

# Activity Report 2023



Impressions from the SAGS conference "Gender(ed) Labor" in Lausanne, September 14–15, 2023

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## 1. A short message from the president

SAGS, QUO VADIS? Where is SAGS heading to? I think this is a crucial question for any professional association, but I think it is particularly important for us: On the one hand, we are a relatively young professional association compared to others under the 'umbrella' of SAGW. On the other hand, our focus on Gender Studies often places us at the centre of political and emotional tornados, as we've seen again in the past year. I would like to highlight three activities that shed light on the direction SAGS is taking. Clearly, the picture I am painting is subjective. I would like to put it 'out there' for discussion.

Firstly, I was very pleased that we were again able to organise in 2023 a one-day retreat, as we have done in the past. It is extremely important for us to join forces once a year and think together about the visions of Gender Studies in Switzerland, its position within the academic landscape and the strategic direction we as SAGS would like to give it. At this year's retreat, one of the main issues we discussed was the training and supervision of PhD students in gender studies. This is a point where it becomes clear how gender studies have developed in recent years: on the one hand, Gender Studies have become established as a discipline with a wide range of highly specialised approaches, concepts and theories. On the other hand, Gender Studies are also becoming more firmly anchored within established disciplines in the social sciences, so that PhD theses may not be directly associated with Gender Studies but with other disciplines such as Sociology or History. However, it seems to me that this double strategy has a particular potential for producing insights and knowledge about gender issues in society: A field of specialists in Gender Studies doing cutting-edge research, often PhDs, and a field of generalists in Gender Studies analysing these issues within their disciplinary traditions. Both are equally important to advance knowledge on gender issues.

Second, SAGS has been holding a conference every two years since 2010. The 2023 conference was the 7th of these biennial events. The first conference in 2010 was rather modest but undeniably significant. Comparing it to this year's conference, the differences are striking. In 2010, there were no concurrent panel sessions and the entire programme was in German. In 2023, we had up to 8 or 9 concurrent panels and the conference was conducted in three languages. In short, I think this underlines the tremendous growth of and interest in Gender Studies in Switzerland over the last 13 years. There is in addition one aspect that needs to be emphasised when we ask ourselves the question of 'SAGS quo vadis': All previous SAGS conferences were held in German-speaking Switzerland (with one exception in Germany itself). So 2023 was our first conference in French-speaking Switzerland - a milestone for a professional association that sees itself as covering the whole of Switzerland. I am very grateful to the organising team at the University of Lausanne for making this historic milestone possible. However, not only did our conference take place in Lausanne, but when we looked at the programme, the keynote speakers and the panel discussions, it became clear that French speakers were actively represented. I am very pleased with this development of the SAGS conference for many reasons, but there's one aspect I'd like to emphasise: I've always truly believed that the debates, the themes and the theoretical orientations differ between the linguistic regions and this became very clear when we listened to the keynote speakers - two from France (Céline Besière and Sibylle Gollac) and one from the USA (Jane Ward). They represent very different historical and current traditions in and of Gender Studies. In other words, despite our increasing reliance on English, I think that these historical traditions continue to shape our

perspectives on Gender Studies. As a multilingual association in Switzerland, I see this as a potential strength. We can use these differences in fruitful ways, especially in terms of theory building. These differences, once acknowledged and explored, have the potential to move us forward together in Gender Studies (and yes, Italian is still missing, as is Ticino, we are trying to work on that).

Finally, I have the great pleasure to announce that two new research networks have been accepted by SAGS in 2023, GRAU (Globalisation, Race and Alterity within and beyond the University) and rag (Research Art Gender). We have been trying to strengthen our thematic research networks for some time, because these research networks are central to our association: firstly, because they reflect important scientific and social research themes. At the same time, these research networks offer the opportunity to address new questions and new approaches, and thus to conduct innovative research while contributing to important changes in our society.

I am convinced that SAGS is on the right track. I would like to thank all the people who are supporting us to move forward, with their intellectual ideas, their engagement, commitment and their critical spirits!

29.1.2023, Neuchâtel, Janine Dahinden, President of SAGS

## **2. SAGS Board and Membership**

### ***Board and members, elections, and general assembly***

By the end of 2023, seventeen board members represented nine Swiss universities, two language regions, and a wide range of disciplines and positions. The board met three times in 2023. Additionally, as in previous years, the board members held a one-day retreat in June 2023.

With 85 new members joining and 27 members leaving in 2023, SAGS counted 370 members on December 31, 2023. This represents an increase of 58 members compared to 2022. Of the 85 new members, 65 joined as part of their registration to the SAGS conference in Lausanne.

The General Assembly of the members of SAGS took place on November 3, 2023, from 4.30 pm to 6 pm, at the University of Neuchâtel and online. In the by-elections for the term 2023–2024, the 24 members present at the General Assembly elected several new members of the board and the two auditors:

We bid farewell to some members who withdrew from the board in 2023: Clara Guardado, Anne Lavanchy, and Katharina Pelzelmayer. We thank them for their work with SAGS.

A warm welcome to our new committee members: Laurence Bachmann (HETS Geneva), Virginia León Torrez (UZH), Bianca Prietl (Unibas), and Liliane Meyer-Pitton (FemWiss)!

Our two auditors also withdrew from their positions in 2023: Many thanks to Kristina Schulz and Béatrice Ziegler for their long-term commitment to SAGS.

Dina Bolokan (University of Münster) and Sabine Kradolfer (HES-SO) are elected as new auditors.

We look forward to working with our new board members and auditors!

An important vote at the General Assembly concerned a change of statutes. In the General Assembly of 2022, the members approved a one-year trial phase for a change in membership fees. We did not lose members because of this, and the influx of fees increased. The newly approved fees help sustain our steadily increasing activities.

*Table 1: Board members, 2023*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Function</b>
Janine Dahinden	President, University of Neuchâtel
Dominique Grisard	Vice-President, University of Basel & CSR
Michèle Amacker	University of Berne
Nathalie Amstutz	FHNW, Olten
Sébastien Chauvin	University of Lausanne
Bettina Dennerlein	University of Zurich
Ilana Eloit	University of Geneva
Clara Guardado	Public Relations, University of Zurich
Anne Lavanchy	HETS, Geneva
Matthias Luterbach	Treasurer, University of Basel
Katrin Meyer	University of Zurich
Katharina Pelzelmayer	FemWiss
Marion Schulze	University of Basel
Anna Sommer	Gender Campus
Fleur Weibel	Think Tank Gender & Diversity
Gina Wirz-Suárez	Public Relations, IHEID, Geneva

*Table 2: Board members, 2024*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Function</b>
Janine Dahinden	President, University of Neuchâtel
Dominique Grisard	Vice-President, University of Basel & CSR
Michèle Amacker	University of Berne
Nathalie Amstutz	FHNW, Olten
Laurence Bachmann	HETS, Geneva
Sébastien Chauvin	University of Lausanne
Bettina Dennerlein	University of Zurich
Ilana Eloit	University of Geneva
Virginia León Torrez	University of Zurich
Matthias Luterbach	Treasurer, University of Basel
Katrin Meyer	University of Zurich
Liliane Meyer-Pitton	FemWiss
Bianca Prietl	University of Basel
Marion Schulze	University of Basel
Anna Sommer	Gender Campus
Fleur Weibel	Think Tank Gender & Diversity
Gina-Wirz-Suárez	IHEID, Geneva

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## 3. Scientific Activities

### 3.1. SAGS Publication Series "Gender Issues"

We are delighted that the SAGS book series "Gender Issues" – we took over the series' editorial direction in January 2020 – has been productive in 2023 and will be even more so in 2024. Books are peer reviewed and open access.

Two new members joined the editorial board of directors this year:

Ilana Eloit, sociologist and historian, Institute of Gender Studies, University of Geneva

Faten Khazaei, sociologist and intersectionality scholar, Department of Social Sciences, Northumbria University

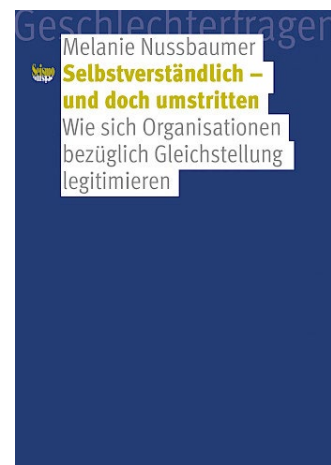
Welcome! Their expertise will contribute to broadening the thematic scope of the book series. The board currently comprises 8 members from five disciplines and 7 universities.

Newly published in the "Gender Issues" series in 2023 were:

#### **Melanie Nussbaumer: "Selbstverständlich und doch umstritten. Wie sich Organisationen bezüglich Gleichstellung legitimieren"**

This timely open access publication can be found [online](#) and in bookstores. The book is based on Nussbaumer's dissertation which she conducted as part of a trinational research project at FHNW and successfully defended at the University of Basel (supervision by Prof. Dr. em. Andrea Maihofer). Congratulations, Melanie!

Excerpt from the abstract: The analysis shows which gender equality goals are deemed legitimate and how these are presented as a matter of course in a first step. Many organizations support gender equality in principle in order to meet a perceived social expectation. The controversial nature of the topic comes to light when the measures for achieving the goals are discussed in more detail. A systematic problem analysis of existing gender inequalities is often not carried out. However, as Melanie Nussbaumer argues in the study, an understanding of structural inequalities would be necessary to be able to take targeted measures.

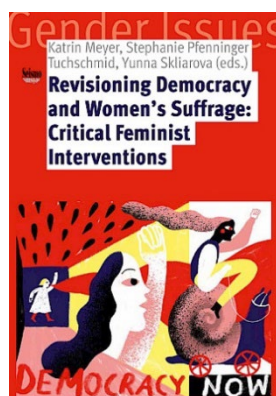


### **Julien Debonneville: Devenir travailleuse domestique. Perspectives philippines**

Debonneville is currently a senior researcher at University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland. This book expands on his dissertation on processes of sexualization and racialization of Filipina women as they go through recruitment, training and deployment as migrant domestic workers. Congratulations, Julien!



Excerpt from the abstract: How do women from the Philippines enter the globalized economy of domestic work? Based on this question, Debonneville examines the workings of globalized domesticity, in order to understand how migratory and professional commitments are constructed and nourished over time and space. To this end, the survey analyzes the biographical trajectories of Filipino domestic workers. From a gender perspective, the book highlights how the relationship to qualification is shaped by transnational migration in multiple spaces and temporalities.



There are several more manuscripts announced for spring 2024, among them the anthology "Pauvres, immorales et contraintes. Les adversités des mères célibataires en Suisse" by Thierry Delessert et. al. and notably also "Revisoning Democracy and Women's Suffrage: Critical Feminist Interventions" by Katrin Meyer et. al., an anthology based on the 2021 SAGS conference at the University of Zurich. As you can see from the cover of "Revisoning Democracy", our book series newly

allows for the inclusion of cover images if so desired by editors and authors.

We are more than pleased that we received excellent new submissions this year. We encourage authors to celebrate their new publications with book launches. Our collaboration with publishing house Seismo, SAGW and SNSF has been very positive.

### **3.2. SAGS conference Gender(ed) Labor**

The Gender(ed) Labor conference at the University of Lausanne was a milestone for our association in many respects. In addition to the strong representation of gender research in the French speaking part of Switzerland and the presence of different theoretical traditions of Gender Studies, it also was a record in terms of participation and new members joining SAGS. It also showed the international reach and connectedness of our association. While almost 75% of the registrations came from Switzerland, there was also a quarter of participants from around the world: Europe, the Americas, Asia and Africa.

