



Swiss Sociological Association
Congress 2026

Communities
& Societies
IN MOVEMENT

September 2 to 4 | Fribourg

Workshops of the Swiss Sociological Association Congress 2026

Call for abstracts

General guidelines to the participants :

Participants are kindly invited to send their abstract by 31 March 2026 directly to the convenors of the workshop they wish to apply to. For any workshop-specific questions (abstract format and length, language, organization, etc.), please contact the convenors using the email addresses provided in each workshop call.

For any other questions related to the congress, please contact the organizing committee at ssa-congress26@sciencesconf.org

The SSA Congress 2026 will take place on site (no hybrid option), from 2 to 4 September 2026, on the campuses of the University of Fribourg (UNIFR) and the HETS Fribourg : <https://ssa-congress26.sciencesconf.org/>

We thank you for your interest and look forward to welcoming you in Fribourg.

(Non-)Access to Welfare and the Shifting Boundaries of Inclusion

Convenors: Hümbelin Oliver, Lucas Barbara, Bonvin Jean-Michel

ABSTRACT

Since their establishment, welfare states in Western societies have been key institutions of social cohesion. By protecting individuals from adverse life events and modern social risks, they reduce inequalities and foster inclusive societies. Yet, the fundamental question of who gets what, and why remains as pressing as ever. Today, global trends such as budget constraints, demographic change, migration, welfare-chauvinist movements, political polarisation, and growing mistrust of democratic institutions pose major challenges to welfare systems and question their role in social cohesion. These developments not only undermine confidence in their capacity to promote cohesion but also raise concerns about the accessibility and legitimacy of social rights. While legal entitlements exist on paper, access is often constrained in practice. Furthermore, integration policies may erode the foundations of universal, enforceable rights by introducing conditionality and selectivity. Against this background, (non-)access and non-take-up of social benefits provide a rich entry point to study the relationship between individuals, communities, and societies (Lucas, Bonvin, Hümbelin, 2021). At the macro level, welfare institutions can be seen as manifestations of socially negotiated agreements regarding deservingness and inclusion. At the meso level, public or private street-level organisations mediate between social norms, individual rights, and community belonging. At the micro level, patterns of non-take-up and non-access reflect how individuals navigate, internalise, or resist both societal and communitarian expectations. Exploring these dynamics around (non-)access and non-take-up offers crucial insights into how welfare states are transforming—and how they continue, or fail, to shape inclusive communities and societies. We welcome theoretical and empirical contributions from sociology and related disciplines, employing qualitative, quantitative, or mixed-methods approaches.

KEYWORDS: welfare state, non, take, up, social cohesion, social inequalities

CONTACT OF THE FIRST CONVENOR: oliver.huembelin@bfh.ch

A productive rivalry? Sociological analysis facing societal interpretations on the move

[Eine produktive Konkurrenz? Gesellschaftliche Interpretationen in Bewegung und die soziologische Analyse]

Convenors: Schwegler Guy, Elliker Florian

ABSTRACT

While sociology's task is to analyze current social developments, this task is itself affected by them. One of the discipline's core traits is that its authority is continually challenged by other societal actors. Sociology does not hold a monopoly on the observation and the definition of social relations; other disciplines, expert systems, and "folk theories" pursue the same aim. This interpretative rivalry evolves as society changes. Challenges to sociological concepts thus may stem both from social developments themselves and from new societal interpretations arising within them. Various epistemological approaches address this rivalry. Critical theory, for instance, legitimizes scientific authority by revealing what remains hidden, while the notion of an epistemological rupture seeks distance from societal views. Pragmatism, by contrast, assumes no categorical divide between scientific and societal theories, an idea that shaped the empirical tradition of the Chicago School. Whatever the approach, each must be reconsidered as new interpretations of the social emerge. This workshop invites contributions that explore what currently rivals sociology's interpretations. Examples include the rise of artificial intelligence as a technical counterpart capable of producing interpretations through "qualitative" coding, but also debates in survey research over socio-demographic categories, as new identities seek recognition. Reflecting on such cases should not only yield methodological insights but also deepen sociology's reflexive understanding of itself.

German : *Die Aufgabe der Soziologie, nämlich die Analyse gegenwärtiger sozialer Entwicklungen, wird durch diese selbst beeinflusst. Ein zentrales Merkmal des Fachs ist, dass dessen Autorität kontinuierlich durch gesellschaftliche Akteur*innen herausgefordert wird. Anstelle eines Monopols auf die Beobachtung und Definition sozialer Beziehungen finden sich andere Disziplinen, Expertensysteme und Alltagstheorien, die dasselbe tun. Diese Interpretationskonkurrenz zeigt sich jeweils auf neue Weise und soziologische Konzepte werden nicht nur von sozialen Entwicklungen, sondern auch von den dadurch veränderten gesellschaftlichen Interpretationen herausgefordert. Die Konkurrenz wird in verschiedenen erkenntnistheoretischen Ansätzen adressiert. Kritische Theorie etwa legitimiert wissenschaftliche Autorität über ein Aufdecken des «Verborgenen», während ein epistemologischer Bruch eine völlig andere Perspektive gegenüber dem Alltag einnimmt. Im Unterschied dazu stellt der Pragmatismus keine kategoriale Differenz zwischen wissenschaftlichen und gesellschaftlichen Theorien fest, was wiederum die empirische Tradition der Chicago School etablierte. Unabhängig von den Differenzen dieser Ansätze müssen doch alle Auffassungen vor dem Hintergrund veränderter gesellschaftlicher Interpretationen neu betrachtet werden.*

Der Workshop möchte Beiträge versammeln, die sich der gegenwärtigen Konkurrenz soziologischer Interpretationen widmen. Beispiele wären etwa das Aufkommen künstlicher Intelligenz und deren Fähigkeit zum «qualitativen Kodieren» oder Debatten um sozio-demografische Kategorien in Umfragen, die neue Identitäten anerkennen sollen. Sich diesen und weiteren Fällen zu widmen, soll sowohl methodologische Implikationen bieten als auch ein reflexives Verständnis der Soziologie selbst fördern.

Proposals for contributions (max. 2 000 characters) can be submitted until March 31, 2026, to guy.schwegler@unilu.ch and florian.elliker@unisg.ch. The workshop will be held in German, English, and French.

KEYWORDS: epistemische Konkurrenz, interpretative Praxis, reflexive Soziologie, Wissenssoziologie, epistemic rivalry; interpretive practices; reflexive sociology; sociology of knowledge

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Aborder les enjeux de santé et sécurité au travail au travers des cultures de métier

Convenors: Lamamra Nadia, Duc Barbara

ABSTRACT

Travailler sur les enjeux de santé et sécurité au travail conduit à interroger les cultures de métier (Jacquot & Volery, 2019 ; Lamamra et al., 2019 ; Le Feuvre et al., 2012). Celles-ci participent, en particulier pour les apprenti-e-s, d'une socialisation au métier, à ses codes, valeurs, normes. Cette socialisation professionnelle peut s'inscrire dans la continuité ou au contraire en opposition à une socialisation primaire, les normes de l'environnement de travail s'ajustant ou se mettant en tension avec les dispositions individuelles (Denave & Renard, 2019 ; Depoilly, 2020 ; Pichonnaz & Toffel, 2018). Ainsi, les cultures viriles à l'œuvre dans certains métiers de l'automobile ou du bâtiment renforcent les éthos des jeunes masculins populaires (Denave & Renard, 2015), quand les cultures des métiers de service, adossées aux normes de féminité traditionnelle et calquées sur les éthos corporels des classes intermédiaires, prolongent et confrontent les cultures adolescentes des jeunes femmes de milieux populaires (Kergoat, 2022 ; Molinier, 2011 ; Rollin, 2024). En matière de santé au travail, les cultures de métier ont en commun de forger et de marquer les corps et de participer à des mises en danger de la santé physique ou mentale (obstacles au respect des normes de sécurité et à la transmission formelle des savoirs de santé, de protection ou de prudence, socialisation aux pratiques délétères, au non-respect du cadre prescriptif ou encore au recours à des stratégies défensives collectives elles-mêmes nuisibles) (Dejours, 2000 ; Legrand et Darbus, 2023 ; Molinier, 2000). Ce workshop vise à partager des réflexions sur la façon d'appréhender les cultures de métier, en particulier en lien avec les enjeux de santé au travail ou plus largement de construction des corps au travail. Au niveau méthodologique, les approches qualitatives, en particulier les méthodes ethnographiques, suffisent-elles à cerner ces dimensions largement symboliques ? L'entrée par les cultures de métier comme obstacles à la transmission des savoirs de santé et de sécurité, est-elle opérante ? Faut-il l'articuler à une approche dispositionnelle pour mieux cerner la façon dont les individus adhèrent ou résistent à ces environnements et à leurs normes ? Ce workshop se veut donc à la fois un lieu de discussion et d'élaboration, et un espace de présentation de résultats empiriques issus de divers terrains.

KEYWORDS: santé et sécurité au travail, culture de métier, socialisation, formation professionnelle

CONTACT OF THE FIRST CONVENOR: Nadia.Lamamra@hefp.swiss

Agricultural transitions in motion: actors, policies, and professional communities

Convenors: Farioli Andrea, Spahr Emile, Mazenc Loïc

ABSTRACT

Agricultural transitions unfold amid deep transformations in rural and professional communities (Hervieu & Purseigle, 2013). Confronted with environmental, health, and economic crises, actors are redefining their positions, alliances, and practices. This workshop examines agricultural transition as a social process, in which relations between state and territories, experts and producers, public standards and local practices are being reorganized. It invites participants to connect analyses of policy change, knowledge circulation, and evolving farming practices, while examining how transitions reshape power relations, gender inequalities, and economic dependencies.

Theme 1. Changing practices and professional identities

This theme addresses the evolution of farming and being farmers in light of ongoing structural transformations. The adoption of neoliberal norms, politicization of health and environmental issues, resulting in cross and sometimes contradictory pressures, require farmers to adopt various strategies and practices (Forney, 2012; Surdez, 2015). This contributes to redefining understanding of who farmers are and what they do individually and as a professional community. Contributions may connect these transformations affecting farmers with changes in their environments.

