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

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

**Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern, 12-14 November 2015**  
Venue: Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern, Lerchenweg 36, 3000 Bern

## Thursday, 12 November 2015/ Opening Program for Members Only

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16.00-18.00</td>
<td>F-111 General Assembly/ Mitgliederversammlung/ Assemblée générale SEG/SSE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.00-20.15</td>
<td>Film screening <em>Paradise in my Mind</em> (2015, 96’), in the presence of filmmaker/producer Sandra Mooser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.30</td>
<td>Dinner at restaurant «Casa d’Italia», Bühlstrasse 57 (GA participants only)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Friday, 13 November 2015/ Conference

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09.00-10.00</td>
<td>Registration, Welcome coffee at the Unitobler foyer, Lerchenweg 36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.00-12.00</td>
<td><strong>Session 1</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F 013 I: New Values and Regulations in Capitalism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F-123 IV: Dirty Business: Economies of the Used, the Used Up and the Useless</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F-103 VII: Health, Care and Well-Being: Incentivized Human Behavior in Health and Health Care: Ethnographic Perspectives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F-102 VIII: Being Welcome, Being Well</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.00-14.00</td>
<td>Lunch break (not sponsored by local organizer)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.00-16.00</td>
<td><strong>Session 2</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F 013 I: New Values and Regulations in Capitalism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F 006 II: Uncertainties and Precarization: Uncertainties as a Playground for Moralities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F-123 IV: Dirty Business: Economies of the Used, the Used Up and the Useless</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>S 221 VI: Mediating Precariousness: Creative Ethnographic Practices in an Era of Crisis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F-103 VII: Health, Care and Well-Being: Ambiguous Intimacies: Perspectives from the Public Health Field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F-102 VIII: Being Welcome, Being Well</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.00-16.30</td>
<td>Coffee break, Unitobler foyer, Lerchenweg 36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.30-16.45</td>
<td><strong>Plenary Session I: Welcome address</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prof. Dr. Peter Finke, President SEG/SSE, Head Department of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies, University of Zurich</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prof. Dr. Sabine Strasser, co-director Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.45-18.15</td>
<td><strong>Keynote lecture</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prof. Dr. Miriam Ticktin (The New School, New York): <em>Innocence: A Political Concept, and an Anthropological Limit?</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.30</td>
<td>Conference buffet at the Unitobler foyer, Lerchenweg 36 (registration necessary)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Saturday, 14 November 2015/ Conference

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

End of the conference

Room Designation

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

Registration

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

Coffee breaks as well as the Saturday snack lunch are offered for free.
Buffet Friday evening: Online registration is necessary (Deadline 1 November 2015). Buffet must be paid individually online or on site (32 CHF, incl. drinks).

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1 day</th>
<th>2 days (in CHF)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Members SEG/ SSE</td>
<td>25.-</td>
<td>50.-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students (incl. PhD students)</td>
<td>15.-</td>
<td>25.-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-members</td>
<td>50.-</td>
<td>80.-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How to get there

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

Hotels, Hostels and B&B’s:

http://www.bern.com
www.airbnb.com

Organization Committee

Prof. Dr. Michaela Schäuble: michaela.schaeuble@anthro.unibe.ch
Prof. Dr. Tobias Haller: tobias.haller@anthro.unibe.ch
Dr. Laura Coppens: laura.coppens@anthro.unibe.ch
Global Capitalism and the Challenge of Well-Being in the World

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

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

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

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

Keynote: "Innocence: A Political Concept, and an Anthropological Limit?"
by Miriam Ticktin, The New School for Social Research (New York)

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

Miriam Ticktin works at the intersections of the anthropology of medicine and science, law, and transnational and postcolonial feminist theory. Her research has focused in the broadest sense on what it means to make political claims in the name of a universal humanity: she has been interested in what these claims tell us about universalisms and difference, about who can be a political subject, on what basis people are included and excluded from communities, and how inequalities get instituted or perpetuated in this process.
Panels Friday 13 November 2015, 10.00-12.00 and 14.00-16.00

**I: New Values and Regulations in Capitalism**
Organizers: Johanna Mugler, Heinzpeter Znoj, Tobias Haller, Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern
Room: F 013

**Part 1**
Chair: Tobias Haller

**Heinzpeter Znoj**, Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern
“Always look on the bright side“: Fighting poverty by measuring „wellbeing“

**Thomas Niederberger**, Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern
*The open cut: Mining, transnational corporations and the question of values*

**Jan Beek**, Department of Anthropology and African Studies, University of Frankfurt
*Transnational fraud and travelling capitalism*

**Part 2**
Chair: Heinzpeter Znoj

**Csaba Györy**, University of Budapest / Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law, Freiburg
*Elusive finance: Regulation and financial innovation after the financial crisis*

**Peter Hongler**, University of Zurich
*Justice in international tax law: Between effective tax rates of multinationals and the principle of sovereignty*

**Johanna Mugler**, Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern
*What drives value in an economy? Negotiating fairer international tax laws within the G20 OECD BEPS Initiative*
II: Uncertainties and Precarization
Room: F 006

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

Peter Finke, Department of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies, University of Zurich
What is good and bad about markets, security, and globalization?

