



Schweizerische Ethnologische Gesellschaft
Société Suisse d'Ethnologie
Associazione Svizzera di Antropologia
Swiss Anthropological Association

Bulletin

2025

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Board
Vorstand
Comité

Message from the President

From both of us, Doris Bacalzo and myself, we send our very best wishes to everyone. We thank you all for your continued support of our association and for your enduring interest in social and cultural anthropology.

We began and ended the year 2025 with insights drawn from our particular experiences towards keeping our operations running smoother and meeting our obligations at the same time. We reinforced practices that we have known as pragmatic and systematic, such as accessing our accounts, cyclical grant applications and timely submission of reports. With everyone's cooperation, from the members and heads of our currently eight active commissions to our Swiss Graduate Program in Anthropology (CUSO) and several institutional members in ethnological seminars and related departments across Switzerland, we achieved many accomplishments in the planned activities.

This, however, is not to say that challenges that we have experienced and been dealing with in the previous years are over, from as basic as attracting more students and maintaining a robust membership to negotiating budget cuts in many of our institutions, and to the tricky challenge of finding a balance in all our work, desired goals, and in anchoring a dynamic stability for our association.

On this note, we conclude 2025 having submitted the 2024 report on time and confirmed the next two Biennial Meetings in Lausanne in 2028 and Basel in 2030. As had been previously announced, the last

time at our General Assembly in November 2025, both Doris and I are stepping down from our respective roles. The transition will occur in 2026.

Bettina Beer

Lucerne, December 31, 2025

Members of the Board

as of December 2025

Doris Bacalzo, Coordinator

Bettina Beer, President, University of Lucerne

Sandra Bärnreuther, University of Lucerne

Stefan Binder, Mittelbau representative, University of Zurich

David Bozzini, University of Fribourg

Filipe Calvão, The Graduate Institute Geneva

Clara Devlieger, University of Lausanne

Marion Fresia, University of Neuchatel

Tobias Haller, University of Bern

Andrea Jacot Descombes, SUPSI Locarno

Nina Khamsy, Mittelbau representative, University of Neuchatel

Jonas Köppel, Mittelbau representative, University of Bern

Anne Lavanchy, Haute Ecole et Ecole Supérieure de Travail Social Valais

Jonannes Quack, University of Zurich

Angela Stienen, Pädagogische Hochschule Bern

Jelena Tošić, University of St. Gallen

Kommissionen
Commissions
Commissions

Anthropology and Education Commission

Contact Person: Anja Sieber Egger, anja.sieber@phzh.ch

<https://www.sagw.ch/en/seg/commissions/anthropology-and-education-commission>

Members:

Anja Sieber Egger, Coordinator (Pädagogische Hochschule Zürich)

Angela Stienen (Pädagogische Hochschule Bern)

Carla Svaton (Université de Fribourg)

Denis Gay (Université de Fribourg)

Gisela Unterweger (Pädagogische Hochschule Zürich)

Irène Zingg (Pädagogische Hochschule Bern)

Jeanne Rey-Pellissier (Université de Fribourg)

Jelena Tošić (Universität St. Gallen)

Judith Hangartner (Pädagogische Hochschule Bern)

Marta Marques (Université de Neuchâtel)

Moira Lanffranchini (HEP Vaud)

Stefanie Strulik (Pädagogische Hochschule Bern)

Scientific activities (projects, conferences, publications, further output; also development of possibly operated digital portals and infrastructures):

- The group of active members of the commission “Anthropology and Education” met three times in 2025.
- Although the commission has a list with 25 members, only half of the members are active and attend the meetings regularly, most of the other members manifested that they are interested but overcharged with work and other activities and therefore could neither attend the meetings nor engage in the commission. By analysing this situation, we conclude, that many of the members are no lon-

ger/not actively involved in research or conducting their own current research projects, and are primarily engaged in teaching and continuing education.

- At our first meeting in January 2025, Angela Stienen handed over coordination duties to Anja Sieber Egger. With this handover, the membership list was updated, the commission's documents were moved to Switch Drive to make minutes and annual reports accessible to everyone of the commission, and the website was slightly updated.
- The contribution received from the SAGW in May 2024 had not yet been firmly planned at the beginning of 2025. The commission took advantage of this situation to design a two-day workshop. This workshop will take place at PHBern on 22–23 January 2026 on the topic '**Anthropological Perspectives as Cultural Critique in/of Education in the Present**'. A call for papers has been sent out to the commission members. To date, seven abstracts have been received.
- The Commission will be represented by a panel at the SEG Annual Conference in Fribourg in February 2026.

