

## Online Book Launch – An Anthropology of Disappearance Politics, Intimacies, and Alternative Ways of Knowing

28 May 2024, 6 pm.- 7:30 pm.

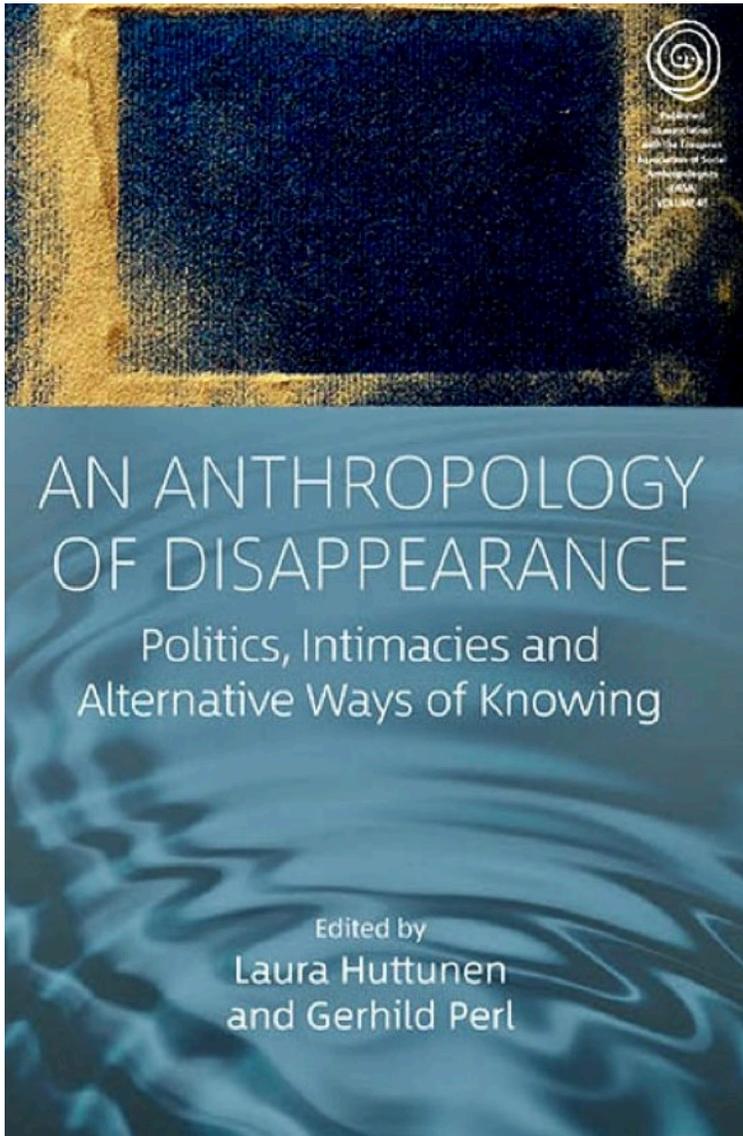
Please register here for Zoom access:

<https://www.sogde.org/de/events/an-anthropology-of-disappearance/>

This online book launch presents a new volume, which asks about the potentiality to reverse the anthropological gaze and not focus on objects, facts and actions but instead on inactivity, waiting, silences, and disappearances. What epistemological consequences does this shift imply? Gerhild Perl and Laura Huttunen use the example of missing persons in the aftermath of the Yugoslav wars and the lens of migration studies to show that this view is grounded in empirical realities and at the same time emerges at a time in which global inequalities continuously (re)produce absences, situations of stuckness and paralyzation. In addition, artist Nayarí Castillo-Rutz will provide insights into how this way of thinking may translate into public art dedicated to traces and shifting temporalities.

*A session hosted by the Southeast Europe Society, Klagenfurt branch in cooperation with the Gustav Mahler Private University for Music, the Department of Cultural Analysis, University of Klagenfurt, and the DGEKW Working Group  
“Europeanization\_Globalization: Ethnographies of the Political”.*





### Description

All over the world, people disappear from their families, communities and the state's bureaucratic gaze, as victims of oppressive regimes or while migrating along clandestine routes. This volume brings together scholars who engage ethnographically with such disappearances in various cultural, social and political contexts. It takes an anthropological perspective on questions about human life and death, absence and presence, rituals and mourning, liminality and structures, citizenship and personhood as well as agency and power. The chapters explore the political dimension of disappearances and address methodological, epistemological and ethical challenges of researching disappearances and the disappeared. The combination of disappearance through political violence, crime, voluntary disappearance and migration makes this book a unique combination.

### Book presenters:

**Laura Huttunen** is a Professor of Social Anthropology at the Tampere University, Finland. In 2013-14 she ran a project that focused on the question of missing and disappeared persons in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In 2018-2022 she led a research project with a focus on disappearances in migratory contexts.

**Gerhild Perl** is an Assistant Professor of Social Anthropology at the University of Trier, Germany. Her work has been published in journals such as the Journal of Social and Cultural Anthropology and the Journal of Intercultural Studies. Her doctoral dissertation on death during migration across the Spanish-Moroccan Sea was awarded the Maria Ioannis Baganha Award and the Dissertation Prize of the German Anthropological Association.

**Moderators:**

**Eckehard Pistrick** is head of the Klagenfurt branch of the Southeast Europe Society and professor of ethnomusicology at Gustav Mahler Private University for Music in Klagenfurt, Austria.

**Jasmin Donlic** is an assistant professor in general Education and Diversity-conscious Education at Alpen Adria University Klagenfurt, Austria.

**Artistic intervention:**

**Nayarí Castillo-Rutz** is a visual artist and molecular researcher working at University of Technology at the Institute of Spatial Design in Graz, Austria.