

Inequalities in Access to Higher Education

Racism, Classism, and the Experiences of First-Generation Students and Scholars



When: September 15, 16:30-18:30h

Where: Kuppelraum, Main building, Hochschulstrasse 4

Event Programme

Input: Inequality in the education system

by **Simone Marti and Sherin Attoun**

Input: Racism and classism in the higher education context

by **Narku Laing**

Podium und Discussion: Anina Mathivannan (Moderation),

with **Tanisha Pandey, Vasiliki Valsamidou, Ali Sonay and Shasime Osmani**

The event is taking place as part of the IZFG's 25th anniversary celebrations.

[Register here](#)



In Switzerland, we still do not talk enough about how social background and systemic racism intersect to shape educational opportunities. Yet it is evident that not everyone has equal access to higher education. Alongside structural and institutional barriers, racism, class, and social background continue to have a profound impact on who is able to pursue and succeed in higher education.

While 74.6 per cent of the Swiss resident population come from families in which no one holds a higher education qualification, this figure drops to just 40.5 per cent among university students. Therefore, there is much to be learnt from the experiences of first-generation students and scholars.

This event will feature two lectures exploring the connections between educational inequality, racism, and classism. These will be followed by a panel discussion in which first-generation students and scholars will share their experiences, challenges, and visions for an inclusive higher education system and equitable access to higher education.

We warmly invite all members of the higher education community, as well as anyone interested in these issues, to join us for this discussion on educational equity.

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