



Association of Former International Civil Servants for Development

General Assembly 2020

Activity Report 2019-2020

1) INTERGENERATIONAL DIALOGUE; “100 YEARS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVICE”, 18 NOVEMBER 2019.

This intergenerational dialogue focused on the origins, main features and current political challenges of the International Civil Service (ICS). The intergenerational dialogue was based on the recently published book *Eric Drummond and His Legacies. The League of Nations and the Beginnings of Global Governance*, by David Macfadyen, Michael D.V.Davies, Marylin Norah Carr and John

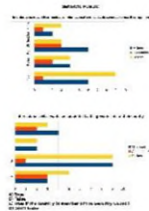


Burley, Univ. of Southampton, Palgrave Macmillan, 2019. As with previous intergenerational dialogues, a global survey was launched to get feedback from former and current international civil servants as well as from non-civil servants.



INTERGENERATIONAL DIALOGUE “100 YEARS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVICE” ANONYMOUS SURVEY

The objective of the intergenerational dialogue was to explore, in collaboration with the authors of the book, the origins, main features and current political challenges of the International Civil Service (ICS). The dialogue was based on the recently published book *Eric Drummond and His Legacies. The League of Nations and the Beginnings of Global Governance*, by David Macfadyen, Michael D.V.Davies, Marylin Norah Carr and John Burley, Univ. of Southampton, Palgrave Macmillan, 2019. As with previous intergenerational dialogues, a global survey was launched to get feedback from former and current international civil servants as well as from non-civil servants.



The dialogue was organized in collaboration with UNOG, the Swiss Press Club, GIMUN, UNIGE, YouthUN, the Youth Parliament of Geneva and Rotaract. Greycells received support from CAGI, UNOG’s Library and the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation.



2) AFRICA 21

Greycells continued its collaboration with Africa 21 in activities related to achieving SDG's in Africa. In November 2019 Africa21 requested Greycells to receive a group of students from Lyon University, France, to exchange on the SDG's and the role of United Nations. Cécile Molinier organized and chaired the session.



Greycells collaborated in a second activity with Africa21 for students of UNIGE. Greycells invited Mr. Claude Akpokavie, senior professional at the ILO to participate in the conference.



Conférence sur le futur du travail en Afrique

Genève, jeudi 20 février 2020 à 18h, au Global Studies Institute

3) UNOG's Pre-Retirement Seminar.

As in previous years and following an invitation from UNOG's Centre for Learning and Multilingualism, Greycells participated in UNOG's 2019 Pre-Retirement Seminar. Manuela Tortora participated as panellist.



4) CAGI.

Greycells – Activity Report 2019 - 2020

Greycells benefits from the continued support of CAGI who refers potential members and partners to us. Every year in mid-December one member of the “La Pastorale” community organises an End-of-Year reception and in 2019 we were asked to host the event.



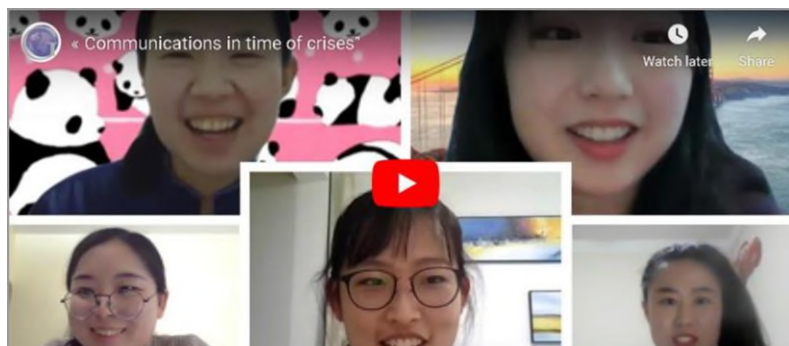
5) STUDY TOURS & GREY Talks WITH STUDENTS FROM CHINA.

As in previous years, Greycells in collaboration with IO-Talent and the Chinese Students and Scholars Association in Geneva, organized study tours for Students, including training sessions and research on the United Nations Office and specialized agencies in Geneva. In the August 2019 study tour, the Chinese students addressed the issue of “Sustainable development and innovation”. In January 2020, the Chinese students addressed two issues: “Microfinance and its impact on poverty reduction and Women’s employment” and “The refugee crisis and sustainable cultural development”.



