Interdisciplinary workshop with **Holly Fletcher** (UCL), **Carolin Schmitz** (Trier), Lavinia Gambini, and Andreas Berger.

Thursday & Friday
November 19–20, 2026
University of Bern, Mittelstrasse 43

Intersectional Things In The Early Modern World

Thursday | room 320

09.30–10.00
Meet & Greet

10.00–10.15
Lavinia Gambini & Andreas Berger (Bern)
Introduction

10.15–10.45
Coffee Break

10.45–11.30
Annika Bärwald (Bern)
Versatile, Invisible, & Almost Human: Horsehair and the Early Modern Household

11.30–12.15
Amelia Hutchinson (Deutsches Bergbau-Museum)
Between Rocks and a Hard Place: Risk, Body, and Landscape in the Mining Towns of Upper Hungary

12.15–13.15
Lunch (individual)

13.15–14.00
Hélène Dupraz Sancho (Bern)
What Do Sacred Bundles Do? Things, People, and Unequal Relations in Colonial New Spain

14.00–14.30
Coffee Break

14.30–15.15
Tamara Kobel (Bern)
Between Concealing and Revealing: Framing Mallquis and Christian Relics in Colonial Lima

15.15–16.00
Philipp Horn (Bern)
Fatou's Shoes: Intersectionality, Class-Making, and the Myth of Gendered Invisibility in African Archives

16.00–16.30
Coffee Break

16.30–17.30
Keynote: Carolin Schmitz (Trier)
Materia medica and *materia mágica*: Healing Objects and Their Providers across Boundaries of Legitimacy, Race, and Maritime Space

18.00
Dinner
at Restaurant Tulsi (Freiestrasse 65)

Friday | room 120

10.00–10.15
Welcome

10.15–11.00
Jakob Spengler (Bern)
Intersected Meanings? Patriotism, Romantic Love, and the Longing for Peace in a Wedding Shooting Target from the Helvetic Republic (1798–1803)

11.00–12.00
Keynote: Holly Fletcher (UCL, via Zoom)
Fat as Intersectional Matter in the Early Modern World

12.00–13.30
Lunch (at own expense)
at Halle 16 (Fabrikstrasse 16)

13.30–14.45
Claire Litt (I Tatti/Warburg)
A Splendid Deception: Fake Gems and Sumptuary Law in Early Modern Florence

14.45–15.30
Ariane Milicev (Bern)
Between Everyday Use and Artworks: The Social Role of Ceramics in Early Modern Istria

16.00
Informal Get-Together (optional)
at Berner Sternenmarkt

Saturday | optional, please RSVP

11.00–12.15
Pharmaziemuseum der Universität Basel, Basel
Guided Tour (please RSVP)

General Information

Organizers
Lavinia Gambini: lavinia.gambini@unibe.ch
Andreas Berger: andreas.berger-gehringer@unibe.ch

When?
November 19–20, 2026
09.30–17.30 (Thu)
10.00–15.30 (Fri)

Where?
University of Bern
Mittelstrasse 43, 3012 Bern
Rooms 320 (Thu) & 120 (Fri)

Participation & Registration
Participation is open to all interested students and members of the academic mid-level staff (Mittelbau). Please register by contacting either lavinia.gambini@unibe.ch or andreas.berger-gehringer@unibe.ch.

Format
The workshop consists of 10-minute talks, each followed by 35 minutes of discussion.

Language
The workshop will be held in **English**.

Lunch & Dinner
All registered participants are warmly invited to join us for dinner at Restaurant Tulsi on Thursday and lunch at Halle 16 on Friday. Please note that, unfortunately, we cannot cover meal costs for non-speakers. If you would like to join us for **dinner**, **please RSVP** (including allergies and dietary restrictions) **by November 12** to the organizers.

Afterglow
Those interested can round off the workshop with a stroll through the "Berner Sternenmarkt." Find more details here: www.bernersternenmarkt.ch.

Pharmaziemuseum der Universität Basel
Those interested can join us for a guided tour of the special exhibition "Fragile Masterpieces. Keramik in der Renaissance-Apotheke" at the Pharmaziehistorische Museum in Basel. **Please RSVP** and please note that while we will cover admission fees for all participants, we cannot cover travel expenses to Basel.

This workshop is generously supported by the Promotion Fund for networking activities for mid-level academic staff of the University of Bern.

WISSEN
SCHAFFT
WERT.

Image: Petrus Christus, A Goldsmith in His Shop (1449), The Metropolitan Museum of Art

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