Theme 2. Intermediaries of the transition

Politicians, experts, farmers, NGOs: agriculture brings together a plurality of actors with different perspectives and power resources. Today, environmental, economic, and social challenges could reshape public policy and alliances. In this context new actors - advisors, veterinarians, engineers, and alternative practitioners - are playing a growing role in agricultural transitions. Situated between science, market, and public regulation, they shape hybrid spaces of expertise and collective action where boundaries of work, knowledge, and legitimacy are constantly renegotiated. Contributions may examine how actors mediate between public policy, professional norms, and local practices.

Theme 3. Power relations and inequalities

Agricultural transitions also reconfigure social hierarchies and access to resources. Economic restructuring, environmental standards, and diversification of models affect farmers unevenly depending on gender, status, or territorial position. This theme welcomes analyses of how transition processes reproduce, challenge, or transform relations of domination, labor relations, and gender inequalities in contemporary rural worlds.

KEYWORDS: agriculture, farm, farmers, agricultural, transformations, policies, food, environment, health, work, professions, practices, alternatives, intermediaries, advisers, experts, power, inequalities

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Artificial Intelligence: Doctor, Priest, or Friend? AI as a New Source and Resource of Meaning in Times of Fertility Distress

Convenors: Guidi Diletta, Becci Irene

ABSTRACT

This workshop explores how Artificial Intelligence (AI) reshapes the ways individuals experience and cope with uncertainty linked to infertility, reproductive difficulties, endometriosis, and other gynecological conditions. In these contexts of physical and moral vulnerability, AI increasingly acts as a new moral and epistemic authority, complementing or replacing doctors, relatives, religious guides, or peers. We examine how people use AI-driven tools—search engines, chatbots, health apps—as confidential, always-available interlocutors offering information and emotional support. For many, AI provides a non-judgmental space to address taboo issues such as infertility or reproductive suffering, especially amid declining trust in healthcare and religious institutions (Monod, 2023). In Switzerland, research shows how digitalization and AI challenge traditional forms of expertise and trust (Vayena et al., 2018), while new forms of digital care and spirituality are emerging (Peng-Keller & Winiger, 2020). Building on these insights, this workshop investigates how individuals fill reproductive uncertainty through hybrid configurations of knowledge, belief, and online micro-communities. We welcome contributions on AI use in fertility and ART pathways, online reproductive-health communities (Lin & Shorey, 2023), cross-national health information-seeking (Al Shboul et al., 2024), and participation in small digital health communities (Hwang & Foote, 2021).

KEYWORDS: artificial intelligence, fertility / infertility, reproductive health, online communities

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Artistic Communities and Societies in Movement: Organization, Belonging, and Attachment

Convenors: Moeschler Olivier, Riom Loïc, Nikoghosyan Nuné

ABSTRACT

This workshop contributes to the SSA 2026 theme Communities and Societies in Movement by exploring how arts and culture organize social life and forge attachments across shifting boundaries of community and society. The sociology of culture and the arts has long examined the relational forms underpinning cultural and artistic processes. Canonical works—from Norbert Elias's configurations to Pierre Bourdieu's cultural field and Howard Becker's art worlds—have analyzed production as embedded in networks and structures. Beyond creation, research on cultural consumption, subcultures, and lifestyles has highlighted how culture shapes identities, belonging, and, more broadly, “what holds us together” (Antoine Hennion). Contemporary challenges—conflict, political polarization, the digitalization of societies, and environmental crises—put these understandings to the test. This workshop asks how the sociology of arts and culture can contribute conceptually and empirically to theorizing social forms at the intersection of social movements, economic processes, public policy, and technologies. How is the association between culture and democracy being questioned? What do transformations in cultural consumption—often diverging from democratic ideals—reveal about these shifts? How are artistic labor and organization reconfigured through new community logics, power, precarity, and invisibility? How do digital technologies (platforms, DAOs, generative AI) reshape attachment, organization, and belonging? Which methodological tools allow us to trace these transformations? Contributions should be grounded in empirical enquiry to clarify the forms of sociality involved in the entanglements of arts and culture. We invite fieldwork-based contributions on (non-exhaustive): emerging changing forms of artistic labor, precarity, and invisibility community practices of solidarity, unpaid work, and domination in art worlds old/new subcultures in cultural production and/or consumption transformations in cultural consumption tied to polarization and identity politics novel stratification and societal divides in the arts renewed centralities and margins within art worlds community and identity building practices through the arts.

KEYWORDS: arts and culture, community/society, organization and belonging, cultural production and consumption

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Au-delà de la justice pénale ? La gestion des violences sexuelles dans les Églises par les commissions de reconnaissance et de réparation

Convenors: Marine Delaunay, Damien Scalia, Maya Bodenmann, Camille Perrier Depeursinge

ABSTRACT

Depuis une vingtaine d'années, des dispositifs de reconnaissance et de réparation des violences sexuelles commises dans les Églises émergent dans de nombreux pays (Knetsch 2024; Keenan et al. 2016; Lancien 2023). Créés sous la pression des collectifs de victimes, à la suite d'enquêtes parlementaires ou indépendantes ayant mis au jour le caractère systémique de ces violences, ces dispositifs se sont constitués en marge de la justice pénale, tout en empruntant à son langage, à ses catégories et à certaines de ses procédures (Lazerges 2022). Ils prennent des formes variées (commissions, fonds d'indemnisation, cellules d'écoute diocésaines) et sont financés par les institutions ecclésiales elles-mêmes, tout en revendiquant parfois leur indépendance à l'égard de ces dernières. Ces dispositifs s'adressent à des victimes qui, du fait de la prescription des faits, de la difficulté à rapporter la preuve des violences ou du décès des auteurs, ne peuvent plus espérer de la justice étatique une reconnaissance ni une réparation (Bodenmann 2026; Perrier 2011). Ils proposent dès lors d'autres modalités de prise en charge, fondées sur une écoute inconditionnelle, une reconnaissance institutionnelle, ainsi que sur des formes de réparation financières et symboliques (cérémonies, excuses officielles, publications de rapports, journées commémoratives ou lieux de mémoire). Ces instances élaborent leurs propres règles d'instruction, de calcul des indemnités, d'attribution des responsabilités, en impliquant, à des degrés variables, victimes, agresseurs, proches et société. Tout en s'inscrivant dans le prolongement de principes chrétiens d'accueil (Dauvin et Siméant-Germanos 2002), elles reprennent également des réflexions féministes qui critiquent les exigences probatoires pesant sur les victimes de violences sexuelles (Delaunay 2026; Escoda et al. 2018; Jakšić et Ragaru 2019; Le Goaziou 2019; Pérona 2023). L'activité de ces instances croise ainsi plusieurs registres normatifs, inspirés du droit et de la victimologie, qu'elles articulent à des références empruntées aux justices restaurative, transitionnelle et transformative (Griveaud 2025; Hazan 2007; Lefranc 2009). Si les juristes, pénalistes et spécialistes du droit de la réparation ont largement débattu de la légitimité de ces dispositifs (Jacquemet-Gauché et al. 2024; Dugue et Mattiussi 2024), la sociologie et la science politique se sont encore peu emparées de ces objets. Ils constituent pourtant un terrain privilégié pour analyser les relations entre droit, action publique, institutions religieuses et mobilisations collectives. Les instances ne sont pas seulement des dispositifs techniques d'indemnisation, elles produisent des catégories de victimes, mobilisent des savoirs et des expertises scientifiques, suscitent des controverses quant à leurs effets sur la politisation des violences et la responsabilisation des institutions ecclésiales (Fassin 2004). Elles constituent également un observatoire privilégié des rapports de pouvoir qui traversent ces violences (de genre, d'âge, de classe, y compris dans leurs dimensions postcoloniales) et des inégalités épistémiques qu'elles contribuent à rendre visibles ou, au contraire, à reconduire. Du point de vue des personnes victimes, ces gestes ne font pas toujours consensus. Ils sont parfois jugés tardifs, insuffisants ou trop étroitement encadrés par les institutions ecclésiales pour constituer une véritable réparation (Christen-Schneider 2022; Marsh et Wager 2015; Knüsel et al. 2024). Ces appréciations contrastées invitent dès lors à examiner l'expérience, les logiques d'adhésion ou de non-recours, le travail politique des collectifs de victimes, ainsi que l'impact des mobilisations sur la visibilité publique des violences sexuelles. Elles conduisent plus largement à interroger ce que ces dispositifs révèlent des attentes contemporaines en matière de reconnaissance et de réparation et de la confiance citoyenne dans les institutions. Ce workshop invite des contributions empiriques adossées à une démarche méthodologique robuste, inscrites dans des disciplines et des cadres conceptuels variés. Elles pourront porter

sur des terrains internationaux, monographiques ou comparatifs. Une attention sera également portée aux conditions d'accès aux données, aux contraintes institutionnelles et éthiques pesant sur l'enquête, ainsi qu'aux effets de ces dispositifs sur les positions des chercheur-euses.

Les propositions de communication (en français) ne devront pas dépasser 4000 signes, espaces compris. Elles préciseront l'objet de la recherche, le terrain et les matériaux mobilisés ainsi que les principales questions étudiées. Elles sont à envoyer avant le 31 mars 2026 à Maya Bodenmann : maya.bodenmann@unil.ch. Un retour sera adressé aux auteur-ices le 30 avril 2026 et une confirmation de participation sera attendue pour le 11 mai 2026 au plus tard. Il sera demandé aux auteur-ices de fournir un document de maximum 8 pages en support de leur présentation le 31 juillet au plus tard, afin de préparer la discussion collective du panel. Les présentations se dérouleront en présentiel exclusivement. Le transport et l'hébergement seront à la charge des participant-es.

KEYWORDS: Reconnaissance et réparation, Violences sexuelles dans l'Église, Dispositifs extrajudiciaires, Justice restaurative / transitionnelle

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Between Openness and Protection: The Challenges of Anonymising and Sharing Qualitative Data in the Social Sciences

Convenors: Araujo Pedro, Stam Alexandra

ABSTRACT

Open Science policies are profoundly reshaping the landscape of the social sciences. Swiss higher education institutions and funding bodies, such as the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), are increasingly requiring researchers to share their data at the end of publicly funded projects. Yet this demand for openness often collides with an equally compelling legal and ethical obligation: to protect research participants from harm. In practice, several interconnected layers of protection can be mobilized: informed consent, access control, and anonymisation.

