Minutes of the 2025 General Assembly
of the Swiss Anthropological Association

Friday, November 7, 2025, 15.15 – 16.45
University of Lucerne, Frohburgstr. 3, 6002 Lucerne
and online

Chair: Bettina Beer, President of the SAA

Present: Doris Bacalzo, Sandra Bärnreuther, Bettina Beer, Stefan Binder (online), Matthieu Bolay (online), Andrea Bordoli, Filipe Calvão (online), Roberta Colombo Dougoud (online), Clara Devlieger (online), Marion Fresia (online), Tobias Haller (online), Lena Kaufmann, Nina Khamsy (online), Anne Lavanchy (online), Frédérique Leresche (online), George-Paul Meiu, Maya Michel, Mike Poltorak, Johannes Quack, Julia Rehsmann (online), Tobias Schwörer, Anja Sieber Egger (online), Jelena Tošić (online), Jérémie Voirol, Amélie Ward, Wiebke Wiesigel (online).

Excused: Eva Soom Ammann, David Bozzini, Albino Civitillo, Madlen Kobi, Sandra Staudacher.

Guests (non-members): Miriam Wohlgemuth (Webmaster SAA).

1. Adoption of the agenda
The agenda was unanimously adopted.

2. Minutes of the General Assembly 2024
The minutes of the General Assembly 2024 were unanimously approved.

3. President's address
Bettina Beer first provided an update on the status of documents for the completion of the financial reports for 2023 (the file folder with hard copies had still not been received from the former officer of the secretariat), but the partial 2024 files were received, which we completed. The tax declaration, which was requested by the canton of Neuchâtel, could be submitted in time. Many commissions are now more up to date with their reporting, which helps in completing the financial reports. Bettina Beer and Doris Bacalzo attended the SAGW annual meeting in May where they talked with the people in charge of overseeing our reports. They were very understanding and supportive and accepted that our financial reports could not yet be checked by the auditors.

Bettina Beer reiterated her decision to resign as president of the association by the end of 2025. Doris Bacalzo is willing to continue to ensure a smooth transition and handover to the next leadership and responsible officers. However, until a new president is elected, the uncertainty of all these processes remains.

5. Finances & Audits
We have recovered several previously unreported SAGW claims from 2021. Three fiscal years of our finances (2023 – 2025, all ongoing work) are being settled simultaneously, which is an unusual situation, but we are managing. We revised the 2023 Financial Statement to be able to prepare the

2024 Report, which will later be sent to the auditors. We made gains at the end of 2024, amounting to CHF 18'925.79. The finalisation of the 2025 reports will follow, and the 2026 budget remains provisional. Membership fee income is expected to increase, up to around CHF 40,000 with the upcoming Conference in Fribourg, when we usually gain new members.

6. Annual Reports of the Commissions and CUSO

- *Audiovisual (CAV): Amélie Ward and Andrea Bordoli*
  The commission organised a film evening. The main activity of the commission is to acquire more films for the collection and hopefully organise more screenings.
- *CRED: Wiebke Wiesigel*
  The CRED is growing; it is continuing to work on the position paper on risks in the field. It is about how researchers can be better supported in the field. All anthropology departments in Switzerland were contacted. A "Tour de Suisse" on open science and data management was organised. Some members of the commission have been involved in a special issue of SJSCA on the topic of reciprocal vulnerability. The commission is involved in two CUSO modules scheduled for next year, and the commission will have a panel at the next annual meeting of the SAA.
- *DocPostDoc: Stefan Binder*
  The commission was busy recruiting new members; currently, there are 23 members. The commission organised two meetings, one in April and one in September, which was a workshop in collaboration with CUSO. Strategies were formulated; this was very successful. A meeting at the annual meeting of the SAA is planned.
- *Education (Anthropology of): Anja Sieber Egger*
  Anja took over the coordination from Angela Stienen. The commission has meetings with about 12 members. About half of the listed members never responded to e-mails. At the beginning of 2027, a conference will be organised on Anthropological Perspectives as Cultural Critique in/of Education in the Present. The commission will also have a panel at the annual meeting of the SAA.
- *Editorial, SAA Journal – SJSCA: Matthieu Bolay and Frédérique Lereche*
  Frédérique Leresche has joined as co-editor. The commission is looking for new ideas for publications. The commission lost a lot of members in recent years; now it is more stable. New members are welcome, especially from universities that are not yet represented. The commission has published an issue on the topic of reciprocal vulnerability with CRED; another issue is in production on "Des arts dans l'espace public: enjeux esthétiques et politiques entre le local et le global". The commission is working on two special issues.
- *Interface: Mike Poltorak*
  The Ascona Charter was published recently. This led to an invitation by the SNSF to share knowledge in relation to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) and research assessment. In June 2025, thirteen anthropologists and engaged scholars gathered for the Activism & Advocacy Writing Retreat, hosted at the Ascona Centro Incontri Umani. The commission is looking forward to the annual meeting of the SAA, where it will present a panel on 'Mediatorship and Transformational Anthropology: Creating Cultures of Care in Learning and Research Communities.' In June 2026, the commission will organise a workshop on 'Climate Change, Anthropology, and the Commons'. New members are welcome, and the commission continues to publish blog posts.
- *Medical Anthropology: Julia sn*
  The commission is in the process of changing the presidency. In January 2025, it organised an event in Zurich entitled "Together in the Nursing Home". Its next event, "Ethics of Health Research," will take place in March in collaboration with CRED.

