



Annual Report 2008



Table of Contents

1.	Introduction	4
1.1.	Transition from GIAN to SNIS	4
1.2.	Aims and activities of the SNIS	5
2.	SNIS organs and staff	6
2.1.	The Governing Committee	6
2.2.	The Secretariat and its Director	7
2.3.	The Scientific Committee	7
2.4.	The Academic Council of International Geneva	8
3.	2008 Call for Proposals	9
3.1.	Results and distribution of submitted projects	9
3.2.	Projects approved for funding	11
3.3.	Evaluation reassessment and Call for Proposals restructuring	12
4.	Other SNIS deliverables	13
4.1.	The GIAN commemorative book	13
4.2.	Ceremony of closure of the GIAN and inauguration of the SNIS	13
4.3.	The SNIS logo and brochure	14
4.4.	The SNIS website and Intranet sites	15
5.	Future ambitions and strategic planning	16
6.	Financial statement	17
6.1.	Subsidy and various incomes	18
6.2.	Scientific activities	18
6.3.	Administrative costs	19
6.4.	Other expenses	19
6.5.	General remarks on results	19
7.	Conclusion	20
	List of annexes	21

1 | Introduction

In 2008, the Geneva International Academic Network (GIAN) transitioned to the Swiss Network for International Studies (SNIS). The SNIS mission is to act as a research network and provide funding opportunities for scientists in Switzerland working in the domain of International Studies. A Director was appointed in early 2008, while the former Executive Secretary finalised GIAN activities prior to leaving office in December 2008.

This intense transition period brought about many changes and required renewed organisational structures with its associated organs and procedures, as well as the development of a new corporate identity. Nonetheless, important activities were assured throughout this process including the Call for Proposals as well as the follow-through of former GIAN projects. The new organisation profited greatly from existing resources and knowledge, as well as the concerted effort of all staff members.

Activities and achievements of the SNIS include:

- A new Call for Proposals
- A new corporate identity (logo)
- Communication tools (including a presentation brochure and the website)
- Promotion and visibility in Swiss scientific circles
- Establishment of new organs, e.g. Scientific Committee (SC) and Academic Council of International Geneva (AC)
- Planning the AC Debate Series
- Planning the 2009 SNIS Annual Conference

1.1 | Transition from GIAN to SNIS

The aim of the Geneva International Academic Network (GIAN) was to promote research projects of Geneva-based scientists in collaboration with International Organisations (IOs) and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). The State Secretariat for Education and Research (SER) of the Swiss Confederation provided funding, as well as the Department of Public Instruction (DIP) of the Canton of Geneva. Since 2005, however, various entities and primarily the SER were pushing for an expansion of funding possibilities beyond Geneva to all researchers in Switzerland. Another issue raised was the possibility of redirecting funding to projects that fulfil mainly the criteria of academic excellence, rather than the more applied projects financed by the GIAN that required a strong collaboration with IOs. These reflections led to the creation of the SNIS, which took over the rights and responsibilities of the GIAN. The GIAN was dissolved at the end of 2007. Approximately twenty GIAN projects and Small Grants were in final stages of research activities by the end of 2008, and an additional twenty remaining in the phase of results dissemination and valorisation. These last projects will be finalized by mid-2009.

The creation of the SNIS is based on a joint decision by the Canton of Geneva and the Swiss Confederation. GIAN's founding institutions – the University of Geneva as well as the Graduate



Institute of International Studies (IUHEI) and the Graduate Institute of Development Studies (IUED), which both merged into a new organisation, the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva (The Graduate Institute) - ensured the transition from the GIAN to the SNIS. They constituted the SNIS as a «société simple», open to all Swiss academic organisations active in the field of International Studies (*annex 1: Contrat de société simple*).

The objective of the SNIS is to promote academic research in the area of International Studies. The SNIS views International Studies in broad, interdisciplinary terms, including all academic research activities by political scientists, economists, legal scholars, social and cultural anthropologists, historians, sociologists, geographers, environmental and public health scientists as well as other academics, who focus on phenomena that transcend the boundaries of the traditional nation state and include a global scope (on issues such as environment, development, health, human rights and education, among others).

More specifically, the aims of the SNIS are to:

- Provide research grants to academics based in Switzerland
- Build a network by fostering cooperation between academic disciplines and organisations of higher education in Switzerland, as well as between the scientific community and IOs/NGOs
- Support international conferences organised by Swiss universities

The GIAN had established a reputation as an important funding resource for many scholars and IOs headquartered in Geneva. The SNIS, a recently created organisation, will need time to further define its own strengths. The coming years will bear testament to SNIS ability to live up to its promise: to serve as a high level research network of scientific excellence addressing issues such as international environmental problems, international health, human rights, European politics, international economics and trade, as well as other topics including education, migration, and sustainable development, among others. The SNIS network is all the more pertinent as Switzerland, and particularly Geneva, is a host to the international community, making it a key location for decisions of international relevance.

1.2 | Aims and activities of the SNIS



2 | SNIS organs and staff

The following organs were created in order to respond effectively to the aims set by the SNIS.

2.1 | The Governing Committee

The Governing Committee (GC) consists of six members who represent:

- The founding institutions: the University of Geneva and the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (formerly the Graduate Institute of International Studies and the Graduate Institute of Development Studies).
- The co-founding partners in Switzerland: the World Trade Institute (Berne); the Center for Comparative and International Studies (Zurich); the Swiss Tropical Institute (Basel); the Swiss Institute for International Economics and Applied Economic Research (St. Gallen).

Current members of the GC of the SNIS are:

- Prof. Dr. Thomas Bernauer
Director of the Center for Comparative and International Studies, Zurich
- Prof. Dr. Philippe Burrin
Director of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva
- Prof. Dr. Michel Carton
Vice-Director of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva
- Prof. Dr. Thomas Cottier
Director of the World Trade Institute, Berne
- Prof. Dr. Yves Flückiger
Vice-Rector of the University of Geneva
- Prof. Dr. Robert Roth
Faculty of Law, University of Geneva

In 2008, the GC met six times in order to discuss the developments of the SNIS, define its overall course of action, and supervise the work of the Secretariat and its Director. This structure respects both German and French speaking preferences, and reflects the Swiss form of *in corpore* consensus.

Additional members are:

- Prof. Dr. Marcel Tanner
Director of the Swiss Tropical Institute, Basel
- Prof. Dr. Simon Evenett
Swiss Institute for International Economics and Applied Economic Research, University of St. Gallen

2.2 | The Secretariat and its Director



▲ Director of the SNIS, T. Haller

The Secretariat handles day-to-day operations, manages administrative aspects of funded projects, and engages in network-specific tasks (e.g. meetings, workshops, web and intranet development, etc.). In March 2008, PD Dr. Tobias Haller was appointed as the Director of the SNIS. Dr. Haller studied Social Anthropology, Geography and Sociology at the University of Zurich and holds a PhD and a Post-Doc in Social Anthropology. Staff members include H el ene Drakopoulos-Simonetta (Administrative Officer), Oran McKenzie (Scientific Collaborator), and Laurence Mortier (Scientific Collaborator). The Executive Secretary of the GIAN, Randall Harbour, remained in office until the end of the year 2008 in order to help with the transition and the publication of a commemorative book on the GIAN together with Prof. Edouard Dommen, former President of GIAN's Scientific Committee.

The major task of the Secretariat was to ensure the smooth transition between the GIAN and the SNIS which included: finalising GIAN projects; organising an event for the closure of the GIAN and the official launch of the SNIS in September 2008; drafting a new Call for Proposals in cooperation with the GC; organising the new evaluation procedure for project proposals; establishing and promoting the SNIS as a platform for researchers in Switzerland; creating a new corporate identity and communication tools (brochure, logo, website, intranet, etc.); and setting up and assisting the different SNIS organs.



▲ The team of the SNIS Secretariat in 2009.

The Scientific Committee (SC) consists of nine experts in the field of International Studies whose principal role is to evaluate the academic quality of submitted project proposals. These experts have an interdisciplinary focus and represent various disciplines linked to International Studies, such as law, political science, economics, social and cultural anthropology, and history. The presidency of the SC was awarded to Prof. Dr. Laurence Boisson de Chazournes from the University of Geneva. Other members include: Prof. Edouard Ch. Dommen, Prof. Till F orster (University of Basel), Prof. Adrienne H eritier (European University Institute, Florence), Prof. Christine Kaufmann (University of Zurich), Prof. Andr e Sapir (Universit e Libre de Bruxelles), Prof. Pierre Sauv e (World Trade Institute, Berne), Prof. Gerald Schneider (University of Konstanz), and Prof. Brigitte Studer (University of Berne). After individual evaluations of the 2008 project proposals by SC members, the SC came together in June 2008 to discuss the project proposals and select *in corpore* the best projects for funding. The GC then approved the selected projects. The SC was also consulted on the revised 2009 Call for Proposals and will continue to evaluate 2009 projects.

2.3 | The Scientific Committee

2.4 | The Academic Council of International Geneva

Although IOs are no longer compulsory partners in SNIS research projects, as was the case with GIAN, a close relationship with IOs is still an important factor for the SNIS. Therefore, efforts have been made to bring together a group of representatives of IOs in order to discuss their interests in International Studies. This group called the Academic Council of International Geneva (AC) consists of a dozen members (*annex 2: List of Members of the AC*) who represent the interests of IOs – particularly those of scientists working in IOs – without necessarily representing the official view of their respective organisations, as per the Chatham House Rule. Over the course of several meetings, the AC members discussed a common position that was drafted into a paper by the SNIS staff and revised by the AC, putting forward their interest areas related to International Studies and academic research (*annex 3: Position Paper of the AC*).

Another aim of the AC is to support the SNIS in its operations and to propose thematic guidelines for academic research deemed relevant from their perspectives. One theme will therefore be defined each year as part of the annual Call for Proposals. The AC theme for the 2009 Call for Proposals is climate change, with a special focus on research questions addressed by social sciences (*see section 3.3*).

One of the new activities of the AC is a debate series on important international issues: for 2009, the AC debate series focuses on the financial and economic crisis, its impacts on IOs and related topics that most concern them.



3 | 2008 Call for Proposals

3.1 | Results and distribution of submitted projects

The first Call for Proposals of the SNIS was launched at the end of 2007 (*annex 4: 2008 Call for Proposals*). The Call was open widely to the research community in Switzerland and abroad. The only restriction was that project proposals had to be submitted by professors or academic staff members employed on a multiple-year contract at post-doctoral level in institutions of tertiary education in Switzerland (universities, graduate institutes, federal institutes of technology, etc). Links with foreign universities, IOs and NGOs were considered an asset. Grants were primarily targeted to multi- and interdisciplinary teams, offering up to SFr. 300'000 for a two-year project duration period.

Several criteria were applied in the selection of successful proposals: the proposals had to meet standards of academic excellence and address an important and new research topic; they had to be at least multidisciplinary and if possible interdisciplinary, with a comparative focus; lastly, projects had to include publication opportunities as well as a valorisation strategy.

Following the arrival of the Director in March 2008, significant efforts were made by the SNIS staff to raise awareness beyond the academic community in Geneva around this new Swiss research funding opportunity. These efforts were rewarded: by the April 15th deadline, more than 60 projects were received from all over the country.

- In total, 63 project proposals were received by the deadline, three of which did not meet formal requirements. Therefore, 60 proposals were submitted to the SC for evaluation.
- Distribution of proposals among coordinating institutions was as follows: 45% from Geneva (16 proposals from the University of Geneva and 11 proposals from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies) and 55% from the other Swiss Cantons (32% or 19 proposals from German speaking universities, 20% or 12 projects from the Universities of Neuchâtel, Lausanne and Fribourg, and 2 proposals from Ticino) (*see table 1*).
- 28 proposals did not include a partnership with another Swiss academic institution, 26 proposals included one Swiss academic partner, 6 proposals included two, and 3 proposals included three Swiss academic partners in addition to the coordinating institution.
- Concerning the involvement of IOs, 30 proposals did not include any link to IOs, 24 proposals included one IO partner, 8 proposals included two IOs and 1 proposal included three IO partners. The distribution of IOs was as follows: the ILO was involved in 5 proposals; UNEP in 4; UNDP, WHO, and UNHCR in 3; ICRC, IOM, UNFPA, UNITAR, UNU, and WTO in 2; and twelve other IOs included in 1 proposal each.
- On average, the proposals included 3.95 partners for each project. These partners were foreign universities (an average of 0.92 per project), other Swiss universities (0.73 per project), IOs (0.67) and NGOs (0.40).



- Project themes related to development studies (17 proposals) and political science (16 proposals) took the lead, followed by issues related to international law (9 proposals), economics (7 proposals), environmental issues (6 proposals) and international/preventive medicine (5 proposals). More specific sub-themes were: migration (11 proposals); human rights (6 proposals); climate change, education and governance (4 proposals each); democracy, globalisation, natural disasters, security and urbanism (3 proposals each).
- Gender distribution of researchers was: 16 female coordinators for 44 male coordinators; 93 female other team members for 191 male team members.

