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The Centre

The Centre for International Environmental Studies was established in 2010 for the purpose of developing political, legal and economic discourse on problems related to the global environment. It is dedicated to the better understanding of the social, economic and political facets of global problems related to the environment. The Centre operates through regular activities (Geneva Dialogues, symposiums and international workshops) and also through ongoing research projects and programmes in the area of climate change, biodiversity, water, security, institutions for sustainable development and environment & development.

The Centre also hosts regular research seminars and brown bag lunches within the fields of political science, economics and law – looking at problems related to the environment.

Support and Partnerships

CIES has developed links with many organizations that operate on the international environmental scene, both governmental and academic. It works closely with the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) and with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). CIES has developed partnerships with the most important research institute in environmental economics – the Fondazione ENI Enrico Mattei (FEEM), where the Professor Swanson is an academic fellow. Professor Andonova is a visiting fellow at Sustainability Science Program of the Center for Business and Government at Harvard University, and has spent the semester of 2011-2012 in residence. The CIES recognizes further the generous support of the Graduate Institute, the Hoffmann Foundation and the Pictet Bank. CIES research has been funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (FNS), the Swiss Network for International Studies and the European Commission.

Organizational Structure

Advisory Board

The Advisory Board is comprised of experts drawn from a range of sectors from Switzerland and across Europe. The Board provides high-level guidance and strategy for the centre. Members are appointed to two year positions. The Board for 2011 consisted of

André Hoffmann, President, Hoffman Foundation, Chair of the Board
Martin Beniston, Professor and Director, Institute for Environmental Science, University of Geneva
Leo Johnson, Co-Founder of Sustainable Finance Ltd, UK
Claude Martin, Vice Chairman of the Institute for Sustainable Development and former General Director of WWF International
Nicolas Pictet, Banque Pictet
José Romero, Head, Rio Conventions Section, International Affairs Division, Federal Office for the Environment, Confederation of Switzerland

Ex officio members:
Philippe Burrin, Director, Graduate Institute
Elisabeth Prügl, Deputy Director, Graduate Institute

Directorate

The Centre is headed by Professor Timothy Swanson, André Hoffmann Chair of Environmental Economics, and Professor Liliana Andonova, Professor of Political Science. Professor Swanson previously held positions at Cambridge University and the University College London, and was research director for the Centre for Social and Economic Research on the Global Environment (CSERGE). Professor Swanson’s expertise includes conservation, development, institutions and law. He is responsible for the CIES programme on Environment and Development. Liliana Andonova is Professor and Head of Department of Political Science, previously Jean Monnet Fellow at the European University Institute, Italy is the deputy director of the Centre. Her current research focuses on institutional change and public-private partnerships, European integration, transnational governance, and climate cooperation. She is responsible for the CIES programme on Climate Change.

Program Directors

Tim Swanson, Environment and Development and Director of CIES
Liliana Andonova, Climate Change and Deputy Director of CIES.
Jorge Viñuales, Institutions for Sustainable Development. Professor Vinuales holds the Pictet Chair in International Environmental Law and was previously a full-time practitioner specialising first in mergers and acquisitions and then in international arbitration. His research currently focuses on the interface between environment and investment.
Emily Meierding, Security. Assistant Professor, International Relations, Political Science. Professor Meierding was previously a pre-doctoral fellow at the Centre for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC) at Stanford University. Her fields of expertise are Armed Conflict, Territorial Disputes and Energy.
Marc Hufty, Biodiversity. Professor, Development Studies. His current research activities focus on multi-level governance processes applied to biodiversity conservation. He has taught and done field research in Argentina, Bolivia, Peru, Chile, Nicaragua, Madagascar and South Africa.
Associated Faculty

**Urs Luterbacher** is Emeritus Professor, International Relations, Political Science. His areas of expertise include climate change, natural disasters and energy.

Research Assistants

Martina Bozzola, Environmental Economics, Alain Schaub, International Relations/Political Science (ACQWA), Chiara Ravetti, Environmental Economics (Global IQ), Jule-Daniel Wurlod, Environmental Economics (FoodSecure), and Manoela Assayag, International Relations/Political Science (Governance Entrepreneurs)

Staff

Carmen Bauer has been responsible for the administration and the overall operation of the centre. She has received support from Angelica Zanninelli (Events Coordinator). In the year 2011 administrative support was also supplied by two International Law Students, Stéphanie Chuffart and Maria De La Colina.