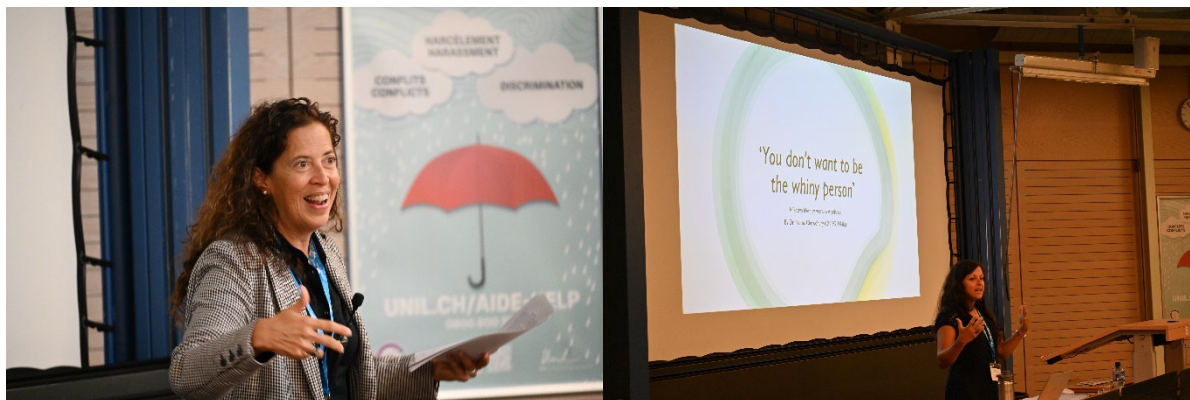
The conference was trilingual, mixing French, English, and German, with the aim of encouraging exchanges between the German and French-speaking parts of Switzerland. As

a result, the conference hosted 6 English panels, 6 French panels, 2 German panels, 2 trilingual panels and 18 bilingual panels.



The two keynotes were among the highlights of the conference: Céline Bessière and Sibylle Gollac presented their work on "The Gender of Capital. How Families Perpetuate Wealth Inequality" and Jane Ward spoke about "The Tragedy of Heterosexuality in Global Context." The conference closed with a round table in French on the relationship between Gender Studies and feminist commitments.

The conference also highlighted the SAGS Research Networks, as part of our attempts to strengthen their visibility within the association. Four of them organized a thematic panel, and the RN Feminism, Marxism and Decoloniality and the RN Affects, Feelings and Emotions both presented a semi-plenary keynote on Friday. These keynotes were followed by an informal networking lunch, giving participants the opportunity to exchange ideas and deepen their discussions.



### **3.3. Brigitte Schnegg Prize**

Every two years it is our great honor as SAGS to be able to award outstanding academic work contributing to political and social change. The Brigitte Schnegg Prize (CHF 2000.-) was created in honor of Prof. Dr. Brigitte Schnegg who directed the Interdisciplinary Center for Gender Studies at the University of Bern until her unexpected death in spring 2014.

A big thank you to the 2023 jury for their longstanding dedication and engagement: Prof. Dr. Nathalie Amstutz, Lilian Fankhauser, Dr. Dominique Grisard, Virginia León Torrez, Prof. Dr. em. Andrea Maihofer, Dr. Liliane Meyer Pitton, and Prof. Dr. em. Doris Wastl Walter.



In 2023, the jury of the Brigitte Schnegg Prize awarded two researchers for their outstanding work: Fiona Friedli for her dissertation *Régulation des relations familiales et reproduction de l'ordre de genre : des transformations du droit à la justice en action* and Rachel Huber for her dissertation published as *Die Frauen der Red-Power-Bewegung. Die Bedeutung von Born-digital-Selbstzeugnissen für unsichtbare Akteurinnen in der Erinnerungskultur*. At the award ceremony on 3.11.2023 in Neuchâtel (and online), Friedli and Huber both gave talks on their research. Congratulations, Fiona and Rachel!



Please visit our [website](#) to read about our winners and their excellent work.

### **3.4. Curating Difference**

For the first time, SAGS participated in the SAGW scheme "Cultural Participation" with the event "Curating Difference – Different Curating?" at Kunstmuseum Basel on Dec. 4, 2023. SAGW supported the event with a generous CHF 5000.-

In the quest for gender equality in the visual arts, the goal of the research lab (by invitation only) and public long tables discussion was to critically reflect the main findings of the pilot study "Gender relations in the Swiss cultural sector" (Zimmermann et al. 2021) and the current endeavor of developing a gender and diversity monitoring for Swiss cultural institutions.

Research lab: We invited 30 leading women\* in the visual arts, e.g. directors and head curators of Swiss art museums, freelance curators, cantonal and national cultural officers, professional associations for visual artists and curators. We first presented findings from current research on gender relations in the Swiss cultural sector. Together we addressed persisting challenges, changing notions of leadership and curation, and necessary coalitions and supportive structures. The discussion was guided by a common interest in defining the tools needed to intervene and transform art institutions from the inside – on a personal and structural level.

Long table discussions: About 80 persons attended this public event in the evening and discussed on themes such as leadership and power, networks and coalitions, powerful allies and support structures and curating differently, at one of five tables. The tables were moderated by Yasmin Afschar, Dr. Katharina Brandl, Kadiatou N. Diallo, Dr. Elena Filipovic, Prof. Dr. Marianne Guarino-Huet, Dr. Katrin Grögel, Dr. Irene Maag, Kabelo Malatsie, Prof. Dr. Dorothee Richter and Ana Vujić. Every 20 minutes participants could switch to a different table.

The event showed the need for feminist networks in the visual arts and for spaces where museum directors, employed and freelance curators, artists, scholars, activists and state actors can convene to discuss on equal footing. The event exuded such an atmosphere of optimism that a similar event will take place in Zurich in spring 2024.

### **3.5. Participation in the consultation process on the ERI message 2025–2028**

The SAGS board has issued a statement in the context of the consultation process on the message on the Promotion of Education, Research and Innovation (ERI message). Our statement can be viewed [here](#) (in German).

In a nutshell, SAGS generally supports the ERI Dispatch 2025-28. As a specialized scientific society, we welcome the strong commitment to strengthening science, education and innovation. We also welcome that "equality of opportunity" is recognised as a transversal theme in the promotion of science, education and innovation. Furthermore, we also support the demand to think of equal opportunities in intersectional terms and to consider other dimensions of social inequality besides gender.

Yet, from the perspective of SAGS, the following aspects urgently need to be added to the ERI Dispatch:

- 1) An increase in funding for the ERI sector and no reduction in funding for the basic tasks of the of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences
- 2) Application-oriented and basic research projects on equal opportunities and gender equality with an intersectional approach
- 3) Sustainable structural institutionalization of gender research in Switzerland.
- 4) Gender as a transversal perspective of BFI.

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## **4. Research Networks**

We are pleased that the number of our research networks – they are the backbone of SAGS – continues to grow. Currently, SAGS has 6 research networks, with two new ones joining us in 2023, GRAU and rag.

At the 2023 conference in Lausanne, for the first time, our research networks were directly involved in the programming and were accorded a special place in the programme. For example, there were two "semi-plenaries" organised by the networks, and there were also special sessions dedicated to the thematic and theoretical specialisations of the research networks. In addition, during the General Assembly, we invited our networks to present

themselves briefly. The picture that emerged was overwhelming: Gender Studies is on the move!

Of course, our networks are open to new members and you can still [initiate new research networks](#) - just contact us!

#### **4.1. Affects, Feelings and Emotions**

In 2023, the research network focused its activities on the SAGS conference in September. On the one hand, we organised an interdisciplinary panel with contributions from scholars with an interest in affect studies. We also organised a semi-plenary with a presentation by Dr Nilima Chowdhury entitled "You don't want to be the whiny person – Affective identity work in academia." The presentation was followed by a discussion and sharing of personal experiences of the challenges of affective work in academia by the audience.

Since the conference, six new members have joined the research network. A workshop was held in November. We have reorganised the structure of the regular meetings. From 2024, there will be an annual meeting lasting one to one and a half days. These meetings will provide a space for a more intensive exchange of expertise, where members can gain insights into each other's work and exchange ideas informally. The first such meeting at the intersection of Gender Studies and research on affects, feelings and emotions will take place on 2–3 May at the University of St. Gallen.

*Isabelle Albisser for the [research network](#)*

#### **4.2. Transformation of Masculinities (TransforMen)**

The research network "Transformations of Masculinities (TransforMen)" is an interdisciplinary and cross-institutional and location-independent research group. It aims to strengthen and make more visible critical studies on men and masculinities in Switzerland. More information is available [online on the SAGS website](#).

