



***Seminar-debate
Philanthropy and Humanitarianism: Different Faces of Solidarity?***

Thursday, February 27, 2025
15.00-16.30

According to some scholars we are living in the golden age of philanthropy (Jung and Harrow 2015; Hay and Muller, 2014); and philanthropic acts are attracting more public attention. This Symposium invites researchers, scholars and practitioners to reflect on the intersection of the different concepts of solidarity and on the relationship between solidarity, humanitarianism and philanthropy. Specifically, this event raises questions concerning the current state, core and characteristics of social solidarism. The seminar will delve into the meaning and impact of social movements discussing both opportunities and challenges. The debate will oscillate around questions such as: are philanthropy and humanitarianism the future of solidarity movements across the globe? Can humanitarians and philanthropists be the driving forces of social solidarity?

PROGRAMME:

15:00- 15:10 Opening Message

PROF. DANIEL PRZASTEK, Dean of the Faculty of Political Science and International Studies, University of Warsaw

DR ANITA BUDZISZEWSKA, University of Warsaw

15:10-15:30 *Solidarity through philanthropy: a new 21st-century phenomenon? An Introduction*

DR RENATA LATAŁA AND DR ANITA BUDZISZEWSKA (University of Geneva/University of Warsaw)

Keynote

15:30-16:10 *Is Humanitarianism a Form of Solidarity? The Case of the International Committee of the Red Cross*

PROF. IRÈNE HERRMANN, University of Geneva

While humanitarian aid is often framed as an expression of solidarity, this is an assertion that will be examined critically through the historical case of the oldest surviving humanitarian organisation – the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Analysis will focus on the political and intellectual contexts facilitating the emergence and growth of the institution; specifically seeking to elucidate why, how and with what intentions an organisation devoted to assisting the wounded in time of war was able to establish itself in a neutral country. Does solidarity provide a sufficient explanation for this phenomenon? Perhaps...not.

16:10-16:30 Round table debate

CHAIR: DR ANITA BUDZISZEWSKA

Location - in person: *Collegium Politicum* building – Faculty of Political Science and International Studies, Room 303, Main Campus, University of Warsaw, Krakowskie Przedmieście 26/28

Online: <https://uw-edu-pl.zoom.us/j/94090026869>

Organisation: Seminar is being organised by the Faculty of Political Science and International Studies of the University of Warsaw, in cooperation with the Faculty of Arts of the University of Geneva (Dr Anita Budziszewska, Dr Renata Latała).

This event inaugurates the course on '*Social solidarity and philanthropy: historical and contemporary perspectives*', which is to be taught by Dr Anita Budziszewska and Dr Renata Latała at the University of Warsaw in the Summer Semester of the 2024/2025 academic year. For more, see: <https://wnpism.uw.edu.pl/social-solidarity-and-philanthropy-nowy-wspolny-przedmiot-universytetu-warszawskiego-i-universytetu-genevskiego/>

Keynote Speaker:

Prof. Irène Herrmann - Irène Herrmann is Professor of Swiss Transnational History at the University of Geneva, Switzerland, where she graduated in Russian language and history. Currently she holds the position of the Vice Dean at the Faculty of Arts, University of Geneva. She was a visiting professor at the University Laval (Canada), a lecturer at the Graduate Institute of International Studies (Geneva), a fellow of the Swiss National Foundation at the Russian State University for Humanities (Moscow) and SNF Professor at the University of Fribourg (Switzerland). She has published over 150 scientific articles, ten edited books and five monographs. She focuses on solidarity, humanitarianism, conceptual history, conflict management and the political uses of the past in Switzerland and in Post-Soviet Russia.

Speakers:

Dr Anita Budziszewska – Holder of a PhD in Social Sciences in the field of Political Science. Member of the Department of Diplomacy and International Institutions of the University of Warsaw's *WNPiSM*. Holder of a Swiss Government Excellence Scholarship based at the Geneva Centre for Philanthropy, University of Geneva; and Grant Holder of the Swiss Annelise and Mieczysław Kościw Foundation (Therwil, Switzerland). Research Fellow at the Centre for Philanthropy Studies, University of Basel. Member of the Academic Council of the United Nations System. Research interests: philanthropy and international relations, philanthropy and international organisations; political and cultural conditioning of philanthropy; Polish and Swiss philanthropy, culture and values in international relations and international law.

Dr Renata Latała – Holder of a PhD in History (University of Fribourg), also graduated from European Studies (University of Geneva). Holder of grant from the Swiss National Science Foundation at Lateran University and at the Vatican Archiv. She has experience in academia, in socio – educational field and in cultural institutions. Participant of several international research projects. Senior Researcher at the University of Geneva, where she conducted research on the idea and practice of solidarity in the History Department, and conducted the project of the public history solidarity1980.com Research interests focus on: conceptual history, social solidarity, political and cultural conditioning of solidarity, culture and scientific communities and international relations; culture and religion; as well as on intellectual history and cultural transfers in the 19th and 20th centuries.