Research Projects

CIES now has several active research projects being undertaken by staff members and students at the Graduate Institute. The following lists the major active research projects under each of the programs.

Biodiversity Program

**Switzerland in Biodiversity Negotiations**

Can small players make a difference? A multilevel governance assessment of the Swiss contribution to the establishment of an international regime on Biodiversity. Biodiversity is a fragmented domain. In contrast with issue-areas with strong guidance, the co-existence of multiple coordination mechanisms at all political levels is the rule. The understanding of this process and its consequences has been somewhat neglected in the literature. This project seeks to address this neglect by analyzing the multilevel process of policy formation and norm-building, taking the case of Switzerland as a marker, with the Biosafety and Access and Benefit Sharing Protocols as case studies.

Staffing – Biodiv Negotiations:
Marc Hufty, Professor Graduate Institute, coordinator
Sonja Wälti, Assistant Professor, Washington University, senior researcher
Tobias Schulz, Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research WSL, Birmensdorf, co-ordinator
Aniket Ghai, UNEP, senior researcher
Funded by the Education and Research Secretariat (COST), 3 years, 163,660 CHF

FoodSecure – An Interdisciplinary Research Project to Explore the Future of Global Food and Nutrition Security
In 2011 CIES participated in an EU FP7 proposal joint with the International Food Policy Research Institute considers the role of biodiversity in the issue of Global Food Security, and examines how institutions may be reformed to address matters of food security. The project has been approved in November 2011 and will start in March 2012. CIES researchers will work specifically in the following areas: The role of innovation, research and development; institutional change policies in food and nutrition security; institutions that support innovation in the food system; and genetically modified crops as instruments to improve food and nutrition security.

Staffing – FoodSecure:
Tim Swanson, Professor Graduate Institute-CIES
Jules-David Wurlod, Research Assistant
Martina Bozzola, Research Assistant
Funded by the European Commission (FP7), 2.5 years, 400,000 CHF

Climate Change Program

Adapting to Adaptation (ADAPT2): Studying the influence of climate change adaptation discourses and policies on local governance processes
Partners: Pontifica Universidad Católica de Perú; Institute of Management Sciences, Peshawar, Pakistan; Federal Institute WSL, Switzerland. Financed by the Swiss National Fund for Scientific Research.
Adaptation to climate change aims at reducing the vulnerability and improving the resilience of societies confronted by negative impacts such as drought, floods, landslides, loss of biodiversity and others. It has become one of the international community’s major responses to global change. The project is based on the assumption that societies adapt primarily to discourses on climate change (what they are being told by experts) and to policies associated with those discourses (funding mechanisms) rather than to climate change itself. The team aims at understanding how local governance processes and institutions respond or “adapt” to adaptation policies and discourses in three countries: Switzerland, Peru and Pakistan. The research results will be translated into knowledge useful at different levels (local, scientific and for practitioners).

Staffing – ADAPT2:
Marc Hufty, Professor, Graduate Institute
Morgan Scoville-Simonds, Research Assistant, PhD Candidate Development Studies
Hameedullah Jamali, Research Assistant, PhD Candidate Development Studies

Funded by the Swiss National Fund for Scientific Research, 3 years, 405’000 CHF.

Negotiating Climate Change,
The analysis of negotiating strategies by individual countries in the climate change context. The final conference of the project was in Zurich in October 2011. The project produced a database on negotiation positions and strategies; and several case analyses that use both the data and some qualitative research (Russia; India; AOSIS group).

Staffing – Negotiating Climate Change:
L. Andonova with colleagues from ETH and University of Zurich.
Assia Alexieva, Ph.D. in Political Science
Funded by the Swiss Network for International Studies, 3 years.

Transnational Governance of Climate Change
Collaborative research project on the modalities of transnational governance of climate change jointly initiated by Hurriet Bulkeley, Liliana Andonova, and Michele Betsill. The project established a network of scholars working on different aspects of transnational climate governance. The research for the project is largely completed and an edited volume Transnational Governance for Climate Change is being prepared.

