

# New interdisciplinary courses



<sup>b</sup>  
UNIVERSITÄT  
BERN

## Spring semester 2024

### Where and when?

#### Power, politics and policymaking

Date: Start date 29/02/2024

Time: Thursday, 14:15 to 16:00 (Every week)

ECTS: 5

Registrations via KSL

Registration Period: 08/01/2024 – 15/03/2024

#### Literature and Ecology: Writing about Amazonia from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (European and Latin American Literature)

Date: Start date: 20/02/2024

Time: Tuesday, 10:15 – 12:00 (Every week)

ECTS: 6 for BA students, 7 for MA students

Registrations via KSL

Registration Period: 01/02/2024 - 31/03/2024

#### Power, politics and policymaking (KSL Number 488495)

Lecturer: Dr. Anukriti Dixit, Interdisciplinary Centre for Gender Studies (ICFG)

Public policy is a broad term encompassing what strictly gets declared as a policy or guideline (at the national and international level) and what are basic civic rules of engagement – following from broader national policy frameworks within different organisations and citizens collectives. Indeed all aspects of policymaking are political and contrary to the popular notion about 'neutrality' of policies. This course therefore begins with the understanding that policymaking is about power and politics. Each politics has its own sets of values and these define what gets to be the 'policy' at the national/regional level or everyday regulation level. Thus, the first module of the course involves understanding the basic principles of public goods, redistribution of resources, development, public management and governance. The course then branches out into modules on critical understanding of policy and theories of power. The course follows qualitative analysis paradigms. The course will proceed through a student-led discussion and activity-based deliberative model of analysis.

#### Literature and Ecology: Writing about Amazonia from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (European and Latin American Literatures) (KSL Number 488354)

Lecturer: PD Dr. Corinne Fournier Kiss, Faculty of Arts (Comparative literature)

The occupation of Amazonia by European settlers led from the outset to a double disaster, both ecological (destruction of Amazonian flora and fauna under the pretext of rational exploitation of natural resources) and human (massacre and enslavement of "Indians" under the pretext of eradicating barbarism). Ecocide and ethnocide have been perpetrated in tandem and relentlessly to this day. Under such conditions, how to tell and write about Amazonia?

In this seminar, we will examine and compare various representations and ideological constructions of this territory, its nature and its indigenous people, from the early 19th century to the present day: those delivered by scientific expeditions in the wake of the Enlightenment (Ch.-M. de La Condamine, A.v. Humboldt), those offered by French and European fictional accounts (e.g. J. Verne, A. Conan Doyle) and Latin American ones, both Brazilian (e.g. M. Souza, M. Hatoum) and hispanophone (e.g. J.E. Rivera, M. Vargas Llosa), as well as those emerging from the cosmogonies specific to the indigenous peoples themselves.