

SEG/SSE

Annual Meeting 2021

Re-viewing
«the field»:
Contemporary
debates and
approaches to
fieldwork

SHORT
PROGRAM

Re-viewing «the field»: Contemporary debates and approaches to fieldwork

The birth of modern anthropology is concomitant with the invention of fieldwork. Since Malinowski's famous "tent in the middle of the village", living with "the natives" has been, and is still in many ways, the paradigmatic ethnographic method. With the passage of time, the discipline has evolved to include new themes and approaches, and yet "the field" remains its epistemological and methodological anchoring point.

It is time to take stock of the debates around the meaning and localization of "the field" that have been shaping the discipline for a number of decades. We have in mind the now frequent reference to "multi-sited ethnography", or the largely discredited use of the distinction between anthropology "abroad" and "at home", well problematized in last year's annual meeting on "The Global as Method". In practice, contemporary anthropologists avail themselves of a wide spectrum of tools, methods and concepts for going about their empirical work, raising questions about the limits and the specificities of the discipline.

Particularly with the rise of life "on-line", anthropologists have been inventing new forms of fieldwork to capture and analyze these new forms of social interaction. With the rise of the Internet 2.0, notions such as "virtual fields", "social networks", "forums", "platforms", and so forth are increasingly invoked as both objects and methods of inquiry. These new "fields" are characterized by their lack of geographic situatedness and by the fact that social interactions most often take place between people who do not "know" each other "in person".

Simultaneous to this "virtualization" of the field, we are also witness to what appears to be a countervailing movement in globalized societies: the intensification of logics of heritage and of what are roughly termed "identity politics", which celebrate specific cultural elements, often linked to a territorially rooted sense of belonging. These logics of "re-rooting/re-routing" raise new challenges for anthropological theory, traditionally critical of simplistic equations between communities, cultures and territories. Indeed, anthropologists are often solicited directly to participate in these social activities, and must ask themselves new questions about how they wish to position themselves as researchers and as social actors when their data is co-produced and restitution becomes virtually mandatory. Further complicating matters, feminist and post-colonial thinkers have thoroughly discredited the notion of scientific "neutrality", the "view from nowhere". It is now taken for granted that anthropologists must assume responsibility for their positionality, but the forms of engagement are hotly debated, and challenge the very idea of "the field" – its composition, its boundaries, the relations it creates amongst actors, in sum, its agency as a social actor in its own right.

This meeting seeks to attract panels that examine these new fieldwork configurations. Our hope is to stimulate reflection on the convergences, alliances and conflicts produced by these new temporalities and spatialities of "the field", in resonance with neighboring disciplines from which anthropologists can borrow productively and to which they contribute. Defining "the field" calls for a multitude of approaches, that are not merely theoretical or epistemological, but also ethical and political.

15:30 - 15:45

Welcome – Introduction

Plenary Round Table 1

16:00 - 17:30

Interface Commission: Responding to COVID-19 anthropological engage- ment in times of crisis

Organizers

Peter **Larsen**
Susie **Riva**

Discussants

Marco **Nardone**

Ehler **Voss**
Janina **Kehr**
Joerg **Moehrle**

Institut de recherches sociologiques,
Université de Genève
University of Bremen, Germany
Formerly University of Bern, now University of Vienna
Medicines for Malaria Venture, Geneva
Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute
and University of Basel, Basel

Moderation

Susie **Riva**
Peter Bille **Larsen**

Creighton University medical anthropology
program, Interface Commission
University of Geneva, Interface Commission

Panel 1

18:00 - 19:30

**Creative Collaboration
Art and Anthropology at the Interface**

Organizers

Leïla **Baracchini**
Fiona **Siegenthaler**
Claire **Vionnet**

University of Neuchâtel
University of Basel
University Paris 8

Seeing in the middle

Amanda **Ravetz**

Manchester School of Art,
Manchester Metropolitan University

From participant-produced video diaries to co-creative filmmaking. Collaborative autoethnographic explorations of lived experiences during the pandemic

Nimal **Bourloud**

Universität Bern

Acoustic Perspectives of the Pandemic. Listening to COVID-19 Soundscapes and their Reverberations

Laura Maria Julia **Stoffel**
Johanna-Yasirra **Kluhs**

Institut für Sozialanthropologie, Universität Bern
Co-Referentin künstlerische Kollaboration im Rahmen des Beitrags aus: Universität Bern.
Institut für Sozialanthropologie