Staffing – Transnational Governance:
Liliana Andonova

Security Program

Management of Transboundary Oil Fields
Professor Meierding and her research assistant have begun collecting GIS data on transboundary oil fields and historical information on international border evolution, to see how the presence of petroleum resources has impacted boundary drawing and management. The initial results of this research will be presented at the International Studies Association annual conference in April, 2012.

Staffing – Transboundary Oil Fields:
Emily Meierding, Professor Graduate Institute
Joanne Richards, Research Assistant, PhD Candidate Political Science.

Funded by CIES and Graduate Institute
Water Program

ACQWA - Assessing Climate impacts on the Quantity and Quality of Water

In 2011 CIES has taken on the responsibility to finalise the work on this EU FP7 project started in 2008. The project examines the adaptation of governance systems to climate shocks, examining case studies in the Alps, Latin America and Central Asia. Prof. Andonova is supervising work on the impacts of climate on water resources available to the tourism sector, while Prof. Swanson is supervising work on the role of economic policy and integrated decision making in dealing with climate shocks.

Staffing - ACQWA:
Liliana Andonova, Professor Graduate Institute
Tim Swanson, Professor Graduate Institute
Alain Schaub, Research Assistant, PhD Candidate, Political Science
Martina Bozzola, PhD Candidate, International Economics
Funded by the European Commission (FP7) 5 years, 292'000 Euros

Institutions for Sustainable Development Program

This is a book-length project that seeks to document and explain the rise of global public-private partnerships in the multilateral system and their impact on global governance objectives. The project contributes to the study of international organizations and change in global governance. It does so by providing an encompassing and theoretically-informed analysis of global public-private partnerships and the interplay between intergovernmental institutions and transnational governance networks. The database of global partnerships, to be constructed as part of the project, will furthermore provide a basis for additional research and social scientific inquiry on the governance dynamics and effects of public-private collaboration.
The project received support by the Swiss National Science Foundation (2011-2013), which will enable its completion and the construction of a database of public private-partnerships across several international organizations: the World Bank, UNEP, the WHO, UNICEF, the WTO, and the UN Secretariat.
Staffing – Governance Entrepreneurs:
Liliana Andonova, Professor Graduate Institute
Manoela Assayag, PhD candidate, International Relations, Research Assistant
Funded by the Swiss National Fund of Scientific Research, 2 years, 91,000 CHF
**Foreign Investment and the Environment in International Law**

In May 2011, a two-day international symposium took place in Geneva on the topic “Protecting the Environment in the XXIst Century: The Role of the Private Sector”. Key results of this research include (a) the identification of a new category of regulatory risk affecting foreign investors, based on ‘dormant environment clauses’ contained in multilateral environmental agreements, and (b) the assessment of the litigation risk undergone by host states when adopting new environmental regulations to respond to such challenges as climate change, water availability, advances in the understanding of chemicals, or the protection of biological and cultural diversity.

**Staffing – Foreign Investment:**

Jorge Vinuales, Professor Graduate Institute
Stéphanie Chuffart, PhD International Law, Assistant
Funded by CIES and Graduate Institute.

**Environment and Development Program**

**Global IQ - Impact Quantifications of Global Change**

The project is in line with the research program initiated by the Stern Review in 2006 and the successive IPCC reports which aims at assessing the scientific rationale for the anthropogenic climate risks, describe the possible consequences of climate changes and identify the best mitigation and adaptation strategies to such a change for current century. The GLOBAL IQ project should result into an update of the Stern review and a comprehensive assessment of the costs of climate change at the national, European and world scales in the medium and the long run together with an evaluation of the benefits of possible and adaptations policies. Within this project Tim Swanson together with his research assistant, Chiara Ravetti investigate role of climate change management in the control of health impacts from air pollution in developing countries. A case study is being funded to investigate how health is related to pollution in Beijing, and the means by which pollution controls impact on health.

