measures have had some positive impact in some conflict environments, they seem to trigger a crisis and reproduction of violence in other settings. Thus, the liberal peacebuilding model has come under heavy critique for its practical limitations in complex, protracted, and fragmented conflict settings. The project focuses on three case studies namely the conflict in South Sudan, Ethiopia and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to illustrate that interventions premised on the liberal peacebuilding model to mitigate conflict and alleviate humanitarian crises have largely been ineffective.

The project puts forth two core arguments. Firstly, that at the centre of conflicts in the three countries, are hyper local causes and drivers, yet, previous intervention epitomised by the internationally mediated peace agreements, have tended to ignore the hyper locality aspect of the conflict. Secondly, whereas international civil society organisations have shifted attention and resources to the sub-national level, such interventions have largely been driven by outsider agency at the expense of local agency which is emblematic of community preferences for the form of intervention as well as the leverage of indigenous social systems and structures for peace. The project hopes to reinforce the need for conflict-sensitive thinking in the designing and implementation of peace interventions at the local levels to positively transform the conflict landscape in the DRC, South Sudan and Ethiopia. Within the framework of this project, Dr. Nyadera has given a seminar lecture at CCDP and will disseminate the findings of the project through journal publications.

Principal Collaborator: Israel Nyadera

Funding: Federal Commission for Scholarships for Foreign Students (FCS)

Mapping the Transnational Circulation and Control of Small Arms in Latin America

How do small arms circulate in Latin America? How do they flow through national borders and across national territories, between the hands of state and non-state actors, between legality and illegality? This project proposes to tackle the scarcity of data and analysis on this circulation by examining the anatomy of an automatic rifle. This anatomy will have three layers. Firstly, it will address the politics of its production, both in its technical components and ammunition. Secondly, it will follow the circulation and movement of rifles within and through the region, in legal and illegal flows and create a database combining quantitative data on imports and exports, illegal trafficking, and diversion of rifles, components and ammunition. Thirdly, it will build a cartography of national, regional, and international norms on the control

of these flows and their adoption and implementation in Latin America. Mixed Methods research will combine the analysis of official and independently-gathered quantitative and qualitative data on the production, circulation, and control of rifles and ammunition; and the comprehensive study of emblematic stories, based on document analysis and in-depth interviews with local experts and partners, to shed light on all layers of this anatomy and reveal its effects on peace, security, and development in the region. In 2023, the first seminar with the project's Latin American partners was held in Rio. The seminar was titled "Transnational Arms Flows in Latin America: Trends and Challenges". The event was held by IRI/PUC-Rio in collaboration with the CDDP and the Small Arms Survey, with the support of FAPERJ and the Swiss Network for International Studies (SNIS). The project also participated in the SNIS launch event with a presentation by Nicolas Florquin and Pedro Maia.

Principal Collaborators: Keith Krause, Pedro Dos Santos Maia

Funding: Swiss Network of International Studies (SNIS) grant

Revisiting Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation in an Age of Uncertainty- EUROMED

The project "Revisiting Euro-Mediterranean Partnership" addresses the key issues faced by practitioners in implementing regional cooperation policies. The Institute is the right place to address these issues, as its research capabilities are being mobilised to analyse the nexuses relevant to practitioners and cooperation policies: humanitarian-development; conflict-development; human rights-migration; migration-development; regional integration-conflicts; education-jobs; cooperation instruments-policy priorities, and so on. The Institute, which is part of Geneva's international and multilateral ecosystem, is therefore the right place for practitioners to reflect on cooperation formats that offer greater convergence between the countries of the Euromed zone in an increasingly unstable world (war in Ukraine). The aim of the project is to organise a workshop as an annual event at the Geneva Graduate Institute, setting March 2024 as the date for the new edition; to widen access to the workshop to institutional players who are part of the UN system in Geneva and concerned by Euromed issues: UNHCR; IOM; Human Rights Council, Delegation of the European Union, Delegations of states on the northern and southern shores of the Mediterranean, as well as the Swiss Mission.

Principal Collaborators: Souhail Belhadj Klaz

Funding: European University Institute, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA)

Gangs, Gangsters and Ganglands: Towards a Global Comparative Ethnography

This five-and-a-half-year project (2019-2024), funded by an ERC advanced grant, aims to develop a systematic comparative investigation of global gang dynamics, to better understand why they emerge, how they evolve over time, whether they are associated with particular urban configurations, how and why individuals join gangs, and what impact this has on their

potential futures. It draws on original ethnographic research carried out in multiple locations, adopting an explicitly tripartite focus on “Gangs”, “Gangsters” and “Ganglands” in order to better explore the interplay between group, individual and contextual factors. The first considers the organisational dynamics of gangs, the second focuses on individual gang members and their trajectories before, during and after their involvement in a gang, while the third reflects on the contexts within which gangs emerge and evolve. Research combines innovative collaborative ethnography in Nicaragua, South Africa, and France, a groundbreaking comparison of 32 individual gang member life histories from across Africa, Asia, Europe, North and South America, and unique joint ethnographic investigations into the political economy of three gang-affected cities in France (Marseille), Italy (Naples), and Spain (Algeciras).



© Dennis Rodgers, graffiti in Marseille.

The bulk of GANGS project fieldwork having come to an end in the summer of 2022, the past 18 months have mainly been devoted to data-processing and analysis, writing, and, increasingly, the dissemination of research results. The three GANGS project doctoral students, Alice Daquin, Chiara Feliciani, and Lene Swetzer, have all been progressing with their dissertation-writing, while the GANGS project postdoc, Maroussia Ferry, the GANGS project PI Dennis Rodgers, and the GANGS project Senior Researcher Steffen Jensen, have been working on a variety of publication projects, including monographs, book chapters, and articles, some of which have already been published (see list below). Additionally, all GANGS project personnel conducted return visits to their respective field sites in order to present preliminary results to research interlocutors – and in the case of the GANGS project PhD students, also fill in some gaps in their research – between February and May 2023. The GANGS project postdoc also carried out fieldwork in Georgia in February 2023, in order to collect life histories of Georgian gangsters’ wives for the GANGS project’s “Gangsters” sub-project.

In relation to the latter, two “Gang Lives” workshops were held in Geneva in March and August 2023 bringing together the 29 sub-contracted “Gangsters” sub-project researchers, who along with the GANGS project Senior Researcher and postdoc, presented their gangster life histories and discussed how these might best be compared. Other GANGS project activities

during the reporting period include co-organising on 19-21 June 2023 a workshop on “Crime and punishment, policing, borders, and urban segregation: Comparative perspectives”, with the ERC-funded CRIMTANG project based at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark. The latter also has Marseille as one of its core case studies – members of their research team and the GANGS project team in fact met up during their respective fieldworks in Marseille in 2022 – and the workshop was a fruitful occasion for exchange and the discussions of research results. On 18-19 September 2023, the GANGS project also co-organised a workshop on “La Economía Moral de la Criminalización de lo Político en las Américas” with the CEMCA CNRS research centre in Mexico City, Mexico, and on 4-6 October 2023, the GANGS project co-organised an international conference on “Frictions Urbaines” with the University of Geneva’s “Urban Hub” (<https://www.unige.ch/urbanhub/bienvenue/colloque-frictions-urbaines/>). GANGS project personnel additionally individually presented GANGS project research in a range of different forums, in English, French, Spanish, Italian, and Danish, in France, Italy, Spain, Guatemala, Mexico, the UK, Belgium, Portugal, Denmark, Switzerland, and the USA.

Principal Collaborators: Dennis Rodgers, Maroussia Ferry (until June 2023), Alice Daquin, Chiara Feliciani, and Lene Swetzer

Funding: ERC advanced grant

Key Publications:

Journal special issue:

Lamotte, Martin, and Dennis Rodgers (eds.), (2023), “The law of the outlaw: Law and order in, with, and beyond criminal groups/La loi du hors la loi: L’ordre et la loi au sein, avec, et au-delà des groupes criminels”, bilingual special issue of the *Swiss Journal of Sociocultural Anthropology/Revue Suisse d’Anthropologie Sociale et Culturelle*, 29, December.

Journal articles:

Ferry, Maroussia, (2023), “Regards féminins sur l’ordre légal des « voleurs dans la loi » en Géorgie postsoviétique: Comment concurrencer les lois de l’État, entre morale personnelle et formalisme juridique”, *Swiss Journal of Sociocultural Anthropology/Revue Suisse d’Anthropologie Sociale et Culturelle*, 29, December.

Lamotte, Martin, and Dennis Rodgers (eds.), (2023), “Introduction : The law of the outlaw: Law and order in, with, and beyond criminal groups/Introduction : La loi du hors la loi: L’ordre et la loi au sein, avec, et au-delà des groupes criminels”, *Swiss Journal of Sociocultural Anthropology/Revue Suisse d’Anthropologie Sociale et Culturelle*, 29, December.

Rodgers, Dennis, (2023), “After the gang: Violence, desistance, and post-delinquent occupational trajectories in contemporary Nicaragua”, submitted to the *Journal of Latin American Studies*, 1-16, doi:10.1017/S0022216X23000718.

Rocha, José-Luis, Dennis Rodgers, and Julienne Weegels, (2023), “Debunking the myth of Nicaraguan exceptionalism: Crime, drugs, and the political economy of violence in a Narco-State”, *Journal of Latin American Studies*, 55(3): 519-543.

Other:

Daquin, Alice, (2023), "Mères des quartiers populaires : des intermédiaires sur le fil", *The Conversation*, 31 July, <https://theconversation.com/meres-des-quartiers-populaires-des-intermediaires-sur-le-fil-210141>.

Jensen, Steffen, (2023), "Dansk professor var på gaden blandt franske kriminelle: 'Forlod stedet, lige før det sprang i luften'", *Videnskab.dk*, 11 July, <https://videnskab.dk/kultur-samfund/dansk-professor-var-paa-gaden-blandt-franske-kriminelle-forlod-stedet-lige-foer-det-sprang-i-luften/>.

Jensen, Steffen, (2023), "Seniorforsker i Dignity: Jeg har fulgt de unge i de udsatte franske boligområder: De føler sig svigtet af staten", *Politiken*, 6 July, <https://politiken.dk/debat/debatindlaeg/art9428894/Jeg-har-fulgt-de-unge-i-de-udsatte-franske-boligomr%C3%A5der.-De-f%C3%B8ler-sig-svigtet-af-staten>.

Photo exhibition:

Ferry, Maroussia (curator), (2023), "La cité du Petit Séminaire, Centre Norbert Elias, Vieille Charité, Marseille, 6 March-5 May, <https://centrenorbertelias.cnrs.fr/petitseminaire/>.

Young Venezuelan Migrants in Colombia's Urban Peripheries: Criminals, Criminalized or Change-Makers?

