



Swiss Society for African Studies
Société suisse d'études africaines
Schweizerische Gesellschaft
für Afrikastudien

SGAS/SSEA/SSAS
Zentrum für Afrikastudien
Rheinsprung 21
CH-4051 Basel
www.sagw.ch/africa

Research-Action Day

Combating Racism Against Black People

Date: 30.10.2026
Venue: University of Bern, Uni Tobler
Lerchenweg 36, Bern, room F021

Seeking to take a stronger position in the fight against anti-black racism, the Swiss Society for African Studies (SSAS) organizes a Research-Action Day. The SSAS considers collaboration between academics and activists to be essential, at a time when the challenges of living together are very frequently called into question in Switzerland. One of the pillars on which this structural racism rests is the colonial past of our country, which has been clearly identified by historians over the past decades. Whether it be the central place of the issue of immigration on the political agenda, the existence of everyday racism, racial profiling, or the portrayal of Africa and Africans as the absolute Other in children's literature—researchers argue that these phenomena can only be understood when analyzed together, as they constitute a postcolonial reality in Switzerland. This reality fuels the daily work of activists who are tackling its effects on the ground.

With this Research-Action Day, which includes presentations, debates, workshops, and the screening of a documentary, we want to create a platform for exchange and mutual support between scholars and members of civil society to develop strategies for action in both the short and long term.

Admission: Admission is free of charge. Everybody interested is welcome to join!

Registration: Please register before 16.10.2026 via our online form.
<https://forms.gle/HAoEzTcH1JgzQ5zy9>





Swiss Society for African Studies
Société suisse d'études africaines
Schweizerische Gesellschaft
für Afrikastudien

Program:

- 09:00 **Welcome** (room F021)
- 09:30 **Keynote: Rethinking African Studies: Whiteness and the Politics of Un/Belonging**
Danielle Isler, University of Bayreuth
- 10:40 **Actions and Stances of the Swiss Society for African Studies**
Discussion with board members
- 11:40 Break
- 12:00 **Remarks by Céleste Ugochukwu**
President of the African Diaspora Council of Switzerland (ACDS)
- 12:30 Lunch
- 13:30 **Concurrent workshops** (rooms F021 and F-021) on two topics emerging from the morning program
Moderators: Michel Ndeze (journalist RTS) & Elisa Da Costa (founder of AFROKAANA)
- 14:30 **Plenary: Summary of discussions and proposals, plenary discussion**
- 15:15 Break
- 15:30 **Film: Diaspora Diaries, followed by a discussion with the director**
Sarah des Rosiers, a Haitian-Canadian filmmaker in Basel, navigates questions of integration and belonging while discovering Switzerland's Black community.
- 17:00 **End of program**
- 17:30-19:00 **SSEA General Assembly**
- 19:15 **Dinner (not included)**