In 2023, the research network continued its work and at the same time expanded the form of networking. At the beginning of May, Giulia Valsecci gave insight into her current research by discussing her project with the group. The group has prepared larger projects for the autumn: It organized a panel for the research network at the SAGS conference in Lausanne in September. The title of our panel was "Ambivalence, suffering and beyond: Men engaging with gender equality". Three exciting presentations by Julia Nentwich, Anika Thym, and Matthias Luterbach discussed aspects of current social change in masculinities from different perspectives. The panel differentiated and empirically substantiated the controversial discussion in research on the transformation of masculinities. The focus was on the empirical topics of the workplace and the family. The research network was also present at the conference with a poster. Other group members (Laura Bernasconi & Carole Ammann) presented their work in other panels.

In December, Diana Baumgartner and Markus Theunert organized an interesting exchange and networking meeting between TransforMen and the organization manner.ch. First, members of our group presented overviews of past and current research on men and masculinities in Switzerland, Germany, and English-speaking contexts. Second, Markus Theunert, the president of manner.ch, gave an input on programs, actors, and contact

points related to the work with men in Switzerland. Third, all the present members of TransforMen presented briefly their current research. Finally, we exchanged ideas on possible future collaborations.

The group welcomed new members in 2023. We also decided to meet only twice a year and to focus on a major project, namely the organization of a conference in 2026. We're happy that the organizational work is distributed across several shoulders and that there are initiatives from different people. Interested people are always welcome to join the group.

*Matthias Luterbach, Carole Ammann and Anika Thym for the [research network](#)*

### **4.3. Feminisms, Marxism and Decoloniality – FMD**

In 2023 we continued with monthly hybrid meetings and welcomed a new member in the group, Maia Ober (Universität Bern).

This was a year with different activities, such as the presentation at the Latin American Studies Association Conference 2023 ("Thinking, representing, and fighting for rights"). Under the Feminism and Gender Studies panel, we discussed the topic "Unveiling hegemonic narratives: Violence in the uterus, in the family, in the state." Within the SAGS 2023 Conference "Gender(ed) Labor" we conducted the panel of the Research Network FMD with the moderation of Gina Wirz (Graduate Institute, Geneva), and the conduction of its semi-plenary presented by Valeria Esquivel (United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, Geneva). We also organized the workshop "Gender Violence and the University Space: Situated Reflections" with the support of the SAGS and the University of Bern (Center for Global Studies) and the public lecture of Rocío Moltoni (Center for Feminist and Gender Studies, National University of Rosario, Argentina). During the workshop the members of the FMD Research Network were able to discuss their works in progress and receive feedback from the guest lecturer who specializes in Gender Studies.

With the aim of continuing with our activities in 2024, we are attending the Latin American Studies Association Conference 2024 ("Reaction and Resistance: Imagining Possible Futures in the Americas"), which will take place in Bogotá, Colombia. With the title "Between resistance and collective snapping: fictions and practices as works of political action" we will be presenting a panel with interdisciplinary discussions that involve researchers in Latin American Studies working with gender perspectives in Switzerland.

*Virginia León Torrez and Gina Wirz-Suárez for the [research network](#)*

### **4.4. Gender and Political Science**

In our second year, we were successful in increasing the number of memberships to over 30 and have now a very diverse and vibrant community of researchers. The highlight in our RN was a two-day paper workshop for which we acquired funding from the University of Bern's early career fostering programme. Under the title "Close the gaps: Connecting Political Science & Gender Studies" we gathered fourteen members of our RN at the University in Bern in October 2023. Each member had ample time to present a piece of written work they wanted feedback on. Formats ranged from thesis chapters, to draft papers, book chapters and funding proposals.

Most importantly, the two days demonstrated the wide range of academic expertise in the RN. Our members' research ranges from studying (feminist) social movements and algorithms with a feminist lens, to applying feminist international relations approaches to war and security and gendered practices in times of conflict. We were very pleased to have Prof. Eléonore Lépinard (University of Lausanne) with us on the first day to provide the paper presenters with feedback. In her keynote, Prof. Lépinard shared valuable insights on the development of research at the intersection of Political Science and Gender Studies in other contexts like the US, Canada and France and compared it with Switzerland to show us what future directions our RN could take.



Overall, this workshop contributed to consolidating the RN and to fostering longer-term collaborations. We still accept new members on a rolling basis and would love to hear from you!

