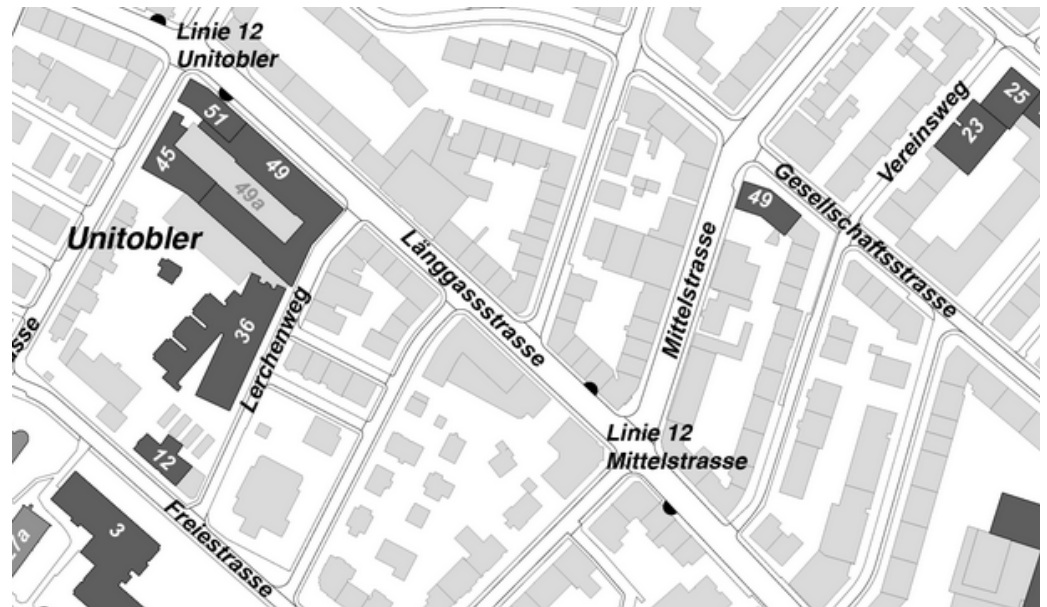


## Venue, registration and contacts



### Venue

Room F013, Uni Tobler, University of Bern, Lerchenweg 36, 3012 Bern

### Registration

Registration for the conference opens in March 2015. Please register for the conference until 16 October 2015 by using the online registration form (<http://form.jotforme.ch/form/50664161916355>).

A conference fee of CHF 50 will be charged at the registration desk on the day of the conference.

### Contacts

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saguf: Dr. Claudia Zingerli, saguf, ETH Zurich, 8092 Zurich, [saguf@env.ethz.ch](mailto:saguf@env.ethz.ch).

### Websites

Swiss Society for African Studies (sgas/ssea) [www.sagw.ch/africa](http://www.sagw.ch/africa)

Swiss Academic Society for Environmental Research and Ecology [www.saguf.ch](http://www.saguf.ch)

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[www.sagw.ch](http://www.sagw.ch)



Schweizerische Gesellschaft  
für Afrikastudien  
Société suisse d'études  
africaines

SGAS Conference 2015  
in cooperation with saguf

Participatory and Integrative  
Approaches in Researching  
African Environments –  
Opportunities, Challenges,  
Actualities in Natural  
and Social Sciences

University of Bern, 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2015

**u<sup>b</sup>**

**UNIVERSITÄT  
BERN**

Faculty of Humanities  
Institute of Social Anthropology



schweizerische akademische gesellschaft für umweltforschung und ökologie  
société académique suisse pour la recherche environnementale et l'écologie  
swiss academic society for environmental research and ecology

## Conference theme

Researching and managing natural environments increasingly involve the people inhabiting them. They are not only subjects actively shaping natural environments as cultural landscapes, they potentially also play key roles in the institutions (tenure rights, rules and regulations) governing access to and use of cultural landscapes. How does contemporary natural and social science research deal with the multitude of perspectives and interests? How can drivers such as environmental changes, political instability, power relations and economic pressures be consequently integrated without outweighing local perspectives? What can participatory, integrative and transdisciplinary approaches contribute to a more sustainable management of environments and use of natural resources?

The one-day conference brings together scholars from various disciplines and domains from natural and social sciences dealing with African environments as well as institution-building processes. Together they reflect on the way they perceive African environments and on the way they view how people in Africa as well as outsiders interact with environments and create, govern and transform them.

## Joint challenge and general questions

The papers selected for presentations emerge from different fields and deal with African environments at various levels and from multiple perspectives. A joint theme of all of them are the methodological challenges they face in pursuing participatory and integrative research approaches.

We invite all presenters and participants to think about two guiding questions as preparation for the conference.

- What are the characteristics of and how do you pursue a participatory and/or integrative research approach?
- What are the challenges and opportunities of participatory and integrative research approaches?

# Programme

- 8:30 Registration
- 9:15 Welcome and introduction  
*Tobias Haller, SGAS, and Claudia Zingerli, saguf*
- 9:30 Tackling Data Challenges in African Environmental Research: New opportunities and facing up to existing statistical tragedies  
*Daniel Brockington, University of Manchester*
- 10:15 Coffee Break
- 10:30 Desertification vs. Greening: Opportunities and Limitations of Remote Sensing for Ecological Studies  
*Cyrus Samimi, University of Bayreuth*
- Scarcity of land – between material facts and socio-political narratives  
*Brice Prudat et al., University of Basel*
- Transdisciplinary systems research to develop a holistic approach to reduce the spread and impact of cocoa swollen shoot virus disease in Ghana (TransdisCSSVD)  
*Christian Andres et al., ETH Zurich and FiBL*
- 12:30 Standing Lunch
- 13:30 Limiting soil degradation in West African Yam belt through a participatory integrative and transdisciplinary research  
*Delwendé Innocent Kiba et al., ETH Zurich*
- Energy and the Environment in Sub-Saharan Africa: Household perceptions of Improved Cookstoves  
*Charlotte Ray et al., University of Nottingham*
- Fishing for food and food for fish: negotiating long term, sustainable food and water resources in a transdisciplinary research project in Burkina Faso  
*Gabriele Slezak et al., University of Vienna*
- 15:00 Coffee Break
- 15:30 Reverse Thinking and Action Research  
*Shuichi Oyama, Kyoto University*
- Panel Discussion  
*Moderation by Tobias Haller and Claudia Zingerli*
- 17:30 Closure
- 18:15 Annual Assembly of SGAS