Table 1: Overview distribution of received research projects in 2008

Region	Institution	Proposals	
Geneva	University of Geneva (UNIGE)	16	27
	Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (The Graduate Institute)	11	
Basel	University of Basel (UNIBAS)	7	8
	Swiss Tropical Institute (STI)	1	
Vaud	University of Lausanne (UNIL)	3	6
	Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL)	2	
	Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Vaudois (CHUV)	1	
Neuchâtel	University of Neuchâtel (UNINE)	4	4
Berne	World Trade Institute (WTI)	2	3
	University of Berne (UNIBE)	1	
Zurich	University of Zurich (UNIZH)	2	3
	Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETHZ)	1	
Lucerne	University of Lucerne (UNILU)	3	3
Fribourg	University of Fribourg (UNIFR)	2	2
Ticino	University of Lugano (UNISI)	2	2
Aargau	University of Applied Sciences Northwestern Switzerland (FHNW)	1	1
St. Gallen	University of St. Gallen (UNISG)	1	1

3.2 | Projects approved for funding

Many projects were of exceptional quality, making their evaluation a difficult task for the newly formed SC. Because of budget constraints, the selection process was highly competitive and only 8 projects could be funded out of the 60 submitted. Half of the selected projects (4) have their leading house in Geneva, the others in four different Swiss Cantons: Neuchâtel, Basel, Zurich and Lucerne (*see details below for project titles, names of coordinators and leading academic institutions ; see annex 5 for project abstracts and names of partners*).

List of accepted projects within the framework of the 2008 Call for Proposals:

Death in Custody:

Towards an International Framework for Investigation and Prevention

Prof. Bernice Elger

University Centre for Legal Medicine in West-Switzerland

Medical Faculty, University of Geneva

History of Health Systems in Africa:

Swiss Mission Hospitals and Rural Health Delivery in the 20th Century

Prof. Patrick Harries

History Department, University of Basel

Migration Partnerships:

A Step Towards the Global Governance of International Migration ?

Prof. Sandra Lavenex

Department of Political Science, University of Lucerne

Staying or Leaving ? Migration in the Life Plans of Western African Students:

Case Studies in Abidjan, Niamey and Saint-Louis

Prof. Etienne Piguet

Geography Department, University of Neuchâtel

The Role of Private Business in Global Governance - An Analysis of Corporate Citizenship

Approaches of Swiss MNEs and SMEs Participating in the UN Global Compact

Prof. Andreas Scherer

Institute for Organisation and Theories of the Firm, University of Zurich

The Impact of Emotion Language on International Negotiation

Prof. Klaus Scherer

Swiss Centre for Affective Sciences, University of Geneva

Bilateral Talks Switzerland - European Union:

Agenda-Setting and Framework Agreement

Prof. Pascal Sciarini

Political Science Department, University of Geneva

Beyond Economics: Estimating the Political Gains from Trade Agreements

Prof. Marcelo Olarreaga and Prof. Mathias Thoenig

Department of Economics, University of Geneva

The projects were presented in a scientific workshop that took place during the afternoon of the inaugural event in September 2008. Thematically, these projects cover several interrelated topics, which can be grouped into four major themes :

- Medical issues related to human rights, development and history
- Governance and individual strategies of migration
- Bilateral international political negotiations and the role of emotions
- Political interests that lie beyond economics in trade negotiations and treaties

3.3| Evaluation reassessment and Call for Proposals restructuring

While the 2008 Call for Proposals attracted much attention, it also left many researchers unsatisfied, particularly those who did not find success for their proposals. Their main criticism was not based on this particular point, however, but more on the fact that they did not receive experts' comments. The SC had decided not to give any expert feedback, which caused some disappointment and frustration among the researchers who had clearly invested great amounts of time in writing their detailed proposals. With this in mind, the SNIS Director, staff members and the GC, in collaboration with the SC, have reworked certain aspects of the Call for Proposals.

There are therefore several important new features in the 2009 Call for Proposals. The submission and selection procedures have been divided into two phases. Researchers are first invited to electronically submit short pre-proposals of 600 to 1000 words which are evaluated by the SC. Select authors of pre-proposals are then invited to develop full proposals. The objective is to select approximately 16 to 20 pre-proposals, followed by 8 to 10 final projects, depending on the availability of funds. The final selection for funding is based on the evaluation of the SC and approval of the GC. Detailed feedback from the SC is provided to all the teams that reach the second stage. This two-step process is being implemented in order to reduce the burden on research teams whose proposals are not accepted after the pre-proposal phase of evaluation.

The second innovation in the 2009 Call for Proposals relates to the research subject: researchers are now able to submit projects that not only relate to the broad field of International Studies, but also to a specific thematic issue defined by the AC (*see section 2.4*). In the future, the AC will define a core topic as well as subtopics, based on what is deemed most relevant at the given time. Another important debate was set in motion regarding the criteria for project evaluation and selection: representatives of the GC and the SC met several times to discuss and clarify criteria, which were then adapted (*see annex 4, page 2*).

Given the limited availability of SNIS funds, only projects of exceptional quality are selected and the SNIS must unfortunately decline many excellent projects. The SNIS trusts, however, that the restructuring of its Call for Proposals has responded to previous concerns raised by researchers.



4 | Other SNIS deliverables



Launched in the autumn of 2007, the project of writing a book on GIAN activities was finalised in August 2008. The book entitled *Les liaisons fructueuses - Des rencontres insolites de disciplines et d'institutions: l'aventure du Réseau universitaire international de Genève à l'aube du XXI^e siècle*, was presented during the GIAN/SNIS joint event in September 2008. It relates to GIAN's short but intense existence, with an overview of the «GIAN method»: fostering partnerships between academic institutions and Geneva-based IOs, as well as promoting interdisciplinary research, with practical or policy-oriented results. Interviews with GIAN's founders and project teams as well as articles relating the experience of project participants provide the reader with various insights into GIAN's mission and achievements. The book is available free of charge at the SNIS office.

4.1 | The GIAN commemorative book

On the 16th of September 2008, the SNIS staff organised an event at the International Conference Centre Geneva (CICG) to close the GIAN and inaugurate the SNIS. Before that event, a workshop took place where all teams whose projects had been accepted in the 2008 Call for Proposals presented their planned research activities and received further comments by experts and discussants (*annex 6: Programme of the ceremony of closure of the GIAN and inauguration of the SNIS*). The workshop was a success, allowing team members to get to know each other and share research topics, creating opportunities for networking between project teams.

4.2 | Ceremony of closure of the GIAN and inauguration of the SNIS



▲ Ceremony of closure of the GIAN and inauguration of the SNIS. E. Dommen, R. Harbour, A. Fankhauser (from left to right).

The closure/inauguration ceremony was addressed to all researchers and members of IOs who were part of the GIAN, as well as researchers from all over Switzerland. After an official opening ceremony by Prof. Michel Carton, Vice-Director of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, speeches were held by the State Councillor of the Canton of Geneva, Charles Beer, and by a representative of the Swiss Confederation, Ambassador Roberto Balzaretto. Both speeches made reference to the GIAN experience, honouring the organisation and its staff for their accomplishments, and welcoming the SNIS. Prof. Edouard Dommen, who also presented the GIAN commemorative book, highlighted the past work of the GIAN. The last President of the GIAN Foundation Board, Angeline Fankhauser, honoured the engagement of the late GIAN Foundation President, Jean-Marie Dufour. The Executive Secretary of the GIAN, Randall Harbour, and his staff were also thanked for their efforts. The official inauguration of the SNIS then took place, celebrated in speeches by Prof. Robert Roth and Prof. Thomas Cottier, representing the French and German speaking institutions that are part of the Governing Committee. The Director of the SNIS, PD Dr. Tobias Haller, introduced the policies of the SNIS and presented its visual identity before providing information on the results of the first SNIS Call for Proposals. The event concluded with a luncheon ([annex 7: Press review](#)).

4.3 | The SNIS logo and brochure

The transition from the GIAN to the SNIS also necessitated the creation of a new visual identity. The SNIS logo is designed to communicate the dynamic nature of International Studies and the great diversity of the disciplines, thematic areas, researchers and organisations it encompasses. The visual elements to the left of the brand name can be seen to be moving in both an upward and downward motion, with each particle representing one of the heterogeneous elements within this area of study. Moving upwards, the particles become more intense in colour and structured in design, illustrating SNIS main goal: to reinforce the field of International Studies by creating synergies among disciplines, research themes, expertise and talents among the different Swiss organisations active in this field. Moving downwards, the elements of each structured and interdisciplinary project return back to their respective disciplines, hopefully taking with them academic insights gained through an enriching interdisciplinary and cross-project experience.



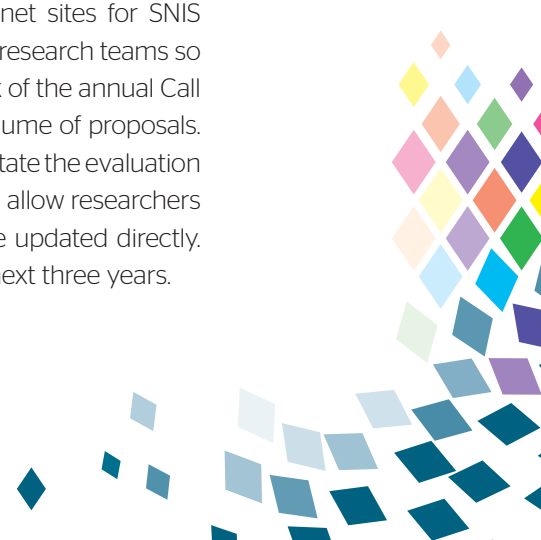
The brochure reflects the diversity in research promoted by the SNIS with a clearly structured description of its aims, focus, and organisational structure. The images in the brochure reflect the heterogeneous nature of International Studies, represented by the SNIS. Indeed, the SNIS creates opportunities for a variety of disciplinary areas – from the social and environmental sciences, to economics and law – to collaborate together synergistically. The brochure is written in three languages, in order to reach a national audience regarding new SNIS-supported opportunities. The brochure also shows that the SNIS is more than just an agency that delivers grants for multi-, trans- and interdisciplinary research teams: the SNIS also organises and supports workshops and conferences on International Studies, bringing together scientists in Switzerland and abroad on key scientific issues in order to serve as a hub for all relevant research that sits at the crossroads of academia and IO interests. Achieving this goal will demonstrate to the Swiss and Geneva authorities the strong interest in and usefulness of these studies, as well as the importance of the interdisciplinary approach encouraged by the SNIS.



A new website has been designed and is intended as an important SNIS tool for facilitating exchanges between academics in Switzerland, linking them to IOs as well as to other Swiss and international partners. In addition to presenting the SNIS, the website provides information and contact details for researchers and institutions active in the field of International Studies, allowing Internet users to search for a specialist or an organisation by disciplines, themes, countries of interest, and keywords. The website also serves as a communication tool for SNIS activities, its research projects and their publications, as well as for academic events supported by the SNIS or by its members.

Apart from the website accessible to the general public, the creation of Intranet sites for SNIS members has also been undertaken. The first Intranet site has been designed for research teams so that they can submit their research proposals electronically within the framework of the annual Call for Proposals, hence facilitating the Secretariat's management of a significant volume of proposals. Another Intranet site has been designed for the members of the SC in order to facilitate the evaluation process. More Intranet sites are planned for the future, including a site that would allow researchers and institutions to create a profile with all their relevant information that can be updated directly. Due to the limited resources of the SNIS, this project will be developed over the next three years.

4.4 | The SNIS website and Intranet sites



5 | Future ambitions and strategic planning

Major activities for 2009 include:

- The 2009 Call for Proposals: Launched in November 2008, the second Call for Proposals attracted 100 project pre-proposals. The selection procedure will last from February to June 2009.
- The SNIS Annual Conference: The first SNIS Annual Conference will take place on 15th and 16th October 2009 in Berne, under the thematic «European Integration, International Migration and Swiss Foreign Policies».
- The Academic Council Debate Series: Members of the AC will make presentations or participate in round-tables in the framework of the Debate Series entitled «Perspectives within IOs on the Financial and Economic Crisis». Five events will take place in Geneva, Berne and Zurich between February and June 2009.
- A Call for Support to Academic Conference: This Call will be launched in April 2009, providing the opportunity for researchers to organise conferences in Switzerland in the field of International studies.
- The SNIS Award: Established to encourage exceptional young research scientists at the beginning of their careers, this award will be granted to the most outstanding Ph.D. thesis received in a Swiss university on a subject related to International Studies.
- The Academic Council Award: This award will be granted to an academic paper published in Switzerland and considered as highly relevant to the activities of IOs, including a public policy perspective.



6 | Financial statement

The accounts of the financial year 2008 were closed with a positive balance. A summary of the results is provided in table 2 and followed by some explanations:

Table 2: Results of the financial year 2008 at 31st December 2008

Incomes

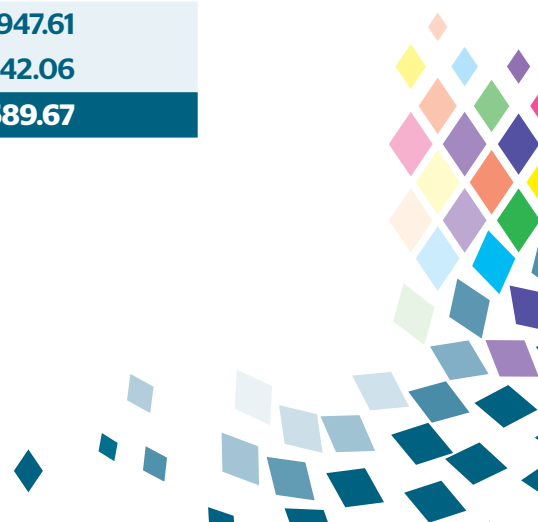
Subsidy	SFr.	2'567'800.00
Various incomes	SFr.	124'958.22
Total	SFr.	2'692'758.22

Expenses

Call for Proposals	SFr.	1'398'455.70
Other scientific activities	SFr.	531'500.00
Scientific Committee fees	SFr.	54'025.25
Salaries and social insurances	SFr.	551'679.68
Other staff expenses (travelling costs)	SFr.	15'677.61
Rent (storage room and parking)	SFr.	9'321.20
Office material	SFr.	10'179.84
Postal and telecommunication fees	SFr.	5'442.35
Office equipment (rental and maintenance)	SFr.	5'164.80
External services (IT, HR and accountancy)	SFr.	20'856.90
Various fees	SFr.	1'957.78
Writting off (office equipment)	SFr.	2'549.50
Total	SFr.	2'606'810.61

Result of the financial year 2008	SFr.	85'947.61
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Result of the financial year 2008	SFr.	85'947.61
Balance brought over of GIAN result of 2007	SFr.	148'642.06
Total assets at 31st December 2008	SFr.	234'589.67



6.1| Subsidy and various incomes

6.1| Subsidy

According to the *Convention d'objectifs pour les années 2008 à 2011* signed on 27th November 2007 between the State Secretariat for Education and Research of the Swiss Confederation, the Department for Public Education of the Canton of Geneva, and the Foundation for International Relations and Development Studies, the SNIS has received a total subsidy of SFr. 2'567'800.

