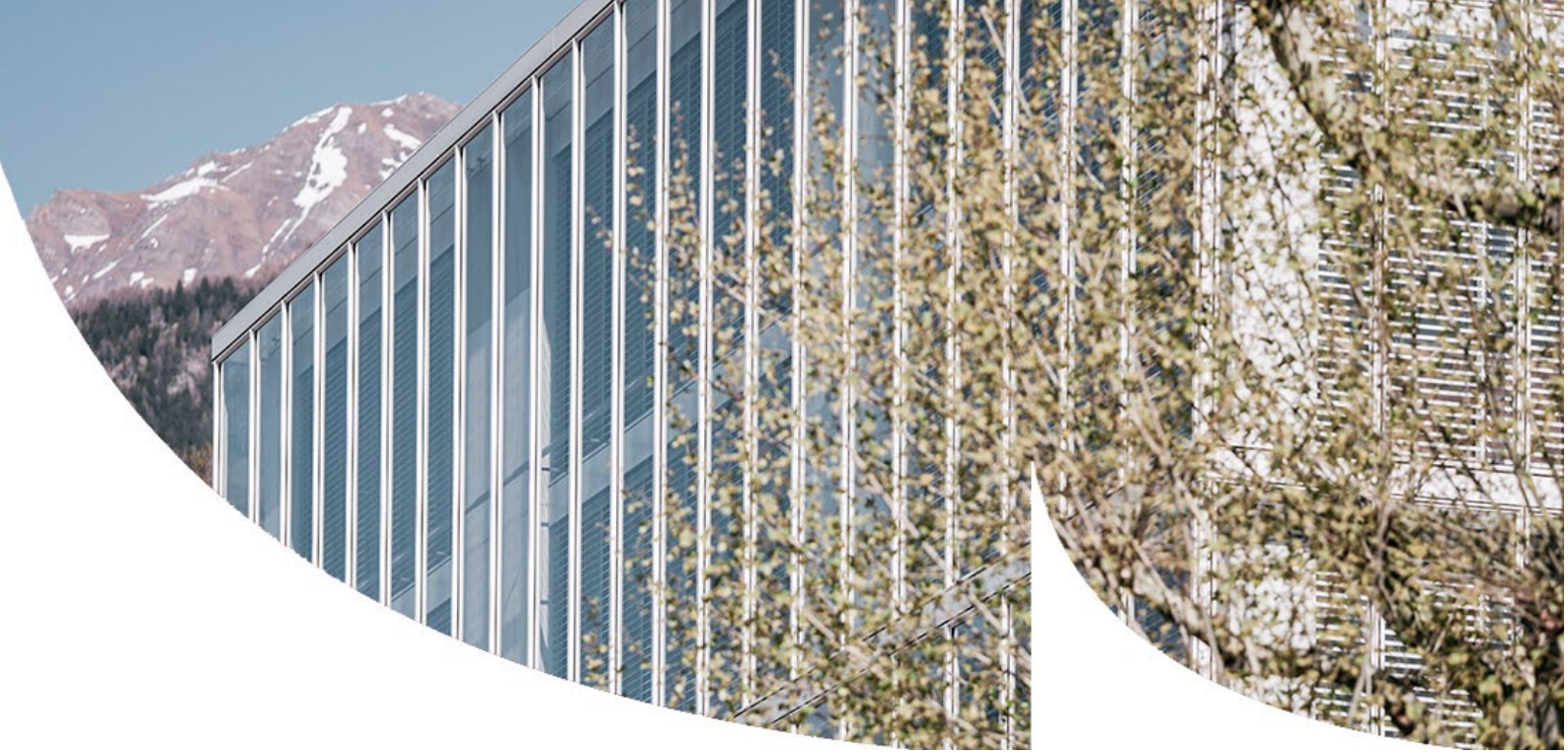

Conference

Rethinking Switzerland: What's next?

A get together to celebrate the end of the SNSF Eccellenza project ‘A collaborative History of global Switzerland’ and to see what’s next.

Participation is welcome online or in person. Please register here:

Registration form Rethinking Switzerland: What's next?

Please note: The program on Thursday (except for the round table) will not be live-streamed. Remote participants are very welcome to join the program on Wednesday and the round table on Thursday (16:45-18:00). We will send you the streaming link after registration.

9th and 10th December 2026

Aula, Campus UniDistance Suisse
Schinerstrasse 18, 3900 Brig

Programme

Wednesday 9 December 2026

09:30-10:00 Welcome Coffee

10:00-10:30 **What were the guiding ideas behind 'A collaborative history of Switzerland'?**

Bernhard C. Schär (UniDistance Suisse)

10:30-11:30 **Mission and Industry on the Malabar Coast**

Amal Shahid (University of Lausanne)

Responses: Dharika Viswanathan Athtray & Ella Müller (ETH Zurich) and Philippe Bornet (University of Lausanne)

11:30-11:45 Coffee break

11:45-12:45 **Mission and Mining in Southern Africa**

Bernhard C. Schär (UniDistance Suisse) and Fabio Rossinelli (University of Fribourg)

Responses: TBC

12:50-13:50 Lunch

14:00-15:15 **Motherhood, Slavery and Cacao Trading in Brazil**

Izabel Barros (UniDistance Suisse / University of Lausanne) and Michael Schmitz (UniDistance Suisse / University of Lausanne)

Responses: André Nicacio Lima (independent researcher)

15:15-15:30 Coffee break

15:30-17:00 **A collaborative History of Global Switzerland: What does that mean?**

Amal Shahid (University of Lausanne), Izabel Barros (UniDistance Suisse / University of Lausanne) and Bernhard C. Schär (UniDistance Suisse)

Moderators: Fabio Rossinelli (University of Fribourg) and Michael Schmitz (UniDistance Suisse / University of Lausanne)

17:45-19:45 **Elephants & Squirrels, Movie screening at Cinema Capitol, Furkastrasse 14, Brig**

20:00 **Conference Dinner**

Restaurant Conti, Furkastrasse 14, Brig

Thursday 10 December 2026

09:30-10:30 **War**

Inputs: Philipp Krauer (ETH Zurich) and Victoria Abrahamyan (UniDistance Suisse)

Responses: Fabio Rossinelli (University of Fribourg)

10:30-10:45 Coffee break

10:45-11:45 **Queering Gender**

Inputs: Patricia Purtschert (University of Berne) and Carolina Topini (Geneva Graduate Institute)

Responses: Yvonne Schüpbach (UniDistance Suisse)

11:45-12:00 Coffee break

12:00-13:00 **Coercion**

Inputs: Anouk Essayad (University of Fribourg) and Tanja Rietmann (University of Berne)

Responses: Alix Heiniger (University of Fribourg)

13:00-14:15 Lunch

14:15-15:15 **Right wing extremism and violence**

Inputs: Sarah Osman (University of Geneva) and Thanushiyah Korn (University of Berne)

Responses: Victoria Abrahamyan (UniDistance Suisse)

15:15-15:30 Coffee break

15:30-16:30 **Knowledge**

Inputs: Monique Ligtenberg (ETH Zurich) and Samuel Bachmann (Hist. Museum Basel)

Responses: Caroline Montebello (UniDistance Suisse)

16:30-16:45 Coffee break

16:45-18:00 **Round Table: Why write critical histories of Switzerland? Future directions.**

Fabio Rossinelli (University of Fribourg), Rohit Jain (Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Art), Alix Heiniger (University of Fribourg) and Patricia Purtschert (University of Berne)

Moderation: Izabel Barros (UniDistance Suisse / University of Lausanne) and Amal Shahid (University of Lausanne)