

Echoes of Authority

Three Days of Workshops,
Discussions, Exhibitions,
Performances, and More

Festival

March 25 – March 27, 2026



Collegium Helveticum

Continuous activity

March 25–March 27

10:00–22:00

Small Observatory + all venues

The Postscriptum Observatory

A Listening Space for Minor Notes, Delayed Voices, and Echoes Without Origin

By continent., in collaboration with sound artist and composer Luis Sanz.

Authority often speaks as if its grounds were firm. Yet that ground is never without seams or cracks. In moments of uncertainty, assertion can be mistaken for legitimacy, and volume for authority. The *Postscriptum Observatory* listens from there, not for rupture but for modulation. Echoes shift the tone of what returns, never to repeat perfectly; they edit, fragment, reverberate and redistribute the authority of an original voice.

What does authority sound like? How can it be grasped? Where and how is it embodied? How does it persist? How can it be resisted, altered, transformed?

The *Postscriptum Observatory* invites you to send your voice on a journey, and to listen after the fact, where meaning arrives delayed, softened and transformed.

The *Postscriptum Observatory* is a voice-resonating sound installation that is based on the notes, thoughts, observations and voices that accompany the Echoes of Authority Festival at Collegium Helveticum.

For that matter notebooks and pens will be available in the hallway. Please take one. During the festival they might fill with words, fragments, questions, observations...

Whenever you feel ready, come to the Small Observatory and read from your notes into the microphone suspended in the space. Your contribution will be reverberated. Parts will be played back into the space throughout the day. Voices may overlap; echoes will accumulate.

You may:

- read a line from your own notes
- exchange notes with someone and read their words
- invite someone to read yours
- read your notes together

You may read in the language in which you wrote your notes, or in any language in which you feel comfortable speaking. You may also speak freely, say whatever comes to mind, or not speak at all.

Exhibitions

March 25–March 27

10:00–21:30/22:00

Gallery

Exhibition

Hazlo con otrxs

Youth, Argentinian Fanzines, and Echoes of Resistance

Curated by Nazareno Bravo, Victoria Seca, and Zainabu Jallo.

Recovering, documenting, and analyzing fanzines made by young people in Mendoza, Argentina, since the 1990s helps to understand the diverse experience of youth political engagement. This exhibition focuses on zine production during two periods of intense social mobilisation in Argentina: the economic and social crisis of the late 1990s, and the wave of feminist mobilisation over the past decade.

The zine scene offers a lens through which to explore young people’s political commitments and the ways in which their political and cultural practices are shaped. It reveals how generational experiences rooted in local contexts resonate with, and engage in dialogue with, those of young people in other places and times. Fanzines invite us to consider the echoes of youth political demands and practices across borders and historical moments, from the past through the present and into possible futures.

With this selection, we invite you to reflect on continuities, changes, and ruptures in the ways in which young people articulate their political position through fanzines.

10:00–21:30/22:00

Laboratory

Exhibition

Poetry of Power

News, Flipcharts, and Images

Too True to Be Good

With works by Harun Farocki, Michael Franz, Nina Kerschbaumer, Val Minnig, Rabea Ridlhammer, and Jan Soldat. Curated by Nina Kerschbaumer.

There are films for cinema, there are films for television, and there are films for exhibition spaces. There is music, there are stories about other people, and there are moments of silence. There are chairs for lounging, chairs for working, and there are chairs for waiting. If there is a front door, there is likely also a back door, and then, sometimes, there is a doorway to hell. This can make one feel like laughing, it can make one feel sad, or it can make one feel both at the same time. The question, however, is, what’s that got to do with me, or you, and us?

Exhibition opening hours during the festival:
• March 25: Opening event/reception, 19:30-21:30
• March 26: 10:00-21:30
• March 27: 10:00-22:00

Both exhibitions will remain open until May 15, 2026 (Mon-Fri, 12:30-16:30).

Day 1

Wednesday, March 25

From 10:00	Small Observatory + all venues
Informal initiation	By continent., in collaboration with sound artist and composer Luis Sanz.
The Postscriptum Observatory A Listening Space for Minor Notes, Delayed Voices, and Echoes Without Origin	For more info see page 2 in this program.
12:00	Lunch break
14:00	Wolf Room
Workshop Amok	The term <i>amok</i> derives from the Malay word <i>mengamok</i>, meaning to rush forward and attack with uncontrollable fury, often in a martial context. It entered European knowledge systems upon documentation by travelers in the eighteenth century within the colonial enterprise and is, by the mid-nineteenth century, reframed as a psychiatric condition gaining momentum in the 1960s. Against this historical background, can amok serve as a site to understand moments of socio-economic transitions, individualization processes, male liberation narratives and the violent undercurrents of Western liberal democracies? This workshop invites you to participate regardless of your disciplinary background, and appreciates every question, comment or concern.
17:00	Break

