



Global Capitalism and the Challenge of Well-Being in the World

Annual Conference of the Swiss Ethnological Society SEG Jahrestagung – Colloque annuel de la SSE

Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern, 12-14 November 2015

Venue: Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern, Lerchenweg 36, 3000 Bern

Thursday, 12 November 2015/ Opening Program for Members Only

- 16.00-18.00 F-111 **General Assembly/ Mitgliederversammlung/ Assemblée générale SEG/SSE**
- 18.00-20.15 Film screening *Paradise in my Mind* (2015, 96'), in the presence of filmmaker/producer Sandra Mooser
- 20.30 Dinner at restaurant «Casa d'Italia», Bühlstasse 57 (GA participants only)

Friday, 13 November 2015/ Conference

- 09.00-10.00 *Registration, Welcome coffee at the Unitobler foyer, Lerchenweg 36*
- 10.00-12.00 **Session 1**
- F 013 I: New Values and Regulations in Capitalism
- F 006 II: Uncertainties and Precarization: Good Lives, Bad Lives: Changing Livelihoods Between Security and Precarization
- F-123 IV: Dirty Business: Economies of the Used, the Used Up and the Useless
- F-103 VII: Health, Care and Well-Being: Incentivized Human Behavior in Health and Health Care: Ethnographic Perspectives
- F-102 VIII: Being Welcome, Being Well
- 12.00-14.00 *Lunch break (not sponsored by local organizer)*
- 14.00-16.00 **Session 2**
- F 013 I: New Values and Regulations in Capitalism
- F 006 II: Uncertainties and Precarization: Uncertainties as a Playground for Moralities
- F-123 IV: Dirty Business: Economies of the Used, the Used Up and the Useless
- S 221 VI: Mediating Precariousness: Creative Ethnographic Practices in an Era of Crisis
- F-103 VII: Health, Care and Well-Being: Ambiguous Intimacies: Perspectives from the Public Health Field
- F-102 VIII: Being Welcome, Being Well
- 16.00-16.30 *Coffee break, Unitobler foyer, Lerchenweg 36*
- 16.30-16.45 F 021 **Plenary Session I: Welcome address**
Prof. Dr. Peter Finke, President SEG/SSE, Head Department of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies, University of Zurich
Prof. Dr. Sabine Strasser, co-director Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern
- 16.45-18.15 **Keynote lecture**
Prof. Dr. Miriam Ticktin (The New School, New York): *Innocence: A Political Concept, and an Anthropological Limit?*
- 18.30 Conference buffet at the Unitobler foyer, Lerchenweg 36 (registration necessary)

**Saturday, 14 November 2015/ Conference**

- 08.30-09.00 *Registration, Unitobler foyer, Lerchenweg 36*
- 09.00-10.30 F-123 **Plenary Session II: Roundtable**
The Postdoc Hamster Wheel: On the Situation of Anthropology Postdocs in Switzerland
- 10.30-11.00 *Coffee break, Unitobler foyer, Lerchenweg 36*
- 11.00-13.00 **Session 1**
F 006 II: Uncertainties and Precarization: Uncertainties as a Playground for Moralities
S 221 III: WG "Anthropology and Education": Counter-Hegemonic Discourses within Educational Spaces: Capitalism, Well-Being, and Other Narratives
F-102 V: Constitutionality: A New Form of Bottom-Up Resource-Governance
F-103 IX: CAV: Contesting Invisibilities – Practices of Resistance and Political Agency in Ethnographic Filmmaking
- 13.00-13.30 *Lunch snack (sponsored by local organizer), Unitobler foyer, Lerchenweg 36*
- 13.30-15.00 **Session 2**
S 221 III: WG "Anthropology and Education": Counter-Hegemonic Discourses within Educational Spaces: Capitalism, Well-Being, and Other Narratives
F-103 IX: CAV: Contesting Invisibilities – Practices of Resistance and Political Agency in Ethnographic Filmmaking
- End of the conference

Room Designation

- F 006, F013, F 021: Seminar rooms on the ground floor of Unitobler, Lerchenweg 36
F-102, F-103, F-111, F-123: Seminar rooms on the basement of Unitobler, Lerchenweg 36
S 221: Seminar room at the Institute of Social Anthropology, Lerchenweg 36, Unitobler 2nd floor

Registration

Conference registration until 1 November 2015 online: <http://www.sagw.ch/seg/colloques/registration.html>
Payment of registration online or on site (cash only, no EC or credit cards; CHF only).

