

**HUMANITIES AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS GRADUATE
CONFERENCE**

**MA International Relations Program Humanities Faculty
Leiden University**

2026

June 10

Co-sponsored by
Leiden Institute for Area Studies (LIAS)

Location
Leiden University
Campus The Hague
Schouwburgstraat 2
2511 VA The Hague
The Netherlands

Program Overview

9:00-9:15	Opening Remarks and Institutional Welcome Auditorium (Room A0.06)	
9:15-10:30	Opening Session Auditorium (Room A0.06)	
10:30-10:50	Coffee & Tea Break	
10:50-12:20	Concurrent Session 1	
	Panel 1 (Room A2.01) Migration, Borders, and Belonging	Panel 2 (Room A2.02) China, Asia, and Global Political Economy
12:20-13:40	Lunch Break	
13:40-15:10	Concurrent Session 2	
	Panel 3 (Room A2.01) Climate, Development, and Decolonial Perspectives	Panel 4 (Room A2.02) Memory, Media, and International Politics
15:10-15:30	Coffee & Tea Break	
15:30-17:00	Concurrent Session 3	
	Panel 5 (Room A2.01) War, Conflict, and Security	

Conference Program

9:00-9:15 Opening Remarks and Institutional Welcome

Salvador Santino Regilme (Leiden University – Institute for History)

Isabelle Duyvesteyn (Leiden University – Institute for History)

9:15-10:30 Opening Session

**Humanity in Crisis: Why the Humanities and Multidisciplinarity Matter for
International Relations**

Moderator:

Salvador Santino Regilme (Leiden University – Institute for History)

Panelists:

Rosalba Icaza Garza (Leiden University – Institute for Political Science)

Andrew Gawthorpe (Leiden University – Institute for History)

Hitomi Koyama (Leiden University – Institute for Area Studies)

10:50-12:20 Concurrent Session 1

Panel 1 Migration, Borders, and Belonging (Room A2.01)

Chair Sarah Wolff (Leiden University)

Participants

Alexandre Arrive <i>MA International Relations, Leiden University</i>	Invisible Borders: How Economic Sanctions and Market Demands Shape Inequality in the Global Digital Labor Market
Jetske Moes <i>MA International Relations, Leiden University</i>	Mobility as Exploitation: How Sex Trafficking of Latin American Women to the Netherlands Evades the Justice System
Maide Gunes Ekmekci <i>PhD Candidate, Leiden University</i>	The Impossible Case of Turkish “Progressive” Anti-Immigration Politics
Felice Valeria Thessalonica <i>Master Student, University of Göttingen</i>	Navigating the European Dreamscape: Indonesian Migrants in Germany’s <i>Ausbildung</i>
Aisha Erenstein <i>Alumna, Leiden University and Uppsala Universitet</i>	Talking the Walk: Peace, Inclusivity and (De)Polarisation
Rita de Cruz Santos Araujo <i>MA International Relations, Leiden University</i>	A Scary (Hi)story: The Evolution of Fear in western World Politics

Panel 2 China, Asia, and Global Political Economy (Room A2.02)

Chair Limin Teh (Leiden University) (tbc)

Participants

Luca Jaggi <i>MA International Relations, Leiden University</i>	The Power of Transnational Corporations in the U.S.-China Technological Competition
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Yuguo Li <i>Master Student, Faculty of Governance and Global Affairs (FGGA), Leiden University</i>	From Trade Shock to Policy Preferences: How China's Export Expansion Shapes Industrial Policy Attitudes in Europe, Evidence from the European Social Survey
Cecilia-Louise von Ilseman <i>PhD Candidate, History and International Studies, Leiden University</i>	Newer Ways of Hedging in Southeast Asia: A Study of Singapore's and Vietnam's Foreign Policy Behavior in Times of the US-China Rivalry
Murat Aygun <i>Master Student, TOBB University of Economics and Technology</i>	Southeast Asia amid Sino-US Rivalry: Historical and Domestic Explanations of Vietnam's Hedging Behaviour
Muhammad Anugrah Utama <i>Alumna, University of Groningen</i>	Regulatory Power or Regulatory Imperialism? Scrutinising the Indonesian Government's Narrative of Palm Oil vis-a-vis the EU Sustainability Standards
Jiaxuan Huang <i>PhD Candidate, Institute for History, Leiden University</i>	The Evolution of an Outsider: EAFE and China's UN Policy (1953-65)

