



Anthropocenic Objects

Collecting Practices for the Age of Humans

A series of interdisciplinary workshops on material culture in the Anthropocene and the changing role of museums, archives, digital and participatory collections.

17.2. / 17.3. / 14.4.2022

Chicken eggs, Museum für Naturkunde Berlin, Photo: Marc Jerusel, CC BY-SA.

Anthropocenic Objects COLLECTING PRACTICES FOR THE AGE OF HUMANS

FIRST WORKSHOP: 17 February 2022 (1 p.m. to 6 p.m. GMT+1)

What is an Anthropocenic Object? Transdisciplinary Perspectives on Natural, Cultural and Hybrid Objects

If nature and culture in the Anthropocene can no longer be considered as two independent spheres, this has an impact on today's status of objects. What new categories do we need to describe and work with objects? What does it mean for museums and other institutions if the distinction between natural and cultural heritage no longer fits? And can the observation of humans' interaction with their objects help in better understanding the so-called Anthropocene?

FORMAT

Digital event via Zoom for and with interdisciplinary researchers and museum professionals, organised by the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin as part of a project in collaboration with Europeana Research within the Europeana Research Grants Programme.

The workshop is centered on the exchange of theoretical and practical perspectives and joint reflection. Invited speakers are asked to bring an object (or its digital representation) that can be described as an Anthropocenic object from their point of view.

SCHEDULE

- **13:00** Introduction (Elisabeth Heyne)
- **13:15 Presentation Session (I)**: What is an Anthropocenic object for you?
- 14:30 Break
- 15:00 Presentation Session (II)
- 16:15 Short Break
- **16:30 Round Table (I):** What new categories do we need to deal with objects in the Anthropocene if the distinction between natural and cultural heritage no longer fits?

Chairs: Bergit Arends (London), Nils Güttler (Zürich), Franz Mauelshagen (Bielefeld)

17:15 Round Table (II): How can we rethink our relationship to the global environmental transformations that confront

us with unprecedented challenges? Or is collecting no longer suitable? Chairs: Gregg Mitman (Wisconsin-Madison) Sandra Maß (Bochum), Benjamin Steininger (Berlin)

18:00 Round Table (III): What new institutional and political perspectives result from a revised status of the Anthropocenic object?

Chairs: Nicole Heller (Pittsburgh), Mareike Vennen (Berlin)

18:30 Conclusion

Moderation: Solvejg Nitzke (Dresden)