

A digital  
colloquium

# Heritage & Justice

## Unpacking Legal Narratives in Natural History

Natural history collections come into existence through a myriad of avenues – colonial extraction, war time plundering, and donations from naturalists and game hunters to name just a few. The legal and ethical justifications for each avenue provide unique insight into how “nature” is turned into a collectable natural history object. What bureaucracies and paper trails exist to establish and protect museum collections? How do modern digital technologies perpetuate or transform concepts of heritage, ownership and access? Are taxidermies, fossils or herbarium specimens legally defined as cultural artifacts and what consequences do these definitions have for indigenous sovereignty and restitution? This lecture series brings together international scholars with diverse perspectives across legal, ethical, and professional frameworks. It aims to open up a research field and map the complexities that lie at the intersection of law, ethics, politics, sovereignty, and natural history collections.



### Confirmed Speakers (more TBA in 2025)

27.11.2024 - Ulrike Schaper  
(Freie Universität Berlin)

**Multinormativity and Institutional Plurality. Methodological Reflections on Understanding the Legal Situation in the German Colony of Cameroon, 1884-1916**

04.12.2024 - Anna Echterhölter  
(Universität Wien)

**Pacific Patterns of Justification. „Nature“ and Management of Nature in German Colonial Collections of Indigenous Law (1884-1914)**

11.12.2024 - Anne MacKinney  
(Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

**Owning nature: Transforming Specimens into Property in 19th Century Prussia**

18.12.2024 - Dorothy Lippert  
(Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, Washington)

**Intellectual Property and Repatriation (tbd)**

22.01.2025 - Alicja Jagielska-Burduk  
(University of Opole, Poland)

**Natural Collections and New Technologies**

Wednesdays

1-2pm  
CET

Language - English

Zoom Link



<https://t.ly/C9sW6>

# Colloquium Humanities of Nature

Programme June – July 2024

<https://zoom.us/j/96366588279?pwd=cjlCSU5veTJtcTBpMHd2c3U1TG5FZz09>

Meeting-ID: 963 6658 8279

PW: 700076

Wednesdays, 1-2 pm (CET)

## Collecting Minerals, Extracting the Earth. Political Dimensions of Geoscience

June, 19<sup>th</sup> From the Extraction to the Exhibition «Collectible Minerals» (Ecole des Mines' mineralogy museum, Paris)  
Maddalena Napolitani / Clotilde Savatier, Museo Galileo

June, 26<sup>th</sup> Rock, Paper, Scissors:  
Managing Mineral 'Treasures' in 18th-Century Germany  
Sebastian Felten, University of Vienna

July, 3<sup>rd</sup> Decolonising Manchester's Minerals  
and the Ripples of Sector Change  
David Gelsthorpe, Manchester Museum

July, 10<sup>th</sup> Minerals, Knowledge Production, and Colonial Legacies  
Carrie Robbins / Selby Hearsh, Bryn Mawr College





Humanities  
of Nature  
Colloquium

Zoomlink:  
<https://s.421.fr/hon>

# The **A digital colloquium** politics of **Wednesdays, 1-2pm CET** conservation

This colloquium will probe into the entangled histories and presents of museums, nature and species conservation, protected areas and national parks. It will enquire into the "politics of conservation", including the interests, resources, benefits, knowledges and technologies mobilized in conservation efforts and the subjectivities, geographies, temporalities and social orders they give rise to and/or reproduce: What is conserved, how, by whom and who benefits?

**Wednesday, 3 May**

*Dr. Mordecai Ogada, Conservation Solutions Afrika*  
Green Colonialism: The New Empires

**Wednesday, 10 May**

*Dr. Wilhelm Kiwango, University of Dodoma*  
Convivial Conservation and the entangled history of Protected Areas in the Global South: Prospects and Challenges

**Wednesday, 17 May**

*Sanchita Balachandran, Johns Hopkins University*  
"May I know how you kill them to preserve them as specimens?," Life and Death in the Conservation Laboratory

**Wednesday, 24 May**

*Dr. Frank Matose, University of Cape Town*  
The Violence of Conservation in Africa: Rethinking alternatives

**Wednesday, 7 June**

*Prof. Dr. Noémie Étienne, University of Vienna*  
*Dr. Lotte Arndt, TU Berlin*  
Contested Conservation

**Wednesday, 14 June**

*Prof. Dr. Aby Sène-Harper, Clemson University*  
From Biodiversity to Capital: Shifting Grounds in African Conservation

**Wednesday, 21 June**

*Prof. Dr. Esther Turnhout, University of Twente*  
Animating plural natures: knowledge and practice beyond conservation

**Wednesday, 5 July**

*Prof. Dr. Rosaleen Duffy, University of Sheffield*  
Security and Conservation: A Political Ecology Analysis of Strategies to Tackle the Illegal Wildlife Trade

**Wednesday, 12 July**

*Prof. Dr. Prakash Kashwan, Brandeis University*  
Conceptualizing and Realizing Ecological Justice in an Unequal World

&:



Berlin University  
Alliance





# Colloquium Humanities of Nature

Online Colloquium Calendar January—March 2023

<https://zoom.us/j/98051998463?pwd=QjhmU0lTKzIzSdUxEK3NHSWlZQ1FWdz09>

Meeting-ID: 980 5199 8463

Code: 251891

Wednesdays, 1–2 pm (CET)

## Focus: Early Modern Politics of Nature

- Feb., 22     **Natural Things in Early Modern Worlds**  
Mackenzie Cooley, Hamilton College Clinton
- Mar., 1     **Designing a Virtual Research Environment: The Berlin Kunstkammer**  
Sarah Wagner, Museum für Naturkunde Berlin
- Mar., 15    **Berlin's Australian Archive: Addressing the Colonial Legacies of Natural History – A Report on Work in Progress**  
Anna Weinreich, Museum für Naturkunde Berlin, Potsdam University;  
Anja Schwarz, Potsdam University;  
Eva Bischoff, Trier University
- Mar., 22    **Global objects? On a collection based approach to the early history of the Zoological Museum**  
Meike Knittel, Museum für Naturkunde Berlin
- Mar., 29    **Imagining and Extracting Use(s): Natural Economy and Academic Collections in the early 18th Century.**  
Kelly Whitmer, University of the South Sewanee

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Image: "Frontispiece of Museum Wormiani Historia" by AnonymousUnknown author; Foto: Didier Descouens / Wikimedia Commons / CC BY-SA 4.0

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:1655\\_-\\_Frontispiece\\_of\\_Museum\\_Wormiani\\_Historia.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:1655_-_Frontispiece_of_Museum_Wormiani_Historia.jpg) (accessed 12.01.23), changes in tinting and brightness have been made for this use



# Colloquium Humanities of Nature

Online Colloquium Calendar October-December 2022

<https://zoom.us/j/92316594689?pwd=bXVYM1dxSEtjT2dnQzAxOC9lK3RyUT09>

Meeting-ID: 923 1659 4689

Kenncode: 188101

Wednesdays, 1-2 pm (CET)

## Focus: Museums and Society

- Oct., 19 **Die Wissenschaftskultur des geteilten Berlin im Spiegel der naturkundlichen und technischen Museen**  
Arne Schirrmacher, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and Oxford Centre for the History of Science, Medicine and Technology
- Nov., 9 **Contested Bodies and Conflicts. Forensic Experts' Knowledge Practices amidst Protracted Violence. A Colombian experience.**  
María Fernanda Olarte-Sierra, University of Vienna, Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology
- Nov., 16 **How Institutions Imagine**  
Tahani Nadim, Humanities of Nature, Museum für Naturkunde Berlin and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
- Nov., 23 **Mission Impossible: The Categorical Failure of Digitisation**  
Katta Spiel, TU Wien, Informatics, PostDoc Researcher Human Computer Interaction
- Dec., 7 **Namen und Benennung – Von Autoritäten und Transformationen in der Taxonomie am Museum für Naturkunde Berlin**  
Frauke Dornberg

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Museum für Naturkunde Berlin, Antje Dittmann / Museum für Naturkunde



# Colloquium Humanities of Nature

Online Colloquium Calendar August-October 2022

<https://zoom.us/j/92316594689?pwd=bXVVM1dxSEtjT2dnQzAxOC9lK3RyUT09>

Meeting-ID: 923 1659 4689

Kenncode: 188101

Wednesdays, 1-2 pm (CET)

## Focus: Imperial Collecting: Extraction, Violence and Labour

### Einnahmen

Sept., 7 **Moving Animals, Moving Objects? Tracing the Dimensions and Connections of the Wildlife Trade by German Animal Dealers**  
Charlotte Hoes, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen

### Ausgaben

Sept., 14 **The Art of Killing Animals: Field Practices and Imperialist Natural History in the Long Nineteenth Century**  
Marie Muschalek, Universität Konstanz

Sept., 28 **Local Practice in Global Perspectives. Labour and "Race" in German East Africa**  
Minu Hashemi Yekani, Freie Universität Berlin

Oct., 5 **Mosquitoes and Invisible Labour in British India**  
Rohan Deb Roy, University of Reading, UK

Oct., 12 **Transdisciplinary Collecting Practices—Tendaguru revisited**  
Ina Heumann, Museum für Naturkunde Berlin

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Quelle: Frachtliste zu wissenschaftlichen Sendungen aus den deutschen Kolonien, Museum für Naturkunde Berlin, Historische Bild- und Schriftgutsammlungen, Zool. Mus., S II, „Deutsche Schutzgebiete“, Bd. 4, Bl. 70.

