

# The Geneva Centre for Philanthropy (GCP) in 2019



**UNIVERSITÉ  
DE GENÈVE**

GENEVA CENTRE  
FOR PHILANTHROPY

# Our activities in 2019

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## IMPRESSUM

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## Overview of our activities

**The Geneva Centre for Philanthropy has grown quickly in the two years since it was created and has already gained national and international recognition for its work.**

In just two years, the Geneva Centre for Philanthropy (GCP) has become an important point of reference among academics and professionals both in Switzerland and worldwide. The Centre, which was founded by the University of Geneva (UNIGE), defines philanthropy as voluntary giving for the common good, the latter being codified by the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Centre's work focuses on three strategic areas: teaching, research and events. It takes a cross-disciplinary approach and crosses closely with practitioners, which has helped to drive our success.

Highlights of 2019 included the creation of the Edmond de Rothschild Foundations Chair in Behavioural Philanthropy, and the launch of a second course in philanthropy for students in UNIGE's Faculty of Humanities.

The GCP also entered into a unique partnership agreement with the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) as part of a major research project on the taxation of philanthropy. The research findings will be presented at an international conference to be held in Geneva in November 2020.

The Centre collaborated with a number of key players in the philanthropy sector as well, including the European Research Network on Philanthropy (ERNOP), the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, proFonds, SwissFoundations and Swiss Philanthropy Foundation.

This report provides a brief summary of the Centre's work. More detailed information is available in French and English on the Centre's website. This includes news about the Centre, a rundown of events, links to publications and course syllabuses.

[More information](#)





# 1. Teaching and training

## Philanthropy and its main legal implications

Second edition

*A course designed and taught by Dr Giulia Neri-Castracane, a lecturer and academic fellow at the Centre.*

This course, which looks at philanthropy from a legal viewpoint, is for Master's students from UNIGE's Faculty of Law and the Geneva School of Economics and Management (GSEM). It is also included in the curriculum for the Lausanne Business School (HEC).

### Student feedback

*"A key course. It sheds light on a sector that I was familiar with but that I had never considered from a legal standpoint before. I very much liked that there were a variety of speakers, as it kept the course lively and made things more tangible. The course went further than strictly legal matters."*

## The Ethics of Philanthropy

First edition

*A course designed and taught by Dr Emma Tieffenbach, lecturer and academic fellow at the Centre.*

This course covers fundamental questions concerning the ethics of philanthropy, looking at key texts on the philosophy of giving in an interactive manner. It is for Bachelor's and Master's students from the Faculty of Humanities.

### Student feedback

*"An unusual, cross-disciplinary topic. I liked the concrete, yet fundamental, approach taken in this course, and that it is designed for everyone."*

All courses given by the GCP can be attended by the public audience.

[More information](#)

### **Foundations: new generation(s)?**

Seventh edition

*Continuing education*

As one of the partner institutions for the master classes run by the Center for Philanthropy Studies (CEPS) of the University of Basel and the Swiss Philanthropy Foundation, The Centre was involved in the course held at the Château de Bossey in Vaud Canton in June 2019. Several academic experts working with the Centre, including Professors François Dermange (Faculty of Theology), Philipp Krueger (GSEM) and Henry Peter (GCP), co-taught this course. Over three days, 23 practitioners learned about recent trends in philanthropy and their impact on foundations.

### **Digital technology for the common good**

*Co-creative workshop*

The GCP joined forces with GSEM and Open Geneva to run a one-day workshop taught by Professor Giuseppe Ugazio, who holds the Edmond de Rothschild Foundations Chair in Behavioural Philanthropy, and by Dr Thomas Maillart, Manager of UNIGE's SDG Solution Space.

Using a case study from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), participants worked on finding innovative digital solutions to meet the challenges faced by NGOs.

**In 2019, 143 people  
– 64 students and  
79 professionals –  
took part in GCP  
courses**

#### **Scheduled for 2020**

During the spring 2020 semester, the Centre ran a new course in partnership with the Faculty of Law entitled **Cultural Philanthropy and Law**. The course was designed and taught by Dr Anne Laure Bandle, an academic fellow at the GCP and lecturer at the University of Fribourg and the London School of Economics. The course analyses how philanthropy can support the arts and culture.

