

Congress of the Swiss Sociological Association 2024
University of Applied Sciences Northwestern Switzerland, Basel (MuttENZ),
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Call for Papers

Workshop Session: Crises, conflicts, catastrophes - on the relationship between "self-vulnerabilization" and collective capacities for action from a convention theory perspective

Organizers:

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Developments in most societies can be characterized by an open emergence of societal uncertainty and criticism. There is currently no social positioning without an immediate counter-positioning. The plurality as well as the constellations of societal forms of criticism contribute to societal insecurity, since there hardly seems to be any social self-evidence or consensus left in society as a whole. It can be observed that democratic, highly industrialized and culturally open societies, which are characterized by a high standard of living and easy access to mass media, social media and benefit systems (education, health care, social security systems, etc.), also tend to risk social consensus and social achievements. In this sense, one can speak of a "self-vulnerabilization," because many threats to today's societies are first of all social in nature, i.e. socially conditioned such as emerging populisms, increasing social inequality, demographic change, environmentally destructive lifestyles, causation of migration, and inadequate handling of migration consequences.

The sociology of conventions that emerged in France (with the work of Luc Boltanski, Laurent Thévenot, Robert Salais, and others) took these conflict situations as the starting point for its theory development and research. In addition, this approach has also become established in the German-speaking social sciences (especially sociology) in recent decades, here above all in Switzerland. The planned workshop will include contributions from the sociology of conventions that explore the question of societal self-stabilization potentials, capacities for action (agency), and overall societal sustainability in the face of the self-vulnerabilization described.

Please submit your abstract of maximum 2000 characters by 5 January 2024 to rainer.diazbone@unilu.ch