Coffee breaks as well as the Saturday snack lunch are offered for free.

Buffet Friday evening: Online registration is necessary (Deadline 1 November 2015). Buffet must be paid individually online or on site (32 CHF, incl. drinks).

Conference fee: applies to all conference participants, also presenters and panel chairs!

	1 day	2 days (in CHF)
Members SEG/ SSE	25.-	50.-
Students (incl. PhD students)	15.-	25.-
Non-members	50.-	80.-

How to get there



By train: Take the bus no. 12 (from Bahnhof SBB) to «Unitobler» stop (direction Länggasse), then walk 120m back along Länggassstrasse and turn right into Lerchenweg.

Hotels, Hostels and B&B's:

<http://www.bern.com>

www.airbnb.com

Organization Committee

Prof. Dr. Michaela Schäuble: michaela.schaeuble@anthro.unibe.ch

Prof. Dr. Tobias Haller: tobias.haller@anthro.unibe.ch

Dr. Laura Coppens: laura.coppens@anthro.unibe.ch



Global Capitalism and the Challenge of Well-Being in the World

Recently, Karen Ho has argued that global capitalism is not an impenetrable, borderless zone, but rather “a set of constructed events,” based on a variety of promises, performances, and proclamations, which can also become “actual goals with precarious outcomes” (Ho 2005). Anthropologists are increasingly concerned with the question how people around the world deal with these promises and pitfalls of capitalism - especially in times of global and socio-political crisis. From the ethical dimensions of economic life to the politics of immigration, the critical study of well-being is at the center of these concerns and broadens our understanding of the human condition of those most affected by social inequalities. But how exactly is the “good life” envisioned or imagined by people in both, South and North? What does a “better life” entail and how is it best achieved? Given that economic well-being measures employed by various states are widely critiqued, how do we define well-being in terms of and beyond material standards of living?

The aim of the conference is to address these questions to better comprehend what constitutes well-being in different world contexts. Moreover, precarity, as both inherent to our human condition and politically and economically defined, urgently calls for a growing moral responsibility, a responsibility that also lies in the hands of anthropologists. As the discipline is increasingly entangled with global moral obligations, the importance of a reflexive, engaged anthropology is growing.

In focusing on humanitarianism and human rights, the keynote speaker Miriam Ticktin suggests that the figure of “innocence” as representation of human goodness – broadly delineated as suffering and sick bodies vs the guilty subject – produces a dangerously superficial sentiment of humanity. She suggests that the concept of “innocence” is not only a political ideology, one that is complicit in the suffering of the disenfranchised, but also has critically shaped the field of anthropology.

With this conference we intend to fathom the multiple ways in which social anthropology can contribute to the debate on human well-being in an era of crisis and upheaval. This issue is central to every critically engaged anthropology and particularly concerns the fields of ethics and well-being, economic and legal anthropology, existential anthropology and migration studies.

Keynote: "Innocence: A Political Concept, and an Anthropological Limit?"

by Miriam Ticktin, The New School for Social Research (New York)

This talk will delve into the concept of innocence, trying to understand it and render its workings more legible. Looking at the figure of the child, the trafficked victim, the animal, and the war on terror, it will discuss how, as a space of epistemic purity, it has become central in questions of contemporary politics. It will also suggest that “innocence” has critically shaped the field of anthropology.

Miriam Ticktin works at the intersections of the anthropology of medicine and science, law, and transnational and postcolonial feminist theory. Her research has focused in the broadest sense on what it means to make political claims in the name of a universal humanity: she has been interested in what these claims tell us about universalisms and difference, about who can be a political subject, on what basis people are included and excluded from communities, and how inequalities get instituted or perpetuated in this process.



