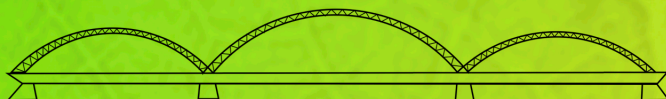


mesh

multidisciplinary  
environmental studies  
in the humanities

# Multispecies Conviviality

## SYMPOSIUM



&

Launch of Cologne BRIDGES Hub  
for Planetary Wellbeing

17-19 OCTOBER 2024

Tagungsraum, Neues Seminargebäude  
UNIVERSITY OF COLOGNE



UNIVERSITÄT  
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## About


The focus of our MESH Symposium 2024 lies on the co-creation of mutually life-sustaining forms of multispecies co-existence in agricultural, urban and industrial environments. This signals a shift in the way biodiversity conservation has been conceived in modern societies, from the protection of nature ‘over yonder’ towards a consideration of multispecies interactions and entanglements in those places where people live, work and produce their food. Within the burgeoning field of multispecies ethnography, these entanglements have been framed in terms of *conviviality* and *care*, entailing the cultivation of practices of co-existing in a shared space with a heightened attentiveness to others’ presences, with their species-specific modes of inhabitation, communication and interaction.



Our MESH Symposium 2024 explores interdisciplinary avenues of Multispecies Conviviality, highlighting the crucial importance of plants, fungi and the microbial life of soils for the flourishing of all life, as well as grappling with challenges to more-than-human co-existence, such as those posed by the spread of zoonotic diseases. The symposium’s speakers and panellists explore conviviality from archaeological, historical, cultural geographical, philosophical, artistic and literary perspectives and engage with multispecies approaches to conservation in environmental anthropology and the life sciences.



The MESH Symposium 2024 also encompasses the official launch of the University of Cologne BRIDGES UNESCO-MOST hub for Planetary Wellbeing, and is incorporated into the EUUniWell MESH Autumn Academy for Planetary Wellbeing (14-19 October 2024).



# PROGRAMME

**Thursday | 17 October 2024**

Tagungsraum, Ground Floor, Neues Seminargebäude  
University of Cologne, Albertus-Magnus-Platz, 50931 Cologne

2:00                      **Registration**

2:15 - 2:30            **Welcoming Words**

2:30 - 4:00            **Panel I**

Shumon T. Hussain  
Archaeology, University of Cologne (UoC)  
*Living-with, Thriving-in, and Learning-from  
Past Multispecies Communities*

Luci Attala  
Social Anthropology, University of Wales  
Trinity Saint David (UWTSD)  
*Peace, the Impossible Concept (or 'the spirit  
and the letter'): A More-than-species Story*

Kári Driscoll  
Comparative Literature, Utrecht University  
*The Politics of Animosity: Nonhuman  
Resistance and Interspecies Solidarity in the  
Contemporary Cultural Imagination*

Chair: Christoph Lange

4:00 - 4:30            **Coffee Break**

4:30 - 5:45            **MESH Annual Symposium Opening**

*Welcome Addresses*

Humboldt Prof. Dr. Kate Rigby  
MESH Director

Prof. Dr. Kirk Junker  
Vice-Rector for Sustainability

Prof. Dr. Stefan Grohé  
Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities

*BRIDGES Launch*

Prof. Dr. Beatrix Busse  
Vice-Rector for Teaching and Studies &  
Chief Development Officer of the European  
University for Well-Being (EUniWell)

Dr. Susanne Preuschoff  
Head of the Global Responsibility Unit  
at UoC Division of International Affairs

Prof. Dr. Steven Hartman  
Executive Director of BRIDGES Coalition

Prof. Dr. Luci Attala  
Deputy Executive Director of BRIDGES &  
Director of UK BRIDGES Hub at UWTSD &  
BRIDGES International Programme Office

Prof. Dr. Joni Adamson  
Founding Director of BRIDGES Flagship Hub  
at Arizona State University & Director of the  
Humanities for the Environment - North  
American Observatory