**Staffing – Global IQ:**

Tim Swanson, Professor Graduate Institute
Chiara Ravetti, research assistant, PhD candidate, International Economics
Funded by EU-FP7, 3 years, 114’000 Euros.
Conferences and Workshops

A very important function of CIES is its participation in academic networks and conferences for the analysis of issues related to international environmental problems. CIES plays its part in hosting academic workshops and international conferences, on all issues related to international governance on problems of the environment.

Workshops and Symposia

**Protecting the Environment in the XXIst Century: The Role of the Private Sector**
This symposium gathered some of the most innovative thinkers in contemporary international environmental law (IEL) in order to provide specific answers to the question of how the private sector can be harnessed for environmental protection. Topics addressed included: (1) a critical assessment of the techniques used so far to implement IEL, and an in-depth analysis of (2) the tools that could be used to incentivize the participation of the private sector (e.g. environmental finance, mechanisms such as the CDM, JI or REDD, benefit sharing arrangements, insurance schemes, and environmental goods and services), as well as of (3) the tools to govern the new involvement of the private sector in environment-related projects abroad (through mechanisms such as FDI dispute settlement, CSR and new accountability mechanisms, transnational environmental contracts, socially responsible investment guidelines, and environmental litigation). A book on contract with Cambridge University Press will present the outcomes of the research generated through this project.
Organized by CIES, 20 Participants, Budget 17,000 CHF, funded by CIES.

**Governing Climate Change Transnationally**
This workshop brought together scholars from the Graduate Institute, Europe and North America, who have been working as part of the international research network of Transnational Climate Governance, funded by the UK Leverhulme Trust Fund for the period 2008-2010. Draft chapters of the book were presented and comments elicited from colleagues at Graduate Institute, Geneva University, and EPFL.
Organized by CIES, 17 Participants, Budget 10’000 CHF, funded by CIES.

**Designing the Green Economy: Economic Principles for Policy Makers**
The Centre for International Environmental Studies held an Expert's Workshop jointly with the United Nations Environment Programme on the subject of "Designing the Green Economy". The Workshop invited many of the leading thinkers on the issues of economics, growth, innovation and trade policy to participate in a 2 day meeting analysing the economic frameworks for considering these issues. Twenty five
experts convened at the Villa Moynier in Geneva in order to discuss these issues. The end product is to be a Policy Briefing for developing countries from UNEP/CIES to issue in time for the Rio Plus 20 meeting in Brazil June 2012. Organized by CIES and UNEP, 28 Participants, 25,000 CHF, Funded by UNEP.

Conferences

13th Annual BIOECON Conference -"Resource Economics, Biodiversity Conservation and Development"

This is the largest conference in the world on topic of the economics of conservation and the natural environment, usually involving over one hundred scientists and policy makers interested in issues of policy regarding biodiversity and conservation. Bioecon XIII was convened this year in Geneva by the CIES, in order to foster closer ties between the academic research community and the various international organisations in the area interested in conservation. The conference is now supported by a partnership made up of IUCN-the World Conservation Union, Conservation International, UNEP, FEEM and the Graduate Institute. It serves as an academic network, and a focal point for bringing together many of the most important thinkers on these issues from the social and policy sciences. CIES now serves as a coordinator for the network, in association with the Foundation ENI Enrico Mattei (FEEM) in Venice, Italy. Over 70 scientific papers were presented at the event held in September 2011. Organized by CIES, funded and co-organized by UNEP, FEEM, IUCN, Conservation International, CSIRO, University of Stirling, CIES, Budget 78'000 CHF.

Publications

The members of CIES continue to be involved in the publication of numerous academic papers, books and articles in the area of international environmental problems and governance.

Books


Scientific Articles


Chapters in a Book


**Viñuales, J. E., S. Chuffart** “From the Other Shore: Economic, Social and Cultural Rights from an International Environmental Law Perspective”, in E. Reidel et al.


CIES working papers

E. Meierding « Climate Change and Conflict : Avoiding Small Talk about the Weather » presented at the American Political Science Association annual conference, September 2011


Events, Seminars and Lectures

One of the primary functions of CIES is to provide an interface between the Graduate Institute and the broader Geneva, Swiss and international community (academic, NGO, UN and otherwise) – all those interested in international environmental issues. CIES performs this function through organizing and hosting a series of events and activities, ranging from academic seminars to public lectures. The principal event organised by CIES is the annual public lecture series entitled the Geneva Dialogues on International Environmental Issues.