As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the study tours scheduled for 2020 were replaced by the following GREY Talks:

« COMMUNICATIONS IN TIMES OF CRISES »



**"THE MULTILATERALISM OF THE POST-PANDEMIC ERA:
THE VISION OF CHINESE YOUTH."**



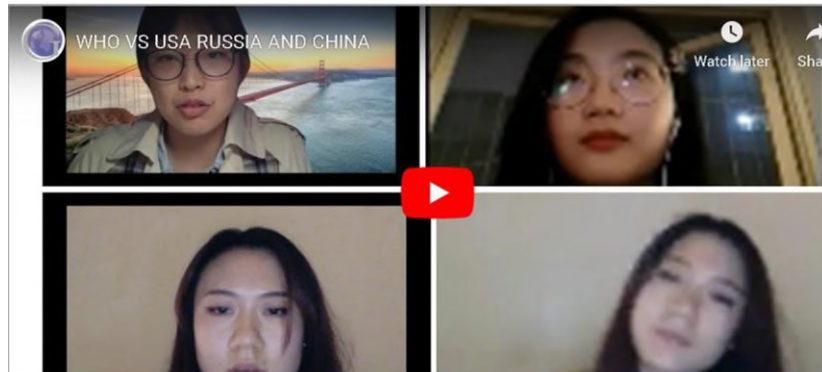
**« THE MAIN CHALLENGE OF THE 21ST CENTURY: REDUCING
INEQUALITIES WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES (SDG10) »**

«



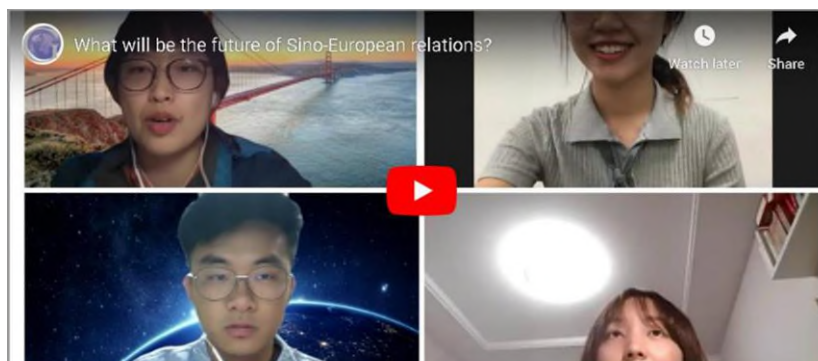
**THE ACCESS TO THE FUTURE COVID-19 VACCINE
PARTICULARLY IN POOR COUNTRIES:**

The multilateral approach as advocated by the WHO (Covax initiative) VS
Unilateral production and distribution as announced by the US, Russia, and China



WHAT WILL BE THE FUTURE OF SINO-EUROPEAN RELATIONS?

Focus on politics, Economy & Trade, Climate Change.



6) MR. MICHAEL MØLLER. HONORARY PRESIDENT OF GREYCELLS

In March 2020, and in accordance with a decision of the Executive Committee, Greycells approached Mr. Michael Möller to propose that he become our Honorary President. Mr. Michael Möller told us that he was pleased and honoured to become Honorary President of Greycells. He accepted to chair Greycells' General Assembly and hinted that he would provide information regarding projects he is working on.



7) FONDATION EDUKI



Collaboration with EDUKI continues to be very dynamic, in particular in its flagship activity #KidsWannaKnow, in which Greyfriends have participated according to an agreed schedule but continuing to provide last-minute interventions when required.
<https://eduki.ch/en/activity/kidswannaknow>.



In 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 Greycells was part of the Jury for Eduki's school competition around developmental issues. The activities in 2020 have all taken place via Zoom, including the ceremony to declare the winners of the competition.



In September 2020, Eduki requested Greycells collaboration to organise a session with a literary and art expert in Argentina to exchange, in Spanish, with a group of 23 students of “the “Maturité” of the “Neue Kantonsschule” in Aarau, on the subject of the positioning of artists and intellectuals during the dictatorship in the 70's in Argentina. They were especially interested in knowing more about Jorge Luis Borges and his positioning then. A Zoom

session with Jose Volpogni, art and literary historian, took place on October 2020.

8) MASTER PROGRAMME IN ADVANCED STUDIES ON EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL GOVERNANCE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GENEVA. 12TH March 2019.



