

Activity Report 2022



Vernissage of the book "Violent Times, Rising Resistance" (© Stefanie Keller, Seismo)

<https://www.gendercampus.ch/en/sqgf>

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1. A short message from the vice-president

This past year, we successfully worked on institutionalizing gender studies in Switzerland even further. Within the association, there were a quite a few board and managerial staff changes. I took over the vice-presidency of SAGS from Natalie Amstutz. A tough act to follow. We thank Natalie for her outstanding, dedicated work. Fortunately, she will remain a member of the board. The vice-presidency newly entails specific tasks such as chairing the editorial board for the flourishing SAGS book series "Gender Issues" and chairing the awarding the Brigitte Schnegg Prize. Also our president, Janine Dahinden, was on sabbatical. In my role as vice-president of SAGS, I stepped in and together with our new secretary, Helena Rust, convened the members assembly. Janine's research leave made us realize how much she does as president of SAGS. Helena joined our team earlier this year and quickly managed to become invaluable to the inner workings of SAGS. A warm welcome to Helena.

This summer we held a retreat which allowed us to reflect on the bigger questions of SAGS and the interdisciplinary field of gender studies in Switzerland more generally: what are our main goals? And what needs to be done to achieve these? While we reaffirmed the goals that we set ourselves at our retreat in 2019, we decided on a few new strategies, e.g. optimizing communication and working on networking and members' outreach. Thus, the board is working on a sustainable way of making SAGS's accomplishments and goals more visible through a regular newsletter and social media presence. In addition, the board will work on our homepage which will newly migrate to SAGW from Gender Campus. This was a hard decision to make as we feel very much indebted to Gender Campus for the many years of hosting our website under extremely favorable conditions. A big thank you to all the staff at Gender Campus throughout the years. As member of SAGW, the SAGS board decided to take advantage of the possibilities they offer, among them web hosting or successfully applying for funding for a "cultural participation" lab and exchange.

Importantly, the board also decided to strengthen their research networks, previously known as working groups, within the association. We see them as the backbone of our association. Not only are they testament of the cutting-edge interdisciplinary gender studies research happening in Switzerland, they are also strengthening and broadening the gender studies network in and beyond Switzerland in important ways.

Finally, board members' Bettina Dennerlein, UZH, and Sebastian Chauvin, UNIL, organized a thought-provoking and timely virtual roundtable on "Ecofeminisms. Critical Perspectives on Theory and Activism" this year. Sebastian is also part of the organizing team of the 2023 SAGS conference on "Gender(ed) Labor", which along with the Brigitte Schnegg Award will be the big events of 2023. We very much look forward to them.

Dominique Grisard, Vice-President

2. Board and Membership of the SAGS

2.1. Board and members, elections and general assembly

By the end of 2022, the sixteen board members represented nine Swiss universities, two language regions, and a wide range of disciplines and positions. The board met three times in 2022. Additionally the board members held a one-day retreat in June 2022.

With 24 new members joining and 12 members leaving in 2022, the SAGS counted 312 members on December 31, 2022. This represents an increase of 12 members compared to 2021.

The General Assembly of the members of the SSEG took place on November 4, 2022, from 4.30 pm to 6 pm, at the University of Neuchâtel and online. This year the 16 members present at the General Assembly elected or re-elected the members of the board and the auditors for a two-year term (2023–2024) (see table).

A warm welcome to our new committee members: Gina Wirz-Suárez (IHEID), Clara Guardado (UZH) and Ilana Eloit (UNIGE). We look forward to working with them.

Gina Wirz-Suárez and Clara Guardado will take care of public relations tasks for SAGS.

We bid farewell to some members who did not seek re-election for the next term: Claudia D'Andrea, Hélène Martin, and Annelise Erismann. We thank them for their work within SAGS, especially Annelise for her commitment to public relations. Fleur Weibel, who shared this position with Annelise, is stepping down from public relations, but fortunately remains on the board. We also thank her warmly for her work in raising the profile of SAGS.

