

# The Geneva Centre for Philanthropy (GCP) in 2025



UNIVERSITÉ  
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GENEVA CENTRE  
FOR PHILANTHROPY



## IMPRESSUM

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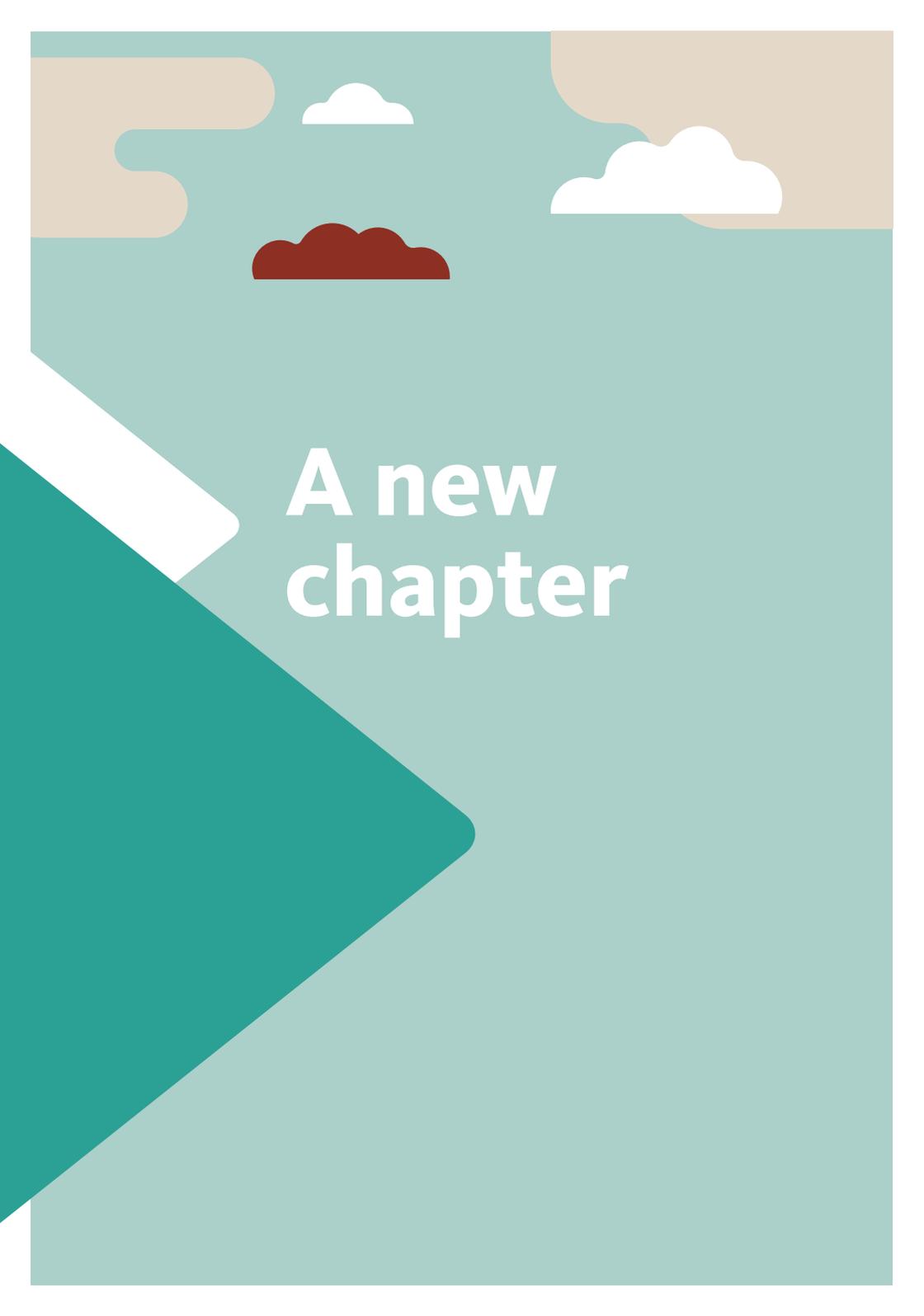
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# A new chapter

Much like the city in which it is based, the Geneva Centre for Philanthropy (GCP) had a particularly full and eventful 2025. A major milestone was the change in leadership following the departure of Prof. Henry Peter, who founded the Centre in 2017 under the auspices of the University of Geneva's Rectorate. This succession had been meticulously planned to ensure seamless operational and strategic continuity. Prof. Peter's contribution was honoured with the publication of *Philanthropy: Multidisciplinary Perspectives* (Routledge, 2025). Edited by Prof. Giulia Neri-Castracane and Prof. Giuseppe Ugazio – two central figures in the Centre's academic life – this tribute volume is much more than a conventional scholarly publication: it has helped articulate the GCP's distinctive intellectual identity within the international research community. It reflects the Centre's commitment to fundamental research into the drivers, challenges and long-term effects of philanthropic giving; to a genuinely multidisciplinary perspective that seeks to foster meaningful dialogue between a range of perspectives; and to analysis grounded in pluralism, nuance and objectivity. Together, these defining features have established the GCP as a unique space for exchange between scholars, the local community, and the philanthropic sector – locally, nationally, and internationally.

Across all these areas, 2025 was a defining year for the Centre. Internationally, its recent work – particularly on the relationship between artificial intelligence and philanthropy – reached audiences in many parts of the world. Forums hosted in Geneva brought together practitioners and scholars from elsewhere in Europe as well as China, Brazil and Africa, while regional conferences were held in the Middle East and India. In bringing these perspectives into contact with one another, the Centre is positioned to address contemporary challenges by helping build a closer dialogue across regions and among entities dedicated to sustained exchange and interaction in a troubled world. Two guest lecturers from the United States spoke powerfully to these challenges: Harvard professor Michèle Lamont and Ben Rhodes, former Deputy National Security Advisor to President Obama and now Senior Advisor at the Obama Foundation. The GCP's growing international profile was recognised at the biennial European Research Network on Philanthropy (ERNOP) Conference, held in Heidelberg in September, where it was announced that the Centre would host the 2027 Conference at Campus Biotech.

Through initiatives like these, the Centre is helping build a network for rigorous scientific research on philanthropy across national and disciplinary boundaries. This work would be impossible without the support of the Centre's partners. I extend my sincere gratitude to them, as well as to the Rectorate of the University of Geneva, which provides the institutional foundation for everything the GCP does. The Centre's ecosystem of strategic partners – previously seven in number, each bringing its own insights, priorities and perspectives – was also bolstered with the addition of two new partner organisations: Fondations Audemars Piguet and Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo. This move is part of a broader dynamic that, in our view, must remain deliberate and carefully paced to sustain meaningful, high-quality exchanges and to pursue an in-depth, enduring dialogue with each of the foundations that support the GCP as it grows.

Geneva is known for its long-standing tradition of international openness and dialogue in support of human rights. In 2025, the city became a focal point for shifts in the global order – developments that deeply affected the philanthropic sector and prompted a clearer awareness of its responsibilities. The year saw the creation, in just a few short weeks, of the Foundation for the Adaptation of International Geneva, a public-private partnership serving the part of the city that connects Geneva to the world. A high point of this partnership – and of the public authorities' support for the philanthropic sector more broadly – came in autumn 2025, when Geneva councillors Delphine Bachmann and Nathalie Fontanet announced that the cantonal authorities had developed an action plan, established a Strategy Committee, undertaken important outreach work, and set out clearer rules, especially in the area of taxation. These measures pave the way for further growth of the sector, recognising the contribution philanthropic giving makes to social and economic development. The councillors also referenced the Centre directly in their remarks, citing its report as one of the sources of inspiration for the new action plan.

It is deeply gratifying to see the painstaking work done by Prof. Peter–, in close collaboration with the Centre's Executive Director, Mara De Monte–, acknowledged in this way. This mention is more compelling than any other speech in testifying to the GCP's core purpose: to serve democratic life and to play a meaningful role, as a cross-disciplinary

and cross-faculty academic institution, in partnership with the public authorities and other stakeholders. It also resonates with the new initiatives described later in this report, including the launch of the Media and Philanthropy Initiative in March 2025, which saw Gilles Marchand join the Centre's management team. We hope that reading this report will bring back memories and reveal a few surprises.

I would like to conclude by expressing my sincere thanks to everyone who helped make the leadership transition at the GCP so smooth and successful. I am especially grateful to Audrey Leuba, the Rector of the University of Geneva, for her steadfast support for the Centre's development. Through her, I also wish to thank the wider team at the University. In addition, I would like to extend my gratitude to the deans of the faculties that host the institution's teaching and research activities; to our strategic partners, both long-standing and newly joined, for the depth and quality of our discussions; to the members of Geneva's philanthropic community; to Prof. Peter, my predecessor, for the exemplary way in which he organised the handover and for the vision that guided the creation and growth of the GCP; and to the researchers and Academic Fellows whose work strengthens the Centre's reach and influence. Last but not least, I would like to thank Executive Director Mara De Monte and her entire team for their decisive role during this pivotal year for the GCP.

**Prof. Nicolas Duvoux**  
Head of the Geneva Centre  
for Philanthropy



# The GCP in 2025

The GCP is a cross-disciplinary academic centre established through a public–private partnership between the University of Geneva and nine philanthropic foundations. The Centre focuses on three interconnected axes: research and publications, teaching and public events. In 2025, the Centre’s budget was approximately CHF 1.5 million.

Key events in 2025 included the publication of *Philanthropy: Multi-disciplinary Perspectives*, and the launch of research projects on the just transition, new food solidarities and the relationship between the media and philanthropy – all under the new “Philanthropy and Democracy” research focus.