This two-year project (2023-2025), funded by the SNSF, seeks to ethnographically explore the experiences of the youngest of these migrants, and specifically their relationship with the criminal groups that operate in the areas where they settle. In recent years, the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela has led to a massive inflow of Venezuelan migrants to neighbouring Colombia. In the lack of proper reception facilities, the vast majority of these migrants resettle in city peripheries – spaces largely controlled by criminal narco-gangs, where the most disadvantaged sectors of the Colombian population live. Against this background, this project asks the following two questions: Are young Venezuelan migrants recruited into existing gangs, do they form gangs of their own, or do they resist gang engagement altogether? And what role does nationality play, if any, in their (resistance to) criminal engagement? The project explores these questions by combining comparative ethnography with Participatory Action Research, including a collaborative film-making component, across two different neighbourhoods of Medellín, Colombia's second biggest city. Theoretically, the project contributes to unpacking the 'crime-migration nexus' in a rarely-explored case of South-South migration. Practically, it aims to inform more effective migrant reception and violence prevention policies.

The project started on October 1st, 2023. After an initial couple of weeks of administrative tasks, the project PI Elena Butti started surveying relevant literature and having conversations with other researchers working on similar topics. She also started practical preparations for fieldwork, which is due to start in February 2024. These preparations include practical arrangements like lodging and insurance, getting ethical approval, and activating local networks and contact which will facilitate a smooth conduct of the research while on site. Additionally, Dr. Butti has also delivered two seminar presentations, one at the Department of Criminology of the University of Oxford, and another at the Institute of the Americas of University College London. Dr. Butti has also applied for several relevant 2024 conferences (Latin American Studies Association, European Association of Social Anthropologists and

Society for Latin American Studies) where she aims to present her initial findings upon return from fieldwork. As part of the training component of her fellowship, Dr. Butti has moreover started to design a course that she aims to teach in fall 2024. She has moreover acted as the primary supervisor for the thesis project of a Master's Student of the CCDP's Conflict and Fragility Executive Master's. Additionally, she has applied for three small grants from the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation, the Independent Social Research Foundation and the Wenner-Gren Foundation with projects aimed at financing collaborative work with colleagues from the Latin America Region.

Principal Collaborator: Elena Butti

Funding: SNSF Grant

Peace by Other Means? Alternative Practices of Building Peace in a Changing Global Order

This research project, a continuation of the "Coherence and Contestation" project funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation, delves into the practices of building peace in conflict-affected and fragile countries employed by China, Japan, and Russia. Focusing on Burkina Faso, Madagascar, the Philippines, and Timor Leste, the study examines the scope, substances, and impact of these practices on conventional liberal peacebuilding methods and their reception by local actors. The project employs practice tracing, textual analysis, and semi-structured interviews, enriched by extensive fieldwork in both donor and recipient countries.

In 2023, our team made significant strides in data collection and refining our analytical approach. Notably, Emilian Berutti, our Doctoral Research Assistant, and Dr. Xinyu Yuan, our Postdoctoral Researcher, undertook two rounds of fieldwork in Dili, Timor Leste. Their efforts have yielded a draft paper analysing the peacebuilding landscape in Timor Leste. Additionally, Dr. Yuan conducted interviews with stakeholders in Beijing, and Dr. Kazushige Kobayashi gathered valuable insights in Tokyo. These interactions have provided a rich dataset on the Chinese and Japanese role in Timor Leste while laying a strong foundation for upcoming fieldwork in Madagascar, Burkina Faso, and the Philippines. Agnieszka Marta Fal-Dutra Santos, our focal point Doctoral Research Assistant for Madagascar, has conducted background research and initiated preliminary outreach for these forthcoming fieldwork activities.

The comprehensive research conducted by Agnieszka Marta Fal-Dutra Santos and Emilian Berutti has culminated in three detailed country reports on Timor Leste, the Philippines, and Madagascar. These reports provide an in-depth look at peacebuilding processes and actors in these settings. Furthermore, the team is finalising a manuscript exploring the redefinition of peacebuilding boundaries, targeted for submission to a reputable journal as part of a special issue. A book manuscript, systematically presenting findings from the phase 1 project, is also nearing completion for submission to a leading academic publisher.



© Participation in UNDP organised event on COVID-resilient elections

The project's dissemination activities in 2023 have been extensive. The team participated in several significant events, both online and offline, across the globe. These include the ISA 2023 conference in Montreal, the EISA conference in Potsdam, the CCDP seminar in Geneva, the ISA-Asia Pacific in Tokyo, the EWIS workshop in Amsterdam, and a SIPRI workshop online, the Conference of the Standing Group of Italian National and international political association, along with a lunch talk at PRIF. These platforms have significantly contributed to fostering a dynamic academic and professional community focused on new actors in peacebuilding, garnering considerable interest from peers and the public alike.

As the team moves into the next phase of our project, it anticipates further enriching of our understanding of alternative peacebuilding practices. The upcoming fieldwork in Madagascar, Burkina Faso, and the Philippines is poised to offer new perspectives and deepen the project's comparative analysis. The team remains committed to advancing the discourse on peacebuilding and contributing valuable insights to the field.

Principal Collaborators: Keith Krause, Xinyu Yuan, Emilian Berutti, Agnieszka Marta Fal-Dutra Santos

Funding: SNSF Grant

Infrastructuring Democracy: The Regulatory Politics of Digital Code, Content and Circulation

This project, funded by a grant from the SNSF Brazilian-Swiss Joint Research Program (BSJRP), is conducted in partnership with Florian Hoffman and Luis Fernandes at the Pontifical Catholic University in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. It asks how the digital infrastructuring of democracy unfolds through regulatory and political processes, with a heuristic focus on both its transnational dimension and its specific reverberations in democracies of the Global South. By focusing on the three main aspects of digital infrastructure: codes, content, and circulation, it analyses their place in the political and regulatory processes that form one aspect of the broader infrastructuring of democracy. The project concentrates on one thematic controversy

related to each aspect of infrastructure: the accountability of algorithms for code, data protection for content, and encryption for circulation.

Principal Collaborators: Anna Leander, Pedro Dos Santos Maia, Lucas Perez

Funding: SNSF Brazilian-Swiss Joint Research Program (BSJRP)

Relevant Publications:

Leander, A., Gonzales, W. C., Lobato, L., & Maia, P. D. S. (2023). Ripples and their returns: tracing the regulatory security state from the EU to Brazil, back and beyond. *Journal of European Public Policy*, 30(7), 1379-1405.

Maia, P. (2023). The Case for Interfaces in International Relations. *Global Studies Quarterly*, 3(3).

The Future of Arms Control Project

Arms control and strategic stability dialogues and agreements have been a critical stabilising factor between Washington and Moscow since the 1960s. With the Russian suspension of New START Treaty (NST) in February 2023, the US- Russian future interactions on arms control has entered uncharted territory. Given the near impossibility of negotiating a new treaty while the war in Ukraine is ongoing, a future without strategic arms control between the US and Russia are imaginable. There are challenges for officials to talk to each other directly, however, both governments are interested in exploring what they might talk about once they can. This project aims to discuss and produce options and scenarios for strategic arms control between the US and Russia through research and facilitated substantive dialogue activities between nongovernmental experts (in consultation with officials). Between June-November 2023, the project organised three events (two online, and one in-person) that brought together a total of 12 experts from the US and Russia. The events were meant to discuss and improve six draft papers that were produced by the experts on key issues like future US-Russia arms control frameworks, the relationship between conventional and nuclear risk reduction and arms control; and the possible options to negotiate intermediate range missiles (INF), and non-Strategic nuclear weapons (known as tactical nuclear weapons). These six draft papers are expected to be published in early 2024, with the hope of contributing to the ongoing academic and policy debates. A report on the in-person event was released and it summarised the November discussion on the latest US Strategic Posture Commission report that was released in October 2023. The project intends to continue these discussions and research in 2024 with another round of events (online and in-person), as well as publication on new issues of mutual interest.

The CCDP's experience and Geneva's neutrality are key components for the success of the project. In house expertise on the subject comes from Keith Krause, Director of the CCDP and Amb. Fred Tanner, former advisor to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). The project is also capitalising on the experience of UNIDIR through Andrey Baklitskiy, who is providing technical inputs to the discussions.

Principal Collaborator: Abdulla Ibrahim

Funding: Rockefeller Brothers Fund

Communicating About Peace: United Nations Peace Missions and Their Mandates

“Communicating about peace” is a two-year project (2023-2024) funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) Agora grant, with additional support from the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. It aims to make data and scientific literature on UN peace missions accessible to a non-scientific public and to foster inclusive discussions about the UN’s role in promoting peace and Switzerland’s contribution to it as an elected member on the UN Security Council for the period 2023-2024. In particular, the project makes the UN Peace Mission Mandates dataset (UNPMM), a comprehensive dataset on UN peace missions and their mandate tasks that was developed in the framework of a SNSF Prima grant, more widely accessible. In 2023, the Agora project focused on three key areas. First, it extended coverage of the UNPMM from 1990-2020 to 1948-2022 and compiled detailed descriptions of individual missions and language related to each of their mandate tasks. Second, it strengthened digital access to the UNPMM, by enhancing its website and by creating the UN Peace Missions App (links below). Thirdly, the Agora project created a pop-up exhibition on UN peace missions and started its journey through Switzerland (the exhibition was hosted by the GCSP during Geneva Peace Week, 30 October – 3 November; by the Geneva Graduate Institute, 21-29 November; and by ETH Zurich, 4-11 December). Additional stops are planned in 2024, including at the Basel Peace Forum (25 January), at the 2024 Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development (May), at ETH Zurich (June) and at the University of St Gallen (30 September – 12 October). The feedback gathered so far among scholars, policy-makers, and citizens shows the relevance of the project’s outputs and more broadly, of efforts to make scientific knowledge accessible to non-scientific audiences. Many collaboration opportunities have emerged over the course of the project’s first few months, and further locations to display the exhibitions are currently explored. Dr. Hellmüller promoted the project’s outputs at various conferences organised by Geneva Peace Week/GCSP ([on the future of peacekeeping](#)); by the University of Geneva ([on the role of small states at the UN Security Council](#)); and by the Center for Security Studies at ETH Zurich ([on Switzerland’s foreign policy](#)).



© At the ETH Zurich exhibition space; Sara gives a tour of the exhibition to members of a workshop organised by the Center for Security Studies.

Principal Collaborators: Sara Hellmüller, Margaux Pinaud, Chiara Lanfranchi, Maëlys Glück

Funding: Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) Agora grant

Relevant publications:

- Sara Hellmüller, Chiara Lanfranchi, Margaux Pinaud, Xiang-Yun Rosalind Tan (2023), United Nations Peace Mission Mandates (UNPMM) Dataset, Version 2.1, Geneva: Geneva Graduate Institute and Zürich: ETH Zürich.
- UNPMM website : <https://www.peacemissions.info>
- UN Peace Missions App : [App Store](#) / [Google Play](#)

REACT: Reintegration from Armed Conflict

REACT aims to develop our understanding of the meaning and feasibility of the return and reintegration of children from armed conflict, from the perspectives of young people and their communities. The project will develop approaches to reintegration grounded primarily in these perspectives, as well as those of local ethnic networks and economies. By providing fresh evidence on responses to reintegration, the project also aims to provide a platform for both international development policy and humanitarian response engagement. In 2023, REACT developed field research in two communities in north-east Syria, through partnerships with two NGOs, IMPACT CSR and Save the Children. REACT also developed preliminary field research in Tunisia, which will form the second case study of the project. In addition, as violence in Palestine escalated in late 2023, REACT developed new tools and methodologies to understand the experiences of children and their parents living through the ongoing war in Gaza. An in-depth understanding of children's experiences through this period will be vital to better support their eventual return home.

