History Lecture Series: Mobility, Migration and Borders

Thursday, 17 October 2019
Intellectual and Historical Backgrounds of the International Refugee Regime in the Interwar Period

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Discussant: Prof. Jordi Tejel, University of Neuchâtel

12:15 – 14:00 h
Location: University of Neuchâtel, Rue Abram-Louis Breguet 2, Room 2.310

The History Lecture Series is a collaboration of the History Department of the University of Neuchâtel and the nccr – on the move.
Abstract
My presentation reflects on the nature and limits of the refugee regime in the interwar period. The end of this regime is well known: from 1933 to 1939 refugees were increasingly unprotected. The League of Nations could not do much to protect Jews fleeing persecution in Nazi Germany and other refugees who suffered from the consequences of the Civil War in Spain. The Second World War marked the tragic end of that regime. Rather than the its epilogue, my presentation expands on its beginning. I draw attention to the meaning(s) of civilian and refugee in European and Middle Eastern context. I also insist on minority and minorities, two terms I deem essential to understand the refugee regime. I also expand on forced displacement of populations (the so-called exchange of populations) between Greece and Turkey sealed by the Treaty of Lausanne (1923). Last but not least I will attempt a historical assessment of the refugee regime, contextualising its limits, political, juridical and ‘civilizational’ (sic!) and the extent to which it was a major innovation.

Curriculum Vitae
Dr Rodogno was a Research Fellow at the London School of Economics (2002-2004), Foreign Associate Researcher at the Institut d’Histoire du Temps Présent in Paris (2004-2005), Academic Fellow - Research Council United Kingdom Academic Fellow - at the School of History, University of St Andrews (2005-2010), and SNSF – Research Professor (2008-2011). Associate professor (2011-2014) and full professor since 2014 at the Graduate Institute, he served as head of the International History Department (2014-2017). He grantee of the Rockefeller Archives Centre in 2011; of the SNSF ‘Sinergia’ programme on a project entitled Patterns of Transnational Regulations. Since 2017 Rodogno is grantee of an FNS project on Minority Protection in Western Europe; and since 2018 of another grant on the Rockefeller Foundation fellows as heralds of globalization (1910s-1970s). In 2019, via the History of International Organizations Network Internet platform, Rodogno and other historians regularly inform on activities related to the Centenary of International Organizations in Geneva.

Selected Publications