

2023-2024

Fondation Pierre du Bois pour l'histoire du temps présent



Pierre du Bois

Mot de la Présidente - From the President	4
Les colloques - Conferences	6
Le Prix Pierre du Bois - The Pierre du Bois Prize	10
L'atelier pour doctorants Pierre du Bois - The Pierre du Bois Doctoral Workshop	12
Le professeur invité Pierre du Bois - Pierre du Bois Visiting Professor	16
Les publications des colloques - Conference Publications	17
Les subsides - Grants	18
Les chercheurs associés - Research Associates	20
Les Papiers d'actualité - Current Affairs in Perspective	30
Le Conseil de Fondation - Foundation Board	32
Prochains événements - Upcoming Events	34
Rejoignez-nous! - Join us!	35

Mot de la Présidente



Voici le huitième rapport d'activité de la Fondation Pierre du Bois pour l'histoire du temps présent. La Fondation vise à susciter des recherches sur l'histoire du temps présent et à soutenir des chercheurs et des étudiants travaillant dans ce domaine. Elle a été créée en 2008 suite à la disparition de mon mari, Pierre du Bois, qui nous a quittés le 23 juin 2007, à 64 ans, prématurément, infiniment douloureusement. Pierre du Bois était historien et, pendant ses quinze dernières années, professeur d'histoire et politique internationales à l'Institut de hautes études internationales à Genève, spécialiste de l'intégration européenne et des relations internationales contemporaines. Passionné par l'histoire du temps présent, Pierre du Bois voulait créer cette Fondation et avait, depuis fort longtemps déjà, formulé ses objectifs. Sa disparition prématurée l'a empêché de réaliser lui-même ce vœu.

Ce huitième rapport rend compte des activités de la Fondation en 2023 et 2024. Les colloques annuels organisés en partenariat avec le Geneva Graduate Institute ont été à nouveau des moments forts de nos activités. Le colloque de 2023, organisé par Nicole Bourbonnais, a porté sur le potentiel des femmes et des enfants comme vecteurs de changement dans la politique internationale, et a eu Jade Sasser comme conférencière principale. Le colloque de 2024, organisé par Rui Esteves avec Barry Eichengreen comme invité d'honneur, a porté sur l'histoire globale de la dette publique. Les deux événements ont attiré beaucoup de monde et ont rencontré un large écho.

En 2021, des Ateliers (Workshops) Pierre du Bois avaient été lancés, réunissant des experts internationaux et des doctorants du département d'Histoire et politique internationales du Geneva Graduate Institute. L'événement de 2023, organisé par Anna Diem et Burak Sayim, et celui de 2024, organisé par Michele Benazzo et Gauri Saxena, ont permis des échanges passionnants sur une variété de sujets.

La procédure de sélection pour la nouvelle Chaire Pierre du Bois «L'Europe et le monde» à l'Institut a progressé et nous nous réjouissons d'accueillir bientôt un nouveau titulaire. En attendant, nous avons continué de soutenir l'accueil d'un professeur invité pendant un semestre. En 2023, Sergey Radchenko a fait bénéficier l'Institut de son expertise sur la guerre froide et les politiques étrangères russe et chinoise.

Comme toujours, ma reconnaissance va à l'Institut, notre principal partenaire: à sa Directrice, la Professeure Marie-Laure Salles, aux professeurs du département d'Histoire et politique internationales, aux doctorants et étudiants, à l'ensemble du personnel, aux chercheurs associés, ceux qui ont connu Pierre autrefois et les autres qui nous ont rejoints depuis.

Je voudrais aussi exprimer ma profonde gratitude envers le Conseil de Fondation : il nous guide, la Fondation et moi-même, avec une vision à long-terme, un grand esprit d'initiative, beaucoup de sagesse et d'amitié.

Nous traversons une époque de grandes turbulences géopolitiques. Presque tous les jours l'actualité nous rappelle l'importance de l'étude de l'histoire en général et de l'histoire du temps présent en particulier. Nous croyons donc, plus que jamais, en notre vocation, et vous remercions, chers amis de la Fondation, de votre fidélité et de votre intérêt pour continuer cette route ensemble.

From the President

This is the eighth Activity Report of the Pierre du Bois Foundation for Current History. The Foundation's mission is to stimulate research in current history and to support researchers and students in this field. It was established in 2008 and bears the name of my husband, Pierre du Bois, who left us prematurely at the age of 64, to our immense sadness, on 23 June 2007. Pierre du Bois was a historian and, for the last 15 years of his life, Professor of International History and Politics at the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva. He was a specialist in European integration and contemporary International Relations. Passionate about current history, Pierre du Bois wished to create this Foundation and had already outlined its objectives long ago. Due to his premature passing, he was unable to realize these objectives himself.

This eighth report covers the Foundation's activities in 2023 and 2024. The Annual Pierre du Bois Conferences, held in partnership with the Geneva Graduate Institute, were once again a cornerstone of the Foundation's activity during this period. Organized by Nicole Bourbonnais, the 2023 conference addressed the potential of women and children as agents for change in international politics and featured a keynote lecture by Jade Sasser. The 2024 conference, organized by Rui Esteves and with a keynote by Barry Eichengreen, dealt with the global history of public debt. Both events were well-attended and included animated, collegial discussions between participants and the audience.

In 2021, a series of Pierre du Bois doctoral workshops was launched, bringing together international researchers and PhD candidates from the Geneva Graduate Institute's International History and Politics department. Both the 2023 event, organized by Anna Diem and Burak Sayim, and the 2024 workshop, organized by Michele Benazzo and Gauri Saxena,, stimulated lively exchanges among researchers from a broad range of backgrounds.

The selection procedure for the new Pierre du Bois Chair "Europe and the World" at the Geneva Graduate Institute has progressed and we look forward to welcoming a new Chair soon. In the meantime, we have supported the invitation of a Visiting Professor to the Institute. In 2023, this position was held for one semester by Sergey Radchenko, an expert on the Cold War and Russian and Chinese foreign policy.

As always, I am grateful to our principal partner, the Geneva Graduate Institute: to the Director, Professor Marie-Laure Salles, to the professors in the International History and Politics department, to the PhD candidates and students, to the staff and to the Research Associates – both those who once knew Pierre and those who have joined us more recently.

I would also like to express my deep gratitude to the members of the Foundation Board, who have steered the Foundation – as well as myself – with tenacity and vision, initiative and a good deal of wisdom and friendship.

We are living through a period of unusual geopolitical uncertainty. On an almost daily basis, events remind us of the importance of studying history and, in particular, current history. More than ever, we believe in our vocation and would like to thank you, dear friends of the Foundation, for your loyalty and your interest in continuing this journey together!

The Pierre du Bois Conference is organized annually by the Geneva Graduate Institute in partnership with the Fondation Pierre du Bois.

Women and Children as Sites of Intervention: Past, Present, Future

18-19 OCTOBER 2023

The image of "women and children" - as a coherent, recognized unit - is one of the most dominant, longlasting motifs in national social planning and global health, development, and humanitarian work. There may be no more prescient signifier of conflict, hunger, and poverty than the tired, worried mother clutching her emaciated child to her breast. But women and children have also been presented as critical sites of intervention, as the foundation of national strength, and as promising "agents of change". How did the fate of "women and children" become so closely tied to one another in discourse and practice? How has this history been shaped by imperialism and race, class, and national inequality? What are the underlying structures that lead us to task mothers with building nations, solving conflicts, and/or preventing poverty? What happens to non-procreative women, "wayward" girls and boys, fathers, and queer families when we see "women and children" as the core of kinship and reproduction? Is this an inherently conservative tradition, reinforcing traditional gender relations, or can motherhood be a progressive, even radical vision? Can we decolonize or revolutionize our understanding of - and engagement with - parenthood, reproduction, and the family?

These were the questions at the core of the 2023 Pierre du Bois Conference, organized by Professor Nicole Bourbonnais with the crucial support of Sara Arab. The conference brought together scholars from five continents whose work cuts across time, space, and disciplinary boundaries. Day one began with a stimulating roundtable on motherhood and maternalism in the 20th century, in which scholars traced both the conservative/patriarchal and potentially progressive/empowering aspects of maternalistic politics

The 2023 Conference

in Latin America and Africa. This was followed by a panel narrowing in on the different ways women, in particular, have been imagined and targeted by political movements: as matriarchs and sorcerers in Reunion, as "political mothers" in Zimbabwe, as "religious prostitutes" in India, and as victims of famine in Russia. Participants then took up the other half of the equation – children – exploring early German missionaries' work in orphanages abroad, juvenile punishment in the colonial Caribbean, and the evolution of neonatal wards in Great Britain.



Group Photo of the 2023 Conference in Geneva

Day two began with another conceptual roundtable, in which scholars drew research from Europe, South Africa, Japan, and India to outline the complex politics of sex and reproduction within and across borders. This was followed by a panel exploring how the "modern" family and its counterpart, the working class/racialized family - was envisioned by twentieth century sociologists, anthropologists, and newspaper commentators writing from Europe, Africa, India, and Brazil. The final panel of the conference explored how commentators in the twentieth century addressed the question of fertility



Nicole Bourbonnais at the 2023 Conference in Geneva

and infant mortality across China, Mexico, and Africa. The conference closed with a lively roundtable on 21st century policy and activism, exploring how queer, sexual rights, and reproductive justice advocates have sought to re-think and expand the meaning of motherhood and the family to promote more inclusive and liberating frameworks for all.