In early 2023, REACT shifted its focus to addressing return and reintegration of children in north-east Syria, and in Tunisia. In northeast Syria, partnerships were built with NGOs (IMPACT CSR and Save the Children) resulting in the hiring and training of research assistants in Raqqa and Der Ezzor. Research tools were developed for fieldwork and a policy report was produced on the challenges of reintegration in Der Ezzor. In Tunisia preliminary fieldwork was undertaken to better understand the context of Tunisian women and children returning from Syria and Libya, and existing reintegration programmes. This included 12 interviews with civil society associations and community-based organisations, and three international NGOs working on reintegration in Tunisia. REACT also hired a research assistant in Tunisia who will be supporting the project. REACT coordinated three meetings between Amnesty International, Save the Children and the Mixed Migration Centre of the Danish Refugee Council, who are all working on the reintegration of children in Syria and other contexts, and subsequent meetings are planned with these stakeholders in 2024. Much of 2024 will be spent undertaking fieldwork in Tunisia and coordinating field researchers in northeast Syria.

REACT is based on a study first carried out in Palestine, and a strand of REACT's work was always intended to be in Gaza and Jerusalem to disseminate previously conducted research and draw links to ongoing work in other settings. The continuing war in Gaza has required a significant change in REACT's activities to instead develop research that can respond to the current context. At the onset of violence in early October, REACT started a database to gather

testimonies among civilians in Gaza, based on the long standing and expansive personal contacts of the PI. The database stores anonymised testimonies from the 8th October to the time of writing this report submission, with daily updates from different parts of Gaza. REACT is now working with the OCHCH Commission of Inquiry, Human Rights Watch, Al Haqq, the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights and the International Centre of Justice for Palestinians to deliver evidence in the form of civilian testimonies in support of human rights claims.

Principal Collaborator: Caitlin Procter

Funding: Marie Skłodowska-Curie, European Research Council (ERC)

Relevant publications:

Procter, C. 2024. 'Coerced migration: mobility under siege in the Gaza Strip'. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* (online pre-print) <https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2024.2312229>

Procter, C. et al. 2024. 'Conceptualising and challenging child neglect in humanitarian action: Protecting displaced children in Jordan and Palestine'. *Child Abuse & Neglect, Vol. 147* <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2023.106539>

Procter, C and Barry, S. 2023. 'Understanding the challenges of reintegration of returnees from Al Hol to Der Ezzor in Syria'. IMPACT CSRD Policy Report.

Procter, C. 2023. 'In search of protection: irregular mobility among Palestinian youth in Gaza'. In Achilli, L. and Kyle, D. *Global Human Smuggling: Buying Freedom in a Retreating World*. John Hopkins University Press. <https://doi.org/10.56021/9781421447513>

Procter, C. 2023. 'Light the Road of Freedom: Women's Voices from Gaza series and Unsilencing Gaza: reflections on resistance. Book Review'. *Journal of Palestine Studies* 52(4): 120-124. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0377919X.2023.2274779>

Relations between family situations, social work and schools to foster children's resilience towards violence: looking at alternative social innovative approaches in Tulkarem, Occupied Territories, Palestine

This research project consists in generating knowledge for a longer-term initiative with An-Najah University in strengthening and institutionalising social work and community development in Palestine. The research and activities of this project will contribute to the design of an interactive, user-friendly online application – or 'App' – for actors involved in social work, community development and engaged in mitigating violence. The 'App' will connect relevant actors and will serve as an intervention and capacity-building tool for the local stakeholders.

To achieve this, additional research is needed to verify the feasibility of such an 'App' by further analysing the intervention models of social workers in interconnection with their training needs, especially in the occupation context and to look at the role of existing social institutions (e.g.

schools, civil society organisations, public authorities, etc.). A more in-depth understanding of the levels and forms of violence in such a context and how various forms of violence are addressed is needed. Probing the strength and weaknesses of their interventions and analysing their perception by communities they serve can help improve their potential for societal change. Furthermore, through extensive participatory approaches (such as art-based methods), this project will offer actors in the social sector an opportunity to come together and see the interconnectedness of their fields, think about solutions and help us to design the 'app'.

In 2022, art-based methods activities were organised locally to consult the communities about the app contents and purpose, and to engage them on sensitive topics related to violence in a logic to enable the communities to express their needs in an interactive and creative way. This process also led to artistic outputs. It's the artistic process, as much as its results, that will provide us the data and information needed to design the app. The collaboration of artists is therefore pivotal for the success of this approach. In addition, the project led to a teaching collaboration with Samah Saleh, Head of Sociology and Social work department, An-Najaf University, and Sylvia Garcia Delahaye, Assistant Professor at the School for Social Work in Geneva, in the context of the Executive Programmes in Development Policies and Practices (DPP – IHEID) October 2022 on "Social Innovations in the MENA region".

The project has now entered its last phase that focused on the valorisation and dissemination of the results through different channels. The publication of a collective book with contributions from the project partners, Palestinians, artists and Swiss researchers in an open access HES-SO/HETS collection ('Social dans la Cité'), focusing on both the research results (social action in a fragile area) and the methodological approaches used in the project (art-based methods). The book will be bilingual (French and English).

Principal Collaborator: Alexandre Dormeier-Freire

Funding: HES-SO "Leading House for the Middle East and North Africa"

3.2 Mandates and Policy Work of the CCDP

Leveraging Track II Peacebuilding in Yemen (T2Y)

As a consequence of protracted conflict, in 2020 Yemen ranked first on the Fragile States Index. The conflict has fractured Yemen's formal and informal governance systems resulting in a dynamic, complex, and fragmented context of authority in different parts of the country. The country remains divided between the areas under the authority of the internationally recognised government (IRG) and the Ansar Allah authorities (AA) controlling large areas, including the country's capital, Sana'a, and most of the population.

In this context, the CCDP has been mandated by the European Delegation to Yemen to help support and maximise the effectiveness of organisations supporting peace in Yemen (both a political settlement and 'Peace Writ Large'). This support takes the form of a multistakeholder exchange called *Leveraging Track II Peacebuilding in Yemen (T2Y)* that benefits Track II organisations, the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen (OSESOG), and donors of peace activities in Yemen/in the region. Within this project, the CCDP 1)

maintains a mapping of ongoing Track II initiatives in Yemen organised by themes of intervention, target groups, and geographic coverage; 2) regularly updates a repository of analysis and information relevant for Track II organisations and their interventions; 3) organises in-person exchanges in Amman every six months to discuss the peace process in Yemen and how Track II initiatives can continue to support OSESGY-led efforts at the Track I level; 4) supports thematic discussion groups that meet more regularly in a smaller group to discuss narrower questions of relevance to the peace process/peace writ large; and 5) briefs donors of peace initiatives in Yemen on the results of the exchanges and identifies their implications for peace programming.

Principal Collaborators: David Wood, Maëlys Glück

Funding: European External Action Service (EEAS)

Bekaa Support: Switzerland's Engagement for Increased Conflict Sensitivity of Water Management Programme

The neighbouring war in Syria has caused a massive influx of Syrian refugees in Lebanon. Based on a UNHCR report, the total of registered Syrian refugees in the Bekaa makes for 39.2% of the total number of Syrian refugees all over Lebanon, - besides half a million Lebanese citizens and an estimated 300,000 Palestinian refugees (all over Lebanon). This has placed a strain on the fragile and weak Lebanese public service infrastructure. Already poor and unsafe access to drinking water - the result of mismanagement, lack of competence, rule of law and accountability, of corruption - were further exacerbated.

As part of the Swiss engagement in Lebanon, the CCDP supported the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)'s Bekaa Water Management Programme in implementing a conflict sensitive strategy – and monitoring its progress and implementation to reduce water-related conflicts and to enhance crisis resilience in the valley. To achieve this objective, CCDP worked with the Swiss team in Zahle to 1) provide on call mentoring and training/support to the team on conflict sensitivity; 2) assess, provide guidance and recommendations on the implementation of the conflict sensitivity strategy and the Swiss assistance in Bekaa; 3) provide assistance/guidance on the case studies developed by the BWMP team from fields of implementation; and 4) hold regular meetings with the BWMP focal point to discuss advances in the project and plan where CCDP support should be allocated.

Principal Collaborators: David Wood, Maëlys Glück

Funding: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

CCDP Participation in the External Quality Commission of the Kooperationsgemeinschaft (KoGe)

Since 2019, the CCDP has been part of the External Quality Commission (EQC) accompanying the Kooperationsgemeinschaft (KoGe), a consortium of nine Swiss development NGOs in its efforts to increase its monitoring, evaluation and learning capacities. 2023 was a very exciting year. It started with a programmatic mid-term review that focused on

the theme « Leaving No-One Behind (LNOB) » and made recommendations on how the KoGe could simplify its Theory of Change for the upcoming programme phase 2025-2028. The EQC then saw a change in its composition, when Oliver Jütersonke replaced Kimon Schneider as the second member on the commission. With Oliver on board, the EQC dived into the assessment and rating of the 9 annual reports of its members, followed by individual feedback sessions. After the summer break, the EQC was again solicited to assess the programme proposals for 2025-2028 of each member organisation in terms of their quality and their capacity to contribute to the overall KoGe programmatic framework, which is based on SDG 16+. The overall assessment shows a trend of quality improvement since the first round of programme submissions in 2019, which is encouraging for the work of the KoGe and the role of the EQC. The individual Feedback sessions were finalised in early 2024.

Principal Collaborator: Sina Zintzmeyer

Funding: Kooperationsgemeinschaft (KoGe)

Collaboration with the Principles for Peace Secretariat

In this collaboration with the newly launched Principles for Peace Foundation (P4P), the CCDP worked as a research partner and extension of the Secretariat Research Team, to contribute to the rolling out and field testing of the principles in the Peacemaking Covenant launched in January 2023. In this context, CCDP was part of the Evidence Consortium of the P4P Initiative, and worked closely with the Secretariat to write backgrounders, briefing papers, and solutions-oriented thinking pieces on specific themes. Since the beginning of the collaboration in June 2021, four papers have been produced in the context of this collaboration. The papers have been shared among the members of the Commission and the stakeholder platform. They will be made public along with the rest of the material used to write the P4P Report. In addition, extracts from the papers and additional research of interest to the P4P Secretariat have been presented by CCDP during the P4P International Commission's meetings and at working groups with other stakeholders of the peacebuilding ecosystem. CCDP accompanied the P4P Secretariat in several online consultations with members of the stakeholder platform and attended the meetings of the International Commission held in Geneva, Berlin and Amman. Towards the end of the project, CCDP was also invited to contribute to the design of the Second Phase of the Principle for Peace Initiative. In particular, CCDP collaborated with the Principle for Peace Secretariat to start developing a monitoring mechanism to track the implementation of the Principles. Sina Zintzmeyer and Agnieszka Fal Dutra Santos were also involved in this stage of the project and contributed to the workshop organised to discuss options in this regard.