Panels Friday 13 November 2015, 10.00-12.00 and 14.00-16.00

I: New Values and Regulations in Capitalism

Organizers: Johanna Mugler, Heinzpeter Znoj, Tobias Haller, Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern

Room: F 013

Part 1

Chair: Tobias Haller

Heinzpeter Znoj, Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern

“Always look on the bright side“: Fighting poverty by measuring „wellbeing“

Thomas Niederberger, Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern

The open cut: Mining, transnational corporations and the question of values

Jan Beek, Department of Anthropology and African Studies, University of Frankfurt

Transnational fraud and travelling capitalism

Part 2

Chair: Heinzpeter Znoj

Csaba Györy, University of Budapest / Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law, Freiburg

Elusive finance: Regulation and financial innovation after the financial crisis

Peter Hongler, University of Zurich

Justice in international tax law: Between effective tax rates of multinationals and the principle of sovereignty

Johanna Mugler, Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern

What drives value in an economy? Negotiating fairer international tax laws within the G20 OECD BEPS Initiative



II: Uncertainties and Precarization

Room: F 006

Part 1: Good Lives, Bad Lives: Changing Livelihoods between Security and Precarization

Organizers: Peter Finke, Stefan Leins, and Chris Kelley, Department of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies, University Zurich

Peter Finke, Department of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies, University of Zurich

What is good and bad about markets, security, and globalization?

Chris Kelley, Department of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies, University of Zurich

Precarious organizing? Changing working conditions, collective action and labor-capital-institutions in the Swiss construction industry.

Corinne Schwaller, Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern

Highly educated young in Barcelona: Precarious livelihoods and uncertain biographies

Stefan Leins, Department of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies, University of Zurich

Uncertainty without precarization: On "privileged" jobs in the private sector industry

Esther Horat, Department of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies, University of Zurich

Bearing uncertainty, seizing chances: Dealing with change in a trading community in Northern Vietnam

Part 2: Uncertainties as a Playground for Moralities

Organizers: Annika Lems and Julia Rehsman, Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern

Giada de Coulon, Caroline Reynaud and Annamaria Colombo, School of Social Work Fribourg, University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Western Switzerland, Switzerland

Between autonomy and precarity: Morality issues among beggars representations.

Irene Marti and Ueli Hostettler, Institut für Strafrecht und Kriminologie, University of Bern

Facing end-of-life in Swiss prisons: Ethnographic insights into indefinite confinement and its pains.



IV: Dirty Business: Economies of the Used, the Used Up and the Useless

Organizers: Ellen Hertz, Yvan Schulz, Alice Sala, Anthropology Institute, University of Neuchâtel; Luisa Piart, Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern

Room: F-123

Part 1

Keynote:

Prof. Michael A. Crang, Department of Geography, University of Durham

Green but not clean? Doing the dirty work of global recycling

Benjamin Steuer, Institute of Sinology, University of Vienna & Institute of Waste Management,
University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences

The hidden circular economy in China: What system and which mechanisms drive the recovery of discarded resources?

Carlo Ferri, School of Geography and the Environment, University of Oxford

Variegated recycling: Power, place, and materiality of waste

Part 2

Dr. Martin Rosenfeld, African Studies Centre, University of Oxford

Second-hand entrepreneurship in West Africa

Alice Sala, Anthropology Institute, University of Neuchâtel

A global Computer Village: Trading used computers from Guangzhou to Lagos

Luisa Piart, Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern

Waste and fake alaturca: Insights on the global fashion industry from Istanbul



VI: Mediating Precariousness: Creative Ethnographic Practices in an Era of Crisis

Organizers: Michaela Schäuble, Laura Coppens, Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern
and Claire Vionnet, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, University of Lausanne

Room: S 221

Darcy Alexandra, Centre for Transcultural Research and Media Practice, Dublin

The sense of listening: Disrupting asylum narratives

Mark Curran, Institute of Art, Design & Technology (IADT), Dublin and Freie Universität Berlin

The Normalisation of deviance and the construction of THE MARKET

Andrew Irving, Granada Centre for Visual Anthropology, University of Manchester

Detours and puzzles in the land of the living

Claire Vionnet, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, University of Lausanne

Dancing and activism among professional dancers

Preliminary Programme



VII: Health, Care and Well-Being

Organizers: Sonja Merten and Jana Gerold, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, Basel

Room: F-103

Part 1: Incentivized Human Behavior in Health and Health Care: Ethnographic Perspectives

Keynote:

Eileen Moyer, University of Amsterdam

Making care count: Valuing socio-logistic work in the age of HIV treatment in eastern Africa

Sonja Merten, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, Basel

Experiences after the roll-out of free HIV services: Insights from Zambia.