It is funded by the *Fondation Zdenek et Michaela Bakala*.

#### **Scheduled for 2021**

**Global Philanthropy for Development: current trends and future perspectives**

On 24 and 25 June 2021, the GCP will team up with the OECD and the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy to run a continuing education course for philanthropy managers at NGOs, international organizations and foundations. It will be held at the OECD's headquarters in Paris.



## 2. Research

### When philanthropy meets neuroscience

In early 2019, the **Edmond de Rothschild Foundations Chair in Behavioural Philanthropy** was created within the GSEM. It is the first of its kind in Europe and will promote teaching and research in philanthropy as part of an emerging discipline at the crossroads of economics, psychology and neuroscience. The chair was awarded to Professor Giuseppe Ugazio, who gave his inaugural lecture to a large audience on 15 October 2019.

### Taxation and philanthropy

The research project “philanthropy and taxation: legal and economic analysis of the efficiency of the existing legal framework and legislative proposals” was awarded CHF 600,000 in funding from the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) and is run by Professor Henry Peter and Dr Giedre Lideikyte Huber.

### Emotions in philanthropic behaviour

The research project “Beyond Charity: the varieties of value-driven emotions in philanthropic behavior” looks at the interactions between emotions and giving. It is run by Professor David Sander, Director of UNIGE’s *Centre Interfacultaire en Sciences Affectives* (CISA) and Professor Florian Cova, who is from the Faculty of Humanities and a member of CISA. This project received a research grant of CHF 160,000 from one of the Centre’s strategic partners.

## Good practices in water management

Professor Laurence Boisson de Chazournes and Dr Mara Tignino are working together on a project entitled “Water, private companies and the furtherance of the public good”. The aim of the project is to analyse mechanisms for promoting good practices for water management and protection within the private sector. It will contribute to implementing one of the recommendations of the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace, which was set up in 2015 by Switzerland and 14 other countries. The researchers received a contribution of CHF 20,000 from one of the Centre’s strategic partners.

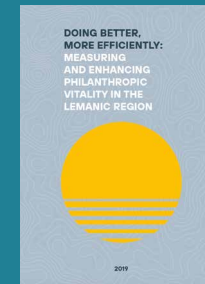
## Publications

On the GCP’s initiative, the March 2019 edition of *Expert Focus* was dedicated entirely to philanthropy. It comprised 21 articles by professors, experts, researchers and academic fellows linked to GCP, who delved into various aspects of philanthropy.

**Forty academic articles are available online on the GCP website**

[More information](#)

## Doing better more efficiently: measuring and enhancing philanthropic vitality in the Lemanic region



As part of the Centre’s mission to contribute to developing philanthropy in French-speaking Switzerland, it played a key role in a pioneering study into philanthropic vitality in the Lake Geneva region. The study assessed the state of the philanthropy sector, and identified opportunities and set out strategic recommendations to further strengthen the sector’s role in this region.

The study was launched through the Fondation Lombard Odier and was the result of a unique partnership between the private sector, the academic world, the supervisory authorities in French-speaking Switzerland, the Geneva cantonal authorities, and the philanthropy sector. The findings were published in September 2019.

## Scheduled for 2020

A report will be drawn up in French and German, and initiatives to implement the recommendations included in the report will continue. [More information](#)





### 3. Connecting the philanthropy sector

Credit: J. Erard/UNIGE

Every year, the GCP organizes several events to bring philanthropy researchers and practitioners together. These events take place at the University of Geneva and are open to the public. Summaries of these events are available on the GCP website.

[More information](#)

## In 2019, we ran three “philanthropy lunches” involving more than 300 people.

### Why do people give?

27 June 2019

Professor David Sander, the Director of the CISA, moderated a panel discussion with three members of the UNIGE community: Professor Florian Cova, who received the SNSF Eccellenza Grant in philosophy; Dr Emma Tieffenbach, a lecturer specializing in the philosophy of philanthropy and academic fellow at the Centre; and Professor Giuseppe Ugazio, who holds the Edmond de Rothschild Foundations Chair in Behavioural Philanthropy.

