



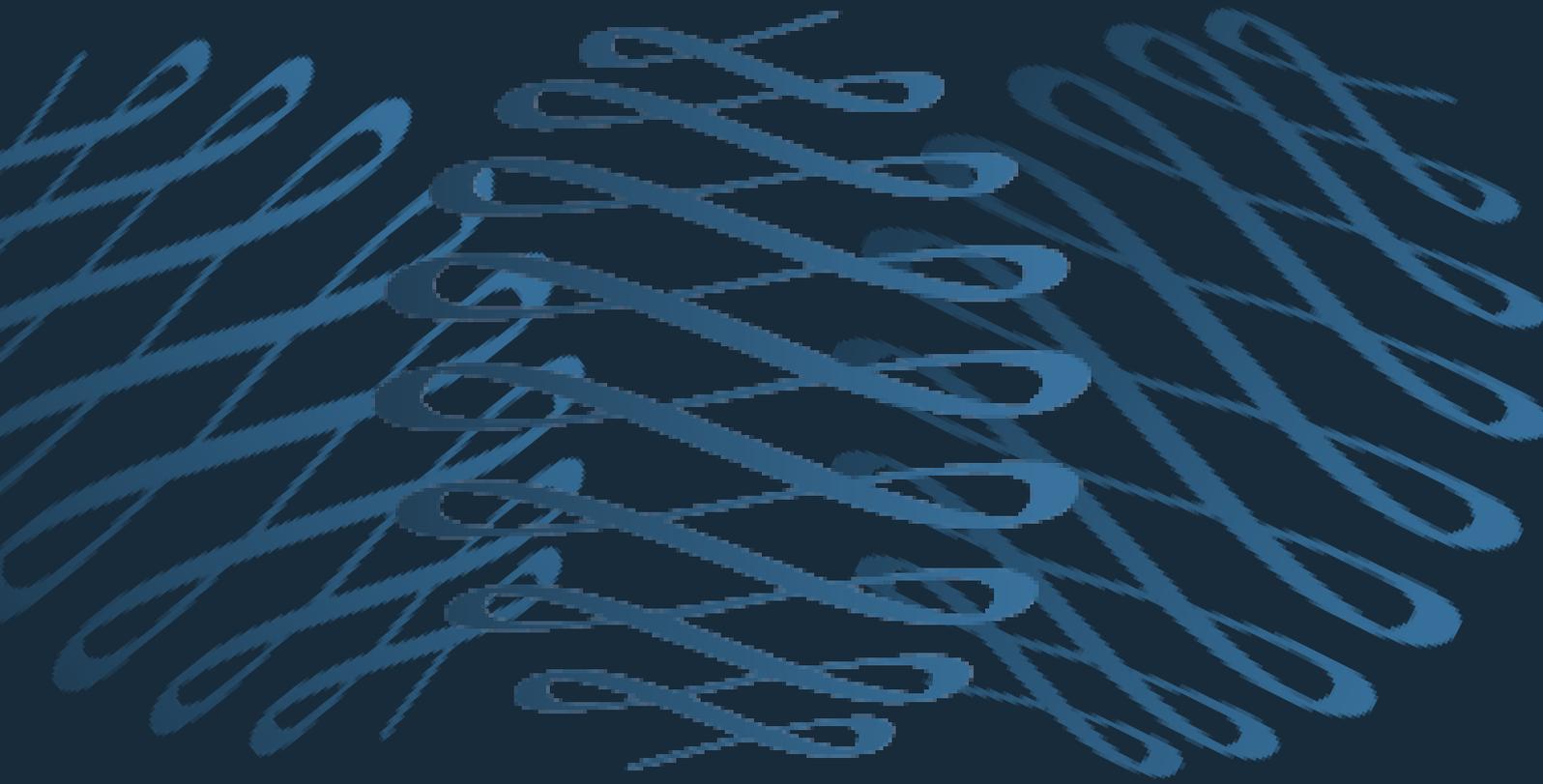
CIDS

GENEVA CENTER FOR
INTERNATIONAL DISPUTE SETTLEMENT

CIDS

ANNUAL REPORT

2020



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Foreword

2020 was the year during which our way of living and working has dramatically changed. With schools closed across the globe and universities sending students home, the education and research markets have been transformed by the impact of Covid-19. Our traditional class rooms, conference halls and meeting rooms have been replaced by Zoom sessions, with no physical interaction and just brief glimpses into private spaces. CIDS, like any other organization, has been seriously affected by this and had to adapt to a new way of operating.

Although shyly, digital transformation was already part of the CIDS strategy for some years. However, the global pandemic gave us a brutal push that we had to absorb quickly. Internally, we have changed the way we operate by moving all teaching and assessment online during the second term of the academic year 2019-2020 and the summer 2020. We have adapted the way we work to the new socially distanced environment and have accompanied our students and faculty through this difficult transition.

But CIDS has also taken this challenging period as an opportunity to evolve. We have sought to make the most of opportunities provided by technological change to meet changing customer needs, increase accessibility to our programs, and improve educational and research outcomes. We decided to go beyond the emergency remote teaching for the start of the new academic year, and have launched, in September 2020, an Online Section of our Master in International Dispute Settlement (MIDS). This new modality runs in parallel of the traditional program in Geneva and is accessible fully online. With the use of distance learning pedagogics and the flexibility to undertake the program in two years, the MIDS Online Section reaches out to a new community of professionals who want to continue their education without interrupting their professional and personal lives.

What has not changed is the quality of the programs we offer, the liveliness of the class discussions and the commitment to the objective of the CIDS to contribute to the development of knowledge of the multiple phenomena that underlie the mechanisms for the settlement of international disputes, and to the education of future actors in this field.

This Annual Report 2020 gives an overview of what we have accomplished during this challenging year.

1. The Center

The Center for International Dispute Settlement (CIDS) is a joint center of the University of Geneva Law School and the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva. Founded at the end of 2016, its mission is to deliver in-depth and executive education, to conduct and promote research, and to contribute to public debates and activities in the field of international dispute settlement.

CIDS is led by co-directors Professors Laurence Boisson de Chazournes and Thomas Schultz (both University of Geneva), in charge respectively of its flagship program, the Geneva LL.M. in International Dispute Settlement (MIDS), and of the development of the Center's research and outreach activities. Ana Ruiz serves as CIDS Executive Director and Executive Director of the Online Section of the MIDS program and Mariona Cusí as MIDS Executive Director.

The Center is supervised by the CIDS Council, presided over by Professor Emerita Gabrielle Kaufmann-Kohler (University of Geneva, Partner at Lévy Kaufmann-Kohler) and further composed of His Excellency Judge Abdulqawi A. Yusuf (former President of the International Court of Justice), Dr Michael Schoell (Vice-Director of the Swiss Federal Office for Justice), Elliott Geisinger, (Past President of the Swiss Arbitration Association, Partner at Schellenberg Wittmer), Professor Zachary Douglas QC (Graduate Institute, Matrix Chambers), Professor Marcelo Kohen (Graduate Institute, Secretary General of the *Institut de Droit International*), as well as Professors Boisson de Chazournes and Schultz.

