

How are your neighbours doing?

A visual ethnographic contribution to the Sustainability Week at the University of Basel, March 2026 by the course 'Neighbours', taught by Michelle Engeler and attended by Lina Dimachkie, Ashwin Gupta, Bahar Ibrahim, Mirjam Kottmann, Rita Lüthi, Thimea Mollet, Jan Obernosterer, Camila Otorala Lopez, Daniele Rahmatpour, Charly Rapp, Juila Schegg, Qudsia Shujazada, Mia Stauffacher and Filippo Vegezzi

In everyday language, the term neighbour refers to a spatial relationship: neighbours are people who live closer to us than others. But how do we actually do neighbourhood in everyday life?

Through ethnographic research and visual material, participants of the course Neighbours explore neighbourhood as an everyday practice of living together. Their work reflects on how sustainability takes shape in ordinary relations of care, distance, dependence, and neglect.

The small exhibition How are your neighbours doing? invites visitors to reflect on neighbours who may feel unfamiliar or unnoticed, and to reconsider their own neighbourhood relations right at their doorsteps.



Pictures taken in Basel, 27.02.2026, by Michelle Engeler

Neighbours, HS2025/FS2026, taught by Michelle Engeler, Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Basel

Ongoing Projects

Course Participants

Lecturer:	Dr. Michelle Engeler	Social Anthropology
Students:	Lina Dimachkie	MA in Critical Urbanisms
	Ashwin Gupta	MA in Critical Urbanisms
	Bahar Ibrahim	MA in Critical Urbanisms
	Mirjam Kottmann	MA in Changing Societies
	Rita Lüthi	MA in Anthropology and History
	Thimea Mollet	MA in Changing Societies
	Jan Obernosterer	MA in Changing Societies
	Camila Otorala Lopez	MA in Social Anthropology
	Daniele Rahmatpour	MA in Social Anthropology
	Charly Rapp	MA in Gender Studies
	Juila Schegg	MA in Changing Societies
	Qudsia Shujazada	MA in Changing Societies
	Mia Stauffacher	MA in Changing Societies
	Filippo Vegezzi	MA in Critical Urbanisms

Impuls

This course is supported by „Impuls“. Impuls encourages lecturers and students to implement projects related to sustainable development as part of their courses. Impuls funding is intended to train students to become change agents for sustainability and to inspire and enable them to use these skills in their later professional and private lives for sustainable development. In addition to financial support, the funding also includes coaching for the implementation of student projects and a sustainability workshop.