Creative Methodologies and Power Relations: Co-Creation and Restitution in Contexts of Artivism

Raphaëla **von Weichs**
Monika **Salzbrunn**
Sara **Wiederkehr**
Federica **Moretti**

Université de Lausanne/ERC ARTIVISM
Université de Lausanne/ERC ARTIVISM
Université de Lausanne/ERC ARTIVISM
Université de Lausanne/ERC ARTIVISM

Panel 2

18:00 - 19:30

**The Opacity of Experience
Fieldwork as the Site of the Unknown**

Organizer

Marco **Motta**

University of Bern

Anthropology, Literature and Small Acts of Mistranslation

Andrew **Brandel**

Harvard University

Fatigue in the Field: Drinking and Chatting with Veterans of War in Russia

Gregoire **Hervouet-Zeiber**

McGill University

“Nobody is Free”: Field Notes on the Incorporation of Unresolved Negation

Alonso **Gamarra**

McGill University, Montreal

Social Robots in Elder Care in Contemporary Japan: Rethinking the Human Ethnographic Experience in Terms of the Nonhuman

Anne **Aronsson**

University of Zürich

Panel 3

09:00 - 10:30

PhD Meet up

OrganizerEsther **Leemann**University of Zurich and Coordinator
of the Swiss Graduate Program in Anthropology

Panel 4

09:00 - 10:30

Empathy in the Field Can the Affective be Transformative?

OrganizersDr. Eda Elif **Tibet**

University of Bern

Dr. Estella **Carpi**

University College London

On Emotional Dissonance and Academic Excellence: The Need for Collective Learning

Dr. Estella **Carpi**Migration Research Unit (Department
of Geography), University College London

Enactive Ethnography as a Means of Establishing Empathetic Relationships

Raphael **Schapira**

PhD Candidate, The Graduate Institute Geneva

“Feel-” and Fieldwork in Times of Crisis: Collective Reflections Drawing on the Case of the Chilean *Revolta Social*

Anne **Lavanchy**

HES-SO

Céline **Heini**

HES-SO

Denisse **Sepúlveda Sánchez**

HES-SO

Affective Multimodalities: Transcending (in)Humanities from Transactive Field Works to a Justful Dream Work

Dr. des Eda Elif **Tibet**Critical Sustainability Unit,
Institute of Geography, University of Bern

On positionality in art practice, activism and ethnographic research

Konstantina **Bousmpoura**Independent Visual Anthropologist,
Athens Ethnographic Film FestivalPaula **Serafini**

Research Associate, University of Leicester

Panel 5

11:00 - 12:30

Observation beyond presence – Hospital ethnography at the beginnings and ends of life (Medical Anthropology Switzerland, MAS)OrganizersJulia **Rehsmann**

University of Applied Sciences Bern

Veronika **Siegl**

University of Bern

DiscussantJanina **Kehr**

University of Vienna

**From ‘Being There’ to ‘Being With’:
The Care-ful Negotiations of Ethnographic Research
at the Beginning of Life in Bali, Indonesia**Molly **Fitzpatrick**

University of Zurich

**Anteilnehmende Beobachtung. Präsenzes
Zurückgenommenbleiben als gebotene Haltung
in Feldforschungen mit Sterbenden**Mira **Menzfeld**

University of Zurich

**Things of dying – An applied design-anthropological
exploration of the current death culture**Bitten **Stetter**HKB Hochschule der Künste Bern,
Universität Bern, ZHdK Zürich

Panel 6

11:00 - 12:30

FNS PresentationOrganizerOla **Söderström**

Panel 7

14:30 - 16:00

Working in the field

Organizers

Esther **Leemann**
Rebekka **Sutter**
Tara **Bate**

University of Zurich
Ethnographic Museum at Zurich University
University of Zurich

Introduction: Doing Fieldwork in a Field

Esther **Leemann**
Rebekka **Sutter**

University of Zurich
Ethnographic Museum at Zurich University

For a Bodily Ethnography: Co-labouring in Mountain Fields

Tara **Bate**
Théophile **Johnson**

University of Zurich
Laboratoire d'ethnologie et de sociologie
comparative (LESC), University of Paris Nanterre
Ethnographic Museum at Zurich University

Rebekka **Sutter**

The Intimacies of the Field: Coca Fields in Bolivia as Localised Spaces for Mobility and Wealth

Alessandra **Pellegrini**
Calderón

University of Zurich

Api-cultured Landscapes – Towards a Multispecies Approach of “the Field”