CIDS is placed under the ultimate authority of the *Directoire*, representing its parent institutions, the University of Geneva and the Graduate Institute, and composed of Professors Yves Flückiger (Rector of the University of Geneva), Marie-Laure Salles (Director of the Graduate Institute), Nicolas Levrat (University of Geneva), and Cédric Dupont (Graduate Institute).

2. Education

2.1 MIDS

The MIDS, launched in September 2008 under the aegis of the University of Geneva Law School and the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, is the core teaching program of the CIDS.

The MIDS covers international dispute settlement broadly speaking, including international commercial, investment and sports arbitration, WTO dispute settlement, proceedings before the International Court of Justice and various other international courts and tribunals, mediation, and legal advocacy skills. Its broad scope makes it one of the rare programs in the world that covers all relevant aspects in the field, thereby acknowledging the interrelations and similarities that exist between most methods and mechanisms of international dispute settlement.

The MIDS aims at ranking among the first three choices worldwide for students seeking postgraduate education in international arbitration or dispute resolution. The program provides full-time postgraduate legal education to around 40 students per year.

The MIDS, a 90 ECTS credit course, is designed for students who hold a first complete law degree and have a good command of the English language. Most students already have professional experience in law at the time of enrolling, some to a significant extent.

The structure of the program is largely elective, offering students latitude to pursue their specific interest in dispute settlement while keeping within parameters, set to ensure the acquisition of the indispensable knowledge in the field. The program is taught in English, with the possibility to take optional courses in French.

Since its start, the MIDS has provided education to 439 students from 85 countries and all continents.

MIDS graduates head for careers in arbitration or international law departments of law firms, in foreign affairs, trade or justice ministries, as legal officers in international dispute settlement institutions, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations. Some graduates teach at various universities around the globe and others pursue PhD studies after the MIDS.

The MIDS faculty includes experts carefully selected from among the best-known and most respected academics and practitioners in the field of dispute settlement worldwide.

2.1.1 MIDS Governance

- MIDS Program Director: Prof. Laurence Boisson de Chazournes
- Innovation lead, MIDS Online Section: Prof. Thomas Schultz
- MIDS Committee:
 - Prof. Laurence Boisson de Chazournes
 - Prof. Zachary Douglas
 - Prof. Marcelo Kohen
 - Prof. Thomas Schultz
- MIDS Executive Director: Ms. Mariona Cusí
- MIDS Online Section Support: Ms Ana Ruiz
- Coordinator: Ms. Evelyne Bryden
- Administrative Assistant: Ms. Catherine Cervantes
- Executive Assistant: Ms. Christine Taets
- Lecturers:
 - Dr. Dafina Atanasova
 - Dr. Lorenzo Palestini

2.1.2 Curriculum

The program includes the following main building blocks:

- Two semester-long **General Courses**, providing a comprehensive overview of international dispute settlement. The first General Course deals with the organization of international dispute settlement: which disputes correspond to which dispute resolution mechanisms, and how these mechanisms operate. The second General Course reviews the main proceedings, with an eye for comparison and contrasts.

- The General Courses are accompanied by weekly “Oxbridge” style **tutorials**, held in small groups of about ten people. Tutorials serve two different purposes. On the one hand, they provide an opportunity to revisit and explore in more detail the key concepts addressed in the General Course. On the other hand, during every tutorial session, a student presents a research paper that is then the subject of a discussion among classmates. Every student delivers two research papers during the MIDS, one in each semester.
- A choice of **intensive courses**, most of which are taught by visiting professors. Each course consists of nine hours of class, spread over two or three days. These courses focus on a specific dispute settlement mechanism or explore in depth a particular topic. Intensive courses typically elaborate on matters addressed more briefly in the General Courses. Students are offered 12 to 15 courses out of which the requirement is to take 8, the average number of courses followed by a MIDS student being 10.
- A choice of semester-long **optional courses**, drawn from a list of classes offered in the regular master program curricula of the Graduate Institute and the University of Geneva Law School. These courses revolve broadly around international dispute settlement. Students must take at least 2 optional courses.
- Education in the field of international dispute resolution cannot remain solely academic. The MIDS curriculum therefore includes a series of clinical **workshops**, aiming at improving core advocacy skills required in the international dispute settlement practice, such as legal writing skills, commercial mediation, financial damage analysis, and arbitration advocacy.
- An **academic retreat**, where students engage in a commercial arbitration moot exercise during two days, concluding with hearings before an arbitral tribunal composed of practitioners. The purpose is to develop skills in analyzing facts and evidence, building a strategy, construing a legal argumentation, practicing oral advocacy, and working in a team, all with limited time and with the related pressure.
- **Seminars** on new developments in international dispute settlement and on the work of key international organizations and arbitral institutions.
- International **conferences** on international dispute settlement related topics. Students are required to attend at least two, one in Switzerland and one abroad, from a choice that typically includes ASA conferences, BIICL Investment Treaty Forum and WTO

conferences, ICC Annual Meetings, MILAN CAM Annual Conference, and the University of Neuchâtel conference, among others.

- At least three public **lectures** with well-known academics and practitioners. These lectures are open to the public and gather a large number of students, practitioners, and academics from Switzerland and France.
- **Site visits** to dispute settlement institutions in Paris, The Hague, and Geneva.

2.1.3 MIDS Online Section

With the launch of its Online Section, the MIDS sought to be at the forefront of the educational offering in the field of international dispute settlement. Not only has the Covid-19 pandemic highlighted the need for providing students and young professionals with the opportunity to pursue their education while respecting their sanitary choices and travel constraints; the increasingly competitive and fast moving job market in international dispute settlement is calling for new and more flexible educational and networking options which give anyone the possibility to access a prestigious degree without disrupting their professional and personal life.

Students admitted to the Online Section may choose to undertake the program in one (full time) or two years (part time). This new modality aims at bringing flexibility while ensuring the same high-profile and quality education as the traditional MIDS program.

The curriculum of the Online Section is similar to the traditional program in residence. Only its pedagogy has been adapted to incorporate innovative teaching formats and technologies inspired by the best practices developed in recent years, in order to adapt to the specificities of distance learning.

2.1.4 The 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 MIDS editions

Students

For the 2019-2020 edition of the MIDS program, about 247 validated applications were submitted. The final class was composed of 41 regular MIDS students and 2 double degree

students coming from NUS. Of the 43 students, 20 were female and 23 male, representing a total of 19 countries.

For the 2020-2021 edition, the MIDS received over 270 validated applications. The final class is composed of 42 students, of which 1 is following the double degree program between the MIDS and NUS. 9 students are undertaking the MIDS Online Section. Of these, 3 will complete the program in one year and 6 in two years, part-time.

