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.

These are challenging times. We hope you still enjoy this read. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all HSG lecturers, students and staff: It is impressive to see how all managed to adjust to this demanding situation provoked by the global spread of the Corona virus. Thank you for the good spirit, for your flexibility and cooperation! This is truly and wholeheartedly appreciated.

Tina Freyburg, Klaus Dingwerth, Daniela Engelmann

Recent Highlights

Rethinking the State: Evolutionary Principles for Managing Complexity and Collaboration

Prof. Paul Collier, one of the most influential economists and author of the highly acclaimed "The Future of Capitalism", came to St.Gallen to give a keynote at our conference on “The State of the State”: An event in honour of Prof. Christoph Frei’s 60th birthday and his contributions to the University of St.Gallen, and notably International Affairs @ HSG.

The organizers would like to thank all panelists and speakers, and especially the many International Affairs alumni, colleagues and students. With their participation they expressed their deep appreciation of Christoph Frei’s work as teacher, academic, and former programme director. Read more by Vanessa Jansche (in German).
Panel Discussion: Switzerland-European Union Relations

Prof. Tina Freyburg invited the current MIA student and board member of the political movement Operation Libero Janos Ammann, NZZ journalist Tobias Gafaer as well as Prof. Stefanie Walter and Prof. Matthias Oesch, both University of Zürich, to discuss the current state of the relations between Switzerland and the European Union. The public panel discussion focused on the question how does the outcome of the 2019 Swiss federal elections affect the relationship and in what direction is it heading to? Read more in the report by Lukas Zumbrunn (in German).

The Best of Two Worlds
Great demand for our Dual Degree Programmes with The Fletcher School and Sciences Po! We are happy to report record numbers of applications for this year's dual degree intake!
Meet International Affairs Students

Peace Negotiations at the EU Headquarters

Can we reach a peace agreement in Brussels, or is the country of Discordia doomed to continue suffering from violent internal conflict? MIA student Simon Meuli joined the course "Negotiating succesfully in international politics and development cooperation". Using a fictional case study, the course aimed to improve our students' active and passive negotiation skills and gave them the opportunity to gain valuable practical experience in an international setting. Read more.

Humanitarian Cash Transfers and Gender Specific Needs: Experiences as a Mercator Fellow

How are gender specific needs and impacts considered in humanitarian cash transfer programming? This is a question that engaged MIA Alumna Corinne Duriaux with increasing intensity throughout her Mercator Fellowship year. The Mercator Fellowship on International Affairs is a Swiss-German joint programme that promotes 25 young professionals from all fields who aspire to positions of responsibility in international affairs and consists of work placements and seminars. Read more.
Managing the Swiss-Paraguayan Chamber of Commerce in Asunción

Approximately one year and three weeks ago, BIA student Felix Hotz arrived in Asunción, the capital city of Paraguay. This is what he reports about his job as the Managing Director of the Swiss-Paraguayan Chamber of Commerce: "Upon arrival, a lot of uncertainty was awaiting me. Firstly, because this was my first "real" job experience of my life, and secondly, because I knew little about the state of the Chamber of Commerce as well as about Paraguay itself, apart from the information you can find online." Read more.

News from the Faculty

Student Initiative: MIA Guest Professor

For the first time MIA students were invited to submit their suggestions on a MIA Guest Professorship. We are looking forward to welcoming Mohamed Mahmoud Mohamedou, Professor of International History at the Graduate Institute in Geneva, in the Autumn Semester 2020. His research focuses on political violence and transnational terrorism, the transformation of warfare, political liberalisation and transitions to democracy, and contemporary Middle Eastern and North African socio-political developments and conflicts.

Prof. Mohamedou will teach the MIA course “State-Building and War-Making in the Developing World". The course examines critically the dual drivers of statehood and conflict, historically and contemporaneously. Specifically, it will equip our students with a comparative understanding of the complex causes and evolving characteristics of conflict in relation to local, regional, and global governance. Moreover, we are looking forward to a public MIA lecture held by him.

We would like to thank all students for their submissions and voting! You will have the next chance to submit proposals for a MIA Guest Professor in the Autumn Semester 2020. More details will follow in due time.

Managing the HSG Hub and the Latam Term in Brazil

We warmly welcome Vanessa Boanada Fuchs as a new Assistant Professor of International Development and Sustainability! Her research and teaching interests relate to the socio-environmental dimensions of infrastructure.
projects, including stakeholder engagement. She also focuses on decolonial approaches and the social control of on the ground practices of rights and policies. She is the Managing Director of the HSG Hub in São Paolo, which launched the new HSG Latam Term: An unique exchange programme between the University of St.Gallen and the FGV - EAESP in São Paulo. The Latam Term gives Bachelor students the opportunity to spend the sixth semester abroad in Brazil.

The Limits of Human Rights

What are the limits of human rights, and what do these limits mean? Together with Prof. Knut Traisbach, University of Barcelona, Prof. Bardo Fassbender edited the volume "The Limits of Human Rights". The volume engages critically and constructively with this question to provide a distinct contribution to the contemporary discussion on human rights. Prof. Fassbender and Prof. Traisbach, along with a group of leading experts in the field, examine the issue from multiple disciplinary perspectives, analysing the limits of our current discourse of human rights.

Kick-Starting a Fruitful Intercontinental Network between HSG and African Scholars

The new Competence Center for African Research (CCAR) at the University of St.Gallen offers a platform for a fruitful intercontinental discourse and network between Swiss and African researchers. The CCAR launch symposium was focusing on themes related to ethics and technology in Africa and featured keynote speakers, roundtables, and discussants of various disciplines.

At the Institute of Political Science, Tina Freyburg’s research group examines the use of new information and communication technologies in Africa and their impact on democratization with a particular emphasis on the role of internet service providers. During the CCAR launch symposium, Tina Freyburg gave a keynote lecture about internet and democracy in Africa and DIA student Lisa Garbe joined a panel discussion about the responsibility of telecommunications companies in blocking and censoring internet access.