<https://www.unige.ch/philanthropie/en>



**1.**

# **Research and publications**



## Foundation governance

High-quality foundation governance is key to addressing today's societal challenges.

### **Developments in foundation and association law and taxation**

*Prof. Giulia Neri-Castracane and Vincent Pfammatter*

Prof. Giulia Neri-Castracane is keeping track of new developments in foundation and association law.

As part of this work, she co-wrote an article with Vincent Pfammatter, Sara Andrade and Laurie Liccardo that covers the main changes observed between July 2024 and June 2025.

Key findings from this monitoring work were presented at a joint conference organised by the International Geneva Welcome Centre and the GCP.

The 2025 book *Philanthropy: Multidisciplinary Perspectives*, edited by Prof. Neri-Castracane and Prof. Ugazio, also includes a chapter on foundation governance.

The University of Geneva offers several courses on the legal aspects of philanthropy, including a Master's-level course and a Bachelor's-level course offered by the Faculty of Law. The topic is also covered in Module 3 of the Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) in Strategic Philanthropy.

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### **Digitalisation and governance in charitable foundations**

*Dr Aline Kratz-Ulmer*

Digitalisation has created new governance issues, for example, relating to data use and protection, algorithms and artificial intelligence. At the same time, digital resources can also support foundations in strengthening their governance. These issues will increasingly play an important role in how foundations are managed and their projects are developed.

In the project's initial phase, a survey was sent to the supervisory authorities to assess how far Swiss foundations have progressed with their digitalisation. In the second phase, researchers will analyse how digital resources are used within foundations.

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### **Philanthropy, shareholder foundations and steward ownership**

*Prof. Giulia Neri-Castracane and Delphine Bottge*

Prof. Neri-Castracane and Delphine Bottge joined a global network of more than 100 researchers and practitioners working on a multidisciplinary, international research project on steward ownership, funded by COST Action.

Delphine Bottge also continued her work on the Advisory Committee for the Enterprise Foundations in Europe project, run by the European Law Institute. The outcome document – a draft legislative framework for shareholder foundations in Europe – was published in December 2025. The next phase of the project will involve seminars and discussions among international experts.

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### **The philanthropy sector in Geneva – supporting future growth**

*Prof. Nicolas Duvoux and Mara De Monte*

Geneva is a focal point for philanthropy, both in Switzerland and internationally. This is due to Switzerland's values of neutrality, stability and credibility and its long tradition of welcoming all. These cultural traits underpin what is sometimes called the "spirit of Geneva" and have brought many non-governmental organisations, foundations, private donors and experts to the canton, together forming Geneva's unique and tightly packed ecosystem.

Mindful of the strategic importance of the canton's philanthropy sector, and aware of the room for improvement, in 2024 the Cantonal Office for Economy and Innovation commissioned the GCP to carry out a study to take stock of the philanthropy sector – including its strengths, challenges and future outlook – and to make recommen-

dations to support its development. The Centre collected quantitative and qualitative data through close to 90 interviews with key stakeholders. The study was published in March 2025.

At a press conference held on 20 November 2025, Geneva councillors Delphine Bachmann and Nathalie Fontanet presented an action plan to strengthen Geneva's role as a centre for philanthropy, confirming the authorities' intention to position the city as a clearer, more attractive and better-structured philanthropic hub. Several concrete measures were announced, including a new information and communication platform and a comprehensive map of locally based foundations – scheduled for publication in spring 2026 – to make it easier to identify potential sources of funding. The authorities are also taking steps to make the canton more attractive from a tax perspective, including updating the Cantonal Tax Administration's exemption guide and clarifying its treatment of international activities, board-member remuneration and the financing of social enterprises. A Strategy Committee for Philanthropy has also been established. This new body will enhance dialogue between public authorities and the sector, providing collective insight to inform strategic decision-making.

Together, these measures signal the cantonal authorities' commitment to expanding the sector's professional capacity, visibility and reach, building on the initial conclusions of the GCP's study. The Centre's team looks forward to continuing to work with the authorities and sector stakeholders through close wide-ranging dialogue.

*“Philanthropy is part of Geneva's DNA. We are fortunate to host such a dynamic ecosystem in our canton — one that contributes directly to our prosperity and attractiveness. The GCP report has helped us better understand this ecosystem and identify, with greater precision, the needs and expectations of those who make it work. It has provided the foundation for a series of measures designed both to strengthen what already exists and to encourage new and innovative forms of philanthropy.”*

**Delphine Bachmann**, State Councillor in charge of the Department of Economy and Employment (DEE)



## Philanthropy and Democracy

In 2025, the Centre launched a new project entitled “Philanthropy and Democracy”. This new line of enquiry, which runs alongside existing work by scholars and Academic Fellows, is led by Prof. Nicolas Duvoux at the Geneva School of Social Sciences and the Institute of Sociological Research. Its aim is to offer a systematic, foundational and cross-cutting examination, both theoretical and applied, of the relationship between these two concepts. The project builds on a series of flagship publications exploring the potential interplay between philanthropy and democratic governance, particularly in the United States. It approaches these questions from a European and Swiss perspective, seeking to analyse the tensions between philanthropy and democracy and how they might be resolved.

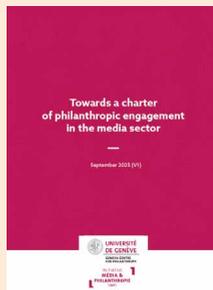
Underpinning this project is a normative and empirical analysis of the relationship between philanthropy and democracy that moves beyond the perspective of earlier landmark publications. This shift is multifaceted in nature: geographical, by taking into account the national and historical forms this relationship can take; disciplinary, through closer collaboration between philosophy, sociology and political science; and temporal, by examining how philanthropic organisations have responded to criticism and exploring the changes brought about by recent upheavals in democratic societies.

The programme serves as both a common framework for analysis and a platform for hands-on initiatives, including two set in motion in 2025: the Media and Philanthropy Initiative (IMP), led by Gilles Marchand and launched at a public conference in Geneva on 12 March, and the Just Transition initiative, spearheaded by Dr Anne Monier and unveiled during a Philanthropy Lunch event on 13 November. Additional work focuses on social innovation and experimentation. This includes a study by Mara De Monte on the Demaimpact initiative, as well as the New Food Solidarities project led by Dr Lucia Bordone at the Haute École de Travail Social de Genève (HETS), which builds on the draft legislation on the right to food.

## Media and Philanthropy Initiative (IMP)

Gilles Marchand and Dr Manon Plegat

Developed at the intersection of scholarly research and professional practice, and supported by an international network, the Media and Philanthropy Initiative (IMP) explores how media, public value and the commons – in the broadest sense of those terms – interact across traditional and emerging media landscapes.



Its work focuses on philanthropic funding models and governance questions, examining both existing initiatives and those currently in the pipeline. The overarching goal is to better understand the role philanthropy can play in the media sector – an industry that serves as a key enabler of robust, lasting democratic systems.

During its first year, IMP was presented to a wide range of institutions and stakeholders including the Council of Europe, the Federal Media Commission (FMC), the Conference of Governments of Western Switzerland (CGSO), the City and Canton of Geneva, the Federal Office of Communications (OFCOM), and various philanthropic organisations such as the Fondation Aventinus, the Fondation Leenaards and the Media Forward Fund.

The initiative also convened a working group of industry professionals – Sylvain Lafrance, François Besençon, Claude-Yves Robin, in addition to Gilles Marchand – to develop and publish a **Charter for Philanthropic Engagement in the Media** in three languages: French, German and English. The first draft was circulated among media and philanthropic organisations as part of a wide-ranging consultation.

Postdoctoral researcher Dr Manon Plegat joined IMP in September 2025 to support its research activities and coordinate the forthcoming edited volume *Financer les médias autrement*, which will be published by PUF and Seismo in 2026.

Dr Plegat also undertook preparatory work for IMP's empirical study involving 15 media organisations supported by philanthropic funding around the world.

The case studies were selected in the latter half of 2025, with input from the IMP partner institution HEC Montréal, which will explore examples in the North American context.

Within just a few months, IMP, the GCP and the University of Geneva more broadly have established a reputation as an authority on philanthropic media funding in Switzerland.

## **Outlook for 2026**

IMP's work over the coming year will focus on three areas:

### **a) Research**

Researchers will examine some 15 case studies of philanthropy-backed media organisations, exploring both the forms this support can take and the extent to which it contributes to society. This research will also test the assumptions underpinning the proposed charter.

IMP also intends to embark on a comparative study of public policies supporting media diversity. The proposed scope of the research covers France, Germany, Austria, Italy, and two multilingual countries, Belgium and Canada.

### **b) Expertise**

IMP will provide expert input to leading organisations, including the Fondation de France and the Media Forward Fund, as they shape their approaches to philanthropic support for the media.

### **c) Publications and conferences**

*Financer les médias autrement*, an edited volume coordinated by IMP, will be published by PUF (in French) and Seismo (in German and English) in autumn 2026. Two conferences will be held, in France and Switzerland to coincide with its release.

## **New Food Solidarities (NSA)**

*Dr Lucia Bordone (HETS) and Prof. Nicolas Duvoux*

New Food Solidarities brings together researchers, artists and practitioners working to tackle food insecurity in Geneva, with the aim of ensuring that the right to food is translated into practice. The project will provide the knowledge needed for the canton to shape a broad-based public policy on food.

This cross-disciplinary project engages with ongoing developments in food assistance. Among the initiatives being piloted is a cash assistance programme for people living in hardship. Participants also receive individual support and attend group food-education workshops, and receive a detailed map of locally available resources. The project is intended to address social and environmental concerns, helping to bring forward-thinking solutions that shape more equitable and sustainable food systems.

