

# Ethnography and Law: Methods and challenges in times of crisis

Workshop programme (July 2-3, 2026)

## Venue

[Warburg-Haus](#), Heilwigstr. 116, 20249 Hamburg

## Wednesday, July 1

19:00 - 21:00 Informal get-together

Café Leonar, Grindelhof 59, 20146 Hamburg (self-paid)

## Thursday, July 2

09:30 - 10:00 Workshop opening

10:00 - 11:30 Session 1: Legal procedure and lay persons

Chair: Eva Kocher (European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder))

Kari Anne Drangslund (University of Bergen)

*Legal form, technicalities, and care: understanding judges' practices in times of legal contestation*

Julia Struppe-Schanda (Sigmund Freud University Vienna)

*Studying emotions in court: a feminist ethnographic approach to intimate partner violence criminal trials*

Alina Zurmühlen (European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder))

*Legal expertise and lay encounters at the Berlin labor court*

Sophie Konrad (University of Hamburg/University of Potsdam)

*The role of victims in German international criminal law*

11:30 - 11:50 Coffee break

11:50 - 13:20 Session 2: Where law happens: ethnographies of normativity and meaning-making

Chair: Jonas Bens (University of Hamburg)

Thomas Scheffer (Goethe University Frankfurt/Main)

*Trans-sequential analysis of legal case-work: a critical ethnomethodology*

Bertram Turner (Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle/Saale)

*Interview with a volcano: ethnographic approaches to human-MTH relations in times of anthropocenic crisis*

Marco Motta (University of Lausanne)

*Law through life in the cracks*

Louise Victoria Johansen (University of Copenhagen)

*The materiality of emotion control: presenting media-based evidence in courtrooms*

**13:20 - 14:50 Lunch break (90 min) (Members' meeting of the Vereinigung Recht und Gesellschaft)**

**14:50 - 16:20 Session 3: Ethnographing professional legal practice: methods, challenges, and insights**

Chair: Mareike Schmidt (Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle/Saale)

Kerstin Eppert and Franca Heuer (Bielefeld University)

*Knowledge in court: ethnographic analysis of terror trials and epistemic subjects in trial proceedings*

Sophie Andreetta, Claire Lefort-Rieu and Emma Vescovi (University of Liège)

*Following legal categories: a collective ethnography of law and administration in the Belgian asylum reception system*

Mark Yin, Pratishruti Preeti Dash and Monika (University of Cambridge)

*Analysing the role of 'site' in legal ethnographic methods: reflections on law, 'field' and context*

**16:20 - 16:40 Coffee break**

**16:40 - 17:10 Brief announcements**

**17:10 - 17:40 Walk to Hamburg Institute for Social Research (30 min)**

**18:00 - 20:00 Attacks on the 'rule of law'**

Public Panel at [Hamburg Institute for Social Research \(HIS\)](#)

Address: Mittelweg 36, 20148 Hamburg

Chair: Francesca Barp (HIS)

*Bianca Tavolari (FGV São Paulo Law School)*

*Deniz Yonucu (Newcastle University)*

*Jessica Greenberg (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign)*

**20:00 - 21:30 Finger-food buffet**

## Friday, July 3

**09:30 - 11:00 Session 4: Crisis, critique and unquestioned baselines in ethnographic legal research**

Chair: Larissa Vettters (Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle/Saale)

Grigory Gorbun (American Bar Foundation)

*Ethnography of moot jurisdiction*

Agnieszka Doll (University of British Columbia)  
*Institutional ethnography of legal aid lawyering: bridging the micro and macro investigation in the ethnographic studies of law*

Aino Korvensyrjä (University of Bristol)  
*Towards a fugitive ethnography: Duldung and black mobilities in Germany*

Rachel Sieder (Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social (CIESAS))  
*Ethnographies of law and (in)justice in Mexico*

**11:00 - 11:20 Coffee break**

**11:20 - 12:50 Session 5: Researching legal activism: engaged ethnographic approaches**

Chair: Francesca Barp (HIS), Laura Affolter (University of Hamburg)

Ania Zbyszewska (Carleton University) and Flavia Maximo (Universidade Federal de Ouro Preto)

*Ethnographies of resistance: grappling with activist depletion in the field*

Sebastian Benedikt (University of Göttingen)

*Legal struggle as a method? Reflections on ethnographic engagements with law in times of crisis*

Matthew Canfield (Leiden University)

*Participatory Legal Anthropology?*

José Saldaña Cuba (McGill University)

*Learning, translating, and contesting environmental law: ethnographic insights from a mining sacrifice zone in southern Peru*

**12:50 - 14:50 Lunch break (120 min)**

**14:50 - 16:20 Session 6: Collaborative challenges for institutional ethnographers**

Chair: Heike Drotbohm (University of Mainz) and Olaf Zenker (University of Halle/Saale)

Anna Wyss and Kim Herrmann (University of Bern)

*Studying the unspoken: an intersectional approach to analysing the effects of social categories on legal practice in the Swiss welfare regime*

Leonie Thies (University of Oxford)

*Learning from Dorothy E. Smith: institutional ethnography in Berlin's youth diversion offices*

Insa Koch (University of St. Gallen)

*Courtwatch as method and politics: challenges for legal anthropology*

Janaína Gomes (University of Rio Grande do Sul)

*Violation in the name of protection: ethnographic reflections on child removal, legal practice, and reproductive injustice in times of crisis*

**16:20 - 16:40 Coffee break**

**16:40 - 17:00 Final plenary discussion and closing remarks**