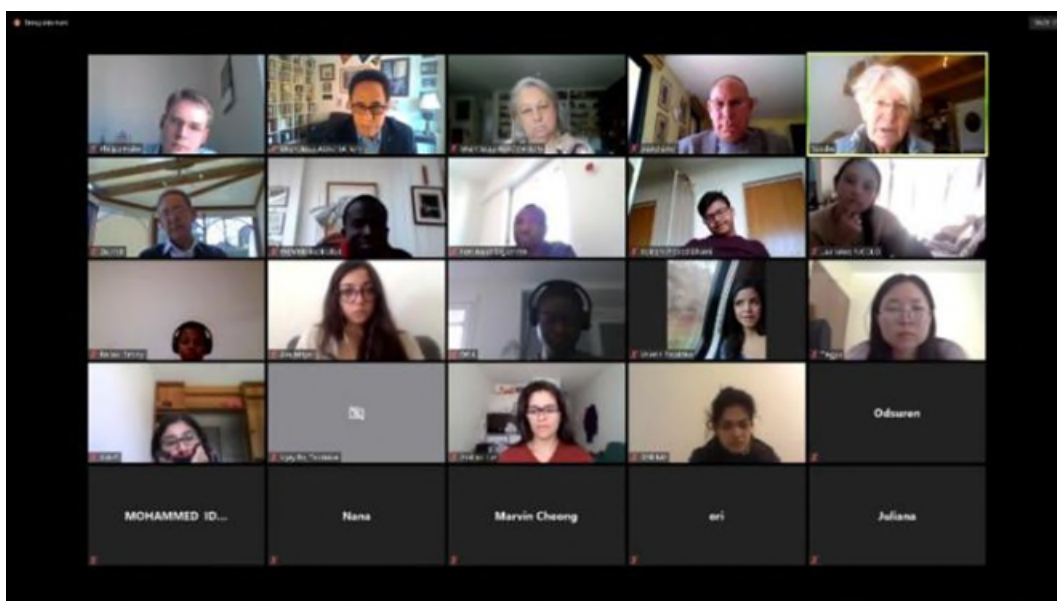
UNIVERSITÉ DE GENÈVE

Greycells contributed in 2019 and 2020 to the Masters Program in advanced studies on European and International Governance of UNIGE. In 2019 Greycells organized, in collaboration with the ILO, a session in the framework of the Masters focusing on the “Role of the Private Sector in Global Governance”.

Greycells – Activity Report 2019 - 2020



Due to COVID-19 the 2020 session on “ILO brings together governments, employers and workers representatives” took place via Zoom.



8) UN TODAY

In June 2020, UN Today published an article on Greycells’ response to the COVID-19.



Greycells – Activity Report 2019 - 2020

Greycells was further invited to contribute to each issue of UN Today an article written by its members in the section “Memories of a Life at the UN”. Yves Beigbeder made the first contribution, and his article was published in October 2020.



Werner Sengenberger made the second contribution and his article was published in November 2020.