Various incomes

The Federal Supervisory Board for Foundations of the Federal Department of Home Affairs having approved in December 2007 the transfer of GIAN assets to the SNIS, the latter benefited from these additional incomes labelled «various incomes» in table 2. These funds intended to ensure the GIAN-SNIS transition (budget approved by the Foundation Board of the GIAN). On 1st January 2008, this transitional account showed a balance of SFr. 266'680.94 (separate account not reflected in table 2). The funds were used during 2008 for the following expenditures:

- The organisation of the ceremony and reception of closure of the GIAN and launch of the SNIS (SFr. 18'751.50)
- The publication of the GIAN's commemorative book (SFr. 54'306.50)
- The creation of SNIS communication materials (website, intranet, visual identity, and brochure) (SFr. 37'511.55)
- The employment of additional staff assisting with the publication of the book and the conference organisation (staff under the «service civil» rules: SFr. 17'718.80)
- The payment of GIAN's Scientific Committee Members fees for the follow-up of GIAN projects in final stages (SFr. 12'500)
- Various (SFr. 15'454.45)

The positive balance for year-end of SFr. 110'438.14 has been included in the budget section, under “various incomes” (including bank interests of SFr. 14'520.08 leading to SFr. 124'958.22), resulting from the closure of this transitional account.

6.2| Scientific activities

6.2| Call for Proposals

The SC selected eight projects in the framework of the 2008 Call for Proposals. The funds have been allocated as follows (*see table 3*):

Table 3: Approved projects in 2008 and respective funding

Project	Funding
Elger	SFr. 242'000
Harries	SFr. 186'000
Lavenex	SFr. 150'000
Piguet	SFr. 172'000
Scherer Andreas	SFr. 190'000
Scherer Klaus	SFr. 199'035
Sciarini	SFr. 132'000
Thoenig/Olarreaga	SFr. 100'000
Subtotal	SFr. 1'371'035
Valorization Activities	SFr. 27'420
Total	SFr. 1'398'455

Other scientific activities (MAS and Conferences)

According to a decision taken before the creation of the SNIS, three Masters of Advanced Studies, co-organised by the University of Geneva and the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, were supported in 2008 (MAS in Humanitarian Action, MAS in International Dispute Settlement, and MAS in International Humanitarian Law) with total allotted funds in the amount of SFr. 501'500.

The GC also approved the co-funding of the 2nd Conference on Political Economy of International Organizations (SFr. 30'000). For 2009, a decision was taken to create an annual reserve of SFr. 50'000 for the purpose of supporting the organisation of scientific conferences in Switzerland.

Scientific Committee fees

The fees paid in 2008 to the members of the SC for their evaluation work reached SFr. 54'025.25.

Due to the fact that both the Executive Secretary of the GIAN and the SNIS Director were working almost throughout the year in 2008, the overall salary and representation costs were high (salaries and social insurances SFr. 551'679.68).

Other expenses such as travelling costs, rent, office material, postal and telecommunication fees, rental and maintenance of the office equipment, external services, writing off and various reached a total of SFr. 71'149.98 (*for more details and specific amounts, see the table 2*).

The SNIS has closed the financial year 2008 with a positive balance amounting to SFr. 85'947.61. This amount, added to the balance of SFr. 148'642.06 from the previous year (2007 GIAN's accounts), sums up to a total asset of SFr. 234'589.67.

The projected 2008 budget had forecasted a net loss of SFr. 202'185.79. The following reasons account for the difference in 2008 financial results:

- The amount allotted to the 2008 Call for Proposals was not entirely disbursed: a total amount of SFr. 1'371'035 has been allocated to eight funded projects, whereas the original budget amounted to SFr. 1'450'000.
- The initially planned SNIS Annual Conference did not take place (budgeted at SFr. 80'000).
- The reserve created to ensure the GIAN-SNIS transition has been closed with a positive balance of SFr. 110'438.14 accounted for under "various incomes".

6.3 |

Administrative costs

6.4 |

Other expenses

6.5 |

General remarks on results

7 | Conclusion

2008 has been dedicated to ensure the closure of the GIAN and the creation of the SNIS with a new structure and organs, as well as the launch of SNIS activities. The Secretariat, transferred from the GIAN, was also restructured, including a redefinition of job descriptions. The Governing Committee (GC) began its activities at the end of 2007 after having appointed the director Dr. T. Haller. The GC supported the Secretariat in creating a new Scientific Committee (SC), led by Prof. Dr. L. Boisson de Chazournes. The SC not only evaluated the research proposals submitted in the framework of SNIS first Call for Proposals, but also actively participated in revising the Call's rules and structure. The Academic Council of International Geneva (AC) was also created, bringing together researchers from IOs. The AC discussed its role in the SNIS, wrote a Position Paper to specify their interests in International Studies, and selected a theme for the 2009 Call for Proposals. Its members discussed and launched a programme of debates for 2009.

The first Call for Proposals of the SNIS, launched at the end of 2007 by the GC and the GIAN, served as an opportunity for the new organisation to discuss the best approaches for financing research projects of academic excellence in International Studies. An in-depth discussion led to the reshaping of the Call for Proposals into a two-step process that was applied in 2009.

The other activities of the SNIS – organising and supporting scientific events, facilitating networking opportunities among researchers in International Studies, and linking the Swiss academic community with IOs, particularly in Geneva, – also began swiftly following the launch of the SNIS brand, which led to increased visibility for the SNIS on a national scale. The fact that the SNIS has received more than 163 project proposals in total within the framework of its first two Calls for Proposals (63 proposals in 2008; 100 in 2009) speaks to the high level of interest in this new organisation. Indeed, the SNIS remains highly attractive to scientists working on issues related to International Studies and interested in interdisciplinary research. The SNIS successfully communicated its ambition to be more than just a funding agency in Switzerland, also acting as a network that facilitates contacts between researchers working in Switzerland and abroad, and within IOs and NGOs. To this end, the SNIS also organises and supports conferences and workshops in Switzerland.

The intensity of the work conducted in 2008 has created a solid foundation for the future of the SNIS. SNIS activities now need to be further developed during the coming years in order to strengthen its position in the national academic landscape, as well as its role in the domain of International Studies in Switzerland and abroad, thus contributing to the development of Switzerland as an important hub for International Studies. In this regard, a solid and larger financial basis is crucial in order to strengthen and expand SNIS activities, and to ensure the continued high quality of supported research projects.



List of annexes

1. *Contrat de société simple*
2. List of Members of the Academic Council of International Geneva
3. Position Paper of the Academic Council of International Geneva
4. 2008 Call for Proposals
5. Abstracts of accepted projects within the framework of the 2008 Call for Proposals
6. Programme of the ceremony of closure of the GIAN and inauguration of the SNIS
7. Press review

CONTRAT DE SOCIETE SIMPLE

entre

L'UNIVERSITE DE GENEVE

représentée par son recteur le professeur Jean-Dominique Vassalli et un de ses vice-recteurs le professeur Yves Fluckiger

Ci-après « UNIVERSITE »

et

L'INSTITUT UNIVERSITAIRE DE HAUTES ETUDES INTERNATIONALES ET DU DEVELOPPEMENT

représenté par son directeur le professeur Philippe Burrin et son vice-directeur le professeur Michel Carton

Ci-après « IHEID »

(version révisée, décembre 2008; le contrat a été signé le 18 septembre 2007 et l'avenant, le 18 décembre 2007)

Préambule:

Dans une Déclaration d'intention relative à la création d'un Pôle académique en études internationales à Genève, les autorités fédérales, le Département fédéral de l'intérieur, le Département fédéral des affaires étrangères et Département fédéral de la défense, de la protection de la population et des sports, d'une part, et les autorités du canton de Genève, d'autre part, ont proposé de rassembler les compétences existantes en études internationales à l'intérieur d'un Pôle académique en études internationales.

Afin de concrétiser cette déclaration d'intention, l'Université, l'Institut universitaire de hautes études internationales (ci-après IUHEI) et l'Institut universitaire d'études du développement (ci-après IUED) ont signé le 28 juin 2006 une convention-cadre établissant les bases de la coopération privilégiée qui doit, selon les termes de la Déclaration d'intention susmentionnée, s'instaurer entre les deux Instituts et l'Université de Genève, sur des bases nouvelles, entre partenaires égaux en droits et en responsabilités, avec pour objectif de consolider leurs rapports et de mettre sur pied de concert une offre concertée d'enseignements, de formation continue, de recherche et de prestations de service aussi riche et complète que possible dans le champ des études internationales.

En complément à cette convention cadre, l'Université, l'IUHEI et l'IUED ont signé trois conventions particulières : une convention de prestations, une convention sur les étudiants et les diplômes ainsi qu'une convention établissant les lignes directrices des programmes de coopération renforcée liant les trois partenaires et le cadre structurel qui permettra l'intensification des liens entre l'Université, les deux Instituts et les acteurs de la Genève internationale.

Le 16 mai 2007, le Conseil fédéral et le Conseil d'Etat de la République et canton de Genève ont approuvé les statuts de la Fondation pour l'étude des relations internationales et du développement, qui sera responsable de l'Institut de hautes études internationales et du développement (IHEID), issu de la fusion de l'IUHEI et de l'IUED.

Afin de mettre en œuvre, la convention de coopération renforcée du 28 juin 2006, les parties ont convenu ce qui suit :

Article 1 – Objet de la convention

Le 28 juin 2006, l'Université, l'IUHEI et l'IUED ont conclu une convention sur les coopérations renforcées (ci-après « CCR »), entrée en vigueur le 29 juin 2006. Le présent contrat a pour objet de mettre en œuvre les principes énoncés dans la CCR. L'IHEID succède à l'IUHEI et à l'IUED dans ses engagements issus de cette convention.

Article 2 – Création du Réseau Suisse pour les études internationales à Genève / Swiss network for International Studies in Geneva

Les deux parties créent par le présent contrat une société simple au sens des articles 530 ss CO, dont la durée est indéterminée et le siège à Genève, sous le nom de « Réseau suisse pour les études internationales à Genève / Swiss Network for International Studies in Geneva » (ci-après « le Réseau »).

Article 3 – But de la société simple

Reprenant la mission du Réseau universitaire international de Genève (ci-après: RUIG), le Réseau a notamment pour but la promotion de la coopération entre les institutions partenaires, les universités suisses et les organisations internationales gouvernementales.

Les ressources du Réseau sont destinées à financer, sur la base d'une sélection compétitive, principalement des projets de recherche en coopération privilégiée avec les autres institutions concernées par les études internationales en Suisse et à l'étranger et avec les organisations internationales. Les projets de recherche seront complétés dans une proportion adéquate par des projets de formation approfondie et continue.

Les parties ont pour objectif d'élargir, à l'horizon 2011, la base structurelle du Réseau et d'impliquer plus intensivement l'ensemble des acteurs académiques suisses du champ des études internationales. A cette fin, le contrat sera modifié, de manière à associer à la société simple des partenaires, qui devront contribuer au Réseau par des apports en nature.

Article 4 – Institutions partenaires

4.1 Principe : Les fondateurs collaboreront de manière privilégiée avec des Institutions dites partenaires.

4.2 Institutions partenaires originelles : A la date de signature du présent contrat, sont des institutions partenaires les entités suivantes :

- Center for Comparative and International Studies, Zurich.
- World Trade Institute.
- Institut tropical suisse.
- Ecole des hautes études économiques, juridiques et sociales, Saint-Gall.

4.3 Modification de la liste des institutions partenaires : Le Comité de direction pourra élargir la liste des institutions partenaires par une décision prise à la majorité.

Article 5 – Programmes de coopération

5.1. - Financement des programmes : Les programmes seront financés

- i) par les fonds mis à disposition par le Réseau
- ii) par des apports propres des auteurs des projets,

iii) par des contributions supplémentaires des autorités publiques, ainsi que de partenaires privés.

5.2 – Répartition des fonds : a) Après les avoir soumis à évaluation, le Réseau soutiendra les programmes de formation approfondie et continue, au sens de l'article 3 de la présente convention, émanant des Fondateurs et existant ou formellement approuvés au 1^{er} janvier 2008. La somme affectée à ce soutien sera déterminée par le Comité de direction, sur une base décroissante à partir de 2008.

b) Par la suite, le Réseau procédera à un appel d'offres, à l'issue duquel le Comité de direction (art. 7) sélectionnera les programmes qui bénéficieront du soutien du Réseau. L'appel d'offres sera public ou se fera sur invitation ; la sélection tiendra compte de l'implication des organisations internationales dans les programmes proposés. Un règlement sera établi par le Comité de direction.