The roundtables and short format of panel presentations left lots of time for discussion, which the audience took up to draw connections/contrasts between distant countries and between the past and present. Everyone present was struck by the consistent ways mothers and families have been instrumentalized in the name of broader political concerns throughout

history, a phenomenon traced to the common legacy of imperialism and transnational circulation of ideology. At the same time, several presentations highlighted stories of mothers who challenged the norms of their time, children who defied expectations, and families that followed their own rules. In the end, it was felt that the conference had thoroughly illustrated how the normative family came to be, but participants yearned for a deeper exploration of these more radical histories of the family – perhaps a subject for a future conference? In the meantime, it was agreed to explore potential avenues for a special journal issue to highlight some of the work/discussions for the broader academic community.

Undoubtedly the greatest strength of the conference was the exceptionally energetic, collegial, and thoughtful engagement of all participants. Everyone approached the discussions with enthusiasm, embracing the spirit of transnational/inter-disciplinary exchange and offering careful and constructive feedback to one another. All told, the conference captured the dynamism of contemporary women's/gender history as an academic field, a space for anti-hierarchical exchange, and a site of potential social and political activism.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER JADE SASSER AT THE 2023 CONFERENCE IN GENEVA

The conference's keynote lecture was given by sociologist Dr Jade Sasser (University of California, Riverside) on the first day. Entitled "Shifting Population Politics, from The Population Bomb to Climate Crisis", it took the audience from the past into the present and future, tracing the long arc of fertility politics from the mid-century panic over the "population bomb" to the contemporary climate crisis.

Debt and Taxes. A History of Innovation

26-27 SEPTEMBER 2024

In 2024, the Geneva Graduate Institute hosted the 15th edition of the Pierre du Bois Conference, organized by Professor Rui Esteves. The conference was held on 26 and 27 September and gathered 23 contributors from Europe and North and South America.

The title of the conference "Debt and Taxes. A History of Innovation" is a gesture to the long history of public debt. Though marred by crises, this is mostly a history of innovation: debt, an instrument that allows us to trade with our future selves, is one of the most important financial innovations in history. States have been among the main borrowers through history and for a number of good reasons - from funding public goods and social infrastructure to providing a safety net against large shocks, such as natural disasters or pandemics. Historically, states have tried to make debt credible by creating new taxes to fund it; this relationship between public debt and taxation continues today. Public debts soared in the wake of the Global Financial Crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic, rising on both occasions by about 15 percent of world GDP to reach almost 100 percent of GDP. At some point, governments will seek to find ways of managing this debt stock and taxation will certainly be on the agenda.

The first session of the conference covered debt in the Early Modern period. Larry Neal (Illinois Urbana-Champaign) gave a talk about the Louisiana purchase by the US in 1803 and Christiaan van Bochove (Utrecht) then spoke about how 18th century Dutch authorities set up a functioning secondary market for their debt securities.

The second session began with a refreshing view by Regina Grafe (Cambridge) on the institutional foundations of successful public debt and financial systems. She guestioned whether the 'three Bs' (Banks, Bonds and Bourses) were necessary for financial development: based on her research on Spanish America, she argued that a set of 'four Cs' (Convents, Confraternities, Consulados and Cajas) allowed Spanish colonial authorities to borrow. Pamfili Antipa (LSE) continued in the same vein, unpacking the assertion that parliamentary control over the public purse was historically a key advantage of the British fiscal system. Even if politician-bondholders helped make public finance credible, the author argued, British MPs also used their privileged knowledge to make profitable transactions on the stock exchange.

The 2024 Conference

The second day of the conference started with three presentations on debt sustainability. Josefin Meyer (DIW Berlin) showed the relationship between shocks



Group Photo of the 2024 Conference in Geneva



Rui Esteves at the 2024 Conference in Geneva

to world commodity prices and the cost of borrowing by emerging nations, a trend which has persisted for over 150 years. Paula Vedovelli (FGV São Paulo) revealed how specialist firms emerged in Europe and the US in the 19th century to commodify information about the growth potential of emerging nations for European and US investors. Finally, analyzing data on central banks' balance sheets since the 1890s, Eric Monnet (Paris School of Economics) and Matthias Morys (York) explained how central banks have been instrumental in maintaining economic and financial stability during financial shocks.

The subject of the two next presentations was British imperial finance. Leigh Gardner (LSE) presented her research on the decentralization of colonial finances by the British colonial authorities as a way of controlling growing African protests against colonial rule in the interwar period. By giving the population a greater say about how taxes were raised and spent, authorities hoped to coopt local elites and defuse challenges to their authority. Similarly, Coşkun Tunçer (UCL) spoke about the granting of explicit guarantees by London for loans raised by some of its colonies. An apparent contradiction – as all colonial bonds were

implicitly guaranteed by London – the author discussed the function of these guarantees and the aims pursued by the British government in granting them.

Two interesting papers formed a session on the infrastructure of debt markets. Geoffroy Legentilhomme (Zurich) presented his research with Marc Flandreau (Penn) on the 'mathematics of wealth' as a condition for the development of a capital market in tradable securities in 19th century England. The increase in accuracy in the rate of return calculations of standard financial assets created, in the authors' narrative, the conditions for the public to trust and invest in these assets in an open market. This account goes against the grain of the history of science, where scientific advances - actuarial mathematics in this case - are usually explained as purely driven by the disinterested pursuit of knowledge. Sasha Indarte (Penn) followed with a talk about how financial intermediaries (investment banks) can spread financial contagion in the sovereign debt markets in times of crises, as the failure of the sovereigns associated with them leads markets to reevaluate the worth of the information provided by them on other sovereigns.

Finally, using archival evidence from Lloyd's bank, Wilfried Kisling (WU Vienna) gave a talk about the business model of international banks in Latin America prior to the 1980s debt crisis, arguing that their lending to Latin America was always in the context of relations with private companies operating in the same nations. Nathan Sussman (Geneva Graduate Institute) presented his research on the Eurobond market, which appeared in 1964, grew to become a large component in nations' foreign borrowing and survived the 1980s debt crisis relatively unscathed. His presentation, focusing on the 1970s, when exchange rate volatility led nations to experiment with diversifying the currencies in which they borrowed away from the US dollar, opens up a forgotten angle in the history of foreign debt in the 20th century.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER BARRY EICHENGREEN AT THE 2024 CONFERENCE IN GENEVA

The first day of the conference concluded with an insightful keynote lecture by Barry Eichengreen (Berkeley) entitled "In Defense of Public Debt. An Intellectual Journey in Four Acts". The lecture covered the historical rise of public debt, and how states learned to harness the power of public borrowing for important social aims. He noted that only economic growth and political cohesion have been reliably associated with lowering debt levels – both of which are in short supply today. On a positive note, he spoke about the recent success of small nations such as Jamaica, Barbados and Ireland in reining in their debt levels, although it is unclear whether their experience can be replicated in larger nations such as the US.

Le Prix Pierre du Bois récompense la meilleure thèse de doctorat en histoire du temps présent soutenue au cours de l'année écoulée à l'Institut de hautes études internationales et du développement à Genève, dans le département d'Histoire et politique internationales. Il est doté d'une valeur de 5'000 CHF.

Amal Shahid

LE PRIX PIERRE DU BOIS 2023

Le Prix Pierre du Bois 2023 a été décerné au Dr Amal Shahid pour sa thèse intitulée "The Political Economy of Famine Relief: Labour, Colonialism, and Public Works in the North-Western Provinces of India, c. 1860-1920" et soutenue sous la direction du Professeur Gopalan Balachandran.

The Political Economy of Famine Relief: Labour, Colonialism, and Public Works in the North-Western Provinces of India, c. 1860-1920

This thesis focuses on how the British colonial state provided famine relief during the numerous famines that took place in the Indian subcontinent between c. 1860-1920. This involved setting up relief works, in addition to arranging for various forms of gratuitous relief and distributing loans to selected agricultural classes. The dissertation demonstrates the intricate connections between each form of relief to highlight the centrality of labour regulation for the colonial state both to famine relief and to the overall sustenance of colonial rule in India. That is, it explores how the colonial state used famine relief as a means for control and management of Indian labour, but, at the same time, how far famine relief illustrated the nature and limits of the colonial state's governance in India. Using the framework of political economy, the thesis argues that famine relief management was informed by a utilitarian calculus that aimed at the justification of colonial despotism in order to maintain the 'coolie' as the main form of colonial subjecthood. Additionally, the research explores the ideological impact of the English Poor Laws and colonial knowledge-making to emphasize that not only did the colonial state rely on untested knowledge of the Indian society to frame its famine relief policy, but also, as a result, deepened divisions within Indian society. The thesis concludes that the colonial state used famine relief to legitimize its position in the subcontinent and used moral rationalizations to direct famine-affected populations into labour. This study thus helps understand the conceptual entanglements of morality and economy in the colonial context of the Indian subcontinent.



Dr Amal Shahid avec Jussi Hanhimäki

Kai Habel

LE PRIX PIERRE DU BOIS 2024

Le Prix Pierre du Bois 2024 a été décerné au Dr Kai Habel pour sa thèse intitulée «La génération de la Bulle: Le Japon face à la question libérale, 1970-1990» et soutenue sous la direction du Professeur Mohamed Mahmoud Mohamedou.