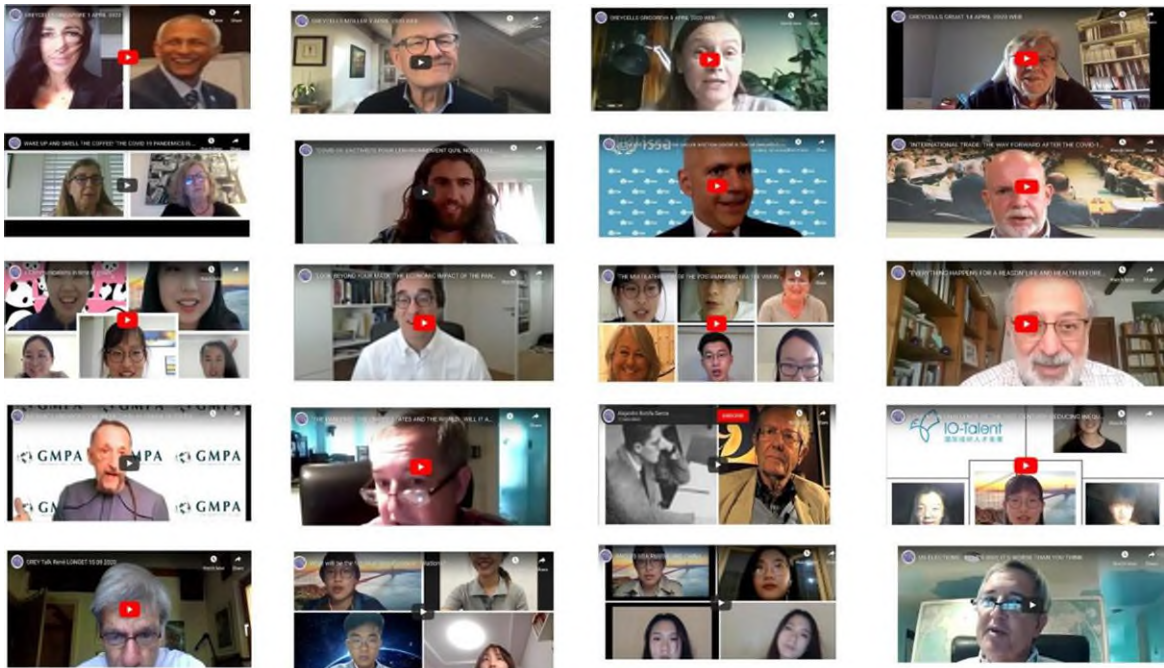
9) GREY Talks

As a response to COVID-19 and with the aim to continue our activities and contributions to developmental issues, Greycells opened a Zoom account that allows us to get together up to 100 participants in every Zoom session and started a series of GREY Talks. The first GREY Talk took place in April 2020 with speakers from Singapore. Since then 20 GREY Talks have taken place addressing a variety of developmental issues by influential keynote speakers. Participation in “live” sessions fluctuated between 15 and 80

participants. Hits of recorded sessions in our website and in YouTube have exceeded 180 hits per session and with a total of more than 200 worldwide. All sessions are available on our web page at the following address: <https://bit.ly/GREYTalks>



Greycells – Activity Report 2019 - 2020



10) ILO CENTENARY COMMEMORATION

Greycells collaborated with the ILO in the organisation of the event to commemorate the Centenary of the ILO and was instrumental in the provision of historical information as well as visual supports. Furthermore, Greycells was one of the partner organisers of a Golf Tournament to commemorate the Centenary of the ILO to the benefit of informal workers in the mining sector in Colombia.



11) MEETING WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL OF UNOG, MRS. T. VALOVAYA

In July 2020, and after several postponements due to COVID-19, a Greycells delegation met Mrs. Valovaya, Director General of UNOG. The concept note of our forthcoming intergenerational dialogue on “Mobilising civil society: is it useful? The impact of public opinion movements on inequalities, gender discriminations and climate change in the post-pandemic context” was explained to the DG. Mrs. Valovaya who confirmed her support for our activities and in particular for our intergenerational dialogues.



12) AUTHORITIES OF THE CITY OF GENEVA

After the local elections in Geneva, Greycells contacted Mrs. Christina Kitsos, elected to the Administrative Council of the City of Geneva, and in charge of the Department of Social Cohesion and Solidarity. Several possible avenues for collaboration were explored. Mrs. Kitsos confirmed her support for our intergenerational dialogues but requested that it not take place in November 2020, since there was no possibility to hold it “in person”. She suggested to target the end of



February or March 2021 in order to have a better chance to be able to meet in person. If the COVID-19 situation does not improve, she would then support having our intergenerational dialogue via Zoom.

13) KOFI ANNAN FOUNDATION



Greycells established contact with Mrs. Momal-Vanian, Executive Director of the Kofi Annan Foundation and who had participated at the intergenerational dialogue organized at the Palais des Nations on occasion of the 10th Anniversary of Greycells. Mrs. Momal-Vanian confirmed the

support of the Kofi Annan Foundation for our forthcoming intergenerational dialogue, and that it would participate. She accepted to participate in our General Assembly where she will briefly present possible avenues for collaboration.

14) OHCHR



Greycells has continued collaboration with the Development, Economic, Social Rights Branch, at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, on contacting universities to provide non-governmental views on compliance with economic and social rights. Greycells put the OHCHR in contact with universities in México, Colombia, and Thailand. Also, Greycells has been requested to comment and promote a Survey on Climate Change and the Impact on Older persons. The report resulting from the responses to the survey will be shared with us for analysis and comments.

15) NGO COMMITTEE ON AGEING



As member of the Committee, Greycells continue and participated in their General Assembly and statutory meetings. Greycells commented and supported systematically intervention of the NGO Committee on behalf of its members. Together with the Committee Greycells participated in the “The World Summit on the Information Society Forum 2020”, contributing in the session devoted to “ITC Literacy to empower older persons”. Alejandro Bonilla Garcia and René Kirszbaum participated in a videoconference.



16) SYNI



Greycells has continued its collaboration with Syni, which is a service sector of the Labor Department of the City of Lausanne. Syni allows professionals looking for employment to participate in training and qualification missions in the Federal Temporary Employment Program (PETF), in the international cooperation sector. Virginia Humud-Guerrero has delivered training activities on applying for UN positions during 2019 and 2020. Syni has proposed to continue the training activities via Zoom.