En principe, un au moins des fondateurs devra nécessairement être impliqué dans les programmes (lettre a ou lettre b ci-dessus) représentant au moins 50 % des fonds mis à disposition par le Réseau.

5.3 – Absence d'exclusion d'autres formes de coopération : Les programmes de coopération n'excluent pas d'autres formes de coopération entre les fondateurs et/ou les institutions partenaires (y compris l'organisation de maîtrises universitaires communes) et n'ont pas l'ambition de couvrir tout le champ des études internationales, chaque partenaire conservant sa pleine autonomie pour l'organisation de ces études dans son institution et pour le développement de son propre réseau national et international.

Article 6 - Organisation de la société simple

Les organes du Réseau sont:

- a) un Comité de direction;
- b) un Conseil académique de la Genève internationale (Conseil international);
- c) un Directeur

Article 7 - Comité de direction

7.1 – Composition du Comité de direction : Le Comité de direction est composé de six représentants désignés comme suit :

- a) Deux représentants désignés par chacun des membres fondateurs, pour une période d'une année, renouvelable ;
- b) Deux représentants désignés d'un commun accord par l'ensemble des Institutions partenaires (art. 4.2 et 4.3), pour une période d'une année, renouvelable.

La composition du Conseil de direction sera modifiée au plus tard au 1^{er} janvier 2011, dans la perspective décrite à l'article 3 dernière phrase de la présente convention.

7.2 – Tâches du Comité de direction : Le Comité de direction est l'organe suprême du Réseau. Il a les attributions inaliénables et intransmissibles suivantes:

- a) Choix, sur une base compétitive, des programmes de coopération renforcée, avec le concours d'experts;
- b) Planification budgétaire;
- c) Répartition de l'enveloppe financière allouée aux programmes;
- d) Contrôle de l'utilisation des fonds;
- e) Evaluation continue des projets;
- f) Présentation coordonnée des prestations;
- g) Ratification des rapports, y compris contractuels, avec des institutions, académiques et/ou internationales participant aux programmes.
- h) Rapport annuel au Recteur de l'Université et au Directeur de l'Institut HEID, de sa gestion durant l'année et des orientations choisies pour le futur.
- i) Mission d'information réciproque et de coordination des activités des partenaires dans le champ des études internationales, en particulier entre les fondateurs, en dehors des programmes de coopération renforcée
- j) Adoption du règlement du Comité de direction fixant les modalités de son fonctionnement dans les limites du présent contrat.
- k) Toute autre tâche qui ne relève pas expressément de la compétence d'un autre organe du réseau.

7.3 – Réunion du Comité de direction : Le Comité de direction se réunira aussi souvent que nécessaire pour l'exécution de ses tâches, mais au moins quatre fois par année et à la demande de trois de ses membres,

7.4 – Prise de décision par le Comité de direction : Le Comité de direction prendra ses décisions à la majorité simple des membres présents, pour autant que la moitié au moins de ses membres soient présents. Il pourra prendre ses décisions par voie de circulation pour autant que cette décision recueille la majorité des voix de l'ensemble des membres du Comité.

Article 8 - Conseil académique de la Genève internationale (Conseil international)

8.1 – Composition du Conseil international : Le Conseil académique de la Genève internationale (ci-après: Conseil international) est composé des membres du Comité de direction et de dix personnes, qui sont à la fois représentatives de la

Genève internationale et issues, dans la mesure du possible, des organisations internationales, gouvernementales et non gouvernementales. Les membres du Conseil international autres que les membres du Comité de direction seront choisis par voie de cooptation. Dans sa première composition, le Conseil sera formé d'entente entre les fondateurs et le Bureau du RUIG.

8.2 – Missions du Conseil international : Le Conseil international assumera les missions suivantes:

- a) Elire son président parmi les personnalités appartenant aux organisations internationales.
- b) Donner au Comité de direction un avis sur les axes prioritaires des programmes et leur évaluation continue.
- c) Veiller à ce que les organisations internationales soient, en conformité avec l'art. 5.1., impliqués autant que possible dans les programmes.
- d) Prendre connaissance du rapport d'activités annuel du Comité de direction.
- e) Nommer en accord avec le comité de direction, un conseil scientifique pour l'assister dans l'accomplissement de ses tâches et fixer, en accord avec le comité de direction, les modalités de fonctionnement de ce conseil.
- f) Adopter un règlement du Conseil international fixant les modalités de son fonctionnement dans les limites du présent contrat.

8.3 – Réunions du Conseil international : Le Conseil international se réunira au minimum trois fois par année, ainsi qu'à la demande de cinq de ses membres.

Article 9 - Direction

9.1 – Nomination d'un directeur : Le Comité de direction nommera un Directeur pour un mandat de trois ans renouvelable.

9.2 – Tâches du directeur : Le Directeur est chargé de la gestion courante du Réseau. Il travaillera en étroite collaboration avec le Comité de direction. A ce titre, il exerce les tâches suivantes :

- a) Il organise et dirige les activités du Réseau.
- b) Il prépare et exécute les décisions du Comité de direction.
- c) Il gère les ressources dédiées au fonctionnement du Réseau.
- d) Il établit les projets de budget, de comptes et de rapports annuels, qu'il soumet à l'approbation du Comité de direction.
- e) Il participe aux travaux du Comité de direction avec voix consultative.
- f) Il contribue à la promotion du Réseau et de ses résultats auprès des organismes publics et privés, en concertation avec le Comité de direction.
- g) Il est le porte-parole du Réseau vis-à-vis à l'extérieur.
- h) Il peut demander à être entendu par le Comité de direction.

Article 10 - Secrétariat

Le Réseau aura un Secrétariat, constitué à partir des ressources humaines du RUIG, disponibles le 1^{er} janvier 2008.

Article 11 – Succession du RUIG

11.1 – Succession : Le Réseau succédera au RUIG en ce qui concerne l'ensemble des droits et obligations de ce dernier..

11.2 – Rôle du Comité de direction : Le Comité de direction assurera, à partir de la date de dissolution du RUIG, l'évaluation, la validation et la valorisation des recherches que ce dernier aura approuvées à cette date.

Article 12 – Financement

Les fondateurs s'engagent à apporter au Réseau les ressources nécessaires à son fonctionnement et, au minimum, la totalité des fonds qu'ils recevront de la Confédération, du Canton de Genève, ou de toute autre source, pour le Réseau.

Article 13 – Dispositions complémentaires

Conscientes qu'elles s'engagent dans un processus évolutif, les parties décident de se lier par la présente convention au sens d'une convention-cadre ayant valeur de constitution du Réseau. Cette convention-cadre pourra être complétée par des conventions additionnelles dites conventions d'exécution, qui seront numérotées et qui seront adoptées selon les règles applicables aux décisions nécessaire pour modifier le présent contrat. En particulier, feront l'objet d'une convention d'exécution :

- a) Tout nouvel apport d'un associé.
- b) En cas de besoin, la titularité des droits de propriété intellectuelle issus des activités du Réseau ainsi les modalités de leur valorisation.

Article 14– Rang des règles applicables

Les rapports entre les parties contractantes seront régis par les dispositions suivantes, dans l'ordre de hiérarchie décroissant:

- a) Le présent contrat.
- b) Les conventions d'exécution. En cas de contradiction entre des conventions d'exécution, les dispositions les plus récentes l'emporteront sur les dispositions plus anciennes.
- c) A défaut de solution retenue dans le présent contrat et dans les conventions d'exécution, on fera appel à la convention établissant les lignes directrices des programmes de coopération renforcée.

- d) A défaut de solution dans les documents qui précèdent, on appliquera les règles du Code des obligations sur la société simple.

Article 15 – Modification et dénonciation du contrat

15.1 – Modification : La présente convention ne peut être modifiée qu'en la forme écrite à l'unanimité de ses signataires. Il en va de même de toutes les conventions d'exécution.

15.2 – Dénonciation : Les parties contractantes excluent expressément tout droit de dénonciation individuel de l'une d'entre elles avant l'expiration d'une durée de quatre ans dès la signature de la présente convention. A cette échéance, elle sera reconduite tacitement pour de nouvelles période de quatre ans, et ainsi de suite, faute d'avoir été dénoncée par l'une des parties pour son échéance, par écrit deux ans à l'avance.

Article 16 – Dispositions finales

16.1 Notification : Toute notification ou correspondance qui sont faites aux termes de la présente convention doivent être envoyées sous la forme écrite, par courrier recommandé au siège respectif des parties. En particulier, toute modification contractuelle au présent contrat est soumise à la forme écrite.

16.2 Droit applicable : Le droit suisse est seul applicable. En particulier, pour toutes les clauses non stipulées dans le présent contrat de distribution exclusif, ce sont les dispositions légales suisses sur la société simple qui s'appliquent.

16.3 Subsidiarité de l'annulation : Si l'une ou l'autre des dispositions du présent contrat devait être déclarée nulle ou non exécutoire pour quelque raison que ce soit, elle doit être, dans la mesure du possible, adaptée plutôt qu'annulée afin de respecter au mieux l'intention des parties au présent contrat. Dans tous les cas, toutes les autres dispositions du présent contrat resteront valables et exécutoires dans toute la mesure du possible.

16.4 Cession : Les parties ne pourront céder à des tiers le présent contrat, et les droits et obligations qu'il prévoit, sans le consentement écrit préalable des autres parties.

Article 17 – For

Tout différend entre les parties relatifs à l'exécution ou l'interprétation du présent contrat et de tout accord connexe, notamment des conventions d'exécution, qui ne

pourrait être réglé par la voie de la concertation ou de la médiation sera tranché par arbitrage.

Le tribunal arbitral sera composé de trois arbitres a savoir.

- a) le Président du Tribunal fédéral ou un arbitre désigné par lui, qui le préside;
- b) le Président du Tribunal de première instance genevois ou un arbitre désigné par lui,
- c) le Président de la Cour de justice de Genève ou un arbitre désigné par lui.

La procédure d'arbitrage est ouverte dès le moment où une des parties saisit les arbitres désignés par la présente clause compromissoire.

Le siège du Tribunal arbitral sera à Genève.

Les causes de récusation sont celles prévues par le Loi fédérale sur le Tribunal fédéral.

La procédure est régie pour le surplus par la loi fédérale de procédure civile, qui s'applique par analogie.

Faite et signée à Genève, le 3 septembre 2007 et révisée le 18 décembre 2007

Prof. Jean-Dominique Vassalli, recteur

Prof. Philippe Burrin, directeur
désigné HEID

Prof. Yves Fluckiger, vice-recteur

Prof. Michel Carton, directeur
adjoint désigné HEID

Annex 2 : List of Members of the Academic Council of International Geneva



Academic Council of International Geneva

Members of the Academic Council of International Geneva

Mr Willy Alfaro
World Trade Organisation (WTO)

Mr Jeff Crisp
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Mr Blaise Godet *(replaced in 2009)*
Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations Office
and to the other international organisations in Geneva

Mr Charles Gore
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Ms Fiona Gore
World Health Organization (WHO)

Ms Eva-Maria Gröniger-Voss
European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN)

Ms Patricia Lewis *(replaced in 2009)*
United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)

Mr Carlos Lopes
United Nations Institute For Training and Research (UNITAR)

Mr Thandika Mkandawire
United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)

Ms Cécile Molinier
United Nations Development Program (UNDP)

Ms Corinne Momal-Vanien
United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG)