Keith Krause was Chair of the P4P Research Committee, a group of eminent scholars from different parts of the world who have prior experience of direct engagement with practical policy or programmatic efforts to establish peace and whose primary responsibility is peer-reviewing the research outputs developed by the Evidence Consortium and the P4P Secretariat. In this capacity, he also serves as Chief Policy Advisor to the P4P and facilitates CCDP engagements with the practical research dimension of the P4P.

As the Principles for Peace transitioned from being a Secretariat that led the drafting of the Principles to a Foundation that accompanies their implementation, CCDP closely supported the P4P team in their first roll-out of the P4P framework in The Philippines. Keith Krause joined the P4P delegation in July 2023 in their mission to Davao, to attend and contribute to the South-East Asia Launch of the Principles for Peace. To follow-up on this milestone, Eliza Urwin and Augusta Nannerini collaborated with the P4P team in co-designing the framework of the P4P Participatory Periodic Review for Peace. Moreover, in collaboration with the research partner RIPL, CCDP also designed diagnostic tools to support the development of P4P diagnostic tools. In November 2023, Augusta travelled to The Philippines to work closely with local partners in adapting the principles for peace within the context of the Bangsamoro process. This groundwork laid the foundation for subsequent workshops aimed at engaging the relevant stakeholders in the Participatory Periodic Review for Peace, scheduled for January 2024 in Manila. In December 2023, the CCDP team also produced a “step by step guide” to detail the work done so far in The Philippines, and to support the replication of such initial efforts in Somalia.

Principal Collaborators: Keith Krause, Eliza Urwin, Augusta Nannerini

Funding: Principles for Peace Foundation

4. Long-term Collaborative Initiatives

Geneva Peacebuilding Platform

The Geneva Peacebuilding Platform is a joint project of five institutions including the CCDP, the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF), the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP), Interpeace and the Quaker United Nations Office, Geneva (QUNO). It functions as a knowledge hub that connects the critical mass of peacebuilding actors, resources, and expertise in Geneva and worldwide.

Founded in 2008, the Platform has a mandate to facilitate interaction on peacebuilding between different institutions and sectors, and to advance new knowledge and understanding of issues and contexts related to building peace. It also plays a creative role in building bridges between International Geneva, the United Nations peacebuilding architecture in New York, and peacebuilding activities in the field.

The Platform is housed and financially administered by the CCDP with core funding provided by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs alongside additional fundraising and partner contributions.

The Geneva Peacebuilding Platform hosted two major communities of practice this year. The Environment, Climate, Conflict, and Peace (ECCP) is a community of practice (CoP or community) that aims to strengthen networking and community building on environmental peacebuilding, climate security, and other related topics through collaboration, dialogue, and learning between institutions and individuals both in Geneva and around the globe. The community was created in early 2020 and is managed by the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, as a part of its workstream on community management. Over the past four years, the

community has grown from about 40 Geneva-based participants to over 900 participants around the world.

The Business and Conflict Community of Practice is a structured group of professionals working across different organisations with a common interest in exchanging and connecting on topics related to responsible business conduct in conflict-affected contexts and complex environments. The community of practice membership comprises international organisations, non-governmental organisations, academia, consulting groups, and more. It stretches across 6 continents and examines a variety of subtopics within the domain of business and human rights in conflict.



The Platform's annual flagship event is Geneva Peace Week (GPW), which has become a truly inclusive multi-stakeholder forum for open discussions across sectors and institutions.

GPW23 in numbers:

98 sessions applications

61 events

16 digital series

More than a 150 partner organisations

222 speakers from NGOs, International Organisations, Governments, Academia, Private Sector and the Student body

3 thematic tracks

5'500 total sessions attendance

74% of the participants attended GPW23 for the first time

155 countries represented

The Maison de la Paix in Geneva hosted the landmark 10th edition of Geneva Peace Week, a momentous occasion that brought together more than 5,500 attendees from across the globe. The event, held from October 30 to November 3, 2023, marked a decade of fostering dialogue, cooperation, and innovative solutions in the pursuit of global peace.

The 10th anniversary edition of Geneva Peace Week surpassed all expectations, with over 3,000 participants gathering in person and an additional 2,500 joining virtually. The Maison de la Paix served as the backdrop for 61 diverse events, comprising ceremonies, high-level panels, policy briefings, workshops, art exhibitions, and social gatherings.

The extensive program was meticulously organised by a collaborative effort of around 150 organisations committed to advancing the cause of peace. Participants engaged in thought-provoking discussions, exploring pressing issues such as conflict resolution, humanitarian aid, sustainable development, and human rights. The diverse range of events provided a platform for stakeholders from governmental, non-governmental, and academic sectors to share insights, forge partnerships, and explore innovative solutions to global challenges.

The anniversary edition showcased the power of innovation and collaboration in addressing complex global issues. Workshops and policy briefings delved into emerging technologies, climate change resilience, and the role of education in promoting peace. Art exhibitions and cultural events added a unique dimension to the discussions, highlighting the role of creativity in fostering understanding and empathy.

With a record-breaking attendance, the success of the 10th Geneva Peace Week underscored the growing global commitment to building a more peaceful world despite ongoing conflicts. The virtual component allowed for broader participation, enabling individuals from various corners of the world to participate in the dialogue on peace.

Principal Collaborators: Annyssa Bellal, Dany Diogo, Annika Erickson-Pearson, Gabriela Buser, Tatiana Avanthay, Maria Baltag

Hosting Doctoral Students and Visiting Fellows

Beyond seeking to engage the students of the Geneva Graduate Institute in events and in the CCDP seminar series, the Centre also makes proactive efforts to support doctoral students in obtaining and administering grants as well as pursuing job opportunities to conduct their research. PhD students are routinely hired as Research Assistants at the CCDP to contribute to specific research projects, while at the same time carrying out their PhD theses. Doctoral students are hired on projects that are in line with their research interests and PhD work, and the experience gained “on the job” is meant to enrich and expand the research skills that they will then be able to apply in their PhDs and future academic endeavours. Notably, students are hired from various departments at IHEID, and their contribution to the life of the Centre facilitates interdisciplinary exchanges at CCDP. In this context, from the anthropology department, Chiara Feliciani, Alice Daquin, and Lene Swetzer collaborated with Dennis Rodgers on the project “Gangs, Gangsters, and Ganglands.” Chiara’s research focuses on youth governmentality in neoliberal contexts by looking at youth initiatives active in contexts of urban violence, and in 2022 she conducted ethnographic fieldwork in Naples. Alice’s PhD thesis studies women living in poor neighbourhoods who are linked with gang members and how they navigate the coexistence of drug traffic activities. Her fieldwork took the form of an ethnography in an underprivileged neighbourhood of Marseille. Lene’s research focuses on the relations between mobility, space and the production of security in the Strait of Gibraltar, Spain.

From the department of International Relations and Political Science, Bilal Salaymeh collaborates with Sara Hellmüller on the project “A Child of its Time”. Bilal’s PhD thesis explores the phenomenon of the oligopoly of violence in Syria and Libya. Xinyu Yuan was part of the team working on the project “Norms and Contestation,” and her doctoral research

investigated civil society promotion in restrictive environments, with a focus on China. She successfully defended her PhD thesis in 2022, and is now working as a postdoctoral researcher on the second phase of the project. Pedro Dos Santos Maia collaborates with Anna Leander on her project “Infrastructuring Democracy.” His PhD research discussed the interactions and relationalities between Geographic Information Systems (GIS) interfaces and the governance of security in Brazil and Portugal, and it investigated the practical entanglements between private software companies, security agencies, and technical infrastructures. Augusta Nannerini is part of the CCDP Core Team. In her PhD research, she studies the theories of change embedded in the practices of humanitarian and development professionals to collect, share and make use of data in the context of forced displacement.

In 2023, the CCDP hosted a total of 3 visiting fellows at doctoral, postdoctoral and professorial levels. While this number is a bit lower than usual, the Centre appreciates the mutual exchange, discussions and presentations by its visitors. Together with the PhD students and the other Senior Researchers, the visiting fellows contribute to the vibrant and interdisciplinary research environment at the CCDP.

5. Proposals submitted during 2023, including status (rejected, accepted, pending)

During 2023, the CCDP submitted **15 total** proposals for research projects and mandates. Short descriptions of each project are presented in the following section.

Windows of Opportunity: Navigating Humanitarian Ceasefires in Changing Conflict Landscapes

(GSPI, under evaluation)

The evolving landscape of organised violence and conflict resolution is characterised by growing complexity. Conflicts now involve a wider array of actors, complex overlapping motives and global influences, and advanced weaponry/technologies, all of which significantly affect civilian populations (Davies et al., 2023; SIPRI, 2023; IEP, 2023). Despite the growing reliance on peace agreements as a strategy for addressing conflicts over the past three decades, the process of reaching these agreements has become increasingly challenging — a trend well-documented by datasets revealing their varied characteristics and impacts (Bell et al., 2019; Clayton et al., 2022). The challenges in negotiating even a basic 'humanitarian ceasefire' in rapidly escalating conflicts, such as in Gaza, illustrate this point (Sosnowski, 2023). Amid escalating conflicts and the pressing need for innovative resolution strategies, our project aims to align research with actionable outcomes. We focus on de-escalation and humanitarian ceasefires, crucial for civilian protection and peaceful transitions. By developing a best practices guide in collaboration with humanitarian and peace professionals, and integrating it into training courses, we aim to address this policy challenge and enhance the capabilities of key actors—IOs, NGOs, and governments—to navigate and mitigate modern conflicts' complexities, ultimately aiming for more effective peacekeeping and humanitarian interventions.

Applicants: Margaux Pinaud, Maëlys Glück, Adam Day (UNU-CPR)

Connecting Evidence and Policy for Violence Prevention

(GSPI, under evaluation)

The policy problem we seek to address is the effective prevention of armed conflict. Public health practitioners have long argued that conflict can be prevented if the risk factors leading to violence are identified and addressed. The need to address “root causes” or “conflict drivers” is also a common refrain among peace and security practitioners seeking to end armed conflict and prevent its recurrence. Although prevention has traditionally been viewed as a crisis management tool, the introduction of the twin UN General Assembly and Security Council resolutions on Sustaining Peace (2016), aimed to shift the UN’s focus from reactive intervention to more proactive, upstream prevention. This focus is also captured in the UN Secretary General’s New Agenda for Peace (2023), which calls on Member States to develop national prevention strategies to address the various drivers of violence in societies and to strengthen national infrastructures for peace. Member States are also expected to discuss opportunities to better tackle risk and protective factors for violence – including using the Peacebuilding Commission – in the lead up to the UN’s Summit for the Future (September 2024), as well as during the 2025 Peacebuilding Architecture Review.

