

Research on civic engagement – from humanitarianism to charity – points to the complex interplay of sentiments, emotions and convictions that motivate people to act. These range from ethics rooted in religious frameworks, to commitment to kin and surrounding social networks, to NGO-driven humanitarian discourse, to moments of national awakening, as powerfully illustrated by the example of volunteering in the war in Ukraine. In this regard, the concept of care has been extensively discussed in diverse bodies of literature across the humanities and social sciences. Meanwhile, the concepts of service and duty have received little attention, despite the prominent role that they play in articulating different forms of “doing good.” In this workshop, participants will collaboratively theorize service and duty in relation to care. They will thereby investigate how a focus on service and duty might illuminate new aspects of care and how the rich literature on care can help to theorize service and duty from anthropological and historical perspectives.

The workshop is conceived as a collaboration between the Geneva Graduate Institute (Department of Anthropology and Sociology and the Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy) and Ca' Foscari University of Venice (Department of Asian and North African Studies and the Marco Polo Centre for Global Europe-Asia Connections). It will thereby link two cities with prominent histories of civic engagement: Venice with its longstanding confraternities and circulations of wealth, and Geneva as a global centre for international organizations and NGOs. To this end, the workshop seeks to harness relevant expertise prevalent in Venice and Geneva whilst also providing the participating scholars with an environment conducive to collaborative work.

Workshop convenors  
Prof. Dr. **Till Mostowlansky**  
Geneva Graduate Institute

Dr. **Giuseppe Bolotta**  
Ca' Foscari University of Venice

This workshop is financed through the Swiss National Science Foundation funded Eccellenza project “Quiet Aid: Service and Salvation in the Balkans-to- Bengal Complex” (grant number PCEFP1\_203319), based at the Geneva Graduate Institute.



## Service – Duty – Care: Theorizing Civic Engagement from Asia to Europe and beyond

**28-29 June 2023**  
room A, Palazzo Vendramin dei Carmini  
Fondamenta Foscari, Dorsoduro 3462,  
30123 Venezia

## Wednesday, 28 June 2023

9.30-10.00

### Welcome & Introductory Remarks

**Giuseppe Bolotta** (Ca' Foscari University of Venice)

**Till Mostowlansky** (Geneva Graduate Institute)

10.00-10.40

### Keynote

**Megha Amrith** (Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity in Göttingen), *Care: Contributions & Contours of an Expansive Concept*

10.40-10.55

Coffee break

10.55-11.25

**Pol Llopart i Olivella** (Geneva Graduate Institute), *Care, Duty and Belonging across the Rural-Urban Divide in the Serbian Sandžak*

11.25-11.55

**Federica Cicci** (Ca' Foscari University of Venice and University of Heidelberg), *The Power of Care: Women's Relief Work during Wartime China (1937-1945)*

11.55-12.25

### Discussion

12.25-12.30

### Response

**Megha Amrith** (Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity in Göttingen)

12.30-14.15

Lunch

14.15-14.55

### Keynote

**Philip Fountain** (Te Herenga Waka-Victoria University of Wellington), *Civic Duties and Humanitarian Obligations*

14.55-15.25

**Beatrice Juskaite** (University of Oxford), *The Intimate Geopolitics of Hosting Ukrainian Refugees in Lithuania*

15.25-15.40

Coffee break

15.40-16.10

**Kathryn Allan** (Australian National University), *Life on the Margins: Afghan Women MPs Navigating Place, Resistance, and Care*

16.10-16.40

### Discussion

16.40-16.45

### Response

**Philip Fountain** (Te Herenga Waka-Victoria University of Wellington)

19.00

Workshop dinner

## Thursday, 29 June 2023

9.45-10.25

### Keynote

**Fabio Vicini** (University of Verona), *Caring for Service: Connectedness, Transcendence, and Muslim Life*

10.25-10.55

**Gulzhan Begeyeva** (Geneva Graduate Institute), *Muslim Giving as Service*

10.55-11.10

Coffee break

11.10-11.40

**Juan Forero Duarte** (University College London), *Techno-Enthusiasts or Dutiful State Representatives? Fulfilling an "Ethics of Care" amongst Public Schoolteachers in Colombia*

11.40-12.10

### Discussion

12.10-12.15

### Response

**Fabio Vicini** (University of Verona)

12.15-12.50

### Conclusion

13.00

Lunch