While social scientists have long anonymised data excerpts in their publications, anonymising an entire corpus of qualitative data—such as interviews or ethnographic observations—for deposit in a data repository, with the goal of reuse by other scholars, is a far more complex task. This process raises a wide range of challenges, from identifying indirect identifiers and balancing data utility with participant protection, to managing consent forms that are transparent on the potential data reusability, and the limits of de-identification in small or specialized populations. It is both urgent and necessary to collectively address these issues.

This workshop invites scholars to reflect on the ethical, methodological, and technical tensions in preparing qualitative data for sharing. We welcome contributions based on case studies, field experiences, or methodological reflections that highlight specific difficulties or innovative practices in anonymising, transforming, and publishing qualitative materials. The aim is to provide a space for open dialogue, where participants can discuss challenges, negotiate trade-offs between transparency and confidentiality, and explore strategies to reconcile openness and ethical responsibility. Please send your abstract in English by March 31, 2026 (max. 500 words) to pedro.araujo@unil.ch

KEYWORDS: Open Science, Anonymisation, Qualitative Data, Research Ethics

CONTACT OF THE FIRST CONVENOR: pedro.araujo@unil.ch

Circulating between languages. The role of language intermediaries in the contact between immigrants and national institutions

Convenors: Mahroug Naoual, Maxime Maréchal

ABSTRACT

Far from being a mere technical issue, translation and interpreting practices are as daily as central in the interactions between immigrants and the receiving country institutions. Recently, sociological research has become more aware of the importance of language intermediaries in different settings (camps, associations, administrations, courts). Still, their multiple trajectories and forms of involvement must be further analysed as a lens on relations of power and resistance between foreigners and the state.

In line with the general theme of the congress, we wish to explore the movements and circulations of languages and their intermediaries within migration and asylum institutions. The workshop aims to discuss their role and to elaborate common ground for language-oriented sociological research on migration. It also aims to foster reflexive interrogations on the implications on the use of language(s) on the researcher's position in the field.

We are therefore particularly (but not exclusively) interested in two main directions. Communications may, on the one hand, apprehend the role of different intermediaries, in particular professional as well as informal interpreters. For example, social workers and security agents, who often have migration background, can intervene to translate without a formal mandate or training to do so. By analysing their social position and their participation to the encounters between migrant persons and institutional representatives, participants could document the multiplicity of translating intermediaries and their interactional influence. On the other hand, papers may provide methodological reflections on the linguistic implications of conducting research in migration settings. Authors are thus invited to address issues such as the relevant methodology to deal with linguistically diverse practices during fieldwork, or the ways to analyse them in a sociological perspective. In this regard, we are particularly interested in reflections on the interactions between the researcher and people on the field, and the issues of acquiring and using a dominant language (that of the institutions and of academia) or of immigrants' diverse linguistic repertoires.

Please send your 300-word abstract (references not included) by March 31 to mahroug.naoual@gmail.com and maxime.marechal@ecomail.fr. We welcome proposals in both French and English.

KEYWORDS: Language, Intermediaries, Institutions

CONTACT OF THE FIRST CONVENOR: maxime.marechal@ecomail.fr

Classification, Boundary Work and the Making of Inequalities in Healthcare

Convenors: Gemperle Michael, D'Amato Gianni, Ruedin Didier

ABSTRACT

In the context of economic instability, austerity politics and increasingly mobile, reconfigured communities, healthcare has become a key arena in which the boundaries of belonging and access to society's resources are contested (cf. Bloemraad et al. 2019; Cassidy et al. 2018). Research on health inequalities often focuses on formal criteria, such as insurance or residency status, or broader social determinants that significantly impact medical service access (e.g., Marmot et al. 2014). However, less attention has been paid to the work of classification through which professionals and organisations determine who is a legitimate patient or client, what constitutes treatable suffering, and when care is considered appropriate, necessary or "deserved" (cf. Fassin 2008; Mol 2008). This workshop examines classification and boundary work within healthcare provision (Bourdieu 2015; Lamont & Molnar 2002) and seeks to contribute to emerging research on the making of inequalities in healthcare (e.g., Baute & Bellani 2025; Foster et al. 2023). It focuses on how classifications are enacted at institutional and professional practice levels, the social conditions that favor them, how they express struggles over resources and legitimacy, and how they sustain, intensify or reduce social inequalities in health (e.g., Belorgey 2021). Healthcare is approached as an arena in which broader social relations and group dynamics become visible, for example in trajectories of care and forms of belonging and exclusion. We invite theoretical and empirical contributions that analyse topics such as: - Institutional and organisational arrangements (e.g. insurance regimes, administrative rules, triage and referral protocols) that stratify access to care - Classification practices (e.g. "vulnerability", "compliance", "deservingness") as boundary work shaping patient positions and resource allocation - Processes through which inequalities in healthcare are made (in)visible or naturalised in policy and professional practice. The workshop brings together research on these issues and provides a space for reflection on their empirical, theoretical and methodological implications.

KEYWORDS: Health care, social inequalities, classification, boundary work

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Collective improvisation: performing and analysing dance as a social and inclusive practice

Convenors: Alain Bovet, Sara Keel, Jakub Mlynar, Marc Relieu

ABSTRACT

Note: This innovative workshop will be taking place in two distinct 90-minute slots sessions on two distinct days of the workshop (2 and 4 September). Participants are required to take part in both sessions (see below for further details).

Collective improvisation happens when people address indeterminacy in collaboration, in other words when people work out how to deal with what is undetermined in interaction with others. These others can provide help, support and opportunities, or, on the contrary, make things harder. Supportive or detrimental, the inclusion of others constitutes a decisive component in the process of working out how to proceed without exactly knowing how in advance. This workshop will address how we carry out a course of action while confronted with indeterminacy, and what we make of others in improvisation. As a tutorial exercise for an exploration of this fundamental sociological theme, we propose an innovative procedure focused on the performance and analysis of improvised dance. The workshop will take place in two distinct sessions on two different days of the conference. The first session will be devoted to a collective performance of improvised dance by the workshop participants, led by Brigitte Meuwly, an experienced dancer and founder of the DA MOTUS! Company. The performance will be improvised in that some of its components will be deliberately not determined in advance in order to enable unexpected things to happen. The performance will be videorecorded by the workshop organizers to enable later collaborative analysis. The second session will take the form of a data session where, according to the research tradition of embodied conversation analysis, workshop participants, organizers and the experienced dancer engage in a collective analysis of selected short video sequences of the performance. Led by the workshop organizers, the collective analysis will be focused on the theme of improvising through inclusive collaboration and is expected to invite reflections on dance as a social practice. Workshop participants commit to participate in the collective process of performance and analysis.

Participation and registration requirements: Participants commit to participate in both sessions, which implies to dance and be videorecorded doing so in the first session (upon acceptance a written consent form will be sent), and to contribute to the collective video analysis in the second session. Participants are expected to have experience in video analysis of interaction and/or improvised dance. Students and performance artists are particularly welcome. The number of participants will be limited. Instead of an abstract, people interested in participating are invited to send an email to alain.bovet@he-arc.ch by March 31, in which they accept the participation requirements and briefly state their experiences in video analysis of interaction and/or improvised dance. Selected participants will be notified by April 30 and requested to register on the conference website.

KEYWORDS: collective, improvisation, dance, video analysis

CONTACT OF THE FIRST CONVENOR: alain.bovet@he-arc.ch

COVID-19 and its long-term impact on Communities, Societies and Social Policy: a critical perspective

Convenors: Rosenstein Emilie, Hümbelin Oliver, Drilling Matthias

ABSTRACT

The COVID-19 pandemic profoundly disrupted social structures while increasing socio-economic inequalities. A substantial body of research has documented these dynamics in the short term, in Switzerland and at the international level. But what are the lasting consequences of the pandemic on communities, societies and social cohesion? As a key instrument of solidarity, what has been the role of social policies and the organizations shaping or implementing them in the response to the pandemic? To what extent have they contributed to reducing, renegotiating, or even increasing inequalities in times of crisis and beyond? This workshop aims to critically address the social consequences of the pandemic and its long-term effects on communities, inequalities and social policy, including (but not exclusively) vulnerable groups, state and non-state welfare services and frontline workers. We welcome both empirical research (qualitative and quantitative or mixed methods) and theoretical contributions that highlight lessons for the future of social policy and the practice of social work. This call for contributions originates from researchers involved in the National research program (NRP) 80 "COVID in Society" (SNF 2023-2026) but is open to all scholars working on the impact of the pandemic with a sociological perspective.

KEYWORDS: COVID, 19 pandemic, inequality, social policy, social work

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Des images qui font "nous". Sur les usages de la photographie en institutions

Convenors: Tremblay Benjamin, Lambelet Alexandre

ABSTRACT

Si la sociologie visuelle a depuis longtemps montré la fécondité du recours aux images dans l'enquête scientifique, plus rares sont les travaux qui se penchent sur les usages « ordinaires » que peuvent en faire des institutions, organisations ou collectifs. Pourtant dans bien des contextes, les pratiques photographiques sont omniprésentes sans donner lieu à une thématisation spécifique ni relever d'une méthodologie formalisée. Elles se déploient dans le quotidien de la vie institutionnelle, saisissant des moments jugés remarquables, heureux ou emblématiques. Elles viennent plus particulièrement fixer des instants vécus en « nous » alors même que ce « nous » n'a rien d'évident en ce qu'il suppose un travail d'accordage complexe, par exemple dans des institutions aux prises avec des publics vulnérables.

Ce workshop invite à explorer ces usages endogènes des photographies en institutions en interrogeant leurs conséquences pratiques, éthiques et politiques. En quoi les moments qu'elles captent sont-ils jugés remarquables ? Quels types d'activités collectives contribuent-elles à composer et à rendre visibles ? Que disent-elles, en creux, des formes de vie à l'œuvre dans l'institution ? Comment s'articulent-elles à d'autres pratiques locales ? Plutôt que de réduire la photographie à un simple reflet du réel, ou, à l'inverse, à une « représentation » sans commune mesure avec lui, il s'agira de l'appréhender comme un élément constitutif du « faire société » — une pratique qui reconfigure les frontières du visible, du dicible et du partageable.

Le workshop accueillera des contributions théoriques ou empiriques issues de terrains variés et s'intéressant aux usages ordinaires de la photographie en contexte institutionnel. Une attention particulière sera portée aux propositions qui interrogent la portée morale et sociogénétique de ces pratiques, en tant qu'elles donnent à voir et contribuent à stabiliser des formes de « nous » par ailleurs fragiles, fugaces ou imperceptibles.

