
Christelle Rigual

STUDENT VISITOR – TRINITY TERM 2015



I am a PhD candidate in International Relations/Political Science at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, in Geneva, Switzerland, and I work in parallel as an Associate Researcher at the Small Arms Survey, a research institute located at the Graduate Institute, whose mandate is to generate evidence-based, and policy-relevant knowledge on all aspects of small arms and armed violence. I hold a Master's degree in International Relations/Political Science, also from the Graduate Institute and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Lausanne.

During the final stage of my PhD programme, I was awarded a Mobility Fellowship from the Swiss National Science Foundation to conduct research as a Visiting

Doctoral Student in the Department of Politics and International Relations (DPIR), University of Oxford. During the 2015 Trinity term, I thus came to Oxford to pursue research for my PhD thesis, which is to be titled *The Principle of (Non)Intervention: Inter-Polity Systems in Europe since the Seventeenth Century*.

With a strong interest in the global governance of security writ large, I examine in this thesis how, historically and discursively, the principles of non-intervention and sovereignty emerged and how they evolved since the Peace of Westphalia. The aim of this study is to ultimately cast an analytic light on the current debate of (non)intervention by uncovering how principles of (non)intervention and sovereignty were constructed, enacted, and transformed during key historical events.

During the DPIR Visiting programme, my research focused on the principle of (non)intervention during the nineteenth century. Throughout my stay, Professor Edward Keene, my mentor at the DPIR, provided invaluable support and guidance, both on getting to know the department and on conducting research at the Bodleian library. Thanks to his support, I had the chance to exchange and debate both with him and with other PhD students involved in various research relating to the politics of the nineteenth century, which has considerably enriched my approach to the period.

Overall, my time at the department represented a crucial opportunity to complete the final chapter of my thesis. The stunning surroundings, the ideal working conditions, and the support of the staff and faculty, created an environment to emulate, one in which ideas and inspiration thrive. My stay at the DPIR and Oxford will remain a truly unique experience, a moment suspended in time, of full dedication to academic and intellectual enrichment.