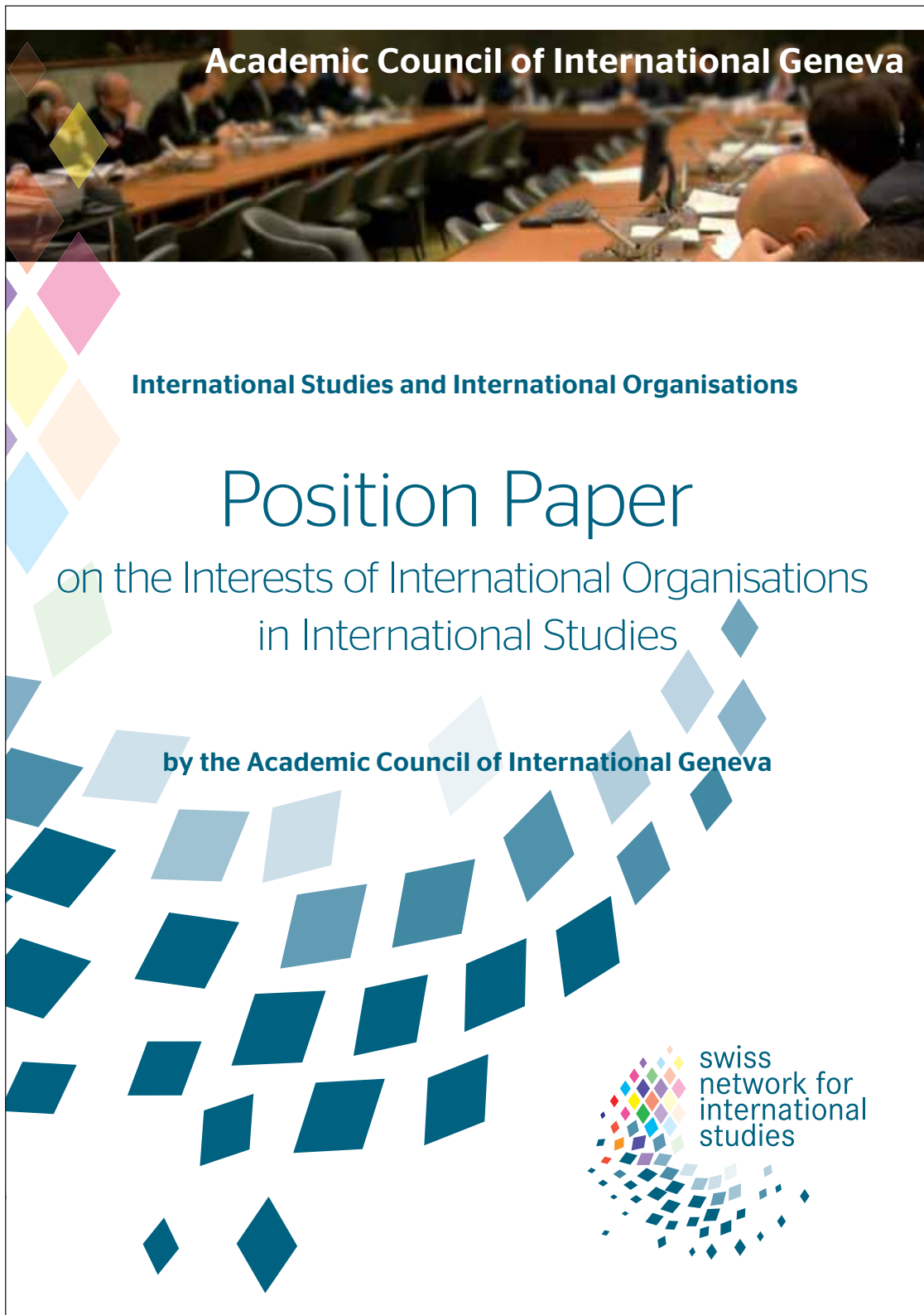
Mr Gonzalo Oviedo
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Mr Philippe Petit
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

Mr Raymond Torres
International Labour Organization (ILO)



Annex 3 : Position Paper of the Academic Council of International Geneva



Preamble

The Swiss Network for International Studies (SNIS) aims to establish a network of Switzerland-based institutions in the field of international Studies by funding research activities and creating a network of researchers working on the topic of International Studies in Switzerland. As Switzerland and especially Geneva host many International Organisations (IOs) the SNIS has established the Academic Council of International Geneva (AC) in order to link up researchers working in IOs with Swiss academics and scholars abroad. The fact that most of these organisations are based in Geneva, as is the Secretariat of the SNIS, facilitates

these contacts and enables the creation of a platform promoting cooperation between Switzerland-based researchers and IOs in order to enhance scientific knowledge for the benefit of both sides. Although topics are dealt with under a scientific research angle, they can be oriented towards issues that IOs see as being pertinent for policy purposes. Therefore, as stated in the **Call for Proposals** of the SNIS, a scientific research project has potentially more chance to receive funding if it has a link with an IO or an NGO.



In order to establish the link between scientists and IOs, the SNIS has brought together representatives from scientific branches of IOs and other international actors, such as ILO, WTO, UNHCR, UNCTAD, UNITAR, UNOG, IUCN, WHO, UNIDIR, UNRISD, UNDP, WIPO and CERN, among others. Representatives of these organisations have discussed their interests regarding International Studies and how research results could be used by their organisations.

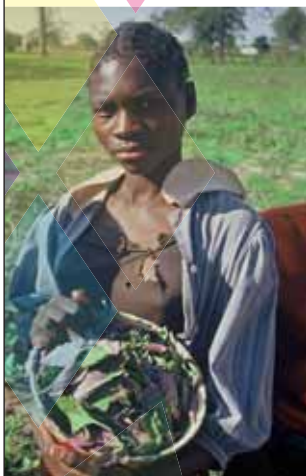
Enhance dissemination of research results on International Studies

IOs often face the problem that scientific research and the publication of results take considerable time, and due to lengthy delays are often of limited use for IOs. In order to address this problem, the AC welcomes the SNIS's policy of urging research teams to submit working papers immediately after the end of the research. The working papers will rapidly be made public on the SNIS website. In addition, project teams funded by the SNIS will give presentations on their findings to IOs during seminars or other events.



Thematic interests in International Studies

IOs have very diverse and heterogeneous interests in International Studies. However, they agree that despite their specific interests in practical results, they also highly value empirical research, particularly multi-country comparative analyses, which may help underpin sound policy development and that do not just reflect the “thematic fashions” of a specific moment. There is also an interest in research that can shape problem-definition of emerging global issues. Thematically, the AC has outlined three basic topics of major interest for IOs.



Inequalities and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

Important questions the AC would like to have addressed relate to the nature of contemporary inequalities and new processes of differentiation and stratification, and how these can be analysed within a

global context. Addressing these questions requires both political and economic analysis that includes among others:

- international working conditions
- international trade relations and the terms of trade
- the global financial system

The AC sees a major challenge in researching adequate and innovative mechanisms for the mobilization, distribution and utilisation of financial, material and knowledge resources in order to achieve the MDGs. The topic of inequalities includes a wide range of issues such as:

- increase in income disparities
- access to healthcare and education
- economic principles of trade and incentives/barriers
- global development of prices
- protection of intellectual property rights

Highlighting and scientifically analysing contradicting political positions on certain policies, such as high prices that are beneficial for agro-enterprises but that result in higher costs for consumers, thus exacerbating poverty or ill health for the urban and rural poor, is one example of such a theme. Such developments might have short- and middle-term negative effects, leading to inequalities and poverty. Conflicts and population displacements may be additional consequences of such developments that

“The inability to achieve the Millennium Development Goals in least developed countries is related to large economic, social, political and health inequalities, within and between societies.”

necessitate appropriate local and global responses and need to be analysed as multi-factor driven phenomena. Outcomes can be further influenced by environmental changes.

Therefore, inter-linkages are of specific interest for IOs (rural-urban, local-global, multilevel reasons for migration, including political, health, economic or reasons related to climate change, the latter increasing the former disparities), which go beyond push and pull factors and involve contextual strategies of actors.

Security issues in international relations

On the one hand, IOs want to understand the way drivers of conflict operate in relation to inequalities and environmental change, based on actors' interests and knowledge, as well as on the local to global constraints affecting them. On the other hand, it is important to comprehend how conflict prevention, mitigation and peacekeeping measures can

work successfully to limit forced migration and refugee flows and to reduce impacts that further aggravate social tensions. In relation to these issues, IOs are interested in the lessons learned from various conflicts and conflict resolution mechanisms, which affect them all, as regards:

- trade
- work
- human rights
- health and environmental issues (conservation, sustainable use of natural resources, climate change)



Credits: GICR

Such topics, which relate to issues of governance under rapidly changing environmental, political and economic conditions, should be studied in a comparative way to enable researchers to apply general lessons but also to acknowledge local specificities. Knowledge and knowledge sharing—who has access and at what cost—are important issues in the realm of international relations and diplomacy. This issue incites IOs as well as NGOs to take a keen interest in

“ Many episodes of violence and conflict are linked to social inequalities, environmental change and governance failures. Climate change is likely to create further stress on socio-environmental systems, potentially aggravating conflicts. The international security agenda needs to be based on an appropriate understanding of such issues. ”

confronting different levels, from actor-oriented research to broader issues of policies adopted by local groups, national, regional and international actors. Often nation states play a crucial role in creating externalities for other states or state groups, leading again to questions of global governance and who will play which role related to global decisions on trade, environment and development.

New forms of interdependence

Areas of interdependence include trade, finance, knowledge, migration, natural resource use and the physical environment. With respect to inter-national economics, the rise of China and other emerging economies challenges what was common knowledge about international

economic relations in the past. Commodification (transformation of goods and services into a commodity) and multiple links between international economic actors, for example, create constellations that make predictions difficult. For example:

- The actual global financial crisis has exposed the limits of policy and understanding.
- The rise in oil and mineral prices has challenged many scholars, who used to argue that these were minor global issues.
- Environmental changes that are often related to climate change show complex interlinkages.



Credit: V. Trebs, iavolunteers.org

- **Despite many hopes, new South-South relations may be structured in the same way as North-South relations, with similar inter- and intra-dependencies as well as inequalities .**
- **The WWW is not gaining global importance for all parts of the world, as was anticipated.**
- **Greater knowledge transfer faces challenges because of the prevailing systems for the protection of intellectual property rights; related means of education only work if there are possibilities of access (access to techniques and to mitigation of problems related to the protection of intellectual property rights).**

“ Globalization is creating new and intensified interrelationships between countries and between people in different localities. The nature of these new forms of interdependence as well as their implications for what is happening at different scales – countries, cities and localities – as well as for governance at different levels, are critical issues to be addressed by International Studies. ”

resources, promotion of cultural industries, knowledge access, etc. are of importance for IOs in the field of International Studies. IOs recognise that there are new emerging forms of institutionalised relationships that emerge in this topic area with the aim of securing and regulating relationships, redefining old forms of governance or developing new forms of governance. In this respect, issues of bargaining power and ideologies are basic issues of interest for IOs, as is the question of the UN system's relevance in today's world, and who are new powerful players in the international system, such as the rising powers in Asia.

Concerning priorities in research topics, subjects related to intellectual property, in particular topics of development, technology transfer, protection of traditional knowledge and genetic

Geneva and Switzerland can play a crucial role in this interdependent, inter- and trans-disciplinary research in International Studies, creating a kind of Swiss-Geneva label for such studies. The interesting asset for IOs and the SNIS is the fact that both are Geneva-based and therefore interlinking and networking is made easier. The SNIS could become a scientific hub in order to link IOs with scholars working in Switzerland and beyond.





Involvement of the Academic Council in the SNIS Call for Proposals

As a basic strategy for linking IOs with the SNIS in a prominent way, the SNIS will offer each year a thematic **Call for Proposals** within the annual Call for Proposals. This means that researchers are able to submit:

A) a project on a theme that is open within the domain of International Studies
OR **B)** a project related to the thematic issue proposed by the Academic Council.

The proposals will then be selected by the Scientific Committee of the SNIS. For further information please see:

www.snis.ch

➔ **Annual Call for Proposals**

Authorship: This paper has been drafted in 2008 by the SNIS staff after meetings with the members of the Academic Council and revised by these members.

For an overview of members, please see: **www.snis.ch** ➔ **Academic Council**.

The representatives of the different International Organisations expressed themselves on the basis of the Chatham House Rule.

Swiss
Network for
International
Studies

Réseau suisse
pour les
études
internationales

Schweizerische
Forschungsgemeinschaft
für Internationale
Studien

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1202 Geneva
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info@snis.ch
www.snis.ch

Annex 4 : 2008 Call for Proposals

Réseau suisse pour les études internationales à Genève
Swiss Network for International Studies in Geneva

*Rue de Varembe 9-11
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Tél. +41 (0)22 733 26 92
Fax +41 (0)22 734 87 66
<http://www.ruig-gian.org>*

CALL FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS 2008

SWISS NETWORK FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES IN GENEVA

Geneva, 12 March 2008

Swiss Network for International Studies in Geneva ("*Le Réseau*")
Cover Sheet
Call for Project Proposals 2008

Please submit this document with your project proposal or send a cover sheet containing the same information in the same order.

Title of project: -----

Project coordinator: Please provide the following information:
Name and surname, position, place of work, address, phone, fax, e-mail.

Additional contact person: Please provide the following information:
Name and surname, position, place of work, address, phone, fax, e-mail.

Other team members (with name, title, institutional affiliation, telephone and e-mail):

1. -----
2. -----
3. -----
4. -----
5. Others -----

Thematic area(s): -----

Funds requested from the *Réseau* in SFr: -----

Estimation of co-financing: -----

Duration of the project and starting date: -----

The *Réseau* funds will be managed by (name of the institution): -----

Closing date for the submission of detailed project proposals:

Tuesday, 15 April 2008 (post-marked;
a printed version and an electronic version are required)

Address: Swiss Network for International Studies in Geneva
Rue Varembé 9-11
1202 Geneva, Switzerland
Tel: +41 (0)22 733 26 92 / Fax: +41 (0)22 734 87 66
E-mail: info@ruig-gian.org / Web site: <http://www.ruig-gian.org>

Introduction

The Swiss Network for International Studies ("*le Réseau*") was created in late 2007 by the University of Geneva and the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID) in collaboration with the Centre for Comparative and International Studies of ETH Zurich and the University of Zurich, the World Trade Institute in Bern, the Swiss Tropical Institute in Basel, and the University of St.Gallen. The *Réseau* assumes the mission, the rights and the responsibilities of the Geneva International Academic Network (GIAN), as of 1 January 2008.

The mission of the *Réseau* is to promote Swiss academic research in the area of international studies. The *Réseau* also seeks to strengthen cooperation among the aforementioned partner institutions and Swiss universities in general, on the one hand, and between these institutions and international organisations and NGOs, on the other.

The Structure of the *Réseau*

The organs of the Swiss Network for International Studies are:

- a) The Governing Committee (*Comité de direction*);
- b) The Academic Council of International Geneva (*Conseil académique de la Genève internationale*);
- c) The Secretariat and its Director.