Date limite de soumission des résumés : 31 mars 2026

Longueur des résumés : +/- 2000 signes

Langues des communications : français, anglais – L'atelier sera animé en français

Adresse d'envoi des propositions : benjamin.tremblay@hetsl.ch.

KEYWORDS: photographie, institutions, enquête, images, care

CONTACT OF THE FIRST CONVENOR: benjamin.tremblay@hetsl.ch

Diversity and Inclusion in Social Movements and Alternative Organizations

Convenors: Becerril Nito Victoria, Pohl Nicholas

ABSTRACT

Progressive social movements and alternative organizations often present themselves as spaces for promoting diversity, understood as the inclusion of individuals differentiated by intersecting social positions such as gender, race, class, migration status, or age. Yet these efforts unfold within systems of domination – capitalism, patriarchy, racism – that shape participation, hierarchies, and recognition. As a result, such initiatives often become arenas where aspirations for equality confront the reproduction of organizational and societal inequalities. This workshop explores how actors on the ground navigate these tensions – particularly the imaginaries through which diversity and inclusion are envisioned, the practices through which they are enacted, and the contradictions that shape their outcomes. We approach diversity as a situated and contested process rather than a normative ideal, aiming to understand how movements and organizations balance transformative ambitions with structural and organizational constraints. We invite contributions that examine how diversity and inclusion are articulated and enacted as processes of differentiation and as spaces where intersecting systems of domination are (re)produced, negotiated, and contested. In particular, we welcome submissions that engage with the following dimensions: Imaginaries and normative horizons: What narratives of diverse and inclusive organizations and societies are promoted? How are these imaginaries constructed, and what notions of alterity from the status quo do they mobilize?

Practices and processes: What concrete measures are implemented to foster diversity and inclusion? How do organizations confront societal and organizational obstacles to these goals?

Challenges and resistances: What tensions arise between ideals and practices, and how do organizations address them? How do they navigate backlash and resistance, both internally and externally?

Outcomes and transformations: To what extent do these initiatives reshape organizational dynamics and broader social relations? Situated within the broader theme of communities and societies in movement, the workshop critically assesses whether and how these initiatives contribute to reconfiguring social orders.

KEYWORDS: Diversity, Inclusion, Intersectionality, Social Movements, Alternative Organizations

CONTACT OF THE FIRST CONVENOR: victoria.becerril@unine.ch

Family Dynamics and Life Courses: Reconfigurations Across Time and Space

Convenors: Sauter Julia, Moles Kalt Benjamin

ABSTRACT

Today's families stand at the crossroads of continuity and change. Rapid socio-economic, demographic, and welfare changes provide the backdrop for rising union instability, new gender role arrangements, and increased mobility and migration. In this context, how individuals form, sustain, and experience family relationships and transitions across time and space are becoming increasingly heterogeneous. Such developments challenge classical distinctions between "community" and "society," calling for renewed sociological reflection on belonging, solidarity, and support across the life course. This workshop explores family dynamics across time and space —how families get reorganized in response to changing structural and normative contexts. Adopting a life-course perspective, it asks how family relationships and configurations evolve, how, consequently, support and care are exchanged across generations, and how inequalities emerge or are mitigated within these processes. We invite empirical and theoretical contributions that address: Inequality and diversity in family trajectories across the life course, examining how structural conditions, welfare regimes, and personal networks shape opportunities, constraints, and lived experiences of family life. Transformations of family solidarities, caregiving, and intergenerational exchanges, in relation to changing demographic and normative contexts. The interplay between family relations and wider social attitudes and values, particularly how family life shapes and is shaped by societal norms across welfare settings. Temporal, gendered, and socio-economic inequalities between and within family trajectories. Methodological innovations for studying family dynamics across time and space. By connecting sociological questions on community, solidarity, support, and social change with life-course approaches, the workshop highlights how family dynamics both reflect and contribute to broader societal transformations and inequalities. It welcomes both theoretical and empirical contributions. Longitudinal, mixed-methods, and comparative approaches are particularly encouraged.

KEYWORDS: Family dynamics, life course, inequalities, social change, solidarity, belonging

CONTACT OF THE FIRST CONVENOR: juliaelsa.sauter@unil.ch

Communities in Movement: Interpretative Perspectives on Cohesion, Belonging and Social Relations. [Gemeinschaften in Bewegung: Interpretative Perspektiven auf Zusammenhalt, Zugehörigkeit und soziale Beziehungen]

Convenors: Elliker Florian, Trucco Noemi, Röhrer Stefan

ABSTRACT

Im Rahmen des SGS Kongresses 2026 «Communities and Societies in Movement» (2.-4. September 2026, Fribourg, Schweiz) lädt das Forschungskomitee Interpretative Sozialforschung zu Beiträgen ein, die soziale Beziehungen, Kleingruppen und Gemeinschaften in gegenwärtigen Gesellschaften qualitativ erforschen. Gefragt sind empirische Studien, die Veränderungen von Zusammenhalt, Solidarität, Zugehörigkeit, Identität und Anerkennung sichtbar machen – ebenso wie Analysen jener Dynamiken (z. B. Digitalisierung, Migration, politische Polarisierung, Vertrauenskrisen), die diese Ordnungen rekonfigurieren oder bedrohen.

Willkommen sind ferner Beiträge, die zentrale Konzepte des Kongressthemas theoriegeleitet auf Basis qualitativer Daten weiterentwickeln: Wie lassen sich Vergemeinschaftung und Vergesellschaftung in aktuellen Feldern (online/offline) differenzieren? Wie konstituieren sich Subjekte in solchen, sich verändernden Kontexten und wie schreiben sich dabei Diskurse in Subjekte und vice versa ein? Welche Heuristiken bewähren sich dabei, um Grenzziehungen, Zugehörigkeitsansprüche und Anerkennungsordnungen mikro-, meso- und makrosoziologisch zu verbinden?

Beiträge, die auf derartige Subjektivierungsweisen bei sich verändernden Deutungsangeboten eingehen, sind ebenso ausdrücklich erwünscht, wie Reflexionen zu methodologischen Zugängen und forschungspraktischen Herausforderungen. Einreichungen sollen Fragestellung, Material/Setting, Methode und erwarteten Beitrag zur Konzept-/Theoriebildung oder der bestehenden Forschung skizzieren.

English : *As part of the SSA Congress 2026 “Communities and Societies in Movement” (2–4 September 2026, Fribourg, Switzerland), the research committee Interpretive Sociologies invites papers that qualitatively explore social relations, small groups and communities in contemporary societies. We invite empirical studies that highlight changes in cohesion, solidarity, belonging, identity and recognition, as well as analyses of the dynamics (e.g. digitalisation, migration, political polarisation, crises of trust) that are reconfiguring or threatening these structures.*

Contributions that further develop central concepts of the conference topic in a theory-driven manner based on qualitative data are also welcome: How can Vergemeinschaftung (community formation) and Vergesellschaftung (society formation) be differentiated in current fields (online/offline)? How do subjects constitute themselves in such shifting contexts, and how do discourses inscribe themselves into subjects and vice versa? Which heuristics prove useful in connecting boundaries, claims of belonging, and orders of recognition at the micro, meso, and macro levels?

Contributions that address such modes of subjectivation in changing interpretative frameworks are explicitly welcome, as are reflections on methodological approaches and practical research challenges. Submissions should outline the research question, material/setting, method and expected contribution to concept/theory formation or existing research.

Proposals for contributions (max. 2 000 characters) can submitted until March 31, 2026, to florian.elliker@unisg.ch, noemi.trucco@ext.uni.lu, and stefan.roehrer@iab.de. The workshop will be held in German, English, and French. Participation is only possible in person.

KEYWORDS: qualitative Methoden, Subjektivierungsforschung, qualitativ, empirische Befunde, forschungsmethodische Herausforderungen

CONTACT OF THE FIRST CONVENOR: florian.elliker@unisg.ch

Governing Futures in Movement: Aspirations, Moral Dilemmas, and the Institutional Making of Belonging

Convenors: Otmani Ihssane

ABSTRACT

Across Europe and North America, integration policies shape not only access to work, education, or rights, but also the horizons of possibility that refugees and migrants can imagine for their futures. This workshop examines how communities and societies in movement produce, restrict, or negotiate belonging through the governance of aspirations. Drawing on debates on boundary-making and classical sociological approaches to community formation, we explore how institutional logics, legal status regimes, and street level practices influence which life trajectories are encouraged, tolerated, or quietly discouraged. We invite contributions analysing how frontline actors, community organisations, and policy frameworks steer migrant trajectories, generate moral dilemmas, or reproduce unequal distributions of recognition. Papers may address themes such as: - mechanisms of aspirational steering in integration, education, or activation programs - moral and emotional labour of SLBs working with precarious groups - boundary making and belonging in local communities - comparative insights on how institutional architectures shape imagined futures - tensions between individual aspirations, community expectations, and state defined realism We welcome empirical studies, especially qualitative, ethnographic, or participatory work, as well as theoretical papers rethinking belonging and community through aspirations, recognition, and institutional constraint. This workshop aims to connect debates on migration, social policy, and ethical governance with broader sociological perspectives on community formation. Its objective is to clarify how contemporary societies negotiate who can belong and on what terms.

KEYWORDS: Aspirations, Belonging, Street Level Bureaucracy, Migration, Integration Governance, Moral Dilemmas

CONTACT OF THE FIRST CONVENOR: ihssane.otmani@hefr.ch

Health, Medicine, and Social Belonging: Communities and Societies in Transformation

Convenors: Cullati Stéphane, Hammer Raphaël

ABSTRACT

This workshop invites contributions that explore the dynamic intersections between health and medicine, and the evolving structures of communities and societies. In line with the SSA 2026 theme “Communities and Societies in Movement”, we aim to examine how health-related practices, institutions, and discourses both reflect and shape social transformations, solidarities, and exclusions.

Health and medicine are deeply embedded in social relations. They influence and are influenced by how individuals and groups form attachments, build their sense of belonging and social identity, and navigate social and cultural boundaries, and the institutions in their country. They also influence and are influenced by the working conditions and occupational psycho-social exposures. From the rise of patient communities, bio-citizenship and digital health networks to the restructuring of healthcare systems and professional roles, the sociology of health and medicine offers rich insights into how societies and communities are reconfigured.