MIDS students in 2019-2020

Kristina ALEKSA (Russia)	Harshal MORWALE (India)
Roberta ALIMONDA (Italy, Brazil)	Natalia MOUZOUOLA (Greece)
Luisa Fernanda ALVAREZ ZULUAGA (Colombia)	Puloma MUKHERJEE (India)
Ketevan ARAKHAMIA (Georgia)	Aikaterini NIKOLAOU (Greece)
Param BHALERAO (India)	Opemipo OMOYENI (Nigeria)
Vera BYKOVA (Russia)	Maria PASCHOU (Greece)
Neil CHATTERJEE (India)	Giovanni PASSAMONTI (Italy)
Silvana ÇINARI (Albania)	Adarsh RAMAKRISHNAN (India)
Xanthos CLERIDES (Cyprus)	Vladislav RODIONOV (Russia)
Aikaterini DASKALOPOULOU (Greece)	Victoria RODRIGUEZ GOYENA (Argentina)
Scott FALLS (Canada)	Aayushi SINGH (India / NUS)
Giacomo GASPAROTTI (Italy)	Aditya SINGH (India)
Gladwin ISSAC (India)	Nataliia SOLDATENKOVA (Russia)
Shanu JAIN (India)	Duc Viet TRAN (Vietnam)
Mingze JIANG (China)	Chizaram Janice UZODINMA (Nigeria)
Han Wool KIM (South Korea)	Giovanni VIGLINO (Italy)
Kyung Jik KWAK (South Korea)	Emma VILLARD (France)
Aditya LADDHA (India)	Dalia VISINSKYTE (Lithuania)
Swarupa MADHAVAN (India / NUS)	Adam David WAHLQUIST (United States)
Samhith MALLADI (India)	Bartosz WYGLADALA (Poland)
Juhi MATHUR (India)	Lia YOKOMIZO (Brazil)
Clément MKIVA (South Africa)	

MIDS Students in 2020-2021

MIDS On-Campus students:

Deepanshi Ahlawat (India)
 Ilias Andreadis (Greece)
 Gracious Avayiwoe (Ghana)
 Atie Babaie (Iran)
 Maria Bejan (Austria)
 Misol Fernanda Bolaños Gutiérrez (Mexico)
 Misha Chandna (India)
 Chen Chen (Hungary)
 Dullo Adan Ware Dullo (Kenya)
 Nathalie Finan (Canada, Egypt)
 Yiwen Guan (China)
 Shivansh Jolly (India)
 Anthea Jay Kamalnath (USA)
 Ayong Lim (South Korea)
 Kammal Machkokot (France)
 Ricardo Marroquín González (Mexico)
 Bettina Omizzolo (Brazil)
 Myrto Pantelaki (Greece)
 María Eugenia Piacquadio (Argentina)
 Vamika Puri (China - Hong Kong)
 Tusa Rutherford (USA)

Abhijeet Sadikale (India)
 Sanjana Sharma (India)
 Priyanka Shinde (Singapore)
 Katsiaryna Shkarbuta (Belarus)
 Yvete Marie Sola (Philippines)
 Arjun Sreenivas (India)
 Jie Tai (China)
 Leah Thomas (India)
 Danielle Tubert (Brazil, France)
 Jiahe Yu (China)
 Hanchun Zhu (China)
 Laura Camila Zinnerman (Argentina, Italie)

Online Section Students :

Lorette Giacometti (Switzerland)
 Lorraine Granier (France)
 Daniel S. Hofileña (Philippines)
 Delfina Isoardi (Argentina)
 Octavio Kehr (Chile, Switzerland)
 Manasi Kumar (India)
 Samantha Raymann (Switzerland, Mexico)
 Shri Singh (India)
 Julie Tannous (Lebanon)

Scholarships

The sources of income for the MIDS programme are the tuition fees (CHF 28'000 per student as of 2020) and contributions in kind from the University of Geneva Law School and the Graduate Institute.

Thanks to the generous support of donors, the MIDS was able to offer scholarships to 10 students of each of the academic years covered by this report:

- Lévy Kaufmann-Kohler (Geneva) offers a full scholarship covering the tuition fees and living expenses during the program;
- LALIVE (Geneva) offers a full scholarship covering the tuition fees and living expenses during the program;
- Dechert LLP (Paris) offers a full scholarship covering the tuition fees and living expenses during the program;
- Lambadarios Law Firm (Athens) offers a partial scholarship in the form of a reduction of the tuition fees;
- MIDS on behalf of Young-ICCA offers a partial scholarship covering the tuition fees.

In addition to that, a private Swiss foundation offers 5 partial scholarships covering the living expenses during the program. Under the agreement with this foundation, students awarded with scholarship benefit from a reduction of their tuition fees.

MIDS 2019-2020 Curriculum

The Covid-19 pandemic arrived to Geneva early in the second semester of the 2019-2020 academic year, impacting the students following the MIDS program. In this regard, all activities and courses had to be shifted online and adapted to the new situation.

Knowing the importance of keeping the program true to itself and to support the students in this difficult situation, the MIDS team worked against the clock to not only continue to deliver the curriculum as initially scheduled but also to provide the best MIDS experience possible to its students even in these exceptional circumstances.

In this regard, the MIDS was able to keep, albeit in an online format, most of its planned courses and activities thanks to the help and support of the University of Geneva and the Graduate Institute, the MIDS staff and the faculty involved. The MIDS also kept close communication with its students, giving them regular updates on the situation and adaptation of the courses remotely, as well as being available to support them individually as necessary.

General Course – Spring semester

Discusses the main procedural issues that arise in the international legal proceedings examined in the General Course during the first semester. As the procedures in the different dispute resolution processes raise similar issues (i.e. jurisdiction, provisional remedies, equal treatment, evidence, enforcement), this course reviews these aspects with an eye to comparisons and contrasts.

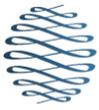
It was taught by Prof. Zachary Douglas (Graduate Institute) and Prof. Marcelo Kohen (Graduate Institute).

Tutorials

Intrinsically connected to the General Courses, they are weekly interactions between a tutor, one of the MIDS lecturers, and a group of about ten students. The tutorials were conducted by MIDS lecturers, Dr. Lorenzo Palestini (public international law) and Dr. Dafina Atanasova (private international law).

Intensive courses

- **Sports Arbitration with Prof. Antonio Rigozzi**, University of Neuchâtel; Partner, Lévy Kaufmann-Kohler
Switzerland hosts most major international sports federations and organizations, including the International Olympic Committee and the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), which acts as the world's highest sports tribunal for most kinds of disputes between athletes or clubs and sport's governing bodies. CAS also administers commercial arbitrations about sports matters and a specific arbitration procedure for the Olympic Games. MIDS students were introduced to these different procedures and also had the opportunity to discuss their impact on the rights of athletes.
- **WTO Dispute Settlement with Prof. Gabrielle Marceau**, Professor, University of Geneva; Senior Counsellor, WTO Research Division (ERSD)
Through an examination of the actual process of an authentic WTO dispute, this course focused on how the dispute settlement mechanism of the WTO operates from a legal, political and diplomatic perspective. By placing the WTO in the broad institutional context of international economic relations, it considered how WTO panelists, arbitrators, and members of the Appellate Body have propelled the WTO dispute settlement system to



become one of the most effective international litigation mechanisms. In reviewing the procedural steps of a dispute, including the use of experts, the retaliation stage, and the eventual mutually agreed solution, the students were able to experience how States and other international actors can address international economic tensions resulting from societal choices, while pursuing the WTO goals of both fighting against illegitimate protectionism and protecting legitimate public policy objectives.

- **Public Policy in International Arbitration with Prof. Jan Kleinheisterkamp**, Associate Professor of Law, London School of Economics

Whether arbitration is understood as a mere creature of contract or part of international justice, the notion of public policy is crucial for arbitration's efficiency and legitimacy as a safeguard of public interests in private dispute settlement. This course focused on how arbitrability, internationally mandatory rules, and public policy exceptions fit together both in theory and practice and explores concepts such as transnational public policy as a limit to parties' autonomy.

