



SILENCE

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PROGRAMME

Pierre du Bois Annual Conference 2026

Love, Hate, and the Fate of International Organizations
The Psychological Life of Global Governance (1900–Present)

Convened by the Department of International History and Politics in partnership with the Pierre du Bois Foundation for Current History.

Supported by the 'Global Governance, Trust and Democratic Engagement in Past and Present' Project (GLO) and the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF).

Auditorium Ivan Pictet, A1B | Maison de la Paix

Day 06 May 2026 | 09:00 – 19:45

Day 07 May 2026 | 09:30 – 17:15

To Learn More

- fondation-pierredubois.ch
- research.northumbria.ac.uk/glo/
- graduateinstitute.ch



Wednesday 06 May 2026

8:30 - 9:00 **WELCOME AND REGISTRATION**

9:00 - 9:30 **WELCOME NOTE**

- **IRINA DU BOIS**, Fondation Pierre du Bois
A welcome to the Conference
- **DANIEL LAQUA**, University of Northumbria, GLO Project leader
An introduction to the GLO project
- **AMALIA RIBI-FORCLAZ**, Geneva Graduate Institute
THOMAS GIDNEY, Geneva Graduate Institute
An Introduction to the Conference

9:30- 9:45 **OPENING LECTURE**

- **CAROLYN BILTOFT**, Geneva Graduate Institute
Worldly Projections: IOs as (Historical) Good and Bad Objects

9:45 - 11:15 **PANEL I: LETTERS TO THE WORLD: IO'S AS RECIPIENTS OF IMPOSSIBLE DEMANDS**

- **NICOLE BOURBONNAIS**, Geneva Graduate Institute
Dear Dr. Mahler: The World Health Organization and the Moral Guardians of Breastfeeding
- **PETER GATRELL**, University of Manchester
Refugees' Encounters with UNHCR, 1951–1975
- **DAN GORMAN**, University of Waterloo
An Affective History of United Nations Associations in the Anglo-Atlantic World, 1945–1960

11:15 - 11:40 **Coffee break**

11:40 - 13:10 **PANEL II: LAW AS PSYCHIC THEATRE: REDEMPTION, BETRAYAL, AND THE LIMITS OF LEGAL FORM**

- **ALBERTO RINALDI**, Lund University
Trauma and Redemption in The Hague: The ICJ, Global South, and the Impossible Quest for Justice
- **EMANUELE MONACO**, University of Bologna
The Unattainable Dream of Equality: Gender, Law, and the Emotional Economies of the League of Nations
- **Nitzan LEBOVIC**, Lehigh University
Complicity and the Future of International Law

13:10 - 14:30 **Lunch break**

14:30 - 16:00 **PANEL III: PROJECTION ONTO THE FORUM: FEAR, SOVEREIGNTY, AND THE DELIBERATIVE STAGE**

- **SAKIKO KAIGA**, Hiroshima University
Emotional Collective Security: Fears and Grievances at the International Studies Conference, 1934–1935
- **JENNIFER FORAY**, Indiana University
Of Promises, Projection, and Personal Conflict: Indonesian Decolonization in the Early United Nations Security Council
- **JAMES MARTELL**, Lyon College
America's Foiled Reflections with the UN and NATO

16:00 - 16:30 **Coffee break**

16.30 - 17:30 **METHODS ROUNDTABLE: THE PSYCHIC LIFE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

- CAROLYN BILTOFT**, Geneva Graduate Institute
AMALIA RIBI-FORCLAZ, Geneva Graduate Institute
ILARIA SCAGLIA, Aston University

18:15 - 19:45 **KEYNOTE**

- JOANNA BOURKE**, Birkbeck University of London
Making and Unmaking of Life: The Politics and Psychology of Fear from the 1950s to the Present

Thursday 07 May 2026

- 9:00 - 11:00** **PANEL IV: Good Object, Bad Object: Idealization, Ridicule and the Splitting of Institutional Attachment**
- **JENNIFER BOND**, University College London
Getting 'Closer to the World's Family' vs Exposing 'Undercover Imperialists': Cora Deng and the World's YWCA
 - **PAUL VAN TRIGT**, Leiden University
Dreaming for Others: The Emotional Relationship Between the Allies of People with Cognitive Disabilities and the United Nations, 1968-2006
 - **DANIEL QUIROGA-VILLAMARIN**, New York University
All Quiet on the Geneva Front: Derso and Kelen's Cartoons of the Psychic Lives of Early International Organizations
- 11:00 - 11:30** **Coffee break**
- 11:30 - 13:00** **PANEL V: Inside the Institution: Performing Community, Sustaining Belief**
- **ANASTASSIYA SCHACHT**, Heidelberg University
Before the New Day Dawns: Managing Emotions and Inter-Staff Conflicts in the League-UN Transition
 - **MARINE PIERRE** and **HAKKON A. IKONOMOU**, University of Copenhagen
Staging Community, Managing Hierarchy: Sociability and Its Contradictions at the League of Nations
 - **GORDON BARRET**, University of Northumbria
Institutional Attachments: UNESCO and the Scientific Internationalism(s) of Lu Gweidjen and Joseph Needham, 1943 - 1995.
- 13:00 - 14:30** **Lunch Break**
- 14:30 - 16:00** **PANEL VI: The IO as a Vessel: Sanctuary, Moral Cosmology, and the Dream of Planetary Care**
- **SHEYDA JAHANBANI**, University of Kansas
'The Only Place I Can Go': Garry Davis and the UN General Assembly as a Space of Sanctuary
 - **LAURA CASSIS**, Geneva Graduate Institute
Space Technologies, Climate Adaptation, and the Psychic Life of International Organizations
 - **FRANCESCA CORRADINI**, Copenhagen Business School
The Psychological Life of Legal Entanglements: The Alcohol Question at the League of Nations
- 16:00 - 16:30** **Coffee Break**
- 16:30 - 17:15** **Closing Discussion and Remarks**