The Centre is proud to support the NSA project, which combines scientific rigour with social relevance, experimentation and strong local grounding. Under the scientific leadership of Dr Lucia Bordone (HETS), the initiative brings together a diverse and complementary research team – Marc Breviglieri (HETS), Mathilde Chénin (HEAD), and Sidonie Fabbi (HEdS) – alongside grassroots organisations (Caritas Geneva, Partage, Les Colis du cœur) and methodology and knowledge-sharing partners (Utopiana, Ressources urbaines, Bermuda). The project is being developed in close cooperation with cantonal authorities including the Directorate for Social Cohesion, to help shape policy discussions and identify future avenues for action at a time when the canton of Geneva is setting a benchmark – in Switzerland and around the world – on the right to food.

## **Just Transition**

*Dr Anne Monier*

In September 2025, the Centre launched a new long-term initiative dedicated to the just transition. The ultimate aim is for the project to become a recognised point of authority in Europe on these issues.

The project is organised around three lines of work. The first focuses on strengthening scholarly engagement with the just transition through research, publications and collaborations. The second centres on sharing knowledge about philanthropy, democracy and the just transition with philanthropic organisations, their stakeholders and the wider public through events, resources and opportunities for interaction, with a strong focus on how scientific knowledge can circulate more effectively within society. The third is about breaking down silos between the academic, philanthropic, civil-society, political, business and other communities, and trialling new forms of collective, multi-stakeholder engagement.

Just Transition addresses the need to connect professional practice and wider social change with knowledge grounded in scholarly research, drawing in particular on the unique critical perspective of the social sciences. The initiative's contribution is threefold: it brings democratic questions into discussions of the just transition, linking social, environmental and democratic concerns; it promotes a systemic understanding of the just transition by connecting it to the structural issues facing the philanthropic sector; and it explores new ways of working through participatory, collective, multi-stakeholder forms of action.



## Philanthropy and Social Entrepreneurship

**Prof. Giulia Neri-Castracane**

Prof. Neri-Castracane continues to focus on issues related to social entrepreneurship. In December 2025, she spoke on the subject at the *Schulthess Forum Non Profit Organisationen*, a new event held in Zurich.

The topic will also feature on the agenda of the University of Geneva lunch on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting in Davos in January 2026.

On the teaching side, the university continues to offer law students a Master's-level elective course on social entrepreneurship.

The philanthropic role of businesses is one of the four key themes explored in *Philanthropy: Multidisciplinary Perspectives*, a volume edited by Prof. Neri-Castracane and Prof. Giuseppe Ugazio, published by Routledge in 2025.



## Philanthropy and Finance

### **Impact investing in Switzerland: An analysis from legal and behavioural perspectives**

*Prof. Giulia Neri-Castracane, Prof. Giuseppe Ugazio, and doctoral assistants Sara Andrade, Jérémy Clauss and Maria-Cristiana Tudor*

This ongoing research project, led by Prof. Neri-Castracane and Prof. Ugazio and funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), examines the legal and behavioural barriers to impact investing in Switzerland.

Two publications stemming from this work were released in 2025:

- Giulia Neri-Castracane, Sara Andrade, *Investissements à impact et soutien entrepreneurial – Opportunités et défis pour les fondations d'utilité publique*, *Expert Focus*, December 2025.
- Dana Brakman Reiser, Giulia Neri-Castracane, Regulation of Impact Investing by Foundations: The Swiss and US Perspectives, in *Philanthropy: Multidisciplinary Perspectives* [Neri-Castracane, Giulia; Ugazio, Giuseppe, eds.], Routledge, London/New York, 2025, p. 299.

Further publications on this topic are in the pipeline.

Also in 2025, Prof. Neri-Castracane held a closed research seminar at the Faculty of Law, and a separate invitation-only session brought together Swiss foundations and institutions involved in impact investing to discuss current practices and obstacles.

The project has also led to a new research collaboration with Prof. Rajna Gibson Brandon and Dr Melita Leousi, in connection with their work on measuring impact performance.



## Philanthropy and Taxation

The Philanthropy and Taxation research project, led by Prof. Henry Peter, produced several significant academic and partnership outcomes for the Centre. International comparative work carried out under the project led to a partnership with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, culminating in the publication of a report in November 2020. Another key milestone was the release of *The Routledge Handbook of Taxation and Philanthropy* (Routledge, 2021), edited by Prof. Peter and Prof. Giedre Lideikyte Huber, following an international conference organised by the Centre. Comprising 30 contributions, the volume provides a comprehensive multidisciplinary overview of the mechanisms, forms, rationales and policy issues surrounding tax deductions and exemptions for philanthropic activity. An article by Prof. Marta Pittavino, entitled “Modeling Geneva Charitable Deductions: Regular Giving and Future Trends”, has been accepted for publication in the journal *Statistical Methods & Applications* and will appear shortly.

The project continues to inform much of the GCP’s current work, with the knowledge generated now feeding into several work streams. One example is the Centre’s ongoing dialogue with cantonal authorities. Following the submission of the GCP report and the unveiling of the action plan in November 2025 by Geneva councillors Delphine Bachmann and Nathalie Fontanet (see p. 11), recent discussions – overseen by Prof. Giulia Neri-Castracane – have increasingly focused on tax matters and framework conditions. Specifically, researchers are examining the normative justifications for tax deductions and exemptions and their implications for the sector’s development. More broadly, questions surrounding the rationale for these tax measures and their impact on philanthropic initiatives now run across several of the Centre’s emerging research themes, including democracy (Prof. Nicolas Duvoux), impact investing (Prof. Neri-Castracane and Prof. Giuseppe Ugazio), media (Gilles Marchand) and the just transition (Dr Anne Monier).



## Philanthropy and Artificial Intelligence

*Prof. Giuseppe Ugazio, Prof. Lucia Gomez Teijeiro, Milos Maricic, Camilla Della Giovampaola, Hubert Halope and Alina Selyanina*

The first phase of the philanthropy and artificial intelligence research project (2022–2025) produced several important outcomes, including the publication of the landmark volume *The Routledge Handbook of Artificial Intelligence and Philanthropy*; the first international conference on philanthropy and AI, in March 2024; and the co-organisation of regional workshops in the United Arab Emirates and India. Two additional workshops are planned for 2026, in Brazil and China, as the project moves into its second phase, which will focus on three interrelated short- and medium-term priorities:

- 1) Deepen knowledge and expand debate by broadening the network of experts contributing much-needed insights to enable philanthropic organisations to successfully adopt AI and to ensure that philanthropic organisations can contribute their insights to the responsible development of the technology within society more broadly.
- 2) Establish a shared philanthropic data platform – a secure repository through which organisations can share information about their structures, strategies and operations while retaining ownership of their data. This resource will support the development of AI tools tailored to philanthropic practice – including agents, small language models and assistants – and ensure philanthropic organisations retain a minimum degree of operational autonomy.
- 3) Strengthen academic engagement at the intersection of AI and philanthropy, including through the publication of translations of *The Routledge Handbook of Artificial Intelligence and Philanthropy* into several languages to reach a wider audience. The team is also working on a massive open online course (MOOC) on this topic.



## Why do people give?

This project aims to investigate the role of emotions in philanthropic behaviour, going beyond the scope of past research. Previous research on the role of emotions in philanthropy has mainly focused on giving to help people in need, which has led to a focus on emotions such as compassion, pity and empathy. But there is more to it than that.

### **Beyond Charity: the varieties of value-driven emotions in philanthropic behaviour**

*Prof. David Sander and Prof. Florian Cova*

The goal of this project is to investigate a wider range of philanthropic behaviours than those covered in the current literature (e.g. giving for science, art, culture and the environment) and a broader range of emotions, particularly positive emotions (e.g. awe, being moved, elevation and gratitude), to identify how different emotions can bring about different types of philanthropic behaviour.

In 2024, the team studied people's moral judgements about their duty to sacrifice their resources (including financial resources) to help people in need and the extent to which cognitive and emotional processes promote these judgements. In an article published in *Cognitive Science*, Manon Gouiran and Prof. Florian Cova demonstrated that individuals who rely more on reasoning (and, therefore, less on emotions) are less likely to accept the idea that we must sacrifice our resources for others.

In 2025, the researchers studied the extent to which people feel a need to have a positive impact on others, and how the sense of having made such a contribution contributes to the belief that a person's life is meaningful, which could be an additional motivation for philanthropic behaviour. Their early work showed that the feeling of having a positive impact constitutes a distinct component of meaning in life, separate from those already identified in the literature, namely coherence, purpose and importance. The findings are detailed in an article currently under review for the *Journal of Happiness Studies*. The team also examined whether emotional music could influence philanthropic intentions. Although no significant behavioural effects were observed,

the data revealed which emotional responses lead listeners to perceive music as “profound”. These findings are described in a paper accepted for publication in the *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*.

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## **Emotion, benevolence and philanthropy**

*Prof. Julien Deonna, Romolo Borra (PhD candidate) and Dr Antonin Broi (postdoctoral researcher)*

The SNSF has granted funding for Prof. Julien Deonna’s project entitled “In Defence of Affective Benevolence”, which will run from March 2025 to March 2029.

The research, conducted by Prof. Deonna (project manager), Romolo Borra (PhD candidate) and Dr Antonin Broi (postdoctoral researcher), lies at the crossroads of the philosophy of the mind, ethics, and the philosophy of philanthropy, aiming to explore the role of emotions in benevolence and organised philanthropy. Specifically, the project seeks to challenge traditional, cynical and sceptical arguments about the role of emotions in philanthropic behaviour.

Prof. Deonna advances an understanding of benevolent emotions that runs counter to prevailing cynical attitudes, arguing that compassion should be seen as a specific form of empathy – one that involves experiencing another person’s suffering as something bad that ought to be relieved, rather than simply acknowledging it. Although compassion is hedonically negative, because it involves sharing in another’s suffering, it is defined by its tendency towards benevolent action, whether the suffering in question is considered deserved or not.