- **EU Law and International Arbitration with Prof. George A. Bermann**, Walter Gellhorn Professor and Jean Monnet Professor, Columbia Law School

For some time, it has been assumed in European circles that international commercial arbitration was adequately regulated by the fundamental text, the 1958 New York Convention. But a number of circumstances have come together – a growing awareness that important EU claims are being decided in arbitral rather than judicial fora, a dramatic heightening of EU activity in private international law generally, debates over the use of anti-suit injunctions in the international arbitration field, and imperfections of the New York Convention itself – to put international commercial arbitration suddenly in the EU spotlight. The course examined these developments and their prospects.

- **The PCA and its Contribution to the Evolution of International Dispute Settlement with Mr. Brooks W. Daly**, Deputy Secretary-General and Principal Legal Counsel, Permanent Court of Arbitration

While arbitration is most often thought of as an alternative to litigation in national courts, the PCA was founded in 1899 to provide an alternative to war. From its beginnings in the settlement of interstate disputes to its diverse modern activity, this course examined how

the PCA has contributed to, and been transformed by, the dispute settlement needs of the international community.

- **Investment Arbitration in Africa with Prof. Makane Mbengue**, Professor, University of Geneva; Affiliate Professor, Sciences Po Paris (School of Law)

African states have contributed significantly to the development of international investment law but also to the development of dispute settlement mechanisms dealing with investment disputes. This course aimed at analyzing the participation of African states in the shaping of universal mechanisms such as ICSID in particular. It also showed how specific procedures for the settlement of investment disputes have been put in place within the African continent, for instance through African regional courts and at the level of the Organization for the Harmonization of Business Law in Africa (OHADA). Last but not least, the course emphasized on-going reforms and proposals in Africa with respect to investment arbitration.

- **Commercial Arbitration in China with Prof. Jane Willems**, Associate Professor, Tsinghua University and Associate Director, IADS International Arbitration and Dispute Settlement Program

This course introduced the trends and fundamental legal concepts underlying domestic and international commercial arbitration in Mainland China. It started with the legal framework and the institutional organizations active in the field. It then turned, relying on a comparative approach of arbitral and judicial practice, to the main characteristics of Chinese commercial arbitration underlying (i) the enforcement of agreements for arbitration with a seat in Mainland China; (ii) the commencement and conduct of arbitration proceedings in Mainland China; and (iii) recourse against arbitral awards rendered in Mainland China as well as enforcement of Chinese and foreign arbitral awards.

- **Investment Arbitration in Action with Dr. Michele Potestà**, Partner, Lévy Kaufmann-Kohler and Senior Researcher, CIDS; **and Ms. Catherine Kettlewell**, Legal Counsel, ICSID
How does an investment arbitration proceeding unfold in practice? This intensive course walked students through the main steps and phases of an investment arbitration proceeding, seen from the various viewpoints of parties, counsel, tribunal, tribunal

secretaries, arbitral institution, and other actors (e.g., non-disputing parties). The course included a practical exercise centered on an investment mock case, which allowed students to train their writing and oral skills and better understand and anticipate procedural steps in an arbitration.

- **French Law on International Commercial Arbitration with Prof. Maximin de Fontmichel**, Professor, Université de Bretagne Occidentale and Director, Master in International Arbitration and Business Law, University of Versailles-Paris Saclay

The French arbitration law, tradition and culture are not only among the most important frameworks for international commercial arbitration today because Paris is a leading place for international arbitration; they are also among the intellectual factors that most profoundly shaped the world of arbitration as we know it today. As French arbitration law still inspires new legal frameworks and is being used by practitioners throughout the world, this course introduced the students to that French heritage, from the rules governing the arbitral agreement to the rules applicable to the arbitral award, and discussed today's international commercial arbitration law and practice in France.

Optional courses

In addition to the General Course and intensive courses, students had the opportunity to choose semester-long weekly optional courses drawn from a list of 20 to 30 classes relating to international dispute settlement and neighboring fields. The courses were drawn from the regular masters' curricula of the Graduate Institute and the University of Geneva Law School. The courses listed below are those most attended by MIDS students during the 2nd semester of the 2019-2020 academic year:

- International Investment Law with Prof. Joost Pauwelyn
- Fundamental Principles of International Law with Prof. Marcelo Kohen
- Research Seminar on the International Law of Energy with Prof. Jorge Viñuales

Workshops

- **Financial Damage Analysis Workshop with Mr. Geoffrey Senogles** (Partner, Senogles & Co, Chartered Accountants, Switzerland).

Any lawyer working in arbitration, whether as counsel, arbitrator or arbitral secretary, will undoubtedly be faced with quantum issues. Through this workshop, students got an insight into financial damage expertise and methodologies from the perspective of a practicing forensic accountant, who frequently testifies as financial expert witness in international proceedings and previously dealt with financial aspects of mass claims at the United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC).

- **Witness Examination in International Arbitration Workshop**, organized with the **Foundation for International Arbitration Advocacy (FIAA)**

This two-day workshop in arbitration advocacy was specifically designed by the FIAA for the MIDS students. FIAA is a Geneva-based foundation which is generally recognized for providing the world's best clinical training in arbitration advocacy. For this edition of the workshop, the MIDS and FIAA counted with the support of the International Dispute Resolution Centre (IDRC) in London, who provided the online platform and helped with the logistics of organizing the workshop online.

Following an introductory session, the students were taken through practical exercises of witness examination in small groups and given immediate feedback. The FIAA advocacy faculty was led by Mr. David Roney (FIAA Founder; Sidley Austin, Geneva) and Ms. Wendy Miles (Chair of the FIAA Executive Committee and at Debevoise & Plimpton, London at the time), who were joined by arbitration practitioners from Europe, including Vanesa Alarcón Duvanel (King & Spalding, Geneva), Lucas de Ferrari (White & Case, Paris), Susan Field (Herbert Smitt Freehills, London), Eliane Fischer (Freshfields, Paris), Samuel Pape (Latham & Watkins, London), Tino Schneider (LALIVE, Geneva), Dorothee Schramm (Sidley Austin, Geneva) and Jeffrey Sullivan (Gibson Dunn, London).

Seminars and lectures

In March 2020, the Geneva-based law firm LALIVE organized a training seminar on the practice of international arbitration for the MIDS students in their offices. During this half-day training, MIDS students could benefit from the experience and knowledge of the firm's leading lawyers. This year's session focused on commercial arbitration proceedings. At the end of the training, the students had the opportunity to informally meet and exchange with the partners and counsels of

the firm. The students were able to benefit from this training in presence, since it took place on 4 March 2020.

The MIDS also organized an online seminar on the “Role of the Secretary of the Tribunal” with Panagiotis Chalkias, Associate at White & Case, Geneva, co-Chair of Young ICCA and MIDS Alumni. For the students this was also an opportunity to inquire about career paths after graduation.