Selected publications of members of the working group: (many members missed to send their 2025 publications and research projects to be included in this annual report), the highlighted authors are members of the Working Group:

Publications 2025:

Bilgi, Oktay, Iris Nentwig-Gesemann, **Anja Sieber Egger**, Ursula Stenger, **Gisela Unterweger**, und Cinzia Zadra. 2025. „Ethisch-ökologische Transformationspotenziale in Kitas. Beiträge zu Möglichkeiten des Miteinanderlernens und -lebens im Angesicht der Klimakrise“. In Krisen und Transformationen. Publikation des DGfE-Kongress 2024,

181 – 196. Barbara Budrich.

Hangartner, Judith, Toyokawa, Y., & Ramirez, M. G. (forthcoming). Anticipating data sharing for student-centred education. Governmental policy initiatives in Switzerland and Japan. *British Journal of Educational Technology*.

Sieber Egger, Anja and Gisela Unterweger. 2025. Chapter «Childhood Switzerland». Bloomsbury Education and Childhood Studies.
<https://www.bloomsbury.com/us/discover/bloomsbury-digital-resources/products/bloomsbury-education-and-childhood-studies/>

Sieber Egger, Anja, Gisela Unterweger, und Georg Rissler. 2025. „Post-humanistisch-neumaterialistische Perspektiven auf BNE“. In *Handbuch Bildung für nachhaltige Entwicklung BNE*, herausgegeben von Marco Rieckmann, Mandy Singer-Brodowski, Franziska Bertschy, und Franz Rauch, 87-106. Barbara Budrich.

Zingg, Irène. 2025. Beyond Marginalised Multilingualism(s): What Perspectives Does the Concept of Translanguaging Offer for the Teaching and Learning of Heritage Languages? In: *Advocacy in Translanguaging Education. Translanguaging in Theory and Practice*: Vol. 6, 288–303. Multilingual Matters, <https://doi.org/10.21832/9781800419063-015>

Zingg, Irène & Robin, Jésabel. 2025. (Fremd-)Sprache als Positionierung. Wenn die Sprache des Interviews Forschungshaltungen infrage stellt. In: Bading, Cornelia; Kazzazi, Kerstin & Wintzer, Jeannine (Hrsg.). (Fremd-)Sprache und Qualitative Sozialforschung: Forschungsstrategien in interkulturellen Kontexten, 177–189. Berlin: Springer Spektrum.
https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-662-65766-9_9

Projects:

SNF-204986 «NaturenKindheiten in Verhandlung: eine Ethnographie von common worlds im Schweizer Kindergarten», Co-Leitung: Unterweger, Gisela und Anja Sieber Egger. Projektteam: Felizitas Juen (PhD), Georg Rissler. (1.5.2022–31.12.2025)

SNF- 215799: Religious Butinage. Developing a Teaching Ressource for Religious Studies through Dialogue with Teachers and Students (1.10.2023 – 30.09.2026). Agora.

Project team: Jeanne Rey, Petra Bleisch, Guillaume Chatagny.

Partenaires : Céline Pernet (Association Recherche Ethnologie Cinéma), Sélima Chibout (AREC), Baptiste Aubert (AREC), Alice Sala (AREC), Yves Dutoit (Editions Agora), Beatrice Kümin (PH Zürich), Arnd Brandl (PH Zürich), Aline Baumgartner (HEP Vaud), Nicole Durisch Gauthier (HEP Vaud), Urs Schellenberg (PH Zürich), Yvan Droz (IHEID), Yonatan Gez (University Institute of Lisbon), Junior Manizao (école d'Estavayers-le-Lac), Özcan Yurdakul (école Heitera, Fribourg), Sabine Harris (école d'Autigny), Sarah Gremaud (école de la Condémine), Llokman Sadiku (école de Riaz), Céline Marti-Grandjean (collège Saint-Michel), Nathalie Magnin (collège Saint-Michel), Céline Dupré (GIB), Melanie Stempfel (collège Sainte-Croix et Université de Fribourg)

SNF-«Voices of Heritage Languages – Researching the interplay of Heritage Languages Education and Social Cohesion» (01.01.2026–31.12.2028) Lead Agency with South Tyrol

Hauptantragstellende: Irène Zingg | Mitantragsstellende: Dr. Marta Guarda und Johanna Mitterhofer, Eurac Research, Centre for Migration and Diversity; Institute for Minority Rights

Projektpartnerin: Prof. Dr. Edina Krompák, Leiterin Institut für Fachdidaktik der Sprachen und Bildungslinguistik, PH Luzern

«Lernen in Migrationssprachen - Die Rolle der Pädagogischen Hochschulen» (01.08.2024 – 31.01.2026) Finanzierung: Bundesamt für Kultur sowie Eigenmittel Pädagogischer Hochschulen

Co-Projektleitende: Dr. Irène Zingg und Dr. Maria de Lurdes Santos Gonçalves

Projektteam: Olga Alexandre, Tirso Apóstol, Johannes Gruber, Edina Kazinczi Rábián; Markus Truniger

Kooperationspartner: Verein Heimatliche Sprache und Kultur - Lehrerinnen und Lehrerverein des Kantons Zürich (HSK -LVZH) |

Abschlusstagung: 10.01.2026: Fokus Migrationssprachen

Conference 2025, organised by Commission Members:

Planetary Perspectives on Knowledge Production. Challenges and Potentialities for Teacher Education

9.-10. Mai 2025, PHBern; Financed by Movetia, University of St. Gallen, Universidad de Antioquia Medellín, PHBern.

https://hkb-iptk.ch/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/planetary.perspectives_conference.program_phbern_09-10.05.pdf.