We welcome theoretical, empirical, and methodological contributions that address topics such as (but are not limited to): - Health inequalities and social cohesion - Community-based health initiatives and interventions - Migration and displacement - Access to care and healthcare services - Digital health and virtual communities - Mental health and social fragmentation - Public health responses to crises and their impact on social trust - Interprofessional dynamics and evolving roles in healthcare - Health movements and ideologies Contributions in French and German are possible, but English is encouraged.

KEYWORDS: Health, medicine, society, social cohesion, inequality, belonging, transformation

CONTACT OF THE FIRST CONVENOR: stephane.cullati@unifr.ch

Inclusive or Punitive? Competing Logics in Contemporary Social Policy

Convenors: Bochsler Yann, Beyeler Michelle

ABSTRACT

In the current context of rising inequality, growing political polarization and new forms of economic precarity, social policies display competing and sometimes contradictory logics. Inclusive and social investment-oriented approaches expand access and support participation, while welfare cuts and punitive measures – such as sanctions, fraud investigations, reporting obligations or other forms of administrative coercion – gain traction. These developments raise questions about the legitimacy of social policy, the boundaries of state intervention and how trust and mistrust in institutions evolve.

This workshop invites contributions that examine these variations and tensions and their consequences for inequality, access to rights and institutional trust. We welcome studies analyzing how different policy instruments – such as activation programmes, housing interventions, inclusive service expansions, benefits control and sanctions, or algorithmic tools – shape perceptions of fairness, willingness to claim benefits and everyday interactions with institutions. We also encourage research on public support for different approaches (inclusive vs. punitive measures) and how such attitudes reflect broader societal change.

Equally relevant are analyses of frontline practice and professional dilemmas, including contexts in which social services face heightened expectations to verify eligibility, enforce compliance or fulfil reporting obligations. How do professionals cope with such demands in hindsight of their professional ethos? How do they interpret ambiguous mandates, and how do they build or rebuild trust under shifting conditions?

By bringing together research on social problems and social policy responses, the workshop fosters interdisciplinary exchange across sociology, social policy, social work and neighbouring fields. We invite contributions from scholars at all career stages and especially welcome early-career researchers.

KEYWORDS: Social policy, Inequality, Punitive governance, Institutional trust

CONTACT OF THE FIRST CONVENOR: yann.bochsler@fhnw.ch

Institutional inclusion and exclusion of immigrants and their descendants in times of polarizing societies

Convenors: Ruedin Didier, Chimienti Milena

ABSTRACT

The papers in this workshop focus on institutional aspects of the inclusion and exclusion of minorized groups in times of increasing political polarization and global uncertainty. The contributions explore the changing role of institutions and their interaction with communities and societies in the context of international migration, including minorized and racialized descendants of immigrants. With this, the workshop captures structural aspects of inequalities, but also innovative means by which inequalities and polarization are countered by institutional actors, working towards a more inclusive society. The papers will provide insights into changing institutional forms of exclusion or solidarity, as well as their role in creating new types of stratification and inclusion.

Working language of the workshop is English. Please submit your abstracts on https://neuchatel.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8nW4YDtZvssfRYy

KEYWORDS: institutions, migration, ethnic minorities, structures, inequalities

CONTACT OF THE FIRST CONVENOR: didier.ruedin@unine.ch

Intersectional inequalities in science: Trends, issues, and prospects

Convenors: Benz Pierre, Sautier Marie, Afsary Alexandra, Araujo Pedro, Rossier Thierry

ABSTRACT

Since the 1990s, promoting gender equality in research and innovation has become a growing priority in Switzerland and across Europe. Despite notable progress (Palomeque Recio et al., 2024), inequalities persist across academic life, including in terms of career progression, task distribution, working conditions, and work–life balance (Le Feuvre et al, 2020; O'Keefe & Courtois, 2019; Schaer, 2021; Sautier, 2021). These inequalities are embedded in science organizations, shaping visibility, recognition, and publication practices (Beaudry & Larivière, 2016; Kozlowski et al. 2022). They are compounded by unequal divisions of care responsibilities (Ni et al., 2025). The notion of academic citizenship (Le Feuvre et al., 2024) highlights that “being a researcher” goes beyond functions or titles: it includes normative, affective, social, and cultural dimensions that shape who is seen as successful and who belongs to the group of privileged academics. Understanding how academic communities reproduce or challenge social hierarchies requires close attention to work organization, resource allocation, and institutional cultures that define who is recognized as a legitimate member of the scientific community.

The COVID-19 pandemic offered a salient illustration of how structural inequalities affect careers, disproportionately harming early-career researchers and members of underrepresented groups (Ballif & Zinn, 2023; Vincent-Lamarre et al., 2020). Beyond gender, other social hierarchies, such as class origins, racialization, sexual identity, family configuration, or national belonging also shape career inequalities yet remain insufficiently explored in research and policy debates (Bhopal, 2020). The social determinants that constrain participation in the scientific community—and, more broadly, in the production of science—raise questions about the extent to which society is in movement. The research workforce has transformed over time, becoming less men-dominated and more international. At the same time, the political consensus around equality, diversity, and inclusion policies—and the research that addresses these issues—has been called into question, while academia simultaneously faces growing budgetary constraints and shifting governance models.

This workshop calls for contributions addressing intersectional inequalities in science from structural, organizational, or interactional perspectives, and fostering dialogue between empirical research, lived experience, and institutional practices. Traditional contributions and alternative formats are equally welcome. Please submit your abstract by 31 March 2026, in French or English (max. 500 words), by email to pierre.benz@unige.ch

KEYWORDS: inequalities, academia, intersectionality, gender

CONTACT OF THE FIRST CONVENOR: pierre.benz@unige.ch

Transformation of Memories and Belonging in Contemporary Cities: An Approach through Urban Difference and Connected Sociologies

Convenors: Waeber Olivier, Rustu Demirkaya

ABSTRACT

We are pleased to organize a workshop within the framework of the Swiss Sociological Association Congress, from 2nd to 4 September 2026 in Fribourg (Switzerland). This workshop proposes a conceptual entry point through urban difference to analyze how forms of relations in contemporary urban societies are shaped by the interactions between socio-historical dynamics, regimes of governance and planning, social movements, and everyday practices. These interactions continuously redraw symbolic and material boundaries, regimes of belonging, and social hierarchies. While classical perspectives in urban sociology explain endogenous dynamics shaping the inclusion and exclusion of social groups in cities (Park, Burgess and McKenzie 1925), they often remain blind to exogenous dynamics and are based on a predefined and essentialized conception of identity, frequently reducible to a single attribute such as gender, origin, or social class. Moving beyond these frameworks toward a conceptualization of difference has made it possible to understand the social construction of identities as a dynamic and discursive process, situated between social structuring and negotiation, and embedded in relations of power (Fincher & Jacobs 1998), while recognizing their hybrid and multi-local character in the contemporary city (Anthias 2014). In order to account for exogenous dynamics that also shape feelings of belonging, this approach can be combined with the perspective of connected sociologies (Bhambra 2016). This perspective reconstructs the interactions between territories historically linked through colonial histories and contemporary transnational circulations. Socio-historical connections are thus analyzed between metropolitan spaces marked by intensified mobility, pluralized belongings, and recomposed solidarities, and other spaces where the social fabric remains deeply shaped by colonial legacies, reconstruction policies, or forms of territorial control that are often militarized. This workshop seeks to open a broad analytical dialogue that is not geographically limited, by bringing into conversation diverse contexts that may be contrasting or interdependent, whether marked by conflict, post-industrial transitions, identity politics, or intensified surveillance regimes. Some societies experience tensions between diversification and homogenization, while others are affected by processes of selective erasure of the past or forced displacement. In many cases, urban planning, regeneration, heritage-making, and securitization policies contribute to reconfiguring both material and symbolic boundaries, social norms, and collective memories. Despite social fragmentation, these contexts share the challenge of building inclusive forms of belonging grounded in the recognition and participation of oppressed social groups, both in social and political life and in the narratives that shape collective memory.

We invite empirical, theoretical, or comparative contributions addressing the following questions: How is difference produced, governed, and materialized in urban space? How do memory policies transform collective identities, particularly through heritagization, museumification, or touristification? How do urban planning, regeneration, reconstruction, or securitization policies redefine belonging and symbolic or material boundaries? How do these policies interact with counter-narratives, counter-memories, and alternative spatial practices that constitute forms of resistance? This workshop encourages interdisciplinary approaches at the intersection of urban and historical sociology, memory studies, political anthropology, post/colonial

studies, and urban planning. Format: Short paper presentations (15 minutes) followed by collective discussion.

Languages: French & English

Please submit : A title, 3-5 keywords, an abstract (max. 300 words), a short biographical note (max. 100 words, including institutional affiliation)

Deadline for submission: 31 March 2026

Please send your proposal to: olivier.waeber@unige.ch, rustu.demirkaya@etu.unige.ch

KEYWORDS: urban difference, multiple belongings, spatial planning, displacement, postcoloniality

CONTACT OF THE FIRST CONVENOR: olivier.waeber@unige.ch

Les métiers du care au prisme d'une sociologie des médiations techniques

Convenors: Tremblay Benjamin, Tiberghien Julie

ABSTRACT

Les métiers du care sont couramment présentés comme des « métiers de l'humain », fondés sur la relation directe et incarnée. Intériorisée par les professionnel·les et entretenue par les institutions qui les forment, cette conception constitue la norme implicite du « cœur de métier », du « bon » et « véritable » travail. Elle suscite alors un soupçon persistant à l'égard des médiations techniques (rapports, formulaires, protocoles et directives, plateformes et outils numériques...) perçues comme autant d'obstacles venant parasiter la relation, substituer la gestion à l'attention, la formalisation à l'écoute, le contrôle au soin. Or, lorsqu'elles voient là une confirmation de leurs diagnostics sur l'emprise de la « logique managériale » ou de la « déshumanisation » des rapports sociaux, les sciences sociales tendent à entretenir ce cercle critique au détriment d'une analyse fine, qui permettrait pourtant d'étayer la réflexivité des praticien·nes concerné·es.

