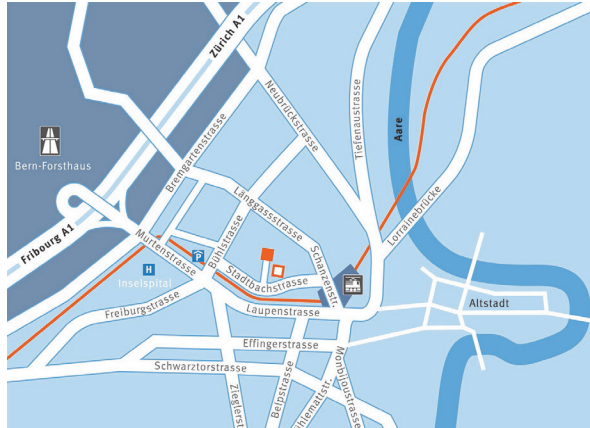## Further Information

Venue
Swiss National Science Foundation
Wildhainweg 21, Bern

By train: Leave Bern train station via the "Welle" pedestrian overpass above platforms 1–13. As soon as you have negotiated the two flights of stairs, turn left and follow the train tracks along Stadtbachstrasse. After about 300 m, Wildhainweg branches off to the right. The conference will take place at the Plenary Hall, Wildhainweg 21. Walking time: 5 minutes.

By car: Leave the A1 Zurich–Lausanne–Geneva motorway at the Bern Forsthaus exit and continue on straight until you reach the Insel Spital parking on your left. Immediately after, turn left, cross the bridge, and turn right. After about 300 m, Wildhainweg branches off up a steep street to your left. A very limited number of parking spaces is available.

Registration requested by 6 November 2015
KFPE
House of Academies
Laupenstrasse 7
3008 Bern
E-mail: kfpe@scnat.ch
Phone: 031 306 93 49

http://www.naturalsciences.ch/organisations/kfpe/events_/registration

The conference is open to the public and free of charge.

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Doing research in conflict areas: being sensitive to conflict and managing risks

**12 November 2015 │ 13:15 – 17:30
at the Swiss National Science Foundation, Bern**

The Annual Conference of the KFPE – Swiss Commission for Research Partnerships with Developing Countries

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Science and Policy
Platform of the Swiss Academy of Sciences

KFPE – Commission for Research Partnerships
with Developing Countries

Doing research in conflict areas

Researchers working in conflict-affected areas need to be aware that the political and security situation in their study area may change very quickly. Should the situation deteriorate, they and their local partners may suddenly find themselves at risk, and their project's continuation might be in jeopardy. Which security guidelines should researchers follow in such situations? How can their security be ensured if they are working in remote areas? What can be done to enable project continuation under worsened security conditions?

Such questions emphasise the potential negative impacts on research projects of a shifting context. But research projects themselves can negatively impact the local conditions. Singling out of interviewees can contribute to polarisation within a community, and publication of politically sensitive research results can provoke repressive measures against local partners and their organisations. To prevent such adverse effects, research partners must adopt a conflict-sensitive approach to their work. This means being aware of a project's potential negative impacts on the local situation, while seeking to enhance potential positive impacts. Researchers' ability to recognise that they are part of a conflict situation is decisive.

Both aspects – security and sensitivity – will be discussed by representatives from different disciplines and illustrated with cases from various geographical contexts. The examples will guide reflection on how to conduct research in situations of conflict.

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Programme

12:45	Registration

13:15	**Welcome and introduction** Laurent Goetschel, KFPE President

Conflict sensitivity

13:30	**Challenges, practices, and the impact of research** Sidonia Gabriel, swisspeace

13:50	**Comments from researchers' perspectives** Tobias Hagmann, University of Roskilde, Denmark Eveline Glättli, Swiss National Science Foundation, Bern Guy Elcheroth, University of Lausanne

14:30	**Panel discussion with the presenters** Moderated by Laurent Goetschel, KFPE President

15:00	Break

Risk management

15:30	**Examples from different contexts** Martina Santschi, Secure Livelihoods Research Consortium (SLRC) Bassirou Bonfoh, Centre Suisse de Recherches Scientifiques, C.I. Sarah Byrne, University of Zurich Andrew Ladley, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, Geneva

16:15	**Panel discussion with the presenters** Moderated by Barbara Becker, Global Transformation Affairs, ETH Zurich

17:15	**Wrap up and conclusions** Laurent Goetschel, KFPE President

17:30	Refreshments