Conferences

As a mandatory part of the curriculum, students attend two international conferences, one in Switzerland and another one abroad. The choice of conferences varies from year to year according to the offer and topics dealt with by different conferences and institutions. During this spring semester, MIDS students attended the **ASA Annual Conference 2020** on “Clear Path or Jungle in Commercial Arbitrators’ Conflict of Interest?” (Zurich, 7 February, 2020).

Study trips

The MIDS students usually visit several international institutions in The Hague during the second semester of the academic year. Visits include lectures and seminars with a Judge at the International Court of Justice, with staff from the Permanent Court of Arbitration, as well as with members of the Iran-United States Claims Tribunal.

Due to the global pandemic, unfortunately, all study trips and institutional visits had to be cancelled during the second semester of 2019-2020. The students were nevertheless able to participate in online seminars with the then President of the International Court of Justice, Judge Yusuf, as well as with the MIDS-PCA Fellow at the time, Maté Csernus, on behalf of the Permanent Court of Arbitration.

MIDS 2020-2021 Curriculum

The MIDS started its 2020-2021 academic year in September in presence. In order to provide a safe environment for its students and respect the sanitary measures in place in Geneva at the time, the MIDS provided each student with two high-quality cloth facemasks, emblazoned with the MIDS logo, and made sure that all classrooms were well ventilated during the classes.

Unfortunately, the sanitary situation turned to the worse and, on 2 November 2020, the MIDS had to once again switch to fully online classes. In this regard, the MIDS once again relied on its team of staff and faculty to deliver the best possible experience to its students and support them in these difficult times. The MIDS was able to not only keep all the courses planned but also to offer additional virtual activities to promote networking and learning opportunities, as well as student support.

General Course – Autumn semester

Sets the stage and reviews the different mechanisms for resolving international disputes. The course focuses on commercial and investment arbitration, ICJ, ITLOS, the PCA and WTO dispute settlement procedures, as well as on certain other contemporary dispute settlement mechanisms. The main characteristics of each dispute settlement institution and procedure are examined, with emphasis on the types of disputes that can be brought before each one.

It was taught by Prof. Laurence Boisson de Chazournes (University of Geneva) and Prof. Thomas Schultz (University of Geneva).

Tutorials

The tutorials were conducted by MIDS lecturers, Dr. Lorenzo Palestini (public international law) and Dr. Dafina Atanasova (private international law).

Intensive courses

- **The Arbitration Agreement in International Commercial Arbitration with Prof. Sébastien Besson**, Professor, University of Neuchâtel and Partner Lévy Kaufmann-Kohler

The arbitration agreement is the cornerstone of international commercial arbitration. It raises many issues that in part receive divergent answers under different arbitration laws. This course explores these issues in depth, including the notion of separability of the arbitration agreement and the principle of competence-competence that play a fundamental role in the theory and practice of international commercial arbitration.



- **ICC Arbitration with Prof. Pierre Tercier**, Emeritus Professor, University of Fribourg and Honorary Chairman, ICC International Court of Arbitration

The International Court of Arbitration of the ICC is one of the most important and best-known arbitration institutions. Its unique set of procedures has been applied to more than 20'000 disputes since their adoption. Students attending this course benefited from a thorough insight into the ICC arbitration process.

- **Multiple Proceedings with Prof. Gabrielle Kaufmann-Kohler**, Professor Emerita, University of Geneva and Partner, Lévy Kaufmann-Kohler

Multiple proceedings dealing with the same or closely related disputes are increasingly frequent in commercial and investment arbitration. This course reviewed the causes for such increase (more legal bases to bring claims, more actors involved in economic transactions, more available fora); whether multiple proceedings are to be favored or discouraged policy-wise; and the legal tools to manage the multiplicity, both existing and prospective.

- **WTO Dispute Settlement with Prof. Gabrielle Marceau**, Geneva University and Senior Counsellor, WTO Research Division (ERSD)

Through an examination of the actual process of an authentic WTO dispute, this course focused on how the dispute settlement mechanism of the WTO operates from a legal, political and diplomatic perspective. By placing the WTO in the broad institutional context of international economic relations, it considered how WTO panelists, arbitrators, and members of the Appellate Body have propelled the WTO dispute settlement system to become one of the most effective international litigation mechanisms. In reviewing the procedural steps of a dispute, including the use of experts, the retaliation stage, and the eventual mutually agreed solution, the students were able to experience how States and other international actors can address international economic tensions resulting from societal choices, while pursuing the WTO goals of both fighting against illegitimate protectionism and protecting legitimate public policy objectives.

Optional courses

Students took a choice of at least one semester-long weekly optional course drawn from a list of relating to international dispute settlement and neighboring fields. The courses were drawn from the regular masters' curricula of the Graduate Institute and the University of Geneva Law School. The courses listed below are those most attended by MIDS students during the 1st semester of the 2020-2021 academic year:

- International Trade Law with Prof. Jan Bohanes (Graduate Institute)
- International Arbitration with Prof. Thomas Schultz (University of Geneva)
- WTO Law and Practice with Prof. Gabrielle Marceau (University of Geneva)
- Comparative Methodology: Contract Law with Prof. Thomas Kadner (University of Geneva)

Workshops

- **Legal Writing Workshop with Mr. David Roney and Ms. Tanya Landon**, Partners, Sidley Austin

It covered the legal drafting process in international arbitration with a special emphasis on written advocacy and persuasion. In addition to the theoretical underpinnings, it included practical exercises and individualized feedback on legal submissions drafted by the students as part of the workshop.

- **Mediation workshop with Ms. Birgit Sambeth Glasner**, Partner, Altenburger Ltd legal+tax

Over the course of three days, a respected international commercial mediator takes the class through the nuts and bolts of mediation by discussing some of the key questions of this practice, such as when should parties settle, when are they ready to do so, how to bring them to a settlement, etc. These questions require simple skills, which are too often ignored by counsel and arbitrators alike, much to the detriment of the parties. Having such skills is a competitive advantage on the job market.

Seminars and lectures

At the **Opening Ceremony** of the academic year 2020-2021, **Prof. Gabrielle Kaufmann-Kohler** (Professor Emerita, University of Geneva; Partner, Lévy Kaufmann-Kohler) shared personal

reflections on the impact that the Covid-19 crisis was having on the practice of international arbitration and how it was already affecting the work of lawyers now and for the future.

MIDS students could also broaden their knowledge on the **Law of the Sea** with a seminar given by **Prof. Tullio Treves** (University of Milan; former Judge, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea; Counsel, Curtis Mallet-Prevost Colt & Mosle). They could also benefit from the experience and teaching of **Prof. Makane Mbengue** (Professor, University of Geneva; Affiliate Professor, Sciences Po Paris School of Law) during the seminar **“Dispute Settlement at the WTO: An Introduction”**.

