

Call for Papers

“The Global as Method: Ethnographic Scales in the 21st century”

November 8-9, 2019

Graduate Institute, Geneva, Switzerland

The Swiss Anthropological Association (SSE-SEG-SAA) convenes once a year a major conference around thematic panels. This year, the annual meeting of the SSE-SEG-SAA will address the topic of “The Global as Method: Ethnographic Scales in the 21st century.”

The global has become a truism permeating most of current anthropological research: ‘it’ denotes a spatial dimension – the global South or North; it can serve to gauge the pulse of the world – global crisis and inequalities; and has increasingly come to define the terms of our own epistemic engagements – global health, global capitalism, global governance, etc. Despite its self-evident facticity, how exactly does one critically approach the global? Or, more to the point, how does one research the global as method and across scales, temporalities, from the local to the planetary? How do we grapple with the global as contingent, ever changing processes that are continually reimagined, contested, differently appropriated and reconfigured? As an object of study, it poses challenges for anthropologists always attentive to how people narrate and experience in everyday life their membership in or exclusion from global connections. If globalisation is traceable across multiple phenomena and movements – people, objects, ideas, texts, images, labour regimes, ecologies, technologies or emergent social, political and economic forms – we propose to think through how the global is mobilised and challenged in the practice of ethnography. Whether at home or abroad, inside or outside, in the center or its periphery, we seek to examine the making of scales – spatial and temporal – as an analytic, methodological and epistemological endeavour.



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Schweizerische Ethnologische Gesellschaft
Société Suisse d'Ethnologie
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Swiss Anthropological Association



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The *Global as Method* conference invites us to engage the promises and challenges of researching and bridging conventional North/South, local/global and disciplinary divides. Through the formulation of original research agendas and methodologies, the conference aims to take stock of the momentous transformations that became manifest in the final decades of the 20th century; simultaneously, it looks ahead to imagine how the global as method may chart new directions for anthropology in the opening decades of the 21st century.

Format: Except for the CAV and Student Panels, only one time slot of 105 minutes will be assigned per panel (roughly 10-15 minutes per paper).

The deadline for paper proposals is 30 June 2019. Please submit your proposal to the contact person(s) listed for each panel.

Panel 8

Globalizing peripheries

Mobilities, diversification and reconfiguration of “the local” within territories at the margins.

Conveners:

Andrea Boscoboinik (University of Fribourg, SNF project Devenir local en zone de montagne)

Viviane Cretton (University of Applied Sciences and Arts, Sierre, SNF project Devenir local en zone de montagne)

Andrea Friedli (University of Applied Sciences and Arts, Sierre, SNF Devenir local en zone de montagne)

In which ways is “the global” reimagined and reconfigured across the worldwide process of urbanization and gentrification in peripheral areas, like sea, countryside or mountain sites? Commonly seen as an embodiment of rurality, remoteness and stagnation, non-urban areas are also part of the “metropolitan pulsation”, economic centrality and glocal development. Mobilities and new ways of living out of cities commonly stand for current phenomena, at different scales, that are closely intertwined with economic globalization and neoliberal practices.

This panel aims to explore diverse manifestations of this worldwide tendency of living “outside cities”, or “in nature”, through individual experiences and routes, narratives and imaginaries, representations and subjectivities. It invites participants to present their empirical data focusing on non-urban areas – mountain, sea or countryside regions – as idealized places for living, or not, while encouraging the story-telling of individuals or families who have made the choice to settle temporary or permanently in such places and spaces.

The panel wishes to discuss in depth on how “the metropolitan global” interacts with “the rural local” in some particular spots, while considering the anthropologist to be both produced by and producing the fieldwork she or he is in. Further, the panel aspires to talk over new methodological and analytical approaches to studying both global within local and local within global, beyond the classical dichotomy used in social sciences.

Theoretical frames such as lifestyle migration, amenity-led migration or multilocality have emphasized new forms of chosen migration, mobility and dwelling that take into consideration western perceptions and representations of nature and living in nature, like the environmental quality, the climate, the sunlight, the landscapes, the quietness, the safety or the specific conditions to enjoying outdoor activities. This panel proposes to consider other forms of current migrations and mobilities outside cities, in order to analyze how personal choices and imaginaries that constitute life paths are reconfigured at the interface of a global trend and a local way of life, while reshaping simultaneously the power balance between local and global, locality and globality, at an epistemological level. It welcomes ethnographic fieldworks that reflect upon the

(re)making and (re)shaping of locality within a “globalizing” process of urbanization, gentrification and diversification.

All together, the panel wishes to foster stimulating talks, related to the specific aspects of globalization, like touristification, internationalization or migratization, in non-urban areas, as to the methodological and epistemological challenges they raise for the anthropologists. How are the local and the global connected in this specific framework? How or when do they interact ? Is conflict present ? Do they reproduce each other ? How or when are they related to representations and fantasies of non-urban environment ? How or when are they mobilised and challenged in the field, by the research participants and by anthropologists ? Which are the outcomes of the globalization of non-urban areas, for both newcomers and locals, for natural and cultural environment, for local and global development ?

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Deadline proposal: 30 June 2019