



## **History Lecture Series: Mobility, Migration and Borders**

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**Thursday, 17 October 2019**

**Intellectual and Historical Backgrounds of the International  
Refugee Regime in the Interwar Period**

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**Prof. Davide Rodogno, Graduate Institute Geneva**

**Discussant: Prof. Jordi Tejel, University of Neuchâtel**

12:15 – 14:00 h

Location: University of Neuchâtel, Rue Abram-Louis Breguet 2, Room 2.310

The History Lecture Series is a collaboration of the History Department of the University of Neuchâtel and the nccr – on the move.

### Abstract

My presentation reflects on the nature and limits of the refugee regime in the interwar period. The end of this regime is well known: from 1933 to 1939 refugees were increasingly unprotected. The League of Nations could not do much to protect Jews fleeing persecution in Nazi Germany and other refugees who suffered from the consequences of the Civil War in Spain. The Second World War marked the tragic end of that regime. Rather than the its epilogue, my presentation expands on its beginning. I draw attention to the meaning-s of civilian and refugee in European and Middle Eastern context. I also insist on minority and minorities, two terms I deem essential to understand the refugee regime. I also expand on forced displacement of populations (the so-called exchange of populations) between Greece and Turkey sealed by the Treaty of Lausanne (1923). Last but not least I will attempt a historical assessment of the refugee regime, contextualising its limits, political, juridical and 'civilizational' (sic!) and the extent to which it was a major innovation.

### Curriculum Vitae

Dr Rodogno was a Research Fellow at the London School of Economics (2002-2004), Foreign Associate Researcher at the Institut d'Histoire du Temps Présent in Paris (2004-2005), Academic Fellow - Research Council United Kingdom Academic Fellow - at the School of History, University of St Andrews (2005-2010), and SNSF – Research Professor (2008-2011). Associate professor (2011-2014) and full professor since 2014 at the Graduate Institute, he served as head of the International History Department (2014-2017). He grantee of the Rockefeller Archives Centre in 2011; of the SNSF 'Sinergia' programme on a project entitled Patterns of Transnational Regulations. Since 2017 Rodogno is grantee of an FNS project on Minority Protection in Western Europe; and since 2018 of another grant on the Rockefeller Foundation fellows as heralds of globalization (1910s-1970s). In 2019, via the History of International Organizations Network Internet platform, Rodogno and other historians regularly inform on activities related to the Centenary of International Organizations in Geneva.

### Selected Publications

- Rodogno, D. (upcoming 2020). *A Night on Earth - Humanitarian Organizations' Relief and Rehabilitation Programmes on Behalf of Civilian Populations in the Near East (1918-1939)*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Rodriguez Garcia, M., Rodogno, D., Liat, K. (2016). *The League of Nations' Work on Social Issues*. New York: United Nations Press.
- Fehrenbach, H. and Rodogno, D. (2015). *Humanitarian Photography: A History*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Rodogno, D., Struck, B. and Vogel, J. (2014). *Shaping the Transnational Sphere: Networks of Expert and Organizations in the Long Nineteenth Century*. New York: Berghahn Books.
- Rodogno, D. (2011). *Against Massacre: Humanitarian Interventions in the Ottoman Empire (1815-1914)*, Princeton: Princeton University Press – Series: Human Rights and Crimes Against Humanity.
- Rodogno, D. (2006). *Fascism's European Empire*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Fehrenbach, H. and Rodogno, D. (2016). "A Horrific Photo of a Drowned Child". *Humanitarian Photography and NGO Media Strategies in Historical Persepctive*, *International Review of the Red Cross*, 1-35.
- Rodogno, D. (2014). Beyond Relief: A Sketch of the Near East Relief's Humanitarian Operations, 1918-1929, *Monde(s)* 6, 2014/2 special issue, 45-64.
- Schulte-Tenckhoff, I. and Negri, V. (2018). *Naufragés et Rescapés, Fantômes et Statues, Oubliés et Oublis dans les Archives des Institutions Humanitaires, Normer l'Oublie*. Paris: PUF / Institut de recherche juridique de la Sorbonne, collection « Les voies du droit ».