Anja Sieber Egger, Coordinator of the Commission

Audiovisual Commission CAV

Contact Person: Amélie Ward, amelie.ward12@gmail.com

<https://www.sagw.ch/en/seg/commissions/audio-visual-commission-of-the-saa>

Members:

Jean Bacchetta (UniNE), Sara Wiederkehr (UniL), Miriam Saada Elabed (Völkerkundemuseum UZH), Dr. Francis Mobio (UniL), Dr. Pierrine Saini (Genève), Dr. Michaela Schäuble (UniBE), Andrea Bordoli (UniBE), Dr. Amélie Ward (University McGill), Adrien Canto (UniNE), Antoine Souquet (UniL), Kylian Henchoz-Manitha (UniL - Sion), Dr. Baptiste Aubert (UniNE), Dr. Björn Reichhardt (UniFR)

Demission:

Dr. Clotilde Wuthrich, Dr. Grégoire Mayor and Dr. Darcy Alexandra have left the CAV for now, due to other obligations.

President:

The CAV transitioned from a leadership organization based on a single president to four “presidents”, i.e four coordinators, in charge of the various tasks of the CAV.

Coordination between CAV and SAA + archive management:

- Amélie Ward (Dr., chercheuse affiliée / enseignante, Institut d’ethnologie, UniNE)

Coordination of film acquisitions:

- Adrien Canto (doctorant, Institut d’ethnologie, UniNE)

Coordination of academic events:

- Björn Reichhardt (Dr., chercheur postdoctoral, Séminaire sur l’Asie

centrale, Institut d'études asiatiques et africaines, Université Humboldt de Berlin)

Coordination of projects:

- Andrea Bordoli (doctorant, Anthropologie sociale et études culturelles, UniBE)

Description:

The Commission is made up of representatives from the institutes of ethnology and anthropology that are collective members of the SAA, as well as specialists in the field of audiovisual anthropology. We are currently extending the CAV's focus on audiovisual anthropology to sensory ethnography and multimodal anthropology for inclusivity.

The Commission's objectives are

- Archiving and expanding the audiovisual collection of the SAA. This collection comprises more than 500 titles. The list can be consulted on the Swisscovery catalogue. They are at the disposal of university institutes and collective members of the SAA.
- Through Kylian Henchoz's input, we are in the process of making our collection available to our members via the educational digital platform "Nanoo TV". We anticipate a launch in early 2026.
- Promoting the use of audiovisual methods in the social sciences through projects in visual anthropology, the organization of an 'audiovisual' panel at the annual colloquium of the SAA, and a regular workshop for students at Swiss universities.
- The Commission seeks to strengthen regular exchanges between researchers at Swiss and foreign universities who conduct research and teaching using audiovisual methods.

Events 2025:**Film acquisitions:**

- We closed the grant 2022-420 with the acquisition of 12 films
- We closed 2023-045 with the acquisition of 15 films
- We are negotiating the acquisition of other films to be acquired between 2025-26

Events that feature films acquired by CAV:

1. As part of Amélie Ward's course "Sensory Anthropology," the lecture "Cinematic Nightscapes: Documentary and Ethnographic Cinema in Cuba" was held. This lecture was presented by Prof. Alexandrine Boudreault-Fournier (University of Victoria, Canada) and Prof. Eleonora Diamanti (John Cabot University, Italy). We acquired their film *Guardians of the Night* for the CAV collection, which they screened as part of their lecture. Students were thus able to directly benefit from this acquisition as part of their learning experience. Le lien : <https://www.unine.ch/ethno/evenement/paysages-nocturnes-cinematographiques-cinema-documentaire-et-ethnographique-a-cuba>
2. As part of a lecture series organized by the Institute of Ethnology at Neuchâtel, "The Anthropologist in the Face of Rising Violence," we will be welcoming Prof. Diana Allan within the framework of Marion Fresia's film workshop, followed by a screening of her film *Partition* at ABC Chaux-de-Fonds on December 12, 2025. We have acquired this film for our archive, directly contributing to the research conducted at the Neuchâtel Institute of Ethnology and to student learning. Extending from this initiative, the University of Bern's Ethnographic MediaSpace will host a screening of *Partition* at Kino Rex in Bern, followed by a discussion with Prof. Diana Allan.

3. On December 10, we are organizing a screening of the films recently acquired by the CAV. The goal of this screening is to invite researchers, students, and professors to present film excerpts, engage in discussions, reflect on the direction of the collection and its usefulness for teaching, and to give greater visibility to the collection while encouraging its use.

