Welcome to this newsletter for the wider International Affairs community at HSG and beyond: students, faculty, alumni, partners and friends.

Once per semester, we would like to inform you about what is or has been going on, and keep you up to date about events coming up.

**Editorial: BIA & MIA Reform**

Addressing the recommendations by external peer review, the reforms of both BIA and MIA aim at further strengthening these successful programs. Numerous discussions with faculty, students but also employers allowed to identify three main objectives, all of which seek to foster students’ abilities to apply high-rigor knowledge in relevant, real-world settings.

First, we aim at fostering thinking across disciplines through practicing how to integrate the disciplinary contributions to a problem or issue. We **reinforce the business and law components while keeping a balance with economics and political science**.

Second, we aim at preparing students to critically use data in meaningful ways that produce new knowledge and improve organisations. To train them in the skills needed to thrive in an increasingly data-driven world, we strengthen our **course offerings around techniques of data collection, handling and analysis**, as well as research ethics. Third, we aim at equipping our students with the critical skills and competencies valued in the professional life by strengthening the so-called professional-school approach. We do so by **utilizing case-based teaching methods and consultancy project courses**, co-taught with professionals that make students work on real-world problems, thereby translating scientific evidence into practice.
We are looking forward to the implementation in autumn 2020! Have a look at the new BIA curriculum and new MIA curriculum.

Tina Freyburg, Klaus Dingwerth, Daniela Engelmann & Sebastian Plappert

Save the Date

Die Schweiz und Europa nach den Wahlen - wie weiter?

Thursday, 14 November 2019, 6.15 pm, 01-011

We are looking forward to an exciting public panel discussion. Janos Ammann, Operation Libero, Tobias Gafafer, NZZ, Prof. Matthias Oesch, University of Zürich and Prof. Stefanie Walter, University of Zürich, will share their insights on the Swiss federal elections and their implications on the relationship with the EU, in particular negotiating an institutional framework. Prof. Tina Freyburg will moderate and the panel discussion is open for the public and free. Please note, that the panel discussion will be in German.

Recent Highlights

MIAs meet the Market ... in Bern!

For the first time "MIAs meet the Market" was taking a trip to Bern meeting IA graduates as well as HR officers at the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (EDA) and State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO). Twenty MIAs not only gained deep insights into their tasks and career entry but could also discuss current international issues and developments with them.  Read the report by David Schork (in German).
StaWi & MIA Alumni Convent 2019

At the 5th edition of our bi-annual alumni event we were honoured to have Dr. André Schaller, StaWi alumnus and Switzerland's ambassador to Saudia Arabia, with us and present the keynote speech. We were also happy to commemorate the 10-year anniversary of our Double Degree programme with the Yonsei Graduate School of International Studies in Seoul, Korea. Moreover, this was a great opportunity for the new programme directors, Prof. Tina Freyburg and Prof. Klaus Dingwerth, to present the BIA and MIA curriculum reforms and a wonderful evening for all to catch up with fellow alumni while enjoying delicious food and drinks!

The next convent is planned for autumn 2021!

MIA Fundamentals Week 2019

As of the autumn semester 2019 we are happy to welcome 57 new MIA students. Their MIA journey started as usual with the MIA Fundamentals Week. Read more about Isabel Heer’s and Alina Eichrodt’s experience.

Open Grid - Open Mind
The groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the new HSG Learning Center took place on 6 November 2019. The building designed by the renowned architecture firm Sou Fujimoto is to radiate as a new, innovative place of learning and foster a culture of interaction and joint co-creative work. The HSG Learning Center is expected to open in the spring semester of 2022. Find out more about the new HSG Learning Center here.

Meet International Affairs Students

California Dreamin': An incredible year with the Swiss-California Foundation

MIA student Laurin Brüninger was spending an exciting year as a fellow at the Swiss-California Foundation in San Francisco and worked on a variety of projects covering both the Swiss and the American public and private sectors. More about the fellowship.

DIA Graduate: Dominik Schraff, SNF Ambizione fellow at ETH Zürich

In August 2019, I have received an Ambizione Grant from the Swiss National Fund for my
project “Regional inequality and the political geography of EU support”. The generous grant will allow me to research this topic over the next four years.

After graduating with a Doctorate in International Affairs and Political Economy (DIA) in 2017 and working as a post-doc for three years, I am excited to lead now my own research project at ETH Zürich. It is a challenging new experience to lead your own multi-annual project, with own staff and financial resources. Yet, it is also another step into a world where you can dedicate yourself completely to your own research ideas. And in contrast to your Ph.D., you have much more resources to cover new ground. In my academic career, I have benefitted a lot from my time in St.Gallen, not at least because of the great faculty and the collegial environment. I especially benefitted from the Global School in Empirical Research Methods (GSERM) hosted at HSG each year, which provided great additional support to develop my research skills. I recommend every DIA student to regularly attend courses here.

Find out more about Dominik and his current research [here](#).

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**News from the Faculty**

**New Guest Professor: Tilmann Altwicker**

Can we "measure" international human rights? Why are some states better human rights compliers? Can decisions by international human rights courts be predicted? These are some of the questions that are addressed by our guest professor Tilmann Altwicker in the seminar "Empirical Analysis of International Human Rights Law". Holding a Diploma in Advanced Studies in Applied Statistics from ETH Zürich in addition to his qualifications in law, the SNSF-professor at the Law Faculty in Zürich is ideally equipped to provide an introduction to the innovative, emerging field of empirical legal studies. Committed to teaching the collection and analysis of legal data, he recently published an essay on "From legal norms to legal data (and back) - Why today’s law students need basic statistical knowledge". Tilmann Altwicker told us that he is *very excited about the students at HSG - high level, high motivation! The seminar gives...*
me much pleasure!"

Tilmann Altwicker presents his ongoing research on "International Legal Scholarship and the Challenge of Digitalization" on Tuesday, 10 December 2019, 10.00 am, room 52-5120.

Applications for 2020 are now open!

You can apply now for the MIA programme, the Double Degree programme with Sciences Po and the Double Degree programme with The Fletcher School.

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