17:30	Meridian Hall
Opening & welcome remarks	By Zainabu Jallo, Anouk Luhn, Nina Kerschbaumer, Victoria Seca, and the Collegium's directorate.
18:00	Meridian Hall
Discussion Under Pressure Diffuse Origins and Concrete Outcomes	In physics, pressure is the application of force exerted perpendicular to a surface divided by the area over which it acts. As a metaphor, it points to an often called upon, diffuse social affect. By mapping out the structural decoupling of economic growth and employment, alongside the failed promises of a welfare state operating increasingly through conditionality and sanction—particularly when it comes to the case of unemployment—this conversation will inquire into the governing principles of Western capitalist societies. How does pressure circulate across social fields? Where does it accumulate, and what about its repercussions? Moderated by Nina Kerschbaumer, Collegium Helveticum With: Mine Pleasure Bouvar, political educator, DE Diedrich Diederichsen, independent writer, DE Yuvviki Diah, cultural worker and scholar, Schauspielhaus Zürich, CH Clara E. Mattei, economist, University of Tulsa, US Olga Reznikova, ethnographer, University of Zurich, CH
19:00	Gallery + Laboratory
Double exhibition opening Hazlo con otrxs Youth, Argentinian Fanzines, and Echoes of Resistance	Poetry of Power News, Flipcharts, and Images Too True to Be Good Curated by Nazareno Bravo, Victoria Seca, and Zainabu Jallo. With works by Harun Farocki, Michael Franz, Nina Kerschbaumer, Val Minnig, Rabea Ridlhammer, and Jan Soldat. Curated by Nina Kerschbaumer. For more info on both exhibitions see page 3 in this program. Followed by a small reception.



Day 2

Thursday, March 26

09:30	Arrival & coffee	
All day	Small Observatory + all venues	
The Postscriptum Observatory A Listening Space for Minor Notes, Delayed Voices, and Echoes Without Origin		By continent., in collaboration with sound artist and composer Luis Sanz. For more info see page 2 in this program.
10:00	Wolf Room	
Instant reading-group Opacity as Counter-Resonance		Authority is often associated with clarity and with transparency or with the power to define and categorize. In this collective reading session, we turn toward more complex and ambivalent forms. What if authority does not only operate through explicit commands, but through the demand to be understood? Taking Édouard Glissant's short text <i>For Opacity</i> as our point of departure, we explore opacity as a counter-principle to regimes of clarity. Through shared out-loud reading, we trace how authority echoes in expectations of coherence and transparency. Can we relate without mastering? Can we conceptualize authority without fully understanding? The session concludes with collective exercise in the form of a silent conversation. No prior knowledge or preparatory reading is required.
12:00	Lunch break	

14:00	Meridian Hall
Workshop The Infrahuman	
Moderated by Zainabu Jallo, Collegium Helveticum	
With: Odette Casamayor-Cisneros , writer and literary scholar, Collegium Helveticum, CH/ University of Pennsylvania, US Dennis Hansen , project lead and curator, Natural History Museum, University of Zurich, CH Nadia Mazouz , philosopher, ETH Zurich, CH George Paul Meiu , anthropologist, University of Basel, CH Anna Schmid , museographer and independent researcher, DE Mario Wimmer , historian, Collegium Helveticum, CH	
The infrahuman, “human, yet not entirely human.” This perception, often based on factors such as cognitive abilities, social status, or progeny, describes individuals or groups perceived as not fully human and, as a result, denied civil liberties.	
The legacies of criminal anthropology continue to inform contemporary conceptions of what it means to be human in both scientific and societal contexts. This workshop convenes scholars from anthropology, contemporary Latin American and Caribbean studies, evolution and ecology, history of science, political philosophy, and provenance research to discuss how the category of the infrahuman has been constructed and sustained across various domains.	
We invite you to participate in this workshop and welcome your insights and questions.	
17:00	<i>Break</i>
18:00	Meridian Hall
Discussion Ruling Grammar Language and Authority	
Moderated by Anouk Luhn, Collegium Helveticum	
With: Odette Casamayor-Cisneros , writer and literary scholar, Collegium Helveticum, CH/ University of Pennsylvania, US Dietmar Dath , writer and journalist, DE Pierre-Héli Monot , political scientist, Ludwig Maximilians-Universität Munich, DE Hannah Wallenfels , independent philosopher, co-founder diffrakt e.V., DE	
From science fiction to resistant poetics, from muted thoughts to spreading words: How are language and authority related? Who holds power over language? How does linguistic power play out in terms of formats, agents and institutions, and what about new language regimes in the era of AI?	
Philosopher Hannah Wallenfels, writer Dietmar Dath, poet and literary scholar Odette Casamajor, and political theorist Pierre-Héli Monot discuss the potentialities and power games of words, and how they resonate or resist authority in a world ordered and organized by language.	
19:30–21:30	<i>Reception</i>

