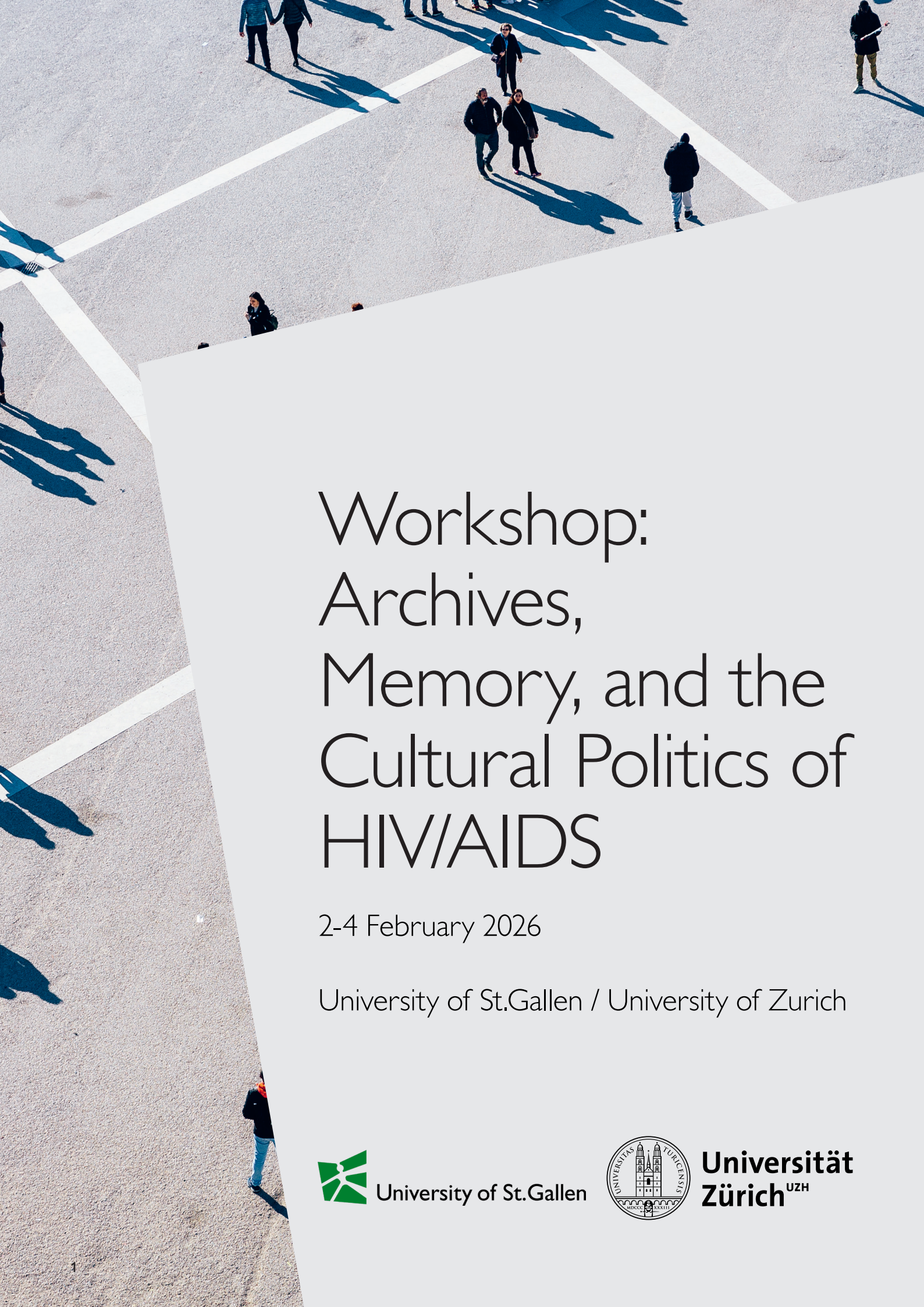




Workshop: Archives, Memory, and the Cultural Politics of HIV/AIDS

2-4 February 2026

University of St.Gallen / University of Zurich



**Universität
Zürich**^{UZH}



University of St.Gallen

Center for Governance
and Culture in Europe



**Universität
Zürich** ^{UZH}

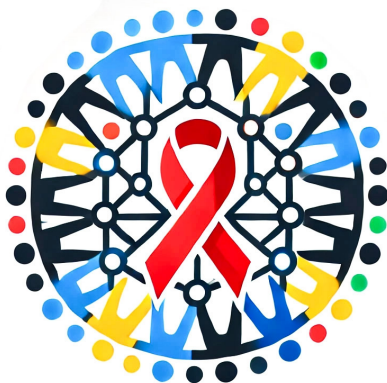


**Swiss National
Science Foundation**



University of St.Gallen

School of Medicine



European HIV/AIDS Research Network

Organized by:

- Todd Sekuler, Department of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies (University of Zurich)
- Alexander Meienberger, Center for Governance and Culture in Europe (University of St.Gallen)
- European HIV/AIDS Research Network

Financed by:

- Swiss National Science Foundation
- Center for Governance and Culture in Europe (University of St.Gallen)
- Committee for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (University of St.Gallen)

In cooperation with:

- Department of Medical Humanities and French Studies (University of St.Gallen)
- Department for East European Studies (University of St.Gallen)
- Department of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies (University of Zurich)
- School of Medicine (University of St.Gallen)
- Forum for Medical Humanities (University of St.Gallen and University of Zurich)

Locations:

University of St.Gallen
Müller-Friedberg-Strasse 8, 9000 St.Gallen
Room: B52 52-7024

University of Zurich
Rämistrasse 71, 8006 Zurich
Room: KOL-N-1



Alexander Meienberger
alexander.meienberger@unisg.ch
+41 79 154 1682



Todd Sekuler
todd.sekuler@uzh.ch
+49 151 196 72511

Program

2 February 2026

Arrival of participants

Place: University of St. Gallen, Müller-Friedberg-Strasse 8,
9000 St.Gallen. Room: B52 52-7024

13.00–13.15

Introduction by Todd Sekuler and Alexander
Meienberger

13.15–14.00

Jesse van Amelsvoort: An Epidemic in Review: AIDS
Retrovisions and the Return to History in the Dutch
Cultural Archive

Responders: Andrei Zavadski, Todd Sekuler

14.00–14.45

Justyna Struzik: Invisible Epidemics: HIV, Opioid Use,
and the Politics of Disappearance in Contemporary
Poland

Responders: Katerina Suverina, Moisés Fernández-
Cano

14.45–15.00

Break

15.00–15.45

Alexander Meienberger: HIV/AIDS in Russian
Literature, Cinema, and Theater

Responders: Alvaro Gonzalez Montero, Kateřina
Kolářová

15.45–16.30

Dorota Sosnowska: It Flashed, Banged and Tore. The
Element of Fire in Polish AIDS Epidemic

Responders: Kateřina Kolářová, Marco Rovinello

16.30–17.00

Coffee Break

17.00–17.45

Andrei Zavadski: Jürgen Baldiga: Photographer of
AIDS and Other Things

Responders: Jesse van Amelsvoort, Justyna Struzik

17.45–18.30

Michael Nebeling Petersen: Welfare
Homosexualities: HIV/Aids, Racialization, and the
Roots of Scandinavian Homonationalism

Responders: Agata Dziuban, Katerina Suverina

18.30–19.00

Discussion with Eric Le Rouge (Instinct Berlin/We
Are Village)

19.00–21.00

Dinner

3 February 2026

07.58–08.58

Train Transfer to Zurich

Place: Friedhof Forum, Aemtlerstrasse 149, 8003 Zürich.
Room: Kellertheater

09.30–11.30

Public Discussion with Barbara Bosshard
(queerAltern Network, Swiss Author), Prof. Dr.
Anna Elsner (University of St.Gallen), Mathias
Howald (Swiss Author) and Werner Neth (Long-
Term HIV Activist and Survivor)

12.00–13.30

Lunch

Place: University of Zurich, Rämistrasse 71, 8006 Zürich.
Room: KOL-N-1

13.30–14.15

Katarzyna Szarla: "Celibacy for Priests, Safer Sex for Gays": HIV/AIDS, Abstinence, and Safer Sex in Post-socialist Poland, 1985–2000

Responders: Agata Dziuban, Todd Sekuler

14.15–15.00

Alvaro Gonzalez Montero: Breaking the Silence on HIV/Aids: Pepe Espaliú's *la Imposible Verdad* [The Impossible Truth] and the Queer Sociality of Illness

Responders: Alexander Meienberger, Katarzyna Szarla

15.30–16.00

Coffee Break

16.00–16.45

Todd Sekuler and Agata Dziuban: The Politics of Absence: Withholding and Withdrawing Stories from the European HIV/AIDS Archive

Responders: Katarzyna Szarla, Giulia Sbaffi

16.45–17.30

Bram Mellink: Gradually Rising Water? Early Interpretations of the AIDS Epidemic Amongst Stakeholders (1981-1987)

Responders: Marco Rovinello, Alvaro Gonzalez Montero

17.30–18.15

Giulia Sbaffi: White Masks, Black Streets: Migrant Organizing and HIV Prevention in 1990s Italy

Responders: Bram Mellink, Dorota Sosnowska

18.15–19.00

George Severs: Risk, "Race" and HIV/AIDS: Shifting Understandings of Public Sexual Health Work in Late Twentieth-Century England

Responders: Giulia Sbaffi, Andrei Zavadski

19.00–21.00

Dinner

21.30–22.30

Train Transfer to St. Gallen

4 February 2026

Place: University of St. Gallen, Müller-Friedberg-Strasse 8, 9000 St.Gallen. Room: B52 52-7024

09.00–09.45

Marco Rovinello: Pragmatic Disinterest. First Insights into Italian Political Parties and HIV/AIDS (1981–1992)

Responders: George Severs, Jesse van Amelsvoort

09.45–10.30

Kateřina Kolářová: "Undetectable" as a Site of Conflict Between the Chronic and the Acute

Responders: Dorota Sosnowska, Bram Mellink

10.30–11.00

Coffee Break

11.00–11.45

Katerina Suverina: "Our Deaths – Your Shame": A History of Direct Action Activism in Russia

Responders: Justyna Struzik, Michael Nebeling Petersen

11.45–12.30

Moisés Fernández-Cano: Next Steps with Publication

12.30–13.00

Future of the European HIV/AIDS Research Network

13.00–14.30

Lunch

Departure of participants