

09.11 **Mareike Vennen (HU)**
Introduction: Animals as Objects

Interdisciplinary and International (EN/DE)
Ringvorlesung - Wintersemester 2020/2021

16.11 **Therese Kienemund (MfN)**
Alfred Keller's Insect Models and the Museum
für Naturkunde Berlin

23.11 **Lisa Onaga (MPIWG)**
Cocoon Cultures and Life Histories

30.11 **Filippo Bertoni (MfN)**
Oozing Objectivities: Knowing Radiolarians,
Fuelling Fossil Capital

07.12 **Christian Kassung (HU)**
Restlos: Von der Unmöglichkeit, Schweine aufzuessen

14.12 **Wilko Graf von Hardenberg (MPIWG)**
Counting Animals: Surveys, Baselines and Models in Nature Conservation

organized by
Mareike Vennen
Institut für Kulturwissenschaft, HU Berlin

Research Groups **Animals as Objects**
Museum für Naturkunde Berlin, HU Berlin,
Zoologischer Garten Berlin AG;

The Body of Animals
MPIWG Berlin;
and invited guests

Ringvorlesung

Animals as Objects?

Histories, Institutions, Infrastructures, Data, and Knowledge

04.01 **Clemens Maier-Wolthausen (Zool. Garten)**
'Heia Safari!': Fangexpeditionen des Berliner Zoos in Ostafrika
und koloniale Vermarktung

11.01 **Marianna Szczygalska (MPIWG)**
Animating Capture: An Elephant Micro-History

18.01 **Bernhard Gißibl (IEG)**
The Other Serengeti: Discussing the Naturalness of Elephants in
postcolonial Tanzania

25.01 **Kerstin Pannhorst (MPIWG)**
Turning to Insects: Tiny Bodies for the Lab, the Library, and the
Department Store in Germany and Japan around 1900

08.02 **Britta Lange (HU)**
Die Seidenraupe: Ein (Clastique-)Modell und seine
Modellhaftigkeit

15.02 **Tamar Novick (MPIWG)**
Bodily Waste as Animal: The Case of Urine

22.02 **Tahani Nadim (HU/MfN)**
Reproducing Species in and with Data

Mondays, 4:15-5:45pm,
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
live digital format



Image credits: *above* MfN HBSB Z.M. B III 1319; *front* Filippo Bertoni 2020.

Poster design: Filippo Bertoni.

The Ringvorlesung draws from two current research clusters and their extended network:

the research project “Animals as Objects: Zoological Gardens and the Natural History Museum Berlin, 1810 to 2020” between *Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin*; *Zoologische Gärten, Berlin*; and *Humboldt Universität, Berlin*;

and the research theme “The Body of Animals” Department III at the *Max-Planck-Institut für Wissenschaftsgeschichte*.

Languages: English and German.
Mondays, from 16:15 to 17:45.

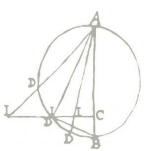
Please register by emailing mareike.vennen@hu-berlin.de to receive the zoom link, and further technical information.

Animals as Objects?

This interdisciplinary and international Ringvorlesung examines the role of animals in institutional and infrastructural arrangements, past and present. It investigates the processes by which animals are turned into *objects* – living zoo attractions, museum exhibits, diplomatic tokens, commodities, laboratory tools, data sets, and more. The aim is to understand the trajectories, traffics and transformations of animal-objects within and between different sites in their global, political, scientific and cultural context.

We will examine how animals—dead and alive—have been collected, transported, classified, processed, used, understood, and displayed at different times. Presenting shared concerns around the politicization, datafication, and commodification of animals (or animal parts) the lectures will offer an extended understanding of agents, institutions, and infrastructures as human/non-human co-productions. Researchers from contemporary history, the history of science, cultural anthropology, cultural studies as well as environmental history and political theory will explore specific encounters between animal bodies, knowledge practices and material cultures in different local and global settings spanning from colonial times to the present day. By investigating how animals are perceived, studied and managed, and their environments and worlds are represented, recreated, or imagined, the RVL explores how these processes contribute to the shaping of institutions, infrastructures, and politics. In what ways have animals been used, studied, and classified as objects? What has historically been made to count as an animal and what role do they play in signifying human socialities, just as much as the natural world?

The RVL invites to engage in the work of historicizing ‘naturalized’ views, of closely investigating the politics of care and the economics of conservation, of challenging a static notion of animals as ‘objects’, and thereby critically interrogating traditional, still effective roles, meanings, orders of knowledge, images and narratives of animals.



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