



# Lecture Series in Social Anthropology

Spring  
Semester  
2024

Tuesday 12 March 2024 | 4.15 p.m. | Room AND 4.06

## When Anthropology is Relevant but Insignificant. Engaging with the Science of Parenting Interventions for Optimal Brain Development in the Global South

**Prof. Gabriel Scheidecker (University of Zurich)**

Parenting interventions to optimize Early Childhood Development in the Global South (Global ECD) are currently emerging as an important area of international development. Global ECD is based on the assumption that poverty and political instability are caused by widespread individual deficits resulting from poor cognitive and socio-emotional development in the first years of life. Correspondingly, parenting interventions are considered necessary to enable individuals to reach their 'full potential' and, if applied nationwide, to boost economic growth and societal development. When UNICEF, WHO, and WB launched an official roadmap for the global implementation of such interventions in 2018, they presented them as the foundation for all sustainable development goals. In this talk I first introduce global ECD and argue that anthropological research, especially on childhood and parenting in diverse settings of the Global South, is highly relevant but de facto insignificant when it comes to this applied field. In other words, ethnographic research is absent from the evidence base of global ECD. In the second part of the talk, I explore the reasons for this failure and suggest ways how anthropological expertise could be made more significant.

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Entrance free of charge.

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