La génération de la Bulle: Le Japon face à la question libérale, 1970-1990

La thèse explore la question du libéralisme et cherche à saisir les évolutions de la pensée libérale dans le Japon d'après-guerre, afin de déterminer la position de la société nippone vis-à-vis de ce courant philosophique, politique et social. Nous posons l'hypothèse selon laquelle le Japon fut traversé, au cours des années 1970-1980, par un grand élan de libéralisation affectant les structures économiques, sociales, culturelles et identitaires. Cette période se caractérisa non seulement par la conversion du système économique au néolibéralisme, mais aussi par la transformation rapide, quoique incomplète, des comportements sociaux et des valeurs communes: une certaine forme d'individualisme se vit célébrée, les habitudes de consommation évoluèrent, le statut de la femme s'éleva, les loisirs se diversifièrent, les mœurs se libéralisèrent... L'effondrement de la bulle financière à l'aube des années 1990 s'accompagna néanmoins d'une fissuration de ce processus. Les Japonais passés à l'âge adulte dans les années 1985-1990 se font appeler baburu-sedai, ce qui signifie littéralement «génération de la Bulle»: ses membres se singulariseraient par leur comportement frimeur, prétentieux et insouciant. Pourquoi et comment le processus de libéralisation consistant en la garantie puis en l'extension des libertés individuelles a-t-il abouti à l'avènement de la génération de la Bulle, et quelles en ont été les conséquences? Ce sont les questions auxquelles la recherche a tenté de répondre.



Dr Kai Habel entouré de Marie-Laure Salles, Jussi Hanhimäki et Irina du Bois

In 2021, the Pierre du Bois Foundation launched a series of doctoral workshops in partnership with the Department of International History and Politics at the Geneva Graduate Institute. PhD students have the opportunity to organize an annual workshop to further their research and deepen their knowledge of a set of themes related to their work. This joint initiative aims to create further opportunities for PhD students by helping them advance and disseminate their doctoral work.

Mobile Actors in Global History

3-4 APRIL 2023



Group Photo of the 2023 Doctoral Workshop in Geneva

The third edition of the Annual Pierre du Bois Doctoral Workshop gathered scholars from 11 countries at the Maison de la Paix, on 3 and 4 April 2023. The workshop, with the title "Mobile Actors in Global History", was organized by Anna Diem and Burak Sayim.

In total, four senior scholars from four different countries joined the workshop, in addition to 12 PhD candidates and early career scholars, from major institutions in Switzerland, the US, the UK, Spain, Italy, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Sweden, Turkey and the UAE. The workshop consisted of four thematic panels with three speakers each, as well as a senior scholar serving as the discussant. In addition, a roundtable entitled "What and where are the archives of global history" took place on the first day.

Following the introductory remarks, the first panel, "Cross-border Politics", brought together Burak Sayim (New York University Abu Dhabi), Irène Portas Vazquez (University of Luxembourg) and Luis Martinez (Complutense University, Madrid) for a discussion of cross-border activism in highly diverse geographical contexts. Presentations explored different forms of

trans-border political activism in the interwar Middle East, in Luxembourg, and on the Gibraltar-Spain border in the 20th century. The papers were commented on by invited expert Ramazan Hakkı Öztan from Bogazici University, Istanbul.

The second panel was organized around the theme of "Global Expert Networks". Anna Diem (Geneva Graduate Institute) discussed turn-of-the-century networks advocating progress, with a special emphasis on Rudolf Broda and his circles. Joshua Ben Klein (Geneva Graduate Institute) tracked the trajectory of Roger Bastide and a career that straddled Brazil and France. Lavinia Gambini (Jesus College, University of Cambridge) took us to Medici Florence and explored what the popularity of non-Western diviners meant in that context. Odile Moreau from Université Paul-Valéry Montpellier 3 was the discussant of the second panel.

On the second day, the third panel focused on "Biographical Approaches" to global history. The panel opened with a presentation by Marilia Arantes Moreira (University of London) focusing on Antoine Larcher's role in spreading the French Revolution

to Brazil. Daria Dyakonova (International Institute, Geneva) shed light on the network of communist women in the 1920s. Finally, Shruit Balaji (London School of Economics) explored Rameshwari Nehru's political thought in the context of women's civil-society networks, Afro-Asian solidarity movements, and political decolonization. A discussion of the papers presented by Fredrik Petersson from Stockholm University was followed by lively exchanges on the topics explored.

The 2023 Workshop

The final panel was dedicated to the subject of "Diaspora Politics". Sara Zanotta (University of Pavia) opened the panel with a paper on the Iranian constitutional network in the Ottoman Empire, the Caucasus, and India. Kelvin Ng (Yale University) investigated the Self-Respect movement and anti-caste thought in the interwar years through two Tamil-language newspapers published in Singapore. Finally, Philipp Horn (University of Bern) explored the entangled histories of Caribbean and African black militants operating under French colonial rule. Aidan Russell from the Geneva Graduate Institute offered a synthesis of the

discussions held at the panel, as well as further questions for research as the discussant of the panel. Last but not least, Ramazan Hakkı Öztan offered concluding remarks about the new trajectories of global history and the new generation of global historians, with their increasing interest in tying micro-level research to the macro-level discussions that have traditionally defined global history.

In addition to the panels, a roundtable moderated by Burak Sayim brought together Fredrik Petersson, Odile Moreau, and Ramazan Hakkı Öztan on the topic of archival difficulties in global history. Speakers took turns in discussing the archival challenges they faced, as well as the particularities of the archives they used, including French, Turkish, and Russian archives. Subjects explored in the roundtable included linguistic difficulties, the rise of online archives, as well as some practical tips for young researchers.

The whole workshop took place in an exceptionally friendly and engaged atmosphere. The vivid discussions continued beyond the panels throughout dinner and over beers in the timid April sun after the last session. It is to be hoped that there will be opportunities to continue the exchange and to develop the ideas that took shape further.



The 2023 Workshop in Geneva

Minorities and the Making of Post-Colonial Europe

6-7 MAY 2024



Group Photo of the 2024 Doctoral Workshop in Geneva

The fourth Pierre du Bois Doctoral Workshop, titled 'Minorities and the Making of Post-Colonial Europe', took place on 6-7 May 2024 at the Geneva Graduate Institute. The event's main goal was to stimulate an interdisciplinary debate on minorities and colonialism, and the workshop sought to address one overarching question: is present-day Europe really postcolonial?

Over the past four decades, postcolonial academic literature has generally been oriented toward Africa, Asia, and Latin America. This focus, however, ignores the repercussions of the end of the colonial period on European colonial powers and societies. This workshop thus disrupted the long-established 'tricontinental' dogma by bringing the geography of postcolonialism to Europe. Focusing on minorities and their resettlement in former European colonial centres, the workshop put colonizers' governmental practices of immigration and integration in direct communication with the memories of colonized subjects.

The importance of this endeavour is clear from the so-called 'migration crisis' affecting Europe, the debates on immigration reform during every electoral cycle, as well as recent events in Gaza and Israel. Also, for the first time in European history, second-generation immigrants are now key players in mainstream youth political movements, often denouncing colonial legacies in Europe. In this context, certain key questions arise. How did state practices of decolonization influence the trajectories of settlement by minorities? How did the latter react in turn? And, most importantly, what does 'decolonizing academia' – a recurring

though poorly studied phrase in European universities – mean exactly, and how can we study it?

The event opened with a keynote by Emmanuel Dalle Mulle (Universidad Complutense de Madrid) titled 'From Plurality to Homogeneity and Beyond: Minorities, Majorities, and Shifting Understandings of Diversity from the Late 18th to the Mid-20th Century'. This presentation acted as a prequel to our panels, introducing the concept of 'minorities' and the meanings and practices of the term in the period until the mid-20th century. Our three panels were then all set in the second half of the 20th century, and one of their central aims was to analyze how the notion of 'minorities' subsequently changed. The second aim was to explore the power relations between colonizers and colonized encapsulated by these changing conceptualizations.

The first panel, chaired by Ian Sanjay Patel (Birkbeck, University of London), 'Post-War (De)colonization: State Practices of Colonial Reproductions' brought together Ana Guardião (University of Coimbra and University of Florence), Abha Calindi (Geneva Graduate Institute), Eleonora Cappa (University of Genoa and University of Turin), and Gauri Saxena (Geneva Graduate Institute). Their presentations analyzed different state practices of decolonization, from the UK to France via Portugal and the European Union, exploring how state practices constricted or opened space to migrant communities for resettlement.

The second panel 'Rebelling against Coloniality', chaired by Emmanuel Delle Mulle, explored how immigrant

communities protested against state practices to carve out, successfully or not, a more suitable habitat for permanent resettlement. Federica Stagni (Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa), Florian Carl (Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa), and Michele Benazzo (Geneva Graduate Institute) explored bottom-up power relations between minorities and state institutions in different shapes, ranging from anti-racism to environmental activism and the influence of colonial memories over present-day protests.

Finally, the third panel 'Reshaping Colonial Identities: Minorities and Belonging', chaired by Elizabeth Buettner (University of Amsterdam), analyzed horizontal power relationships among minorities themselves in the hope of understanding how immigrants' identities collectively change inside the spaces analyzed in the first two panels, i.e. those granted by states or secured by protests. Can Haldenbilen (University of Basel), Martina Moretti (University of Tuscia), and Simone Cerulli (University of Milan) tracked different experiences in Switzerland, Portugal, and Italy and emphasized transnational connections in determining trajectories of belonging in different forms of migration: economic migrants, asylum seekers, and excolonial citizens.

