

HERALDS OF GLOBALIZATION:
PHILANTHROPIC FOUNDATIONS' FELLOWS: THEIR HISTORY AND POLITICS
(20-21st CENTURY)

International conference
Geneva, 23/25 November 2023

Tentative Program

Throughout the 20th century, the activities of philanthropic foundations had significant consequences for thousands of individuals, hundreds of institutions, and numerous governments from Asia to Africa, Europe and the Americas. Some foundations set up programs granting individual awards. Their history and politics have only drawn scholars' sporadic attention probably because of the difficulties of tracing the lives and careers of hundreds or thousands of grantees. From 1914 to 1970 the Rockefeller Foundation, one of the most active foundations, granted about 13'600 awards to individuals from 134 countries and territories.

From 2018 to 2022 the Swiss National Science Foundation funded a collective research project entitled Rockefeller Fellows as *Heralds of Globalization: The Circulation of Elites, Knowledge and Practices of Modernization (1920-1970)*. One of its main outcomes is **The Rockefeller Fellows and Awards Database**, which will be presented during the conference. We intend to use it as a thread and a springboard to compare and contrast philanthropic foundations' programs and the decision of some foundations not to set them up. This conference gathers historians of different fields and practitioners from award-granting institutions to discuss individual awards programs' objectives, outcomes, and the impact of these programs on the lives of the recipients and on the development of their home and host institutions.

During the conference, roundtables and workshops will foster conversations between researchers and practitioners. We designed roundtables with historians and practitioners to debate individual awards respectively through the themes of philanthropic foundations' global policies, higher education, sciences and technologies, and the role of individual award programs in times of crises. Workshops will focus on themes or more granular case studies, presenting individual awards in various political, academic, and regional contexts. Last but not least, our conference reflects on how digital and database methods contribute to the historical research of individual grants.

Thomas David, Yi-Tang Lin, Davide Rodogno, Pierre-Yves Saunier, Ludovic Tournès.

DAY 1 (Thursday 23 November)

9:00 Ludovic Tournès (University of Geneva), Introduction to the conference

09:15-10:45 Roundtable 1: Philanthropy, Americanization, Globalization

Thomas David (University of Lausanne), Chair

Ludovic Tournès (University of Geneva), *American Philanthropy and the Global Governance of Science and Expertise*

Anne-Emanuelle Birn (University of Toronto)

Marcia C. Schenk (Potsdam University), *Global History, Migration & Scholarships: Some Thoughts on Possibilities and Pitfalls*

10:45-11:00 coffee break

11:00-11:30 Presentation of the Database, including methodology and preliminary findings by Yi-Tang Lin (University of Zürich) & Pierre-Yves Saunier (CNRS)

11h30-13:00 Workshop 1: Managing Agriculture and Environment

Amalia Ribí (Geneva Graduate Institute), Chair

Flavio Heinz (Federal Rural University of Rio de Janeiro)

Diana Alejandra Méndez Rojas (UNAM), *Modernizing Agriculture, Mobilizing Ideas: Trajectories of the Rockefeller Foundation's Agricultural Science Fellows in Mexico, 1940-1980*

Ahmad Fahoum (Geneva Graduate Institute)

Hannah Tyler (University of Lausanne)

13:00-14:00 lunch break

14:00-15:30 Roundtable 2: Philanthropies, Governments and International Fellowship Policies

Giles Scott-Smith (Leiden University), Chair

Stuart Lane (University of Lausanne, Swiss National Science Foundation)

Christin Mays (Uppsala University), *Have Money, Will Travel: Rockefeller Foundation Scholarships and Academic Exchange between Sweden and the United States, ca 1924–1960*

Anton Tarradellas (University of Geneva)

15:30-15:45 coffee break

15:45-16:30 The Documentation on Fellowships at the Rockefeller Archive Center by Barbara Shubinski (Rockefeller Archive Center)

16:30-18:00 Workshop 2: Organizing Scientific Research, Exploring New Fields

Yi-Tang Lin (University of Zürich), Chair

Adriana Minor (Colegio de Mexico), *The Rockefeller Foundation (non)Policy toward Physics Research and Education in Latin America*

Michael Barany (University of Edinburgh), *Institutionalizing Internationalism: Rockefeller Philanthropy and the Economies of Scale in Mid-Century Mathematics*

Vivek Neelankantan (University of Sydney), *Rockefeller-Trained Indonesian Physicians, Nationalist Refashioning of Science and the Cold War (1945-65)*.

DAY 2 (Friday 24 November)

9:30-11:00 Roundtable 3 Databases across Scales and Periods

Thomas David (University of Lausanne), Chair

Béatrice Joyeux-Prunel (University of Geneva)

Madeleine Herren (University of Basel)

Kaspar Gubler (University of Bern)

Mark Towsey (University of Liverpool)

11:00-11:15 coffee break

11:15-12:45 Workshop 3: Training Professionals

Pierre Yves Saunier (CNRS), Chair

Christine Peralta (Amherst University), *Beyond U.S. Empire: How the Rockefeller Foundation Reshaped the Medical Geographies of Filipino Nursing*

Ana Paula Korndörfer (Universidade do Vale do Rio dos Sinos), *“Individuals of Outstanding Promise”: The Rockefeller Foundation’s International Health Division and the Training of Health Officials in Brazil (1917-1951)*

Shu-Ching Chang (Chang Gung University), *Rockefeller Fellows, Chinese Elite Nurses and Shaping the Nursing Profession in Taiwan, 1949-1970s*

12:45-14:00 lunch break

14h-15:30 Workshop 4: Development and Modernization of Societies and Cultures

Davide Rodogno (Geneva Graduate Institute), Chair

Mathilde Sigalas (University of Geneva)

Jayne Beilke (Ball State University), *Remedy and Resistance: The General Education Board Special Scholarship Program and Public Health in the Southern United States*

Ali Erken (Marmara university)

15:30-15:45 coffee break

15h45-17h15 Roundtable 4: Fellows in Times of Crisis, Then and Now

Bela Kapossy, Chair (University of Lausanne) To be confirmed

Justine Faure (University of Lille)

Tamas Scheibner (Eotvos Lorand University), *Refugees and Global Elites: Rockefeller Fellows and Grantees in Times of Crisis*

Pascale Laborier (University of Paris-Nanterre)

17:15 Conclusions