

- Faculté des lettres et sciences humaines
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### Critical humanitarian and reflexive migration studies: solidarities in times of turmoil (ZZZ1009)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
<b>Pilier principal M ScS - anthropologie</b>	<b>Séminaire: 2 ph</b>	Voir ci-dessous	5
<b>Pilier principal M ScS - géographie humaine</b>	<b>Séminaire: 2 ph</b>	Voir ci-dessous	5
<b>Pilier principal M ScS - migration et citoyenneté</b>	<b>Séminaire: 2 ph</b>	Voir ci-dessous	5
<b>Pilier principal M ScS - migration et citoyenneté (EuMIGS)</b>	<b>Séminaire: 2 ph</b>	Voir ci-dessous	5
<b>Pilier principal M ScS - psychologie et éducation</b>	<b>Séminaire: 2 ph</b>	Voir ci-dessous	5
<b>Pilier principal M ScS - sociologie</b>	<b>Séminaire: 2 ph</b>	Voir ci-dessous	5
<b>Pilier secondaire M ScS - anthropologie</b>	<b>Séminaire: 2 ph</b>	Voir ci-dessous	5
<b>Pilier secondaire M ScS - géographie humaine</b>	<b>Séminaire: 2 ph</b>	Voir ci-dessous	5
<b>Pilier secondaire M ScS - migration et citoyenneté</b>	<b>Séminaire: 2 ph</b>	Voir ci-dessous	5
<b>Pilier secondaire M ScS - psychologie et éducation</b>	<b>Séminaire: 2 ph</b>	Voir ci-dessous	5
<b>Pilier secondaire M ScS - sociologie</b>	<b>Séminaire: 2 ph</b>	Voir ci-dessous	5

ph=période hebdomadaire, pg=période globale, j=jour, dj=semi-jour, h=heure, min=minute

#### Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Automne

#### Equipe enseignante

Professor Sabine Strasser, University of Bern - Prof Janine Dahinden, University of Neuchâtel

#### Contenu

Places are limited. Please register with [janine.dahinden@unine.ch](mailto:janine.dahinden@unine.ch), first come, first served.

In the 2000s, scholars in Europe were puzzled by the persistence of a shared sense of humanity in societies that were otherwise openly hostile to migrantized people. Despite exclusionary practices, European societies continued to collectively acknowledge and respond to human needs and suffering. Twenty years later, this puzzle must be reconsidered: Academic engagement with migration now faces de-democratizing governance and an authoritarian consensus in an increasing number of nation-states, with a particular focus on migration, sexual identity and gender as their main targets. Recent academic debates have brought the anti-migration, anti-queer and anti-gender politics of (il)liberal democracies to the forefront. Simultaneously in Europe and beyond, asylum seekers and other migrantized people are criminalized and confronted with fiercely repressive discourses on 'integration', deportation, anti-asylum, and the end of family reunification. In addition, migration and refugee studies have been criticized for reproducing hegemonic power relations and concomitant forms of social and political exclusion. Amidst this ongoing turmoil of political, economic, and humanitarian upheavals, migration studies is critically reassessing its own role in shaping these challenges, calling for greater reflexivity and a rethinking of its theoretical and methodological approaches. Facing these challenges, this course aims to critically examine current debates in humanitarian and migration studies. It does so by looking at the flipside of these developments. Concretely, we will focus on political solidarity as a concept and movement that seek to combat deterrence, deportation, and the criminalization of migration, while advocating for justice, equality, and inclusion. We will reflect on consequences and practices of implicated subjects, be it NGOs, migrantized people, individuals, state actors and so on.

#### Timetable and structure of the seminary

1. Tu 18.9. 2025; 16-18.00, University of Bern
2. Mo 06.10. 2025; 10-17.00, University of Bern
3. FR 17.10. 2025 10-17.00, University of Bern
4. Th 27. and Fr 28. 11. 2025; 10-17.00, University of Neuchâtel : Room R.S.38 - Espace Tilo-Frey 1
5. Fr 28. 11. 2025 Keynote speakers and Conference Dinner: Room R.S.38 - Espace Tilo-Frey 1 and Restaurant tbc

#### Forme de l'évaluation

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### **Critical humanitarian and reflexive migration studies: solidarities in times of turmoil (ZZZ1009)**

#### **Requirements**

1. Response papers for compulsory readings (max. 1 page): (20%)
2. Presentations will take place in a conference setting, including 20 minutes talks and 5-7 minutes discussion of a colleague's paper (discussant) (30%)
3. Conference proceedings (2000-30000 words) will be submitted 1 week ahead of the presentations, so that participants can read all papers and discussants can get prepared for their comments.

Results will be communicated latest during the exam session of January/February 2026

#### **Modalités de rattrapage**

2ième tentative: Submission of Conference Paper, deadline: January 15, 2026

#### **Documentation**

Moodle - to be coming soon

#### **Pré-requis**

The seminar is taking place in English

#### **Forme de l'enseignement**

Introduction, Sept 18

14:15-16.00

Introduction to the class. Program, requirements, topic and relevant theoretical strands

Session 1 and 2 in Bern, October 06 and October 17

10:15-17.00

Read the assigned compulsory texts

Bring your response papers to class

Participate in workshops and plenary discussions

Presentation and discussion of the Call for paper (CfP)

Session 3 and 4 in Neuchâtel, November 27 and 28

10:15-18:30

Conference: Solidarities in times of Turmoil: perspectives from critical humanitarian and reflexive migration studies

Invited Panels, Call for Papers

20 minutes presentation of conference papers written by students

5-7 minutes comments

Length of discussion according to timetable

Chair: Dahinden/Strasser/invited speakers

Discussants: All Students will discuss one or two papers

Key-note talks: 16:30 – 18:30

19:00 Apéro and Conference Diner