

NEWSLETTER

Ausgabe 17/2020

SoSe 2020

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Liebe Kolleginnen und Kollegen, liebe Studierende,

Eigentlich war geplant, an dieser Stelle den außergewöhnlichen *Braindrain* zu beklagen, den das Institut im Februar erlitt. Mit Martin Saxer, Arno Pascht, Valerie Hänsch, Marlen Elders, Carolin Märtens und Deniz Yonucu haben uns gleich sechs langjährige Kolleginnen und Kollegen wegen auslaufender Verträge verlassen. Euch allen an dieser Stelle noch einmal vielen Dank für die gute und produktive gemeinsame Zeit und alles Gute an euren neuen Wirkungsstätten.

Eigentlich sollte gleichzeitig der außergewöhnliche *Braingain* begrüßt werden – und mit ihm die große Zahl neuer Kolleg*innen, die wir in den letzten Monaten am Institut willkommen heißen durften (sie stellen sich auf den folgenden Seiten vor) ...

... und dann kam Covid19 – und wir erleben das bizarrste Semester, das man sich nur vorstellen kann. Einerseits. Andererseits ist unser aller Lernkurve in Fragen der digitalen Forschung und Lehre mit einem Mal exponentiell nach oben geschnellt. Dinge, die vor 3 Monaten noch völlig unvorstellbar waren, bestimmen plötzlich unseren Alltag – und nicht alles davon ist schlecht. Gut möglich, dass die ethnologische Arbeit in den hoffentlich bald eintretenden besseren Zeiten am Ende gar keine Form *nach*, sondern *seit* Corona annehmen wird. Bleibt neugierig! Und bleibt gesund!

TR

Personalia

Allgemein:

Saskia Brill Saskia Brill ist seit dem 01.02.2020 wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin im DFG Projekt „Luft (ver-)handeln im Great Bear Rainforest. Ein CO₂-Einsparungsprojekt im Spannungsfeld von Ressourcennutzung, Naturschutz und Dekolonisierung“ (DU 209/24-1) unter der Leitung von Eveline Dürr.

Frank Heidemann war im Herbstsemester 2019 als Gastprofessor an der Venice International University tätig.

Emelihter Kihleng ist neu als Mitarbeiterin im Projekt *Indigeneities in the 21st century: From 'vanishing people' to global players in one generation* unter Leitung von Prof. Dr. Philipp Schorch.

Manuel May Castillo ist Mitarbeiter im Projekt *Indigeneities in the 21st century: From 'vanishing people' to global players in one generation* unter Leitung von Prof. Dr. Philipp Schorch.

Diego Muñoz ist neu als Mitarbeiter im Projekt *Indigeneities in the 21st century: From 'vanishing people' to global players in one generation* unter Leitung von Prof. Dr. Philipp Schorch.

Arno Pascht hat zum Sommersemester eine Gastprofessur am Institut für Sozial- und Kulturanthropologie der FU Berlin angetreten.

Sahana Udupa became advisory board member for MediaWell, the Social Science Research Council's unit to track research on digital disinformation. In this capacity, Sahana Udupa will have regular consultations with United Nations decision makers.

Neue Gesichter und Projekte

Emelihter Kihleng

Kaselehlle Maingko,

I greet you in Pohnpeian, the language of Pohnpei Island in the Federated States of Micronesia where I am from. You may be surprised to learn (as most Germans are) that Pohnpei was part of Germany's Pacific colonial empire from 1899-1914. This historical period and my fascination with it is one of the main reasons I moved to Germany in 2019 to become the first Curatorial Research Fellow, Oceania, at MARKK Museum am Rothenbaum in Hamburg. It is also why I am now in Munich at LMU.

My Curatorial Research Fellowship was part of a major repositioning and decolonization effort at the museum where I studied the collection of Oceania holdings, specifically those from the Hamburg South Seas Expedition (HSSE) from 1908-1910. This expedition was undertaken in former German colonial

possessions in Micronesia and Papua New Guinea.

My main fellowship project entailed archival and ethnographic research on a selection of photographic portraits of Pohnpeian men and women taken by German ethnographer and HSSE member Paul Hambruch that includes images of various forms of personal adornment. In July 2019, I conducted six weeks of ethnographic research in Pohnpei to identify and collect life and family histories of the descendants of those photographed by Hambruch. I also took photographs and video of the descendants as a way to visually (re)present them through an indigenous lens. To engage in a kind of repatriation process, I also gave copies of the portraits to the descendants, providing them a way to reclaim and reconnect with a distant yet shared colonial past in the present.

Neue Gesichter

Based on this research, I curated a small MARKK exhibit, *Kilel oh Kapwat: Reconnecting Pohnpeians with Our Past*, that was on display from September-November 2019. A more comprehensive exhibition of my research will become part of the museum's new permanent exhibition on the HSSE. In addition, I co-curated an exhibition, *In the Shadow of Venus: Lisa Reihana and Pacific Taonga*, based on MARKK's Pacific collections, which augmented and highlighted the panoramic video work, *in Pursuit of Venus [infected]*, by this acclaimed Māori artist.



My curatorial beginnings took place during my time in Aotearoa, where I completed my doctorate, when I was fortunate to work as an Interim Curator, Pacific Cultures at The National Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa. In this role, my passion for Pacific material culture grew tremendously, as I learned about what it means to respect and care for taonga that represent who we are.

As an indigenous Pasifika scholar, poet, curator and teacher, I have a passion and limpoak (love) for Oceania. Having grown up, studied and worked in various Pacific Islands and Europe, I have an Oceanic-centered “international connectedness” with

networks and experience in the fields of Pacific Studies, Pacific Literature, and Pacific arts and museums.

I am very excited to be at the Institute for Ethnology to work with Philipp Schorch and the other postdoctoral fellows, Diego Muñoz Azócar and Manuel May Castillo, on the ERC-funded project, “Indigeneities in the 21st century.”

Manuel May Castillo

Dear Colleagues,

I am delighted to be part of the ERC research team ‘Indigeneities in XXI Century’ led by Prof. Dr. Philipp Schorch. My project on ‘Indigenous Itineraries’ aims to trace and map the decolonizing journeys of Mayan individuals and communities in the social, cultural, economic and political landscapes of Mexico and Guatemala and to examine the contributions to the discourse of *Indigeneity* and its contemporary reconfigurations, by Indigenous actors themselves.



I am a Mayan researcher from the Yucatan Peninsula, a Mayan region in today's Mexico. Originally trained as an architect in Mexico,

I moved to Spain in 2004 to complete post-graduate studies on conservation of architectural heritage. There I was lucky enough to collaborate with an archaeological project in Guatemala. The year 2012 marked the onset of a period of profound change in my academic life (Thankfully, nothing to do with the -fake- ‘Mayan end-of-the-world prophecy’!): I received an invitation to join a team of researchers working vis à vis with Indigenous researchers in the project ‘*Time in Intercultural Context. The Indigenous calendars of Mexico and Guatemala*’ led by Prof. Dr. Maarten Jansen at Leiden University, funded by an ERC Advanced Grant. Thanks to the vibrant collaboration with my Indigenous and non-Indigenous peers in this project, my academic work was channelled towards post-colonial criticism and decolonization initiatives while nourished by an interdisciplinary and intercultural environment.



In 2014 I completed my PhD in Mayan architecture, from the Universidad Politecnica de Valencia, Spain. Meanwhile at Leiden University, the Netherlands, I continued my work as a postdoctoral researcher and then as a lecturer and assistant professor. Over five years at Leiden University I developed my work in the field of critical anthropology and, in particular, I carried out ethnographic fieldwork in Mayan communities within the framework of the project ‘*Time...*’ It was in the close and inspiring collaboration with Indigenous communities, to which I belong, and with other Indigenous scholars

from the Americas, Asia, Africa and Europe who joined us in a series of colloquia at Leiden University, that my work was shaped towards the Heritage and Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Since then, I have walked my *academic itinerary* hand in hand with Indigenous movements at the international level.

Currently I am engaged in the development of decolonizing methodologies, with focus on Indigenous spiritual resistance, Indigenous concepts of landscape and environment, as well as on the implementation of the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in research endeavours. In line with this focus, in November 2017, I started running the project ‘*Threatened Cultural Landscapes and Heritage*’, a project conceived by, for and with Mayan communities, hosted at Bonn Universität and co-funded by the European Union, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions and the German BMBF.

As I write these lines, we are still in quarantine for COVID-19, but I look forward to meeting you in person and learning with everyone in the faculty!

Manuel

Diego Muñoz

Dear Colleagues

I am Diego Muñoz, and I arrived in Bavaria thanks to Prof. Dr. Philipp Schorch who has accepted my post-doctoral research project in their ERC program “Indigeneities in the 21st century: From ‘vanishing people’ to global players in one generation”.

I am Chilean, but for the last ten years, I have lived in France where I did my PhD in Anthropology and Ethnology at EHESS (Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Science Sociales) and CREDO (Centre de Recherche et Documentation sur l’Océanie) in Marseille.

For the last 15 years, I have been studying Rapa Nui (Easter Island) from an ethnographic and historical viewpoint. My research focuses on the connections of this

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society with Chile and French Polynesia, with particular attention to the history of the Rapanui diaspora, the cultural identity making process and the contemporary relationship with the past.



I propose to analyze Easter Island like a place and a reference point for Rapanui identity, but Rapanui society is not limited to this eastern Polynesian island. This society includes its migrant communities located in mainland Chile that lives mainly in the large metropolitan area of Santiago, plus a small number of people that live in Tahiti, French Polynesia. For the Rapanui, Tahiti is an important place in their cultural history and in the configuration of their Polynesian identity. Between 2006 and 2014, I had several field stays in Hanga Roa, the only town of Rapa Nui, as well as in the extensive urban network of Santiago and in the Pamatai neighborhood in Tahiti, where a group of Rapanui settled during the second half of the nineteenth century.



For my current post-doctoral project: “Māori Rapanui, Polynesians in a Latin American State. Imagining a decolonial future for the 21st Century and beyond” I am working on the Rapanui political identities, configured around the notion of decolonization. The Rapanui leaders have learned this notion during their life experience on other Polynesians islands and their participation in the international forums. Chile, as a Latin American state has never considered the Rapanui situation as that of a colony. Therefore, Easter island has never been seen as a non-autonomous territory to be decolonized. This notion, however, is used for the Rapanui leaders for imagining the future of their political situation.

I consider the decolonization concept as a process and set of ideas and practices directed at establishing self-government, but also as can epistemological framework to imagining the future of Indigenous peoples. Through an ethnographic and historical study, I propose to analyze the recent past, the ethnographic present and the imagined future of this society.

I am very honored to join the Institute as a postdoctoral researcher.

Forschung

Raúl Acosta

Forschungsaufenthalte in Mexiko Stadt, Oktober-November 2019 und Januar-Februar 2020. Letzte Feldforschungsphase des Teilprojekts der DFG Forschungsgruppe Urbane Ethiken: „Ethische Konjunkturen, globalisierte Umweltdiskurse und das Streben nach einer eigenen Stadt“ (mit Prof. Dr. Eveline Dürr)

Eveline Dürr & Saskia Brill

„Luft (ver-)handeln im Great Bear Rainforest. Ein CO₂-Einsparungsprojekt im Spannungsfeld von Ressourcennutzung, Naturschutz und Dekolonisierung“ (DU 209/24-1)

DFG Projekt; Förderzeitraum: Februar 2020 – März 2022.

Leitung: Eveline Dürr; wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin: Saskia Brill, M.A.

In diesem Projekt geht es um den Emissionshandel, der längst nicht mehr nur ein politisch-ökonomisches Instrument zur Eindämmung des überhöhten CO₂-Ausstoßes in Industrienationen darstellt. Er ist vielmehr eingebunden in globale Umweltschutzstrategien und hat sich als „Alternative“ zum Raubbau an natürlichen Ressourcen etabliert. Auf diese Weise dringt der Emissionshandel in unterschiedliche lokale Mensch-Umweltbeziehungen und politische Strukturen ein und beeinflusst diese maßgeblich. Im Rahmen dieser ethnographischen Studie wird eines der weltgrößten CO₂-Einsparungsprojekte, das Great Bear Carbon Project an der kanadischen Pazifikküste, im Kontext nordamerikanischer Indigenität untersucht. Am Beispiel der Heiltsuk Nation und dem übergeordneten Verband der Coastal First Nations werden die spezifischen Auswirkungen der Kommerzialisierung von CO₂-Emissionen auf umweltbezogene Bedeutungszuschreibungen und territoriale Beziehungen erforscht.

Die lokalen Strategien zur Nutzung der natürlichen Ressource Wald stehen dabei im Spannungsfeld von panindigenen Dekolonialisierungsbestrebungen, Interessen multinationaler Konzerne, Strategien internationaler Umweltbewegungen und staatlicher Umweltpolitik. Anknüpfend an die theoretischen Überlegungen von Bruno Latour, Marisol de la Cadena und Philippe Descola zu Mensch-Umweltbeziehungen sowie an Deleuzes und Guattaris Konzept der Assemblage wird auch die Rolle nichtmenschlicher Akteure berücksichtigt. Ziel des Forschungsprojekts ist, eine empirisch fundierte Studie sowohl zu den Auswirkungen des globalen Emissionshandels als auch zu Mensch-Umweltbeziehungen der indigenen Bevölkerung Nordamerikas vorzulegen.

Eveline Dürr

Myanmar, März 2020: Wissenschaftlicher Austausch mit der Phaung Daw Oo International University in Mandalay sowie Feldbesuche einiger rezenter Projekte des community based tourism, insbesondere im Kayah Staat.

Philipp Schorch

Indigenities in the 21st century: From ‘vanishing people’ to global players in one generation

Just over a decade *after the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* in 2007, indigenous stakeholders act as global players in arenas such as the UN Convention on Climate Change, the Dakota Access pipeline in the USA, and the Humboldt-Forum in Berlin. Yet, until the 1960s, anthropological inquiries considered the same people as ‘vanishing’ and doomed to disappear. The so-called Indigenous Renaissance presents a remarkable phenomenon of late (post)modernity.

Forschung

How can this surprising process be understood and explained?

The objective of this project is to study how indigenous actors evolved from 'vanishing people' to global players. The project is located at the disciplinary intersections between anthropology, art, history, philosophy, and politics, and aims at making a future-oriented contribution to (re)emerging indigeneities and the (re)negotiation of their (post)colonial legacies in and with Europe. While the label 'indigeneity' circulates globally, it is also defined as a place-based marker of identity. This project breaks new ground by incorporating both dimensions – global circulation and local experience – in a common framework. It does so by studying entangled indigeneities as transregional

and transcultural formations along the transpacific intersections between North and South America, Australia and the South Pacific. By untangling these intersections through museums as research sites and laboratories, the project's sub-objectives are: 1. to historically identify the moments and processes through which indigenous people became re-ascribed through anthropological discourses and their involvement therein, 2. to ethnographically study the ways and forms in which indigenous people appropriate these external ascriptions for self-insertion into global affairs, 3. to experimentally research, in exhibitionary environments, the layers of indigenous continuity beneath the discursive transformation from 'vanishing people' to global players.

Workshops und Vorträge

Raúl Acosta

„Mexico City: ethical conjunctures, globalized environmental discourses and the pursuit of a better city“, Workshop Urban Environment: International Perspectives, Rachel Carson Center, LMU, 9-13.10.2019.

„Technomoralizing states: revolving-door mobility activism in Mexican cities“, Genealogies and Positionalities of Thinking the State, Inaugural Meeting of the European Association of Social Anthropologists' (EASA's) Anthropologies of the State Network, Leiden, 31.10.2019

„Urban ethics as protopolitical: negotiations over mobility in Mexico City“, Gemeinsam Arbeitssitzung DFG Forschergruppe Urbane Ethiken, 18-19.12.2019.

Eveline Dürr

„Armut als Tourismusmagnet in lateinamerikanischen Städten“, Montessori Fachoberschule MOS, München, 17.10.2019.

„Vigilanz im US-mexikanischen Grenzraum: Ethnologische Perspektiven in einem interdisziplinären SFB“, Mesoamerika Tagung im Linden-Museum Stuttgart, 24.01.2020.

Valerie Hänsch

„Trucks, Werkstätten, Straßen: Perspektiven der Visuellen Anthropologie auf Kreativität und Mobilität im Sudan“, Fakultät Kunst und Gestaltung, Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, 24.11.2019.

„Audio-visual witnessing: Explorations of the usage of media during crises in Northern Sudan“, Institute for International Development, Universität Wien, 27.11.2019.

Workshops und Vorträge

Frank Heidemann

„New Visual Media and Representing the Self“, Information Age and Democracy, Venice International University, 29.11.2019

„Ritual, Religion and Politics in the Nilgiris, South India“, Winterschool: Performing Religion – Theory and Practice, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, 18.02.2020

„Firewalk and the Creation of Atmosphere“, Winterschool: Performing Religion – Theory and Practice, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, 19.02.2020

„Social Sciences in South Asia and the Ethnography of the Maldives“, Maldives National University, 04.03.2020.

Kristin Kastner

„Born to shine: Everyday fashion practices in urban Senegal“, Konferenz „Atmospheres of Fashion“, Institut für Kunstgeschichte, LMU München, 31.01.2020.

Philipp Schorch

„Refocusing Ethnographic Museums through Oceanic Lenses“, Keynote, Decolonising Cultural Heritage and Museum Studies, Melbourne, Australia, November 2019.

„Two Germanys: Ethnographic museums, (post)colonial exhibitions, and the ‘cold odyssey’ of Pacific objects between East and West“, History Seminar, Charles University, Czech Republic, Februar 2020.

„Zooming in on ethnographic histories and Oceanic museologies“, Department of Anthropology Seminar, Aarhus University, Denmark, März 2020.

Martin Sökefeld

„Self determination and human rights situation in Kashmir“, Podiumsdiskussion mit Haley Duschinski, Goldie Osuri, Martin Sökefeld, Mehroosh Tak und Harris Zargar. Center for Human Rights Erlangen-

Nürnberg, Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, 04.03.2020.

„Nationale Kraftanstrengung! Macht Abschiebung Sinn?“ Podiumsdiskussion mit Usman Mahar, Martin Sökefeld und Friederike Stahlmann. Bellevue di Monaco & Bayerischer Flüchtlingsrat, 27.01.2020.

„The affective economy of deportation and return“, Workshop jointly organized with Sabine Strasser (University of Bern). Discus-sant: Shahram Khosravi (University of Stockholm). Panel P073 at the EASA conference 21-24 July 2020 in Lisbon.

Magnus Treiber

„What is to be learned? From migration’s informality to formal schooling in Germany“, Georg Arnhold Symposium on Education and Sustainable Peace “The Hosting State and Its Restless Guests: Refugee Education, Migration and Regional Peace in the Global South“, Columbia University, New York, 24.-25.10.2019

„Geschichte und Gespräch. Grußwort zur Gründung“, Neujahrsempfang Dachverband der eritreischen Diaspora in Deutschland/Uniting Eritrean Voices in Germany e.V., Frankfurt/M., 04.01.2020.

„Frieden am Horn von Afrika? Äthiopien und Eritrea zwischen Aufbruch und Stagnation“, Reihe Fokus Afrika, Evangelische Stadtakademie, Petra-Kelly-Stiftung, Museum Fünf Kontinente, München, 29.01.2020.

„Herkunftsland Eritrea“, Landratsamt Starnberg, Fachbereich Asyl, Integration und Migration, Starnberg, 04.03.2020.

„Migration in a Broader Context - The Horn of Africa and its Asymmetric Global Relations“, Workshop with Assoc. Prof. Tricia Redeker Hepner PhD, University of Tennessee/USA, and Adj. Prof. Dr. Wolbert Smidt, Mekele University/Ethiopia, CAS & Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology LMU, 19.06.2020 München.

Workshops und Vorträge

Sahana Udupa

„Decoloniality and the Digital Turn in Media Anthropology“ International Workshop, LMU München, 11. 10.2019

In association with the Media Anthropology Network of the European Association of Social Anthropologists, project ONLINERPOL organized a one-day international workshop, “Decoloniality and the Digital Turn in Media Anthropology” at the Institute premises. Daniel Miller and John Postill were the keynote speakers.

„A decolonial approach to online extreme speech”, KU Leuven University, University

of Ghent and University of Antwerp, Masterclass series on “Activism and Contestation”, Leuven, Belgium, März 2020 (virtual).

„Understanding Information Disorder. SSRC Academic Network on Peace, Security and the United Nations”, New York, USA, Januar 2020.

„Nationalism as politics-as-usual? Digital disinformation ‘services’ and renewable ingenuity of online abusers”, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Dezember 2019.

Publikationen aus dem Institut

Monographien & Herausgeberschaften

Acosta, Raúl. 2019. *Civil Becomings: Performative Politics in the Amazon and the Mediterranean.* Tuscaloosa: The University of Alabama Press.



In this first monograph of the new NGOographies series, edited by David Lewis and Mark Schuller, I theorize networked activism of transnational advocacy networks. The analysis is based on ethnographic research in Belém, Brazil, as well as in Barcelona, Spain. On the one hand, I followed networks seeking to reduce deforestation of the Brazilian Amazon and, on the other hand, I participated in the organizing committee of the Mediterranean Social Forum. In each site, I immersed myself in the networks from the vantage point of a single NGO.

The concept of civil becomings refers to the manner in which networked activism is a process of mutually legitimizing political engagement. I suggest that the network settings in which a wide variety of groups participate interweave peculiar challenges regarding plurality (notably bridging

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cosmopolitan and vernacular values), agency (I develop the concept of entangled agency to describe decision-making in a network), and ideas of democracy (which I analyse as nonlinear political developments).

I examine the performative character of activism not only in marches and protests, but also in public and private meetings. This includes the uses of various types of knowledge to achieve and sustain necessary levels of legitimacy for political purposes.

Dürr, Eveline, Rivke Jaffe and Gareth Jones (eds.). 2020. Special Issue: Brokers and Tours: Selling Urban Poverty and Violence in Latin American and the Caribbean. *Space and Culture* 23(1) 4 -76. <https://journals.sagepub.com/toc/saca/23/1>

This special issue focuses on urban “poverty tourism” (also known as “slum tourism”) and explores the processes through which poverty and violence become commodified.



Involving both pre-existing concepts of difference and attempts to bridge this difference, poverty tourism is a complex phenomenon that raises numerous questions concerning power, inequality, ethics and

subjectivity. Based on ethnographic research in Brazil, Guatemala, Haiti and Jamaica, the four articles that make up this issue analyze the transformation of urban deprivation into a tourism product. Our anthropological approach to poverty tourism, as evidenced by the contributions to this special issue, pays ethnographic attention to the embodied and emplaced encounters between residents, tourists and tour guides.

Hempel Paul, Anka Krämer de Huerta; Silvia Lamprecht (Hg.). 2019.

Fragende Blicke. Neun Zugänge zu ethnografischen Fotografien. Katalog zur gleichnamigen Ausstellung im Museum Fünf Kontinente in München. München: Institut für Ethnologie. Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München.

<https://doi.org/10.5282/ubm/epub.70436>

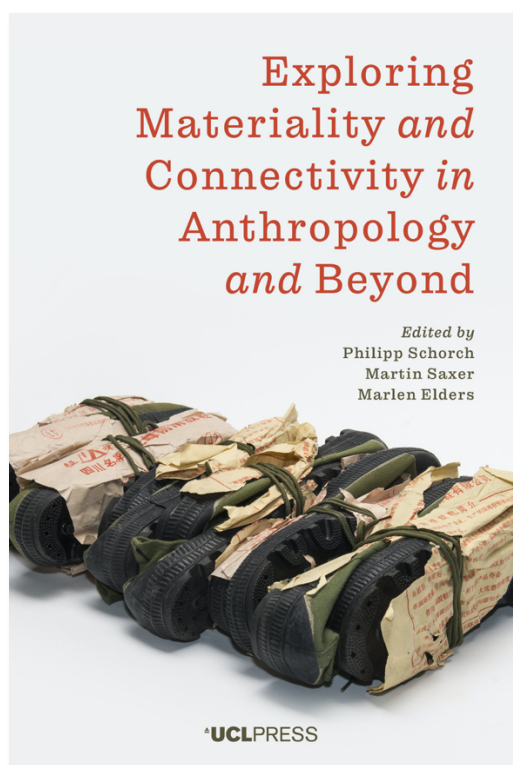


Katalog zur gleichnamigen Ausstellung im Museum Fünf Kontinente in München. Neun Studierende des Instituts für Ethnologie der Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität befassten sich ein Jahr lang intensiv mit Bildbeständen des Museums aus unterschiedlichen Zeiten, Regionen und Kontexten: Fotografien von Ethnologen, Reisenden, kolonialen Akteuren und Fotostudios.

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In den Blick genommen werden dabei unter anderem die Hintergründe der Entstehung, die sich wandelnden Bedeutungszuschreibungen und die Beschaffenheit der Bilder selbst.

Philipp Schorch, Martin Saxer und Marlen Elders (Hg.). 2020. *Exploring Materiality and Connectivity in Anthropology and Beyond*. London: UCL Press.



Exploring Materiality and Connectivity in Anthropology and Beyond provides a new look at the old anthropological concern with materiality and connectivity. It understands materiality not as defined property of something, nor does it take connectivity as merely a relation between discrete entities. Somewhat akin to Heisenberg's uncertainty principle, it sees materiality and connectivity as two interrelated modes in which an entity is, or more precisely – is becoming, in the world. The question, thus, is how these two modes of becoming relate and fold into each other.

Throughout the four-year research process that led to this book, the authors approached this question not just from a

theoretical perspective; taking the suggestion of 'thinking through things' literally and methodologically seriously, the first two workshops were dedicated to practical, hands-on exercises working with things. From these workshops a series of installations emerged, straddling the boundaries of art and academia. These installations served as artistic-academic interventions during the final symposium and are featured alongside the other academic contributions to this volume. Throughout this process, two main themes emerged and structure Part II, Movement and Growth, and Part III, Dissolution and Traces, of the present volume, respectively. Part I, Conceptual Grounds, consists of two chapters offering conceptual takes on things and ties – one from anthropology and one from archaeology.