Two further sessions completed the workshop. The first was a guest experts' roundtable, 'Questioning the Interdisciplinary 'Minorities': Theory and the Politics of Academia', with an open discussion on the epistemology and politics of academia. This moment had a double purpose: first, to stimulate debate on how we study empirical evidence through conceptual categories, especially on the topic of 'decolonizing academia'. Second, the roundtable served the more practical purpose of providing insights on academic careers and

how current academic landscapes shape opportunities for young scholars. The central issue of interdisciplinarity turned out to be a double-edged sword: encouraged in funding opportunities and scientific publications but also dangerous for young researchers, as it goes against conventional departmental structures. Thanks to their knowledge of different national systems, our guest experts lan Sanjay Patel, Elizabeth Buettner, Emmanuel Dalle Mulle, Gopalan Balachandran (Geneva Graduate Institute), and Graziella Moraes da Silva (Geneva Graduate Institute) gave the audience valuable inputs on how to square this circle.

The 2024 Workshop

Finally, the workshop concluded with a session on the needs of PhD students, for participants to share their own experiences. Chaired by the two organizers, Gauri Saxena and Michele Benazzo, the discussion covered themes including interdisciplinarity and differing experiences of international mobility: on one hand, mobility is encouraged for maximising career opportunities, but, on the other, it can also entail losing knowledge of internal mechanisms which are equally meaningful with respect to professional patterns.

The event was attended not only by PhDs, but also by Masters students interested in pursuing a PhD. The broad-based interest in the topics of discussion and excellent turnout throughout the two days thus demonstrated a promising area for future research, collaborations and events.

In the 2022-2023 academic year, the Pierre du Bois Foundation supported the invitation of Visiting Professors to teach at the Geneva Graduate Institute.

2023 Pierre du Bois Visiting Professor: Sergey Radchenko



Sergey Radchenko

During the 2023 spring semester, this position was held by Sergey Radchenko, an expert on the Cold War, nuclear history, and on Russian and Chinese foreign and security policies.

At the Geneva Graduate Institute, Sergey Radchenko taught a course titled "The Kremlin Eyes the World: Soviet/Russian Foreign Policy From Stalin to Putin". It explored Soviet/Russian foreign policy from the early Cold War to the present, highlighting the underlying themes of policy-making: security, ideology, and recognition. The course began with the 1945 Yalta Conference and Stalin's attempt to shape the post-war order. It continued with an examination of the Soviet Union's increasingly global ambitions during the Cold War that ultimately ended in the USSR's dissolution in

1991. The course continued into the 1990s, reviewing Boris Yeltsin's abortive effort to steer Russia towards a closer relationship with the West. The final weeks covered the Putin years: from his rise to power to his various wars – in Chechnya, Georgia, and finally Ukraine. Throughout the course, particular attention was paid to Soviet/Russian Eastern policy, in particular engagement with China. Ultimately, the course speculated on what is in store for Russia – and the international order – offering a range of possible, historically-informed answers.

Sergey Radchenko is a native of Sakhalin Island, Russia and was educated in the US, Hong Kong, and the UK, where he received his PhD in International History from the London School of Economics. He is currently the Wilson E. Schmidt Distinguished Professor at the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University (Bologna campus), having previously taught at Pittsburgh State University, the University of Nottingham, Aberystwyth University, and the University of Cardiff. He has served as a Global Fellow and a Public Policy Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson Centre and as the Zi Jiang Distinguished Professor at East China Normal University (Shanghai).

Professor Radchenko's latest book – which he completed during his time as the Pierre du Bois Visiting Professor – is To Run the World: the Kremlin's Cold War Bid for Global Power (Cambridge University Press, 2024). Other publications include Two Suns in the Heavens: the Sino-Soviet Struggle for Supremacy (Wilson Center Press & Stanford UP, 2009) and Unwanted Visionaries: the Soviet Failure in Asia (Oxford UP, 2014).

Special Issue on Ordinary Ottomans: Post-World War I Settlements and Experiences of the End of Empire

CONTEMPORARY LEVANT, VOLUME 9, ISSUE 2 (2024); GUEST EDITORS: ALINE SCHLAEPFER AND JORDI TEJEL, PAGES 79-217

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This Special Issue is the main output from the international conference on Ordinary Ottomans, co-organized in November 2022 by the Institute of History at the University of Neuchâtel and the Department of Near and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Basel, and supported by the Pierre du Bois Foundation.

In the Introduction, Aline Schlaepfer and Jordi Tejel address the concepts of ordinariness and Ottomanness, and how they intersect within the disintegrating Ottoman Empire. Given existing scholarship on ordinary groups or individuals in the history of the Middle East, they position ordinariness as context specific; they view it as subjected to various forms of exclusion, primarily from the elite. Within the framework of the major political changes of the end of Empire, they interrogate the capacities of individuals to maintain regularity through ordinary practices, after or despite a disruptive episode.

Each article picks up the debates around these two concepts, through case studies and different types of archival material. In Funda Soysal and Alp Yenen's contribution, ego-documents and private papers allow for the reconstruction of the biographies of two generations of a Salonican family who strove to sustain their precarious privilege amid shifting borders, ultimately leading them to move from Ottoman Salonica to the Republic of Turkey.

Ramazan Hakkı Öztan's piece turns our gaze towards Kilis, a mid-size town in the north of the Ottoman province of Aleppo. It reconstructs the complex episodes that unfolded both before and after the introduction of the Turkish-Syrian border, as the territorial future of Kilis' agricultural hinterland intimately shaped how the town's landed notables interacted with the coming of French colonial rule. For Öztan, the location of the actors – at the margins of a territorial state – excludes them from central decision-making, and, consequently, shapes their ordinariness.

Ellinor Morack examines memories of the Allied occupation of Maras, Mersin and Izmir published in local newspapers between the 1920s and 1960s. The authors of these memories, she argues, were "ordinary" insofar as they were relatively low ranking clerks, former reserve officers, and readers of these local papers. As the loss of Ottoman sovereignty also brought the loss of Muslim supremacy, memories published in local papers recounted experiences of humiliation and distress among Muslims. The privileged had suddenly become ordinary.

Reconstructing the life and work of Johannes Jakob Manissadjian, an Armenian scientist at Anatolia College,

Nazan Maksudyan traces routes of disappearance, dispersal and loss within the context of the Armenian genocide. The "archival act" of Johannes Manissidjian, in continuing his scientific work despite the ongoing genocide, can be interpreted as an act of resistance against catastrophic change.

Thomas Kuehn's article explores the struggles over the continuation of Ottoman sovereignty in the Province of Yemen between 1918 and 1923. Focusing on the two leading Ottoman officials and their efforts to avoid the departure from Yemen of soldiers, administrators, and dependents, he argues that these individuals and their families could, in this context, be considered partly ordinary. Here, it is the location of the actors – far from the center – that shapes their ordinariness.

Drawing on a new corpus of primary sources, Victoria Abrahamyan's article provides a nuanced narrative on Karen Jeppe's success story in establishing the first refugee settlements in Northern Syria in the early 1920s. She demonstrates how collaboration between Armenian refugees from Urfa and the local Arab shaykhs was fundamental in avoiding violent clashes between the local Arab populations and the new settlers. However, the success of this cooperation was skillfully exploited by the French mandatory authorities as a model for large-scale refugee settlements elsewhere in the Levant.

The "ordinariness" of Jews in Joel Veldkamp's article results from an exclusion – on religious grounds – from the ruling elite. While the end of this community is often discussed with reference to the creation of the State of Israel, the article shows how the collapse of the Ottoman system of religious communities led to an extended period of dysfunction for Aleppo's Jewish communal institutions. Under the French mandate, this dysfunction left Aleppo's Jews unable to contend with a succession of crises, including a three-way competition for the community's loyalty between French administrators, Arabs nationalists and the Zionist movement.

Last but not least, César Jaquier examines the reconfiguration of post-Ottoman space in the Mashriq by examining garages, hotels, and cafés along the trans-desert routes connecting Syria and Iraq. Although these activities were marginalized by the restructuring of space through automotive technology, Jaquier demonstrates how ordinary actors played a substantial role in the formation of lived spaces spanning Syria and Iraq, as well as in reshaping the fabric, economy and meaning of places within these regions.

La Fondation soutient des recherches sur l'histoire du temps présent, en accordant des subsides à l'organisation de colloques et d'autres manifestations, et en soutenant des publications et des projets originaux et de qualité.

The Kremlin and the West Since the End of the Cold War: On the Origins of the Russo-Ukrainian Wars

CONFERENCE HELD AT THE GENEVA GRADUATE INSTITUTE AND THE UNIVERSITY OF GENEVA, 11-13 MAY 2023



Following an initiative by Jussi Hanhimäki (IHEID) and Matthias Schulz (UNIGE), the Pierre du Bois Foundation supported an international conference on Russo-Western relations since the end of the Cold War and the origins of the Russo-Ukrainian Wars. Held at the Geneva Graduate Institute and the University of Geneva from 11 to 13 May 2023, with the additional support of the Swiss National Science Foundation and the journal Relations internationales, the conference brought together experts on Russia, Ukraine, Eastern Central Europe, NATO, the European Union, transatlantic relations and international institutions. Participants were mostly historians but also included sociologists and political scientists as well as legal experts on jus contra bellum, jus in bello and human rights law. The conference participants unmasked Vladimir Putin's narratives suggesting that the West had pursued policies inimical to Russia after the fall of the Soviet Union, abusing its weakness, and that the wars were a consequence of US or NATO expansionism. They also questioned John Mearsheimer's verdict that Putin is a 'brilliant strategist', since Russia's illegal occupation and annexation of the Crimea in 2014 created an antagonism between Ukraine and Russia that had never been so deep before.