An important vote at the General Assembly concerned an increase in membership fees. Due to the constant development of our activities, the General Assembly has decided to increase the membership fees for a trial period of one year. You can find a list of the new fees on our website (<https://www.gendercampus.ch/en/sags/becoming-a-member>). New members can now buy a copy of our *Gender Issues* book series at half price.

Table 1: Board members, 2022

Name	Function
Janine Dahinden	President, University of Neuchâtel
Dominique Grisard	Vice-President, University of Basel
Michèle Amacker	University of Berne
Nathalie Amstutz	FHNW, Olten
Sébastien Chauvin	University of Lausanne
Claudia D'Andrea	Student Representative, University of Neuchâtel
Bettina Dennerlein	University of Zurich
Annelise Erismann	Public Relations, University of Lausanne
Anne Lavanchy	HETS, Geneva
Matthias Luterbach	Treasurer, University of Basel
Hélène Martin	HETSL, Lausanne
Katrin Meyer	University of Zurich
Katharina Pelzelmayer	FemWiss
Marion Schulze	University of Basel
Anna Sommer	Gender Campus
Fleur Weibel	Public Relations, Think Tank Gender & Diversity

Table 2: Board members, 2023

Name	Function
Janine Dahinden	President, University of Neuchâtel
Dominique Grisard	Vice-President, University of Basel
Michèle Amacker	University of Berne
Nathalie Amstutz	FHNW, Olten
Sébastien Chauvin	University of Lausanne
Bettina Dennerlein	University of Zurich
Ilana Eloit	University of Geneva
Clara Guardado	University of Zurich
Anne Lavanchy	HETS, Geneva
Matthias Luterbach	Treasurer, University of Basel
Katrin Meyer	University of Zurich
Katharina Pelzelmayer	FemWiss
Marion Schulze	University of Basel
Anna Sommer	Gender Campus
Fleur Weibel	Public Relations, Think Tank Gender & Diversity
Gina-Wirz-Suárez	Public Relations, IHEID, Geneva

2.2. Retreat of the board of directors of the SAGS: Revision of our strategies, objectives and goals

The SAGS board members met for a retreat on June 27, at the University of Neuchâtel. The objective of this retreat was to review our objectives we had set in a retreat in 2019 as well as to define new visions for the SAGS. We worked intensively for more than 6 hours, revising our goals, brainstorming, discussing within smaller groups and taking decision in plenary.

The board members agreed to maintain the general objectives set in 2019 also for the coming years. While we did clearly identify some achievements in view of our objectives we set in 2019, these three main objectives and strategies will remain the core of the work of the SAGS also in the forthcoming years. Furthermore, we defined a new objective.

- **Working towards an increased institutionalization of Gender Studies:** These last years we succeeded to institutionalize our association – for instance through a considerable funding by the SAGW. We also put a lot of effort into supporting general initiatives toward institutionalizing gender studies within Switzerland (for instance, by supporting the topics of the Frauensession).

It seems important to us that there is a great diversity of how Gender Studies are defined and practiced in Switzerland. For the coming years, we would like to take an active role in honing the specific profiles of the different gender studies hubs in Switzerland and instigate conversations between the different traditions of Gender Studies – e.g. between French and German 'traditions', and across disciplines beyond social sciences and humanities. Graduate schools, larger research projects, but also discussions with the SNSF and Universities are important means to further institutionalize Gender Studies in Switzerland.