Building on conceptual scholarship in contemporary philosophy of emotion and moral psychology, Romolo Borra’s work examines the nature of benevolence and the different affective states associated with it–, including compassion, care, love, sympathy, empathy and kindness. His doctoral research ultimately aims to develop a normative framework that clarifies the moral distinction between forms of benevolence driven by emotional response and those grounded in respect.

Dr Antonin Broi's work addresses the subject through the lens of philanthropy, asking whether the pursuit of effectiveness in charitable giving can be reconciled with the important role of personal attachments shaped by emotion. More specifically, he examines the idea that such attachments may legitimately determine the causes donors choose to support, while also positing that donors nevertheless have a duty to maximise their impact within their chosen focus areas.

The project's outputs in 2025 included the following:

[1] Julien Deonna (2025), "Can we ignore the plight of distant strangers in need?", in *Philanthropy: Multidisciplinary Perspectives*.

[2] Brian McElwee, "How much are affluent citizens morally required to do for the global poor?", 29 October, Philanthropy Lunch.

[3] Antonin Broi, "À quoi s'oppose l'altruisme efficace?", Phileas lecture series, Geneva, 29 October.

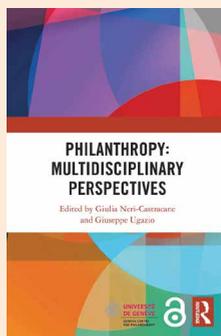
Forthcoming:

- a workshop on ethical impartiality in philanthropy, March 2026
- a lecture by Prof. Gopal Sreenivasan (Human Rights, Duke University), March 2026.

## **Philanthropy: Multidisciplinary Perspectives**

*Routledge, Edited by Prof. Giulia Neri-Castracane and Prof. Giuseppe Ugazio*

*Philanthropy: Multidisciplinary Perspectives* is a reference for academics and professionals engaged in philanthropy. It brings together scholars from fields such as economics, finance, law, philosophy, and sociology, showcasing the power of a multidisciplinary approach in providing a comprehensive view of this complex subject.



The book addresses foundational questions in philanthropy and is divided into four parts. The first part asks the crucial question of why philanthropy matters, exploring the motivations for giving and how beneficiaries are selected. The second part examines the interaction between business and philanthropy. It examines the rise of social enterprises, the shift toward purpose-driven businesses, and the evolution of corporate social responsibility into sustainable enterprises. This part also addresses tax considerations that impact philanthropy's ability to scale. The book explores the synergies between finance and philanthropy to foster sustainable development, and how philanthropy is addressing, or could address, specific SDGs. It concludes with the key ingredients for good governance in philanthropy.

The book tackles major challenges, such as diversity, compensation, and data management, while tracing the evolution of best practices in foundation governance. It identifies areas for improvement and discusses the relationships between governance in philanthropic organisations and important issues such as trust, equality, and democracy.

**Published in May 2025 and available in open access.**

## Articles included in the book

### PART I. Philanthropy and Motivations to Give

***Philanthropy at the Crossroads of its Diverse Philosophical Origins***, François Dermange

***Moral Responsibility, a Theory Based on Relationships of Power***, Jeanne-Rose Arn

***Can We Ignore the Plight of Distant Strangers in Need?***, Julien Deonna

***Jon Elster on the Warm Glow, Altruism, Self-Image, and the Instrumental Value of Giving***, Emma Tieffenbach

***Critiquing the Critics, A Theoretical Exploration of Philanthropy Criticism***, Beth Breeze

***Comparison of Statistical Methodologies for Philanthropic Studies***, Marta Pittavino

***The Neuroscience of Philanthropic Behavior***, Maria Cristiana Tudor, Nina M. Sooter, Giuseppe Ugazio

***Affective Philanthropy***, David Sander

### PART II. Philanthropy, Business, and Entrepreneurship

***The “Philanthropic” Duties of the Board of Directors in the New Paradigm of Responsible Capitalism***, Livia Ventura

***CSR 4.0 – Toward a Constitutionalization of Powers, A Legal and Economic Perspective***, Guillaume Jacquemet

***The “Neutrality” of the Purpose of Swiss Companies, A Prodromal Element for a Stakeholders’ Primacy Conception***, Umberto Milano

***From Social Enterprises to Sustainable Enterprises***, Claude Humbel

***The Role of Family Offices and Family Philanthropy in Building Legacies***, Malgorzata Smulowitz, Peter Vogel

***Tax Incentives for Corporate Philanthropy, Addressing Conflicts of Interest – Swiss Legal Insights***, Xavier Oberson

***Overcoming Tax Barriers to Philanthropy and Social Entrepreneurship***, Sigrid Hemels

### **PART III. Philanthropy and Finance for the Common Good**

***Regulation of Impact Investing by Foundations, The Swiss and US Perspectives***, Dana Brakman Reiser, Giulia Neri-Castracane

***Impact Investing, The Need for Impact Performance Measurement***, Rajna Gibson Brandon, Melita Leousi, Camilo Mondragon-Velez

***Social Impact Bonds (SIBs), An Innovative Financing Tool for Social Change***, Philipp Fischer

***Facing the Climate Crisis, The Environmental Transition of the Philanthropic Sector in Europe***, Anne Monier

***Good Practices in Water Management and Protection, A Code of Conduct for Corporations***, Laurence Boisson de Chazournes, Mara Tignino, Haoua Savadogo

***Trajectories and Provenances as Challenges to Philanthropy, When New Roles and Relationships Emerge in Museums***, Antoinette Maget Dominicé

***Role of Philanthropic Foundations and Associations for the Arts and Culture***, Anne Laure Bandle, Tomoé Céline Castello

***Philanthropy and International Law***, Makane Moïse Mbengue, Damien Charlotin

### **PART IV. Governance and Philanthropy**

***Philanthropy and Institutional Trust***, Emanuela Ceva, Matthieu Debief

***Trust-Based Philanthropy, New Buzzword or Paradigm Shift?***, Marie-Stéphane Maradeix, Arthur Gautier, Anne-Claire Pache

***Best Practices for Good Foundation Governance***, Georg von Schnurbein, Kinga Zsafia Horvath

***The Restructuring and Further Developing of Foundations***, Dominique Jakob

***Essay on Board Compensation of Swiss Tax-Exempt Foundations***, Loïc Pfister

***Diversity and the Law in Not-for-Profit Organizations***, Aline Kratz-Ulmer

***Data Protection, Governance, and Philanthropy***, Vincent Pfammatter

***Power and Equity in Philanthropy***, Maja Spanu

***Philanthropy and Democracy, An Inquiry into the Varieties of Philanthropic Models and their Relationships with the State***, Nicolas Duvoux, Sylvain A. Lefèvre

## Other publications

In 2025, 39 articles, books and reports were published, either by or with the support of the GCP, including those mentioned above. These publications are freely available online in open access and on the Centre's website.



***Artificial Intelligence Governance @ Philanthropy – Current challenges and the contribution of philanthropy to address them***, Hubert Halopé and Giuseppe Ugazio, Expert Focus, October 2025

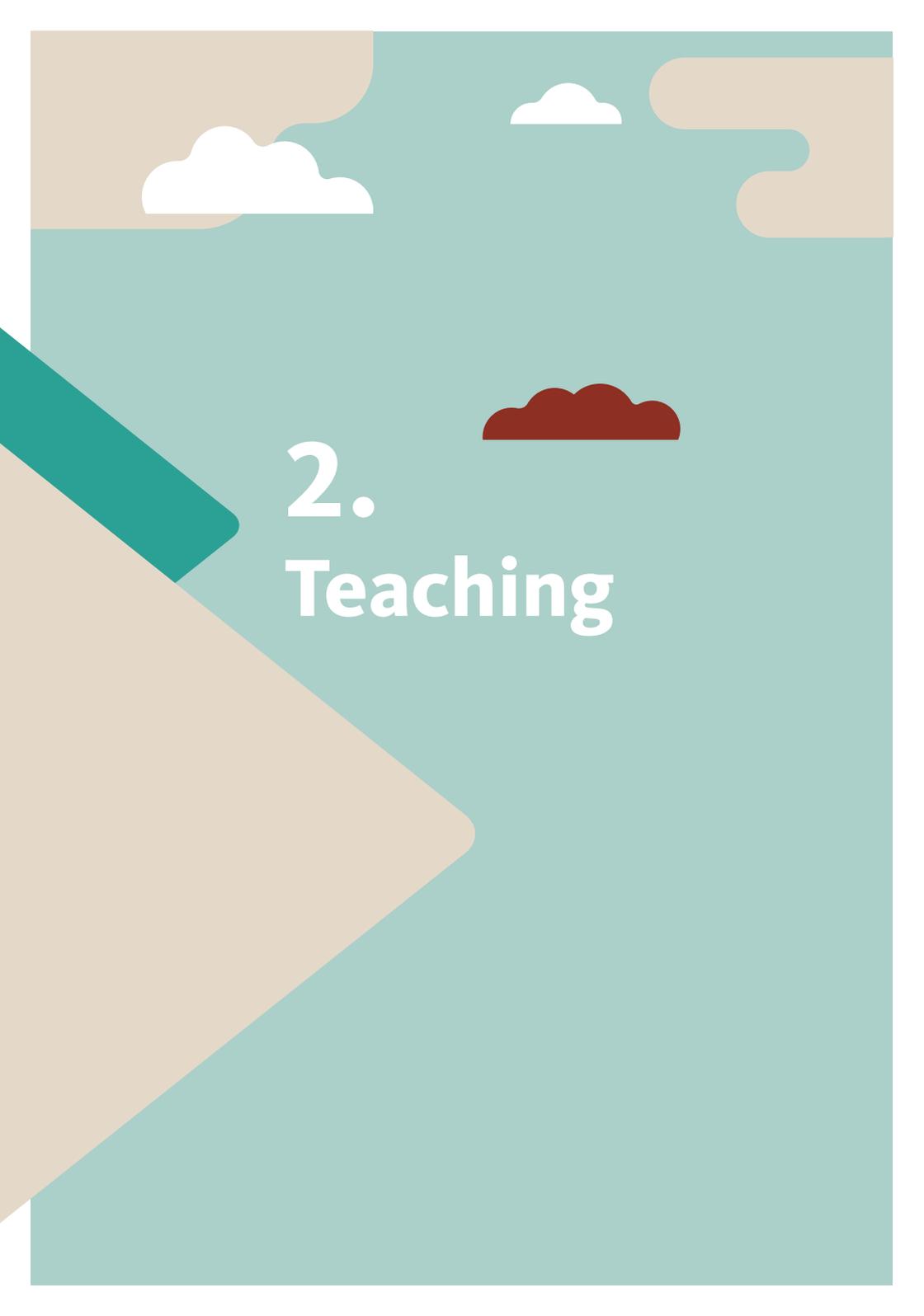
***Towards a charter of philanthropic engagement in the media sector***, Gilles Marchand, Dr Manon Plegat, François Besançon and Claude-Yves Robin, September 2025. Available in English, French and German