Archive management of the historic film collection at the Library in La-Chaux-de-Fonds:

- In collaboration with Lichtspiel Bern, the archivists in La Chaux de Fonds, i.e Mrs Aude Joseph and Mrs Patricia Rousseau, have organized the shipping of new boxes to proceed with the repackaging of our film collection (35 and 16mm). The previous boxes were not ideal for their maintenance as they did not allow the film to breathe.
- They will move our collection to a new locale more suitable for film maintenance.
- We received confirmation that the boxes arrived at the library on September 8th 2025.
- On November 14th, we, the coordinators, will proceed to the reconditioning of the film boxes with our partners in La-Chaux-de-Fonds.

Organization of a panel for the SAA 2026 annual meeting:

- Title: “Archive is a verb”
- Organizers: Andrea Bordoli, Dr. Björn Reichhardt
- Panelists: to be announced

Pour la CAV : Amélie Ward, Neuchâtel

Commission de Réflexion Ethique et Déontologique (CRED)

Contact Persons: Anne Lavanchy, anne.lavanchy@hevs.ch, and Wiebke Wiesigel, wiebke.wiesigel@unine.ch

<https://www.sagw.ch/en/seg/commissions/ethical-and-deontological-think-tank-edtt>

Membres et coordination :

En octobre 2025, les membres de la CRED sont les suivant-es : Faduma Abukar, David Bozzini, Nolwenn Bühler, Serena Dankwa, Amanda Jousset, Lena Kaufmann, Anne Lavanchy, Federica Moretti, Marco Motta, Fenneke Reysoo, Pascale Schild, Aline Sigrist et Wiebke Wiesigel. La co-présidence est assurée par Anne Lavanchy et Wiebke Wiesigel. La CRED continue à s'étendre et à attirer des membres de différentes universités francophones et germanophones, ce qui est particulièrement réjouissant.

Activités scientifiques :

1. Position paper Risks in the field

La CRED a continué à travailler sur un document de réflexion/position paper sur les questions des risques et vulnérabilités auxquelles les chercheur-es peuvent être confronté-es sur le terrain et dans le processus de recherche plus largement. Il s'agit de questionner : (1) comment les universités peuvent mieux accompagner et soutenir les chercheur-es ; et (2) comment les chercheur-es elleux-mêmes peuvent contribuer à déconstruire le mythe du « tough fieldworker » qui implique qu'il faut souffrir seul-e et en silence pour être un-e bon-ne chercheur-e. Dans le cadre de ces travaux, la CRED a pris contact avec tous les instituts d'ethnologie de Suisse pour faire un point de situation sur les pratiques institutionnelles concernant les 'risques' sur le terrain, avant, pendant

et après le terrain. La CRED a également contacté d'autres acteurs-actrices impliqué-es dans ces problématiques. La phase de collecte des données étant maintenant terminée, la CRED finalise le rapport qu'elle présentera ensuite à la SSE. Dans la suite de la prise de position de la SSE sur l'« Open science and data management », la CRED prépare un « position paper » à l'attention des ethnologues et autres chercheur-es menant des terrains ethnographiques. Celui-ci sera suivi par un « executive summary » pour les universités et bailleurs de fonds.

2. Rencontre scientifique Berne

En juin, les membres de la CRED se sont retrouvés à Berne pour une rencontre scientifique. Cet événement a non seulement été l'occasion de faire le point sur les activités passées et futures, mais également de discuter d'une première version du position paper mentionné en point 1 ci-dessus. Les échanges ont été stimulants et constructifs, permettant d'affiner l'argumentaire et de partager les expériences et réalités institutionnelles des un-es et des autres.

3. Présentation du position paper de la SSE « Open science and data management »

Durant cette année, les membres de la CRED ont poursuivi le tour des hautes écoles, universités et instituts d'ethnologie de Suisse pour présenter la prise de position de la SSE à propos de la science ouverte, la gestion des données et les principes FAIR. Les présentations ont suscité de l'intérêt de la part de nos collègues et ont généré de riches débats.

4. Collaborations

Durant cette année, la CRED a renforcé des collaborations nationales et internationales déjà existantes et a rejoint le nouveau Swiss Network

for Research Ethics.

5. Numéro spécial de la Revue Suisse d’Anthropologie Socioculturelle

Des membres de la CRED ont coordonné le numéro spécial « Reciprocal Vulnerability: Violence, privilege, and solidarity from fieldwork to academia » paru en septembre 2025.

6. Activités futures

Février 2026 – Atelier “Caring for data: a workshop for anthropologists” et panel “Risking fieldwork with/out significant others”, Conférence annuelle de la SSE, Fribourg

Mars 2026 – événement CRED – MAS : Ethique de la recherche en anthropologie médicale, Berne

Avril 2026 – atelier CUSO “Emotions and ethical dilemmas in anthropological research”, Berne

Courant 2026 – retraite scientifique, Berne

Courant 2026 – atelier CUSO

La CRED se réjouit de toutes ces activités et a entamé des réflexions quant à ses orientations stratégiques et thématiques pour les prochaines années.