- **Enhance our network activities:** These last years we could clarify the roles of different organisations and stakeholders in the Swiss landscape of Gender Studies. Particularly we clarified the distribution of the tasks between the Think Tank Gender and Diversity, the Gender Campus, and SAGS. We also succeeded to incorporate institutions and scholars of French Speaking Switzerland much better into SAGS (which was rather German speaking dominated). Our efforts in the coming years will be to bring together actors across linguistic boundaries, but also to reach out to critical gender studies in medicine and biology, as well as to seek cooperating partners for our regular activities with institutions outside of our common reach.
- **Reinforce the public presence of the field of Gender Studies and the SAGS more generally:** Since 2019 we made a lot of process in view of this objective: SAGS is now present on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram; we launched our own book series entitled 'Gender Issues', we started to publish three bulletins a year, and we were very much present in the media during the pandemic. We decided that we will continue to enhance our visibility, mainly by linking our efforts to activities we already pursue: To reinforce regular media releases in view of our activities like roundtables, conferences, the Brigitte Schnegg Prize, do more publicity in view of our book series etc.
- **Outlining more clearly the contours of SAGS:** The board of directors decided to place the thematic working groups of SAGS more at the centre of SAGS's activities. In light of this, the working groups were renamed as "research networks". In the future,

the research networks will also be more clearly integrated into SAGS conferences, for example by organising panels for them. These Research Networks – which are the core of SAGS in terms of content and new theoretical and empirical development in the field – will receive a yearly budget. This new strategic orientation is more than needed: Just a short reminder of the success for the 'old' Research Network of TransforMen which published in 2021 a book which gained lot of interested in media and general public. And we welcomed two new research networks which already started their activities in 2022 (see below). Furthermore, we also decided to work on our website in order to outline more clearly 'who we are' in terms of critical Gender Studies, but also update its layout.



3. Scientific Activities

3.1. SAGS Publication Series "Gender Issues"

We are delighted that our book series "[Gender Issues](#)" – which we have taken over the editorial direction since January 2020 – has been very productive in 2022 and will be even more so in 2023. Books are peer reviewed and open access.

Newly published in the "Gender Issues" series in 2022 was:

The anthology following the 2019 SGGF symposium is [available](#) in open access and in print from Seismo Publishing.

Edited by Dominique Grisard, Annelise Erismann and Janine Dahinden, this collective work also brings together contributions by Isabel Boni-Le Goff, Carmen Carrasco Luján, Virginia León Torrez, Katrin Meyer, Susanne Nef, Holly Patch, Nicolas Wasser and Patrizia Zanella.

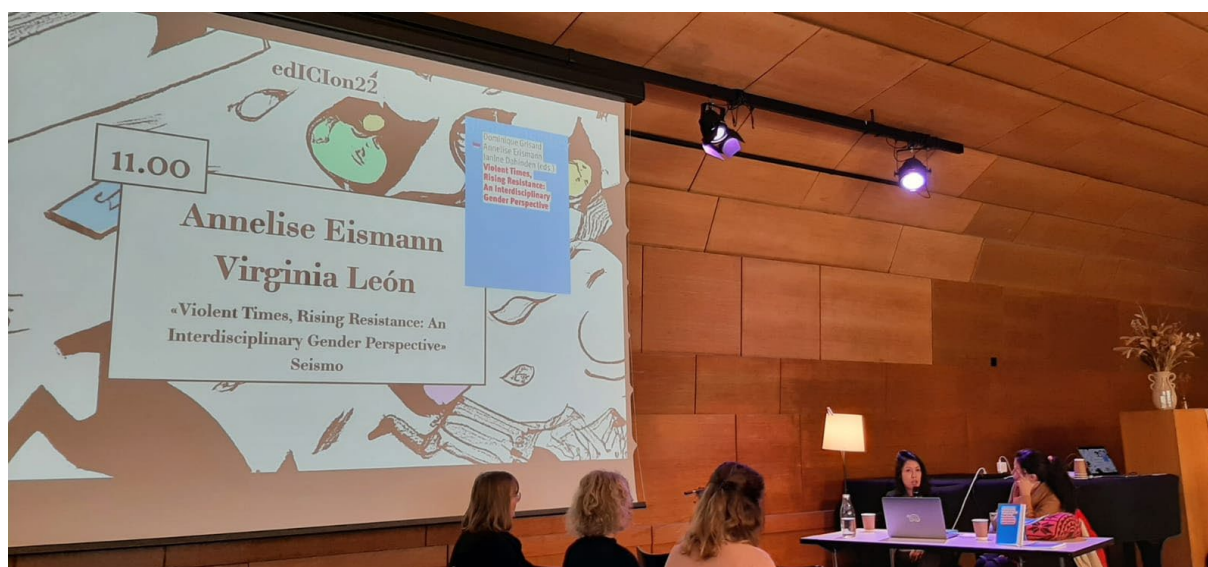
Abstract:

Violence is a persistent element of modern history and it always has been gendered. Today's violent times have politicized and mobilized new publics, generated creative forms of resistance, incited the most unlikely coalitions, and emboldened to live life differently. The systemic use of rape as a strategy in war fare, nationalism, and settler colonialism,



the persistency of intimate partner violence, and the increasingly open racist, sexist, transphobic, and homophobic discrimination are just a few examples of violence's omnipresent gender dimension. The contributions of this volume analyze violence and multiple forms of resistance from an interdisciplinary gender perspective. They show that violence is not just a central and powerful structuring principle of gender, sexuality, ethnicity, race, and class, but that it is also part of the fabric of nation states and structures all social relations. In addition, the contributions depict manifold strategies and tactics of confronting gendered violence.

In addition to hosting a book party for "Violent Times, Rising Resistance" at lovely book store "QueerBooks" in Bern, Annelise Eismann, editor of the book, and author Virginia León Torrez held a reading at Biel book fair "Edicion". The reading took place on 11 December at 11 am at the Maison Farel in Biel. For more information, click [here](#).



Also, Melanie Nussbaumer's book "Selbstverständlich – und doch umstritten. Wie sich Organisationen bezüglich Gleichstellung legitimieren" went to press at the end of 2022. As of January 2023, it can be found [online](#) and in bookstores. Congratulations, Melanie!

The publication of a third book is announced for early 2023: *Domesticités globalisées: Perspectives philippines* by Julien Debonneville.

There are several more manuscripts aiming to publish in 2023, among them the anthology on "maternité célibataires" by Thierry Delessert et. al. and notably also "Women's suffrage and democracy today", an anthology based on the 2021 SAGS conference at the University of Zurich.

We are more than pleased that we received excellent new submissions this year. Our collaboration with publishing house Seismo, SAGW and SNSF has been very positive.



Last but not least we have seen some changes on the board as long-term member Brigitte Liebig decided to step down. We would hereby like to thank Brigitte for her outstanding contribution and commitment. We are currently looking for one or two new members for the editorial board.

3.2. Public Round table: Ecofeminism – Critical Perspectives on Theory and Activism

Ecofeminism is a heterogeneous field of theoretical and political practice. A realm of emancipatory praxis before being an academic set of theories, it raises distinct issues in different world areas and their entanglements. This panel brought together those approaches that deploy and expand ecofeminist insights as critical tools of transformative knowledge and approaches that take critical stances towards some aspects of current ecofeminist projects.

There were three panelists and a discussant:

- Geneviève Pruvost, a sociologist of gender, work and environmental struggles and rural ways of life at the French CNRS, and author of *Quotidien politique. Féminisme, écologie et subsistance* (2021)
- Fatima Alvarez-Castillo, who is Centennial Professor of Politics at the University of the Philippines in Manila, and whose interests include justice, gender, equity and government accountability, with a particular focus on the human rights of the marginalized and powerless.
- Sophie Lewis, a philosopher, a writer and an activist living in Philadelphia, whose two books, both published by Verso, are *Full Surrogacy Now: Feminism Against Family* (2019) and the most recent *Abolish the Family: A Manifesto for Care and Liberation* (2022).
- Nolwenn Bühler, an anthropologist of biomedicine and health, specializing in gender studies, is currently works as a SNSF senior researcher at the University of Lausanne. She is the author of *When Reproduction Meets Aging: The Science and Medicine of the Fertility Decline* (Emerald 2021).