***Swiss foundation and association law – 2024/2025 Legal Update***, Giulia Neri-Castracane, Vincent Pfammatter, Sara Andrade and Laurie Liccardo, SZW/RSDA, May 2025

***Class and Time-Based Subjective Inequality – Wealth Forecast***, Nicolas Duvoux, Routledge, 11 March 2025

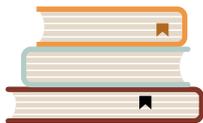
***The War in Ukraine, Volunteers and Non-profit Organizations: Regulatory and Law-Related Challenges***, Mariia Kostiv, Volodymyr Kochyn, Giedre Lideikyte Huber and Giulia Neri-Castracane, Nonprofit Policy Forum, 22 January 2025

**«Forecasting Geneva's Donors and Their Charitable Deductions»** in: Police, A., Mariani, P. (eds), *Methodological and Applied Statistics and Demography, IV. SIS 2024, Italian Statistical Society Series on Advances in Statistics*, Springer, Cham., Marta Pittavino and Giedre Lideikyte-Huber, 21 January 2025



# 2. Teaching

## Semester-long courses



**11**  
semester-  
long courses

**4** =  
faculties

**> 235**  
students  
(including course  
auditors)

### ***Entreprises, capitalisme et objectifs de développement durable***

*Faculty of Law, Prof. Giulia Neri-Castracane – 3<sup>rd</sup> edition*

In less than a decade, companies have become key players in efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Their role as businesses and our perception of them are quickly changing. This course addresses the legal challenges faced by enterprises. It examines the duties and obligations of a company's governing bodies in integrating ESG factors into their work, starting with shareholders and investors, followed by the board of directors and senior management, and lastly, the auditors. It also examines the role of consumers.

### ***Fondations, associations et sociétés coopératives***

*Faculty of Law, Prof. Giulia Neri-Castracane – 2<sup>nd</sup> edition*

All sectors of society – sports clubs, pension funds, cultural and craft services, family clubs, educational services, medical and social assistance, humanitarian aid, agriculture, the food trade, and even banking – use the legal structures of foundation, association and cooperative. These legal forms help to enhance Switzerland's prosperity

and appeal. All citizens are required at some point to interact with one or more of these legal structures, which are discrete and forward-looking, responding to society's current and future needs by enabling people to combine a business activity with a social mission or aid-based initiative. This course teaches students about the types of foundations (ordinary, family, or pension related) and associations, as well as cooperative law. Students acquire theoretical knowledge by studying practical cases.

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### **NEW – Philanthropy**

*Geneva School of Economics and Management (GSEM), Prof. Giuseppe Ugazio and Prof. Lucia Gomez Teijeiro*

This course explores how AI can be meaningfully incorporated into philanthropic practices. It examines the motivations behind philanthropy, the diversity of philanthropic missions, and the ways in which AI systems can support philanthropic decision-making. The course also considers how human and artificial intelligence compare and complement one another (with AI augmenting, not replacing, human judgment), as well as how AI systems must be governed to ensure ethical and responsible use. The course culminates in a collaborative, hands-on project in which participants and lecturers co-create an AI agent designed for a philanthropic use case.

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### **La philanthropie culturelle et le droit**

*Faculty of Law, Dr Anne Laure Bandle – 6<sup>th</sup> edition*

In this cross-disciplinary course, students explore philanthropy's role and its potential to support the arts and culture by examining the topic's most important legal, ethical and business-related aspects.

**In 2025, this course was supported by the Fondation Fauvette.**

## **L'éthique de la philanthropie**

*Faculty of Humanities, Prof. Julien Deonna – 7<sup>th</sup> edition*

This course alternates between lectures and seminars and looks at current questions about the ethics of giving, such as what constitutes a donation. Most economists believe that donations are nothing more than a form of exchange. But are they right? At first glance, giving appears to be closely linked to altruism. But what is altruism, and does it exist? Are donations about charity or justice? While most people agree that it is good to give to charitable causes or philanthropic organisations, some think giving is a matter of individual choice. In contrast, others insist it is a moral obligation, a sort of duty of justice.

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## **NEW – Mémoire et séminaire :**

### **Investissements à impact – questions choisies**

*Faculty of Law, Prof. Giulia Neri-Castracane*

This seminar will give students a targeted introduction to the legal issues associated with impact investing, which the Global Impact Investing Network (GIIN) defines as “investments made with the intention to generate positive, measurable social and environmental impact alongside a financial return.” These investments sit at the crossroads of market dynamics, the public interest and sustainability.

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## **La philanthropie et ses principaux enjeux juridiques**

*Faculty of Law, Prof. Giulia Neri-Castracane – 7<sup>th</sup> edition*

This course examines the main legal issues relating to philanthropy, with a focus on foundations, the legal form most often used for charitable work. The goal is to give students an understanding of the specific features of this legal form, its governance, and its advantages and disadvantages.

### **NEW – Philanthropie et sciences sociales**

*Geneva School of Social Sciences, Prof. Nicolas Duvoux*

In this course, students will examine how philanthropy reflects traditional approaches in political and social science and use this analysis to construct a fresh perspective on philanthropy, viewed through the lens of these disciplines. This will entail reviewing historical and contemporary examples from Switzerland, other European countries and the United States that both illustrate classical theories of donation and provide a critical perspective on the act of giving. The course will also explore the relationship between philanthropy and democracy, using political theory as a basis, along with introductory concepts from comparative political economy and resources pertaining to economic sociology, organisations, professions and the workplace.

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### **Public Ethics of Philanthropy**

*Geneva School of Social Sciences, Dr Michele Bocchiola – 3<sup>rd</sup> edition*

This course provides students with the conceptual and normative tools necessary to explore the justification of philanthropy from the perspective of public ethics in political theory. By the end of the course, students will have developed a theoretical toolkit to analyse and assess the various ways philanthropy may benefit the public, as well as the ethical challenges that resorting to philanthropy may pose within a political regime.

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### **Structuration des entreprises sociales**

*Faculty of Law, Prof. Giulia Neri-Castracane – 4<sup>th</sup> edition*

This course analyses at the legal forms social enterprises can take under Swiss law, covering a wide range of enterprises. Students examine cooperative enterprises in particular and how they can be transformed into social enterprises. They also study the legal status of social enterprises in other countries, the B Corp certification available in Switzerland and the concept of steward ownership.

## The Many Faces of Philanthropy

*Geneva School of Economics and Management (GSEM), Prof. Giuseppe Ugazio and Prof. Lucia Gomez Teijeiro – 6<sup>th</sup> edition*

This course offers a multidisciplinary introduction to traditional philanthropy, looking at the specific opportunities and challenges of each area. It explores philanthropic traditions across various regions, including Asia (e.g., China and India), the Middle East (e.g., the United Arab Emirates), Latin America (e.g., Brazil and Mexico) and Africa (e.g., South Africa).

**Most of the courses referred to in this section and proposed by the GCP can be audited.**

## Continuing education

### Master of Advanced Studies in Philanthropy

*Second edition: August 2025 to June 2027*



The first six participants to complete our new Master of Advanced Studies (MAS) in Philanthropy course received their diplomas in December 2025 – the culminating moment of a demanding programme: 18 months of classes followed by six months of thesis research or in-house experience at a foundation. All participants presented their final projects to a jury, bringing this inaugural edition to a successful close.

The second edition of the MAS programme began in September 2025 with a Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) in Strategic Philanthropy. This was a full course with 24 professionals participating, including eight undergoing a career change.

The MAS is taught in person and in English. It includes asynchronous online modules in order to provide professionals with the flexibility they need. Participants progress through the programme in stages, with the option to complete either a module of their choice, a CAS with five modules, or a Diploma of Advanced Studies (DAS, composed of two CASs and a final report), or a MAS (three CASs and a thesis). The programme's 360° approach, broad range of lecturers

from academia and industry, and international reach make it a unique opportunity.

In addition, the programme offers a fully online module on collaborative and inclusive philanthropy, which participants can take independently at any time and at their own pace.

Co-directors: Danièle Castle, Laetitia Gill and Prof. Giuseppe Ugazio.