Almost all of the papers of the conference are published in the journal *Relations internationales*, nos. 196 (Winter 2023/2024) and 197 (Spring 2024).

The Past and Future of Global Tax Justice. A History and Law Conference

CONFERENCE HELD AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ZURICH, 27-28 MAY 2024

In May 2024, Madeline Woker (Assistant Professor in History) and Alice Pirlot (Assistant Professor in Law) organized a two-day interdisciplinary conference on the past and future of global tax justice. With regard to the past, participants explored historical debates about taxing rights within European colonial empires. The conference also examined the sidelining of the fight against tax evasion in the work of the League of Nations, the role of business interests in international tax governance and the neglected story of the "Group of Four", an international working group on tax evasion, in the 1970s. With regard to the future, the goal was to reflect on how global tax institutions and rules can be made more just and inclusive. Among other topics, the conference addressed the legal foundations of global justice in the context of tax, discussed the absence of clear principles of fairness in international tax law and tried to better understand the role of courts and regional alliances in achieving global tax justice. Speakers included renowned professors in tax law and in history from Switzerland and abroad.

The conference was organized with the support of the Pierre du Bois Foundation, the SNSF as well as the Collegium Helveticum.

International Organizations in the Global South: Body Politics, Power Relations, Local Impacts

CONFERENCE HELD AT THE GENEVA GRADUATE INSTITUTE, 12-15 JUNE 2024

In June 2024, Elife Biçer-Deveci and Cyrus Schayegh organized a conference on international organizations in the Global South, supported by the Pierre du Bois Foundation. Participants discussed the role of international organizations in the development of "body policies" – policies through which societal powers regulate the human body – in various countries of the Global South. The case studies were based on archival documents from the League of Nations, the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organization and various missionary and humanitarian organizations. The research questions that were addressed included the extent to which international organizations influenced local actors in their understanding of the human "body" and, vice versa, how far these exchanges and knowledge productions reflected power relations. The panels stimulated further discussion on the question of how to conceptualize the agency of local actors and their potential to change political structures in relation to the values and practices promoted by international organizations. The directors of the UNHCR Archives and United Nations Library & Archives Geneva also held a presentation on the use of their archival documents.

The conference culminated in the formulation of a consensus on the pertinence of "body politics" as a field of research. The primary benefits of this research are twofold: first, it has the potential to unveil hitherto unexplored interdependencies between diverse actors; second, it can facilitate the transcendence of colonial power relations. In order to further develop this area of research, conference participants will develop their papers into an edited volume in the course of 2025.

Histoire du Service Social International et décolonisation

COLLOQUE TENU AU MUSÉE D'ETHNOGRAPHIE DE GENÈVE LE 10 OCTOBRE 2024

Le 10 octobre 2024, le colloque «Histoire du Service Social International et décolonisation» a eu lieu au Musée d'ethnographie de Genève, soutenu, entre autres, par la Fondation Pierre du Bois. Dans le cadre de son centième anniversaire, le Service Social International, une organisation non-gouvernementale qui œuvre dans 120 pays pour la protection de l'enfance ainsi que pour la réunification familiale à travers les frontières internationales, s'est plongé dans sa propre histoire. Des historiennes ont fait le point sur l'organisation, en mettant en avant les résultats produits par les études existantes et en revenant sur des moments controversés de son passé. En particulier, deux thématiques ont été explorées, les pratiques du travail social pour les personnes migrant-e-s et les réfugié-e-s et les pratiques de l'adoption internationale après la Seconde Guerre mondiale. Les participant-e-s ont eu l'opportunité de visiter l'exposition «Genève dans le monde colonial», organisée par le Musée d'ethnographie de Genève. Ces activités ont



été suivies par une table ronde où des universitaires et des membres de la société civile ont abordé la nécessité d'interroger les inégalités et la colonialité à partir d'une perspective interdisciplinaire. Un groupe de jeunes docteurs et de doctorants, dont certains avaient travaillé avec Pierre du Bois, s'est constitué autour de la Fondation depuis sa création. Ils participent à l'établissement et à la réalisation de son programme d'activités et ils prêtent main-forte à l'organisation des colloques et des conférences. Nombreux parmi eux sont les auteurs de «Papiers d'actualité/Current Affairs in Perspective».

Ce réseau de «chercheurs associés» aspire à croître et à contribuer au développement de la Fondation et au rayonnement du «hub» d'histoire de Genève.



Professor Maylis Avaro

Maylis holds a PhD in Economics and History from the Graduate Institute in Geneva. She is Assistant Professor at Trinity College Dublin's Economics department, where she notably works with the Center of Economic, Policy and History. She was previously the Howard S. Marks Postdoctoral Fellow at the Department of History of the University of Pennsylvania and held visiting positions at Oxford University and Rutgers University. Her current projects focus on the history of central bank diplomacy, international currencies and the evolution of the French banking sector in the 19th and 20th centuries.



Michele Benazzo

Michele is currently an SNSF-funded PhD candidate in International History and Politics at the Geneva Graduate Institute. His research project draws from sources in European languages, Arabic, and Bosnian-Croat-Serbian to explore the transnational origins of British Muslims' political violence. Michele is also an occasional contributor to the Italian newspaper L'Espresso. Michele holds a Master in Terrorism and Political Violence from the University of St Andrews.



Dr Anne-Sophie Bentz

Anne-Sophie est Maître de conférences en Histoire de l'Asie du Sud à l'Université Paris Cité. Elle est docteur en histoire et politique internationales de l'Institut de hautes études internationales et du développement à Genève (IHEID) et a obtenu en 2010 le Prix Pierre du Bois pour sa thèse intitulée *Le nationalisme et l'exil: le cas des réfugiés tibétains en Inde* (PUF, 2010). Ses travaux de recherche et ses nombreuses publications portent sur les théories de la nation et du nationalisme, les migrations internationales, les réfugiés et les diasporas, et les relations internationales en Asie.



Dr Mona Bieling

Mona researches the connections between colonialism and the environment in the 19th and 20th centuries. Her doctoral dissertation examined how landscape changes influenced human power relations during the British Mandate for Palestine. Her postdoctoral project focuses on the production, circulation, and adaptation of botanical knowledge between the German Empire and Zionism. Mona is currently a postdoctoral fellow at Helmut-Schmidt-University Hamburg.



Dr Bernhard Blumenau

Bernhard holds a PhD and MA in International History from IHEID and a BA in International Relations from the University of Dresden. He is currently a Senior Lecturer (Associate Professor) in International History and Politics at the Centre for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence (CSTPV) within the School of International Relations at the University of St Andrews, Scotland. His research interests include the history of terrorism and state terror, German history and foreign policy, international cooperation and diplomacy, and the historical relationship between climate changes and political violence. Bernhard is the author of The United Nations and Terrorism: Germany, Multilateralism and Antiterrorism Efforts in the 1970s (Palgrave, 2014).



Dr Pierre-Étienne Bourneuf

Pierre-Étienne a obtenu son doctorat auprès de l'IHEID et travaille en tant que conseiller scientifique auprès de la Bibliothèque et des Archives des Nations Unies à Genève. Il est notamment l'auteur de Bombarder l'Allemagne. L'Offensive alliée sur les villes pendant la Deuxième Guerre mondiale (PUF, 2014) et de Genève, berceau de la Société des Nations (Série Histoire des Nations Unies, 2022). Il est également le curateur de l'exposition permanente «100 ans de multilatéralisme à Genève» présentée au Palais des Nations.



Dr Fernanda Conforto de Oliveira

Fernanda obtained her PhD in International History in 2025 at the Geneva Graduate Institute. Her research explores how policymakers' perceptions shape the negotiation processes and outcomes of IMF stabilization programs, focusing on Argentina and Brazil (1945–64). She is also a Research Fellow at the Centre for Finance and Development, and a Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) Fellow. She has been a visiting researcher at Princeton University and the IMF. In spring 2025, she will begin an SNSF postdoctoral position at the University of Lausanne.



Dr Damian Clavel

Damian is SNSF-Ambizione Fellow at the University of Zurich. He investigates the history of state-making and colonial enterprises through the perspectives of subaltern peoples navigating international market institutions. Damian holds a PhD from the Geneva Graduate Institute. Prior to coming to Zurich, he was the Howard Marks Postdoctoral Fellow in Economic History at the University of Pennsylvania, as well as an Economic History Society Anniversary Fellow at the University of Oxford.



Dr Emmanuel Dalle Mulle

Emmanuel is a Marie Curie UNA4CAREER post-doctoral researcher at the Complutense University of Madrid where he is completing a project on majority-minority relations in interwar Western Europe. He is also a Research Associate at the Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy in Geneva and a member of the research group Nationale Vielfalt in der Geschichte at the University of Vienna. He obtained his PhD in International History and Politics at the Geneva Graduate Institute and was awarded the Pierre du Bois Prize in 2016 and the University of Geneva Latsis Prize in 2018. His research interests include the history of nationalism, minorities, human rights and the welfare state.



Professor Doina Anca Cretu

Anca is currently an Assistant Professor in Modern European History at University of Warwick, UK. She holds a PhD in International History from the Graduate Institute. Anca's research interests include the history of humanitarianism, history of development, and history of refugees. Her first monograph, titled Foreign Aid and State Building in Interwar Romania: In Quest of an Ideal (Stanford University Press), was released in December 2024. She is currently working on a second book project, focused on the making of modern refugee camps in Austria-Hungary during World War I.