Dominique Grisard, SAGS vice-president, historian and gender scholar at the University of Basel, gave welcome words, after which the panel was moderated by SAGS board members

Bettina Dennerlein, Professor of Gender Studies and Islamic Studies at the University of Zurich, and Sébastien Chauvin, Associate Professor of Gender Studies at the University of Lausanne.

In keeping not just with broad concerns about the environment but also with the very theme of the panel, we decided early on to hold this event online rather than flying in speakers from across the globe. This required finding the right time slot for both Fatima Castillo calling in late at night from Manila and Sophie Lewis calling in the morning from Philadelphia. UZH assistant Dominik Folger organized a meeting earlier than the event in order to check all technical issues and ensure its smooth unrolling.

The roundtable was a relative success, with about 50 people attending overall and mostly without technical incidents (except for Fatima Castillo's dropped connection just before the very end of the event). The audience included SAGS members as well as outside participants, from Switzerland but also from surrounding countries (Austria, France, Germany), Canada, the US, Chile and the Philippines. Nolwenn Bühler provided a very rich, substantial and engaging discussion, which lasted a bit longer than expected but nevertheless allowed speakers to answer and to engage with audience questions in the special Zoom seminar chat. Overall, the diversity of takes on takes on ecofeminism and the dialogue between them was much appreciated by everyone and we received very positive feedback afterwards.

The recording of the panel is available on YouTube via our website (<https://www.gender-campus.ch/de/sggf/aktivitaeten/roundtables-der-sggf>).



3.3. *Symposium on the occasion of the emeritus of Prof. Dr. em. Andrea Maihofer*

Andrea Maihofer is not only a crucial figure for Gender Studies in Switzerland, she was also the dedicated president of SAGS from 2010–2018 and responsible for the association's reinvigoration and reformation. On the occasion of Professor Andrea Maihofer's becoming a professor emeritus, a symposium "Gender Studies as a Critical Science in Authoritarian and Populist Times" took place at the University of Basel on May 13 and 14. The symposium revisited Andrea Maihofer's major contributions as founding director of the Basel Centre for Gender Studies. In addition, it was an opportunity to pay tribute to her indispensable

contribution to the institutionalisation of gender research in Switzerland. The many participants and the lively discussions highlighted the relevance, diversity and richness of the field of gender research today.



In her welcome address on behalf of the SAGS committee, Nathalie Amstutz highlighted the successful institutionalisation of gender studies during Andrea Maihofer's 20 years of activity in Switzerland. One of the highlights of the symposium was Andrea Maihofer's keynote on "Current challenges for gender studies: the need for a critical science."

SAGS wishes Andreas lot of success and good projects for her time as professor emeritus and we are more than pleased that Andrea is still member of our representative honorary board.

4. Research Networks

As stated above, the board of SAGS strengthens what was formerly called 'working groups' by turning them into Research Networks: They are at the core of the intellectual endeavour of SAGS. SAGS supports the Research Networks financially, but also by offering them visibility on its website, the possibility to communicate via its electronic newsletter [Bulletin SSEG-SGGF](#), and the possibility to publish in the series ["Gender Issues."](#)

Also this year, we had the pleasure to accept a new Research Network, Gender and Political Science. In total we have currently 4 Research Networks, but we will continue to make calls for new ones also in 2023.

4.1. Affects, Feelings and Emotions

Debates surrounding feelings, emotional labour, affects, and intimacy have been central to gender studies since their inception. In the working group "Affects, Feelings and Emotions," we discuss research at the intersection of gender, affect, feelings and emotions. Our last workshop took place online, February 17 in 2022.