Chris Kelley, Department of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies, University of Zurich
Precarious organizing? Changing working conditions, collective action and labor-capital-institutions in the Swiss construction industry.

Corinne Schwaller, Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern
Highly educated young in Barcelona: Precarious livelihoods and uncertain biographies

Stefan Leins, Department of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies, University of Zurich
Uncertainty without precarization: On “privileged” jobs in the private sector industry

Esther Horat, Department of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies, University of Zurich
Bearing uncertainty, seizing chances: Dealing with change in a trading community in Northern Vietnam

Part 2: Uncertainties as a Playground for Moralities
Organizers: Annika Lems and Julia Rehsmann, Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern

Giada de Coulon, Caroline Reynaud and Annamaria Colombo, School of Social Work Fribourg, University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Western Switzerland, Switzerland
Between autonomy and precarity: Morality issues among beggars representations.

Irene Marti and Ueli Hostettler, Institut für Strafrecht und Kriminologie, University of Bern
Facing end-of-life in Swiss prisons: Ethnographic insights into indefinite confinement and its pains.
IV: Dirty Business: Economies of the Used, the Used Up and the Useless
Organizers: Ellen Hertz, Yvan Schulz, Alice Sala, Anthropology Institute, University of Neuchâtel; Luisa Piart, Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern
Room: F-123

Part 1

Keynote:
Prof. Michael A. Crang, Department of Geography, University of Durham
Green but not clean? Doing the dirty work of global recycling

Benjamin Steuer, Institute of Sinology, University of Vienna & Institute of Waste Management, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences
The hidden circular economy in China: What system and which mechanisms drive the recovery of discarded resources?

Carlo Ferri, School of Geography and the Environment, University of Oxford
Variegated recycling: Power, place, and materiality of waste

Part 2

Dr. Martin Rosenfeld, African Studies Centre, University of Oxford
Second-hand entrepreneurship in West Africa

Alice Sala, Anthropology Institute, University of Neuchâtel
A global Computer Village: Trading used computers from Guangzhou to Lagos

Luisa Piart, Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern
Waste and fake alaturca: Insights on the global fashion industry from Istanbul
VI: Mediating Precariousness: Creative Ethnographic Practices in an Era of Crisis
Organizers: Michaela Schäuble, Laura Coppens, Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern and Claire Vionnet, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, University of Lausanne
Room: S 221

Darcy Alexandra, Centre for Transcultural Research and Media Practice, Dublin
The sense of listening: Disrupting asylum narratives

Mark Curran, Institute of Art, Design & Technology (IADT), Dublin and Freie Universität Berlin
The Normalisation of deviance and the construction of THE MARKET

Andrew Irving, Granada Centre for Visual Anthropology, University of Manchester
Detours and puzzles in the land of the living

Claire Vionnet, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, University of Lausanne
Dancing and activism among professional dancers
VII: Health, Care and Well-Being
Organizers: Sonja Merten and Jana Gerold, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, Basel
Room: F-103

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

Keynote:
Eileen Moyer, University of Amsterdam
Making care count: Valuing socio-logistic work in the age of HIV treatment in eastern Africa

Sonja Merten, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, Basel
Experiences after the roll-out of free HIV services: Insights from Zambia.

Joelle Schwarz, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, Basel
Decision making to plan and control for family size: Navigating through family planning policies, traditional and religious values and household life realities in rural Burundi

Mari Dumbaugh, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, Basel
Economies of Reproduction: South Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo

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

Sally Mtenga, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, Basel and Ifakara Health Institute
We are many wives how can one man speak to us all? Challenges constraining safer sex communication among individuals in polygamous and monogamous relations in a rural community of South-Eastern Tanzania: A qualitative study

Langelihle Mlotshwa, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, Basel and Wits University
Intimate relationships and expressions of care among pregnant women in Soweto, South Africa

Jana Gerold, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, Basel
Adolescent sexuality in rural Rwanda

Bettina Schwind, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, Basel
Gender work in gynecology: How do physicians experience feminization?
VIII: Being Welcome, Being Well
Organizers: Daniela Dietz, Meltem Sancak, Dominik Müller, Department of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies, University of Zurich
Room: F-102

Part 1

Meltem Sancak, MPI Halle/Saale and Department of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies, University of Zurich
 Thoughts of this panel: Migration, institutions and well-being

Lena Kaufmann, Ethnographic Museum, University of Zurich
“She cooks fast and she calculates fast”: Understanding processes of (Chinese rural-urban) migration and the creation of well-being through the lens of skilled agents

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

Annelies Kuijpers, Department of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies, University of Zurich
The consequences of discovering hidden paradise: Branding tourist space in Halfeti, Turkey

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

Part 2

Indira Alibayeva, MPI Halle/Saale
 Between uncertainty and hope: How Kazaks returned to their ethnic homeland: Oralmans (returnee) in Tassay.

