

A WORKSHOP BY SEG INTERFACE COMMISSION FOR ENGAGED ANTHROPOLOGY

DECOLONIAL ENGAGEMENTS?

Exploring the
Intersections of
Engaged and
Decolonial
Anthropology



10-12 June
2023

Centre for Studies
of Society and
Culture Ascona

Organisers:

Doris Bacalzo, University of Lucerne
Peter Larsen, University of Geneva



Decolonial Engagements? Exploring the Intersections of Engaged and Decolonial Anthropology

The workshop explores decoloniality and anti-colonialism in the context of different forms of anthropological engagement addressing epistemology, methodology and their application. We seek to critically re-examine the kind of questions we deploy and the new challenges in our thinking and action. The aim is to shed light on the institutional, infrastructural and ideological interconnections as well as divergencies to scrutinize our decolonizing assumptions, claims and methods. What ideas, actions and innovations emerge at the intersections of decoloniality and engagement in the context of persisting inequities? The workshop gathers contributors from different corners on a shared journey in the Centro Incontri Umani.



Contributions

KEYNOTE: Decolonizing Methods and Practices in Engaged & Feminist Anthropology: Reflections from Andean Peru

Florence Evelyn Babb, Harrington Distinguished Professor of Anthropology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Contributions for a Committed and Decolonial Way to Support Indigenous Peoples

Marcos Andres Glauser Ortiz, Iniciativa Amotocodie / Global Environments Network

Shaping Shared Spaces

- **Reflections on the Engagement of an Organization for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples at the UN**
Karin Kaufmann, Incomindios
- **Hurdles of Decolonizing Engagements and Communication**
Nina Reuther, Incomindios

Decolonizing Development Aid: Challenges and Opportunities

Kristina Lanz, Alliance Sud & Divine Harrison, Filmmaker

Freeing Tibet: Sensing Neo-Coloniality through Multimodal Imaginaries of Tibetan Identity

Eda Elif Tibet, Wyss Academy / University of Bern & Loten Namling, Independent Musician

Engagement, Collaboration and Feminist Methods amidst Multiple Disasters: Reflections from Coastal Ecuador

Maja Jeranko, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Disentangling Daily Fundraising Practices of Local NGOs to Unravel Power Relations

Alexandrine Dupras, University of Geneva

Decolonial Engagement at Tiwanaku (Bolivia): Countermapping Indigenous Heritage and Ontological Conflicts in the Plurinational State

Francesco Orlandi, Bologna University

How Does Engaged Anthropology Enrich Transdisciplinary Research? Insights on the Anthropology of Collaborative Science

Bianca Vienni-Baptista, Transdisciplinarity Lab (TdLab) – D-USYS, ETH Zürich

What Happens when Engagement Fails? Exploring Decolonial Possibilities in Engaged Anthropology

Julieta Chaparro-Buitrago, Cambridge University

Recognising Incommensurability: Explorations, Disagreements, Aporias and Departures in Decolonising Work

Marisa Lazzari, University of Exeter

Experiencing the Decolonial: Teaching with Exhibitions and Collections

Leïla Baracchini, Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris

Museum Practice and Decolonial Engagements – a Contradiction? Reflections on the Potential and Challenges of Decolonial Curating

Fiona Siegenthaler, University of Basel; Linden-Museum, Stuttgart

What is Changing in Ethnographic Museums? Decolonial Engagements at the MEG

Roberta Colombo Dougoud, Musée d'ethnographie de Genève

Cuadro Vivo Workshop

Daniela Ferreira Gutierrez, Ximena Osorio Garate, Cindy Vanessa Cedeño Gonzalez & Valentina Ferreira Gutiérrez
La Trenza Collective

Decolonization and Reparatory Justice

Nana Haja, Salifu Dagarti Foundation; Global African Congress UK



About Interface Commission

The Interface Commission aims to increase the visibility and presence of engaged anthropology in the public sphere and promote engagement with and knowledge production about wider societal dynamics as a response to global challenges of our times. It seeks to foster communication and collaboration among anthropologists and broader publics. The goal is to transform the ways anthropologists process and mediate new knowledge and relationships on the ground. We seek to nurture engaged anthropology in Switzerland among science- policy-society with a collective voice and inter-face through dialogue and collective projects mediated by multi-modal ways of co-creation and participation.

Goals:

- Serve as a platform for discussing and exchanging ideas on how to make anthropology more visible and relevant for public debates.
- Showcase projects that cooperate with various stakeholders and public actors in Switzerland and abroad.
- Serve as a platform of discussion through which transformative ideas be implemented via alliances, coalitions and partnerships at individual to institutional levels.
- Provide resources and produce publications that would help anthropologists respond to challenges of higher education and wider societal concerns.
- Introduce new discourses and bridge narratives around engaged anthropology.
- Organise and host workshops, roundtables , conversations and summer schools that build capacity and strengthen the ecosystem in Switzerland around engaged anthropology.
- Support and mentor engaged anthropologists on how to interact with the media and communicate with the broader public.
- Serve as a collection of resources, a knowledge hub for most up to date and trailblazing visionary ideas.
- Promote unconventional, audio-visual and multi-modal ways of anthropological engagement.

Decolonial Workshop Organizers



Doris Bacalzo

University of Lucerne
dbacalzo@gmail.com



Peter Larsen

University of Geneva
peter.larsen@unige.ch