Paul Deshusses

Paul holds a BA and an MA in Political Science from the University of Geneva, an MA Erasmus Mundus in Bioethics from the University of Leuven, Radboud and Padova, and an MA in International History from the Geneva Graduate Institute where he is currently a PhD candidate and Teaching Assistant. His dissertation traces the history of biosemiotics, an interdisciplinary science, close to ethology, investigating communication both within and between organisms.



Dr Dominic Eggel

Dominic holds a PhD in International History and Politics from the IHEID. His thesis on "The Idea of Europe in Classical Weimar: The Case of Goethe, Schiller, Herder and Wieland" was awarded the Latsis Prize of the University of Geneva and the Pierre du Bois Prize in 2011. Dominic's research focuses on the history of ideas and political thought, historiography – particularly Enlightenment and early universal histories – as well as identity and alterity in early modern Europe.



Dr Anna Diem

Anna obtained her PhD in International History in 2025 from the Geneva Graduate Institute. In her dissertation, she examined ideas of progress debated in the transnational networks around the Viennese sociologist and social democrat Rudolf Broda in the early 20th century. Her work combines intellectual and social history approaches with extensive archival research. Anna previously completed two BAs and an MA in History, Philosophy, Islamic Studies, Sociology, Economics, and Cultural Analysis at the University of Zurich, studying abroad in Jordan and India and picking up a number of languages along the way.



Julieta Rosario Falcón-Salgado

Julieta holds a BA in International Relations from El Colegio de México (2004) and a Master in International History and Politics from the Graduate Institute (2013). She held the Pierre du Bois scholarship from 2011 to 2013. She is currently pursuing a PhD in History at El Colegio de México. Her main field of expertise is the history of international organizations such as the League of Nations, WHO, UNESCO and FAO. Her research interests encompass the intersections between food and health policies in Latin America, Europe and Asia (19th – 21st centuries) and the role of food in climate change policies. Her doctoral dissertation explores the role of Mexico and other Latin American countries within the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (1945-1990) from a transnational and comparative perspective.



Dr Sabina Donati

Sabina Donati is the author of the book A *Political History of National Citizenship and Identity in Italy, 1861-1950*, published by Stanford University Press and a finalist for the Frances Richardson Keller-Sierra Book Prize in the USA. She was invited to present her research at the American Academy in Rome (February 2023) and at the Università degli Studi Roma Tre, Italy (June 2024). Her article 'Crossing Multiple Borders: Naturalizations in Italian History between Metropole and Colonies, 1871-1941' has been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Modern Italian Studies* (2025 forthcoming).



Dr Giuliano Beniamino Fleri

Giuliano is a postdoctoral researcher at Columbia University in the City of New York. His monograph, People Among Nations, examining 20th-century migration between Tunisia and Italy, is set to be published by Brill in 2026. His articles have appeared or are forthcoming in the Journal of Modern Italian Studies, Jacobin, and the Journal of Modern History. His current research focuses on the history of irregular migration in the central Mediterranean from 1990 to the present.



Dr Aude Gata

Détentrice d'un Master de la Faculté de Droit d'Aixen-Provence et d'un autre à l'IHEID, et titulaire du diplôme d'avocat, Aude a soutenu sa thèse intitulée «Les armes de destruction massive: essai critique sur une notion à géométrie variable» à Aix-en-Provence. Elle enseigne actuellement le droit international public à l'Institut National Universitaire Champollion d'Albi. Ses recherches portent aussi sur les questions de sécurité.



Dr Shaloma Gauthier

Shaloma completed her PhD entitled "International Organizations and their Operations Relating to the Supervision and Administration of State-Building (1919-1964)" at the Graduate Institute in 2015. From 2009-2012, she worked for a project entitled "From Relief to Rehabilitation," funded by the SNSF. Her research interests include the mandates system of the League of Nations, the trusteeship system of the United Nations, state-building initiatives carried out by the United Nations, humanitarian intervention, and peacekeeping operations.



Professor Basil Germond

Basil is Chair in International Security at Lancaster University. Prior to his coming to Lancaster in 2011, he was Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Oxford and Research Fellow at the University of St Andrews. He obtained his PhD from the Graduate Institute. His research is cross-disciplinary (International Relations, Human Geography, History) and aims at understanding human, social and political interactions at, from, within, and with the sea. An expert in naval and maritime affairs he has published three books and in excess of 30 academic articles and book chapters on seapower, maritime security, and the geopolitics of the sea. He has advised Government and Parliament on questions related to the maritime dimension of Global Britain as well as the impacts of climate change on maritime security.



Dr Céline Germond-Duret

Céline is Lecturer in Environmental Politics and Policy at Lancaster University, UK. Her expertise covers marine policy and the blue economy, international climate politics and global inequalities, indigenous peoples, as well as discourse analysis. Her work aims at unravelling the power relations and dominant discourses in development and environmental politics and highlighting their practical implications. Her research has appeared in Development and Change; Environment, Development and Sustainability; Marine Policy; Third World Quarterly; and Sustainable Development. She co-edited a special issue on the Blue Economy published in The Geographical Journal; co-authored the "blue economy" entry for the International Encyclopedia of Geography (Wiley-AAG); and is the co-editor of a volume on Blue Economy -People and Regions in Transitions (Routledge).



Dr Paroma Ghose

Paroma is a sociocultural historian currently working as a postdoctoral researcher in the CONDE project at the Institut für Zeitgeschichte, Munich. She has a PhD in International History (2020) from the Graduate Institute, for which she used French rap lyrics to tell a history of the 'Other' in France (1981-2012), and was awarded the Pierre du Bois Prize in 2020. She is currently writing a book on postcoloniality and the shaping of the modern world using South Korean pop music as its main lens.



Dr Thomas Gidney

Thomas is a historian of international organizations and imperial history. His first book 'An International Anomaly: Colonial Accession to the League of Nations' examines how British colonies became member-states of the League of Nations, the precursor to the United Nations, long before their eventual independence. It will be published in 2025. Thomas is currently preparing his second book at UNIGE on the end of extraterritoriality in the inter-war period.



Dr Jérôme Gygax

Jérôme, historian and international relations scholar, holds a PhD from IHEID Geneva and is a former visiting scholar at Columbia University. An accredited journalist analyzing power structures, elite networks and public-private governance, he regularly contributes to *Le Courrier* and Swiss Radio-TV RTS. His academic

research, featured in the Routledge Handbook series, focuses on cultural diplomacy and strategic communication from the Cold War to the digital age.



Dr Brigitte Leucht

Brigitte is a Reader in International History and Politics at the University of Portsmouth. Her research focuses on the history of European integration including the recent publication *Reinventing Europe: The History of the European Union, 1945 to the Present* (with K Seidel and L Warlouzet, 2023). Brigitte has taught widely across history and politics subjects in Austria (Vienna), Switzerland (IHEID, Geneva), Denmark (Copenhagen), and the UK (LSE, Westminster, Oxford, and Brunel).



Dr Vassily
A. Klimentov

Vassily is an SNF Ambizione Principal Investigator and Lecturer at the University of Zurich. He was previously a postdoctoral researcher at the European University Institute in Florence (2020-24). His research deals with Russia's domestic and foreign policy, U.S.-Russian relations, and the memory of the Cold War in Russia and the United States. He obtained his PhD in International History and International Relations at the Geneva Graduate Institute in 2020. Cornell University Press has published his book A Slow Reckoning: The USSR, the Afghan Communists, and Islam in 2024.



Dr Simon Lobach

Simon is an environmental historian interested in the development and functioning of extractivist networks. Since obtaining his PhD on the history of aluminium production in Amazonia, he has conducted research on the social and environmental implications of technological developments in the mining sector. Simon has an academic background in History, Latin American Studies and International Affairs, and several years of professional experience in international environmental cooperation.



Professor Joris Larik

Joris is Assistant Professor at Leiden University and Senior Advisor at the Stimson Center. His research focuses on EU external relations law, geopolitics, and global governance. He has published in leading journals, including European Journal of International Law, American Journal of International Law, and European Integration. Since 2022, he is a member of the Committee on European Integration of the Dutch Advisory Council on International Affairs, which advises the government and parliament.



Dr Mariusz Lukasiewicz

Mariusz is a Lecturer in African History at the Institute of African Studies, Leipzig University. He completed his PhD at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in 2017. His research and teaching interests focus on the history of economic institutions and financial intermediaries. He is currently working on his *habilitation* project, "Africa's Financial Frontiers: The Politics and History of Capital Markets in Sub-Saharan Africa".



Dr Damiano Matasci



Professor Marek Neuman

Damiano is a Senior Research Associate and Lecturer at the University of Geneva, Switzerland. After obtaining a PhD in history from the École des hautes études en sciences sociales (Paris) and the University of Geneva, he held research, teaching or visiting positions at the Universities of Heidelberg, Paris 1, Lausanne, Sciences Po Paris, and Oxford. His work explores the history of Europe and colonial Africa in a transnational and transimperial perspective, with a focus on education, childhood and science (19th-20th centuries). His full bio and list of publications can be found on his website (www.dmatasci.org)

Marek is Assistant Professor and Jean Monnet Chair of European Politics and Governance at the International Relations and International Organization department of the University of Groningen, where he also obtained his PhD degree. His research interests fall into three strands. The first deals with the role Central and Eastern European countries play in the European Union's foreign policy. The second takes particular interest in uncovering the dynamics behind the EU's relations with the Russian Federation and other Eastern European countries. The third, and most recent one, ventures into the area of the European Union's relations with Central Asia.