Cross-disciplinary programme run by the University of Geneva's Centre for Continuing and Distance Learning and delivered by the Geneva School of Economics and Management (GSEM), in partnership with the GCP, Genevensis Communications and the Geneva Finance Research Institute (GFRI).

*"I'm a lawyer working in the financial sector, and the MAS in Philanthropy gave me a better understanding of how an individual's assets can be used strategically to make a meaningful social impact. The classes and my thesis research opened up new perspectives and gave me the confidence to pursue a career aligned with the values I truly believe in."*

**Karolina Kosa**, 2025 graduate of the MAS in Philanthropy

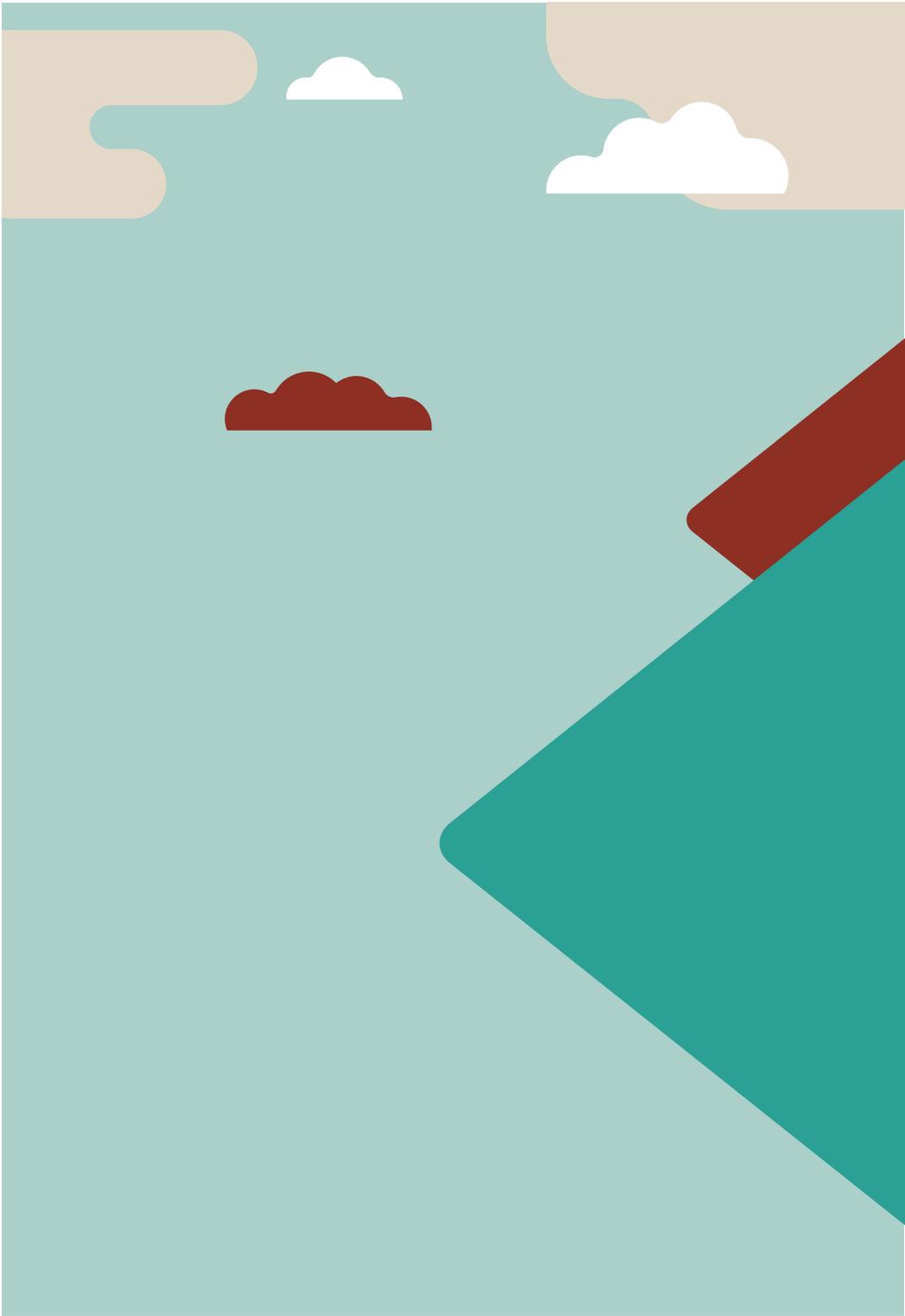
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## **2025 Master Class in Philanthropy**

*From 26 to 28 March 2025, Château de Bossey, Vaud*

This master class was organised, as in past years, by the Swiss Philanthropy Foundation in association with the University of Basel's Center for Philanthropy Studies (CEPS) and the GCP. Using a cross-disciplinary approach, the class gave participants the knowledge and tools to choose the right philanthropic vehicle and to create and manage a foundation while accounting for future needs.

In 2025, 30 people participated in the Master Class, gaining expert insight from academics and practitioners who work closely with the GCP. The speaker list included Prof. François Dermange (Faculty of Theology), Dr Loïc Pfister (a GCP Academic Fellow) and Mara De Monte (Executive Director of the GCP).





**3.**

# **Connecting the philanthropy sector**



## Workshop and public conference, “*Philanthropie : quels financements alternatifs pour les médias ?*”

12 March 2025

The Media & Philanthropy Initiative officially kicked off on 12 March 2025 with a workshop followed by a public conference at Geneva’s Campus Biotech. The event attracted a large audience of professionals from the media, academia and the philanthropy sector, highlighting the importance of the issues the new initiative addresses.



Participants included:

**Prof. Nicolas Duvoux**, Head of the GCP and Professor of Sociology, Geneva School of Social Sciences, University of Geneva; **Gilles Marchand**, former Chief Executive Officer of the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation and current Director of the IMP, GCP, University of Geneva; **Snezana Green**, Director, Reporters Shield Program, Cyrus R. Vance Center for International Justice; **Sylvain Lafrance**, Director, Media Management Hub, HEC Montreal; **Patrice Schneider**, Chief Strategy Officer, MDIF; **Florence Turpault-Desroches**, Vice President of Communications and Philanthropy, *La Presse*, Montreal; Prof. **Audrey Leuba**, Rector,

University of Geneva; **Prof. Vezinat Nadège**, Professor of Sociology, Université Paris 8; **Dr Riccardo Ramacci**, Lead Media Program, Democracy, Mercator Stiftung Schweiz; **Eric Brat**, Adjunct Professor, HEC Montreal; **Dr Katharina Hemmer**, Managing Director, Republik AG; **Pierre-Adrian Irlé**, Executive Director, and **Madeleine von Holzen**, Editor in Chief, *Le Temps*.

*“We’re experiencing an unprecedented crisis of confidence between general media outlets, their journalists and their audience. That’s due to the unrelenting stream of news on social media, constant verbal attacks, today’s attention-grabbing culture and the spread of ‘alternative’ realities asserted with absolutely no qualms. (...) Trust is on the wane. Funding too. And we can be sure that the lack of funding is having a dramatic impact on the quality of the content produced by the media. (...) The IMP, with its methodological approach, will help develop new forms of funding for the media (...).”*

**Gilles Marchand**, Director, Media @ Philanthropy Initiative (IMP)

**The Centre regularly organises meetings between philanthropy academics and practitioners at both the national and international levels. In 2025, 1,139 people took part in our in-person and online events.**

*Find out more about our 2025 events.*





**1,139**  
people took part in  
our events either  
in person or online



**3,368**  
people viewed  
our events

## Philanthropy Lunches

**“Nouveautés législatives et réglementaires pour les fondations et associations suisses”**, in association with CAGI, MIA and proFonds

14 January 2025



*Prof. Giulia Neri-Castracane and Vincent Pfammatter*

At this Philanthropy Lunch, held in French, Prof. Giulia Neri-Castracane and Vincent Pfammatter provided a comprehensive overview of recent legislative and regulatory changes, as well as key case law developments in 2024 and the first half of 2025 that have affected Swiss foundations and associations. The experts discussed: 1) the main takeaways from the first cases in which the new guidelines issued by the Zurich and Vaud cantonal governments were applied, particularly with regard to board member compensation; 2) recent developments regarding initiatives being rolled out by the Geneva cantonal government; and 3) ongoing legislative initiatives and motions.

## **“Legislative and regulatory changes for Swiss foundations and Associations”, in association with CAGI**

4 September 2025

*Prof. Giulia Neri-Castracane and Vincent Pfammatter*

At this Philanthropy Lunch, held in English, Prof. Giulia Neri-Castracane and Vincent Pfammatter provided a comprehensive overview of recent legislative and regulatory changes, as well as key case law developments in 2024 and the first half of 2025 that affected Swiss foundations and associations. The experts discussed: 1) the main takeaways from the first cases in which the new guidelines issued by the Zurich and Vaud cantonal governments were applied, particularly with regard to board member compensation; 2) recent developments regarding initiatives being rolled out by the Geneva cantonal government; and 3) ongoing legislative initiatives and motions.

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## **« How much are affluent citizens morally required to do for the global poor? »**

29 October 2025

*Dr Brian McElwee and Prof. Julien Deonna*

In a world marked by stark inequality between the rich and the poor, a pressing moral question arises: how much should citizens in the rich world contribute to the fight against global poverty and suffering?

At this Philanthropy Lunch, Dr Brian McElwee examined the moral obligations of affluent citizens, arguing that any serious attempt to answer this question must address five key factors: 1) the duty of attention; 2) the theory that silence or the lack of moral protest implies consent; 3) the clear asymmetry between the strict duty to do no harm and the limited duty to ease suffering; 4) citizens' complicity in global wrongs, which amplifies their responsibility; and 5) the psychological challenge of acting consistently with one's moral integrity.