*Leandra Bias for the [research network](#)*

#### **4.5. Globalization, Race, and Alterity within and beyond the University**

GRAU was created this year (2023), with a heightened sensitivity to issues related to otherness. It is a group meant to help elaborate work on the social and material effects of globalizing processes. As a result, GRAU is trying to approach these themes critically through different theoretical research initiatives that nourish the individual interests of members, while contributing to the ensemble of fruitful scholarly exchange. In this context, GRAU has begun to structure the foundations of the group in terms of its objectives, values and the potential contributions it could make to society at different levels: theoretical and practical both inside and outside the academy. The group's foci are therefore to change over time, based on the evolving priorities of its members, but its common thread is to contribute to important discussions on how racism, mobilities and additional intersecting realities of otherness such as sexuality, (dis)abilities and gender shape the lives of young scholars in and beyond Switzerland and the University. For this reason, it is always open to welcoming new members who wish to collaborate and help shape the space.

Members presented their research at the SAGS 2023 annual conference, as well as attended the General Assembly, which served as a venue to formally present the research network. GRAU is also proud to have representation on the SAGS board.

GRAU also applied for funding administered by UNIL's Plateforme en études genre (PlaGe) meant to support organizing events at UNIL. The group wanted its inaugural event to be a workshop retreat that centers marginal voices and explores the themes of academic precarity and mobilities today. Though unsuccessful, GRAU speaks the language of resilience fluently and members see this as a learning experience. They plan to resubmit an amended version of this application (while tapping into other funding sources) to hold the event in the last week of June 2024. GRAU asks members of SAGS to stay tuned and looks forward to an exciting 2024.



Some of GRAU founding members meeting on-site in Lausanne on January 28, 2024.

*Kwaku Adomako and Mariel Cabral for the [research network](#)*

#### **4.6. RAG**

The trinational (Austria, Germany, Switzerland) network research art gender rag is a platform for exchange for scholars at universities and universities of applied arts. rag connects the humanities, the social sciences and the arts in transdisciplinary ways and aims to contribute to the further development of gender perspectives in cultural studies, notably in design and the arts.

In 07/23 we formalized our affiliation with SAGS. We are also informally affiliated with the Austrian and German Associations for Gender Studies.

Our Steering Committee members are Anne-Berenike Rothstein (Konstanz, G); Doris Ingrisch (MDW, Vienna, AU), Andrea Zimmermann (IZFG, Bern), Christa Binswanger (HSG), Dominique Grisard (ZGS, Basel); Claudia Walkensteiner-Preschl (MDW, Vienna, AU).

In the past year we welcomed two new members: Aylin Tschoepe, FHNW; Sophie Voegele, ZHdK.

Past activities have been regular online meetings, the joint participation in a lecture series at HSG, and an inaugural meeting at CSR in Basel. We are currently devoting our meetings to organizing the conference "Möglichkeitsräume behaupten. Transdisziplinäre Dialoge zwischen Kunst und Leben" (working title) to be held at IKM Vienna from May 31–June 1, 2024.

We too welcome new members.

*Dominique Grisard for the [research network](#)*

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## 5. Outward Communication

In 2023, the Public Relations team, comprising Gina Wirz-Suárez and Virginia León Torrez, played a relevant role in SAGS' communications. Our efforts were instrumental in promoting SAGS events and effectively managing communications for the Conference SAGS 2023 "Gender(ed) Labor." Additionally, we focused on publicizing books of the SAGS book series "Gender Issues" published with Seismo, events organized by SAGS Research Networks, and contributions by the association members.

A key strategy for increasing SAGS's visibility in academic circles involved leveraging digital networks. The team skillfully utilized platforms such as X and Facebook, alongside publishing our esteemed Bulletin quarterly throughout the year. Notably, our presence on X (Twitter) witnessed a remarkable 32% growth in followership, gaining 248 new followers to reach a total of 1008. This audience comprises diverse academic professionals from across Switzerland, Europe, and other continents. Similarly, our Facebook engagements reached comparable heights, diversifying our social media impact. The content that garnered the most attention included updates on the SAGS 2023 Conference, job opportunities in Gender Studies, and the Brigitte Schnegg Award. To cater to Switzerland's multilingual landscape, our announcements were made in French, English, and German, ensuring broad reach across different linguistic and academic communities.