Dr. Nsah Mala  
Coordinator of the UoC BRIDGES Hub &  
Next Generation Foresight Practitioner  
Fellow at the School of International Futures

5:45 - 6:00

**Comfort Break**

6:00 - 7:00

**Keynote Lecture I**

Eben Kirksey  
Anthropology, University of Oxford  
*Rifts in Ecological Processes*

Chair: Franz Krause

7:00 - 9:00

**Reception**

**Friday | 18 October 2024**

Tagungsraum, Ground Floor, Neues Seminargebäude  
University of Cologne, Albertus-Magnus-Platz, 50931 Cologne

9:00 - 9:30

**Morning Coffee**

9:30 - 10:30

**Keynote Lecture II**

Alison Pouliot  
Ecologist & Environmental Photographer,  
Rachel Carson Center, Ludwig-Maximilians-  
University Munich  
*Fostering Fungal Networks of the Subterrain*

Chair: Roman Bartosch

10:30 - 10:45

**Comfort Break**

10:45 - 12:15

**Panel II**

Ishika Ramakrishna  
Wildlife Ecology & Conservation,  
Manipal University, Karnataka  
*Wildlife as Neighbours and Collaborators:  
Studying, Mitigating and Communicating  
Other-than-human — Human Shared Lifeworlds*

Ursula Münster  
Environmental Humanities, University of Oslo  
*Relational Biographies: Attuning to Elephant  
Personalities in South Indian Conservation*

Emmanuel Sulle  
Land & Agrarian Studies, Aga Khan University  
*From Decolonising to Liberating Conservation  
in Africa*

Chair: Carolin Schwegler

12:15 - 1:15      **Lunch Break** (catered on site)

1:15 - 2:45      **Panel III**

Susanne Schmitt  
Anthropology, RIFS Potsdam  
*"To be of Service". Speculative Hatmakings'  
Tiny Worlds of Consequence*

Monika Stobiecka  
Archaeology, University of Warsaw  
*Exhibiting Lively Heritage*

Owain Jones  
Cultural Geography, Bath Spa University  
*Estuaries on the Edge. Past Present and Future  
Convivial Life in Tidal Landscapes*

Chair: Dominik Ohrem

2:45 - 3:00      **Closing**

### Saturday | 19 October 2024

University of Cologne International House, Ground Floor  
Kringsweg 6, 50931 Cologne

11:00 - 2:00      **Pop-up Exhibition**  
*Multispecies Storytelling*  
*feat. MESH Autumn Academy Projects*

## KEYNOTE AND PANEL DETAILS

### KEYNOTE I

Thursday, 17 October 2024 | 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.  
Tagungsraum, Neues Seminargebäude and via Zoom  
Chair: Franz Krause

#### *Rifts in Ecological Processes*

**EBEN KIRKSEY**

Anthropology, University of Oxford

Bats have remarkable biological abilities that enable them to live in symbiosis with a diverse community of viruses. Highly adapted immune systems enable bats to live with viral infections that are deadly in other species. Symbiotic viruses may play a role in helping bats fend off other infections and enjoy incredibly long life spans. The bat caves of Thailand will serve as a backdrop for reflections on the key roles that bats play in ecological processes and also how natural cycles of energy are unravelling in the Anthropocene. Animals and people are collectively becoming vulnerable as global capitalism transforms the planet. Mining operations and agricultural ventures are dramatically transforming the landscape—above ground where bats forage, as well as underground where they roost. Bats are going hungry as a result of these changes. As caves are destroyed or overrun with tourists, they are being forced to find new places to roost. The intensifying speed of capitalism is generating a steady increase in the number of infectious disease outbreaks in livestock, wildlife, and people. Bats and other wild animals are becoming sick, and shedding viruses. Cats are catching bats, catching fevers, and passing viruses along to people. Is the focus on Wuhan as the epicenter of 2020 pandemic fundamentally misplaced? Where are viruses actively circulating among people and animals? What basic lessons about symbiosis can be learned from studying bats, their viruses, and broader community dynamics? Can repairing some kinds of ecological damage help protect humanity from future pandemic diseases?

## KEYNOTE II

Friday, 18 October 2024 | 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.  
Tagungsraum, Neues Seminargebäude and via Zoom  
Chair: Roman Bartosch

### *Fostering Fungal Networks of the Subterranean*

**ALISON POULIOT**

Ecologist & Environmental Photographer, Rachel Carson Center,  
Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich

The earth's changing climate and environmental issues have come into focus through the demise of charismatic megafauna and the 'biodiversity crisis'. But what about stinkhorns and slime moulds?

Fungi underpin terrestrial ecosystems, forming cross-kingdom collaborations with countless creatures and intimately entwining with plants. Fungi are especially important in disturbed environments that are the focus of this symposium. As vital pioneers, fungi kickstart colonisation and recovery, yet are almost absent in biodiversity protocols and development planning.

Much of the dynamism of the natural world occurs in transition zones or 'interface environments', which are also the domain of fungi. Likewise, the best possibilities for conserving both natural and altered systems emerge at the intersections of disciplinary thought.

Over the last three decades Alison has straddled hemispheres, working with fungi and their followers in conservation and land restoration. In this keynote lecture she will explore how can we foster fungal flourishing to re-enliven soils.



## PANEL I

Thursday, 17 October 2024 | 2:30 - 4:00 p.m.

Tagungsraum, Neues Seminargebäude

Chair: Christoph Lange

### *Living-with, Thriving-in, and Learning-from*

#### *Past Multispecies Communities*

**SHUMON T. HUSSAIN**

Archaeology, University of Cologne

Multispecies conviviality responds to urgent calls of rendering planetary livelihood more inclusive and developing human forms of life that are more hospitable towards nonhuman life. I argue that archaeology can play a crucial role in these conversations as it allows us to tap into a vast archive of human experience about the nonhuman and confronts radically alien constellations of human and nonhuman life as they attend to each other over millennia. Archaeology, I suggest, may thus offer an *empirical* rather than normative inroad to the problem of conviviality. I further argue that archaeology allows us to examine how survival is rarely the starting point of multispecies life but instead emerges as the *result* of carefully balancing the potential to thrive together. From this, I propose the following foci of interspecies attention within conviviality studies: i) *synergy/complementarity* of lifeforms, ii) openness to *learn from* other lifeforms, and iii) the possibility to cultivate *species-transcending projects*.

### *Peace, the Impossible Concept (or 'the spirit and the letter'):*

#### *A More-than-species Story*

**LUCI ATTALA**

Social Anthropology, University of Wales Trinity Saint David

According to Kohn (2013), to be true to the world, forms of being that go 'beyond the human' need to be attended to. For Kohn (ibid), spirituality is a one of those forms and a mode of expression that needs more attention. Correspondingly, when Latour (1991) claimed we had never been modern he showed how the divide between science and

spirituality was artificial and that dealings with spirit beings and their powers should be taken seriously. Multispecies ethnographies and new materialisms are being used to rethink anthropology but in efforts to appreciate the agency of living creatures and the vitality of matter, they discount the spirits, risking reinforcing the dualisms they claim to oppose (Schaeffer 2018). Likewise, in the context of today's climate emergency, advocates of multispecies justice and ecocide use Indigenous perspectives to make their case but edit out the spirits that Indigenous peoples know animate the physical world.

This presentation starts with a mountain and a snake and tells a more-than-species spirit-inclusive story that zigzags (or snakes) through time. It brings in breathing, screaming, family, balance, water, wasps, machine guns and circles to think about peace, the impossible concept (Taussig 2019).