Conferences

Due to the sanitary situation, most conferences initially scheduled to take place in presence had to progressively move online. The MIDS turned this as an opportunity to give its students access to more events than it is traditionally foreseen in the curriculum:

- Latin Lawyer – GAR Interactive: Arbitration Summit (29 September 2020)
- ASA below 40 Seminar on “The art of persuasion: How to present, persuade and prevail” (2 October 2020)
- GAR Interactive: Moscow (8 October)
- GAR Interactive: North America (14 October 2020)
- GAR Interactive: Hong Kong (22 October 2020)
- University of Neuchâtel Conference on “New Developments in International Commercial Arbitration 2020” (6 November 2020)
- GAR Interactive: Dubai (16-19 November 2020)
- Milan Arbitration Chamber Annual Conference on “Back to the Future: AI and the Use of Technology in International Arbitration” (27 November 2020)
- ICC Annual meeting on “Overriding Mandatory Rules and Compliance in International Arbitration” (3-4 December 2020)
- GAR Interactive: Africa (9 December 2020)

Study trips

Unfortunately, due to the Covid restrictions applicable during most part of the semester, the traditional study trip to the Paris to visit the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and some international law firms had to be postponed to the next term.

2.1.5 Career services

One of the key features of the program is the individualized career service offered to each MIDS student. They benefit throughout the year from individual meetings with the MIDS Executive Director and Career Advisor, Mariona Cusí¹.

The goals of the individual meetings with the students evolve during the year. During the first semester, students work on how to draft their CV and application letter, with the aim of improving how to introduce themselves and be more effective in drawing up the documents required for a job application. The students also benefit from a MIDS workshop on career strategy, CV and cover letter drafting, professional networking, as well as social media presence skills.

As the academic years progresses, students prepare their strategy to apply for a position. The MIDS Career Advisor conducts individual mock interviews based on the features of the forthcoming real interview. Following the real interview, students are offered feedback and debriefing sessions.

In addition, the MIDS pays special attention to improving the students' networking skills and professional presence, not only in the social media, but also at the different events and conferences attended throughout the year.

¹ For this spring semester, Ms Cusí was replaced by Mr. Rémi Garros-Quinn as Career Advisor during her maternity leave.

During the first semester of the 2020-2021 academic year, the students also benefitted from an **online seminar on “Pursuing a Career in International Law” with D. Wes Rist**, Deputy Executive Director at the American Society of International Law (ASIL) and author of ASIL’s “Careers in International Law”. The seminar focused on the US job market and covered the following topics: targeted job searching, resume drafting, managing one’s professional contacts, identifying appropriate international experiences, pursuing valuable volunteer and professional membership opportunities, and other practical issues that students can pursue.

Traditionally, a majority of MIDS students find a position for their “life after the MIDS” before the end of the program. In the academic year 2019-2020, around 80% of the students were hired by law firms, arbitral institutions, international organizations or government authorities. Some students also chose to continue their studies.

During the 2019-2020 academic year, the MIDS launched its Mentorship Program, offering students the possibility to be paired with a mentor from a pool of alumni. This program, now in its second year, aims at providing students with academic and career guidance and has been highly appreciated by both mentors and mentees.

2.1.6 Professional and social events

A successful educational experience is not only about academic content. It also requires the right atmosphere, friends to share experiences with, and occasions to enjoy a year away from professional constraints. For the students, it is also important to build contacts for the future. To meet these expectations, the MIDS organized a number of social events, including welcome and farewell cocktails. These events are attended by many of the key actors in the Geneva community of international dispute settlement, allowing for networking.

In this particular year hit by the pandemic and marked by confinements and isolation, networking and career development was no longer the only aim of the social events organized by the MIDS. Solicitous of the well-being of its students, the MIDS multiplied the opportunities for contact and interactions of the students with its staff and faculty. These events took various forms and shapes:

- 12 virtual coffee sessions with MIDS faculty members, including intensive course professors. In order to create some closeness and allow for better interactions, the groups were kept small with a maximum of 10 students per session.
- Regular information sessions with MIDS staff for updates on the sanitary situation and overall follow-up with students on their well-being.
- 2 informal class meetings with the Online Section students and the MIDS staff. The purpose of these meetings was to receive on the experience the students were having with the new modality of the program. The feedback was then immediately used to adapt and improve the methodology and the services.
- Frequent individual meetings with MIDS staff held online or in presence according to the student's preference. The purpose of these meetings depended on the need and interest of the student, partly professional, partly personal, and often a mix of both.

2.1.7 MIDS – PCA Fellowship

By virtue of an agreement between the Permanent Court of Arbitration and the MIDS, a student of the graduating class has the opportunity to join the PCA, participating for a period of twelve months in the work of the PCA's International Bureau as an Assistant Legal Counsel.

Mr. Scott Falls, student from the 2019-2020 MIDS edition, joined the PCA for this one-year fellowship opportunity in September 2020. Mr. Maté Csernus (MIDS 2018-2019), Mr. Arthad Kurlekar (MIDS 2017-2018), Mr. Byron Perez (MIDS 2016-2017) and Ms. Maria Kiskachi (MIDS 2015-2016) preceded him in this position.

2.1.8 MIDS 2019-2020 Graduation and 2020-2021 Opening Ceremony

The Graduation for the MIDS 2019-2020 edition and the Opening for the 2020-2021 program were held in a joint ceremony on 28 September 2020 at the Auditorium Jacques-Freymont. The event was held in a hybrid mode to respect the sanitary measures in place in Geneva at the time.

Prof. Laurence Boisson de Chazournes opened the ceremony, while Prof. Bénédict Foëx (Dean of the Faculty of Law of the University of Geneva) and Prof. Marie-Laure Salles (Director of the

Graduate Institute) addressed and congratulated the graduating class. Prof. Gabrielle Kaufmann-Kohler (Professor Emerita, University of Geneva and Partner, Lévy Kaufmann-Kohler) then delivered the keynote speech to congratulate the graduating class and to welcome the incoming students. Ms. Katerina Daskalopoulou and Mr. Scott Falls spoke on behalf of the 2019-2020 class, remembering the experiences and memories of the students' year and welcoming the incoming 2020-2021 class.

2.1.9 Alumni

Many Alumni have joined leading law firms in major arbitration hubs, such as Brussels, Paris, London, Geneva, Singapore or New York. Others practice international dispute settlement in their home countries, including Albania, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Georgia, Greece, India, Indonesia, Italy, Kazakhstan, Korea, Lithuania, Mexico, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Uzbekistan.

A number of MIDS alumni hold positions at universities, for instance in Chile, Ethiopia, Mexico, Turkey or Ukraine; in governments, including in Argentina, Armenia, the Czech Republic, Egypt or Georgia; in national or regional arbitral institutions such as ICSID, the ICC International Court of Arbitration, the Dubai International Arbitration Centre, the Georgian International Arbitration Centre, the Kuala Lumpur Regional Centre for Arbitration, the LCIA-Mauritius International Arbitration Centre, the Singapore International Arbitration Centre, and the Swiss Chambers' Arbitration Institution.

Others have started a career as legal officers at international courts and international organizations such as the African Union, the European Court of Human Rights, the European Union, the International Court of Justice, the Permanent Court of Arbitration, the Iran-US Claims Tribunal, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, UNCTAD, the World Bank, the WTO and WIPO's Arbitration and Mediation Centre.

2.1.10 MIDS-NUS Double Degree Program

In 2017, the MIDS signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National University of Singapore (NUS), establishing a Double Degree Program in international dispute settlement. By virtue of this agreement, students of either institution having completed a first degree (either the MIDS or the NUS LL.M. in International Arbitration and Dispute Resolution), may apply to continue their studies at the other institution for one additional semester and some extra activities thereby obtaining both degrees.

