



REVISITING HISTORY AND ANTHROPOLOGY: FIELDWORK, ARCHIVE, TEMPORALITY

THURSDAY 25 & FRIDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2025

> [Geneva Graduate Institute, Maison de la Paix](#)

Organisers: Till Mostowlansky & Mischa Suter

While the disciplines of anthropology and history have developed in a reciprocal relationship of rapprochements, mutual borrowings and fierce annexations, more recently, explicit reflection on this relationship have become rare. Anthropologists engage with temporality, the past, and the archive without necessarily making recourse to historiography. Historians, as they engage in reflections on globalizations – past and present – often ignore anthropology's conceptual toolkit. However, there are at least two areas in which a cross-disciplinary engagement is promising. For both anthropology and history, an engagement with each other enlarges an understanding of temporality, both with respect to frames of analysis and ways of narrating scholarship. Such an engagement also expands spaces of scholarly analysis that are defined by fieldwork and the archive, i.e., employing archival methods for fieldwork as well as conceptualizing the archive as a field-site.

This workshop, addressing graduate students in both anthropology and history, aims to explore this constellation from two perspectives: 1. the workshop seeks to engage the participants in discussions on the role of history in anthropological approaches to social worlds. 2. participants analyze, employing an anthropological view of historical research, the timeliness and situatedness of their own research projects in the present.

Furthermore, the workshop will address, amongst others, the following questions: What role can fieldwork play in historical work? What might be the position of the archive in anthropological research? How can we think about change over time in anthropological research and how should we reflect on the presence of the present in historiographical work?

THURSDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

9:30 - 9:55 INTRODUCTION: REVISITING HISTORY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

Presenter:

TILL MOSTOWLANSKY, ANSO, Geneva Graduate Institute / Urban Studies, Kyiv School of Economics

10:00 - 10:45 KEYNOTE: TREE TIME BETWEEN HISTORY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

Presenter:

DAVID HENIG, Cultural Anthropology, Utrecht University

COFFEE BREAK

11:00 - 12:50 PANEL 1: TRACING HISTORIES THROUGH BUILT ENVIRONMENTS

POL LLOPART I OLIVELLA, ANSO, Geneva Graduate Institute

> "A Vakuf City Named Market": Historical Consciousness and the Morality of Exchange among Humanitarians in Novi Pazar, Serbia

LETIZIA GAJA PINOJA, IHP, Geneva Graduate Institute

> When the Archive Falls Silent: Reading Architecture as Historical Evidence

Discussants:

DAVID HENIG, Cultural Anthropology, Utrecht University
ERIC TAGLIACCOZZO, History, Cornell University

LUNCH

14:15 - 16:05 PANEL 2: RITUAL, MEMORY, AND NATION-BUILDING

ZARINA URMANBETOVA, ANSO, Geneva Graduate Institute

> Speeches, Service, and Society: Reimagining Traditional Toi as Sites of Moral Reform and Nation-Building

SHRIYA PATNAIK, IHP, Geneva Graduate Institute

> Exploring Historical Disruptions in the Quotidian Practices of Mahari Temple-Dancers in Postcolonial Odisha, while Juxtaposed with Oral Testimonies from the Community

Discussants:

DAVID HENIG, Cultural Anthropology, Utrecht University
ERIC TAGLIACCOZZO, History, Cornell University

FRIDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

9:30-10:15 KEYNOTE: MOBILE ISLAM ON A SOUTHEAST ASIAN FRONTIER: HISTORICAL AND ETHNOGRAPHIC NOTES

Presenter:

ERIC TAGLIACCOZZO, History, Cornell University

COFFEE BREAK

10:30 - 12:30 PANEL 3: FAITH, RESISTANCE, AND BELONGING IN THE WAKE OF EMPIRE

GULZHAN BEGEYEVA, ANSO, Geneva Graduate Institute

> Giving in the Wake of Empires: Reclaiming God and the Good in Kazakhstan

SAHELI CHATTERJEE, IHP, Geneva Graduate Institute

> Down Yangon's 40th Street: Remembering Repatriation and Resistance among Yangon's Bengali Minority

Discussants DAVID HENIG, Cultural Anthropology, Utrecht University

ERIC TAGLIACCOZZO, History, Cornell University

LUNCH