By bringing together these five factors, Dr McElwee painted a nuanced picture of what justice demands of rich societies and what it means for individuals to lead a morally responsible life in the face of global inequality.

## **« Leaving no one behind: stakes and challenges of the just transition for philanthropy »**

13 November 2025

*Dr Anne Monier, Prof. Giulia Neri-Castracane, Dr Lindsey Paul Jones, Dr Nils Moussu and moderated by Prof. Nicolas Duvoux*

The concept of a just transition – which brings together elements of climate justice, social justice and inclusion – has come to the forefront of public debate. It was a key issue at COP30 in 2025 and was referenced in both the UN Global Compact and the IPCC’s sixth assessment report, which established a clear link between the health of our planet and human well-being. As the world undergoes profound shifts marked by social and political tensions, disinformation and democratic, geopolitical and economic crises, it’s more important than ever to address the issue of a just transition.

The philanthropy sector can play a pivotal role in enabling such a transition, given its mission to serve the public interest and its strategic position within society (at the crossroads of the public sector, private sector and civil society). Yet that role still needs to be defined. How can philanthropy help transform society so that it’s more sustainable, fair and democratic? What are the stakes and challenges facing the philanthropy sector? And what can the sector do so that no one gets left behind? These questions and more were discussed at this Philanthropy Lunch.

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## **« La participation des premiers concernés, enjeu démocratique, enjeu philanthropique ? »**

4 December 2025

*Sonia Benmaa, Roman Monnier, Martial Paris, Brigitte Rorive, and moderated by Prof. Nicolas Duvoux*

Citizens are too often overlooked in the very decisions that affect them. We are far removed from the ideal of a direct democracy and a society in which everyone actively participates. Instead, institutions and the private sector often fail to hear the views of the very individuals who must live with the consequences of decisions – in which they have little

or no voice – on a daily basis. Whether in healthcare, social initiatives or the general running of their communities, the input of those most affected is sorely missing from the debate.

How can we prevent a form of citizen detachment from taking hold, which would erode trust in democracy? Why are citizens absent – or at least relatively so, as in Switzerland – and most of all, how can we remedy the situation in our communities and within the philanthropy sector? This latter question is becoming increasingly important as the sector seeks legitimacy, because it implies transferring some of its power to the individuals it is designed to serve.

This also raises the ethical argument that everyone who will be affected by a decision should be able to take part in it. Yet the path to a more participative society involves not only enabling citizens to act, but also building experience and giving voice to people through citizen forums, participative philanthropy, and initiatives that draw on people's own experience. Such efforts could bolster the philanthropy sector's ability to improve people's lives – not for them, but with them.

## Other GCP events

**Webinar « Launch of The Routledge Handbook of Artificial Intelligence and Philanthropy »** in association with Synergos Global Philanthropists Circle  
4 February 2025



*Prof. Giuseppe Ugazio, Milos Maricic, Jonathan Evens and moderated by Jamie Webb*

At the launch of *The Routledge Handbook of Artificial Intelligence and Philanthropy*, published in November 2024, editors Giuseppe Ugazio and Milos Maricic presented the new book, with additional comments by Jonathan Evens.

The book is intended to catalyse dialogue between two ecosystems with much to gain from collaboration: AI and philanthropy. It features contributions from leading academics, AI specialists and philanthropy professionals in order to provide a sound, knowledgeable basis for studying how AI can be used effectively in philanthropy and how philanthropy can drive the responsible development of AI going forward.

Thanks to its multidisciplinary perspective, this book is the most comprehensive resource on the topic to date. It is accessible to a broad audience, including researchers, students, practitioners and regulators, and it meets the needs of those seeking insight into the rapidly evolving and increasingly important fields of AI and philanthropy.

**Conference “Ukraine: a humanitarian response in constant evolution”, in association with Swiss Solidarity (La Chaîne du Bonheur)**

6 March 2025

*Prof. Nicolas Duvoux, Miren Bengoa, Ernst Lüber, Thomas Mauget, Dr Yuliya Sporysh and moderated by Dr Christine Lutringer*

Over 15 million people have been affected by the war in Ukraine since it began three years ago. Thanks to the generosity of the Swiss people, Swiss Solidarity provided over CHF 100 million in funding to more than 90 projects, thus delivering essential humanitarian aid to millions of displaced families.

During this conference, experts discussed the experience of NGOs on the ground – especially local NGOs on the front line – including the lessons they’ve learned and the results they’ve achieved. Practitioners and academics explored the following questions: how have humanitarian organisations adapted their efforts to the changing needs of the Ukrainian people? What solutions and strategies have they found in recent years to overcome the many obstacles to providing humanitarian aid in Ukraine? And what role should Ukrainian civil society play in meeting those changing needs and addressing the challenges that victims of the war continue to face?

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**Guest Lecture by Prof. Michèle Lamont, in association with the Geneva Graduate Institute (IHEID)**

6 May 2025

*Prof. Michèle Lamont, Prof. Marie-Laure Salles, Karin Jestin and moderated by Prof. Nicolas Duvoux*

Prof. Lamont drew on her latest book, *Seeing Others: How Recognition Works – And How It Can Heal a Divided World* (Simon & Schuster, 7 January 2025), to examine some of the most pressing issues of our time, such as what recognition and dignity really mean and how we can build a fully inclusive society. These issues are especially important in the light of recent (geo)political developments in the United States and around the world.

Presentation of ***Philanthropy: Multidisciplinary Perspectives***,  
Routledge

10.06.2025

*Prof. Giulia Neri-Castracane et Prof. Giuseppe Ugazio*

To mark the retirement of Prof. Henry Peter, who led the GCP from its founding in 2017 until the end of 2024, the GCP presented a new book published in his honour: *Philanthropy: Multidisciplinary Perspectives*. This book is a reference for academics and professionals engaged in philanthropy. It brings together scholars from fields such as economics, finance, law, philosophy, and sociology, showcasing the power of a multidisciplinary approach in providing a comprehensive view of this complex subject (see p. 24).

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Panel discussion **“Faire voter les jeunes : une question de moyens ?”**, organised jointly by the Geneva Cantonal Office for Economy and Innovation (OCEI), the Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy (IHEID), SwissFoundations and the Et Pourquoi Pas? association, as part of the 2025 Democracy Week

7 October 2025

*Delphine Bachmann, Christina Kitsos, Laurie Liccardo, Dr Christine Lutringer, Marc Maugué and moderated by Prof. Nicolas Duvoux*

Young voters have a particularly high abstention rate, and getting them to vote is a major challenge. Experts at this panel discussion highlighted various initiatives to encourage young people to vote and examined the philanthropic sector's role in reducing voter abstention.

## Other events

**Along with the events organised by the GCP, the Centre's management team, affiliated researchers and Academic Fellows contributed to 25 academic and/or public events in Switzerland and abroad.**



# 4. The GCP ecosystem

## Strategy Committee

The Strategy Committee is chaired by Prof. Audrey Leuba, the Rector of the University of Geneva.

In 2025, the members were:

### **University of Geneva:**

Prof. Francesca Serra, **Dean of the Faculty of Humanities**

Prof. François Dermange, **Faculty of Theology**

Prof. Antoine Geissbuhler, **Dean of the Faculty of Medicine**

Prof. Rajna Gibson Brandon, **Geneva School of Economics and Management (GSEM)**

Prof. Luc Thévenoz, **Dean of the Faculty of Law**

Prof. Salvatore Di Falco, **Dean of the Geneva School of Economics and Management (GSEM)**

Prof. David Sander, **Faculty of Psychology and Educational Science and director of the Swiss Centre of Affective Science (CISA)**

Prof. Pascal Sciarini, **Dean of the Geneva School of Social Sciences**

### **Strategic partners:**

Dr Alberto Anfossi, **Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo**

Philippe Cottier, **Fondation Hélène et Victor Barbour**

Axelle Davezac, **Fondation de France**

Dr Andrew Holland, **Stiftung Mercator Schweiz**

Karin Jestin and, from September 2025, Eléonore Assante di Panzillo, **Edmond de Rothschild Family Philanthropy**

Dr Maximilian Martin, **Fondation Lombard Odier**

Marc Maugué, **Fondation Hans Wilsdorf**

Brigitte Rorive, **Fondation Leenaards**

Susan Simmons, **Fondations Audemars Piguet**

## Scientific Committee

The members currently are:

**Prof. James Andreoni**, Professor of economics, University of California San Diego

**Prof. Max Bazerman**, Professor of Business Administration, Harvard Business School

**Prof. René Bekkers**, Director of the Center for Philanthropic Studies at the Vrije Universiteit (VU), Amsterdam

**Prof. Beth Breeze**, Principal, Harris Manchester College, Oxford and author of *In Defence of Philanthropy*

**Prof. Sigrid Hemels**, Professor of tax law, Erasmus University Rotterdam School of Law

**Prof. Dominique Jakob**, Professeur ordinaire de droit privé, Université de Zurich

**Prof. Hao Liang**, Associate Professor of Finance, Lee Kong Chian School of Business, Singapore Management University

**Prof. Anne-Claire Pache**, Professor and chair in social innovation, ESSEC Business School, Paris

**Prof. Paul Slovic**, Professor of Psychology, University of Oregon

**Prof. Richard Steinberg**, Professor of Philanthropic Studies at the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, Professor of Economics at IUPUI, Indiana

## Management team



**Prof. Nicolas Duvoux**  
Head



**Mara De Monte**  
Executive Director



**Gilles Marchand**  
Director, Media  
& Philanthropy  
Initiative (IMP)



**Margaux Casagrande**  
Administrative and  
accounting assistant



**Marie-Lucie  
Wüthrich**  
Administrative  
assistant



**Anne Ritter**  
Publications  
manager



**Laetitia Gill**  
Executive Education  
Associate

## The GCP's academics

Several professors and researchers from the University of Geneva faculties work with the GCP. In 2025, 27 professors, postdocs and PhD students from six faculties (Law, Psychology and Educational Science, Humanities, GSEM, Theology, and Social Sciences) and the Swiss Centre of Affective Science (CISA) worked with the Centre on projects related to philanthropy.