The panel discussed the altruistic behaviour of donors and their motivations.

### Philanthropic organizations and business activity: what are the tax issues?

11 September 2019

Dr Giedre Lideikyte Huber, a GCP researcher specializing in the taxation of philanthropy, moderated a cross-disciplinary panel made up of: Professor René Bekkers, Director of the Center for Philanthropic Studies, Vrije Universiteit (Amsterdam) and member of GCP's Scientific Committee; Dr Raphaël Gani, a Swiss federal administrative court judge; and Professor Xavier Oberson, an expert in Swiss and international tax law from UNIGE's Faculty of Law.

The panel covered various issues relating to the taxation of philanthropy, with a focus on how philanthropic organizations can self-fund themselves by conducting business activities.



## Water as a public good: Room for philanthropy

11 December 2019

UNIGE's Professor Laurence Boisson de Chazournes moderated a panel discussion with: Dr Danilo Türk, Chair of the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace and former President of the Republic of Slovenia; Dr Mara Tignino, a teaching and research fellow at the Faculty of Law and a legal expert with UNIGE's Platform for International Water Law; and Cédric Lecamp, Senior Investment Manager for Thematic Equities at Pictet-Water Fund.

The panel looked at the essential role that water plays in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and in peace-keeping, as well as the importance of securing private-sector funding to foster these initiatives.

## Other events

### Philanthropy – SDGs – CSR and the role of positive impact

14 June 2019

In this think tank session, opinion leaders discussed how philanthropy can help to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and the related challenges. It marked the start of the research project run by Dr Giulia Neri-Castracane.

### The art of giving, art law and philanthropy

17 October 2019

The Annual Conference of the Art Law Foundation and the Art Law Centre was held in partnership with the GCP. Throughout a full day event, academic figures, heads of cultural institutions from across Switzerland and other practitioners discussed four key themes: philanthropists in the art world, donations to museums, philanthropic structures and art related foundations.

The conference was supported by the Pictet Group Charitable Foundation, one of the Centre's strategic partners.

## A new type of philanthropy?

1 October 2019

In a talk by GCP Head Henry Peter, more than 200 members of Uni3, UNIGE's programme for senior students, were given a look at how the concept of philanthropy has changed and how it is implemented.

## Six events were organized by or with the Centre, with more than 870 people taking part.

### Carnegie Symposium

24 May 2019

The CGCP was asked to take part in the Carnegie Symposium held in Bern to mark the 100th anniversary of the death of Andrew Carnegie. Professor Henry Peter and other experts, including the philanthropist Hansjörg Wyss, former Swiss President Samuel Schmid, and Andrew Carnegie's great granddaughter Linda Thorell Hills, shared their vision of various aspects of philanthropic work.

## GCP was involved in 16 conferences in Switzerland and abroad.

### Scheduled for 2020

#### Taxation and Philanthropy Conference

Taxation is a key concern in the world of philanthropy, yet it has rarely been the subject of academic study. In addition to the publications produced for this research project, an international conference will be held in Geneva on 26 and 27 November 2020. It will bring together some of the world's renowned academic experts in this field.

The conference will be opened by Pascal Saint-Amans, the Director of the OECD's Centre for Tax Policy and Administration, who will present the OECD report on taxation and philanthropy which is the result of an ambitious research project launched with the GCP in spring 2019. [More information](#)



## The GCP

Credits: J. Erard/UNIGE

### Strategic Committee

The committee is chaired by Yves Flückiger, the Rector of the University of Geneva.

As 31 December 2019, the other members were:

#### Representing the University of Geneva:

Professor Jan Blanc, **Faculty of Humanities**;  
 Professor François Dermange, **Faculty of Theology**;  
 Professor Bénédicte Foex, **Faculty of Law**;  
 Professor Rajna Gibson, **GSEM**;  
 Professor David Sander, **Faculty of Psychology/ CISA**.