Applicants: Eliza Urwin, Joanne Richards (NYU Center on International Cooperation), Gregory Connor (UNDP)

“Mind the Gap!” Drawing lessons from the Bangsamoro Peace Process to address the legitimacy deficit of peace agreements

(GSPI, under evaluation)

The project addresses a recurring challenge in peace processes—the tendency for agreements to break down after approximately 7 years, often rooted in a lack of legitimacy. Policymakers currently lack a structured feedback mechanism to assess the quality of peace and design contextually relevant, evidence-based tools to address legitimacy deficits. The strategic partnership between the Principle for Peace Foundation and the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding is presently engaged in providing solutions in this direction, supporting and at the same time drawing lessons from the Bangsamoro Peace Agreement, signed in 2014 to resolve the Mindanao conflict in The Philippines. This agreement established a semi-autonomous transitional governmental structure, slated for institutionalisation in 2025 after elections. The current P4P-CCDP engagement is critical as it aims to strengthen the legitimacy of the process ahead of the elections, thereby averting the risk of violence recurrence. P4P’s collaboration with local partners is set to ensure a structured feedback loop to monitor and facilitate course-correction of the decisions of the different actors currently involved, thus safeguarding sustained legitimacy of the peace process and being in the unique position to inform international policy discussions on this contextually tailored intervention.

Applicants: Keith Krause, Augusta Nannerini, Peter Batchelor (P4P)

Mapping the fragmentation of peace and security regime complexes in the Global South

(SNSF Return Grant, under evaluation)

This proposed Return grant project aims to analyse the different kinds of fragmentation in the peace and security regime complexes of the Asia-Pacific, Africa, and Latin America. It aims to conduct three case studies examining how each regime complex exhibits the four fragmentation constellations—institutional (formal and informal), norms, discourses, and actors. Within each case study, qualitative text analysis and qualitative network analysis will be employed on data gathered through archival research and semi-structured interviews with the diplomatic community in Geneva. As a second step, the project will undertake comparative case studies to analyse the similarities and differences in the kinds and levels of fragmentation of the three regime complexes.

The project produces three case studies and a comparative analysis of the three cases to be published in key area studies and IR journals. Understanding the kinds and level of fragmentation in each regime complex would pave the way for broader, longer-term studies tracing the effects of different kinds of fragmentation in maintaining peace and security within each regime which I will propose in calls for proposals such as for the SNF Starting Grant during the return year. The project leverages on my life's work in research and policy on regional peace and security cooperation in the Asia-Pacific and Africa, and expands my expertise further into Latin America, enhancing my profile as a scholar of comparative regionalism in the Global South.

Applicant: Jaime Pring

Rebel International Relations: Insurgent Allies and Adversaries in Global Politics

(SNSF Return Grant, under evaluation)

The project investigates rebel international relations empirically, conceptually, and theoretically. Empirically, the project focuses on Colombia, Afghanistan, and South Sudan. In these three carefully selected cases, multiple rebel groups fought against the same central government during several decades of civil war. The project adopts a mixed-method exploratory sequential research design to explain why some rebels fighting within these three civil wars acquired the international support they solicited, while others did not. Qualitative data from news articles, archives, interviews, and secondary sources are fed into the first systematic dataset on rebel international relations. This will allow for more accurate conceptualisations of rebel international relations, and it will help theorising under which conditions rebel foreign policy strategies succeed or fail.

The impact of the project is threefold. Academically, the findings this Return Grant project yields will complement existing studies on proxy warfare and rebel governance, and it will broaden and deepen the debate on rebel diplomacy by linking it to studies on rebel humanitarianism, rebel links to diasporas, and rebel's use of public relations firms. Methodologically, the project will allow me to gain valuable new skills in dataset development and quantitative analysis. The project will result in an online available dataset and codebook for other researchers, a journal article, and a book proposal on rebel international relations. Most importantly, the research will be a crucial step in developing a larger multiyear research

project. The larger project envisions building my first research team, including further empirical cases in the dataset, and publishing the book on rebel international relations.

Applicant: Toon Dirkx

Minding the gap: the role of regional fragmentation in the performance of peace and security regimes in the Global South

(Ambizione, under evaluation)

Addressing gaps in research, this project inquires, “What is the role of fragmentation in the performance of peace and security regime complexes in the Global South?” It employs comparative case studies using process-tracing within each case to examine three major regional peace and security regime complexes in three continents: Asia-Pacific, centering on the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Peace and Security Architecture; Africa, envisioned in the African Union Peace and Security Architecture; and the overlapping and competing regional initiatives in South America. The project aims to construct and apply causal mechanisms tracing different kinds of fragmentation (formal institutional, normative, discursive, and actors) to performance indicators ranging from dysfunction to successful goal attainment. In doing so, the project theorises the interaction between the scope conditions, the regime complexes’ structural features, and the behaviour and strategies of actors in enabling or inhibiting the regime complex to work towards greater peace and security. The project involves four cases: inaction in the Asia-Pacific in either the South China Sea dispute or in Myanmar’s Rakhine state, one successful and one stalled or failed intervention involving the African Union and its sub-regional organisations, and one case examining the inter-organizational competition or increased militarization in South America.

The four-year project employs a research team comprised of the Principal Investigator (100%), a Doctoral Researcher (100%), and a Student Researcher (34% for two years) to produce a book publication, journal articles, and policy papers based at the Geneva Graduate Institute, in addition to conferences, collaboration with research centres, a launch event, and a validation workshop culminating the project. The project’s findings contribute to the enhancement of policies of international organisations working towards achieving the UN’s 3Cs in working with other actors and operating in the field. The elaborated causal mechanism sheds light on how to minimise fragmentation’s potential to undermine global governance and maximise attributes that encourage constructive roles and behaviours.

Applicant: Jaime Pring

Unpacking China’s Conflict Sensitivity: An Examination of China’s Development Assistance to Conflict-affected Countries

(Ambizione, under evaluation)

This research aims to unpack China’s conflict sensitivity in its development assistance, namely, how it assesses, manages, or even addresses the conflict risks in its assistance programs and activities. This will provide valuable insights into China’s role at the intersection of conflict management, peacebuilding, and development assistance, a domain yet to be extensively explored.

The research will employ a multi-actor perspective to delve into the lifecycle of China's aid to conflict-impacted countries. Key participants in China's aid framework will be meticulously examined, comprising Chinese government agencies, Chinese corporate entities and experts, and international organisations (IOs) serving as China's aid conduits. By adopting this multi-actor perspective, the project aims to offer a nuanced understanding of China's development assistance, moving beyond the singular portrayals and overarching emphasis on policy discourses and funding trends common in current studies. Crucially, the research will also broaden the conventional understanding of conflict sensitivity. It will venture beyond the standard OECD framework, spotlighting the potential alternate perceptions and practices adopted by emerging donors, primarily China. In doing so, the project provides timely insights into the academic and policy debate surrounding the transformation of international aid landscape and the implications of China's rise in arenas of peace and development.

Methodologically, the project draws on a multi-method approach consisting of interviews, document review, discourse analysis, case studies, and field observation. To ensure a diverse and comprehensive data collection, fieldwork will be conducted in Beijing, Geneva, New York, Rome, Côte d'Ivoire, and Ethiopia. The results of this research are expected to be extensive and impactful, including three peer-reviewed articles, a comprehensive book manuscript, and proactive initiatives to share knowledge at academic symposiums, policy forums, and esteemed research institutions in China and Europe. Through my dedicated research stints in Beijing, Geneva, and St Andrews, I am also committed to nurturing a thriving research community across China, the UK, and Switzerland to enrich collective knowledge in conflict-sensitive assistance and facilitate best practices learning.

Applicant: Xinyu Yuan

Armed Groups & Climate Adaptation

(SNSF Starting Grant, under evaluation)

Climate change and its impacts are escalating at an alarming rate, posing unprecedented challenges globally. Particularly pronounced are its effects in conflict-affected regions, where existing socio-economic and political fragilities are further strained by climate change. Prevalent climate adaptation efforts, however, prioritise state-centric approaches, primarily focusing on engagement at the national level, overlooking vast areas under the control or influence of non-state armed groups. Given that 15 of the 25 countries most vulnerable to climate impacts are marked by conflict (UNDP, 2021), and a staggering 195 million people reside in areas controlled by armed groups (Bamber-Zyrd, 2023), this demands attention. We know little about the conditions that drive armed groups to actively engage in climate adaptation and what strategies they adopt. Anecdotal evidence suggests that some armed groups play an important role in climate adaptation while others make no effort at all or are even obstructive. For example, the Karen National Union (KNU) in Myanmar has its own policies and departments dealing with environmental issues and even collaborates with the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF). Meanwhile, fighting as an insurgency, Afghanistan's Taliban limited their environmental engagement mainly to symbolic tree planting efforts that were advertised on social media. What explains these differences? The project will address this puzzle through in-depth empirical work in areas controlled by armed groups in four conflict-affected countries.

Applicant: Florian Weigand

Engaging armed groups in support of environmental protection and climate adaptation in areas of limited statehood

(SNSF Bridge Grant, rejected)

Environmental change and the climate crisis represent one of the gravest and most immediate global threats. It is particularly acute in conflict-affected areas, acting as a risk multiplier worsening poverty, food insecurity, displacement, and economic inequality. The problem is that the focus of much climate adaptation efforts has been on the national level, resting on working directly with governments. This approach leaves major gaps in conflict-affected areas. The current focus leaves us with little or no modalities to address climate change in areas controlled by non-state armed groups and to support populations who live there. This is a significant problem: according to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), some 175 million people live under the control of armed groups. These people and territories are currently excluded from most of the international efforts on climate adaptation - despite the fact that 15 of the 25 countries deemed most vulnerable and least ready to adapt to climate change are conflict-affected and that many global mitigation policies will require engagements in their regions.

New approaches are required amid greater calls for climate adaptation and the protection of the environment in conflict-affected states. There is documented evidence that it is possible to work with communities in these areas on climate adaptation, and that armed groups are willing to engage with external aid actors and others on climate and environment. Yet approaches to engaging with armed groups and populations under their control to support climate adaptation are impeded by a limited documentation of existing armed group climate change adaptation practices and a limited understanding of environmental governance in areas of limited statehood more generally.

Through case studies – like Somalia, Mali, Myanmar, Afghanistan, and Yemen - we will investigate in detail the governance practices of armed groups and populations living under their control in different regions vis-a-vis climate adaptation. The research will be based on interviews with key informants, such as representatives of armed groups, people affected by climate change living in communities under armed group control, as well as members of local civil society and international NGOs.

Our aim is to contribute to more effective climate and environmental resilience programming. We anticipate that our findings will create clear pathways for constructive engagement with armed groups and communities under their control that will in turn allow better climate response work in the world's most at-risk environments. Our work will bring innovations and new approaches to the study and practice of climate adaptation in areas of limited statehood. It will generate empirical evidence on how armed groups can be engaged to support programming, and what might motivate armed groups to act on these issues.

This project aims to develop a way forward on how to support external actors, such as the UN and environmental NGOs, in their engagement with armed groups on questions relating to environmental protection and climate change adaptation. At the same time, it will feed into policy processes and normative developments, such as the UN Guidelines for the Protection

of the Environment in Relation to Armed Conflict (PERAC), to ensure that they include the perspective of non-state armed groups that is currently absent.