We are currently reorganizing our structure, for 2023 we hope to be able to intensify our theoretical exchange again. In 2022 four new members have joined our group.

Our next meeting will take place in February 2023, via Zoom. New members are always welcome.

Laura Perler ([laura.perler\(at\)giub.unibe.ch](mailto:laura.perler(at)giub.unibe.ch)) for the working group

4.2. Transformation of Masculinities (TransforMen)

The research network "Transformations of Masculinities (TransforMen)" is an interdisciplinary and cross-institutional research group, independent of location. It wants to strengthen critical studies on men and masculinities in Switzerland and make them more visible. More information is available [online on the SAGS website](#).

In 2022, the research network deepened and continued the scientific exchange on critical studies on men and masculinities. The group met five times during the year, partly online and partly in person. Members shared excerpts of their research on many topics: Queer fatherhood, the manifestation of the gender order in various male-dominated professions, women's suffrage and its consequences for conceptions of (gendered ideas of) citizenship, and the reconstruction on bourgeois conceptions of fatherhood. Finally, the group also discussed papers on the concept of hybrid masculinity and on the meaning of masculinity in relation to Russia's attack on Ukraine.

The group welcomed new members from diverse disciplinary backgrounds and we are happy about this ongoing interest. Interested people are always welcome to join the group. Finally, we are pleased to report that a similar working group called "[AG Kritische Jungen*, Männer*- und Männlichkeitsforschung](#)" has been established in Germany as part of the German "FG Geschlechterstudien." We were in contact with the founding group from the very beginning and look forward to working together.

Matthias Luterbach ([m.luterbach\(at\)unibas.ch](mailto:m.luterbach(at)unibas.ch)) for the working group

4.3. Feminisms, Marxism and Decoloniality – FMD

This was the year the core of the group consolidated itself and started to determine its priorities, modes of work, and epistemological preferences. The group could celebrate two crucial achievements: a panel acceptance at a Conference in Helsinki on indigenous Artic engagements and a panel acceptance at the Latin American Studies Association in 2023. Besides this, two members of this group of early-career scholars from Latin America/Abya Yala have presented their work in the SAGS anthology "Violent Times, Rising Resistance."

The group looks into 2023 with brand new eyes and is currently investigating the opportunities for a new synthesis between the theoretical strands the research network carries in its name.

Annelise Erismann ([annelise.erismann\(at\)unil.ch](mailto:annelise.erismann(at)unil.ch)) for the working group

4.4. Gender and Political Science

PRIMA fellow Elizabeth Mesok and Leandra Bias founded this new research network to foster academic exchange around feminist approaches to political science and politics writ large and to accelerate their progress and recognition. We are pleased that we already have over twenty members with almost all Swiss universities represented and with an equal share of PhD candidates and more advanced scholars. [We accept new members](#) on a rolling basis.

In November 2022, we officially launched the research network with an in-group networking event, followed by a public roundtable on "Feminist Political Science as a Bulwark against Anti-Feminist Politics." We had the honour to welcome Dr. Stefanie Boulila (Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts) and Prof. Elisabeth Prügl (Geneva Graduate Institute) as guest speakers.



We are very pleased to announce that we have received funding from the University of Bern to host a two-day paper workshop in autumn 2022. Having constituted the group, this will allow us to develop in-depth some of our ideas and to foster closer collaboration among our members.

Leandra Bias ([leandra.bias\(at\)unibe.ch](mailto:leandra.bias(at)unibe.ch)) for the research network

5. Outward Communication

2022 was a year of goodbyes and new beginnings for SAGS. Its PR team has slowly transitioned toward developing new communication strategies and goals. With SAGS growing steadily every year, gaining members and online engagement, pressing challenges have emerged. The new PR group, composed of Gina Wirz-Suárez and Clara Guardado, has

slowly started to take on their roles, managing the multiple SAGS social media accounts and the ongoing direct communication with its members through its Bulletin. Perhaps some of the most pressing questions to this team pertain to building off what the PR had done so far while finding the tone and the communication style that SAGS needs to have to find newer audiences among the ever more epistemologically diverse gender experts. What can SAGS do differently in terms of its external communication? What could the PR team recycle from the work done thus far? There are many new horizons for the new duo responsible for the association's PR as they try to set their own goals and find their personal communication style. Together with the secretariat, the PR team still serves as the interface of SAGS, mediating with the public and rendering the association a friendly and accessible site for most working on gender issues across the country and abroad.

