



Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Geschichte
Société suisse d'histoire
Società svizzera di storia
Societad svizra d'istoria

Attacks on History and Historians and the Crisis of Democracy What Options for Action are Available?

Critical historical scholarship is an important pillar of democratic societies. However, without democratic and legal frameworks, historians and their research are at risk. What does it mean for historians when democracy and self-governing scientific institutions come under attack, with their legitimacy called into question from various sides? How can historians react to social media's increased platforming of hostility towards science?

As part of an event organized by the [«Science Policy» Department of the Swiss Society for History](#), three organizations ([Comité de Vigilance face aux usages publics de l'histoire](#), [hist4dem](#), [Network of Concerned Historians](#)) will highlight examples of best practice, explore how scholars from different disciplines can learn from each other, and discuss opportunities for networking across disciplines.

We will examine attacks on researchers and research and ask: How can a legitimate scientific debate be protected from agenda-driven misrepresentation? What logic do attacks in the digital space follow, how can we respond, and what are their longer-term effects? What can historians learn from the climate sciences in terms of attacks on researchers and research? We will conclude our event with an online presentation and discussion with Naomi Oreskes on the current situation in the United States, drawing on her extensive experience with attacks on scientific research.

Date: 4 December 2026

Location: Bern, Unitobler, Room F021

Registration will open on 1 May 2026

Preliminary Program

10.15–10.30: **Introduction**, *Sandra Bott, Francesca Falk*

10.30–10.55: **Was ist die Funktion des Presserats in der Schweiz? Wie unterscheidet er Debatte von Diffamierung?**, *Monika Dommann*

10.55–11.00: Break

11.00–11.25: **Angriffe auf Forschende im analogen und digitalen Raum: Dynamiken und Handlungsmöglichkeiten**, *Anna Jobin*

11.25–11.30: Break

11.30–11.55: **Wie gehen die Klimawissenschaften mit Angriffen um? Was für Verhaltensweisen und Strategien haben sich bewährt?**,
Stefan Brönnimann

11.55–12.00: Break

12.00–12.30: **Discussion**, *Francesca Falk, Pauline Milani (Moderation)*

12.30–13.45: Lunch break

13.45–15.15: **Organisations and Initiatives**
Chair: Sandra Bott

Comité de Vigilance face aux usages publics de l'histoire
hist4dem
Network of Concerned Historians (NCH)

15.15–15.30: **Launch of the NCH-Website**

15.30–16.00: Break

16.00–17.00: **The Current Situation in the United States (online)**, *Naomi Oreskes*
Chair: Isabelle Schürch