***The Politics of Animosity: Nonhuman Resistance and Interspecies Solidarity in the Contemporary Cultural Imagination***

**KÁRI DRISCOLL**

Comparative Literature, Utrecht University

As the war against nature enters its critical phase, nonhuman resistance and revolt are becoming an increasingly prominent theme in literature, film, and popular culture. With Hollywood franchises such as *Planet of the Apes* or *Jurassic World* inviting viewers to cheer as nature rises up to take revenge on humanity, disanthropy has gone mainstream. Speculative fiction and comics series such as *Animosity* imagine an all-out war between the species, while on social media, orcas attacking yachts in the Strait of Gibraltar are recruited as allies in a multispecies anti-capitalist struggle. What can this investment in interspecies conflict tell us about the possibility of imagining more-than-human communities? This paper focuses on two recent novels, Adam Roberts's *Bête* and Ned Beaman's *Venomous Lumpsucker*, which, through irony and satire, push the motif of animal rebellion beyond anthropocentric fantasies of punishment and redemption, and toward more ambiguous and radical visions of inter-species solidarity and coexistence.

## PANEL II

Friday, 18 October 2024 | 10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Tagungsraum, Neues Seminargebäude

Chair: Carolin Schwegler

### *Wildlife as Neighbours and Collaborators: Studying, Mitigating and Communicating Other-than-human—Human Shared Lifeworlds*

**ISHIKA RAMAKRISHNA**

Wildlife Ecology & Conservation, Manipal University, Karnataka

Human–nature relationships, often portrayed as a coexistence—conflict binary, are rarely as simplistic, their complexity being particularly evident in multicultural landscapes like India. Human—wildlife relationships in the global south are often deep-rooted, owing to a long history of people and their neighbouring wildlife sharing and co-constructing lives. The value that local communities ascribe to ecosystems is emergent from these cultural bonds, thereby necessitating the use of scientific methods and conservation strategies developed specifically for the global south. Herein, I draw upon eight years of first-hand interdisciplinary research that explored multifaceted other-than-human—human primate relationships in India to present underlying mechanisms of human—nature coexistence and tensions in South Asia. Finally, I expand upon the versatility of citizen science, fact-based environmental education, storytelling, and science communication through contemporary media like podcasting to mitigate conflict scenarios, making space for the cultivation of pro-conservation attitudes and empathy for wildlife across communities.

### *Relational Biographies: Attuning to Elephant Personalities in South Indian Conservation*

**URSULA MÜNSTER**

Environmental Humanities, University of Oslo

In contemporary conservation efforts of so-called human-elephant conflicts, the life histories and individual experiences of elephants remain surprisingly silent. Yet, people living and working in close contact with elephants know that elephants, just like other people,

become what they are through their individual experiences, relationships and encounters. This paper conceptualizes elephant biographies as relational biographies by narrating the stories of three elephants who live in the Western Ghats of South India: The life story of the lone rice-loving tusker Arikomban, who became a hero in the local media through his expeditions to eat rice, and the three *kunki* (working) elephants, Konni Surendran, Kunju, and Soorya used by the forest department to capture him and relocate him to a nearby forest division. The paper shows that attuning to the ways in which elephant lives and personalities have been formed and informed through a diversity of historically situated encounters –with other elephants, people, infrastructures, governance practices, etc. – matters for imaging collaborative survival and conviviality with these species.

*From Decolonising to Liberating Conservation in Africa*

**EMMANUEL SULLE**

Land & Agrarian Studies, Aga Khan University

In recent years, researchers, activists and Indigenous Peoples and local communities in Africa have called for systems change in the conservation sector which is not only facing the twin challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss but more importantly, the growing pressure to address human rights violations carried out in the name of conservation. African people have witnessed the decades of conservation policy under colonial administration and post-independence governments which have led to untold disposessions and human rights violations. Many of the affected groups are the Indigenous Peoples and local communities whose customary lands and territories of life were subsumed by top-down protected areas in an attempt to “protect” nature from them. As a result of these long sufferings, Indigenous Peoples and local communities have remained resilient, forged strong alliances and have recently secured several gains. One of the notable successes is the recent explicit recognition of “Indigenous and traditional territories” in their own right, as a third pathway beyond protected areas in the 30x30 target of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. On the backdrop of these little gains, this paper argues that it is insufficient to decolonize African conservation because such efforts still leave the sector on the hands of

few elites of independent states. Instead, the focus should be about systems change in the African conservation to allow people and their democratic institutions to take back control over the sector from elites and entrenched colonial structures.