# Colloquium Humanities of Nature

Online Colloquium Calendar April-June 2022  
Wednesdays, 1-2 pm (CET)



## Fokus: MuseumFutures

- April, 27      **Language Shapes Reality - Reflections on the Establishment of Discrimination Sensitive Language in Museums**  
ICOM Young Professionals
- May, 4      **The Natural History Museum - past, present and future. A glocal exhibition project for Barcelona's Museu Martorell**  
Laura Valls, Centre Alexandre Koyré (MNHN-EHESS-CNRS) Paris, Institut d'Història de la Ciència (UAB) Barcelona;  
Oliver Hochadel, Institució Milà i Fontanals in Barcelona (CSIC – Spanish National Research Council)
- May, 25      **TBA**  
**12.30 pm (CET)** Faysal Bibi, Museum für Naturkunde Berlin
- June, 8      **Thinking speed with snails: practices of making digital**  
Roos Hopmann, Museum für Naturkunde Berlin
- June, 15      **Access and inclusion: questions to ask ourselves**  
Maria Vlachou, Executive Director, Acceso Cultura
- June, 22      **User imaginaries in digital natural history**  
Freia Kuper, Museum für Naturkunde Berlin
- No registration required  
Keine Anmeldung erforderlich

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# Colloquium Humanities of Nature

Online Colloquium Calendar March-April 2022

Wednesdays, 1-2 pm (CET)

## Focus: Digitisation

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- March, 16 **Images and Data. Art Historical Perspectives on the Digital Collections of the Museum für Naturkunde (Museum of Natural History Berlin)**  
Lukas Fuchsgruber, Technical University Berlin
- March, 23 **Provenance Research under the Spotlight: the Digital Edition of the Annual Reports of the Museum für Naturkunde (Museum of Natural History Berlin) 1887-1915 and 1928-1938**  
Aron Marquardt, Universität Leipzig and MfN
- March, 30 **Connect – Comprehend – Communicate. The “Amazonas Future Lab”**  
Andrea Scholz, Ethnological Museum Berlin; Thiago da Costa Oliveira, Ethnological Museum Berlin and Botanical Garden Berlin
- April, 6 **Analysing Digitising and Digitalisation – the Discourse of "Digitalisierung" in German Sociology**  
Ingmar Lippert, IT University of Copenhagen (ITU)

No registration required  
Keine Anmeldung erforderlich

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[katja.kaiser@mfn.berlin](mailto:katja.kaiser@mfn.berlin)

<https://portal.museumfuernaturkunde.berlin/detail/4500d7b2f508457563e7>



# Humanities of Nature

Online Colloquium Calendar Aug-Dec 2021

Wednesdays, 1-2 pm (CET)

18 Aug

**Science Fictions: Race, visuality,  
and imperial fantasies of accumulation**

Patricia Marcos University of California, San Diego, USA

01 Sep

**Decolonizing the Colonial Crime Scene in Natural History and  
Ethnographic Museums: a call for a Museum Truth, Repatriation &  
Restitution Commission #MuseumTRRC**

Wandile Kasibe Iziko Museums, South Africa

29 Sep

**Presentation of the Research Collective  
Collection < > Ecologies**

Dominik Hünninger (et al) University of Hamburg, Germany

13 Oct

**Human remains, scientific racism,  
and the work of counter-history**

Ricardo Roque ICS University of Lisbon, Portugal

27 Oct

**The MuseumsLab cooperation partners at the MfN**

The MuseumsLab Fellows at the MfN <https://themuseumslab.org/>

03 Nov

**The making of an economic botanist:  
Gustav Mann, West African Bioprospecting  
and the business of extraction in the age of empire**

Moritz von Brescius John F. Kennedy Memorial Fellow - Harvard University, USA

17 Nov

**Sensible Provenienzen in Anthropologischen  
Sammlungen der Universität Göttingen.  
Eine Projektvorstellung**

Holger Stoecker Göttingen University, Germany

24 Nov

**Bericht zur Bestandsaufnahme menschlicher Überreste aus  
kolonialem Kontext in Berlin**

Isabelle Reimann Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany

01 Dec

**Animals as Objects: Website Presentation**

Mareike Vennen (et al) Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany

08 Dec

**Berlin Mineral Collections and their Interrelationships.  
A short history of the Mineralogical Collection of the TU Berlin**

Johannes Giebel Technische Universität Berlin, Germany

15 Dec

**Donations for Prussia: Political Conditions for Collecting Minerals  
in the early 19th Century**

Angela Strauß Museum für Naturkunde Berlin, Germany

& save the date:

26 Jan

**Wie kommt Umkays Schädel in die Meckelschen Sammlungen in Halle?  
Herrnhuter Mission und Anthropologie zwischen 1790 und 1880**

Thomas Ruhland Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg, Germany

# Humanities of Nature

## Museum für Naturkunde Berlin

Online Colloquium Calendar Apr-Jun 2021  
Wednesdays, 1-2pm

- 05.May **Yann LeGall** TU Berlin, Germany  
Scattered pieces of colonial appropriation:  
a plea for multidisciplinary partnership in critical necrographies
- 19.May **Katherine Arnold** London School of Economics, UK  
Negotiating Trust in Natural History Partnerships: the Museum  
für Naturkunde Berlin in Southern Africa, 1815-1827
- 02.Jun **Fritha Langerman** University of Cape Town, South Africa  
A rhino in translation:  
replication and absence as dual strategies of display
- 16.Jun **Rebecca Machin** Leeds Museums & Galleries, UK  
& **Jack Ashby** Zoology Museum Cambridge University, UK  
Legacies of Colonial Violence in Natural History Collections

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