DocPostDoc Commission

Representatives and their affiliations:

Stefan Binder stefan.binder@isek.uzh.ch

Nina Khamsy nina.khamsy@unine.ch

Jonas Köppel jonas.koepel@unibe.ch

Our website: <https://www.sagw.ch/fr/seg/commissions/docpost-doc-commission>

Members:

1. Stefan Binder
2. Nina Khamsy
3. Jonas Köppel
4. Costanza Raggazzi
5. Paloa Juan
6. Jérémie Voirol
7. Kwaku Adomako
8. Jos Melendez Duarte
9. Kae Felipe Nogarotto Crima Bellini
10. Anne Kukuczka
11. Carole Ammann
12. Livia Schambron
13. Andrea Friedli
14. Kiah Rutz
15. Michelle von Dach
16. Lena Kaufmann
17. Esther Leemann
18. Rano Turaeva
19. Robbert Dean Smith

20. Claire Vionnet
21. Andrea Mathez
22. Andrea Bordoli
23. Jyothi Karat

A brief description of DocPostDoc Commission:

The DocPostDoc Commission was established in 2023 by representatives of the Mittelbau/Corps intermédiaire to create a more robust structure for addressing issues relevant to anthropologists in precarious or non-permanent positions at PhD and postdoc levels. The commission enables members to actively organise events and expand the commission's membership, fostering greater inclusivity and representativity for the Mittelbau/Corps intermédiaire representation on the board of the SAA. Establishing a formal commission in the Swiss Anthropological Association (SAA) for PhDs and PostDocs enables to bring more awareness to their specific challenges, which are related to challenges facing the discipline of anthropology more generally.

The aims of the commission are as follows:

- Strengthening the network of the Mittelbau/Corps intermédiaire at the SAA and raising awareness about precarity issues.
- Building a network and circulating information.
- Creating space for discussion and launching activities.

Activities of the DocPostDoc Commission in 2025

- 14.04.2025: meeting of the DocPostDoc commission (online)
- 05.09.2025: DocPostDoc meet-up and workshop “Addressing Precarity, Planning the Future” (in collaboration with CUSO) at University of Bern. The event included an input and workshop conducted by

Dr Carolin Fischer on career trajectories and precarity in academia. The second part of the workshop served as a formal constitutive meeting of the commission. Organizational matters and ideas for future directions and events of the commission were discussed. The workshop was attended by 25 participants from across Switzerland (Universities of Basel, Bern, Fribourg, Luzern, Neuchatel, Lausanne, St. Gallen, Zurich; Graduate Institute Geneva, Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research WSL).

- As of 05.11.2025, the commission has 23 members. It includes 5 members who joined the commission in 2025.
- Nina Khamsy (University of Neuchatel), Jonas Köppel (University of Bern), and Stefan Binder (University of Zurich) continue as representatives.

Planned activities of the DocPostDoc Commission for 2026

- 06.02.2026: DocPostDoc commission meet-up for a lunch gathering during the SAA conference in Fribourg.

Nina Khamsy

Jonas Köppel

Stefan Binder

Editorial Commission

Contact Persons: Matthieu Bolay, matthieu.bolay@unibe.ch, Filipe Calvão, filipe.calvao@graduateinstitute.ch and Joanna Menet, joanna.menet@etik.ch
<https://journal-sa.ch/>

Issues published in 2025:

Special Issues

The commission had planned the publication of two issues in 2025. Issue 31 (online and print) entitled “Reciprocal Vulnerability: Privilege, violence, and solidarity from fieldwork to academia” was published in September 2025 (<https://journal-sa.ch/issue/view/1373>). Issue 32 (online only) “Des arts dans l'espace public : enjeux esthétiques et politiques entre le local et le global», planned for publication by the end of the year, is facing delays.

New formats

SJSCA launched a new format entitled “Special Feature”, which allows to cover a theme of ongoing research in more flexible ways and through a collection of shorter contributions than Special Issues. Special Features are curated by the current research section and follow the publication standards of current research articles.

One special feature entitled “Migration, Representation, and Reflexivity: An Intergenerational Dialogue on Current Issues” (eds S. Aleman, F. Moretti, S. Wiederkehr) was published as part of issue 31.

One Special Feature entitled “Portraits of Queerness. Methodological and ethical challenges of narrating queer lives” (eds A. Lavanchy, P. Morell i Torra, J. Meléndez Duarte) is in production as part of issue 32.

In addition to these two Special Features, SJSCA collaborated with the Interface commission towards the publication of a Debate section on the “Ascona charter” as part of issue 31.