**Dr  
Jeanne-Rose Arn**



**Dr  
Anne Laure Bandle**



**Prof.  
Tony Berrada**



**Prof. Emanuela Ceva,  
in partnership with  
Dr Michele Bocchiola  
and Matthieu Debief**



**Prof.  
Florian Cova**



**Prof. Julien Deonna  
in partnership with  
Romolo Borra  
and Dr Antonin Broi**



**Prof.  
François Dermange**



**Prof.  
Rajna Gibson Brandon**



**Dr Frédéric Hauke**



**Prof.  
Jean-Frédéric Maraia**



**Dr Anne Monier**



**Prof. Giulia Neri-  
Castracane** in partnership  
with **Sara Andrade,**  
**Jérémy Clauss** and **Laurie  
Liccardo**



**Dr Manon Plegat**



**Prof.  
David Sander**



**Prof. Giuseppe Ugazio**  
in partnership with **Camilla Della Giovampaola,**  
**Prof. Lucia Gomez, Hubert Halope, Alina Selyanina,**  
**Maria Tudor** and the whole team at the Behavioural  
Philanthropy Lab

## Academic Fellows

The GCP also works with Academic Fellows, who are practitioners involved in teaching and research under the guidance of a University of Geneva professor.



**Dr François Bonnici**  
Head of Foundations,  
WEF, Geneva



**Delphine Bottge**  
Lawyer, Geneva



**Philipp Fischer**  
Lawyer, Geneva



**Dr Aline  
Kratz-Ulmer**  
Lawyer, Zurich



**Vincent  
Pfammatter**  
Lawyer, Geneva



**Dr Loïc Pfister**  
Lawyer, Lausanne



**Prof. Marta Pittavino**  
Assistant professor of statistics, Venice School  
of Management (VSM), Ca' Foscari University  
of Venice (UNIVE)



**Prof. Livia Ventura**  
Senior research associate, Cambridge  
Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL),  
and adjunct professor of private comparative  
law, Luiss Guido Carli University, Rome

## Partnerships

The GCP works closely with University of Geneva faculties (GSEM, Law, Theology, Humanities, Medicine, Psychology and Educational Science, and Social Sciences) and the Swiss Centre of Affective Science (CISA).



The GCP teamed up with the CEPS and the Swiss Philanthropy Foundation for its annual Master Class in philanthropy.

It is also an academic partner of SwissFoundations and Stiftung Schweiz and a content partner of the OECD Centre on Philanthropy.

On certain events, the Centre collaborates with numerous partners, including the Cantonal Office for the Economy and Innovation (OCEI), the Albert Hirschman Centre at the Geneva Graduate Institute (IHEID), the International Geneva Welcome Centre (CAGI), the Maison Internationale des Associations (MIA), HEC Montreal, HES-SO Geneva, Building Bridges, the Institut Romand de Systématique et d'Éthique (IRSE), the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship and the Art Law Foundation.

For the publishing of certain works, the Centre works in collaboration with the Geneva-based publishing house Slatkine, as well as with the international publishing houses Routledge and Springer.

It is also a member of several networks and associations that promote excellence in philanthropy-related research, including ERNOP, WINGS, ARNOVA, ISTR and Philab.

## GCP in the news

As a research centre and key player in the philanthropy sector, the GCP is regularly consulted and cited in the media. In 2025, the Centre received substantial media coverage, featuring in 19 press articles and in TV and radio interviews in Switzerland and abroad, including:



***Un label pour les médias? Le grand emballement***, Le Temps, 10 December 2025

***Parlons économie – Le rôle des fondations dans l'économie***, Radio Lac / Carac.tv, 27 November 2025

***Genève aspire à devenir un pôle philanthropique majeur***, Le Temps, 20 November 2025

***Genève muscle son attractivité philanthropique***, Tribune de Genève, 20 November 2025

***Genève veut dynamiser son secteur philanthropique***, Keystone ATS / Agence Télégraphique Suisse, 20 November 2025

***Genève, moteur discret, mais puissant, de la philanthropie en Suisse***, Entreprise Romande, 14 November 2025

***En philanthropie, la politisation évolue dans une zone grise***, Le Temps, 20 October 2025

***Genève s'appuie sur la gestion de fortune pour maintenir sa dynamique***, Agefi, 16 October 2025

***Philanthropie: alignement des planètes à Genève***, Le Temps, 19 May 2025

***Le financement philanthropique, un pilier complémentaire pour les médias***, RFJ, 16 May 2025

***Quel rôle peut jouer la philanthropie dans le financement des médias?***, Le Devoir, 10 May 2025

***IA au service du bien commun***, The Philanthropist, 16 April 2025

**Genève veut renforcer le secteur de la philanthropie**, Le Journal de l'UNIGE, 2 April 2025

**La philanthropie sera-t-elle l'avenir de la presse? Oui, mais sous condition**, Tribune de Genève Online, 17 March 2025

**Financement des médias – Le Pôle médias HEC Montréal s'allie à l'Université de Genève pour soutenir et encourager l'engagement philanthropique**, Cision, 13 March 2025

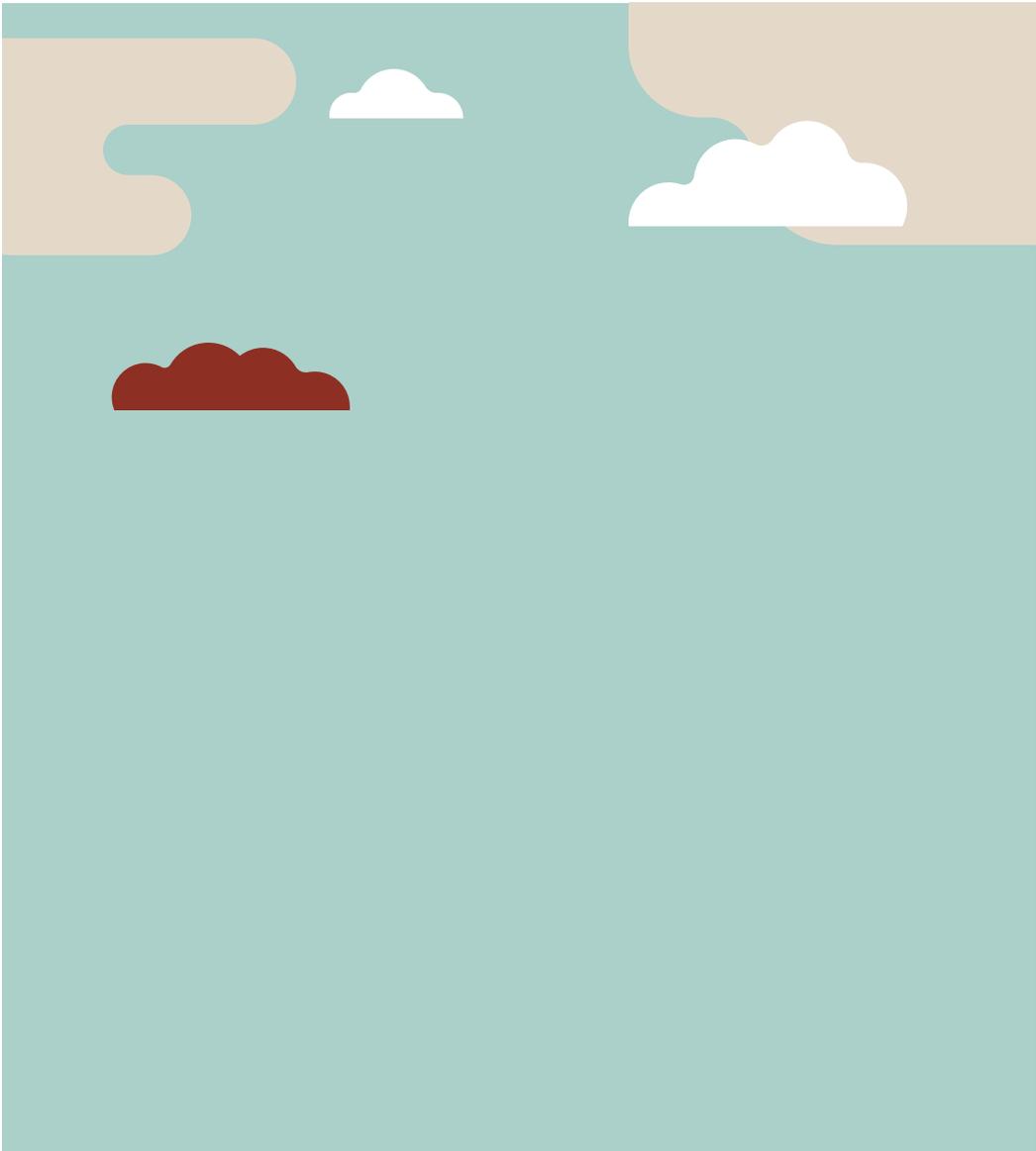
**Jeff Bezos ist ein interessierter Philanthrop**, Persoenlich.com, 12 March 2025

**Médias et Philanthropie: une alliance pour l'avenir?**, Cominmag.ch, 12 March 2025

**Gilles Marchand à l'UNIGE: une initiative pour étudier de nouveaux financements pour les médias**, Cominmag.ch, 26 February 2025

**Die neue dritte Finanzierungssäule, Medienfinanzierung**, Philanthropie, January 2025





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