

Anthropology Talks Crisis at the Border

**Anthropology Talks with Didier Fassin, Anne-Claire Defossez,
Judith Marcou and Lorenzo Alunni**

Lecture and Workshops, 5th and 6th October 2021



Anthropology Talks

Crisis at the Border

For the fourth time, the Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern, hosts the Anthropology Talks. In this bi-annual lecture series, leading scholars in social and cultural anthropology present and discuss their latest work in public lectures and workshops.

Didier Fassin is the James D. Wolfensohn Professor at the Institute for Advanced Study, director of studies in anthropology at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, and Professor to the Annual Chair of Public Health at the Collège de France. His research is focused on moral and political issues, especially around policing, prison and migration. He was the first social scientist to receive the Nomis Distinguished Scientist Award. He recently authored *Life. A Critical User's Manual* and *Death of a Traveler. A Counter-Investigation* both at Polity Press.

Anne-Claire Defossez is a Visiting Researcher in Sociology at the Institute for Advanced Study. She works on the relations between gender, class and political representation in democracies. As part of a Nomis Foundation grant, she currently studies protagonists and policies involved at the border between France and Italy in the area of Briançon.

Judith Marcou is a PhD student in Social Anthropology at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales. Her work focuses on various areas of administrative detention run by the police at the French border, particularly the waiting zone at Roissy airport.

Lorenzo Alunni is a Marie Skłodowska-Curie post-doctoral Fellow at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales. He works on the relationship between bodies, health and border management at several European sites, especially on the island of Lampedusa.

Tuesday, 5th October 2021

Workshop 1: Enquiries into the Workings of Borders: Roissy and Lampedusa (Judith Marcou and Lorenzo Alunni)

European migration policies have created borderlands where individuals on the move experience precarious living conditions and find themselves between life and death. Judith Marcou and Lorenzo Alunni's ethnographic works explore contemporary workings of borders, through the prisms of practices of border detention and the management of healthcare at the border.

14.00 – 17.00

Room: Seminarraum 028, Hauptgebäude, Hochschulstrasse 4

Lecture: Crisis at the Border – The Dramaturgy of the Politics of Immigration (Didier Fassin)

Politics of immigration are commonly presented in terms of policies of control of flows, especially since 2015 when many displaced persons arrived in Europe, causing what became known as the “migrant crisis”. Departing from his ethnography at the French-Italian border, Didier Fassin critically examines the performative function of the politics of immigration, considering the various protagonists involved: the exiles, the volunteers and border patrols.

18.00 – 20.00

Room: Audimax, Hauptgebäude, Hochschulstrasse 4

Wednesday, 6th October

Workshop 2: Lives Exposed, Lives Rescued at the Border. (Anne-Claire Defosse)

The French-Italian border in the Alps has become the arena where two logics of intervention towards migrants and refugees compete, and where the lives of exiles are treated in irreconcilable ways, implemented by protagonists with opposing goals and positions. Based on long-term fieldwork, this presentation describes the scene at the border and discusses the theoretical approaches of hospitality as well as sovereignty and biopolitics, posing the question of the value of actual and concrete, rather than metaphysical or abstract, lives.

10.00 – 12.00

Room: Seminarraum 028, Hauptgebäude, Hochschulstrasse 4

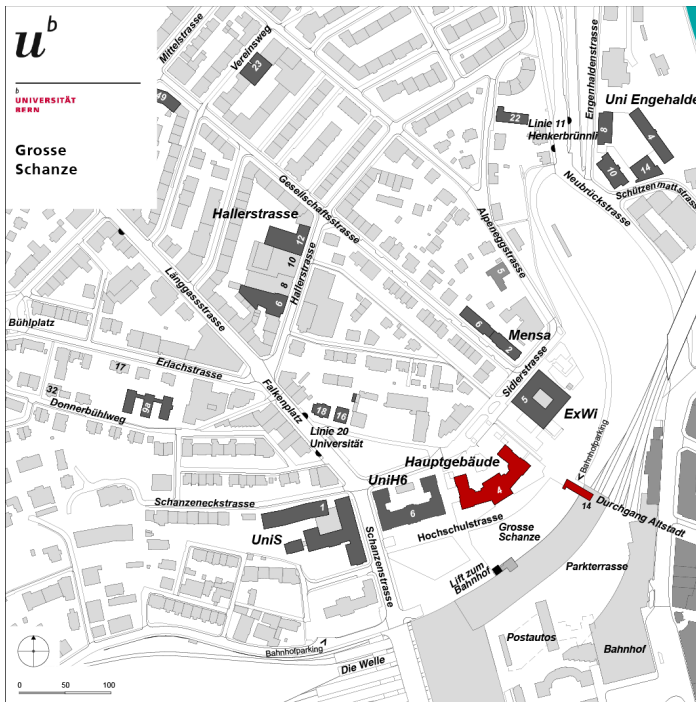
Workshop 3: Attacks on Critical Thinking? (Didier Fassin)

In this interactive workshop, Didier Fassin proposes a brief reflection on the violation of academic freedom before discussing contemporary examples of attacks on critical thinking with workshop participants.

14.00 – 16.00

Room: Seminarraum 028, Hauptgebäude, Hochschulstrasse 4

For detailed abstracts of the events, please visit the website www.anthro.unibe.ch



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