The editorial commission encourages its other sister commissions (museums, medical, education, EDTT) to get in touch with the chief editors would they manifest interest for similar collaborative endeavours.

Planned Special Issues:

- Issue 33 “The double consciousness of quantification. Ethnographic approaches to world representation with numbers”, (online and print) is planned for 2026.
- Issue 34: Following the withdrawal of the selected proposal “Critical Perspectives on Infrastructures in Israel/Palestine” by the team of guest editors, a new call for Special Issue proposal will be circulated by the end of the year 2025.

To be noted: despite the withdrawal of the guest editors, the selection of Special Issue 34 resulted from a deliberation among the board members about the conditions for hosting a special issue curated by colleagues from Israeli institutions. In the context of the ongoing war and genocide committed against Palestinians, the editors urge the SAA board to take a formal position regarding collaboration with Israeli academic institutions, as it has been done by a number of scholarly associations (EASA, AAA, AFS, ...).

Contributions in the sections:

The journal continues to witness a decrease of stand-alone submissions in the regular sections (Research, Current research, Audiovisual) yet has regained traction in publishing book reviews and Special Issues proposals.

The board encourages SAA board members to promote submissions to the journal in their respective institutions and at Graduate schools. Anthropologists based in Switzerland are especially welcome to submit Special Issues proposals or stand-alone articles in any of the journal's sections. As a reminder, the Current Research section is especially suited for PhDs and early career scholar who benefit from a close support in the publication process of ongoing research.

Overall editorial activity:

Although stand-alone submissions outside collective editorial projects remain relatively scarce, the overall visibility of the journal continues to increase. Abstract reads and articles downloads have nearly doubled since last year. This can be read as a sign that, although incurring costs, the indexation strategy and publication in xml and html is bearing fruits.

Ongoing changes in the publication process:

Journal manager

The board has decided to create a new position of journal manager, which has been taken by Jenny Bentley who keeps on acting as copy editor. This new role will help streamlining the publication process, keep publication deadlines, and facilitate communication within the board, with the authors, and with the public. Financing of the position is secured by the possibility to reallocate the honorariums of the editors to the journal manager if needed.

Online first and web production

In order to reduce the publication delays and costs, the editors are contemplating the repatriation of xml/html production and the possibility of an online-first publication of articles.

Website new layout

SJSCA has served as a pilot for its online publisher bop to test the new OJS layout and thereby have its conversation undertaken for free. The new layout of the website better aligns with current online publishing standards.

Changes in the editorial board:

Leaving members:

Sylvain Besançon has left the editorial board after serving as book review editors for four years. We warmly thank him.

New co-editor:

Frédérique Leresche (HETS Fribourg), already a member of the board and treasurer of SJSCA, has stepped up to take the position of co-editor, which had been left empty for more than two years. The board warmly thanks her for her engagement and for having already taken up these editorial responsibilities.

New members:

The editorial commission welcomes Stéphane Blumer (EHESS), Federica Morretti (Unil), and Serjara Aleman (HETS Fribourg) who have joined the editorial board.

The editorial commission encourages SAA board members to let their colleagues know that SJSCA welcomes new members, especially from universities and institutes that are currently not represented in the editorial commission (UniSG, UniBAS, UniFR, UniNE).

For the Editorial Team: Matthieu Bolay, University of Applied Sciences and Art Geneva and University of Bern

Interface Commission

Contact Persons: Mike Poltorak, mikepoltorak@gmail.com, and
Eda Elif Tibet, eliftibetto@gmail.com

<https://www.sagw.ch/en/seg/commissions/commission-interface>, <https://www.seg-interface.org>

Members:

- Elif Eda Tibet, Co-President
- Mike Poltorak , Co-President
- Susan Riva, Treasurer
- Doris Bacalzo
- Leïla Baracchini
- Mô Bleeker
- Lea Helfenstein
- Sarah Keller
- Peter Larsen
- Nina Reuther
- Laure Sandoz
- Fiona Siegenthaler
- Laura Stoffel
- Claire Vionnet
- Bianca Vienni-Baptista
- Shabih Zaidi

It has been another very inspiring and generative year for the Interface Commission. We launched the Ascona Charter at the GA Roundtable last year and celebrated the publication and commentary on the charter in September 2025 in the Swiss Journal of Sociocultural Anthropology (SJSCA 31) in an edition entitled *Reciprocal Vulnerability: Privilege, Violence, and Solidarity from Fieldwork to Academia*. The Debate section on

the charter included four opinion pieces, the charter itself and a co-authored commentary.

Sharing of the Ascona Charter led to an invitation from SNSF to share knowledge in relation to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) and research assessment. In September 2025 we presented "*Toward Transformative Evaluation: Embedding Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion into the Future of Swiss Research*" (Eda Elif Tibet) and '*Transforming Research Evaluation: Lessons from Pacific DEI in New Zealand for SNSF*' (Mike Poltorak). We continue to develop areas of action in relation to training and mentorship and networking platforms to encourage the application of the charter for systemic change and to address the triple planetary crisis.