For a detailed overview of SAGS activities in 2023, see our Bulletins:

- [Bulletin SSEG-SGGF 2023 | 1](#)
- [Bulletin SSEG-SGGF 2023 | 2](#)
- [Bulletin SSEG-SGGF 2023 | 3](#)

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## 6. Cooperations, Networking & Anchoring of Gender Studies

### 6.1. Think Tank Gender & Diversity: FORUM Activities

The Think Tank Gender & Diversity pursues the goal of networking, developing, and promoting the vast knowledge and competencies created among higher education in the fields of gender, diversity and inclusion in cooperation with SAGS and Gender Campus. Since 2021, the Think Tank conducts the "Forum of Swiss Higher Education Institutions," which serves to network the 28 projects currently being carried out at Swiss universities from 2021–2024 as part of the swissuniversities P-7 programme "Diversity, Inclusion and Equity in Higher Education Development." Through topic-specific activities and collaborations, the forum supports Switzerland-wide knowledge building and transfer on diversity, understood as an intersectional interaction of inequality relations that can include gender, racialisation, sexuality, dis/ability, age, migration and class.

In 2023, the following public events took place:

March 2023, "Sexual Harassment Awareness Day"

<https://universities-against-harassment.ch/en/archiv/programm-2023>

April 2023, "Umgang mit Rassismus an Schweizer Hochschulen / Faire face au racisme dans les hautes écoles suisses"

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[https://www.gendercampus.ch/public/ttgd/Programm\\_Tagung\\_280423.pdf](https://www.gendercampus.ch/public/ttgd/Programm_Tagung_280423.pdf)

June 2023, "Inklusive Sprache in Literatur, Medien und Alltag / Langage inclusif dans la littérature, les médias et le quotidien"

<https://www.gendercampus.ch/de/ttgd/veranstaltungen>

September 2023, "First Generation Students. Soziale Herkunft und Bildungsgerechtigkeit an Schweizer Hochschulen / équité et origine sociale dans les hautes écoles suisses"

<https://agenda.unifr.ch/e/fr/13848>

October 2023, "The tool of sponsoring as a key to more equality in academia"

[https://www.gleichstellung.uzh.ch/de/news\\_events/events/tool\\_sponsoring\\_2023.html](https://www.gleichstellung.uzh.ch/de/news_events/events/tool_sponsoring_2023.html)

Forthcoming events 2024 and more information on the Think Tank Gender & Diversity:  
<https://www.gendercampus.ch/en/ttgd/the-think-tank-gender-diversity>

*Fleur Weibel for the Think Tank Gender & Diversity*

## **6.2. RINGS**

The 10<sup>th</sup> RINGS (International Research Association of Institutions of Advanced Gender Studies) conference and general assembly on the topic "Gender, Climate, Movement. Feminist Research and Activism meet Climate Change and Mobility" took place from October 18-20 online and in Paderborn, Germany, hosted by the Zentrum für Geschlechterstudien/Gender Studies, University of Paderborn. As RINGS contact person for the SAGS, Anika Thym participated in the conference and had the opportunity to present our association. She also visited the general assembly, where country reports were presented from the Netherlands, Estonia, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Brazil, Russia, Iceland, Germany, South Africa, Switzerland, Finland, and India on what is currently going on concerning gender research and gender equality and diversity in each context. Beside the intellectual exchange of the conference, RINGS offers support to gender studies institutions which are under threat.

RINGS welcomes internship applications (sent to the Co-Chairpersons). Unfortunately, there is no remuneration for this position.

Individuals and/or institutes based in Switzerland who would like to join the SAGS-RINGS group can email Anika Thym. Institutional membership directly with RINGS can be addressed to the Co-Membership Secretaries. RINGS contact information can be found here: <http://ringsgender.org/contact>. RINGS particularly welcomes new member institutions from regions which are so far underrepresented.

*Anika Thym ([anika.thym\(at\)unibas.ch](mailto:anika.thym(at)unibas.ch)), liaison person to RINGS*

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## **7. Awards received by SAGS members**

We congratulate Dr. Leandra Bias for having received the Joni Lovenduski PhD Prize for the best dissertation in the field of Gender and Politics by the [European Consortium for Political Research](#).



## 8. Impressum

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