For a detailed overview of SAGS activities in 2022, kindly see our previous Bulletins:

- [Bulletin SSEG-SGGF 2022 | 1](#)
- [Bulletin SSEG-SGGF 2022 | 2](#)
- [Bulletin SSEG-SGGF 2022 | 3](#)

6. Cooperations, Networking & Anchoring of Gender Studies

6.1. *Think Tank Gender & Diversity: New FORUM Activities – funded by Swissuniversities 2021-2024*

The Think Tank Gender & Diversity pursues the goal of networking, developing, and promoting the vast knowledge and competencies created among higher education in the fields of gender and diversity in cooperation with SAGS and Gender Campus. Since 2021, the Think Tank conducts the "Forum of Swiss Higher Education Institutions," which serves to network the 28 projects currently being carried out at Swiss universities from 2021 - 2024 as part of the swissuniversities P-7 programme "Diversity, Inclusion and Equity in Higher Education Development." Through topic-specific activities and collaborations, the forum supports Switzerland-wide knowledge building and transfer on diversity, understood as an intersectional interaction of inequality relations that can include gender, racialisation, sexuality, dis/ability, age, migration and class. These institutional exchanges also consider approaches to solutions resulting from the partner universities' different service areas and projects. In addition, scholars, diversity experts and researchers of various sub-fields of research on diversity, inclusion and equity in higher education are involved in these events, which count on the critical support of an advisory council.

In 2022, the following three public events took place:

June 2022, "Barrierefreiheit an Hochschulen / Hautes écoles et accessibilité"

<https://www.gendercampus.ch/de/document/barrierefreiheit-an-hochschulen-hautes-ecoles-et-accessibilite>

September 2022, "On Resistance and Ignorance: towards Equality in Higher Education"

<https://www.gendercampus.ch/de/document/on-resistance-and-ignorance-towards-equality-in-higher-education>

November 2022, "Hin zu sozialer Nachhaltigkeit / Vers une durabilité sociale"

<https://www.gendercampus.ch/fr/document/hin-zu-sozialer-nachhaltigkeit>

Forthcoming events 2023 and more information on the Think Tank Gender & Diversity:

<https://www.gendercampus.ch/en/ttgd/the-think-tank-gender-diversity>

6.2. RINGS

The 9th RINGS (International Research Association of Institutions of Advanced Gender Studies) conference and general assembly on the topic "Decolonizing Feminisms" took place from October 26-28 online and in Durban, South Africa, hosted by the University of KwaZulu-Natal. As RINGS contact person for the SAGS, Anika Thym participated in the conference and had the opportunity to present our association. She also visited the general assembly, where country reports were presented from Australia, Austria, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, India, Romania, Russia, South Africa, Sweden and Switzerland. Beside the intellectual exchange of the conference, RINGS offers support to gender studies institutions which are under threat.

RINGS welcomes internship applications (sent to the Co-Chairpersons). Unfortunately, there is no remuneration for this position.

Individuals and/or institutes who would like to join the SAGS-RINGS group can email Anika Thym. Institutional membership is possible and will be evaluated by Co-Membership Secretaries. RINGS contact information can be found here: <http://ringsgender.org/contact>. RINGS particularly welcomes new member institutions from the Global South.

Anika Thym ([anika.thym\(at\)unibas.ch](mailto:anika.thym(at)unibas.ch)), liaison person to RINGS

7. Impressum

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