Aline **von Atzigen**

Ethnographic Museum at Zurich University

Disappearing Swidden Fields, Persisting Social Landscapes

Esther **Leemann**
Rebekka **Sutter**

University of Zurich
Ethnographic Museum at Zurich University

Discussion

Shaila Seshia **Galvin**

Graduate Institute Geneva

Panel 8

14:30 - 16:00

Can you do me a favour? Reciprocity and lack of reciprocity in anthropological field research

Organizers

Clémence **Jullien**
Emilia **Sulek**

CEIAS, CNRS, Paris
University of Fribourg

Issues of reciprocity in anthropology: opening remarks

Clémence **Jullien**
Emilia **Sulek**

CEIAS, CNRS, Paris
University of Fribourg

On the dark side? – Reciprocity, loyalty, and complicity in messy fieldwork contexts

Anne **Kukuczka**

ISEK, University of Zurich)

Benevolent Spies. On the Role of Anthropologists in Post-conflict Regions

Jovana **Dikovic**

ISEK, University of Zürich

Panel 9

16:30 - 18:00

Doing fieldwork on/with performative arts: explorations in aesthetic, relational and creative methods

Organizers

Muriel **Bruttin** University of Lausanne
 Anna Laura **Rodriguez Quinones** University of Lausanne

Performing Bodies on a Screen: Researching South African Protest Aesthetics the digital way

Jeannine-Madeleine **Fischer** University of Konstanz, Germany

Employing of Video-Essay as a Performative Strategy on Autoethnographical Research

Süleyman Kivanç **Türkgeldi** Cukurova University/Communication Faculty/Radio, Television and Cinema, Adana, Turkey

Dereskina, a research creation as ethnographic encounter

Claire **Vionnet** Département Danse Paris 8, France

Filming dancing bodies: negotiations between artists, ethnographer and camera in fieldwork on contemporary dance and the ballroom scene

Muriel **Bruttin** University of Lausanne, Switzerland

“Go Training with the Others!” Surviving and Data Gathering among a Women Intercultural Theatre Company

Cristina **Balma-Tivola** Polytechnic University of Turin, Italy

Panel 10

16:30 - 18:00

Autochtonie, processus d’essentialisation et posture(s) de l’anthropologue: dilemmes et enjeux méthodologiques, épistémologiques et politiques

Organizers

Leïla **Baracchini** University of Neuchâtel
 Anahy **Gajardo** University of Neuchâtel
 Natacha **Gagné** Université Laval, Québec, Canada

Discussant

Situating relationships. Enacting multiple identities beyond land, place and expected categories

Urpi **Saco Chung** Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva

La nouvelle fête millénaire du Pawkar Raymi. Vers une approche pragmatique des discours et pratiques identitaires des autochtones à Otavalo (Andes équatoriennes)

Jérémie **Voirol** Graduate Institute/Genève, University of Manchester

Guaranis, karai et anthropologues “gringos” dans le Chaco bolivien : doutes et équivoques d’une recherche ethnographique dans un contexte d’autochtonie plurivoque

Pere **Morell i Torra** Universitat de Girona, Catalogne

«Mais dis-nous ce qui distingue les Mapuche des autres Chiliens-?». Réflexion sur les im/postures de l’anthropologue

Anne **Lavanchy** HES-SO, Genève

Simone Abram

Professor of
Anthropology at
Durham University
and co-director
of the Durham
Energy Institute

“Fields,
experiments,
elaboratories:
relocating
ethnography.”

Panel 11

09:00 - 10:30

Following people: Co-producing “the field” through mobilities

Organizer Joanna **Menet** University of Neuchâtel
Discussant Joris **Schapendonk** Radboud University

Following in Time: “Staying with” and “Following up”

Stefan **Binder** Department of Social Anthropology and
Cultural Studies (ISEK), University of Zurich

“An anthropologist on the plane: what it means to become a reference person for the research participants, within the framework of an itinerant ethnography”

Carla **Vaucher** Institut des sciences sociales,
Université de Lausanne

Walking beyond the routine: On the effects of conducting walking interviews in prison

Irene **Marti** Institute for Penal Law and Criminology,
University of Bern

Disentangling Following: Reflections on the Practicalities of Mobile Methods

Markus **Breines** London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Panel 12

09:00 - 10:30

Re-viewing the field while writing ethnographies: from experience to words to books

Organizers Melina **Rutishauser** University of Basel
Miriam **Badoux** University of Basel

