

Summer School 2021 in Valais, Switzerland
9 – 18 June 2021



Governing socio-ecological processes in Switzerland: Southern Challenges in a Swiss Canton?

**Focus, goals,
and target
groups**

The 2021 Summer School of the International Graduate School (IGS) North-South will focus on the governance of, as well as tensions around, resources, landscapes, health and tourism in the canton of Valais (Switzerland) with the aim to provide methodological and conceptual insights into integrated approaches to engage in research across northern and southern contexts.

The goal of the Summer School is to offer an intercultural, inter- and transdisciplinary learning and exchange platform for PhD students from different countries around the world and from different academic disciplines who are involved in interdisciplinary research on sustainable development and global change.

Place Valais, Switzerland

Time 9 – 18 June 2021

Organizers

- Centre for Development and Environment (CDE), University of Bern, Switzerland
- Institute of Geography and Sustainability, University of Lausanne, Switzerland

**Lecturers /
Organizers**

Prof. Dr. Norman Backhaus, Prof. Dr. Thomas Breu, Prof. Dr. Laurent Goetschel, Prof. Dr. Tobias Haller, Dr. Karl Herweg, Dr. Sarah-Lan Mathez, Prof. Dr. Emmanuel Reynard, Dr. Jérémie Sanchez, Prof. Dr. Jürg Utzinger, Prof. Dr. René Véron, Prof. Dr. Jakob Zinsstag

Overall course programme

The course will last 10 days and consist of a mix of lectures, exercises, coaching, interdisciplinary group work, and fieldwork. The programme includes the following blocks:

- **Conceptual seminars** providing insights into concepts of and debates on sustainable development, global change processes, and emerging dynamics, as well as reflections on the methodological implications of research on global change and sustainable development, conducted with an inter- and transdisciplinary research approach. Special attention will be given to the local and national socioeconomic and political context that exerts a major influence on the sustainability of livelihoods.
- **A methodological seminar** where participants will discuss how to translate research questions into survey questions and how to implement a survey.
- **Lectures and exercises to develop “soft skills” in scientific writing and publishing**, research management, leadership, and career building.
- **Case studies** focusing on the topic of the summer-school. Participants will prepare for the fieldwork in interdisciplinary groups with support from local resource persons (inputs). They will conduct 2 days of fieldwork with transdisciplinary elements, then jointly analyse and present their findings.

Application process

To apply for the IGS North-South Summer School, you must fulfil one or more of the selection criteria listed below.

- You are a PhD candidate from the global North or South, or a senior researcher from the global South.
- You are interested and engaged in a research partnership project and wish to apply an integrated approach in development research.
- Your English is fluent.
- If the number of applicants exceeds the maximum number of participants, we will give priority to students involved in a research project in the area; and to students who are affiliated with one of the Swiss partner institutions.



To apply, please fill in the official [online application](#) form on www.igs-north-south.ch and upload the following documents (in English) a PDF file. Submission deadline: **15 March 2021**.

- Curriculum vitae
- Copy of the first page of your passport
- A personal letter of interest (maximum 300 words). Please explain why you would like to participate in the IGS North-South Summer School.

Students who are affiliated with an institution or programme that is linked with the IGS North-South (University of Basel: swisspeace and Swiss TPH; University of Bern, University of Lausanne and University of Zurich) have the possibility of applying for financial support. Limited funds are available to support participation of students and senior researchers from the global South; the selection criteria are the same for all groups.

A limited number of places are also available for self-payers; the course fee amounts to CHF 4000, and includes local transport for field trips (Half Fair Travel Card is required), accommodation, and full board for the duration of the whole course, but not the price of the arrival and departure journey to the venue.

Upon sending your application, you will receive a confirmation email containing further information about the timetable.