As interrelated modes of becoming, materiality and connectivity make it necessary to coalesce things and ties into thing-ties – an insight toward which the chapters and interventions came from different sides, and one in which the initial proposition of the editors still shines through. Throughout the pages of this volume, we invite the reader to travel beyond imaginaries of a universe of separate planets united by connections, and to venture with us instead into the thicket of thing-ties in which we live.

Dürr, E., Schorch, P. & Emde, S. (Eds.) (2020). Experiencing Pacific Environments: Pasts, Presents, Futures. Special Issue, *The Contemporary Pacific*, 32 (1).

<https://muse.jhu.edu/issue/42112>

In the context of pressing environmental challenges in the Pacific and indeed the world, this special issue sheds light on the diverse ways in which people in Oceania experience environments, as well as the diverse ways in which environmental knowledge can be articulated. Inspired by previous work that conceptualizes the environment not as a given, definite, and specified entity but as a constantly changing category in relation to other agents, the articles collected here stress coactivity and

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entanglement and promote a broad sense of the environment in Oceania as encompassing land, water, climate, and material things in different social, political, and economic formations and spaces.



By focusing on experiencing environments, this collection illuminates empirical realities and highlights people's agency and perspectives as well as their innovative capacities to retain, transform, and (re)create ways of life in their interactions with human and other-than-human entities. It advocates for equal recognition of different worlds and seeks to advance the decolonization and pluralization of scholarship. This special issue works toward this by traversing disciplinary boundaries between the arts and academia and between Indigenous and non-Indigenous epistemologies and ways of presenting and disseminating knowledge.

Schorch, P. (Ed.) (2020). Sensitive Heritage: Ethnographic Museums, Provenance Research and the Potentialities of Restitutions. Special Issue. *Museum & Society*, 18 (1).



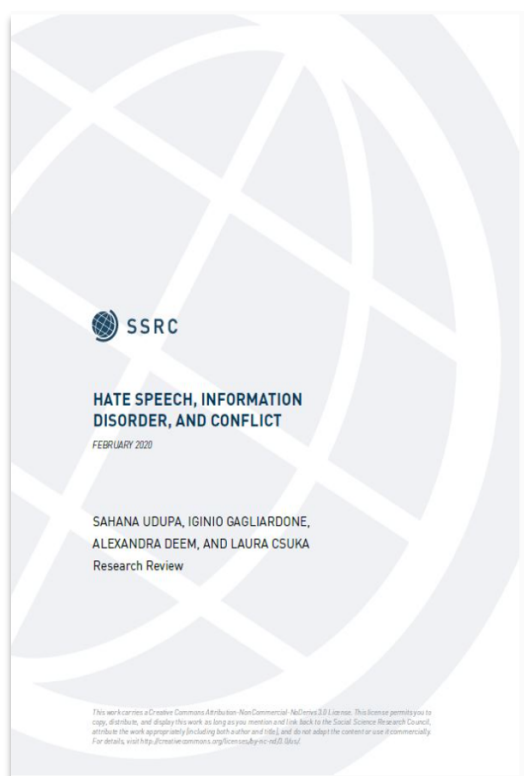
This special issue juxtaposes articles on approaches to provenance research, conducted at German museum and university institutions, with articles on past, present and future potentialities of restitutions to originating societies in Aotearoa New Zealand, Australia and Namibia. In doing so, the issue makes the argument that provenance research and processes of restitution, and their underlying ethical and sensitive considerations, generate, rather than restrict, new knowledge. They are brimming with epistemic and ontological potentialities: for the people related to the material entities concerned, for the (anthropological) knowledge about them, and for the institutions involved. The ultimate goal pursued is the establishment and further development of provenance research and processes of restitution as ethnographic work and an integral dimension of ethnographic museums in the 21st century.

Udupa, Sahana, Iginio Gagliardone, Alexandra Deem and Laura Csuka. 2020. *Field of Disinformation, Democratic Processes, and Conflict Prevention: A Scan of the Literature.*

[The SSRC Academic Network on Peace, Security, and the United Nations](#), an initiative of the Council's Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum (CPPF) and its Understanding Violent Conflict (UVC) Program, was established in 2019 out of a request from the United Nations Secretariat to provide UN entities and departments charged with responsibility for peace and security with better, more systematic access to new and emerging research in the academy. The Academic Network also aims to facilitate collaborative engagements between the UN and various academic institutions, research networks, and professional associations

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working on conflict-management relevant research.



On 30 January 2020, the SSRC convened the second research workshop of its Academic Network on Peace, Security, and the United Nations in New York. This workshop, on Disinformation, Democratic Processes, and Conflict Prevention, examined the frame-

works, findings, and debates in emerging scholarship on information disorder and the linkages between disinformation, elections, hate speech, and identity-based violence. Participants drew on cases in Sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia. The workshop also explored the ways in which disinformation affects the UN conflict prevention agenda, and how the UN system can better identify, track, and respond to the negative impacts of disinformation in countries and regions where the UN is engaged.

This workshop was a multi-program collaboration led by the SSRC's Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum. It drew on the Council's new MediaWell program, a new disinformation research mapping web platform, and the Next Generation Social Sciences in Africa program.

CPPF commissioned Professor Sahana Udupa of Ludwig Maximilians-Universität (LMU) Munich to draft a literature review on the intersection of hateful speech, information disorder, and conflict. The review was distributed to workshop participants, together with several MediaWell research reviews. A summary version of this review is being prepared and will be published separately by MediaWell.