Joelle Schwarz, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, Basel

Decision making to plan and control for family size: Navigating through family planning policies, traditional and religious values and household life realities in rural Burundi

Mari Dumbaugh, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, Basel

Economies of Reproduction: South Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo

Part 2: Ambiguous Intimacies: Ethnographic Perspectives from the Public Health Field

Sally Mtenga, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, Basel and Ifakara Health Institute

We are many wives how can one man speak to us all? Challenges constraining safer sex communication among individuals in polygamous and monogamous relations in a rural community of South-Eastern Tanzania: A qualitative study

Langelihle Mlotshwa, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, Basel and Wits University

Intimate relationships and expressions of care among pregnant women in Soweto, South Africa

Jana Gerold, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, Basel

Adolescent sexuality in rural Rwanda

Bettina Schwind, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, Basel

Gender work in gynecology: How do physicians experience feminization?



VIII: Being Welcome, Being Well

Organizers: Daniela Dietz, Meltem Sancak, Dominik Müller, Department of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies, University of Zurich

Room: F-102

Part 1

Meltem Sancak, MPI Halle/Saale and Department of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies, University of Zurich

Thoughts of this panel: Migration, institutions and well-being

Lena Kaufmann, Ethnographic Museum, University of Zurich

“She cooks fast and she calculates fast”: Understanding processes of (Chinese rural-urban) migration and the creation of well-being through the lens of skilled agents

Daniela Dietz, Department of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies, University of Zurich

Strangers among themselves

Annelies Kuijpers, Department of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies, University of Zurich

The consequences of discovering hidden paradise: Branding tourist space in Halfeti, Turkey

Discussant: **Mahir Şaul**, Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois

Part 2

Indira Alibayeva, MPI Halle/Saale

Between uncertainty and hope: How Kazaks returned to their ethnic homeland: Oralmans (returnee) in Tassay.

Dominik Müller, Department of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies, University of Zurich

Religion and transnational migration: Social security in religious networks

Mahir Şaul, Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois

Discussion and closing remarks

**Roundtable Saturday 14 November 2015, 09.00-10.30****The Postdoc Hamster Wheel: On the Situation of Anthropology Postdocs in Switzerland**

Organizers: Sabine Kradolfer, Institute of Social Science, University of Lausanne and Annika Lems, Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Berne

Room: F-123

Participants:

Giada de Coulon, School of Social Work Fribourg, University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Western Switzerland

Esther Leemann, Department of Ethnology, University of Lucerne

Jérémié Forney, Anthropology Institute, University of Neuchâtel

Alessandra Pellegrini, FH Bern

Chair: **Sabine Kradolfer**, Institute of Social Science, University of Lausanne

In the last decade much attention has been paid in Switzerland to the monitoring of doctoral training whereas the situation of postdocs seems to have raised less interest. Yet, the often precarious conditions of Swiss emerging researchers (known as *Nachwuchs* in German and *relève* in French) doesn't just have far-reaching effects on people's personal trajectories. They are also bound to have profound consequences for anthropology as a discipline. In this roundtable, we will shed light on the challenges both early and late postdocs in anthropology face in Switzerland and discuss the ramifications and possible ways out of the endless loop of insecure postdoc positions.

Over the last decade the Swiss and international academic landscape has undergone a number of rapid and profound changes in terms of massification, internationalisation, standardisation and the implementation of the Bologna reform. These developments had an important impact on the early stages of academic careers. Since 2000 numerous doctoral programmes were created, which weren't, however, matched by a growth in postdoctoral career possibilities. Given the important increase of PhD completions in anthropology during the last years, we would like to draw our attention towards their career pathways and aspirations and reflect upon the hoops they have to jump through in order to survive within the current scholarly environment.

In this roundtable a number of academics at the early and later stages of their postdoctoral careers will be invited to discuss question such as "who or what actually is a postdoc"? Do those who are never appointed professorships remain postdocs forever? How do they strike a balance between the requirement to be internationally mobile and their personal family lives? Which strategies do postdocs develop to manoeuvre the fine line between academic autonomy and dependence? What job opportunities exist for anthropology postdocs outside academia – and if they do take on a non-academic role what impacts does this have on their scholarly pathways?