Cet atelier propose de déplacer le regard en adoptant une perspective pragmatique, soucieuse de décrire les dispositifs techniques et leurs implications en termes de (re)configuration des métiers du care. Il s'agira d'en faire un « calme examen » en se penchant sur leurs articulations à d'autres pratiques, sur les traductions qu'ils impliquent, sur les expérimentations auxquels ils donnent lieu, sur l'opérativité des catégories qu'ils enferment, sur les types de relation(s) d'aide(s) qu'ils instancient, ou encore sur les critiques endogènes qu'ils font naître. Cette réflexion visera ainsi à documenter et à accompagner l'expertise des praticien·nes, en thématissant des dimensions désormais constitutives de leurs métiers.

Le workshop accueillera des propositions issues de travaux (en cours ou achevés) portant sur les (re)configurations des métiers du care dans un contexte de multiplication des dispositifs techniques. Seront notamment bienvenues des contributions interrogeant la fabrique des données, les formes d'enquête et de connaissance rendues possibles par ces dispositifs, ainsi que les épreuves, ajustements et critiques qu'ils suscitent dans l'activité professionnelle.

Date limite de soumission des résumés : 31 mars 2026

Longueur des résumés : +/- 2000 signes

Langues des communications : français, anglais – L'atelier sera animé en français

Adresse d'envoi des propositions : benjamin.tremblay@hetsl.ch

KEYWORDS: métiers du care, médiations techniques, sociologie pragmatique, dispositifs

CONTACT OF THE FIRST CONVENOR: benjamin.tremblay@hetsl.ch

Les mondes de l'insertion en mouvement : activation des publics, nouvelles professionnalités et régulation publique

Convenors: Dif-Pradalier Maël, Jammet Thomas, Hivert Joseph, Surdez Muriel

ABSTRACT

Dans un contexte où l'emploi constitue à la fois une norme sociale, une obligation politique et une condition d'autonomie financière, l'insertion socioprofessionnelle est un observatoire privilégié des mutations contemporaines du travail, de l'action publique et des professions. Confronté à des publics pluriels et à un marché du travail sélectif, il est pris entre injonction à l'employabilité, quête d'autonomie des personnes accompagnées et « nouvelles » formes d'intervention sociale.

Le développement de l'insertion s'est accompagné de la multiplication des acteurs, dispositifs et référentiels d'intervention, engendrant un brouillage des frontières entre accompagnement social et accompagnement vers l'emploi. De nouvelles figures professionnelles ont émergé, ainsi que des configurations hybrides entre secteurs public, associatif et privé.

L'État est ici au cœur des tensions : prescripteur et acheteur de mesures d'insertion, certificateur et organisateur de formations, son rôle évolue à mesure que se multiplient les acteurs privés. Afin d'explorer ces évolutions, ce workshop invite des communications empiriques ou comparatives portant notamment sur :

- la redéfinition des identités et frontières professionnelles parmi les acteurs de l'insertion*
- la transformation du rôle de l'État en matière de formation et certification dans l'insertion, et plus largement de l'intervention sociale*
- les effets de la diversification des publics et des dispositifs sur les modalités d'accompagnement des professionnels*

Il s'agit de saisir les dynamiques qui mettent en mouvement les mondes de l'insertion et redessinent les contours contemporains de l'État social et des professionnels qui le mettent en œuvre au quotidien.

Modalités de soumission :

- *Longueur du résumé : 300 mots maximum*
- *Date limite de soumission : 31 mars 2026*
- *Veillez inclure : le titre, le(s) nom(s) de(s) l'auteur(s), l'affiliation et l'adresse e-mail de contact*
- *Veillez soumettre les résumés par e-mail à : mael.dif-pradalier@hefr.ch*

Langue du workshop : français.

Notification d'acceptation par email : 30 avril 2026

Une publication collective est envisagée par les organisateurs et organisatrice à l'issue du workshop. Dans cette optique, les participant-es retenu-es seront invité-es à envoyer un working paper en amont du workshop afin de rendre la discussion plus active.

KEYWORDS: insertion socioprofessionnelle, professionnalisation, État social, activation.

CONTACT OF THE FIRST CONVENOR: mael.dif-pradalier@hefr.ch

Living and Working Remotely: New Boundaries, New Social Relations?

Convenors: Gonzalez Jimenez Sofia, Nicola Cianferoni, Vacchiano Mattia

ABSTRACT

As part of a socio-economic landscape undergoing transformation in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, teleworking is profoundly influencing one of the most significant reorganizations of the world of work in recent history. Practiced since the 1990s, it remained a discreet phenomenon for decades until 2020, when it was adopted out of necessity allowing businesses to sustain operations during lockdown and social distancing measures. Today, this mode of work has persisted, bringing both opportunities and contradictions. On one hand, remote work offers flexibility and autonomy, liberating workers from rigid schedules and long commutes. On the other hand, it raises questions about employee's relationship to their workplace fabric, leading to feelings of isolation and disconnection. In this workshop, we propose to reflect collectively on how remote work reshapes the relationships between work, place, and society. We invite contributions that address this question from various disciplinary and methodological perspectives, exploring how remote work affects the quality of social relations, well-being, and the negotiation of roles and boundaries within organizations and households. We also welcome papers examining mobility and commuting dynamics, or the evolving connections between private, professional, and institutional spaces. Bringing together diverse empirical and conceptual approaches, the workshop aims to advance our understanding of how remote work is transforming the organization of social and spatial life in contemporary societies. Ultimately, we invite contributions that explore whether new forms of social relations are emerging in response to the evolving boundaries shaped by the digitalization of labor and the transformations induced by teleworking.

KEYWORDS: Remote Work, Wellbeing, Work, Life Balance

CONTACT OF THE FIRST CONVENOR: sofia.gonzalezjimenez@epfl.ch

Méthodes participatives & visuelles dans les enquêtes sur les masculinités contemporaines

Convenors: Villani Michela, Oddone Cristina

ABSTRACT

Vers la fin des années 1990 un ensemble de réflexions interdisciplinaires se développe dans le monde occidental autour de l'analyse des formes de l'identité masculine et de ses transformations potentielles. Sur la base des fondements théoriques de la pensée féministe et en réaction à l'émergence de mouvements conservateurs célébrant un prétendu « état de nature » masculin, les études critiques sur les masculinités ont contribué à soulever et à explorer la « question masculine » et à l'appréhender comme l'une des composantes du système qui rend possible la discrimination des femmes et des minorités sexuelles (Kimmel 2011). Les contributions d'auteurs tels Raewyn Connell, David Gilmore, Jeff Hearn, Michael Kimmel et James Messerschmidt, entre autres, ont montré la centralité du corps et des pratiques corporelles dans l'analyse du genre, entendu comme une construction sociale et une pratique sociale relationnelle. En prenant ses distances de toute perspective essentialiste, l'idée de masculinités au pluriel (Connell, 1995) a permis de dépasser la conception monolithique de l'identité masculine et de reconnaître la multiplicité de hiérarchies produites par l'articulation entre genre, classe, race, âge et orientation sexuelle, au sein même de la masculinité. Ces dernières années, et notamment après l'essor du mouvement Metoo en 2017, les mobilisations et critiques féministes ont fait de la « question masculine » un sujet de société majeur au cœur de l'actualité (Farcj, 2025) et ont contribué à renouveler la recherche en sciences sociales sur ces thématiques.

Si les masculinités offrent un terrain privilégié pour examiner les rapports de pouvoir et leurs (re)configurations contemporaines, dans cet atelier nous souhaitons explorer, mettre en commun et partager l'usage de méthodologies participatives, sensorielles et visuelles dans la recherche dans ce domaine. Nous nous intéressons aux approches de sociologie visuelle et d'ethnographie sensorielle (Pink, 2013, 2015) et invitons des contributions mobilisant des dispositifs participatifs : ateliers créatifs (Leavy, 2015), vidéo participative/ethnographie filmée (Piault, 2018), photo-élicitation (Bagnoli, 2009). Mobilisées dans l'études des masculinités contemporaines, ces méthodes permettent de mieux saisir les pratiques et les représentations masculines, car elles ont le potentiel de contourner l'injonction à la « mise en mots » propre aux dispositifs classiques en sciences sociales, notamment aux entretiens. Une attention particulière sera portée à la dimension spatiale et polysensorielle de l'expérience (Frisina, 2013), ainsi qu'aux travaux utilisant l'image pour explorer les masculinités dans des espaces fermés (prison, camps) ou en déplacement (migration), et les enjeux d'inscription, d'appartenance, d'exclusion voire de radicalisation. Nous accueillons aussi des propositions thématiques sur l'écriture sensible des films sociologiques, telles celles proposées par Oddone & Navone (2022) dans les ateliers-vidéo : Comment se représenter ? Comment et à quel moment l'imaginaire se transforme-t-il ? De quelle manière la démarche participative met au défi « le primat du verbe et du nombre » (Vander Gucht, 2017) et la domination de l'écrit en tant que forme expressive (Goody 1977) ?

Au-delà de leur dimension technique, ces approches contribuent à renouveler la recherche sur les masculinités en permettant d'appréhender des normes, affects et pratiques souvent ordinaires et incorporées, qui échappent en partie aux dispositifs d'enquête exclusivement discursifs. Nous souhaitons explorer les émotions, les limites/frontières/zones, les appartenances et les inscriptions corporelles, en lien avec les processus de socialisations masculines, en contexte et dans la durée. De quelle manière ces approches révèlent leur potentiel heuristique dans la recherche sur les masculinités ? Comment articulent-elles les rapports de genre sur le terrain d'enquête ? En favorisant des activités pratiques, la co-production des matériaux (images, sons, objets, récits) et leur interprétation collective, elles ouvrent des espaces de

réflexivité situés et participent à des processus de conscientisation associant enquêteur.ices et enquêté.es. Le croisement des registres visuels et narratifs, l'attention portée aux métaphores et aux formes d'expression non strictement académiques, ainsi que l'usage d'écritures et de restitutions plurielles, permettent d'élargir ce qui est reconnu comme « savoir légitime ». Ces démarches rendent ainsi possible une circulation élargie des connaissances — au-delà des seuls espaces et publics universitaires — et soutiennent des perspectives de recherche à la fois analytiques, appliquées et engagées.

