



SwissLAB: are you networked?

An initiative launched by ROREP,
the Swiss Association for Spatial Planning and
Regional Policy Studies

CALL

(closing December 15th, 2010)

Inscriptions are now open for the SwissLAB_2011,
which is going to be held in Ascona at
the Monte Verità convention centre
(www.monteverita.org)

Apply for
SwissLAB_2011
February 9-12th, 2011
in Ticino

Formerly known as "École doctorale" ROREP is now
relaunching together with its partners a premium
networking platform for PhD and Master students,
young researchers but also professionals and
practitioners in regional and territorial development.

SwissLAB: the laboratory thesis

In a sound laboratory tradition we will unveil general issues and pressing questions in the specificity of the landscapes, that are traced into technoscapes, mediascapes, financescapes, ethnoscapes, ideoscapes (Appadurai, 1990).

The following clusters of questions will guide the lab, based on a real-life perspective of Swiss Canton Ticino, border region the metropolitan area of Milano (Italy):

*Which interdependencies coin the socio-technical, spatial and political realities in our regions? Which potentials does this generate?
Which issues drive governance modes, which strategies, channels and logics of steering emerge?*

And, can such topics be tackled as a 'spatial' problem in the first place? Which new lifestyles, forms of housing and mobility patterns crystallize?

*Are there new spatiotemporal work/life arrangements to emerge?
Which identities, (multiple) spatial references gain consistency and relevance socially, economically, and politically? How does the re-shuffling of urban areas and the 'urban renaissance' trigger privileged enclaves and an order of urban archipelagos?*

Or: How fundamental are the respective challenges with regard to the traditional 'toolbox' of spatial planning and regional politics? Are our categories for 'thinking space' still adequate? How are they defined?

SwissLab_2011 location: Ticino (Southern Switzerland)

Swiss Canton Ticino - hitherto not a focal study area in academia - is a nodal point of innumerable, heterogeneous networks and as such it displays ideal features in order to commit our first Laboratory in the SwissLAB young researchers intensive seminar series: it is a peripheral region of the Megalopoli Padana, it is about to

jump space/time scales when Alp-Transit becomes operative, it displays a breathtaking concomitance of hyperdynamic places and abandoned valleys, of stunningly beautiful landscape and blurred urban areas that - at least with regard to more traditional assessments to the beauty of place - lack aesthetic qualities.

We invite you for that fruitful experience, where you will be accompanied by major international and national experts opening to you the thematic background of the SwissLAB_2011: our "core-group" members Joris Van Wezemael, Ola Söderström, Heike Mayer, Mathieu Petite, Felix Günther, Gian Paolo Torricelli, Hannes Egli, Marco Pütz together with Remigio Ratti, Siegfried Alberton and Alessandro Balducci and others will work with you during 2,5 days on a special place like Monte Verità.

Who can apply?

The SwissLAB addresses PhD students, master students, young researchers and professionals from economical, environmental and social sciences, like geography, planning, etc. related to spatial analysis, regional studies, urban and regional development.

Participants from outside Switzerland are highly welcome. The language of SwissLAB is English.

We would be happy to welcome you for the SwissLAB_2011 edition in Ascona-Ticino.

Yours Sincerely

Stefano Wagner &
Joris Van Wezemael
for ROREP

How to apply

In order to participate, you are requested to submit us in PDF-Format at info@rorep.ch

1. By **December 15th, 2010**
Expression of Interest (including short bio and abstract of your experience), with motivation to participate (max. 1 pages) and the application form (download from www.rorep.ch)
2. Input-paper, based on your laboratory thesis (up to 2 pages maximum) with deadline **January 30th, 2011.**

Costs

The participation fee is CHF 700.- per participant, directly charged on the spot. The fee covers the costs for the three days event, including meals, beverages and accommodation at the Monte Verità Hotel (excluding personal travel expenses), organizational support as well as printed course documentation.

**Apply now:
SwissLab will run
with a maximum of
30-40 participants.**