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Eveline Dürr

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<https://www.amerikahaus.de/veranstaltungen/detail/das-schoene-leben-der-toten-von-milena-moser/>

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Usman Mahar

Migrationspolitik "Die Idee der freiwilligen Rückkehr ad absurdum geführt". Interview mit Usman Mahar in Spiegel Online:

<https://www.spiegel.de/politik/ausland/pakistan-wie-aus-deutschland-abgeschobene-zurueck-in-die-gesellschaft-finden-a-c34091f1-3171-41da-8c82-662f75d97e6c>

Thomas Reinhardt

Podcast: „Claude Lévi-Strauss - Ethnologie und Philosoph“ von Michael Reiz; Ausstrahlung: 06.05.2020 auf br2

<https://www.br.de/mediathek/podcast/radiowissen/claude-l-vi-strauss-ethnologie-und-philosoph/1796859>

Thomas Reinhardt

VIU Summer School,
August 31 - September 9, 2020
Films in Venice and Filming Venice

The Summer School Films in Venice and Filming Venice is an initiative of Venice International University, in partnership with its member universities Ca' Foscari, Iuav, Tel Aviv, Waseda and LMU, organized to coincide with the 77th International Venice Film Festival.

The aim is to combine film theory and practice, applying them to representations of Venice, through a multidisciplinary and multicultural approach, reflected both in the composition of the faculty and the student body. The first week, students will be introduced to the history, culture and anthropology of Venice and its relation to visual media. They will be offered basic notions of film analysis and film-making theory. The second week, will be devoted to film-making practice. Students will be encouraged to develop a team project on Venice, taking inspiration from a painting of the Academia Museum Gallery: a film, which will be screened

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and collectively discussed and analyzed at the end of the Summer School. Deserving projects will be shown at the Ca' Foscari Short Film Festival in 2021.



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Miriam Remter

'Eine Frage der Haltung' beim DOK.fest München und auf der EASA

Der Dokumentarfilm 'Eine Frage der Haltung' (english title: 'bewildered companions') von Miriam Remter und Felix Remter feiert seine Premiere beim DOK.fest München.

'bewildered companions' is an immersive ethnographic study on the socio-material entanglements of humans and honeybees in times of globalised diseases. Triggered by the migration of a small bee parasite from Asia, the culture of beekeeping in Europe today is deeply shaken. The search for new and better practices is also a struggle of different imaginaries regarding the ontological status of the honeybee as domestic or wild. Can and should a serious disease be

controlled by medication or breeding? Or is it better for humans to give up control, as in the long lost craft of tree beekeeping. Only in the deep forests of Bashkiria the tradition is still alive. The cultural appropriation of this knowledge in Central Europe could be an important pillar for a sustainable solution to the crisis. Three multisensory-observational and three plurivocal-discursive chapters juxtapose the diverging inner attitudes with the corresponding practices of animal care. Funded by the Bavarian film funding, the documentary is part of a research project on the honeybee health crisis. The fieldwork for both the research and film took place in Germany, Switzerland, Wales, and Bashkiria (Russia) between 2015 and 2019.



Bedingt durch die Situation um Corona, findet das DOK.fest in diesem Jahr online statt.

Screenings:

[DOK.fest @home](#): Hier kann der Film bis zum 24. Mai deutschlandweit von Zuhause aus angesehen werden.

[EASA](#): Am 21. Juli ist der Film gefolgt von einer Q&A für registrierte Konferenz-TeilnehmerInnen online zu sehen.

[More to come, stay tuned](#)

Produktion: [primate visions](#), Deutschland 2020, 87 Minuten

Sprache: Deutsch, Russisch, Englisch mit dt. und engl. UT

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Ira Eue, Henry Kammler & Philipp Schorch

Exkursion: Nordamerika-Sammlungen in den ethnologischen Museen Sachsens

Im Wintersemester 2019/2020 setzte sich eine kleine Gruppe von B.A. und M.A. Studierenden der Ethnologie mit der Geschichte und Stellung ethnologischer Museen im Allgemeinen und in der ehemaligen DDR im Besonderen auseinander. Zu den im Exkursionsseminar anhand von Nordamerika-Sammlungen behandelten Aspekten gehörten die materielle Kulturforschung und ethnologisches Sammeln, die Spannungsfelder der Museumsethnologie zwischen Archivierung, Forschung, Bildungsauftrag und Dekolonisierung, sowie die unterschiedlichen Wissensbestände und Praktiken, die an ethnologische Museumsbestände angelagert sind.



Stefan Eisenhofer, Kurator am Münchner Museum Fünf Kontinente, gewährte im vorbereitenden Teil einen ausführlichen Blick in die hiesigen Depot-Bestände aus dem indigenen Nordamerika. Den Abschluss und Kern des Blockseminars bildete eine 3-tägige Exkursion vom 18. bis 20. Februar 2020. Der Besuch der zum Freistaat Sachsen gehörenden ethnologischen Museen (GRASSI Museum für Völkerkunde zu Leipzig, Museum für Völkerkunde Dresden) sowie der Ethnographischen Sammlung des in Stif-

tungsbesitz befindlichen Karl-May-Museums Radebeul wurde gemeinsam von Henry Kammler und Philipp Schorch organisiert.



Am ersten Tag stand ein Besuch der Dauerausstellung zum indigenen Nordamerika im Leipziger GRASSI-Museum auf dem Programm. Dieser, wie alle anderen Aktivitäten in den staatlichen Museen in Leipzig und Dresden, wurde vom zuständigen Kurator Frank Usbeck engagiert begleitet. In dem sich anschließenden Kolloquium, an dem auch zwei Kolleg*innen des Museums und eine Master-Kommilitonin der Universität Leipzig teilnahmen, entspann sich auf der Grundlage studentischer Beiträge ein reger Austausch. Die Seminarteilnehmer*innen brachten darin ganz wesentlich ihre selbstgesetzten Studienschwerpunkte (regionalspezifisches Wissen zu den indigenen Kulturen Nordamerikas, Prozesse des Umdenkens in der Ausstellungspraxis, aktuelle Debatten in der museumsethnologischen Landschaft und Provenienzforschung) ein. Unter anderem ging es um diskussionsbedürftige Konzepte im museumsethnologischen Kontext – wie „Objekte“, „Artefakte“ oder „Ethnographica“ für Exponate und Museumsmagazininhalte, „Authentizität“, regionalspezifische indigene Vorstellungen und deren „Übersetzung“ in musealen Kontexten, sowie um die Restitutionsproblematiken von einzelnen, sich in der besichtigten Ausstellung befindlichen Objekten.

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Am nächsten Morgen besuchte die Gruppe das Sammlungsdepot des GRASSI Museums für Völkerkunde zu Leipzig. Die an die höchst unterschiedlichen Gegenstände (Textilien, Keramiken, Holz- bzw. Metallgegenstände) und deren Beschreibungstexte auf den Karteikarten von den Seminarteilnehmer*innen herangetragen Fragen wurden vom Kurator Frank Usbeck und der Sammlungsbetreuerin Melanie Meier beantwortet, bei denen wir uns an dieser Stelle noch mal herzlich bedanken möchten.



Am Nachmittag wurde die Exkursion im zwischen Leipzig und Dresden gelegenen, das heißt mit dem Zug schnell erreichbaren, und regional bestens bekannten privaten Stiftungsmuseum Karl-May-Museum Radebeul fortgesetzt. Dort befindet sich eine umfangreiche, alle Kulturareale Nordamerikas und verschiedene Epochen dokumentierende Sammlung indianischer Ethnografika, die zur Zeit von der Sonderausstellung „Die Deutschen und ihre Indianer“ komplettiert wird. In letzterer werden die Hobbyisten-Szene zu DDR-Zeiten sowie stereotypisierende „Indianerbilder“ unter die Lupe genommen und kritisch hinterfragt. Einem Rundgang durch die Sonderausstellung schloss sich eine ausführliche Diskussion mit dem Sammlungsleiter Robin Leipold unter anderem in Anknüpfung an die Radebeuler Skalp-Debatte an.

Im Mittelpunkt des letzten Exkursionstags stand der Besuch des am nördlichen Stadtrand gelegenen Sammlungsdepots des Museums für Völkerkunde Dresden. Wie bereits in Leipzig hatte Frank Usbeck eine Auswahl markanter Sammlungsstücke und ihrer Objektkarten vorbereitet. Nachhaltig in Erinnerung werden uns nicht nur die Großobjekte, die in einem separaten Raum mit ausreichender Deckenhöhe untergebracht sind, sondern gerade auch die Gespräche mit den Mitarbeiter*innen (Ute Werner und Hagen Friede) zur Sammlungsdokumentation, Inventarisierung und Konservierungsmethoden und -problemen bleiben.

In Anschauung der Ausstellungen und der Sammlungsorganisation, wie auch durch die Gespräche in München, Leipzig, Radebeul und Dresden, ergaben sich für alle Teilnehmer*innen interessante Einblicke in die Herausforderungen bei der Konzipierung von Ausstellungen, die dem Aufeinanderstoßen verschiedenster Interessensgruppen (wissenschaftliche Mitarbeitende, auf Sparskurs beharrende Geldgeber, Vertreter*innen der Herkunftsgemeinschaften, Museumsbesucher*innen) Rechnung tragen müssen.

Zuguterletzt kamen die lokalkulturellen Schmankerl – Kneipenbesuche in den „Alternativ“-Vierteln Leipzig-Connewitz und Dresden-Neustadt – nicht zu kurz und sorgten für zusätzlichen Bildungsgewinn und Unterhaltungswert.

Usman Mahar

Migrationspolitik "Die Idee der freiwilligen Rückkehr ad absurdum geführt". Interview mit Usman Mahar in Spiegel Online: <https://www.spiegel.de/politik/ausland/pakistan-wie-aus-deutschland-abgeschobene-zurueck-in-die-gesellschaft-finden-a-c34091fi-3171-41da-8c82-662f75d97e6c>

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Sahana Udupa

Social Science Research Council (SSRC) Academic Network on Peace, Security and the United Nations based in New York City granted Udupa US\$5000 for a commissioned research review on “Hate Speech, Information Disorder and Conflict Grant”. The Council has nominated her as the advisory board member for MediaWell, the SSRC

unit to track research on digital disinformation. In this capacity, Udupa will have regular consultations with United Nations decision makers.

Bavarian Research and Innovation Agency of Bayerische Forschungsallianz has granted Udupa a sum of €4486 for the proposed workshop, “Online Hate Speech Artificial Intelligence and the Democracy of the Future”.