### PANEL III

Friday, 18 October 2024 | 1:15 – 2:45 p.m.

Tagungsraum, Neues Seminargebäude

Chair: Dominik Ohrem

*“To be of Service”. Speculative Hatmakings’*

*Tiny Worlds of Consequence*

**SUSANNE SCHMITT**

Anthropology, Research Institute for Sustainability, Potsdam

More than a hundred years ago, a fashionable, yet fiercely debated object changed the world of biodiversity conservation forever: the feathered hat. My contribution presents “To be of Service. Speculative millinery’s tiny worlds of consequence”: an art installation that explores evolving concepts of interspecies relations and environmental change and policies through those woven, crafted, feathered and felted things of shifting meaning and value.

The talk zooms into the mobile microcosms of three historical hats, some more than 130 years old and restored in collaboration with professional milliners and hat makers - disappearing craft. Each of them is a node in time: „The Origins of Species Protection”, ca. 1900, a straw hat from postwar Germany, turned into a tiny diorama for meadows and wetlands, and a hat being created based on AI-invented bird models that uncannily mirror the twisted and reassembled taxidermy birds that once travelled on fashionable hats.

## *Exhibiting Lively Heritage*

**MONIKA STOBIECKA**

Archaeology, University of Warsaw

Adopting the theory of new materialism in, broadly understood, archaeology and heritage studies has contributed to viewing heritage as dynamic, vibrant, relational and lively. While these new lenses have undoubtedly opened up new possibilities for theory and inaugurated new research fields, the practical consequences of the new understanding of heritage are still under-investigated (but see DeSilvey 2017).

Drawing on the methodologies of *art/archaeology* (Bailey 2018), in my talk, I will discuss some of the consequences of the new understanding of heritage in the museum context on the example of an artwork by Karolina Grzywnowicz – *Weeds* (2016). The project began with the identification of plants found at the former Lemkos' settlements in the southeastern Poland. While highlighting the absence of Lemkos' heritage in the public discourse, the artist decided to exhibit some of the plants in Warsaw. Art critics emphasized that the project was a violent attack on the lively entities: it ended up annihilating the vibrant matter of objects instead of nurturing their character as entities that transcend the binary of culture and nature.

During my presentation, I will delve into this criticism and investigate whether it is even possible to capture lively heritage in a museum setting.

## *Estuaries on the Edge. Past Present and Future Convivial Life in Tidal Landscapes*

**OWAIN JONES**

Cultural Geography, Bath Spa University

Estuaries are some of the most important landscapes in the world. Where fresh waters, most obviously the outflow of rivers, meet the sea. Many are tidal, some extremely, so salt and fresh water mingle and move in complex rhythm-patterns in intertidal zones. Here terrestrial and oceanic ecologies overlap and intermingle; e.g. vital fish nurseries and key habitats for many bird species. Beyond this fecund biodiversity,

estuaries are where culture and economy meet the sea and tides. Many world cities cluster around estuaries. They face many pressures whilst remaining wild and ecologically abundant, and stand at the edge of ocean, land, economy, culture, and now also climate change; being particularly vulnerable to sea level rise, storm surge, changes to ocean salinity, acidity, etc. To care for estuaries, and the convivial life therein, would be a major step in wider planetary ecological care. With this aim in view, I report on creative practices conducted with Heather Green of ASU.

## ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

**Luci Attala** is an award-winning anthropologist who has published ethnographic work on environmental issues connected to water with communities in Wales, Colombia, Kenya and Spain. She is currently Dept. Executive Director of the UNESCO-MOST BRIDGES humanities-driven transdisciplinary sustainability science programme in the UK and works as an Associate Professor at the University of Wales, where she has a record of innovation in research and championing alternative pedagogical methods. Luci co-created the Educere Alliance (Oxford University), a global community of educators, scholars and project leaders open to upending orthodox notions, clear the way and ‘lead out’ with creative thought. She was awarded the first EAUC International Green Gown and a UN gold star for work with Indigenous people. In addition, Luci is a Fellow of the World Academy of Arts and Sciences, a UNESCO inclusive policy lab expert and sits in the Globethics Pool of Ethics Experts.

**Kári Driscoll** is Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature at Utrecht University, Netherlands and editor-in-chief of the interdisciplinary journal *Humanimalia*. His research focuses on human–animal relations in literature and culture, specifically the poetics of animality, zoos as spaces of multispecies encounter and entanglement, and imagining more-than-human communities in the age of the Anthropocene.

**Shumon T. Hussain** is a deep-time archaeologist, animal prehistorian, and palaeoenvironmental humanities scholar. Shumon received his PhD in World Archaeology from the Faculty of Archaeology at Leiden University in 2019, was Assistant Professor of Multispecies and Hunter-Gatherer Archaeology in the Department of Archaeology and Heritage Studies at Aarhus University from 2019 to 2023, and joined the multidisciplinary research hub MESH of the University of Cologne as a Research Associate in fall 2023. His research is fundamentally transdisciplinary and seeks to bridge the sciences-humanities divide, for example by integrating ecological theory into multispecies thinking, and currently focuses on the tangled trajectories of humans and other keystone animals as well as the millennial-scale dynamics of early technospheres.



**Owain Jones** is a cultural geographer and became the first Professor of Environmental Humanities in the UK in 2014 at Bath Spa University, and was deputy director of the newly formed Research Centre for the Environmental Humanities at Bath Spa 2016 - 2019. He has published over 90 scholarly articles on various aspects of nature-society relations, and five books (co-edited / authored): *Art and Creativity in an Era of Ecocide: Embodiment, Performance, Practice*, Bloomsbury (2023); *Visual Culture in the Northern British Archipelago: Imagining Islands*; *Participatory Research in More-Than-Human Worlds*; *Geography and Memory: Identity, Place and Becoming*; *Tree Cultures: Places of Trees*. He led a £1.5 million Arts and Humanities Research Council Connected Communities project with eight UK universities, community partners and artists in four UK case study areas (2014 – 2018), seeking to creatively explore and transform connections within and between communities and nature in relation to water issues. He has supervised five Environmental Humanities PhDs with art practice and examined many others.

**Eben Kirksey** is Professor of Anthropology at the University of Oxford where he teaches Medical Anthropology and Human Ecology. He earned his PhD at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and helped found one of the world's first Environmental Humanities programs at UNSW Sydney in Australia. He is renowned as a co-founder of the field of Multispecies Ethnography, and among his many publications are the books *Freedom in Entangled Worlds* (2012), *Emergent Ecologies* (2015), *The Multispecies Salon* (2014), a curated collection of artwork and essays, *The Mutant Project* (2020), which follows some of the world's first genetically modified people, and a volume co-edited with Sophie Chao and Karin Bolender on *The Promise of Multispecies Justice* (2022).

**Ursula Münster** is Associate Professor of Environmental Humanities at the University of Oslo, Norway and the founding director of the Oslo School of Environmental Humanities (OSEH). Her research combines approaches from multispecies studies, political ecology, feminist STS, and environmental anthropology to study how more-than-human relationships change and evolve in the Anthropocene. Her long-term ethnographic fieldwork in South India has focused on protected forests and the effects of resource extraction and forest governance on the relationships between people and wildlife at the forest frontier. Her focus on interspecies conflict and care in India contributes to debates on

conservation and the possibilities of coexistence in anthropogenic environments. Since August 2022, she is leading the multidisciplinary project "Anthropogenic Soils", funded by the Research Council of Norway until 2028.