13:40-15:10 Concurrent Session 2

Panel 3 Climate, Development, and Decolonial Perspectives (Room A2.01)

Chair Vineet Thakur (Leiden University)

Participants

Tesline Rougnon-Glasson <i>MA International Relations, Leiden University</i>	Beyond Adaptation: Climate-Induced Displacement and the Ecology of Dispossession in Bangladesh
Beatrice Somova <i>MA International Relations, Leiden University</i>	Decolonising Healthcare: Comparing How Pan-African Presidents Resist Colonial Legacies
Kaitlan Adams <i>MA International Relations, Leiden University</i>	Ecocide as an Analytical Lens: UNEP Evidence, Corporate Accountability, and Oil Extraction in Ogoniland, Nigeria
Claudia Syarifah <i>PhD Candidate, Universitas Padjadjaran</i>	Archipelagic Potential, Peripheral Position: A Decolonial Reading of Indonesia's Absence in Deep Seabed Mining Governance
Jiayan Wang <i>Master student, Asian Studies, Lund University</i>	From "Upstream Hegemony" to "Ecological Civilization": China's Reconfigured Environmental Narrative on Transboundary Water Governance in the Mekong
Sofia Rozou <i>MA International Relations, Leiden University</i>	Rethinking Time in International Relations through Andean Pacha
Raissa Sidat <i>MA International Relations, Leiden University</i>	Beyond Ratification: The AfCFTA Implementation Gap in South Africa and What SMEs Reveal About Operationalisation

Panel 4 Memory, Media, and International Politics (Room A2.02)

Chair Hitomi Koyama (Leiden University)

Participants

David Sary <i>MA International Relations, Leiden University</i>	Who Owns the Past? The Politics of Memory of the Cambodian Genocide
Bogdan Tofaleanu <i>Alumnus, MA International Relations, Leiden University</i>	Curated Spectacle: Algorithmic Biopower in Political Conflict
Haoge Hu <i>Shanghai International Studies University & Incoming MPhil Student, University of Cambridge (2026 entry)</i>	Scripting “Global Britain”: A Performative Analysis of Post-Brexit Palestine Policy and its Reception in the Arab World
Liyi Wang <i>MA in European Studies (cum laude), University of Amsterdam & Incoming DPhil Student, University of Oxford (2026 entry)</i>	Reimagining “Friendship”: Gender, Visual Representation, and the Construction of Shared Memory in Dutch-Japanese Relations (1750-1850 and its Afterlives)
Nikolai Shatalin <i>PhD Candidate, International Relations, Goethe University Frankfurt am Main</i>	"Eternal Brotherhood": Historical Narratives and the Contestation of Russia’s Integration into the Liberal International Order

15:30-17:00 Concurrent Session 3

Panel 5 War, Conflict, and Security (Room A2.01)

Chair Salvador Santino Regilme (Leiden University)

Participants

Danielle Baan <i>MA International Relations, Leiden University</i>	The Sawing War: Uncovering the Republic of Korea’s Civilian Massacres During the Korean War
Anton Meier <i>MA International Relations, Leiden University</i>	Escalation Management a la Russe: Exploring the Effect of Ukrainian Battlefield Successes on Russian Nuclear Signaling (2022-2024)
Sasha Padberg <i>MA International Relations, Leiden University</i>	Guns, Drugs, and Governance: How Drug and Arms Trafficking Enable Gangs to Undermine State Functions
Youri Siebols <i>Alumnus, Middle Eastern Studies, Leiden University</i>	Dehumanization and the Logic of Violence in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict