

Warm Data Labs Series at Building Bridges 2026

Warm Data Labs are a practice allowing for mutual learning across contexts

For participants interested in sustainable finance and systems-level challenges, the Warm Data Labs offer an opportunity to step back from the analytical and technical dimensions of responsible investment and spend time exploring the trans-contextual processes that are embedded in sharing stories when we are in relationship. Moving between different contexts allows our perceptions, beliefs, and perspectives to shift, allowing new ideas and decisions to shape.

What is a Warm Data Lab?

A Warm Data Lab is a practice that can be described as an **interactive, experiential group process based on sharing personal stories**. It allows the exploration of complexity through multiple contexts and therefore across different areas of life, work, and society. Warm Data Labs have been created by Nora Bateson, founder of the International Bateson Institute. The Labs are most valuable when participation is open, curious, and human; there are no pre-set goals.

Why are we offering it?

Many of the challenges discussed at Building Bridges, from sustainable finance to climate action and social inclusion, cannot be understood from a single perspective. Investment decisions affect communities, ecosystems, institutions, businesses and people, particularly future generations. Yet these connections are often difficult to see when discussions remain within professional silos. The practice of a Warm Data Lab allows the exploration of new contexts, leading discussions towards a different way of meeting.

Warm Data Labs provide a possibility for participants to:

- Broaden perspectives on the challenges shaping sustainable finance through various contexts.
- Connect with people beyond usual networks and professional circles.
- Notice the difference in the conversations which influence our decisions, foresights and learnings.
- The aim is not to produce a report, recommendation, or set of actions. The value comes from the conversations themselves and the new perspectives they unlock for each individual.

Who should join?

Warm Data Labs are open to people who are curious, reflective and interested in experiencing complexity through personal stories and contexts. No prior knowledge of systems thinking or Warm Data is required.

What happens during a session?

Participants move between small-group conversations exploring a broader question through different contexts such as Art, Education or Culture. As participants move between groups, the emergence of new connections and viewpoints becomes possible. There are no presentations, panels or debates. The process holds a mixture of conversation, observation, listening and reflection. The experience is designed to be engaging, welcoming and accessible, even for those entirely new to the practice.

How many sessions should I join?

While each session can be attended independently, participants who join multiple sessions are likely to gain a richer experience as conversations deepen, and new connections emerge over time.

THREE-PART SERIES

Session 1: People Need People (online)

Wednesday, 23 September 2026, 16:45-18:30

Location: Online on Zoom

Participants: Future Leaders Cohort and open to BB26 attendees and friends.

Before Building Bridges, this online session provides an introduction to the Warm Data Lab approach. Participants will:

- meet fellow participants in an informal setting
- Become familiar with the conversation format
- Begin building relationships before arriving in Geneva

This first session will include an introduction to Warm Data by Nora Bateson.

Register here.

Session 2: Warm Data Lab in Geneva (in-person)

Monday 5 October 2026, 16:00-18:00

Location: Banque Pictet, Acacias, Geneva

Participants: Future Leaders Cohort, Graduate Institute and UNIGE GSEM students and further spots open to the public, family and friends.

The second session takes place in person, allowing participants to deepen the experience through face-to-face interaction. Participants will: Build stronger connections within the group; explore the process and topics in greater depth; and allow for different noticing. Meeting in person adds a new dimension to the experience and often leads to richer conversations and stronger, vital relationships.

Register here.

Session 3: Warm Data Lab at Building Bridges (in-person)

Wednesday 7 October 2026, 15:00-16:30

Location: Restaurant Terrace, Building Bridges Conference, CICC

Participants: Future Leaders Cohort, Graduate Institute, UNIGE GSEM students and limited spots open to Conference Participants who have expressed an interest.

Participants will explore questions while immersed in the wider conference environment, where discussions on finance, sustainability, policy and innovation are already taking place. This session offers an opportunity to: Pause and reflect on observations, insights and learnings gained during the conference. It invites you to formulate new relevant questions based on personal and professional experiences. Floating ideas from the conference become mixed with the trans-contextual processes experienced in the lab. This can become part of the conversation, creating a unique opportunity to reflect on complexity through mutual learning in person.

Register your interest here (subject to approval).

For more information about Warm Data Labs, visit warmdata.life