In September 2020, Ms. Vamika Puri (China, Hong Kong) joined the MIDS for one semester after completing the requirements of the NUS LL.M. She will graduate with the two degrees in 2021. Han Wool Kim (South Korea) joined NUS for the first semester of the 2020-2021 academic year and is also expected to graduate in 2021.

In 2019-2020, two NUS students joined the MIDS, Ms. Swarupa Madhavan (India) and Ms. Aayushi Singh (India), after completing the requirements of the NUS LL.M. They graduated with the two degrees in 2020.

Mr. Rachid Sultan (Pakistan), a 2018-2019 MIDS student, joined NUS for one semester after completing the MIDS. He graduated with the two degrees in 2020.

2.2 Other Educational Programs

In July 2020, CIDS launched the first edition of the **Latin American International Arbitration Course (LAIAC)** in partnership with the Geneva Summer Schools of the University of Geneva and the University of Buenos Aires. Initially intended to take place in Argentina with a limited number of participants coming mainly from the Latin American continent, the program moved online and became a major training for 166 participants from 3 different continents.

The program aimed at introducing young professionals with little or no experience in the field to the general concepts of international commercial and investment arbitration and providing them with an understanding of procedural and substantive matters. The classes were taught by leading practitioners of the international dispute settlement world and featured (in order of appearance): Prof. Gabrielle Kaufmann-Kohler, Prof. Zachary Douglas QC, Prof. Marcelo Kohen,

Jonathan I. Blackman (Cleary Gottlieb), Eduardo Zuleta (Zuleta Legal), Prof. José Antonio Moreno Rodríguez (Centro de Estudios de Derecho, Economía y Política), Prof. Antonio Rigozzi (University of Neuchâtel, Lévy Kaufmann-Kohler), Prof. Raúl Vinuesa (University of Buenos Aires), Mr Eduardo Silva Romero (Dechert), Ms Clare Connellan (White & Case), Mr Gabriel Bottini (Uría Menéndez), Prof. Roque Caivano (University of Buenos Aires), Prof. Mónica Pinto (University of Buenos Aires), Gonzalo Flores (ICSID), Juan Pablo Argentato (ICC), Martin Doe (PCA), and Julián Bordacahar (PCA).

LAIAC was a successful experience which will guide the development of future educational programs of the CIDS.

3. Research

Research in law, and in particular criteria for excellence in research, have over the last decades globally shifted from a service towards legal practice to a purpose in itself, seeking the advancement of knowledge and understanding. CIDS in part follows this trend but, aware of the importance of continued critical contributions by academia to the defense and development of pacific methods of dispute settlement, it also significantly engages in services to practice. The projects it conducts reflect this diversity in approaches and aims.

In 2020, CIDS continued its research activities but a slower pace since the pandemic hit, because of the Center's decision to focus most of its energy on the transformation of education to online teaching – the launch of the online section of MIDS and the delivery of LAIAC.

Current Projects

‘ISDS Reform’ – led by Prof. Gabrielle Kaufmann-Kohler and Dr. Michele Potestà.

This project has developed against the background of the criticism that has emerged over the last years towards investor-State arbitration. Against this backdrop, a move for reform has developed over the past years, which currently has the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) as the focal point of discussions. The project seeks to provide fact-based study of the concerns over the ISDS system as well as contribute analysis and ideas for concrete reform proposals going forward. In this framework, the CIDS has contributed two research papers to UNCITRAL and organized or co-organized a series of seminars or workshops. It has also facilitated the creation of an *Academic Forum on ISDS*, which comprises a number of leading academic experts in the ISDS field.

‘From Situated Knowledge Production to Socio-Economic Effects: A Meta-Analysis of the Investment Arbitration Regime’ – led by Prof. Thomas Schultz and Dr. Niccolò Ridi

Does research about investment arbitration change investment arbitration? Who controls the knowledge about and the realities of this institution? This project first aims at an understanding of the structures of knowledge production about investment arbitration. It also examines how this knowledge shapes the institution and our representation of it, how it actually works and the understanding we have of how it works. On this tack, it conducts a meta-analysis of empirical studies about the socio-economic effects of investment arbitration, and analyses how the findings of these studies could and do feed back into the understanding of this institution, how they clash with the key knowledge producers’ interests and aesthetic prefiguration, and how they lead to measurable change.

‘Critical Arbitration’ – led by Prof. Thomas Schultz and Dr. Clément Bachmann

This project seeks to apply to arbitration the basic findings and methodological moves of the Critical Legal Studies movement and more precisely its idea that law, generally, maintains a given power structure and, through it, a given social order. It aims at understanding the mechanics of the creation or perpetuation of a social order through arbitration and the contents of that order

– the social inequalities it increases and decreases, the values it fosters and neglects, the norms it spreads and shuts down, the status groups it elevates and sidelines; its ethos, its layout, and its dynamics. It takes a critical look at arbitration, from this perspective. But it doesn't proceed from an aesthetic prefiguration that is critical of arbitration.

'The Vulnerability of International Courts and Tribunals' – led by Prof. Laurence Boisson de Chazournes

International courts and tribunals are under assault. They face serious, and mounting, hostility from a variety of state and non-state actors. In this context, in collaboration with Guillaume Guez, CIDS Research assistant, and Dr. Lorenzo Palestini, MIDS Lecturer, a research project proposal has been developed entitled "The International Judicial Function Under Pressure: Do Courts and Tribunals Go Off the Rails?" This project aims to analyse concrete legal criticisms of the way the judicial function is being exercised. It seeks to provide an inventory of these criticisms relating to judicial overreach, as well as a catalogue of the proposed corrective devices to tighten the grip of supposedly reckless courts and tribunals. The project then aims to assess whether the criticisms are well founded and whether the rectifying devices involved are compatible with the proper exercise of the judicial function, or rather worse than the alleged disease they seek to cure.

'Legal Feminism and International Dispute Settlement' – led by Prof. Thomas Schultz and Dr. Clément Bachmann

Starting from the simple observation that there are very few women in arbitration and international courts and tribunals, this project seeks to understand the consequences of this fact on the field of international dispute resolution, and through it on the areas of society that it touches.

'Data Disputes and AI' – led by Prof. Thomas Schultz

The use of artificial intelligence, broadly construed, is transforming all aspects of life and is assisting or replacing humans in a growing number of tasks, including tasks with legal objectives and/or effects. At the same time, there is evidence that algorithms may be replicating or even enhancing societal biases. As a result, several quarters of society have put forward a pressing concern for the need to open the black box of algorithms and understand how they make their decisions – that algorithms be 'interpretable'. These developments have brought forward questions as to the aims, optimal levels and limits of interpretability, and have led to a growing understanding in the literature that the answers to these questions are context specific. Given the societal role of law and the importance of providing reasons for human legal decisions, these questions are of particular relevance for algorithms that operate in the legal field.

In this multidisciplinary project, combining law and computer science/information technologies, our objective is to offer a comprehensive account of the extent to which the ideal of providing reasons in law should and could be translated into algorithms that have legal objectives and/or effects. The work would enable a refined understanding of the specificity of algorithmic decision-making when it pertains to the field of law, including the specific requirements of interpretability that law implies. By so doing, the project would provide an evaluative framework for legal algorithms, attuned both to their different roles within the field of law and to their technical characteristics.