17) JAPANESE STAFF ASSOCIATION OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN GENEVA



At the request of the President and Vice-President of the Japanese Staff Association of International Organizations in Geneva, Greycells organized a ZOOM meeting on “SWOT Analysis of being Japanese in International Organisations”. Cécile Molinier, Virginia-Humud Guerrero and Alejandro Bonilla Garcia shared their personal point of view according to their own experience in dealing with nationals from Japan. The exchange concluded on a positive note on the reality and potential of careers for Japanese nationals. Further collaboration will be sought.

18) DIANOVA.



CAGI put DIANOVA in contact with Greycells to explore possibilities of collaboration. DIANOVA is an NGO based in Barcelona, Spain that focuses on the recognition of assistance in addressing addiction as an essential health service. DIANOVA is planning to establish a representation in Geneva. CAGI and Greycells have provided support. DIANOVA has been an assiduous participant in GREY Talks and has based publications on them. <https://www.dianova.org/>

19) MENTORING ACTIVITIES

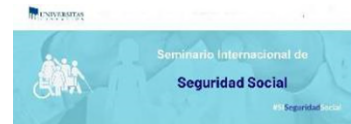
Greycells members have mentoring activities, some of them in the framework of UNIGE’s mentoring program and others at the specific request of young students who have been put in contact with us. There is still a high demand for mentors, so Greyfriends are encouraged to explore the possibility of becoming mentors.



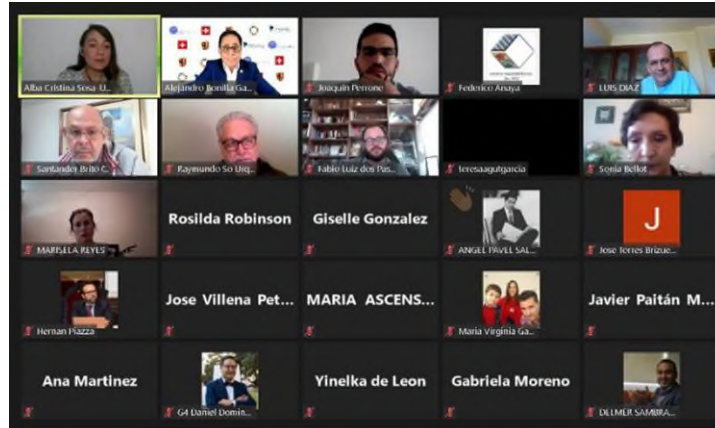
in
for

Greycells – Activity Report 2019 - 2020

20) Colaboration with “UNIVERSITAS FUNDACIÓN” (Venezuela).



Universitas Fundación invited Greycells to share the ILO’s point of view on social security and social protection in the framework of an international diploma in social security for numerous Latin-American countries. It took place in October 2020 via Zoom.



21) 1% for Development Fund.



Greycells has collaborated with the 1% Fund for Development in assessing projects in Vietnam, Indonesia, and Mexico.

22) Forum Suisse de Politique Internationale



Considering the common objectives, shared principles and value added of the FSPI, Greycells has continued to contribute to publicize PSPI activities, their “Déjeuners-Débats” and in 2020 their Zoom interviews.

23) PLATEFORME DES ASSOCIATIONS D'AÎNÉS DE GENÈVE



As a member of the *Plateforme*, Greycells has been present at their meetings and followed-up on their responses to COVID-19. At every session, Greycells has shared relevant information and publicized our activities.

24) Invitation of the Global Leadership Programme to partner with Greycells



Greycells was approached by BestTop, a post-graduate education institution focusing on career development and career mentoring for university students based in Singapore, which builds partnerships with first-tier universities and firms around the world. The purpose is to help students gaining exposure to international organizations, and to enhance their global citizen awareness as well as the capability to think and solve international issues, with the hope of helping them in pursuing international careers. <https://www.besttopcareer.com/>

Greycells – Activity Report 2019 - 2020

25) RADIO FORON



Greycells's members were invited to be interviewed at a new radio station for the “Grand Genève” area, under their program “*Les Rendez-vous de la Genève internationale*”. Three interviews took place in 2020 with Manuela Tortora, Yves Beigbeder and Cécile Molinier. <https://www.radio-foron.com/>



<https://youtu.be/TwklG8pn9U>



<https://youtu.be/L6Yg5K7lfgU>



<https://youtu.be/fGvsvm0KMx4>

26) OBITUARY.

On Sunday 29th March 2020, our dear member Felipe Guerrero passed away. Felipe was a very valued member of Greycells. On behalf of all members of Greycells, the Executive Committee expressed their deepest condolences and support to our dear Virginia. We all miss him.