Nous attendons des réflexions théoriques, méthodologiques ou visuelles, fondées sur des données empiriques et orientées à étudier les masculinités ainsi que les rapports de genre dans lesquels elles se déploient, se négocient et se transforment. Les propositions qui prolongent l'analyse socio-anthropologique par des approches interdisciplinaires et co-construites, associant recherche, intervention sociale, art, photographie et cinéma, sont encouragées. Les communications pourront ainsi explorer, par exemple :

- *Les configurations de pouvoir, les hiérarchies et l'articulation des masculinités avec d'autres rapports sociaux (classe, race, âge, migration, handicap) ;*
- *Les discours autour de la masculinité contemporaine : récits d'hommes, discours masculinistes, controverses publiques et dynamiques de politisation du genre ;*
- *Les représentations et mises en images du genre au masculin, les espaces d'appartenance, les frontières et processus d'inclusion/exclusion ;*
- *Les pratiques professionnelles, éducatives ou artistiques qui travaillent les normes de genre ou visent leur transformation ;*
- *Les mouvements d'hommes centrés sur la masculinité (travail/développement de soi) et leurs interactions avec d'autres espaces du genre.*

Format attendu : résumé de 2 000–2 500 signes (espaces compris) précisant le terrain, les méthodes visuelles/participatives adoptées, les matériaux produits et les points de discussion, et de 3 à 5 mots-clés. Merci d'indiquer les besoins techniques (projection, son).

Les propositions peuvent être soumises en langue française ou anglaise et doivent être envoyées en format Word jusqu'au 31 mars 2026 aux adresses suivantes : cristina.oddone.pro@gmail.com et michela.villani@hefr.ch

KEYWORDS: Sociologie visuelle, Ethnographie sensorielle, Méthodes participatives, Masculinités contemporaines, Ecriture sensible, Socialisation

CONTACT OF THE FIRST CONVENOR: michela.villani@hefr.ch

Micro-Communities of Shared Vulnerability: Belief, Belonging and Health in Movement

Convenors: Becci Irene, Wagnières Marion

ABSTRACT

*This workshop examines the creation and mobilization of micro-communities that emerge around fertility and reproductive health issues such as infertility, endometriosis, and assisted reproductive technologies (ART). These small-scale collectives, situated at the intersection of medicine, activism, and spirituality, exemplify contemporary forms of *Vergemeinschaftung* (Weber, 1913). Micro-communities are understood here as dynamic constellations of belonging grounded in affect, shared belief, or lived experience rather than institutional ties. They arise in contexts of vulnerability, moral tension, and reproductive uncertainty, where individuals collectively negotiate meaning, recognition, and legitimacy. We invite contributions analyzing how people facing fertility-related challenges create networks of support in medical spaces, spiritual or alternative practices, religious settings, and advocacy groups. These hybrid and mobile communities cross institutional, linguistic, and digital boundaries, extending through medical tourism, cross-border therapeutic networks, and online platforms. As Fassin (2009) argues, moral economies of health shape experiences of vulnerability and care; similarly, Becci, Burchardt and Casanova (2013) show how religious and spiritual networks generate new forms of belonging in transnational contexts. Building on these insights, this workshop explores how micro-communities craft recognition, legitimacy, and collective agency amid social and moral taboos surrounding reproductive difficulties.*

KEYWORDS: micro, communities, fertility/infertility, reproductive health, *Vergemeinschaftung*

CONTACT OF THE FIRST CONVENOR: irene.becci@unil.ch

New and continuing forms of (gendered) boundary making towards ethnic minorities and refugees

Convenors: Ruedin Didier, Chimienti Milena

ABSTRACT

The papers in this workshop examine solidarities with and exclusion of ethnic minorities and refugees at a time of global uncertainty and increasing polarization over protection. Questions of belonging, inclusion, and exclusion are explored with a focus on refugee populations and minorized groups. A particular focus lies on gendered boundary making. The contributions are united in their depth of analysis, paying attention to the intersection of minority statuses and the diversity of reactions in policy and the population. With this, the contributions recognize that differences are diverse and multiple and are not simply based on national differences. Prospects of successful long-term inclusion require innovative approaches that are explored in this workshop.

Working language of the workshop is English. Please submit your abstracts on https://neuchatel.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8nW4YDtZvssfRYy

KEYWORDS: migration, boundary making, refugees, ethnic minorities, belonging, diversity

CONTACT OF THE FIRST CONVENOR: didier.ruedin@unine.ch

Queering Migration: Belonging Beyond Borders

Convenors: Jomini Morgane, Mellini Laura, Sigrist Marie

ABSTRACT

As part of the 2026 Swiss Sociological Association Congress, this workshop aims to explore the complex and multifaceted experiences of belonging among queer individuals with migration backgrounds. Positioned at the intersection of multiple minoritized identities, these individuals often experience discrimination based on gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, religion, and/or culture. They face various challenges in creating a sense of belonging, as their social positions often limit their access, whether symbolic or physical, to certain social spaces, such as LGBTQ+, ethnic/racialized or religious communities, as well as digital, and transnational networks. How does socialization, whether in the country of origin or in the receiving country, shape experiences of belonging at different stages of life? How do migratory regimes and imposed categorizations influence identification and belonging? How does marginalization position individuals in critical social situations? How are identifications shaped by this marginalized position at the intersection of power relations structured by race, gender, sexuality, and class? What strategies and resources are mobilized in processes of recognition, reparation, or resilience? Through dialogue and critical reflection, this workshop seeks to unpack how institutions, cultural narratives, and personal experiences shape an individual/collective's sense of belonging, marginalization, and identification within diverse social and national contexts. We welcome contributions that engage with these questions through qualitative and quantitative research, particularly those adopting innovative approaches and reflexive epistemologies.

Presentations may be given in French, English, or German. Abstracts (maximum 200 words) should be submitted by April 1, 2026.

KEYWORDS: Queer migrants, Gender, Race, Sexuality

CONTACT OF THE FIRST CONVENOR: morgane.jomini@unifr.ch

Relations and practices of care in markets and beyond

Convenors: Balsiger Philip, Pohl Nicholas, Pellandini-Simányi Lena

ABSTRACT

Attention to caring practices within and beyond markets raises profound sociological questions about the nature of economic life and its embeddedness in social relations. In the dominant capitalist paradigm and classic approaches on the role of care in the economy, care is either commodified (as a service to be bought and sold) or relegated outside of economic relations, in the reproductive realm of unpaid labor. This workshop seeks to go beyond this dichotomy to explore practices and relations of care within markets and beyond. We invite contributions that address relations and practices of care in the economy especially under the two following angles: 1. On the one hand, a growing body of research indicates that care practices also circulate in existing, money-centered and supposedly anonymous and rational markets. To hold together market relations and market arrangements, practices of care – such as trust-building, relationship maintenance, repairing, etc. – are necessary. What are these caring practices that are integral parts of markets? What role and status is ascribed to them? Who performs them? Which practices of care are recognized, and which remain obscured or devalued under capitalist logics? 2. On the other hand, scholars argue that a caring economy fundamentally challenges the money-centered view and requires a shift toward an economy oriented around wellbeing – human and non-human alike. Such a paradigm would see economic relations as spaces of interdependence, where needs take precedence over monetary supply and demand. How do care-based practices challenge the individualizing and competitive tendencies of capitalism? What could an economy centered on care look like and what challenges and limitations does such an economy face? Can we identify signs of its emergence today, or should we reconsider whether care-based economies have always existed, although in marginalized or overlooked forms?

KEYWORDS: Economic sociology, markets, market arrangements, care, alternative organization

CONTACT OF THE FIRST CONVENOR: philip.balsiger@unine.ch

Research on social inequalities using administrative data in Switzerland

Convenors: Annatina Aerne, David Glauser, Michael Grätz, Richard Nennstiel

ABSTRACT

The aim of our workshop is to bring together researchers using Swiss administrative data to study social inequalities, e.g. with respect to socio-economic situation, race and gender. Examples for such data include the Längsschnittanalysen im Bildungsbereich (LABB), the Swiss National Cohort data, Social Security Earnings Records, and the Swiss structural surveys. The workshop is open regarding the dimension of inequality analyzed. The focus is on showing the potential of administrative data for research by covering a large variety of different topics.

KEYWORDS: administrative data, inequality, social stratification

CONTACT OF THE FIRST CONVENOR: annatina.aerne@unil.ch

Research(ing) methods in movement

Convenors: Diaz-Bone Rainer, Bisang Leonie, Schwegler Guy

ABSTRACT

Methods are regarded as a reliable foundation of the empirical social sciences. Once developed and institutionalized in research and education, they are seen as stable and as representing objective practices. Thus, research methods may appear “not to move at all.” Such lack of movement can stem from ignorance of methodological debates. For instance, despite lively discussions around significance testing, few changes in research practice have followed. Other movements may prove superficial. Surveys, the dominant technique for producing data for such tests, face declining response rates, with no sustainable solution in sight. Meanwhile, the turn toward computational social science has contributed little to core sociological questions such as inequality—and where it has, survey data still plays a central role. Methods may also move in the wrong direction. The “crisis of representation,” for example, has not resolved the debate over positivist quality criteria in interpretative research. Instead, renewed emphasis on descriptive methods, disputes over case numbers, and considerations of efficiency through artificial intelligence have reemerged. At the same time, when interpretative research is criticized from nomological perspectives, century-old arguments about logics of validity resurface. Finally, there are substantial movements in methods. One example is the emergence of new forms of experience in social research, such as autoethnography, games, or performative social research. Another one would be the impact of social movements on epistemological scientific values, like the request to integrate citizens participation into scientific practices.

The workshop intends to sketch, understand, and explain methodological issues and debates through their social relations and their embeddedness in scientific communities and societies in movement.

Proposals (max. 2 000 characters) can be submitted until March 31, 2026, to leonie.bisang@unilu.ch, rainer.diaz-bone@unilu.ch, and guy.schwegler@unilu.ch.