Dominik Müller, Department of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies, University of Zurich
Religion and transnational migration: Social security in religious networks

Mahir Şaul, Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois
Discussion and closing remarks
The Postdoc Hamster Wheel: On the Situation of Anthropology Postdocs in Switzerland

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

Room: F-123

Participants:

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

Esther Leemann, Department of Ethnology, University of Lucerne

Jérémie Forney, Anthropology Institute, University of Neuchâtel

Alessandra Pellegrini, FH Bern

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

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

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

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

This roundtable aims to raise awareness about the structural uncertainties of anthropology postdocs and to think about their impact both inside and outside the academy. Yet, the objective is not to get stuck in a debilitating perspective of lament. Instead, we will use this forum to think through possible ways out of the endless hamster wheel of postdoc appointments.
Panels Saturday 14 November 2015, 11.00-13.00 and 13.30-15.00

II: Uncertainties and Precarization
Room: F 006

Part 2 Continued: Uncertainties as a Playground for Moralsities
Organizers: Annika Lems and Julia Rehsmann, Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern

Gerhild Perl, Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern
Restless bodies: Post-mortem mobility and uncertain belongings in the Spanish-Moroccan borderlands

Veronika Siegl, Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern
Moralties of infertility: Intended parents’ perspectives on surrogacy in Russia and the Ukraine.

Giorgio Brocco, Institute of Social Anthropology, Freie Universität Berlin
Ambiguous lives: Albinism, uncertainty and morality in Tanzania.

Discussant: Jelena Tošić, Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Vienna
III: Working Group “Anthropology and Education”: (Counter)-Hegemonic Discourses within Educational Spaces: Capitalism, Well-Being, and Other Narratives
Organizers: Jeanne Rey, PH Freiburg; Dilyara Suleymanova, Department of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies, University Zurich; Andreas von Känel, Anthropology Institute, University of Neuchâtel
Room: S 221

Part 1

Keynote:
Véronique Bénéi, Institut Interdisciplinaire d’Anthropologie du Contemporain (IIAC), Paris
Happiness and wellbeing as counter-hegemonic discourses or meta-narratives of capitalism?
Reflections from a few educational spaces

Judith Hangartner, Institut für Forschung, Entwicklung und Evaluation, PH Bern and Carla Jana Svaton, Institute of Social Anthropology, University Bern & Institut für Forschung, Entwicklung und Evaluation, PHBern
The governmentalization of school reforms: Between inclusion, self-steering and new practices of differentiation

Part 2

Alexandra Felder, Kerstin Duemmler, Isabelle Caprani, Institut Fédéral des Hautes Etudes en Formation Professionnelle, Lugano, Lausanne, Zollikofen, Zürich
Reinterpreting instead of resisting (neo-)liberal narratives: The case of retail clerk apprentice

Anthropology & education General Assembly / Anthropologie und Bildung GV / Anthropologie et formation AG
V: Constitutionality: A New Form of Bottom-Up Resource-Governance
Organizer: Helen Gambon, Centre for Development and Environment, University of Bern
Room: F-102

Tobias Haller, Institute for Social Anthropology, University of Bern
Crafting our own rules! Constitutionality as a bottom up process in Zambia and Mali

Ramez Eid, Technion University, Haifa
State of fire: Constitutionality and participatory conservation in Mount Carmel Bio-sphere Reserve, Israel

Helen Gambon, Centre for Development and Environment, University of Bern
Constitutionality in the Indigenous territory and Biosphere Reserve Pilón Lajas, Bolivia – A success story?

Thomas Bearth, General and African Linguistics, University of Zurich
The park is “our thing”. Environmental and economic blending in crisis-struck Western Ivory Coast

Organizers: Martha Cecilia-Dietrich and Sandra Mooser, Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern; Grégoire Mayor, Musée d'ethnographie, Neuchâtel
Room: F-103

Part 1

Martha-Cecilia Dietrich, Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern
*Entre Memorias (Between Memories): Research collaborations with perpetrators of violence as politically engaged anthropology?*

Kieran Hanson, University of Manchester & Allritesreversed
*Shooting Freetown: Shared anthropology and collaborative media in urban Sierra Leone*

Esther Leemann, Department of Ethnology, University of Lucerne
*Producing alternative histories: Self-portrayal of the way of life in an indigenous community affected by large-scale rubber plantations.*

Part 2

Christine Moderbacher, School of Social Science, University of Aberdeen
*“Stop your camera, it blinds me!” - When film making jeopardizes anthropological practice*

Sandra Mooser, Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern
*One goal, many voices: A collaborative experience with African migrant filmmakers in Switzerland*