In June 2025 thirteen anthropologists and engaged scholars gathered for the **Activism & Advocacy Writing Retreat**, hosted at the Ascona Centro Incontri Umani. The retreat was co-hosted by Peter Bille Larsen and Eda Elif Tibet and offered an enriching space for sharing diverse experiences, reflections, and ongoing work at the intersection of activism and anthropology.

We honour the passing of Angela Hobart who passed away in September 2025 in London. She was the founder of the Fondazione Centro Incontri Umani in Ascona and was an inspiring colleague and a supporter of our events. The name of the Ascona charter honours and gives gratitude to Angela Hobart, her Centre and foundation, and the shared values that have oriented our activities.

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2025/oct/08/angela-hobart-obituary>

We look forward to an Interface organised panel in Freiburg in 2026 at the Annual Meeting of the SAA: *Mediatorship and Transformational An-*

thropology: Creating Cultures of Care in Learning and Research Communities (Claire Vionnet, Eda Elif Tibet, Susan Mossman Riva).

Our 'Climate Change, Anthropology, and the Commons' residential workshop will take place in June 2026 and reflects the re-oriented focus of our events to the founding principles of the Ascona Charter.

We continue to post on the Interface blog and organise periodic zoom check ins for our members:

<https://www.seg-interface.org/post/snsf-keynote-highlight-toward-transformative-evaluation-and-dei>

<https://www.seg-interface.org/post/ascona-charter-at-the-swiss-journal-of-sociocultural-anthropology>

<https://www.seg-interface.org/post/interface-seg-panel-mediatorship-and-transformational-anthropology>

<https://www.seg-interface.org/post/ascona-activism-and-advocacy-writing-retreat-2025>

By Co-Presidents:

Eda Elif Tibet

Mike Poltorak

Profile, contact information, and description of our Commission:

The Interface Commission aims to enhance the visibility and presence of engaged anthropology in the public sphere while promoting engagement and knowledge production regarding broader societal dynamics in response to the global challenges of our time. It seeks to foster communication and collaboration between anthropologists and the general public. The goal is to transform the ways in which anthropologists process and mediate new knowledge and relationships in their communities. We strive to nurture engaged anthropology in Switzerland by bringing together science, policy, and society through a collective voice. This will be achieved via dialogue and collaborative projects that utilize diverse modes of co-creation and participation. Our activities follow the principles of the Ascona Charter, launched in November 2025.

Goals:

- Provide a platform for discussing and exchanging ideas on enhancing the visibility and relevance of anthropology in public debates.
- Showcase projects that collaborate with various stakeholders and public actors both in Switzerland and internationally.
- Facilitate discussions that enable the implementation of transformative ideas through alliances, coalitions, and partnerships at both individual and institutional levels.
- Offer resources and produce publications to help anthropologists address challenges in higher education and broader societal issues.
- Introduce new perspectives and connect narratives related to engaged anthropology.
- Organize and host workshops, roundtables, conversations, and summer schools to build capacity and strengthen the ecosystem around engaged anthropology in Switzerland.

- Support and mentor engaged anthropologists in their interactions with the media and communication with the wider public.
- Serve as a collection of resources and a knowledge hub for the latest and most innovative ideas.
- Promote unconventional, audiovisual, and multimodal approaches to anthropological engagement.

Medical Anthropology Switzerland Commission (MAS)

Contact Persons: Eva Soom Ammann, eva.soomammann@bfh.ch, and Sandra Staudacher, sandra.staudacher@unibas.ch

<https://www.sagw.ch/en/seg/commissions/medical-anthropology-switzerland-mas>

In the year 2025, MAS has continued to collaborate through bi-annual meetings iterating between Basel, Bern, and Lausanne. The hybrid format seems to meet a need of commission members, but nonetheless there is a constant decline in on-site attendance and a wish to increase opportunities to meet in person, which we will discuss in our upcoming meetings. We were able to welcome a handful of new members this year, and there were also a few members changing from active membership to our circle of interested colleagues (IKMAS) receiving information emails on MAS activities.

Furthermore, the transformation in the MAS Board we initiated last year is ongoing and so far working well. Traditionally, our board has incorporated 4 members: in order to better share responsibilities, we have enlarged the board to currently 6 persons. This will furthermore allow us to achieve a better representation of the German- and French-speaking regions also in the board. For 2026, a change of presidency will have to take place, informal talks to find successors are ongoing.

