

Critical Sustainability Engagements

Anthropological Perspectives on Theory and Practice

From 13 to 16 June 2023

At the Centro Incontri Umani in Ascona

“Critical engagement in an inspiring setting”



COURSE LEADERS

Dr. Peter Bille Larsen, University of Geneva & Interface Commission

Professor Annuska Derks, University of Zurich

Dr. Doris Bacalzo, University of Lucerne & Interface Commission

AUDIENCE

Students from sociology, anthropology and interdisciplinary social science programmes. Special conditions for students from Geneva, Zurich and Lucerne.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Critical theoretical and activist engagements on concerns such as human rights, gender violence, global pandemics, coloniality, racism and environmental sustainability are hot topics in both social science research and change-making across the world.

This Summer School seeks to shed light and enable learning on the multiple methodological, epistemological and political challenges involved. We aim to open up discussion on new forms of engagement, multi-modal expressions and student participation.

This Summer School offers a unique space for creating mutual learning between critical analysis and critical engagement.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- 1** Deepen understanding of critical theory and its impact on sustainability thinking and practice.
- 2** Learn from scholars through a deep dive into specific lessons from engaging on multiple terrains.
- 3** Engage participants in a process of reflection upon and presentation of their own action and research.
- 4** Encourage and equip participants to adapt concepts, tools and experiences into their analysis and practice.



JUNE 13

Engaged Anthropology and
the Decolonial Critique

9-10H30

Introduction to the
Summer School, by Peter
Larsen (UNIGE) and Doris
Bacalzo (Interface
Commission/UNILU)

11-12h30

Decoloniality and feminist
approaches in the Andes,
by Florence Babb
(UNC - Chapel Hill)

14-15h30

Hybrid exchanges with
students from Sikkim and
Northern Bengal on
decoloniality, by Jenny
Bentley (UZH) and Peter
Larsen (UNIGE)

16-17h00

Walk to Monte Verità

JUNE 14

Engaged Anthropology for
Critical Environments

Student presentations 1:
Introduction on
engagements in & through
studies, by Doris Bacalzo
(Interface Commission/
UNILU)

Political ecology and
Cambodia, by Esther
Leeman (UZH)

How social practices
inform the future as
method: Describing
personas in an energy
transition, by Marlyne
Sahakian (UNIGE)

Spices in Vietnam and
multimodal approaches, by
Annuska Derks (UZH)

L U N C H

19H00

D I N N E R A T C E N T R O



JUNE 15

Gender, Discrimination,
Violence

JUNE 16

Multimodal Anthropology

9-10H30

Gender studies, violence
and public space: critical
interfaces, by Marylene
Lieber (UNIGE)

Affective multimodalities
& Designing Impact, by Eda
Elif Tibet (UNIBE) and Mike
Poltorak (UZH)

11-12h30

Student presentations 2 &
Intro to student
multimodal exercise -
getting ready, by Eda Elif
(UNIBE) and Mike Poltorak
(UZH)

Affective multimodalities
& Designing Impact, by Eda
Elif Tibet (UNIBE) and Mike
Poltorak (UZH)

LUNCH

14-15h30

Environmental defenders,
violence and protection, by
Peter Larsen (UNIGE)

Racism, discrimination and
Dance, by Claire Vionnet
(Interface Commission)

16-17h00

Student presentations 3

Final presentation of
student multimodal
sharings and wrap-up

19H00

DINNER AT CENTRO