Introduction to the topic

Melina **Rutishauser** University of Basel
Miriam **Badoux** University of Basel

(Dis)Rupture and Continuity. Translating temporalities and timeliness into ethnographic writing

Samira **Marty** University of Oslo

‘The Geodataset that Never Was’

Dorota **Kozaczuk** Graduate Institute of International
and Development Studies, Geneva

Re-creating the field - writing nearby cinematics

Balz **Alter** University of Basel, University of Lucerne

Panel 13

11:00 - 12:30

The social fabric of “traditional culture” in the People’s Republic of China: dynamic articulation, domestic policy and soft power

OrganizerPierrick **Porchet**PhD candidate, Faculty of Sciences / Confucius
Institute, University of Geneva

Nurturing the socialist spiritual civilization: Interplay between anthropology and politics

Florence **Graezer Bideau**Institute for Area and Global Studies,
College of Humanities, EPFL

Oral knowledge in contemporary rural China: Transmitting and negotiating farming knowledge through proverbs

Lena **Kaufmann**Department of History and Department
of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies,
University of Zurich

The weight of Ethnographic tradition: The role of writing in ethnic formation in Quanzhou. The case of the Hui of Baiqi

Pascale **Bugnon**Department of East Asian Studies / Confucius
Institute, University of Geneva

The embodied knowledge of the *jìn* ability and its significance in local and national discourses on Chinese traditional Martial arts

Pierrick **Porchet**PhD candidate, Faculty of Sciences / Confucius
Institute, University of Geneva

Panel 14

11:00 - 12:30

Round Table SAA Museum Commission Ethnographic Museums and the Pandemic

ChairMareile **Flitsch**

President, SAA Museum Commission

With the closure of cultural institutions, ethnographic museums in Switzerland are facing equally unusual situations. This round table is meant as a first exchange forum to grasp where the museums currently stand: Where are we experiencing particular challenges? How have we managed to keep in touch with other museums and originator communities also experiencing the pandemic? Have we eventually evolved solutions to long overdue problems, threats to the museums, and even ideas for the near and farer future as a stimulus for funding requests, and in particular, new thematic and maybe theoretical issues?

Vulnerability in and of the field

Organizers

ERC Artivism team
 Université de Lausanne
 Monika **Salzbrunn**
 Raphaela **von Weichs**

Discussants

Nolwenn Buehler	MAPS, University of Neuchâtel
Nadja Eggert	CIRE, Université de Lausanne
Anne Lavanchy	HES Genève
Valerio Simoni	ERC BETLIV, IHEID Genève
Monika Salzbrunn	ERC ARTIVISM Team, ISSR-FTSR Université de Lausanne
Raphaela von Weichs	ERC ARTIVISM Team, ISSR-FTSR Université de Lausanne
Federica Moretti	ERC ARTIVISM Team, ISSR-FTSR Université de Lausanne
Sara Wiederkehr	ERC ARTIVISM Team, ISSR-FTSR Université de Lausanne

As anthropologists, we are challenged to construct our fields of research in multiple situations of crisis in a global society. Vulnerability increases globally due to economic, ecological, political and social crises, calling conceptual divides between (Global) North, South, East, West into question. What is more apparent is the intense interconnectedness of these multiple crises in interlinked physical (sea, land, atmosphere) and virtual (cyber) spaces, on various scales (local, regional, global) and temporalities (diachronic and synchronic). Covid-19 is just one but a massive reminder of the global dimension of human action and interaction with severe consequences for our common planet. What are the specific challenges for anthropologists in the particular fields of crisis, how do we position ourselves therein, how does vulnerability affect the relationship between the researcher and the researched fields and subjects? Which constraints are limiting research in contexts of crisis and increased vulnerability? How do we take responsibility for the subjects we are studying, and for ourselves as researchers, and how are sending or receiving institutions influencing our interactions and decisions? How do ethics committees and/or charters determine the conceptualization of our projects, our actions in the field, and the way we communicate amongst us, within our fields, within the academic community and with a broader public?

Impressum

Organizing Committee

Laura **Bertini**
Stefano **Boumya**
Nora **Bardelli**
Graziella **Corti**
Alessandra **Ferrini**
Alice **Jacot-Descombes**
Andrea **Jacot-Descombes**
Marcello **Martinoni**
Valerio **Simoni**
Jacopo **Storari**
Diana **Tenconi**

Design

FAVON.IO
Luciano **Baragiola**

Technical Partner

Consultati SA