'The Domain of International Adjudication: Why Sovereign States Abandon Decision Control' – led by Prof. Fuad Zarbiyev

This project aims to study the reasons explaining the jurisdictional commitments of States and their recourse to international courts and tribunals. States are often said to be reluctant to consent to the jurisdiction of international courts and tribunals and let the latter adjudicate their disputes, for instance because of a lack of predictability of court decisions and structural ambiguities of the applicable rules. These reasons, however, are particular manifestations of a

more general phenomenon: the desire of all governments to keep control over the decisions that affect them. Yet states do make judicial commitments and voluntarily submit disputes in which they are involved to international courts and tribunals. What are the reasons that bring states to abandon decision control?

‘The Impact of Social Identity on Annulment Decisions among Lawyers’ – led by Prof. Fuad Zarbiyev, Prof. Thomas Schultz, and Dr. Umut Yüksel

This project aims at understanding, through quantitative, statistical analysis, the extent to which social identity plays a role in lawyers reviewing and annulling other lawyers’ decisions, here in the specific context of investment arbitration. Key question: in an ICSID ad hoc annulment committee procedure, how influenced are the committee members, when having to decide whether to annul an investment arbitration award of an ICSID tribunal, by similar social traits and by prior social experiences?

3.1 Grant Applications

‘Dealing with Data Disputes, SNIS

In January 2020, CIDS submitted a grant application to the Swiss Network of International Studies (SNIS) for a project entitled “Dealing with Data Disputes”. The key question addressed by the project is: What would be an ideal, workable method to deal with disputes about access to and transfer of data in the digital economy (e.g. personal data collected by Facebook and Google), possibly with the assistance of artificial intelligence involved in the dispute resolution process itself? The indicative size of the grant is CHF 300’000, for a postdoc half time and a PhD student, for two years. The project’s principal investigator is Prof. Schultz, with a research network including Prof. Jacques de Werra (University of Geneva, law, co-applicant), Prof. Stéphane Marchand-Maillet (University of Geneva, computer science, co-applicant), Prof. Urs Gasser (Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society , Harvard University), Prof. Karim Benyekhlef (Cyberjustice Lab, University of Montreal), Prof. Alain Strowel (Catholic University of Louvain), Prof. Jiyu Zhang (Renmin University), Dr. James Henderson (IDIAP, University of Lausanne), Mr. Ignacio de Castro et al. (WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center).

‘Interpretability of algorithmic legal decision-making’, SNF

On 1 April 2020, CIDS has submitted a grant application on “The promise of interpretability for algorithmic legal decision-making as means to enhance fairness and accountability: specificities and limits”. The indicative grant size covers a postdoc and two PhD students, for three years. The project’s principal co-investigators are Prof. Schultz and Prof. Stéphane Marchand-Maillet (Computer science, University of Geneva).

‘Crisis, Criticism, and Change in the Investment Arbitration System’, SNF

In October 2020, CIDS submitted a revised grant application to the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF) for a project entitled ‘Crisis, Criticism, and Change in the Investment Arbitration System’. The key questions addressed by the project are: If investment arbitration is so detrimental to society, as it is often and increasingly said, why does it not change in any significant way? In which way, and by which processes, could and should investment arbitration change? The size of the grant applied for is CHF 950’000, for a postdoc full time and two PhD students, for four years. The project’s principal investigator is Prof. Schultz.

University of Geneva Internship Program

As a form of research grant ‘in kind’ from the University of Geneva, the CIDS benefitted from the participation of 15 interns to various research projects, selected from over 35 applicants. These interns are undergraduate students from Prof. Schultz’s course on ‘International Arbitration’ who volunteered for these projects in the framework of the Law Faculty’s ‘Stages académiques’, under which interns provide 160h of work in return for a one-course relief in their study program. These interns work under the supervision of Prof. Schultz. In 2020, they have prepared background research on all the research projects outlined above.

3.2 Research-Related Events

3.2.1 Doctoral Research Seminars

This series of seminars offers Ph.D. students a platform to discuss central questions relating to doctoral research in international law, under the guidance of senior researchers in the field. They

aim to achieve stimulating and provocative exchanges, leading doctoral students to ask important questions concerning research and to arrive at their own conclusions. Through these interactions, emerging international law scholars are expected to increase their autonomy as researchers and approach the challenges of the Ph.D. in a spirit of innovation. In 2019, the CIDS organized three Doctoral Research Seminars.

Seminar 1: Prof. Dr. Anne van Aaken and Dr. Sara Dezalay

The first seminar took place in February 2020, with Prof. Dr. Anne van Aaken (Professor, University of Hamburg) on ‘Social Science Approaches to International Law’ and Dr. Sara Dezalay (Senior Lecturer, University of Cardiff) on ‘Stakes for a Political-Sociology Research Agenda in International Law’.

Seminar 2: Dr. Niccolo Ridi

The second seminar was organized in May 2020 and was held online. Dr. Niccolo Ridi lead the discussion on “Mapping Usable Past in International Adjudication: Understanding Precedent through Theory and Network Science”.

The online format allowed for a higher number of participants and for the participation of doctoral students from foreign universities as far as New Delhi.

3.2.2 Brown Bag Research Seminars

In 2019, the CIDS launched a series of Brown Bag Research Seminars, during which a researcher delivers an academic paper in an informal and small setting, followed by a discussion, for a total duration of about 2 hours.

The first brown bag seminar took place on 18 February 2020 and featured Dr. Sara Dezalay who presented her paper entitled ‘African Lawyers: Between Imperial Legacies and Transformation in Global Capitalism’. Her presentation focused on the roles played by lawyers in distribution conflicts over natural resources between the Global North and the African South. Informed by political sociology and global history, Prof. Dezalay uses lawyers' trajectories and professional strategies as an entry-point to trace the "interconnectedness" between European colonialism on

the continent and the consolidation of the contemporary international economic and legal political order. Her research illustrates this approach with a case study of the "Africa" Bar in Paris as a key site in which extractive deals between multinational corporations and Francophone African states are negotiated. Her approach seeks to build a more nuanced explanation of Africa's unequal and uneven relationship with the global economy as one shaped by the path of imperial legacies and successive and interconnected waves of globalization. The presentation concluded with the potential paths opened by this research strategy to assess the concurrent boom and backlash against the international investment regime.

The second seminar took place on 26 May 2020 with Dr. Niccolo Ridi on his paper called 'Not Findings: The Politics of Obiter Dicta in International Adjudication'. Dr. Ridi argues that while the constant stream of references to prior judgment and awards is a well-known feature of the practice of international courts and tribunals, such referencing practices have come under intense scrutiny in recent years. The discussion focused on one specific strand of criticism, directed to the phenomenon of "obiter dicta" which have been found to amount to a symptom of bad decision-making or, from the perspective of the adjudicator using them, bad precedent-following. Dr. Ridi addressed the issue by assessing, empirically, the extent to which the challenges that have sometimes been levelled against adjudicators have merit, and resituating the practice within a more grounded discussion of the theory of precedent in international adjudication.

4. Outreach

In 2020, CIDS suspended all its outreach events. The main reason was a reallocation of internal resources towards the adaptation and later online transformation of its educational programs, namely LAIAC and MIDS.