The decision-making body, the Governing Committee, consists of six members and selects on a competitive basis projects to be funded by the *Réseau*. It is assisted by a Scientific Committee that evaluates the academic quality of proposals and presents its recommendations to the Governing Committee. External experts may also be consulted. The Academic Council of International Geneva is an advisory body consisting of ten members representative of international Geneva, in addition to the members of the Governing Committee. The Director oversees the day-to-day operations of the *Réseau*.

The Annual Tendering Procedure ("Call for Project Proposals")

The *Réseau* will begin funding research activities in 2008 and invites project proposals to that end. Total available funding is in the order of SFr 1.5 to 2 million per year. The deadline for the submission of proposals is 15 April 2008. Applicants will be notified of the *Réseau*'s decision by mid-June 2008.

The *Réseau* welcomes proposals by political scientists, economists, legal scholars, historians, sociologists, anthropologists, and researchers from related disciplines who can make important contributions to the analysis of international problems and their resolution. Funds may be sought for projects lasting one to two years for amounts ranging from SFr 50,000 to SFr 150,000 per year. Collaboration with international organisations and a multidisciplinary approach are most welcome and will be considered as assets. All proposals will be evaluated by a Scientific Committee. Final decisions will be taken by the Governing Committee of the *Réseau*.

Criteria for the Selection of Projects

The *Réseau* will fund research projects and, to a minor extent, research-related educational and networking activities – e.g., a summer school for doctoral students or a workshop involving academics and representatives of international organisations. In order to be acceptable, proposals submitted to the *Réseau* must satisfy criteria of academic excellence, policy-relevance, financial viability, and feasibility. Projects must be directed by an institution of higher education based in Switzerland and funds must be managed by the accounting department of the concerned institution.

Each project team must include one or several representatives of at least one institution of higher education based in Switzerland. Representatives of academic institutions must normally be faculty members or researchers employed on multiple-year contracts at the post-doctoral level. The *Réseau* encourages, in particular, projects that associate two or more Swiss academic institutions as well as researchers based at international organisations. It also encourages co-financing of projects, either in the form of funds provided by another donor or as a contribution in-kind.

Applicants must demonstrate that they have the infrastructure and material means for carrying out the project. As a general rule, the *Réseau* does not fund infrastructure, equipment (e.g., computers), and administrative activities.

Each project must be placed under the academic responsibility of a "project coordinator". Administrative arrangements regarding the project team must be handled in accordance with the rules of the academic institution that manages the funds. Conferences and publications may accompany the research phase or may be part of the project's completion. Appropriate acknowledgement of the *Réseau*'s support must be indicated on all documents relative to the project.

Procedure for Participating in the Call for Project Proposals 2008

The project coordinator must submit to the *Réseau*, in electronic form and also hard copy, a project proposal of no more than 15 pages in English or French, plus annexes. The submission, post-marked by 15 April 2008, must include the following documents:

- The *Réseau* cover sheet;
- An executive summary of the project (1 page maximum);
- An exposé of the topic or question to be treated, with a justification focusing on the originality and the academic and policy importance of the issues to be examined. This includes a brief review of the state of research;
- A description of the research strategy and methods to be employed;
- A plan indicating tasks, who will perform which task, and milestones (project outputs);
- Information on each of the team members, and how they contribute to the project;
- Information on partnerships with other academic institutions in Switzerland and other countries, international organisations, or NGOs;

-
- References (relevant publications of authors other than the team members; publications by team members directly relevant to the project);
 - A budget estimate and detailed information concerning the utilisation of *Réseau* funding and additional funds or in-kind contributions provided by other sources.

For additional information please consult the website of the Geneva International Academic Network (www.ruig-gian.org) which will be updated as additional information becomes available.

Members of the Governing Committee are:

Prof. Thomas Bernauer, Director, Centre for Comparative and International Studies, Zurich;
Prof. Philippe Burrin, Director, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID), Geneva;
Prof. Michel Carton, Vice-Director, IHEID;
Prof. Thomas Cottier, Director, World Trade Institute, Bern;
Prof. Yves Flückiger, Vice-Rector, University of Geneva;
Prof. Robert Roth, Faculty of Law, University of Geneva.

Annex 5 : Abstracts of accepted projects within the framework of the 2008 Call for Proposals



Projects funded by the Swiss Network for International Studies

2008 Tendering Procedure

Death in Custody: Towards an International Framework for Investigation and Prevention

Lead: Prof. Bernice Elger, University Centre for Legal Medicine in West-Switzerland, Medical Faculty, University of Geneva.

Partners: University Institute of Forensic Medicine, Bern; Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights; Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva; International Committee of the Red Cross, Geneva; International Centre for Prison Studies, School of Law, King's College, University of London, UK; Center for International Human Rights, Northwestern University School of Law, Chicago, USA; European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT).

International human rights and humanitarian law stipulate that prisoners have the right to be treated humanely and especially receive adequate medical treatment. However, so called "natural" deaths in custody are frequent and often considered "natural" because (1) there are no external signs of violence; (2) there are other health related reasons that seem obvious; and (3) time, guidelines and material is lacking to advise health care workers or international personnel on the spot how to proceed in such cases. Projects partners will collaborate to undertake research relating to the conditions under which deaths in custody should be investigated and prevented.

History of Health Systems in Africa: Swiss Mission Hospitals and Rural Health Delivery in the 20th Century

Lead: Prof. Patrick Harries, History Department, University of Basel.

Partner: Swiss Tropical Institute, Basel.

The main aim of the project is to contribute to a better understanding of health services in developing countries through Swiss Missions by using historical research methods. The research is based on two case studies located in Ghana (Agogo Hospital: Basel Mission) and South Africa (Elim Hospital, Mission Romande). The research team is especially interested in examining the interaction between health care providers and their changing political, social and economic environments. They try to understand the activities of former Swiss missionary hospitals and the changing conditions under which they delivered various forms of health care. The ultimate aim is to show how history can contribute to the development of sustainable health systems. Historical explanations for the success and failure of health systems should serve to inform today's decision-makers. The study will apply the methodologies of history and social anthropology, as well as (historical) epidemiology in order to examine the effects of political, economic, social and cultural changes on disease and health environments.

Migration Partnerships: A Step Towards the Global Governance of International Migration?

Lead: Prof. Sandra Lavenex, Department of Political Science, University of Lucerne.

Partners: Swiss Forum for Migration and Population Studies, University of Neuchâtel; International Organization for Migration, Geneva and Bern; United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

The regulation of international migration flows forms an exception in the general trend towards the internationalisation of public policy. In contrast to the flows of goods, services and capital, no strong international institutions have been set up as yet to regulate the flows of people. In the 1990s nation states became more aware of the global problem of migration and the notion of “migration partnerships” has emerged as a win-win solution in the political management of migration flows, both at the international (e.g. Global Commission on International Migration, UN High Level Dialogue), regional (e.g. EU) and national (e.g. Switzerland) levels. As a concept, migration partnerships have in common that they link migration issues with other policy areas such as development, trade, finance or security. Examining four cases of migration partnerships (EU-third countries, Mexico-USA, Mexican Government-Mexican Migrants, Switzerland-Kosovo, Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina) the team will investigate the factors shaping their institutional design.

Staying or Leaving? Migration in the Life Plans of Western African Students: Case Studies in Abidjan, Niamey and Saint-Louis

Lead: Prof. Etienne Piguet, Geography Department, University of Neuchâtel.

Partners: Swiss Forum for Migration and Population Studies, University of Neuchâtel; Laboratory of Urban Sociology, EPFL, Lausanne; Universities in Senegal, Niger and Ivory Coast.

This research project deals with the reasons of highly-qualified young people from developing countries, especially from Africa, for leaving their country. Excessive emigration whereby young, talented individuals do not return to their native countries has an extremely negative effect known as the brain drain. The aim of this study is to gain a better understanding of the expectations relating to migration that are cited by young people: What are the reasons for leaving their country, but also what are the reasons that could lead them to stay? The project aims at refining migration theories by identifying the factors that persuade or dissuade individuals to leave. Three options will be studied: long-term emigration (leave), local anchoring (stay), and commuting between several spaces (move around). The research team will be investigating the reasons for migration and alternatives among students at Niamey University (Niger), Cocody-Abidjan (Ivory Coast) and in Gaston-Berger - Saint-Louis (Senegal). Involving geographers, sociologists, architects will ensure that the individual and collective economic, social and spatial dimensions of the phenomena will be taken into account.

The Role of Private Business in Global Governance - An Analysis of Corporate Citizenship Approaches of Swiss MNEs and SMEs Participating in the UN Global Compact

Lead: Prof. Andreas Scherer, Institute for Organisation and Theories of the Firm, University of Zurich.

Partners: Faculty of Business and Economics, University of Lausanne; University of Constance; WHU Koblenz.

The UN Global Compact (UNGC), with approximately 4000 members, the largest Corporate Citizenship (CC) initiative in the world, serves as an illustration of how corporations are expected to become involved in political activities on a global level. By signing the UNGC, companies voluntarily commit themselves to ten principles in the areas of human rights, labor standards, environment, and anti-corruption. Citing the absence of screening or enforcement mechanisms to ensure that corporations adhere to the UNGC principles, numerous critics argue that the UNGC merely provides a forum for companies to “bluewash” questionable business practices constituting an easy possibility to brush up corporate image. This lacks a clear and consistent conceptualization of CC and a sound theoretical framework needs to be developed. Furthermore, previous studies rarely differentiate between large multinational corporations (MNCs) on the one hand, and small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) on the other one.

The Impact of Emotion Language on International Negotiation (ELIN)

Lead: Prof. Klaus Scherer, Swiss Centre for Affective Sciences, University of Geneva.

Partners: School for Translation and Interpretation, University of Geneva; Faculty of Humanities, University of Geneva; International Federation of Translators, Paris; Conference Service Division, United Nations Office at Geneva; Division of Globalization and Development, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; Universities of Ghent, Beijing, Volgograd, Leipzig, Murcia, Negev, Kyiv, Tulane.

Communication between people of different linguistic, social and cultural background is of great importance today in virtually all spheres of human interaction. Meanwhile, communication in crucial domains such as diplomacy, international cooperation, military and political conflicts are typically fraught with hazards of misconception and misinterpretation and ways have to be found for communication to be effective and constructive. In this context, it becomes imperative to carefully elaborate language- and culture-sensitive strategies to minimize the risks, especially with regard to an appropriate assessment and response. The aim of the project ELIN is therefore to address the question how emotions affect such interactions, especially in conflict scenarios with an emphasis on mediation and solutions. This shall be done with an interdisciplinary team from affective sciences, psycholinguistics, lexical semantics, interpretation studies, and critical discourse analysis, among others. Central emotion concepts will be studied such as anger, guilt, shame and pride, looking also at eight widespread languages in the world (English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, Russian, German and Hebrew). In addition, the project will address the role of cultural differences displayed with emotions that shall also give a practical contribution in the field of diplomacy.

Bilateral Talks Switzerland - European Union: Agenda-Setting and Framework Agreement

Lead: Prof. Pascal Sciarini, Political Science Department, University of Geneva.

Partners: Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva; Faculty of Law, University of Geneva.

The relationships with the European Union (EU) have been at the top of the Swiss political agenda since more than fifteen years. Given the recent decision of the Federal Council to relaunch the bilateral talks with the EU, European policy will very likely remain one of the most crucial issues of Swiss politics in the next years to come. Against this background, the purpose of this interdisciplinary research project is to contribute to the evaluation of the opportunities and limits of the Swiss bilateral way. To this end, the project will raise two sets of questions. The first set regards the agenda-setting of the bilateral negotiations and the second set regards the content of a possible framework agreement that could bring together the existing treaties under a single institutional umbrella. The project will also evaluate the Swiss way of bilateral policies against other experiences (Japan and Korea with the EU). The study of the content of a possible framework agreement is legal in nature and will rely on a systematic analysis of the treaties that have been concluded between Switzerland and the EU so far, focusing on mixed committees, mechanisms of decision-making and dispute settlements.

Beyond Economics: Estimating the Political Gains from Trade Agreements

Lead: Prof. Marcelo Olarreaga and Prof. Mathias Thoenig, Department of Economics, University of Geneva.

Partners: Faculty of Business and Economics, University of Lausanne; United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

The current round of multilateral trade negotiations in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) seems to have stalled. Observers and researchers have noted that part of the reason is that the economic gains to be made from the current round of negotiations are relatively low after the previous eight rounds of GATT and WTO negotiations. However, these claims are made based on economic gains from trade liberalization through their impact on import and export flows. However, political gains from trade agreements, associated with problems of credibility, signalling, and insurance can have a very significant economic value that has been neglected by current studies and analysis. The objective of this project is to provide an estimate of the economic importance of those political gains from trade agreements.

Annex 6 : Programme of the ceremony of closure of the GIAN and inauguration of the SNIS



**Closure of the
Geneva International Academic Network (GIAN)
&
Inauguration of the
Swiss Network for International Studies (SNIS)**

**Tuesday 16 September 2008
Ceremony 6.30 pm
Reception 7.20 – 9.00 pm**

**Centre International de Conférences de Genève (CICG),
Conference Room (ground floor),
rue de Varembe 17, Geneva**

Program

Ceremony chaired by Prof. Dr. Michel Carton, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, Member of the Governing Committee of the SNIS:

- Inaugural comments by Mr Roberto Balzaretto, Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations Office and Special Representative of Switzerland to the Human Rights Council, and by Mr Charles Beer, State Counsellor of the Republic and Canton of Geneva and President of the Department of Public Instruction
- Addresses by Ms Angeline Fankhauser, President of the GIAN, and by Prof. Edouard Dommen, President of the Scientific Committee of the GIAN, on the GIAN experience and presentation of the GIAN book
- Addresses by Prof. Dr. Robert Roth, University of Geneva, Member of the Governing Committee of the SNIS, and by PD Dr. Tobias Haller, Director of the SNIS, on the role of the SNIS as a network for international studies in Switzerland and on the results of its first call for research proposals.