Applicants: Keith Krause, Ashley Jackson, Florian Weigand

Virtual Venues for Diplomacy: Crafting Inclusive Spaces in the Metaverse

(SNIS, under evaluation)

The Metaverse and Virtual Reality (VR) are poised to revolutionise multilateral diplomacy, fostering inclusivity and participation. By transcending geographical barriers, these technologies invite global stakeholders into diplomatic dialogues, offering a seat at the table to those previously hindered by travel or resource constraints. VR's capacity to simulate real-world scenarios enriches participants' understanding of complex issues, cultivating empathy and a comprehensive grasp of diverse stakeholder perspectives.

Our project, "Virtual Venues for Diplomacy: Crafting Inclusive Spaces in the Metaverse", addresses the notable research gap in the field of international studies on the Metaverse and VR. This project is poised to pioneer the exploration and understanding of how these emerging technologies can reshape the landscape of global diplomacy. By employing research and rapid prototyping, the initiative aims to delve into the uncharted territories of virtual diplomatic engagement, offering empirical insights and practical solutions.

In addressing the existing research gap, our pluri-disciplinary initiative is set to contribute significantly to the field of international studies, providing valuable insights into the capabilities and potential of the Metaverse and VR in fostering a more inclusive, participatory, and empathetic international community.

This project holds substantial significance for Switzerland, a nation renowned for its longstanding tradition of neutrality and its pivotal role in international diplomacy and peacemaking. By pioneering the integration of the Metaverse and VR into diplomatic practices, Switzerland reinforces its position as a progressive, forward-thinking hub for international relations. The creation of a virtual counterpart to Geneva, home to numerous international organisations, further cements the nation's commitment to fostering global dialogue and cooperation. This initiative not only aligns with Switzerland's historical dedication to neutrality and mediation but also showcases its adaptability and leadership in embracing technological advancements to address contemporary challenges in diplomacy, maintaining its status as an influential, innovative force in the realm of international relations.

Applicants: Jérôme Duberry, Jürgen Späth (Zurich University of the Arts), Martin Waehlich (UN DPPA)

Engaging armed groups on climate adaptation

(SNIS, under evaluation)

The climate crisis is among the most pressing challenges facing humanity, particularly acute in conflict-affected areas. Of the 25 countries identified as most vulnerable to climate change, 15 are conflict-affected. Current climate adaptation efforts predominantly focus on state mechanisms, aligning with international law's state-centric perspective. This approach

overlooks a significant gap: nearly 195 million people reside in territories governed by armed groups, as highlighted by the ICRC, effectively sidelining them from climate crisis interventions. This project proposes a novel approach to bridge this gap by examining the environmental governance and practices of armed groups in the context of climate change. Employing an interdisciplinary approach and mixed methods, it aims to fill a crucial knowledge void, enhancing climate and environmental resilience in the world's most vulnerable and conflict-impacted settings. By elucidating strategies for engaging with armed groups, the project will offer actionable guidance and tools for external actors, including UN agencies, NGOs, and civil society, contributing to more effective climate adaptation programming. Furthermore, the findings will inform policy processes and contribute to normative frameworks, such as the UN Guidelines for the Protection of the Environment in Relation to Armed Conflicts (PERAC). The project leverages the unique interdisciplinary and practical expertise of a collaborative team from IHEID, the Centre on Armed Groups, and Fight for Humanity. By integrating perspectives from humanitarian, peacebuilding, environmental, and climate adaptation sectors, the project ensures broad stakeholder engagement, securing their buy-in and active contribution to the project. Our pluridisciplinary approach underscores the project's commitment to addressing the climate crisis through innovative, inclusive research and collaboration, tailored to the realities of conflict-affected regions.

Applicants: Eliza Urwin, Anne Saab, Pascal Bongard (Centre on Armed Groups)

Armed Groups & Climate Adaptation

(SNSF Swiss Postdoctoral Fellowships, under evaluation)

This two-year research initiative endeavours to explore the multifaceted relationships between climate adaptation and armed group governance. It addresses the puzzle of why some armed groups like the KNU decide to pursue environmental protection and climate adaptation whereas others like the Taliban do not, regardless of available resources or the severity of threats faced. The project will engage with several hypotheses and potential explanations, such as the groups' legitimacy concerns, their governance and planning capacity, environmental tradition as well as their understanding of the impact of climate change. The project will do so through a comparative study of armed groups and their practices in Afghanistan and Myanmar. The primary focus is to understand what drives armed groups to pursue, ignore or inhibit climate adaptation, shedding light on the conditions, reasons and motives, and the strategies and practises armed groups adopt to facilitate or impede efforts towards the mitigation of climate risks and environmental protection. Fieldwork will encompass territories under armed group influence, zeroing in on the perspective of armed groups, the lived experiences and challenges of communities, and the view of local civil society and environmental organisations navigating the complex terrains of conflict and ecological imperatives. On a theoretical level, the project challenges the prevailing state-centric perspective on climate change adaptation that dominates international relations and political science. It aims to advance our understanding of rebel governance, as well as of climate adaptation and environmental protection in areas of armed conflict by investigating the practices and motivations of armed groups concerning environmental and climate issues. The findings have significant practical implications and can contribute to more effective climate resilience programming, for instance, on how to incentivize climate adaptation and environmental protection in areas of armed group control.

Applicant: Florian Weigand

Beyond Victimhood: Civilian Agency and Adaptation in Somalia

(SNSF Swiss Postdoctoral Fellowships, under evaluation)

This research project delves into the underexplored domain of civilian agency within conflict zones, specifically focusing on the complex interactions between Somali civilians and the militant group Al-Shabab. The background of the study is rooted in the acknowledgement that while traditional conflict studies have predominantly concentrated on armed actors and macro-level conflict dynamics, the role of civilians has often been marginalised. Civilians have been typically portrayed as passive victims, overshadowed by the dominant focus on state and non-state armed groups. However, the landscape is shifting, as seminal works by scholars like Stathis Kalyvas and others have begun to illuminate the active role civilians play in shaping conflict outcomes, influencing armed group behaviour, and employing various strategies for survival and Resistance.

The overarching goal of this two-year Fellowship is to map and understand the multifaceted ways in which Somali civilians engage with Al-Shabab. This includes examining the spectrum of civilian tactics ranging from engagement and collaboration to avoidance and resistance. The project is structured around three core objectives: firstly, to gain a deep understanding of civilian strategies in relation to Al-Shabab; secondly, to generate new evidence on the diverse civilian perspectives and their engagements with the group; and thirdly, to reframe the academic policy debate concerning Al-Shabab and civilian agency, aiming to enhance civilian protection and humanitarian responses.

Applicant: Ashley Jackson

Principles for Peace (2 contracts)

(Non-Competitive mandate project)

CCDP renewed its collaboration with the Principles for Peace Foundation, working in a team composed by Keith Krause, Eliza Urwin and Augusta Nannerini. This agreement placed CCDP in the unique position to support the Foundation, particularly within its research and peace measurement mandate, relying on a flexible framework that covered different responsibilities—including chairing workshops, drafting research papers and participating in field missions. This collaboration provided Augusta Nannerini, PhD Research Assistant in the CCDP core team, with the opportunity to complement her doctoral studies with non-academic professional experiences. The fact that CCDP could rely on the skills of a doctoral student, available “on demand” for tasks of different nature, enabled the centre to absorb short-term consultancies and applied research mandates, fulfilling its mandate of bridging the gap between academia and the policy-world.

6. Events Calendar

Throughout the year, the CCDP convened a variety of public events, webinars, internal research seminars, and closed-door workshops. The complete list of events is noted below, in chronological order. Please note that this list does not include all the events organised under the banner of the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform.

Date	Title	Speakers	Brief description	Number of Attendees
16.01.2023	Civil War Paths: Armed Group Origins and Transformation in Civil War dedicated to Non-State-Armed-Actors	Speaker: Anastasia Shesterinina Commentator: Bilal Salayme	Launched in January of 2021, this research project is a multi-year, multi-country project that seeks to understand the different paths that civil wars follow from pre- to post-war stages building on immersive fieldwork by a team of ethnographic researchers in Colombia, Lebanon, Nepal, South Sudan, and other cases. It redefines civil war as a social process that evolves through interactions between state, non-state, civilian and international actors. It deepens current understandings of how civil wars emerge, unfold and end, by centralising the shifting social interactions that underpin conflict and peace.	6 in-person, 7 online
16.02.2023	Problems in the International Peace Architecture and the Search for Innovative Responses	Speaker: Oliver Richmond	This seminar is meant to be a "brainstorming" exercise so bring your "thinking caps." Professor Richmond is the founder of the MA in Peace and Conflict Studies and contributes to its core modules in the Department of Politics at the University of Manchester. In 2019, he received an Eminent Scholar Award from the International Studies Association. Among his publications are his recent monographs <i>The Grand Design: Peace in the 21st Century</i> (Oxford University Press, forthcoming), and <i>Peace in International Relations</i> (Routledge, 2020 - 2nd Ed.).	16 in-person
01.03.2023	The Conventional Way: Are Treaties the Best Tool to Regulate Contemporary Wars?	Speaker: Dr Annyssa Bellal & Dr Stuart Casey-Maslen Moderator: Émilie Max Discussants: Prof. Andrew Clapham, Professor of International Law at the Geneva Graduate Institute, Prof. Frédéric Mégret, Full Professor, Co-director, Centre for	In light of the multiplicity of non-state actors involved in conflicts that cannot participate in treaty law-making, the extensive use of explosive weapons in populated areas or cyberwarfare, are the three additional protocols to the Geneva Conventions still relevant to regulate contemporary armed conflicts? Would other means of regulation, such as judicial interpretation or customary international law not be more	20 online

