From the League of Nations to the United Nations: New Approaches to International Institutions

International Scholarly Conference
Villa La Fonte,
European University Institute, March 21-23, 2013

Sponsored by: the Max Weber Post-Doctoral Programme (EUI), The Global Governance Programme of the Robert Schuman Center for Advanced Studies (EUI), the Department of History and Civilization (EUI) and the Historical Archives of the European Union (EUI).

Organizers: Antara Haldar (Jean Monnet Fellow/Global Governance Programme), Alanna O’Malley (Department of History and Civilization, EUI), Simon Jackson (Max Weber Fellow, History, EUI), Konrad Lawson (Max Weber Fellow, History, EUI), and Natasha Wheatley (PhD Candidate, History, Columbia University)

N.B.: All panels held at Villa La Fonte, with the exception of the Keynote Address on March 21, which will take place at Villa Salviati
DAY 1: Thursday, March 21

9:00: Introductory Remarks, Ramon Marimon, Director Max Weber Programme


Chair: Pierre Kodjio Nenguié, Fernand Braudel Fellow, EUI

Joachim A. Koops, Free University of Brussels

Towards a Global Peacekeeping Army?: A History of Failures and Near Successes from the League of Nations to the Present

Giorgio Potì, Department of History and Civilization, EUI

‘Legitimate’ Violence under Mandatory Rule: The League of Nations and Counter-Insurgency in South-West Africa and Syria

Simon M. Stevens, Columbia University


Discussant: Marc DeVore, Global Governance Programme, EUI

11:15—11:30: Coffee


Chair: Matthew Hoye, Max Weber Fellow, EUI

Mattias Kumm, Global Governance Programme, EUI

The UN Declaration of Human Rights and the Post-War Paradigm of Human Rights: A critique of Samuel Moyn’s The Last Utopia

Andrew Arsan, University of Cambridge

‘He tampers with the source of life itself who tampers with freedom’: Personhood, the State, and the International Community in the Thought of Charles Malik

Nathan Kurz, Yale University


Discussant: Martin Scheinin, Department of Law, EUI

13:30—14:30: Lunch
14:30—16:30 Panel 3: **Law, Sovereignty and Representation**  
Chair: Tomas Dumbrovsky, *Max Weber Fellow, EUI*  
Lori A. Allen, *University of Cambridge, Department of Middle Eastern Studies*  
Investigative Commissions in Palestine: Political Epistemologies from the King-Crane Commission of 1919 to Goldstone in 2009  
Sarah Shields, *University of North Carolina*  
The League of Nations and the Transformation of Representation: Minorities, Constitutions, and the Middle East  
Ananda V. Burra, *University of Michigan*  
Discussant: Dirk Moses, *Department of History and Civilization, EUI*

16:30—17:15: Transfer to Villa Salviati

17:15-17:30: Presentation by Dieter Schlenker, *Director of the Historical Archives of the European Union*

**17:30—18:45 Keynote Address**  
Susan Pedersen, *Columbia University*  
From Geneva to New York: Mandatory Statehood in the Making  
Introduction: Laura Lee Downs, *Department of History and Civilisation, EUI*

**18:45 Reception**, Villa Salviati
DAY 2, Friday, March 22

9:00—11:00: Panel 4: Development and Economics

Chair: Simon Jackson, Max Weber Fellow, EUI

Yann Decorzant, DSEC-Institut d’histoire économique Paul Bairoch, University of Geneva

Continuity and Novelty: From the Economic and Financial Organisation of the LON to the UN Economic Institutions

Quinn Slobodian, Wellesley College


José Antonio Sánchez Román, Universidad Complutense de Madrid-Spain

Impossible Cooperation: ‘Center’, ‘Periphery’ and the Travails of Economic Multilateralism during the Inter-war Period

Discussant: Antara Haldar, Global Governance Programme, EUI

11:00—11:30: Coffee


Chair: Natasha Wheatley, Columbia University

François Finck, Université de Strasbourg

The Evolution of the Position of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the Issues of Colonial Empires and Self-Determination

Kerstin Stubenvoll, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Institute of Asian and African Studies


Miguel Bandeira Jerónimo, Institute of Social Sciences, University of Lisbon/King's College London, and José Pedro Monteiro, Institute of Social Sciences, University of Lisbon

Internationalism and Empire: The Question of Native Labour in the Portuguese Empire, 1924-1962

Discussant: Arturo Marzano, Marie Curie Fellow, EUI
13:30—14:30: Lunch

14:30—16:30 Panel 6: Conceptualizing the League of Nations and the UN in History: A History of Global Governance

Chair: Miguel Maduro, Director of the Global Governance Programme, EUI

Stephen A. Wertheim, Columbia University
   From League to UN via American Power: Reconceiving Internationalism for US World Leadership, 1940-42

Daniel Gorman, University of Waterloo
   Britain, India, and the UN: Colonial Influences on the Development of International Governance after 1945

Anne-Isabelle Richard, University of Utrecht
   The ‘Avant-garde’ of the League of Nations: The International Federation of League of Nations Societies and Their Part in Governing the World

Discussant: Joris Larik, Department of Law, EUI

16:30—16:45: Coffee

16:45—18:00 Keynote Address

Ryan M. Irwin, University at Albany, SUNY
   Sovereignty, Order, and Africa: The Irony of Self-Determination

Introduction: Federico Romero, Department of History and Civilisation, EUI

19:30 Conference Dinner for participants – Pensione Bencista, Fiesole
DAY 3: Saturday, March 23

8.45-9.00: Coffee

9:00—11:00: Panel 7: Minorities and Refugees
Chair: Maria Stella Rognoni, University of Florence
Brendan Karch, Harvard University
Benjamin Thomas White, University of Birmingham
   The League, the Mandate, and the Refugees: Assyrians in French Mandate Syria
Mira Siegelberg, Harvard University
   Is Statelessness Evil? Statelessness from the League to the United Nations
Discussant: Jonas Brendebach, Department of History and Civilization, EUI

11:00—11:20: Coffee

11:20—13:20: Panel 8: Environment, Aid, and Humanitarianism
Chair: Alanna O’Malley, Department of History and Civilization, EUI
Florian Hannig, Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg
   East Pakistan Crisis 1971 and the ‘UNOization’ of Humanitarian Aid
Emily Baughan, University of Bristol
   The Declaration of the Rights of the Child, the League of Nations and Stateless Children, 1924-1940
Mats Ingulstad, Norwegian University of Science and Technology
   A Raw Deal? An Interdisciplinary Study on the Development of the Principle of Permanent Sovereignty over Natural Resources in the Americas
Discussant: Silvia Salvatici, University of Teramo


13:45: Lunch for Participants: San Domenico Pizzeria