The ceremony will be followed by a reception in the main hall of the CICG.

FAO

Feuille d'Avis Officielle

de la République et canton de Genève

Paraît trois fois par semaine : lundi, mercredi et vendredi

J.A. 1200 GENÈVE 2

N° 110 - 256^e ANNÉE - CHF 2.-

MERCREDI 24 SEPTEMBRE 2008

Un nouveau réseau universitaire voit le jour

Nous célébrons aujourd'hui une date historique, un nouveau départ réjouissant: celui du Réseau suisse pour les études internationales (RéSEI) à Genève. Le passage de témoin entre le Réseau universitaire international de Genève (RUIIG) datant de 1999 et ce nouveau Réseau est accompli dans un contexte inédit: un contexte marqué par la création de l'IHEID, la définition d'objectifs ambitieux, l'avènement d'un réseau étendu et d'une équipe nouvelle. Il nous faut rappeler que ce présent s'inscrit avec logique et cohérence dans un riche et récent passé. Je veux parler du Réseau créé en 1999 à l'initiative de l'Université de Genève, de l'Institut universitaire de hautes études internationales et de l'Institut universitaire d'études du développement; une démarche soutenue par les autorités genevoises et la Confédération. L'enjeu était la mise en réseau des institutions universitaires de Genève, de Suisse et de l'étranger ainsi que des organisations internationales gouvernementales ou non gouvernementales grâce à des programmes d'activités conjoints en relations internationales. Encourager les experts académiques et les acteurs institutionnels à «faire matière grise commune» tel était l'objectif. Au terme de ces 8 années, l'expérience a été concluante:

- De nombreux projets ont été effectivement soutenus.
- Des liens ont été créés entre le monde académique genevois, aussi bien l'Université de Genève que l'Institut universitaire de hautes études internationales ou l'Institut universitaire d'études du développement, et la Genève internationale; une Genève internationale représentée par les organisations internationales des Nations Unies, le CICR ou encore des ONG.
- Le RUIIG a été un tremplin pour le développement de synergies entre les chercheurs et les acteurs institutionnels. La constitution d'équipes pluridisciplinaires, alliant des compétences et des approches différentes mais néanmoins complémentaires, a permis de belles avancées.

Le RUIIG a favorisé une démarche scientifique et académique. Il a aussi assuré une approche fondée sur l'expérience du terrain ou de la scène internationale et, parfois, des deux conjointement.

- Le RUIIG a permis de mettre en évidence Genève et ses institutions d'enseignement supérieur comme lieu de réflexion, de recherche, de formation autour de thèmes tels que le développement durable, les relations sociales équitables, la mondialisation et le commerce international, le dialogue et les rapports interculturels ainsi que le droit humanitaire. C'est l'identité même de Genève qui s'en est trouvée confortée.
- Les recherches soutenues par le RUIIG ont eu l'ambition de produire du savoir et d'en faire directement profiter les acteurs de terrain, dans un esprit de dialogue et d'échange. Ils ont même permis d'associer les populations ou personnes directement concernées par les problématiques, ce qui est absolument remarquable.

C'est fort de cette histoire fructueuse que l'avenir se dessine aujourd'hui dans d'excellentes conditions. Le nouveau Réseau suisse pour les études internationales s'étend désormais aux collaborations avec les autres universités suisses.

Il faut le dire sans ambiguïté: la position acquise par Genève grâce aux activités du RUIIG et à la création de l'IHEID renforce sa place comme pôle d'excellence, d'attraction et de collaboration pour les chercheurs des institutions d'enseignement supérieur suisses tra-

vailleant dans le champ des études internationales. C'est un formidable capital d'expertise, un creuset effervescent qui est aujourd'hui en activité dans ce canton.

Au nom du gouvernement genevois, je salue les initiateurs de ce nouveau Réseau: l'Université de Genève et l'IHEID, en collaboration avec le Center for Comparative and International Studies de l'Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Zurich et l'Université de Zurich, le World Trade Institute à Berne, l'Institut Tropical Suisse à Bâle et l'Université de Saint-Gall.

Je salue les membres du conseil exécutif du Réseau suisse pour les études internationales: Messieurs Thomas Bernauer, directeur du Center for Comparative and International Studies, Philippe Burin, directeur de l'IHEID, Michel Carton, vice-directeur de l'IHEID, Thomas Cottier, directeur du World Trade Institute, Yves Flückiger, vice-recteur de l'Université de Genève, et Robert Roth, professeur de droit à l'Université de Genève.

Le dispositif ne serait pas complet sans mentionner l'appui important du «Conseil académique de la Genève internationale», qui soutient le RéSEI en faisant le lien entre la Genève internationale et les chercheurs, en tenant compte des besoins et des intérêts spécifiques des uns et des autres.

Enfin, je tiens à rendre hommage à une figure de grande qualité, estimée de tous: Jean-Marie Dufour, président du Conseil de fondation du RUIIG, disparu en juillet 2007.

En 2007, nous avons mis en route un formidable équipage pour défricher des terres nouvelles. Nous misons sur des



(De gauche à droite) Le professeur Edouard Dommen, président du Comité scientifique du RUIIG, Madame Angéline Fankhauser, présidente du RUIIG, le professeur Jean-Dominique Vassalli, recteur de l'Université de Genève, et Monsieur Charles Beer, conseiller d'Etat en charge du département de l'instruction publique.

alchimies de compétences permettant de dépasser les idées reçues. Il importe de repousser les limites du connu. Il nous faut aller au-delà des frontières habituelles pour apporter une contribution décisive aux errances du monde actuel, dont certaines sont porteuses de grands périls pour l'humanité.

Il s'agit d'affronter les défis mouvants et complexes de notre temps avec un bagage d'atouts multiples, pointus, innovants et efficaces. Nul doute que ces synergies puissantes seront capables d'intensifier le développement d'un réseau de coopération entre les institutions d'enseignement supérieur en Suisse et les organisations internationales ainsi que les ONG; un réseau au service d'une approche résolument interdisciplinaire centrée sur des thématiques cruciales pour notre avenir: l'environnement, le développement, la

santé, les droits humains, l'éducation, la migration et les réfugiés, les questions genre, la globalisation et les droits culturels.

Je suis également acquis à votre démarche qui veut rapporter la pratique au savoir vivant. Les appels d'offres annuels sous forme de concours permettront de viser l'excellence, avec des projets académiques dotés d'une utilité tangible. J'apprécie la modernité de cette approche: elle est l'opportunité et la condition pour pouvoir transformer le cours des choses en profondeur. Elle est le pari hautement estimable de vouloir ancrer les connaissances dans la réalité très concrète des peuples. Je souhaite plein succès aux explorateurs et exploratrices de cette époque qui débute aujourd'hui. Puissent ces pionniers et ces pionnières gagner leur pari pour faire avancer l'humanité.

Charles Beer
Conseiller d'Etat en charge du département de l'instruction publique

Allocation prononcée le 16 septembre 2008 au Centre international de conférences de Genève lors de la cérémonie de clôture du Réseau universitaire international de Genève et d'inauguration officielle du Réseau suisse pour les études internationales.

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(De gauche à droite) Le professeur Michel Carton, vice-directeur de l'Institut de hautes études internationales et du développement et membre du comité de direction du RéSEI, l'ambassadeur Roberto Bazzaretti, Représentant permanent adjoint de la Suisse auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies et Représentant spécial de la Suisse au Conseil des droits de l'homme, Monsieur Robert Roth, professeur de droit pénal à l'Université de Genève et membre du comité de direction du RéSEI, Dr. Tobias Haller, directeur du RéSEI, et le professeur Thomas Cottier, directeur du World Trade Institute et membre du comité de direction du RéSEI. Photos Réseau suisse pour les études internationales



Aujourd'hui, commune genevoise à l'honneur: PUPLINGE, en page 12

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POST TENEBRAS LUX

TRIBUNE DE GENÈVE

Un nouveau réseau universitaire se met en place

■ Le RéSEI a pour but de soutenir des projets scientifiques en lien avec les études internationales.

ALEXANDRE GAILLARD

Le Réseau suisse pour les études internationales (RéSEI) a, depuis le 1er janvier, pris la succession du Réseau universitaire international de Genève (RUIG), créé en 1999. La nouvelle structure a été fondée par l'Université de Genève et l'Institut de hautes études internationales et du développement (IHEID).

Alors que le RUIG avait pour but de faire le lien entre les organisations internationales basées à Genève et le monde académique, le RéSEI vise à organiser et à soutenir des projets scientifiques traitant des thématiques variées relatives aux études internationales.

Dans le cadre de son premier appel d'offres via Internet, le RéSEI a reçu 63 projets venant de toute la Suisse.

Seuls huit ont été retenus lors d'un processus de sélection très rigoureux. Ces travaux, qui seront financés par ce nouveau réseau universitaire, couvrent différentes disciplines comme les migrations, les questions internationales liées à la santé et aux droits de l'homme, les négociations, l'économie et le commerce.

«Contrairement au RUIG, avec le RéSEI on passe à un niveau national, car il y a un partenariat avec des institutions basées à Berne, Zurich, Bâle et Saint-Gall», commente Michel Carton, vice-directeur de l'IHEID et membre du comité de direction. «Cela va renforcer en Suisse les champs d'étude sur le plan international.»

Netz für internationale Studien

In Genf ist die seit Anfang Jahr tätige Schweizerische Forschungsgemeinschaft für Internationale Studien vorgestellt worden. Sie löst ein auf Genf beschränktes akademisches Netz ab und verbindet Institute in Genf, Bern, Basel, Zürich und St. Gallen.

Die vom Bund und vom Kanton Genf finanzierte Gemeinschaft fördert die Kooperation zwischen Hochschulen sowie zwischen Wissenschaftlern und internationalen oder privaten Organisationen, unterstützt Forschungsprojekte und veranstaltet Tagungen. (pd)



Lancement du Réseau universitaire suisse

A Genève a lieu la cérémonie d'inauguration du Réseau suisse en Etudes internationales. C'est un réseau qui vient compléter l'Institut des Hautes études internationales et du développement. Son objectif est d'assurer la place de Genève parmi les meilleures de la discipline. Interview de Robert Roth, ancien doyen et professeur de la Faculté de droit de l'Université de Genève et membre de la direction du nouveau réseau.

HORIZONS

Le Réseau d'études internationales s'élargit à l'ensemble de la Suisse

| ÉTUDES INTERNATIONALES | En janvier, le Réseau suisse pour les études internationales prenait le relais du Réseau universitaire international de Genève

Elargir le champ des études internationales à toute la Suisse. Telle est l'ambition du nouveau Réseau suisse pour les études internationales (RéSEI), qui a pris le relais du Réseau universitaire international de Genève (RUIG) en janvier dernier. En mars, le RéSEI s'est doté d'un nouveau directeur en la personne du Dr Tobias Haller, 43 ans, titulaire d'un doctorat et d'une habilitation (post-doc) en ethnologie de l'Université de Zurich. Il apporte avec lui son expérience de chercheur universitaire et ses affinités pour le travail de terrain. Le RéSEI lancera, début décembre, sur son site Web, son appel d'offres pour l'année 2009. Tour d'horizon.

Le Journal: Quelles raisons ont motivé le passage du RUIG au RéSEI?

Tobias Haller: Comme j'ai été nommé directeur après la transition, je peux difficilement me prononcer sur ce qui a été décidé auparavant. Je me contenterai de citer les raisons officielles, à savoir la volonté d'élargir les activités du RUIG à l'ensemble de la Suisse et d'encourager les collaborations entre hautes écoles dans le domaine des études internationales. C'était la volonté de la Confédération, l'un des principaux bailleurs de fonds avec le Département de l'Instruction publique.

L'approche a-t-elle changé?

Les objectifs fondamentaux restent les mêmes: favoriser les études internationales et encourager la coopération avec les organisations internationales présentes à Genève. Le RéSEI a cependant pris l'option de donner un profil plus clairement universitaire et scien-



Tobias Haller

tifique aux recherches qu'il soutient. Ce n'est pas ce caractère scientifique qui fait défaut auparavant, mais comme la participation des organisations internationales était indispensable, cela orientait les recherches vers des résultats pratiques. Ce n'est plus le cas maintenant. Le fait de collaborer avec une organisation internationale est un point positif lors de l'examen des dossiers, mais plus indispensable. L'initiative des projets revient d'abord aux chercheurs.

Mais les liens avec les organisations internationales sont maintenus?

Bien sûr. La structure a été pensée pour inclure un Conseil académique qui réunit des scientifiques des organisations intéressées par les études internationales et présentes à Genève. Nous tenons compte de leurs centres d'intérêt, en essayant de les intégrer aux travaux de recherche. Le tout est chapeauté par un Conseil de direction avec quatre membres universitaires issus de Genève et deux de Suisse alémanique. Nous avons aussi établi des partenariats avec le World Trade Institute à Berne, le Center for Comparative and International Studies à Zurich, le Swiss Institute for International Economics and Applied Economic Research à Saint-Gall et l'Institut tropical suisse à Bâle.

But du nouvel organisme: élargir le champ des études internationales à toute la Suisse. Entretien avec le nouveau directeur, Tobias Haller

Avez-vous apporté des changements dans le processus de sélection des projets de recherche?