		Human Rights and Legal Pluralism, William Dawson Scholar, Faculty of Law, McGill University, and Dr. Cordula Droege, Chief Legal Officer and Head of the Legal Division of the International Committee of the Red Cross.	efficient, especially in the context of the current crisis of multilateral diplomacy? The launch of the book <i>The Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions in Context</i> (Oxford University Press, 2022) by authors Dr. Annyssa Bellal, Senior Researcher, Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP) at the Geneva Graduate Institute and Executive Director, Geneva Peacebuilding Platform (GPP), and Prof. Stuart Casey-Maslen's, Extraordinary Professor of International Law at the University of Pretoria, will be the occasion to gather academic and policy experts' thoughts on these controversial questions.	
10.03.2023	CCDP Research Seminar: The norms, policies, and practices of the international drug control regime	Speaker: Khalid Tinasti Commentator: Pedro Souza	This presentation focused on the different policies used by countries to control the distribution and usage of drugs. It also highlights the different levels of the approval process taken for certain types of drugs to be permitted and legally consumed.	3 in-person, 5 online
30.03.2023	CCDP Research Seminar: It's Not About What You Give, But How You Give	Speaker: Swetha Ramachandran Discussant: Gilles Carbonnier	The paper discussed the impact of FDI and other forms of international development aid on the local labour market. Swetha presented initial findings, based on one of the papers she is preparing for her PhD thesis. Gilles shared feedback on the basis of his experience working with the ICRC in the field and as economists in the aid industry.	9 in-person, 7 online
20.04.2023	CCDP Research Seminar: Is Peace Still Human? Post-digital Politics and the Apomediation of Peacebuilding	Speaker: Andreas Hirblinger Discussant: Anna Leander	Andreas presented the latest version of a paper that received a Revise and Resubmit assessment. The paper discussed the role of new technologies, including social media channels, in peacebuilding endeavours.	11 in-person, 6 online
11.05.2023	Monde commun – Guerre civile ?	Alessandro Monsutti	La notion de guerre civile est utilisée pour qualifier des réalités très hétérogènes allant des guerres internes, souvent à dimension internationale, aux situations de conflits politiques, sociaux et culturels. En interrogeant sa pertinence, ce numéro de Monde commun a pour ambition d'aller au-delà des catégorisations, qu'elles relèvent des sciences sociales ou du droit international. Il propose de revisiter l'actualité des guerres contemporaines, de l'Afghanistan au Yémen, en passant par la Syrie, l'Éthiopie et la Birmanie, en retraçant les lignes de force, les dynamiques et les représentations vernaculaires de ces conflits hors du cadre géopolitique par lequel ils sont souvent perçus. Il nous plonge aussi dans les réalités	14 in-person

			contrastées des États-Unis et de la Colombie où des antagonismes politiques, sociétaux et raciaux attisent les braises de conflits jamais vraiment éteints.	
15.05.2023	Film Screening: And There Was Israel	Speaker: Riccardo Bocco	<p>This event is a film screening of the movie "And There Was Israel" directed by Romed Wyder. The discussion will be followed by an open debate.</p> <p>The documentary and the debate will focus on the role of Zionism and the support of the Western States to the creation of the State of Israel until and after 1948. These issues help in understanding the present phase of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.</p>	80 in-person
17.05.2023	CCDP Research Seminar: The Return and reintegration of Children from Islamic State: developing a longitudinal research agenda	Speaker: Caitlin Procter Discussant: Richard McNeil	Caitlin presented her ongoing research project on the reintegration of children who joined the Islamic state as combatants. She explained that she is currently seeking a partnership with Save the Children to collaborate in the detention centres in Syria. The seminar represented for her a way to brainstorm with the participants on possible avenues of collaboration that can enhance the implementation of her research.	12 in-person, 5 online
25.05.2023	CCDP Research Seminar: Strategic Management in Conflict-Affected and Fragile Contexts: Designing a Curriculum for Professionals	Speaker: Margaux Pinaud Discussant: Eliza Urwin	Margaux based the presentation at the seminar on her experience as Academic Coordinator at the Executive Course on Conflict and Fragility Management (CFM) at IHEID. She shared her ideas on how to structure her future syllabus and sought feedback from colleagues, especially discussing strategies to fill the "gap" between the academic and policy world.	15 in-person
01.06.2023	CCDP Research Seminar: The Power Not to Decide? Liberal Peace as a Policy Paradigm for International Organizations	Speaker: Giulio Levorato Discussant: Fanny Badache	Giulio presented part of his PhD thesis, which revolves around the evolution (of the lack of thereof) the peacebuilding ecosystem. He engaged with the mainstream discussion on the liberal peacebuilding paradigm, and raised points relevant to the CCDP's project "Peace by other means". The Q&A further explored the role of "new" actors (i.e. Russia, China and Japan) in shaping the peacebuilding ecosystem.	11 in-person, 7 online
05.10.2023	CCDP Research Seminar: Power Sharing Practice	Speaker: Alexandre Raffoul Discussant: Florian Weigand	Alexandre presented a theory-driven analysis of the current mediation practices, suggesting that there is a gap in the current literature on mediation. He presented a theoretical framework that linked different debates in IR, mainly aiming at bringing a critical perspective to the traditional political analysis of mediation. His main suggestion was to	10 in-person, 5 online

			regard mediation as a “practice”, akin to discourses, and to consider it in all the nuances of its political meaning.	
09.10.2023	Ukraine: Challenges to War-Time Economic Needs and Post-War Reconstruction Conference Organised in partnership with: Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and RAND Corporation Sponsored by: Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA)	Speakers: Amb. Alexandra Baumann, Luke Cooper, Beatrice Weder DiMauro, Petra Gombalova, Ruth Hattis, Felix Hett, Abdulla Ibrahim, Grazvydas Jasutis, Keith Krause, Renée Lariviere, Rory Logan, Mustafa Nayyem, Charles Ries, Tasha Rumley, Howard Shatz, Maria Sokolova, Eliza Urwin, Achim Wennmann, Yulia Yurchenko	This collaboratively organised conference consisted of 25 participants, experts and officials from Geneva, Bern, EU, UK, US and Ukraine. Ambassador Alexandra Baumann, head of the Prosperity and Sustainability Division at the Swiss FDFA and her team joined the meeting. The keynote speaker was Mustafa Nayyem, head of the Ukrainian agency for restoration.	25 participants
12.10.2023	CCDP Research Seminar: The Ambiguity of Data Practices	Speaker: Augusta Nannerini Discussant: Keith Krause	Augusta presented the third empirical chapter of her doctoral thesis, discussing part of the findings gathered in the course of her fieldwork in Jordan. She highlighted the role of care in reporting data and pointed to a degree of ambiguity that is materialised thanks to individual agencies.	15 in-person, 10 online
23.10.2023	Three Feminist Lessons of War <i>Co-sponsored with the Gender Centre</i>	Speaker: Dr. Cynthia Enloe Discussant: Madeleine Rees	Twelve Feminist Lessons of War, Cynthia Enloe's newest book (2023), draws on sharp insights of women as survivors, activists and scholars from Ukraine to Sudan and Myanmar to show how diverse women's experiences of war must be taken seriously if we are to prevent and shorten wars and make gender justice central to recovering from wars. Women's wars are not men's wars. Wartime shapes the gendered politics of marriage, prostitution, journalism, economics, childcare, domestic violence and rape. Enloe's analysis highlights how understanding this can prevent wars and even end them. She shows that by paying more attention to the wounded and the women who care for them, we will be more realistic about the long 'post-war'; and that by listening to feminists on the ground, in Ukraine and elsewhere, we will better understand what is happening to our world.	100 in person
31.10.2023	Geneva Peace Week Session: How to	Speakers: Eliza Urwin, Pamina Firchow, Julianne Funk	Explore the Everyday Peace Indicators (EPI) for a different approach to understanding complex concepts through community perspectives.	45 in-person

	Measure Peace: The Everyday Blueprint		Learn how EPI fits into Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E), project design, and policy aligning with real-world experiences. Recognize the value of ground-level feedback and how it can lead to more relevant and effective interventions.	
31.10 - 03.11. 2023	United Nations Peacekeeping Exhibition	Presenters: Sara Hellmüller, Margaux Pinaud, Maëlys Glück, Chiara Lanfranchi	Exhibition on UN Peace Missions based on data collected for Sara Hellmüller's project A Child of Its Time: The Impact of World Politics on UN Peace Missions at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (4th floor, Pétale 4, Maison de la Paix)	50 in-person
16.11.2023	CCDP Research Seminar: (Re)setting the Boundaries of Peacebuilding in a Changing Global Order: A Conceptual Analysis	Speakers: Xinyu Yuan, Keith Krause, Kazushige Kobayashi Discussant: Cedric de Coning	This co-authored paper by Kazushige Kobayashi, Keith Krause, and Xinyu Yuan highlights three main challenges in the conventional understanding of peacebuilding. They argue that the boundaries of peacebuilding need to be revisited and modified to reflect the changing landscape of contemporary conflicts, global order, and the expansive dimensions of international engagement.	12 in-person, 5 online
24.11.2024	Understanding Palestine: A 4-Part Discussion, Part I <i>Co-sponsored with the Decolonial Action Network</i>	Speakers: Caitlin Procter, Atwa Jaber, Bilal Salaymeh	Join scholars and practitioners from IHEID and beyond for a four-part discussion series on Understanding Palestine, starting this Friday 24th November, 12-14h in S10. The first session will discuss the ongoing attack on Gaza, its historical context, and political implications. This will be led by Dr Caitlin Procter (Marie Curie Research Fellow, CCDP), Atwa Jaber (PhD Researcher, International History and Politics) and Bilal Salaymeh (PhD Researcher, International Relations and Political Science and CCDP).	42 in-person, 55 online
30.11.2023	Brown Bag Lunch: The "Peacebuilder's Playground: Contrasting Practices in Timor Leste"	Speaker: Emilian Berutti	Please join us as Emilian Berutti presents his preliminary findings on peacebuilding practices of alternative and 'traditional' peacebuilders in the context of his two field research stays in Timor-Leste between April and July and highlight how they converge and diverge.	5 in-person
01.12.2023	Understanding Palestine: A 4-Part Discussion, Part II <i>Co-sponsored with the Decolonial Action Network</i>	Moderator: Julie Billaud	This week we will continue learning about Palestine from Palestinian scholars and experts from our community and beyond. We will be addressing the questions collected last week and bring in new topics of discussion.	17 in-person
07.12.2023	Brown Bag Lunch: From Gender-Responsive Provisions to Gender-	Speaker: Agnieszka Marta Fal-Dutra Santos	Fal-Dutra Santos presented her preliminary findings on her fieldwork in Colombia including in particular a reflection on the gendered dynamics within the peace infrastructure in Colombia, as well as the	5 in-person

	Equal Peace: Exploring the Implementation of Gender Provisions in Peace Agreement		meaning(s) attributed to "peace" and peace agreement "success" by diverse Colombian activists.	
08.12.2023	Understanding Palestine: A 4-Part Discussion, Part III <i>Co-sponsored with the Decolonial Action Network</i>	Speakers: Basil Faraj, Faiq Mari Moderator: Michelle Weitzel	This week we will learn about Palestinian prisoners and Israeli carceral practices, both historically and in the present, from two Palestinian scholars.	25 in-person
12.12.2023	CCDP Research Seminar: The Crisis of Liberal Peacebuilding Efforts in Multi-Cultural Societies: Lessons from South Sudan and Ethiopia	Speaker: Israel Nyadera Discussant: Xinyu Yuan	Nyadera presented a paper on the crisis of liberal peacebuilding, suggesting that it overlooks the impact of in-group vs out-group identity nexus, and the complexity of political economy.	13 in-person
14.12.2023	Understanding Palestine: A 4-Part Discussion, Part IV <i>Co-sponsored with the Decolonial Action Network</i>	Speakers: Ishraq Othman, Nadi Abusaada	Join us this Friday, December 15th, 12:00 – 14:00, in room S3, for the final session, Part 4, of our "Understanding Palestine" discussion series in collaboration with the Decolonial Action Network and the CCDP. This week, three Palestinian scholars will share their research topics with us on " <i>The politics of waiting, life and death at Beit Hanoun, Erez, and Rafah checkpoints</i> " and " <i>The question of "self-government" in Palestine: lessons from Mandate Jerusalem</i> " and finally " <i>Toward an Anti-Colonial Urban History: Planning Modern Jaffa, 1900-1948.</i> "	35 in-person

7. Professional Trainings

In 2023, the CCDP continued its close collaboration with the Executive Programmes in Development Policies and Practices - Conflict and Fragility Management (DPP-CFM) of the Executive Education Department at the Institute. For the first time since its launch in 2017, the DPP-CFM was conducted in collaboration with the Hamad bin Khalifa University (HBKU) in Doha, with financial support from the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD). With new scholarship opportunities for participants based in countries receiving development assistance, the DPP-CFM attracted its highest number of applicants to date. The 2023-2024 cohort counted 17 mid-career professionals from the development, humanitarian and peacebuilding fields, from across Africa, the Middle East, South East and Central Asia, and Europe. The hosting of the Academic Coordinator of the Programme, Margaux Pinaud, at the CCDP offices provided opportunities for mutual exchanges and enrichment. Contributions to the teaching curriculum were also made by Keith Krause, Eliza Urwin, Claudia Seymour, Delidji Eric Degila, Gilles Carbonnier and other colleagues.