KEYWORDS: neo, pragmatism, social life of methods, performativity, sociology of empirical social research

CONTACT OF THE FIRST CONVENOR: Rainer.DiazBone@unilu.ch

Societies and Communities in Climate Change: Between Cohesion and Fragmentation

Convenors: Chantal Magnin, Glauser Andrea, Zimmermann Dominic

ABSTRACT

In light of the climate crisis, communities and societies are 'in motion'. Societies and local communities, whether urban or rural, are confronted with environmental changes and risks that challenge their social structures. Research on natural disasters and climate risks shows that crises have the potential to strengthen solidarity, but also to deepen existing lines of conflict and fuel social fragmentation. Questions of environmental justice are central to this: how are burdens and risks, as well as access to resources, negotiated? Adjustment processes that are perceived as unfair undermine trust and thus the basis of 'community formation'. This touches on fundamental questions of classical sociology: Coping with climate risks requires both a rational balancing of interests (in the sense of Tönnies' 'Kürwille' or Weber's 'society formation' (Vergesellschaftung) – for example, in the distribution of costs for protective structures) and a subjective sense of belonging (Tönnies' 'Wesenwille' or Weber's 'community formation' (Vergemeinschaftung). This workshop therefore asks to what extent such classical distinctions still constitute helpful analytical tools for analysing current processes of understanding, interpretation and learning in social relations and structures. The workshop invites contributions that examine negotiation processes in dealing with the climate crisis in relation to questions of social belonging and inequalities. We are interested in theoretical, methodological and empirical papers that address the following topics in urban or rural contexts and different geographical regions: Analyses of the (re)formation of community, belonging, social inequality and socio-spatial boundaries in the face of ecological risks. Perspectives from the sociology of space that shed light on the interplay between social structures, changing physical environmental factors and their social evaluation, for example with regard to land use conflicts and the social production of (un)safe spaces. Contributions that focus on how processes of collective negotiation and social learning are shaped by more recent practices of participation and dialogue, including artistic ones. Submissions can be made in French, German, or English.

KEYWORDS: climate change, social cohesion, environmental justice, community formation (Vergemeinschaftung), society formation (Vergesellschaftung)

CONTACT OF THE FIRST CONVENOR: chantal.magnin@hslu.ch

Spaces and Scales in Elite Studies: Rethinking the Territorialities of Power

Convenors: Delval Anne-Sophie, Mach André

ABSTRACT

Elite studies have long been marked by methodological nationalism, often treating the nation-state as the implicit container of elite power. Yet elites are not only national actors, especially in the context of globalization. They may be local, rooted in municipal or regional institutions ; national, embedded in state structures; international, operating across countries; or global, shaping transnational economic and policy arenas. This workshop invites contributions that interrogate the spatiality of elites and their power. We seek to bring together scholars analyzing how elites are territorially anchored, circulate (or not) across scales, and where their influence is effectively exercised. Our aim is to foster a more systematic and reflexive consideration of territorial scales in elite research—both as empirical realities and as analytical tools. The workshop will explore questions such as: • How can we conceptualize the territoriality not only of elite individuals but also of the institutions from which they derive power? • How do elites move across territorial scales—through education, careers, or organizational memberships—and what (dis)advantages do these movements entail? • How can we identify elites' territorial scales of influence, and how do these vary across political, economic, cultural or even other spheres? We welcome empirical and theoretical papers examining elites' spatial organization, territorial anchoring, and the role of mobility and rootedness in their re/production. Comparative perspectives and case studies across cities, regions, or countries are particularly encouraged. By bringing together diverse approaches, this workshop aims to build a collective reflection on how space and scale shape elite formation and power—toward a multi-scalar and reflexive sociology of elites linking geographical to social position.

More details : <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7426651325951750144/>

KEYWORDS: elites, space, territoriality, scale, mobility

CONTACT OF THE FIRST CONVENOR: anne-sophie.delval@unil.ch

Sport, Physical Activity and Health in Societies in Movement

Convenors: the Research network «Sociology of Sport», Monica Aceti, Markus Lamprecht, Siegfried Nagel

ABSTRACT

Contemporary societies are in constant motion. Social, economic, technological, and environmental transformations are reshaping how sport communities form, connect, and act—locally and globally. How do today's globalized and digitalized forms of social life redefine what constitutes community and belonging in sport. How do sporting groups emerge, persist, or dissolve in changing societies? How do institutions, associations, and individuals respond to ecological, migratory, or sedentary challenges?

Sport, wellbeing and health are increasingly intertwined. From wellness programs to the expanding health industry, physical activity is promoted as a remedy for obesity, chronic disease, cancer, and mental health issues. Yet this trend reveals deeper transformations: new markets, professions such as adapted physical activity (APA), shifting identities, and contested meanings of health and performance. Do these developments reinforce a "market of bodies", moral duties to stay healthy or foster new solidarities, creativity, and inclusion?

We welcome proposals that:

- Analyze emerging forms of sport communities, solidarity, and belonging;*
- Investigate cohesion, well-being, and conflict in changing social structures;*
- Examine how inclusion, access, and recognition are negotiated in sport–health fields;*
- Explore digitalization, social and ecological sustainability, and mobility in sport practices;*
- Study transformations of traditional sports systems/organisations and the rise of e-sports, techno-enhanced performances, emerging body practices or neo-patrimonial sporty trends;*
- Analyze professions and initiatives or forms of recognition in sport–health fields (healthy cities, active design at school, at work)*

Contributions addressing sport and physical activity in Switzerland or abroad are welcome.

Length of abstracts: max. 2000 characters

Language(s) of the workshop: French, German, or English.

Proposals must be sent to: monica.aceti@unifr.ch and siegfried.nagel@unibe.ch

KEYWORDS: physical activity, sport, health, community

CONTACT OF THE FIRST CONVENOR: monica.aceti@unifr.ch

Worlds of food in movement

Convenors: Diaz-Bone Rainer

ABSTRACT

Food is a total social and cultural phenomenon. Food research topics link questions such as what people eat and why, how food is part of their lifestyle, how food is produced and consumed, with what organizational logic and social and ecological consequences, and what contribution food makes to cultural identities.

So far food has been mainly approached with different too narrow perspectives as “sociology of eating” (Murcott 2019) or approached from the perspective of one topic only such as the sociology of health, economic sociology, and consumer sociology or the sociology of social inequalities (Bourdieu 1984). The concept of “worlds of food” was developed by the so-called convention theory (Storper and Salais 1997; Murdoch et al. 2006) and enlarges perspectives on food. Worlds of food, their movements, transitions, and the socio-economic and socio-cultural nexus of food production, distribution, and consumption are the focus of this more comprehensive approach.

Applying this concept, the changes in production, distribution, and consumption of food are key aspects and forms of articulation of social (both regional and global) movements. New life-styles, the discussion of climate change, the effects of migration and of globalization on the spectrum and discourses of food are just a few indicators. The neopragmatist convention theory in particular has made a wide range of contributions to the analysis of problems and critiques related to food production, distribution, eating and their consequences. Since the 1980s and up to the present day, convention theory (or economics and sociology of conventions, EC/SC) has produced a large number of studies that initially dealt with the structure and dynamics of the food industry (Diaz-Bone and Larquier 2022). The focus then moved on to the analysis of quality concepts (evaluation logics), institutional logics of food production, distribution, and consumption as well as emerging social conflicts and disputes related to food issues.

The planned workshop will bring together presentations that examine, compare, and evaluate different worlds of food in motion. Proposals (max. 2 000 characters) based on EC/SC or related approaches can be submitted until March 31, 2026 to rainer.diaz-bone@unilu.ch

KEYWORDS: worlds of food, globalization, regionalization, agrifood regimes

CONTACT OF THE FIRST CONVENOR: Diaz-Bone Rainer Rainer.DiazBone@unilu.ch

Penser la cohabitation sociale dans l'espace public à l'ère du numérique

Convenors: Marianna Colella, Annamaria Colombo

ABSTRACT

La cohabitation entre différents groupes sociaux dans l'espace public a toujours représenté un défi, en particulier lorsqu'il y a présence de populations considérées comme « indésirables » (Margier, 2013 ; Litscher, De Coulon & Colombo, 2016 ; Colombo & Reynaud, 2020). Les conflits d'usages et d'appropriation de ces « espaces communs » (Lévy & Lussault, 2013) peuvent créer ce que Bouillon, Maurin et Pichon (2022) nomment des « troubles ordinaires », auxquels les réponses oscillent entre résistance et coopération. Or, aujourd'hui, la vie sociale se caractérise par une « pervasivité » du numérique (Boullier, 2019) et une « médiatisation profonde » (deep mediatization) (Hepp, 2019 ; Przybylski, 2021) incontournables pour qui s'intéresse aux « mondes quotidiens » des citoyens et citoyennes (Pink, Horst et al., 2016). En effet, toute pratique sociale est aujourd'hui « enchevêtrée avec les médias sociaux » (Hepp, 2019, notre traduction). Néanmoins, cette imbrication ne produit pas forcément les effets démocratisants espérés. Pour Pasquier (2019 : 158), Internet a suscité l'espoir d'ouvrir un accès illimité aux connaissances et de favoriser l'ouverture sur le monde mais « si les individus disposent du même outil, cet outil ne leur ouvre pas les mêmes possibilités. Comme s'ils ne faisaient pas partie du même monde ». Les espaces en ligne recréent ainsi des « entre-soi » (Bastard, 2018 ; Colella, 2025). Ces constats invitent à ne pas considérer le numérique comme « un monde à part », mais à l'étudier dans une continuité entre interactions présentiels et numériques. C'est dans cette perspective que s'inscrit cet atelier, en s'intéressant plus spécifiquement aux effets de cette hybridation du lien social sur l'appropriation des espaces publics et les pratiques sociales qui s'y développent (Balleys, Colombo et al., 2025 ; Balleys, Tadorian et al., 2024). Lussault (2017), par exemple, propose le concept d'« hyper-lieux » pour désigner des lieux où l'espace est exacerbé par l'articulation entre espace physique et numérique. Cet atelier s'intéresse plus particulièrement à la manière dont la cohabitation sociale au quotidien dans les espaces publics est affectée, transformée ou bousculée par le numérique. Les propositions de communications pourront porter plus précisément sur : les transformations des représentations de l'espace public liées au numérique et leurs effets sur la cohabitation sociale ; la façon dont présentiel et numérique s'articulent dans les pratiques ordinaires de cohabitation dans l'espace public et les transforment (ou pas) ; la façon dont les défis de cohabitation dans l'espace public et les réponses données sont renouvelés, exacerbés ou transformés par l'enchevêtrement du présentiel et du numérique.

Les propositions de communications de max. 2000 caractères doivent contenir le titre et le résumé de la communication, la bibliographie, 3-4 mots-clés et les noms des intervenant-es, ainsi que leurs affiliations et courriels. Elles sont à envoyer jusqu'au 31 mars 2026 à marianna.colella@unige.ch et annamaria.colombo@hefr.ch. Les réponses seront envoyées en mai 2026.

KEYWORDS: Socialisation juvénile, espace urbain, numérique, hybridation du monde social

CONTACT OF THE FIRST CONVENOR: marianna.colella@unige.ch