In this year, we have successfully continued our tradition of organizing MAS events through the symposium “Together in the Nursing Home”, which was held on 23/24 January, 2025, in Zurich (see Together in the

Nursing Home | Together in the Nursing Home | UZH). The symposium brought together researchers from Social Anthropology, Social Work and Nursing who work ethnographically on the sociality in nursing homes in different regions of the world. Their research perspectives presented at the symposium richly contributed to the exploration of sociality, community, relationship and belonging in institutional long-term care settings – how sociality is happening, enabled, experienced and regulated. In bringing together international and Swiss researchers and in putting a perspective on nursing homes (their sociality) center stage that is usually not extensively addressed in health and care research, the symposium not only attracted attendees from academia (researchers, teachers, students) but also from the practice field of nursing home care (over 40 participants in total). Based on the contributions presented at the symposium, we are now working on putting together a Special Issue for Anthropology & Ageing.

We are furthermore intensively involved in organizing our next event, which will be a collaboration with the CRED commission, a novum in the MAS history about which we are very excited. The event will be held on 26/27 March, 2026, in Bern and will consist of two twin colloquia on the topic of research ethics in participatory and ethnographic research. Under the title of “Ethics of Health Research”, the MAS day will be focusing on research experiences, ethical challenges and co-developed research practices under the title of “Participation, Observation, and Power in Practice”.

*On behalf of the MAS Commission:
Eva Soom Ammann & Sandra Staudacher*

Museum Commission

Contact Person: Roberta Colombo, Roberta.Colombo@geneve.ch

<https://www.sagw.ch/en/seg/commissions/museum-commission>

Members:

Bachman, Samuel (Bernisches Historisches Museum)
Colombo Dougoud, Roberta (Musée d'ethnographie de Genève)
Glauser, Julien (Musée d'ethnographie de Neuchâtel)
Gredig, Florian (North American Native Museum)
Luraschi, Moira (Museo delle Culture)
Malefakis, Alexis (Völkerkundemuseum der Universität Zürich)
Oberhofer, Michaela (Museum Rietberg)
Schweizer, Simon (Museum Schloss Burgdorf)
Voirol, Beatrice (Museum der Kulturen)

This year, the Museum Commission was redefined and now includes nine members representing museums from various regions of Switzerland. This renewed composition brings together professionals working in different institutional contexts—from large cantonal museums to smaller regional and university collections—and marks an important step in strengthening collaboration, cooperation, and the sharing of expertise among institutions holding ethnographic collections across the country.

New Initiative: Inventory of Ethnographic Collections in Switzerland:

In 2025, the Commission decided to focus its work on a new long-term initiative: the creation of an updated inventory of ethnographic collections in Switzerland. The project takes as its starting point two

foundational publications of *Ethnologica Helvetica* 2–3 (1979) and 9 (1984) — which presented the first survey of ethnographic collections across Switzerland. The new initiative seeks to revive and continue the pioneering work of the former Museum Commission led by Christian Kaufmann, while adapting it to current museological, ethical, and collaborative standards.

The aim is to build a comprehensive overview of ethnographic collections preserved in Swiss institutions. Beyond the production of an inventory, the project also intends to foster dialogue, mutual support, and exchange of expertise between institutions. In addition, it seeks to make collections more visible and accessible, not only to researchers and the public in Switzerland, but also to source communities abroad who may wish to locate and reconnect with their cultural heritage held in Swiss collections.

At this initial stage, the Commission has decided to concentrate on publicly accessible inventories of extra-European collections. This focus will make it possible to identify existing resources, assess the state of documentation, and determine the needs and capacities of different institutions. Approximately forty museums across Switzerland have already been contacted as part of the preparatory work. The project will be developed in stages, and the results will serve as a foundation for future collaborative projects and research partnerships.

ETHNOLOGICA HELVETICA.

Connecting Ethnographic Collections Across Switzerland

As a first concrete step, the Museum Commission organised a conference held at the Museo delle Culture in Lugano on Thursday 20 and Friday 21 November 2025 (afternoon sessions). This event served as

a platform for dialogue among representatives of museums holding ethnographic or non-European collections in Switzerland. It aimed to encourage networking, knowledge exchange, and the development of collaborative approaches to documenting and managing these collections. Participation was by invitation, with a focus on smaller regional and specialised museums that may face particular challenges in maintaining and interpreting their ethnographic holdings.

The conference also outlined the next steps in the national inventory project and defined a framework for sustained cooperation between institutions. The working languages were German, French, and English.

Through this initiative, the Museum Commission seeks to strengthen connections between museums, support the visibility of ethnographic collections, and contribute to the broader reflection on the role of these collections in a global and postcolonial context.

Roberta Colombo, President, Museum Commission

Imprint Impressum Mentions obligatoires

Swiss Anthropological Association **SAA**
Schweizerische Ethnologische Gesellschaft **SEG**
Société Suisse d'Ethnologie **sse**

President:
Prof. Dr. Bettina Beer

Coordinator:
Doris Bacalzo

Webmaster:
Miriam Wohlgemuth

Schweizerische Ethnologische Gesellschaft
c/o Ethnologisches Seminar
Universität Luzern
Frohburgstrasse 3
Postfach
6002 Luzern

www.sagw.ch/seg

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