- *Museum: Roberta Colombo Dougoud*
  The commission was redefined this year and now includes nine members from various regions of Switzerland. It has decided to focus on compiling an inventory of ethnographic collections in Switzerland. Many small museums hold ethnographic collections that have not been studied, and their existence is not widely known. In the 1970s, the commission organised an inventory that resulted in three publications, which may no longer be familiar to younger generations. The aim is to document as many ethnographic collections as possible across different types of institutions. The commission will hold a conference in Lugano with representatives from 20 museums.
- *CUSO: Tobias Haller*
  The Swiss Graduate Program in Anthropology is running very well; Esther Leemann and the board are doing excellent work. The 2026 budget has been approved by CUSO, and the programme will be uploaded soon. Tobias Haller will step down as director in one or two years, after which Stefan Leins will take over the position.

7. SAA Biennial Conference status

2026 – Fribourg

Lena Kaufmann and Madlen Kobi are the main organisers of the 2026 conference. They are supported by several students, who will receive credit for their contributions. The short programme has been finalised and published on the SAA website. Christina Schwenkel from the University of California, Riverside, will deliver the keynote address. Registration is open until 26 January. The organisers are working on the long programme and a flyer. In collaboration with the CAV, they are also organising a film evening on Friday.

2028 – We don't have organisers for 2028 yet. Everybody should talk at their institutions about the possibilities. The call is out. Tobias Haller will try to find a solution in Bern.

2030 – It will be in Basel.

8. Membership status

Total members	515
Paid	389
Unpaid	117
New Members	31
Applications received; fees not yet paid	13
Voluntary cancellations	22
Delisted: nonpayment since 2022	13

Doris reminded everyone that commission members have to be SAA members. Joining a commission is among the benefits of SAA membership.

The list of the new members is presented: Simon Diener, Onna Rageth, Gulzhan Begeyeva, Elise Hjalmarson, Kataryna Grabska, Maud Lebreton Reinhard, Maria-Anna Bertolino, Brigitte Sutter, Stefanie Strulik, Simona Schmid, Gisela Unterweger, Olena Sobolieva, Nora Peduzzi, Katja Jungo, Anna Wyss, Jevgeniy Bluwstein, Maike Isaac, Naomi Robert, Oksana Ovsiiuk, Paola Juan, Mathilde

Krähenbühl, Antoine Souquet, Loïc Riom, Insa Koch, Helena Hof, Anna Mann, Annisa Sabrina Hartoto, Flavie Saucy, Sónia Mota Ribeiro, Flavia Cangia, Kiah Rutz.
They were unanimously elected to the association.

9. Board re-elections & transitions
The following people are up for re-election for 2026-2028:
Stefan Binder, Mittelbau rep. Zurich, 2nd Term
Filipe Calvão, Geneva, 3rd Term
Andrea Jacot Descombes, SUPSI Locarno, 3rd Term
Nina Khamsy, Mittelbau rep. Geneva, 3rd Term
George Paul Meiu, Basel, 2nd Term
Johannes Quack, Zürich, 2nd Term
Angela Stienen, 3rd Term
Véronique Pache from Fribourg is replaced by David Bozzini
Maya Michel, from Fribourg, is joining as a student representative. One more is missing.
We normally have two student representatives (for regional representation).

The candidates were re-elected unanimously.

10. Miscellaneous

Website: SAGW is updating its website design, and Miriam Wohlgemuth will update the SAA website at the same time. The SAA website will remain hosted by SAGW, with whom the association has signed a contract. The commissions should update their information on the website before the data transfer.

Commission representation and funding: Mike Poltorak raised several suggestions, noting that he had spoken with some commission heads about ways to involve commissions more actively in decision-making, for example through representation on the Board, co-presidency arrangements, and increased funding for the coordinator position.

Next President: The search for a new president continues and must soon be resolved. Several colleagues at different institutes have been approached, but none were prepared to take on the presidency. Tobias Haller volunteered to contact additional colleagues, while noting his current workload and the corresponding limitations.