Dr David Motzafi-Haller



David is a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Neuchatel, currently pursuing an SNF-funded project entitled "Sea-Border and Air-Space Formation in the Interwar Middle East: A Trans-Imperial Perspective," alongside Professor Jordi Tejel and Carl-José Abi Hanna. He received his PhD, summa cum laude, in International History and Politics at the Geneva Graduate Institute. His broader research interests include state formation and territorialization in the Middle East, business history, family history, prosopography, and historical anthropology.



Shriya Patnaik

Shriya is a final year PhD researcher at IHEID, where her research has been supported by a Swiss National Science Foundation Doc.CH Grant, a Swiss government Excellence Scholarship, and an IHEID Community Scholarship. She obtained her Bachelor's in History from Cornell University (Magna cum Laude) in 2014, and a Double Master's in International History with a focus on Gender Studies from the Columbia University-London School of Economics Dual Degree MA-MSc program (with Distinction) in 2017. Her doctoral research focuses on the now-extinct community of "Devadasis" (templedancers) in the Indian state of Odisha, through which it contextualizes gender, women's reform projects, and human rights paradigms in colonial and postcolonial India.



Dr Francesca Piana

Dr Leonardo Rodríguez Pérez

Francesca is a historian of contemporary European and international history. She holds a PhD in International History and Politics from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, for which she obtained the Pierre du Bois Prize in 2013. She is the author of the book Humanitarian protection for prisoners of war and refugees in the long aftermath of the First World War, published by Leiden University Press in 2024.

Leonardo obtained an MA at Limoges University, specializing in French political history, as well as an MA in Foreign Societies and International Relations from the Sorbonne University (Paris I). He holds a PhD in International Studies from IHEID. Currently, he is working as a civil society advocate at the UN and has presented his research at CUSO (Conférence Universitaire de Suisse Occidentale). His main areas of expertise are international human rights, selfdetermination, the rights of Indigenous Peoples and minorities, traditional knowledge, and drug policy. His research concerns the design and implementation of global governance structures.



Dr Nathaniel Powell



Dr Farzan Sabet

Nathaniel obtained his PhD in International History from the Graduate Institute. His dissertation focused on French military interventions in Africa during the 1970s and early 1980s. He has published a book entitled France's Wars in Chad: Military Intervention and Decolonization in Africa with Cambridge University Press (2021). He is currently a West Africa Analyst at Oxford Analytica, a geopolitical risk advisory, and an honorary researcher at Lancaster University's Centre for War and Diplomacy. His current research includes a project on Washington's role in the Chadian-Libyan wars of the 1980s, US intelligence collection in postcolonial Africa, and the Cold War in Mobutu's Zaire.

Farzan is a senior subject matter expert, researcher, and project manager focusing on Middle East security, economic sanctions, and technology governance with more than 12 years professional experience gained at the United Nations, research centers, the private sector, and academia. Farzan holds a PhD and MA in International History from the Graduate Institute Geneva and a BA in History and Political Science from McGill University.



Dr Carlos Rodrigo Sáez-Muñoz



Dr Burak Sayim

Rodrigo has a BA in History (USA), MA in International Relations (UK), and PhD in International Studies with a specialization in International History and Politics from IHEID. His thesis was on privatization of water rights by states (Chile as case study) and the impact of international organizations (e.g. World Bank, OECD, UN) on state decision-making. He co-edited the 2017 magazine of the Swiss Society of Americanists, focused on Chile. He currently serves as Director General of the Bern-based Worlddidac Association.

Burak is an MSCA-YUFE Postdoc at the University of Antwerp and an incoming SNSF Ambizione Fellow at the University of Basel. His book project, under contract with the University of California Press, examines communism in the 1920s Middle East, with research in seven languages, including Arabic, Russian, and Turkish. Burak's work has appeared in the Journal of Global History, History Workshop Journal, and Itinerario and received distinctions from the Toynbee Prize Foundation and the Amílcar Cabral Prize.



Professor Aline Schlaepfer

Aline is an Associate Professor of Arab Studies at the University of Geneva. Until 2024, she was an Assistant Professor at the University of Basel, where she led the Swiss National Science Foundation's Eccellenza Professorial Fellowship project "Ottoman Afterlife: Politics of Remembering and Forgetting in New Arab States". She has also held postdoctoral fellowships at the American University of Beirut and Princeton University, as well as positions as research associate and senior resident at the University of Geneva. In her work, she focuses on the intellectual, social and political history of Jewish-Arab and Arab-Turkish relations, nationalism and minorities, with a particular emphasis on the Ottoman legacy in Arab spaces (19th-20st centuries).



Dr Amal Shahid

Amal holds a PhD in International History from the Geneva Graduate Institute. Her doctoral research focused on the political economy of famine relief and labour in North India,1860-1920. Currently, she is a post-doctoral researcher at the Institute of Political Studies, University of Lausanne, on the project "Moral and Economic Entrepreneurship: A Collaborative History of Global Switzerland, 1800-1900". Her research examines the Basel Mission's economic activities in India during the 19th century. She was also a lecturer at the University of Lucerne in Autumn 2024, and has held visiting researcher positions at University of Cambridge, Dartmouth College, Yale University, and most recently, University of Leiden.



Dr Caio Simões de Araújo

Caio serves as Research Officer at the Other Foundation, a regional organization supporting human rights in Southern Africa, with particular focus on the rights of LGBTI people. He has held research positions at the University of the Western Cape (South Africa), Wits University (South Africa), Institute for Human Sciences (Austria), and Brown University (United States). His research interests involve the history of Afro-Asian decolonization, transnational histories of race and anti-racism, gender and sexuality, and environmental histories in the Global South, especially in Lusophone Southern Africa.



Dr Michele Sollai

Michele is a SNSF postdoctoral researcher, currently at the University of Zurich. He obtained his PhD in International History in 2022 from the Geneva Graduate Institute, with a thesis on the history of agrarian development in Ethiopia, for which he received the Pierre du Bois Prize. Michele's current project is titled "The Global Battle of Wheat: Transnational Seed Networks in the Fascist Green Revolution". His research interests include environmental history and science and technology studies.



Dr Joshua U. Thew

Joshua holds a PhD in International History with his dissertation on the Near East Foundation (1930-1979). His research examines how American ideas on race, ethnicity, and religion shaped Middle Eastern rural education. Currently teaching at Collège du Léman in Switzerland, Joshua previously worked at the Graduate Institute, CIEE in Jordan, and taught in the rural US South. He holds degrees from the Graduate Institute, University of Arkansas, and SIT Graduate Institute.



Dr Lola Wilhelm

Lola is a Lecturer in the history of medicine at the University of Zurich. She is the author of Formulating development: How Nestlé shaped the aid industry (Manchester University Press, 2025). Her teaching and research interests span humanitarianism and development; medicine, science and technology; corporate capitalism; and European and African trans-imperial history in the 19th and 20th centuries.



Dr Şeun Sede Williams

Seun recently completed his PhD in International History and Politics (summa cum laude, with special commendations) at the Geneva Graduate Institute. His doctoral study historicized cattle capitalism, and colonial nutrition and veterinary sciences in British Nigeria. He earned his BA and MA degrees in History at the University of Lagos, Nigeria. Seun's research interests intersect the multispecies histories of veterinary public health, livestock economies and food systems in Nigeria and West Africa. He received the First Prize of the 2024 Early Career Scholar Award of the World Association for the History of Veterinary Medicine.



Dr Özcan Yilmaz

Özcan est chargé de cours en histoire internationale au Global Studies Institute de l'Université de Genève. Il a obtenu son doctorat en études internationales à l'IHEID avec une thèse portant sur l'évolution du nationalisme kurde en Turquie. Il a reçu le Prix Pierre du Bois en 2012. Ses recherches portent sur l'histoire des relations internationales, le nationalisme kurde, le Moyen-Orient contemporain, l'Empire ottoman et la Turquie contemporaine. Ses publications incluent notamment La formation de la nation kurde en Turquie (PUF, 2013).



Michele Zampa

Michele is a PhD candidate at the Geneva Graduate Institute, where he researches the long-term impact of government-led development initiatives on regional economies. His work focuses on the Cassa per il Mezzogiorno, using newly available archival data and advanced quantitative methods to analyze its effects on firm performance, infrastructure, and innovation in Southern Italy. He is a Research Affiliate at the Centre for Finance and Development and has been awarded the SNSF Doc.CH Grant in Economics. His broader research interests include development economics, government finance, and computational methods in historical analysis.



Dr Barbara Zanchetta

Barbara is Senior Lecturer in Diplomacy and Foreign Policy at the Department of War Studies of King's College London. She is the author of The Transformation of American International Power in the 1970s (Cambridge University Press, 2014) and the co-author of Transatlantic Relations since 1945: An Introduction (Routledge, 2012). Currently, she is working on a monograph tentatively titled "The United States and the 'Arc of Crisis': American foreign policy, radical Islam and the end of the Cold War, 1979-1989".

Anciens chercheurs



Dr Andrea Chiampan

Andrea is a Public Policy Fellow at the Aspen Institute in Washington, DC. He was previously a Marie Curie Fellow at the University of Toronto, a Swiss National Science Foundation Fellow in the Program on Science, Technology and Society, and a Stanton Fellow in the Security Studies Program at MIT. He received his PhD from the Geneva Graduate Institute. His research interests include the history of technology, nuclear weapons, and transatlantic relations during the Cold War.