Geneva Dialogues

A series of four public lectures given over the course of an academic year by prominent academics and practitioners on a specific theme related to international environmental problems.

In 2010/2011 the following events took place:

Robert Keohane, Princeton University, Woodrow Wilson School – The Regime Complex for Climate Change.

Carlo Carraro, President Venice University - Rio, Kyoto, Copenhagen, Cancun, Durban…. What’s next? A skeptical view on climate negotiations
Catherine Redgwell, University College London – The Future of the Climate Change Regime.
Scott Barrett, Columbia University - Climate Futures: Institutions, Technologies and Catastrophes
Robert N. Stavins, Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Cambridge, MA – Climate Change: Efficiency and Equity

Seminars on International Environmental Problems and Brown Bag Seminars

Seminars:
Thomas Bernauer, ETH (Political Science). Climate Variability, Economic Growth, and Civil Conflict
Jorg Balsiger, ETH-Geneva (Political Science). Regional governance in international environmental politics: an assessment

Brown Bag Seminars:
Amandine Orsini. Chargée de recherche FNRS, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Visiting Researcher. Linking Regime Complexity to Policy Coherency: The Case of Genetic Resources
Marc Brightman. Marie Curie Intra-European Fellow, Graduate Institute Audit jungle: Native Amazonian regimes of ownership and market-based rainforest conservation
Marc Hufty and Maurice Tschopp, Graduate Institute Can Small Players Make a Difference? The Role of Switzerland in the Nagoya Protocol Negotiations
Emily Meierding, Graduate Institute. Climate Change and Conflict: Avoiding Small Talk about the Weather
Pushpa Arabindoo, lecturer at the UCL Urban Laboratory, London. Blaming the 'other': Bourgeois discourse of dirt and danger in Chennai’s beaches.
Peter Larsen. Graduate Institute. Politics of Technicality in the Environmental Governance Field

Teaching

Teaching in the area of the environment is important to prepare students to engage in CIES research, and to inform and educate the student and broader Geneva community in this field.
Since the initiation of CIES in 2010, there have been several new courses in environment created for students at the Graduate Institute:

a) The Economics of International Environmental Agreements
This course introduces students to the interaction between growth, development and international environmental problems. It then examines how negotiations and bargaining within international negotiations occurs within a strategic environment. It concludes by analysing case studies on the negotiations over various international environmental agreements (acid rain agreements, Montreal Protocol, Biodiversity Convention, UNFCC, Kyoto Protocol).

b) Natural Resource Economics and Sustainable Development
The aim of this course is preparing students who might be interested in the pursuit of an advanced degree in economics, by introducing the basic economic tools and techniques used for examining and analysing problems of growth, natural resources and sustainable development.

c) International Environmental Regulation
This is a course intended primarily for non-specialist students at the Institute. This course examined a range of international environmental problems (climate change, biodiversity, ozone, etc.) from the perspective of politics, economics and law.

d) Climate Change in International Law
This advanced seminar focused on what is probably the most important challenge facing international environmental law today, i.e. international cooperation on climate change mitigation/adaptation. The seminar analysed issues relating to the emergence, structure and performance of the current climate change regime (including its strategic, economic, political and legal aspects), as well as on the prospects for a new regime.

e) Seminaire avancé de jurisprudence environnementale
This advanced seminar analysed the most important cases relating to international environmental law. Questions of international environmental law have arisen in different contexts, including the International Court of Justice, human rights courts and bodies, the European Court of Justice, the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea, the WTO Dispute Settlement Body, investment tribunals (ICSID and non-ICSID), and other arbitral awards. The purpose of the seminar is to assess the impact of international environmental law on the regulation of different areas of human activity.

f) Research Seminar on Energy Geopolitics
An interdisciplinary teaching committee also has been established, and is liaising with the University of Geneva. This is headed by Professor Emily Meierding. The committee’s objectives are to coordinate across academic units and to maximise course availability to all students within the Institute.