#### Representing our strategic partners:

Peter Brey, **Fondation Leenaards**;  
 Philippe Cottier, **Fondation Hélène et Victor Barbour**;  
 Claude Demole and Stephany Malquarti, **Pictet Group Charitable Foundation**;  
 Monica Diem, **Perspectives Foundation, Swiss Life**;  
 Firoz Ladak, **Edmond de Rothschild Foundations**;  
 Dr Maximilian Martin, **Fondation Lombard Odier**;  
 Marc Mangué, **Fondation Hans Wilsdorf**.

### Management team



**Henry Peter**  
Head



**Laetitia Gill**  
Executive  
Director



**Semia Bey**  
Project  
Coordinator

### Scientific Committee

**Professor James Andreoni**, Professor of Economics, University of California San Diego;

**Professor René Bekkers**, Director of the Center for Philanthropic Studies at Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam;

**Professor Guy Kahane**, Associate Professor, Fellow and Tutor in Philosophy, Pembroke College, University of Oxford;

**Professor Swee-Sum Lam**, Associate Professor of Finance, Director of the Asia Centre for Social Entrepreneurship and Philanthropy (ACSEP), National University of Singapore;

**Dr Jorge Moll**, President of the D'Or Institute for Research and Education (IDOR), Brazil and Stanford University;

**Professor Anne-Claire Pache**, Chair of Philanthropy, ESSEC Business School, Paris.

### Associated professors and researchers

The professors and researchers associated with the GCP come from various faculties. In 2019, seven professors and postdocs from five faculties (Law, Humanities, GSEM, Medicine and CISA) worked with the Centre on projects relating to philanthropy.

### Academic fellows

The Centre also works with academic fellows; they are practitioners who are involved in teaching and research under the guidance of a UNIGE professor.

**Jeanne Arn**, recipient of the prestigious Gates Cambridge Scholarship 2019;

**Dr Anne Laure Bandle**, lawyer and lecturer;

**Delphine Bottge**, lawyer;

**Philipp Fischer**, lawyer;

**Dr Giulia Neri-Castracane**, lawyer and lecturer;

**Vincent Pfammatter**, lawyer;

**Dr Emma Tieffenbach**, lecturer;

**Professor Livia Ventura**, Assistant Professor of Comparative Private Law at the LUISS Guido Carli University in Rome.

### Funding

2019 was a successful year in terms of both the Centre's work and its funding. Total revenues, which comprised funding from UNIGE, strategic partners and other sources, including the SNSF, amounted to CHF 1,087,400.00.

## GCP in the news

As a research centre and key player in the philanthropy sector, we are regularly consulted and cited in the media. In 2019, the Centre contributed to 14 newspaper articles, TV and radio interviews.

***When philanthropy is accused of jeopardizing democracy,***  
18 December 2019, CNN Money Switzerland

***Le droit suisse peine à soutenir l'entrepreneuriat social,***  
28 November 2019, L'Agefi

***Extinction Rebellion entre petits dons et gros donateurs,***  
19 November 2019, RTS Un / Le journal 19h30

***L'Université de Genève crée une chaire en philanthropie comportementale unique en Europe,*** 13 October 2019, Radio La 1ère

***Une chaire pour cerner les motivations du philanthrope,***  
10 October 2019, Le journal de l'UNIGE

***Genevois et vaudois ont une confiance aveugle dans les fondations,***  
27 September 2019, Le Temps

***Première évaluation de la vitalité du secteur philanthropique lémanique,*** 27 September 2019, allnews.ch

***La filantropia aiuta l'azienda,*** 19 May 2019, Corriere del Ticino

***Philanthropie : un succès genevois,*** 12 March 2019, Léman Bleu Télé

***Genève veut devenir un centre mondial de la philanthropie,***  
18 February 2019, L'Agefi

***Philanthropie et neurosciences,*** 6 February 2019, allnews.ch

***La philanthropie vue depuis les méandres du cerveau,***  
5 February 2019, Le Temps

***UNIGE creates a Chair in behavioural philanthropy,***  
10 February 2019, Alliance Magazine

***Deux nouveaux partenaires pour le Centre en philanthropie,***  
21 January 2019, L'Agefi

[More information](#)

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**Our strategic  
partners**



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