Day 3

Friday, March 27

09:30	Arrival & coffee
All day	Small Observatory + all venues
The Postscriptum Observatory A Listening Space for Minor Notes, Delayed Voices, and Echoes Without Origin By continent., in collaboration with sound artist and composer Luis Sanz. For more info see page 2 in this program.	
10:00	Wolf Room
Instant zine-making A Collective Space for Creation By Maya Ober, University of Bern & Futuress, CH With Zainabu Jallo and Victoria Seca, Collegium Helveticum In this workshop, we will use zine-making as a collective, participatory research method and a political publishing practice to explore echoes of authority. How does authority appear, circulate, repeat, transform and what traces does it leave across institutions, histories, bodies, and everyday life? Working with collage, text, drawing, photocopies, and images, we will treat the zine as a political practice and self-publication format and also a research tool: a space to question dominant narratives, to surface hidden structures, and to experiment with alternative voices. Together, we will reflect on how authority is internalized, resisted, reproduced, fragmented, or reimagined. The workshop values process over polish, multiplicity over coherence, and experimentation over perfection. It is intended for everyone; you don't have to be an artist, or designer, or writer. Just come as you are!	
12:00	Lunch break

14:00	Wolf Room
Workshop The Politics of Youth Moderated by Victoria Seca, Collegium Helveticum With: Emma Gomez Nicolau, sociologist, Universidad Jaume I, ES Valentina Holecz, political scientist, University of Geneva, CH Philipp Kerler, political scientist, University of Zurich, CH Camila Ponce Lara, sociologist, Alpen-Adria-Universität Klagenfurt, AT Hannah Werner, political scientist, University of Zurich, CH Alexandre Dafflon, political scientist & sociologist, University of Lausanne, CH Young people are key actors in contemporary political dynamics. As they act as driving forces to transform societies, their political practices take a wide variety of shapes and forms. Across different countries, they engage in diverse repertoires of action—from supporting political parties and participating in elections, to street mobilizations and online activism—and commit to a range of political ideas, including feminist, climate, migrants, student, and far-right movements. In this workshop, scholars from the social sciences will share insights from their research to foster a dialogue on how young people engage in politics, how youth politics can be situated within broader political and economic processes, as well as the current challenges and tensions facing contemporary democracies.	
17:00	Break
18:00	Meridian Hall
Performance Schlechte Wörter / Bad Words #7 LOOK (Solmaz Sharif) A sonic art performance by Schlechte Wörter/ Bad Words (Fabian Saul & Mathias Zeiske), with: Logan February, poet Moshtari Hilal, artist, writer, and curator Tanasgol Sabbagh, poet and artist Fabian Saul, writer and composer Shaped by the post-9/11 war on terror, Solmaz Sharif's poem "LOOK" exposes the violence embedded in bureaucratic military language and reveals how its terms infiltrate intimate live. "LOOK" challenges us to confront the ways in which language can both oppress and liberate, urging us to interrogate our own relationship with words and their implications. Gathering around the poem, the writers and artists Logan February, Moshtari Hilal, Tanasgol Sabbagh, and Fabian Saul will perform the 7th episode of the sonic art series <i>Schlechte Wörter / Bad Words</i> live.	
19:00	Meridian Hall
Closing All the Wires Between Us By Zainabu Jallo, Anouk Luhn, Nina Kerschbaumer, and Victoria Seca. Followed by a small reception.	
20:00–22:00	DJ-Set by Mine Pleasure Bouvar

Contemporary societies are shaped by enduring and contested forms of authority that operate across cultural, political, historical, social, epistemic, and linguistic domains. These forms leave traces and resonances that structure everyday life, knowledge production, and political imaginaries, while also generating sites of tension, resistance, and transformation. This interdisciplinary festival examines these echoes of authority and the conditions under which they persist, fade, or are actively challenged.

Attentive to historical processes, power relations, and sociopolitical dynamics, the festival “Echoes of Authority” engages with themes such as shifting forms of literacy, representations of violence, youth political activism, and broader inquiries into what it means to be human today.

Over three days, the festival brings together workshops, film screenings, panel discussions, exhibitions, performances, and instant sessions. By convening scholars, artists, and practitioners from different fields, we offer a space for dialogue and critical exchange, and foster interdisciplinary perspectives on contemporary social challenges.

Credits

With: Claudia Bossard, Mine Pleasure Bouvar, Nazareno Bravo, Odette Casamayor-Cisneros, continent. and Luis Sanz, Alexandre Dafflon, Dietmar Dath, Diedrich Diederichsen, Yuvviki Diah, Dennis Hansen, Valentina Holecz, Philipp Kerler, Nina Kerschbaumer, Adam Knowles, Zainabu Jallo, Anna [Anouk] Luhn, Clara E. Mattei, Nadia Mazouz, George Paul Meiu, Pierre-Héli Monot, Emma Gomez Nicolau, Maya Ober, Camila Ponce Lara, Olga Reznikova, Schlechte Wörter / Bad Words (with Logan February, Moshtari Hilal, Tanasgol Sabbagh, and Fabian Saul),

Anna Schmid, Victoria Seca, Mischa Suter, Hannah Wallenfels, Hannah Werner, Mario Wimmer. With works by Harun Farocki, Michael Franz, Val Minnig, Rabea Ridlhammer, Jan Soldat, and Nina Kerschbaumer.

The festival is convened by Early-Career Fellows Zainabu Jallo, Nina Kerschbaumer, Anouk Luhn, and Victoria Seca.

Cover image: Still from the film *L'Argent* by Robert Bresson, 1983. Center map: Nina Kerschbaumer, 2026.

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