This roundtable aims to raise awareness about the structural uncertainties of anthropology postdocs and to think about their impact both inside and outside the academy. Yet, the objective is not to get stuck in a debilitating perspective of lament. Instead, we will use this forum to think through possible ways out of the endless hamster wheel of postdoc appointments.



Panels Saturday 14 November 2015, 11.00-13.00 and 13.30-15.00

II: Uncertainties and Precarization

Room: F 006

Part 2 Continued: Uncertainties as a Playground for Moralities

Organizers: Annika Lems and Julia Rehsman, Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern

Gerhild Perl, Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern

Restless bodies: Post-mortem mobility and uncertain belongings in the Spanish-Moroccan borderlands

Veronika Siegl, Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern

Moralities of infertility: Intended parents' perspectives on surrogacy in Russia and the Ukraine.

Giorgio Brocco, Institute of Social Anthropology, Freie Universität Berlin

Ambiguous lives: Albinism, uncertainty and morality in Tanzania.

Discussant: **Jelena Tošić**, Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Vienna

Preliminary Programme



III: Working Group “Anthropology and Education”: (Counter)-Hegemonic Discourses within Educational Spaces: Capitalism, Well-Being, and Other Narratives

Organizers: Jeanne Rey, PH Freiburg; Dilyara Suleymanova, Department of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies, University Zurich; Andreas von Känel, Anthropology Institute, University of Neuchâtel

Room: S 221

Part 1

Keynote:

Véronique Bénéï, Institut Interdisciplinaire d'Anthropologie du Contemporain (IIAC), Paris

Happiness and wellbeing as counter-hegemonic discourses or meta-narratives of capitalism?

Reflections from a few educational spaces

Judith Hangartner, Institut für Forschung, Entwicklung und Evaluation, PH Bern and **Carla Jana**

Svaton, Institute of Social Anthropology, University Bern & Institut für Forschung, Entwicklung und Evaluation, PHBern

The governmentalization of school reforms: Between inclusion, self-steering and new practices of differentiation

Part 2

Alexandra Felder, **Kerstin Duemmler**, **Isabelle Caprani**, Institut Fédéral des Hautes Etudes en Formation Professionnelle, Lugano, Lausanne, Zollikofen, Zürich

Reinterpreting instead of resisting (neo-)liberal narratives: The case of retail clerk apprentice

Anthropology & education General Assembly / Anthropologie und Bildung GV / Anthropologie et formation AG



V: Constitutionality: A New Form of Bottom-Up Resource-Governance

Organizer: Helen Gambon, Centre for Development and Environment, University of Bern

Room: F-102

Tobias Haller, Institute for Social Anthropology, University of Bern

Crafting our own rules! Constitutionality as a bottom up process in Zambia and Mali

Ramez Eid, Technion University, Haifa

State of fire: Constitutionality and participatory conservation in Mount Carmel Bio-sphere Reserve, Israel

Helen Gambon, Centre for Development and Environment, University of Bern

Constitutionality in the Indigenous territory and Biosphere Reserve Pilon Lajas, Bolivia – A success story?

Thomas Bearth, General and African Linguistics, University of Zurich

The park is “our thing”. Environmental and economic blending in crisis-struck Western Ivory Coast

Preliminary Programme



IX: Audio-Visual Commission of the SEG/SSE: Contesting Invisibilities – Practices of Resistance and Political Agency in Ethnographic Filmmaking

Organizers: Martha Cecilia-Dietrich and Sandra Mooser, Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern; Grégoire Mayor, Musée d'ethnographie, Neuchâtel

Room: F-103

Part 1

Martha-Cecilia Dietrich, Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern

Entre Memorias (Between Memories): Research collaborations with perpetrators of violence as politically engaged anthropology?

Kieran Hanson, University of Manchester & Allritesreversed

Shooting Freetown: Shared anthropology and collaborative media in urban Sierra Leone

Esther Leemann, Department of Ethnology, University of Lucerne

Producing alternative histories: Self-portrayal of the way of life in an indigenous community affected by large-scale rubber plantations.

Part 2

Christine Moderbacher, School of Social Science, University of Aberdeen

"Stop your camera, it blinds me!" - When film making jeopardizes anthropological practice

Sandra Mooser, Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern

One goal, many voices: A collaborative experience with African migrant filmmakers in Switzerland