Il est toujours basé sur un appel d'offres. Toutes les disciplines sont représentées. Nous avons reçu 63 projets en 2008, dont 8 ont été retenus. Comme vous voyez, la sélection est toujours très compétitive. En revanche nous avons introduit la possibilité pour le Conseil académique de retenir un thème rassembleur pour chaque appel d'offres. Pour 2009, ce sont les changements climatiques, avec des sous-thèmes qui répondent aux besoins spécifiques des organisations internationales. Cela permet de renforcer l'interdisciplinarité et d'établir des comparaisons entre les projets, de leur donner du poids en les réunissant. Mais ce cadre n'est pas contrai-

gnant. Les chercheurs ont toujours la possibilité de postuler sous la bannière des études internationales en général et il n'y aura pas de quotas.

Y a-t-il des projets qui vous tiennent à cœur pour le futur du RéSEI?

Nous voulons développer notre site Web pour en faire un véritable outil de travail à l'attention des chercheurs et aussi du public. Nous prévoyons aussi des conférences sur des thèmes en lien avec les études internationales. Le but est vraiment de devenir un réseau pour les études internationales et un «hub» important de la recherche en Suisse et en Europe dans ce domaine. ■

| Pour en savoir plus |
www.snis.ch

RUIG: un bilan fructueux

Un titre très littéraire pour un ouvrage bilan: *Les Liasons fructueuses* retracent sept ans d'activités du RUIG, de sa création par l'IUHEI, l'IUEID et l'UNIGE, en 2000, au passage de témoin avec le RéSEI en 2008 (*lire ci-contre*). Interviews et contributions des responsables et de personnalités ayant gravité autour du Réseau mettent en évidence les réussites du RUIG et les obstacles qu'il dut contourner pour aboutir à un bilan globalement positif. Quelques chiffres résument l'implication de l'Université de Genève:

- Participation à 64 projets sur 82
- 10,5 millions de francs de financement obtenus
- 32 projets en collaboration avec l'IUHEI et l'IUEID, actuellement IUHEID
- 7 projets en collaboration avec l'Université de Lausanne
- Participation de 42 organisations internationales aux projets UNIGE
- 200 articles publiés et contributions à 86 ouvrages par des chercheurs de l'UNIGE

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LE RÉSEAU SUISSE EN ÉTUDES INTERNATIONALES À GENÈVE



PIVOT DE LA RECHERCHE
SUR LES QUESTIONS INTERNATIONALES

Robert Roth,
professeur à la Faculté de droit, membre du comité de direction
du Réseau suisse en études internationales à Genève

La fin de l'année 2007 a été marquée par de profonds changements dans le paysage académique suisse et genevois. Les lecteurs de cette revue n'ignorent rien du principal événement de cette période: la création de l'Institut HEID, en remplacement de HEI et de l'IUED. Un autre changement s'est opéré plus discrètement, dans l'ombre peut-être de la création du nouvel Institut: le Réseau universitaire international de Genève (RUIG), créé en 1999, a été dissous et a cédé la place au Réseau suisse en études internationales à Genève (Swiss Network for International Studies in Geneva). Ce nouvel organisme a été créé sous la forme d'un contrat conclu entre l'Université de Genève, HEI et l'IUED, au mois de septembre 2007. Selon la volonté des autorités de tutelle – Confédération suisse et canton de Genève – il «reprend la mission du RUIG», tout en reposant sur une structure différente et en obéissant à des règles de fonctionnement différentes.

Alors que le RUIG était une fondation, le Réseau suisse en études internationales est une «société simple», forme juridique qui, selon un brocard bien connu, n'est «ni une société ni simple». Le plus important est ici qu'il n'est pas une société et qu'il n'en a donc pas la personnalité juridique.

Pourquoi avoir choisi la souplesse? Parce qu'elle favorise l'évolution. Dans l'esprit des fondateurs, le Réseau, qui démarre sur une base principalement genevoise, est appelé à s'insérer dans le paysage universitaire suisse et, pour ce faire, doit s'élargir aux autres institutions académiques du pays. Les années 2008-2011, durant lesquelles les autorités de tutelle ont garanti au Réseau un financement équivalent à celui dont avait bénéficié le RUIG, sont des années de transition, et l'objectif est de revoir la forme juridique, ainsi que la composition des organes d'ici à 2011, de manière à pouvoir soumettre à la Confédération une demande de financement structurel plus important, à la hauteur de l'importance croissante des études internationales pour le pays.

Les fondateurs du Réseau n'ont pas voulu brader l'acquis des sept années de fonctionnement du RUIG. Cet acquis, qui sera mis en valeur à l'occasion d'une cérémonie qui aura lieu le 16 septembre, consiste essentiellement en une «fertilisation croisée» entre organisations internationales et institutions académiques. Le Réseau financera essentiellement des recherches; à titre complémentaire, il soutient d'ores et déjà des programmes de maîtrise d'études avancées conjointement gérés par l'Université de Genève et l'Institut.

Les projets de recherche seront soumis au jugement d'un collège d'experts nationaux et internationaux. Un «Conseil académique de la Genève internationale» sera le lieu de rencontre et de concertation entre le comité de direction du Réseau (formé de deux représentants de l'Institut, deux délégués de l'UNIGE et deux responsables de programmes d'études internationales à Berne et à Zurich) et une dizaine de personnalités représentatives de la Genève internationale. Les membres du collège d'experts et du Conseil de la Genève internationale sont en cours de nomination. D'ores et déjà, le Réseau s'est choisi un directeur en la personne de M. Tobias Haller, docteur en anthropologie sociale.

C'est seulement à l'issue de la sélection des projets de recherche retenus suite à l'appel d'offres lancé à la fin du mois de décembre 2007 que le profil du Réseau commencera à se dessiner. Le comité de direction a choisi l'ouverture la plus large dans cet appel d'offres, de manière à avoir une vue d'ensemble sur les orientations principales de la recherche en Suisse. Il est possible que les appels suivants soient plus ciblés, voire que l'on procède par invitation. Différence importante avec les règles régissant le RUIG, la collaboration de l'équipe de recherche avec

une organisation internationale, si elle représente sans discussion un plus, n'est pas une exigence formelle. De même, les projets reposant sur une collaboration entre l'Université de Genève et l'Institut, assortie de partenariats avec d'autres institutions académiques suisses, auront une certaine priorité.

Le Réseau aura rempli sa mission si, à l'issue de la période de quatre ans évoquée ci-dessus, il aura d'une part contribué à rapprocher encore les chercheurs et enseignants de l'Université de Genève et du nouvel Institut et qu'il se sera d'autre part imposé sur le plan suisse comme le pivot et l'animateur de la recherche sur les sujets essentiels de la vie internationale.

➔ <http://www.swissinternationalstudies.ch>



Tobias Haller,
le nouveau directeur
du Réseau suisse.

THE SWISS NETWORK FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL STUDIES IN SWITZERLAND AND ENABLING NEW SYNERGIES

Tobias Haller, Director & Laurence Mortier, Scientific Collaborator

Emerging from the Geneva International Academic Network (GIAN), the newly formed Swiss Network for International Studies (SNIS) supports scientists in Switzerland who focus on issues that transcend traditional nation-state boundaries. The SNIS enables research partnerships between organisations of higher education in Switzerland and abroad, as well as links with international organisations, in order to address highly relevant scientific questions and produce outstanding results.

Given that the GIAN already had been an important source of support for many scholars and international organisations headquartered in Geneva, the SNIS certainly faces a challenge. Therefore, it is obvious that the SNIS needs time during this transitional phase to define its own strengths. The next four years will show how the SNIS is able to create what its name promises: a high level research network of scientific excellence addressing a range of issues of utmost importance to international and development studies.

One of the functions of the SNIS is to deliver research grants to support researchers from all over Switzerland. Significant efforts were made to raise awareness around this new research funding possibility in all relevant Swiss academic organisations and University departments, leading to excellent results: by the April 15 deadline, 63 projects were received with 60 accepted for evaluation.

Regarding institutional partners, the SNIS differs from the GIAN in that the involvement of international organisations is no longer imperative, but an asset, and collaboration with Swiss academic partners is strongly encouraged. This has been taken seriously, since 50% of the submitted projects in the framework of the Call for Proposals 2008 still involved at least one international organisation and 50% at least another Swiss academic partner. In total, more than



90% of all projects involved at least another partner. Project themes related to development studies and political science took the lead (around 30% of all proposals, each) ahead of issues related to international law, economics, environmental problems and international/preventive medicine (around 10% each).

Two academic organisations in Geneva were still strongly involved: the University of Geneva and the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies with 27 proposals or 45% of the total. However, 55% of the proposals came from outside of Geneva: 12 projects were submitted from other French-speaking regions in Switzerland; Universities in the Swiss-German area submitted 19 proposals, and 2 projects were received from the Swiss-Italian region.

In order to evaluate the proposals a Scientific Committee had to be organised bringing together Swiss and international experts with an interdisciplinary focus, representing various disciplines linked to international studies (law, political science, economics, social and cultural anthropology, sociology, history, international and social medicine, among others). All the submitted projects were of exceptional quality, making their evaluation a difficult task for the Scientific Committee. Because of budget constraints, the selection process was highly competitive and only



SNIS inauguration, 16 September 2008 in Geneva. Prof. Edouard Dommen, formerly economist with UNCTAD, President of the GIAN Scientific Committee; Angeline Fankhauser, former National Councillor, GIAN President; Prof. Jean-Dominique Vassalli, Rector of the University of Geneva (UNIGE) and State Councillor; Charles Beer, Public Instruction Department; Prof. Michel Carton, Graduate Institute Vice-Director and member of the SNIS Administration Committee. Swiss Network for International Studies.

8 projects could be funded out of the 60 submitted. Half of the selected projects have their leading house in Geneva, the others in four different regions: Neuchâtel, Basel, Zurich and Lucerne.

Thematically, the selected projects cover much-interrelated topics, including migrations, international issues related to health and human rights, negotiations, economics and trade. These issues are all relevant for international organisations headquartered in Geneva. Therefore, such an organisation like the SNIS is all the more pertinent in Switzerland, and particularly in International Geneva, as it is one of the places worldwide where decisions of international relevance are made. In order to build on this asset, the SNIS also formed the Academic Council of International Geneva, gathering together members from international organisations who will propose optional thematic guidelines related to their priority areas for the coming Calls for Proposals.

On September 16, 2008, the GIAN was closed in an official ceremony that celebrated its achievements, summarised in a publication. During this ceremony, the SNIS was officially launched, to become an important platform for exchanges

between academics in Switzerland, linking them to international organisations as well as other Swiss and international partners.

Indeed, there are many opportunities for creating more synergies to strengthen international studies in Switzerland. The SNIS will also organise and support workshops and conferences, bringing together scientists in Switzerland and abroad on key scientific issues. The SNIS aims to be more than a funding agency, but to highlight the importance of international studies as well as related social, human and legal sciences in the Swiss academic landscape. Achieving this goal will demonstrate to the Swiss and Geneva authorities, the SNIS main funding bodies, the strong interest in and usefulness of these studies, as well as the importance of an interdisciplinary approach.

www.snis.ch

2009 ACTIVITIES OF THE SWISS NETWORK FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Tobias Haller, Director

The Swiss Network for International Studies (SNIS) will undertake two major activities this year. The first will be to select for funding the research projects submitted as part of its second Call for Proposals, which has been completely restructured. The second major activity will be to organise the first annual SNIS Conference in October 2009.

There are several important new features of the 2009 Call for Proposals. To start with, the submission and selection procedures have been split into two phases. Researchers are invited to submit electronically short pre-proposals of 600 to 1000 words (see www.snis.ch → mySNIS). These are evaluated by the Scientific Committee. Authors of those presentations that are chosen are then invited to develop full proposals. About half of the full proposals are selected for funding, based on the evaluation of the Scientific Committee. Detailed feedback from the Scientific Committee is provided during the second stage of the process, to ensure that it is both efficient and transparent. This two-step process is being implemented in order to reduce the burden on those research teams whose proposals fail to obtain SNIS funding. Given the limited availability of SNIS funds, only the best-reviewed projects can be selected; as a result, it is necessary to refuse funding to many, albeit excellent, projects. The second innovation in the Call for Proposals means that researchers are now able to submit not only projects dealing with the wide field of International Studies, but also projects on a specific thematic issue defined by the Academic Council of International Geneva – a body composed of experts drawn from Geneva-based International Organisations. In 2009, the Academic Council has proposed as its thematic topic social and humanities-based perspectives on climate change, with sub-themes ranging from local adaptation to climate change to governance and policy issues.



The second major activity planned will be the organisation of the inaugural annual SNIS Conference. The theme for this conference is European integration, migration and Swiss foreign policy. The Conference will take place on 15 and 16 October 2009 in Bern. It will provide a platform for scholars working in the domain of International Studies in Switzerland to come together and exchange ideas on multi- and interdisciplinary research on specific topics. It will also provide an opportunity to define research gaps and strategies in International Studies for the coming years.

Further activities are planned with the Academic Council, which will not limit itself to defining and selecting the special annual topic of the Call for Proposals. In addition, it will launch a monthly event entitled "The Academic Council Debates" to discuss issues of major importance for International Organisations. This year's Academic Council debates will take place from February to June 2009, on each last Thursday of the month. At each event a representative from an International Organisation will present his/her views on the topic "Perspectives Within International Organisations on the Financial and Economic Crisis".

www.snis.ch



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