

Anthropological Perspectives as Cultural Critique in/of Education in the Present

Workshop of the SEG-Commission “Anthropology and Education”

22./23. January 2026, PHBern

Organised by Anja Sieber Egger (PHZH), Judith Hangartner and Angela Stienen (PHBern)

Please register by 15 January 2026 at anja.sieber@phzh.ch

The Commission “Anthropology and Education” of the Swiss Anthropological Society (SEG/SSE/SAA) invites its members and interested scholars to a two-day workshop on January 22-23, 2026, at PHBern.

Revisiting Marcus and Fischer’s concept of *cultural critique* (1986/1999), the workshop invites to critical reflection on the interplay between anthropological research – both as a theoretical lens and methodical approach – and contemporary trends in education. How can anthropology today serve as a cultural critique? What role can it play in interrogating and responding to the challenges that are reshaping educational landscapes?

This gathering offers an opportunity to reconnect as a community, share research interests, and shape the commission’s future goals and orientations. Building on the commission’s mission to foster a critical, interdisciplinary dialogue on educational questions within anthropology, we aim to deepen our collective understanding of education as a site of cultural, social, and epistemic transformation. The workshop also serves as a platform to reflect on our research and teaching practices through recent theoretical and epistemological currents in anthropology.

Programme

Thursday 22. January 2026, 13h – 19h, Room Fab8.B 106, Fabrikstrasse 8, 3012 Bern

13.15 – 13.45	Welcome and information session (Anja Sieber Egger, Judith Hangartner) Members’ requests to the committee (Anja Sieber Egger)
13.45 – 14.45	Irène Zingg, PHBern (Chair Anja Sieber Egger) <i>Voices of Heritage Languages: A Critical Perspective on Multilingual Education Today</i>
14.45 – 15.00	Coffee Break
15.00 – 16.00	Marta Marques, University of Neuchâtel (Chair Anja Sieber Egger) <i>Inclusion and exclusion in school structures: challenges, obstacles and success factors for first generation migrants</i>
16.00 – 16.15	Coffee Break
16.15 – 17.15	Stefanie Strulik, PHBern (Chair Anja Sieber Egger) <i>Decolonial Critique and the Reflexive Turn in Anthropology. Ethnographic Research in Education as Discursive Practice</i>
17.15 – 18.15	Judith Hangartner, PHBern (Chair Anja Sieber Egger) <i>Platform Pedagogies: Critical exploration of the platformisation in education.</i>
18.15 – 18.45	Discussion on connections/relationships between anthropology and education (Chair Angela Stienen)
19Uhr	Dinner in Restaurant Zebra, Bern

Friday 23. January 2026, 9h – 16.30h, Room Fab8.B 106, Fabrikstrasse 8, 3012 Bern

09.00	Coming together
09.15 – 10.15	Jeanne Rey, University of Fribourg (Chair Judith Hangartner) <i>From anthropological research to school knowledge</i>
10.15 – 10.30	Coffee Break
10.30 – 11.30	Moira Laffranchini, HEP Vaud (Chair Judith Hangartner) <i>Training teachers in a migratory context: a critical anthropology of training programmes</i>
11.30 – 12.30	Angela Stienen and Stefanie Strulik, PHBern (Chair Judith Hangartner) <i>Planetary Learning: Building Transnational Spaces of Knowledge Co-Production in Teacher Education</i>
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch
13.30 – 14.30	Dennis Gay, University of Fribourg (Chair Angela Stienen) <i>Studying Inclusive Education Anthropologically: Between Normative Commitments and Cultural Relativism</i>
14.30 – 15.30	Anja Sieber and Gisela Unterweger, PHZürich (Chair Angela Stienen) <i>Becoming with Pathogens: Rethinking Ethnographic Positionings and Cultural Critique in Multispecies Educational Worlds</i>
15.30 – 16.30	Gathering reference points for anthropology and education, discussion (Chair Anja Sieber Egger and Judith Hangartner) Preview of the annual conference (Chair Moira Laffranchini) Planning Commission Meetings 2026 (Chair Anja Sieber Egger) End of Workshop