**Alison Pouliot** is an ecologist and environmental photographer with research interests in mycology, ecology, visual representation of environmental change, and human interactions with the natural world. She is active in international biodiversity conservation, teaching and research. Alison delves deep into the realm of fungi through multiple lenses. As an ecologist, she explores the natural world with the objectivity of science. As someone who roams the forest daily, she relates to it with an aesthetic and sensory appreciation; a natural history of experience. Alison draws on both worldviews to stir a broader public consciousness in the way we relate to forests, their inhabitants and all life. Alison is currently Volkswagen Visiting Professor at the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society at the Ludwig-Maximilians-University in Munich. She is author of *The Allure of Fungi*; *Wild Mushrooming*; *Underground Lovers*; *Meetings with Remarkable Mushrooms*; *Funga Obscura* (in press); and *Mushroom Day* (in press). [www.alisonpouliot.com](http://www.alisonpouliot.com)

**Ishika Ramakrishna** is a Doctoral Fellow at the Centre for Wildlife Studies, India. Her academic and applied interests lie in an interdisciplinary space across ethnoprimateology, social sciences, citizen science, science communication and conservation education. Following her work on human-nonhuman primate interactions in the Nicobar Islands in India, and the development and management of an environmental education program for rural school children, she is now studying the underlying mechanisms that drive a range of interactions between human communities and nonhuman primates in the northeastern states of India. Ishika is an active collaborator across several science communication and capacity building groups, and dabbles in storytelling and non-academic communication like children's books, documentaries and popular articles. She also hosts a podcast: The Thing About Wildlife. She is currently leading a long-term research, conservation and storytelling primate program in northeast India that ethically considers both human and other-than-human perspectives through novel multi-disciplinary methods.

**Susanne Schmitt** is a sensory ethnographer, interdisciplinary artist, and facilitator. She explores Museums of Natural History, Aquariums, historical textile and fashion collections or Botanical Gardens. Together with fellow researcher and artist Katrin Petroschkat she is head of STEAM projects at Naturkundemuseum Bayern with BIOTOPIA Lab in Munich, too. "To be of Service" was realized thanks to a Fellowship at the Research Institute for Sustainability (RIFS) in Potsdam and first shown at Berlin Science Week 2023 (Art/Science Forum).

**Monika Stobiecka**, PhD is an art historian and archaeologist, an assistant professor at the Faculty of Liberal Arts, University of Warsaw. She is also a member of the Young Scholars Academy of the Polish Academy of Sciences, a fellow of the Lanckoroński from Brzeź Foundation (2016), the Kościuszko Foundation (2018), the Foundation for Polish Science (2019), and cofounder of the Central Eastern Europe Chapter of Association of Critical Heritage Studies. Her research interests include the political and ethical dimensions of heritage, digital heritage, archaeological museum studies and the intersection of contemporary art and archaeological theory.

**Emmanuel Sulle** is an Assistant Professor and Director at the Aga Khan University's Arusha Climate and Environmental Research Centre, in Tanzania, and a Global Faculty member of the University of Cologne's Global South Studies Center. He is well-known as a leading scholar on agrarian studies in Africa, a contributor to the Network of Excellence on Land Governance in Africa. Prior to joining AKU Emmanuel worked at the Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS), where he led diverse groups of researchers on numerous complex studies in over seven countries in Eastern, Southern, Western and Northern Africa. These included large projects on women's land rights with field research teams in seven countries and development corridors in four countries in Eastern and Southern Africa. His current research interests include climate change, environment, sustainable agriculture, policy analysis, green economy, land tenure and agrarian transformation in Africa.



### **Organising Team**

Kate Rigby, Franz Krause, Roman Bartosch,  
Christoph Lange, Claudia Veltman, Saskia Maaßen,  
Carolin Schwegler, Mars Briones, Daniel Gallano,  
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