Dr Axel Marion

Axel est titulaire d'un doctorat en histoire et politique internationales de l'IHEID (2011). Il a contribué à divers colloques et publications de la Fondation Pierre du Bois et a été chercheur associé à Boston University et à l'Université libre de Bruxelles. Son domaine d'expertise académique porte sur la question de l'identité européenne et du rôle du territoire dans le processus de construction de l'UE. Il est actuellement le Secrétaire général de la Haute école spécialisée de Suisse occidentale (HES-SO).



Dr Katrin Milzow

Katrin holds a PhD in International History and Politics from the Graduate Institute, having previously obtained a BA from the University of Oxford and an MA from the University of Brussels. She was awarded the Pierre du Bois Prize in 2008, published her thesis National Interests and European Integration with Palgrave Macmillan and is co-editor of the book Europe Twenty Years after the End of the Cold War/L'Europe vingt ans après la fin de la guerre froide (Peter Lang, 2012) following a conference organized by the Graduate Institute and the Pierre du Bois Foundation. Today, she is Co-Director of the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), a member of the Pierre du Bois Foundation Board and Co-Chair of the Research on Research Institute.



Dr Felix Ohnmacht

Felix is the Chief Commercial Officer and Co-Founder of Axmed, a global pharmaceutical marketplace. A passionate advocate for health equity, he led strategy and innovation for pharma giant Novartis, overseeing strategy across 47 African countries and founding The Novartis Biome SSA. Previously, he advised global pharma at Accenture and co-led a UN venture for Kofi Annan along with Prof. Davide Rodogno. He holds a PhD from the Graduate Institute, Geneva, and was a doctoral fellow at Princeton University. He co-authored a report on Al in Global Health for the UN.

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Dr Thomas Gidney, researcher specialized in colonial and Indian history, the history of international organizations, and foreign policy

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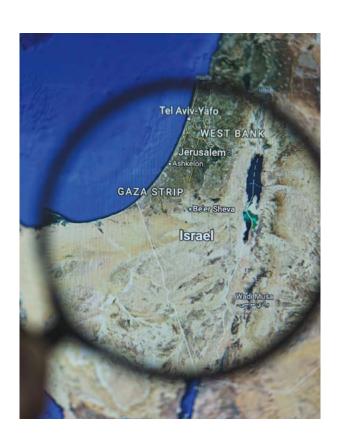
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Gilles Grin, Directeur de la Fondation Jean Monnet pour l'Europe à Lausanne et chargé de cours à l'Université de Lausanne, et académicien correspondant pour la Suisse de l'Académie royale des sciences économiques et financières de l'Institut d'Espagne.

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Dr Ozcan Yilmaz, chargé de cours à l'Université de Genève et au Global Studies Institute

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Irina du Bois

PRÉSIDENTE DE LA FONDATION PIERRE DU BOIS POUR L'HISTOIRE DU TEMPS PRÉSENT

Irina du Bois est ingénieure-chimiste de l'École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Suisse. Elle est aussi titulaire d'un MA en Histoire internationale de l'Institut de hautes études internationales et du développement à Genève et d'un BA ès lettres de l'Université de Genève. Elle a fait toute sa carrière chez Nestlé (Nestec SA) où elle a été successivement Sous-directrice, cheffe des Affaires réglementaires (1986-1991), puis Directrice adjointe, cheffe des Affaires réglementaires et de l'environnement (1991-2004) et, jusqu'en 2010, Directrice adjointe, cheffe des Affaires réglementaires et scientifiques.

Entre 2010 et 2014, Irina du Bois a été membre du Conseil d'administration de Givaudan SA.



Philippe Burrin

ANCIEN DIRECTEUR DE L'INSTITUT DE HAUTES ÉTUDES INTERNATIONALES ET DU DÉVELOPPEMENT À GENÈVE

Philippe Burrin a dirigé l'Institut de hautes études internationales et du développement de 2004 à 2020. Comme professeur d'histoire des relations internationales, il a travaillé notamment sur les idéologies et les régimes politiques en comparaison internationale, les guerres et les occupations militaires, les violences de masse et les génocides.

Philippe Burrin a été professeur ou chercheur invité à l'Institut d'études politiques de Paris (Chaire Elie Halévy), au Center for European Studies de l'Université de Harvard, à la Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität de Francfort, au Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, et à All Souls College à l'Université d'Oxford.



Roger de Weck

JOURNALISTE, AUTEUR, PROFESSEUR INVITÉ AU COLLÈGE D'EUROPE À BRUGES

Le journaliste et auteur Roger de Weck enseigne au Collège d'Europe à Bruges. Il a dirigé la Société suisse de radio-télévision SSR à Berne et présidé le Conseil de fondation de l'Institut de hautes études internationales et du développement à Genève.

Roger de Weck a été rédacteur en chef de l'hebdomadaire allemand *Die Zeit* et du quotidien zurichois *Tages-Anzeiger*. Il a dirigé la collection d'ouvrages de politique étrangère *Standpunkte*. Il est l'auteur de bestsellers.

Fribourgeois bilingue, il a grandi à Genève et Zurich et étudié l'économie à Saint-Gall. Il est docteur honoris causa des universités de Fribourg et Lucerne.



Christiane Kuehne

MEMBRE DE CONSEILS D'ADMINISTRATION

Christiane Kuehne est titulaire d'un BA en économie de l'Université de Lausanne (HEC), d'un MA en droit de l'Université de Saint-Gall et d'un diplôme universitaire en nutrition de la Faculté de pharmacie et médecine de Dijon.

Elle a poursuivi une longue carrière chez Nestlé (1977-2015), qui l'a conduite dans de nombreux pays. En tant que Sous-Directrice elle a créé et dirigé l'unité stratégique de nutrition et santé (2004-2009) et elle a été Directrice de l'unité stratégique alimentation (2009 à 2015).

Depuis 2012 Christiane Kuehne siège dans divers conseils d'administration: de L'Oréal SA (2012-2016), de James Finlay Ltd (depuis 2016) et de Stora Enso Oyj (depuis 2017).



Katrin Milzow

CO-DIRECTRICE DU FONDS NATIONAL SUISSE DE LA RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE (FNS), BERNE

Titulaire d'un BA de l'Université d'Oxford et d'un MA de l'Université de Bruxelles, Katrin Milzow a obtenu son doctorat auprès de l'Institut de hautes études internationales à Genève, sous la direction de Pierre du Bois. En tant que membre très actif du groupe de Chercheurs associés, elle a contribué à la création et au développement de la Fondation Pierre du Bois dès ses débuts.

Katrin Milzow est Co-directrice du Fonds national suisse pour la recherche scientifique depuis 2025. Auparavant, déjà au FNS, elle a mis en place la division stratégie et conduit le département développement de la recherche. Dans ces fonctions, elle a contribué à renforcer la capacité stratégique et la base d'évidence pour le développement du FNS. Elle est Co-Chair de l'Institut international Research on Research Institute, et a servi à titre d'expert indépendant de l'UE sur la politique de la recherche.

20 and 21 January 2025

The Annual Pierre du Bois Conference 2025
The Cold War in the Middle East and North Africa

is organized by Professor Cyrus Schayegh, the Geneva Graduate Institute, in partnership with the Pierre du Bois Foundation.

Mai 2025

Publication du **Rapport d'activité/Activity Report 2023-2024** de la Fondation Pierre du Bois pour l'histoire du temps présent.

5 and 6 June 2025

The Pierre du Bois Doctoral Workshop 2025

Seas of Change: Indian Ocean Mobilities at the End of the Empire

is organized by Saheli Chatterjee and Paul Deshusses, PhD Candidates, the Geneva Graduate Institute, and Christian Jones, PhD Candidate, Freie Universität Berlin, in partnership with the Pierre du Bois Foundation.

15 septembre 2025 et 13 septembre 2026

Le Prix Pierre du Bois est attribué à la meilleure thèse dans le domaine de l'histoire du temps présent soutenue pendant l'année académique 2024-2025 et 2025-2026 à l'Institut de hautes études internationales et du développement à Genève, dans le département d'Histoire et politique internationales.

9 et 10 octobre 2025

Le colloque La sécurité européenne dans le désordre mondial/European Security in Global Disorder est organisé par la Fondation Jean Monnet pour l'Europe et la Fondation Pierre du Bois pour l'histoire du temps présent.

Spring 2026

The Pierre du Bois Doctoral Workshop 2026

Topic to be confirmed.

May 2026

The Annual Pierre du Bois Conference 2026

Love, Hate and the Fate of International Organizations, 1919-2025

is organized by Professors Carolyn Biltoft and Amalia Ribi Forclaz, the Geneva Graduate Institute, in partnership with the Pierre du Bois Foundation and the Trans-Atlantic Platform for the Social Sciences and Humanities.

Mai 2027

Publication du **Rapport d'activité/Activity Report 2025-2026** de la Fondation Pierre du Bois pour l'histoire du temps présent.

Summer 2027

The Conference Climate Changes and Societies: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives is organized by Dr Bernhard Blumenau at the University of St Andrews, in partnership with the Pierre du Bois Foundation.



Si vous êtes intéressé.e.s par l'histoire du temps présent, si vous avez des projets qui vous tiennent à cœur et que nous pouvons vous aider à réaliser, si vous voulez participer aux activités et au développement de la Fondation Pierre du Bois, Contactez-nous! Faites-nous part de vos idées, critiques et suggestions!

If you are interested in current history, if you have a project that is close to your heart and that we can help you to pursue, if you want to participate in the activities and the development of the Pierre du Bois Foundation, Please contact us!

Share your ideas, comments and recommendations with us!

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