© DPP-CFM Graduation Ceremony held on 2 February, 2023

In 2023, the CCDP also tackled an internal topic it feels strongly about, which is security and well-being of our staff in the field. To that end, a training and experience sharing session was organised for researchers on the topic to which internal and external speakers were invited to share their insights on mental health, security and research ethics in the field. The CCDP will continue to strengthen its footprints in this area and is open to sharing the resources with any other departments of the Institute.

8. Public impact of the centre's work and relationship with International Geneva

8.1 Public Outreach

As in previous years, the CCDP continues to make proactive efforts to disseminate its work in both academic and practitioner circles. For scholarly audiences, the main dissemination vehicle continues to be publication. In addition to publishing their work in peer-reviewed outlets, CCDP faculty and senior staff members are also involved in shaping editorial processes. In particular, the CCDP runs the Routledge Series on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding, edited by Keith Krause, Riccardo Bocco, and Oliver Jütersonke. Established in 2011, it seeks to offer scholars from both the CCDP and beyond the opportunity to publish on themes related to the research streams of the Centre. Keith Krause is also on the editorial board of the *European Journal of Security Studies* and *Critical Studies in Security*, the International Advisory Board of the *Journal of International Relations and Development*, and on the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Flemish Peace Institute. Sara Hellmüller also joined the board of *International Peacekeeping* as Deputy Editor this year.

CCDP scholarship is further disseminated through international and national academic conferences such as the International Studies Association (ISA), the European International Studies Association (EISA), the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR), and the Swiss Political Science Association (SPSA), among others. CCDP faculty associates and research staff regularly attend these conventions to present draft papers, liaise with academic partners based at other universities, and explore new collaboration possibilities. CCDP members are also actively involved in organising these events as members of the steering committees and boards of professional associations.

Another way of sharing research findings consists of invitations to hold lectures, teaching courses or organising research stays at partner universities. Such collaboration is a two-way street, with the number of Visiting Fellow applications to the CCDP bearing testimony to a growing awareness and appreciation of the Centre and its work worldwide. In 2022, senior researcher Claudia Seymour and Faculty Associate Eric Degila also initiated a partnership with Senghor University, based in Alexandria and represented in a number of African countries, to host a PhD student for a visit in Geneva. The first selected candidate, Kiswendsida Noëlie Kouraogo, stayed with the CCDP in March and April 2023.

CCDP researchers and associates also frequently engage with policymakers and practitioners both in and outside of Geneva. The Community of Practice on Environment, Climate, Conflict, and Peace (ECCP), headed by Annika Erickson-Pearson, engaged in a collective policy influencing process at Stockholm+50, as a direct result of their collaborative production of the White Paper on the Future of Environmental Peacebuilding. Andreas Hirblinger has been cited in policy briefs and policy-oriented reports by several mediation support organisations, such as the UN Mediation Support Unit, swisspeace, the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD), and CMI - Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation. Additionally, in the Fall of 2023, the CCDP convened a workshop with key stakeholders to discuss the challenges and potential solutions in Ukraine's reconstruction and development efforts post-crisis. The deliberations focused on local ownership, political dynamics, donor coordination, and ensuring a sustainable and inclusive future for the country. Invitees included international and Ukrainian academics, along

with the Swiss and Ukrainian governments. Finally, Sara Hellmüller, Margaux Pinaud, Chiara Lanfranchi and Maëlys Glück have engaged policymakers and practitioners across Switzerland by presenting the UN Peace Missions exhibition during Geneva Peace Week and at ETH Zürich during an event on “Switzerland in the UN Security Council.”

CCDP faculty associates, researchers and associates also regularly appear in the printed media, on radio, television and online. While most interviews are conducted in people’s individual capacities, emphasis has been placed on acknowledging affiliation to the CCDP when appropriate and/or possible. Riccardo Bocco and Caitlin Procter have been heavily featured in numerous media outlets including Le Monde, Al Jazeera Egypt, BBC News, Léman Bleu and more, as they share their expertise regarding the ongoing conflict in Palestine. Lastly, Faculty Associate Gilles Carbonnier worked to produce a documentary titled “Missing Dollars,” co-produced with Ghanaian filmmaker Fiifi Koomsom, which aims to bridge the gap between research and policy and foster greater awareness and wider outreach on illicit financial flows – a critical issue to combat double standards in international economic relations and enable poorer countries to move beyond aid.

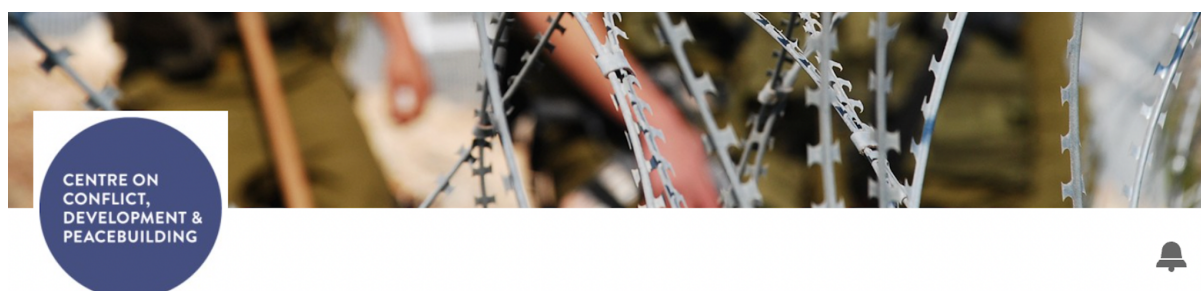
The CCDP also maintains and cultivates its network with like-minded national and international research partners and centres, such as the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO), Berghof Foundation, CMI - Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation, the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, the University of Notre Dame, GPaz, the Rift Valley Institute in Nairobi, the Kofi Annan Peace Centre in Accra, the Nepal Peacebuilding Initiative in Lalitpur, Alianza Para la Paz in Bogotá, the Institute for Peace and Development in Mindanao in Iligan, the Institute for Security Studies in Pretoria, swisspeace in Basel, the Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation in Enniskerry, the Igarape Institute in Rio, Centro de Recursos para el Análisis de Conflictos (CERAC) in Bogotá, the Center for Security Studies (CSS) at ETH Zürich, University of Antananarivo in Madagascar and the Centre for Development and the Environment (CDE) at the University of Bern. Within Switzerland, the advisory work of CCDP with various former and new partners continues, such as the collaboration with the ETH-NADEL (Zurich) in the context of the External Quality Commission for the Kooperationsgemeinschaft and a new support mandate to the Interaction consortium. This year, the CCDP also continued its proactive efforts to collaborate with its partners within the Maison de la Paix through a continued collaboration with the Principles for Peace (P4P) initiative and the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF). This collaboration offered an effective way for the CCDP to feed its cross-cutting knowledge on issues of conflict and peacebuilding into initiatives at the policy level. Through P4P, the CCDP core team has been supporting establishing a feedback mechanism into the peace process in Bangsamoro.

Beyond its own outreach activities, the CCDP continues to benefit from being a co-founder of the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, which has been housed in the CCDP offices. This position enables the CCDP staff to be part of a variety of stakeholder networks and conversations throughout the year. It has also consolidated the Centre’s close ties with the Swiss Mission to the United Nations and is closely associated with Geneva Peace Week, the platform’s flagship event open to anyone interested in issues relating to peace.

8.2 Online Presence

The CCDP continues to develop and implement its outreach strategy to make research findings accessible to both academic and practitioner audiences, and to feed practical knowledge back into research to ensure mutual enrichment. Over the course of the year, the CCDP's outreach on social media has continued its trend of significant growth thanks to the strategic plan developed by the outreach team to create and continuously share relevant content. We have drafted and implemented a new communications strategy that seeks to underscore the Centre's integral role within the broader Geneva Graduate Institute ecosystem, with the goal of attracting exceptional talent, forming strategic partnerships, and fostering interdisciplinary collaboration across various centres, faculties, and with international organisations in and beyond Geneva.

In 2023, the Centre continued to send a weekly newsletter, the CCDP Spotlight, every Monday via Mailchimp to approximately 6'430 subscribers. The average opening rate is 41% which is about 3'439 people. In 2024 we plan to continue these weekly updates as they are an excellent way to showcase CCDP researchers and to highlight recent events. With regards to social media specifically, LinkedIn has seen the most successful and exponential growth out of the three social media platforms of the CCDP. The account has developed into a thriving and dynamic community made up of a majority of followers based in Geneva (8.3%) working in International Affairs (15.3%) and non-profit organisations (10.9%). The CCDP platform continues to see impressive follower growth. As of December 2023, the CCDP had amassed 13'173 followers, a 139% increase from our 5'514 followers in December 2022.

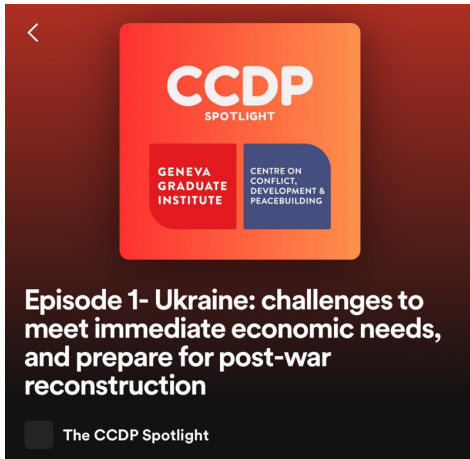


CCDP - Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding

The CCDP is the Graduate Institute's focal point for research in the areas of conflict analysis and peacebuilding.

Research Services · Geneva · 13K followers · 11-50 employees

In the fall of 2023, the CCDP launched our newest podcast series titled the CCDP Spotlight on Spotify. Our first episode was released on 18 October 2023. Our new communications strategy incorporates the use of podcasts as a new method of engaging with our audience. We look forward to increasing our listenership as we continue to produce podcasts that are relevant and insightful for our audience.



Twitter has also continued to be a very active platform for increased engagement, particularly among researchers of and beyond the Geneva Graduate Institute. While our number of followers has stagnated slightly, the number of followers went from 1'556 in December 2022 to 1'895 in December 2023, indicating a 22% increase.



Lastly, the Facebook page of the CCDP continued to be used mainly to create events and advertise the DPP-CFM Executive Education programme of the Geneva Graduate Institute, with which the Centre has a long-standing partnership. The number of Facebook followers has increased from 396 in December 2022 to 555 in December 2023. While less than the other two platforms, it is still a 40% increase from 2022.

