

## ABSTRACT

From foods to cosmetics, from drugs to design research, animals have been purposed for practical, creative, scientific, and commercial reasons throughout human history. As intensified global exploitation of natural resources directs increasing attention to the processes underlying the creation of everyday objects, historical questions about animal-derived materials have resurfaced. These questions reckon not only with cultivation and production methods and the consequences of manufacture and consumption, they also prompt critical reflection about how substances and materials co-constructed by animals and humans have changed throughout history. Whether those things are made within or made by the creature in question, we focus upon how such substances, "animal materialities," become legible and knowable at different scales and frameworks beyond animality. The fundamental question of what are animal materialities, serves as an inroad towards a re-examination of how humans in sociocultural contexts, with political economic and intellectual motivations, across different time periods, and spanning different conceptual, practical, and experimental spaces beyond the laboratory in various geographies, have engaged with and studied the material agencies situated within specific parts of animals. Canguilhem once proposed that biological tissues, like weavings, provide a theoretical and practical juxtaposition to smaller units of life, such as the cell.

Along these lines, this workshop examines the range of components of animal bodies used and transformed over time by animals, and humans. By inviting scholars working on histories of design, materials science, chemistry, and biological sciences to inquire into the histories of animal materialities, scrutiny is directed at the different knowledges and methods of studying, visualizing, and rendering animal tissues, cells, microbes, and molecules, including but not limited to lipids, fibrous and structural proteins such as collagen and keratin, teeth, and excretions. Ultimately, these juxtapositions help rethink the cultural, scientific, and epistemological significance of animal bodies and the means by which historical actors have redefined the human-animal interface.



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## REGISTRATION

If you would like to attend, please register by emailing [event\\_dept3@mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de](mailto:event_dept3@mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de) **before November 30, 2019.**

## VENUE

MAIN CONFERENCE ROOM

MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE FOR THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE

Boltzmannstrasse 22

14195 Berlin

**Cover Image** "Cross-section of an abnormal pearl 6-a." T. Miyauti. 1962. "アコヤガイ養殖真珠の断面." In 水産増殖, Vol. 10, No. 4: 10.

02 Joseph Beuys, Unschlitt / Tallow, 1977. © VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn 2018 / Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Nationalgalerie.

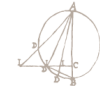
03 "Soap making." The Encyclopedia of Diderot & d'Alembert Collaborative Translation Project. Ann Arbor: Michigan Publishing, University of Michigan Library, 2010.

04 "Armadillo macro." Courtesy of Irina Podgorny.

05 "Ivory Pieces." Courtesy of Marianna Szczygielska.

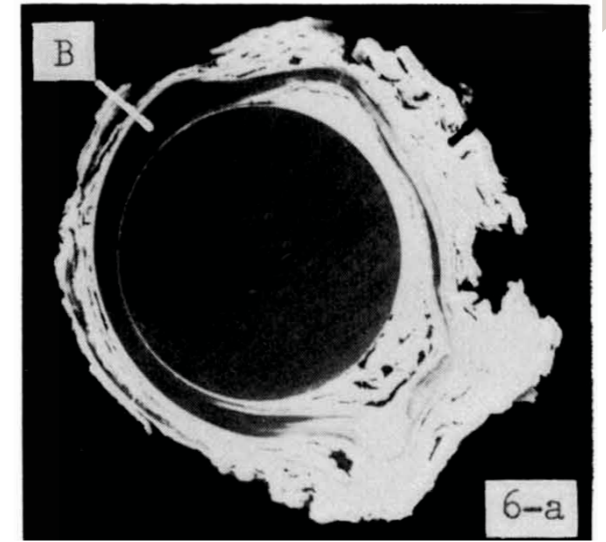
Matters  
of Activity

Image  
Space  
Material



DEPARTMENT III  
MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE  
FOR THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE  
ARTIFACTS, ACTION, KNOWLEDGE

DEC 05-06, 2019  
MAIN CONFERENCE  
ROOM



## WORKSHOP

# Animal Materialities

Compositions and Practices in the History  
of Science

### Organizers:

Lisa Onaga (MPIWG, Dept. III, Proteins and Fibers) and  
Laurence Douny (MPIWG/Humboldt University, Cluster of  
Excellence Matters of Activity: Image Space Material)

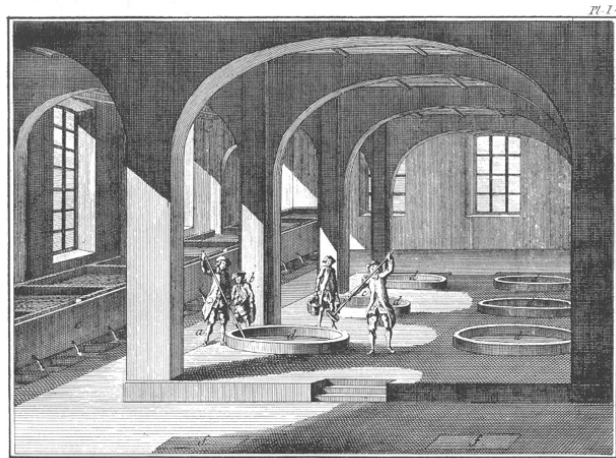
## THURSDAY, 05 DEC

- 13:15–13:25** Welcome  
**Dagmar Schäfer (MPIWG)**
- 13:25–13:45** Introduction  
**Lisa Onaga (MPIWG)**  
**Laurence Douny (MPIWG/HU Berlin)**
- 13:45–15:45** **SESSION I**  
**Chair** **Tamar Novick (MPIWG)**
- Sarah Lowengard** Waste Not: Animal Fats and Soap Amidst Growing Industrial Practices 1760–1860  
**The Cooper Union**
- Sarah Teasley** A Solution Presenting a Problem: Animal Glues in Twentieth-Century Japan  
**Royal College of Art**
- Discussant** **Daniel Liu**  
**Institute for Cultural Inquiry Berlin**

## FRIDAY, 06 DEC

- 09:30–11:30** **SESSION II**  
**Chair** **Vanessa Finney (Sydney University/ MPIWG)**
- Marianna Szczygielska** Reading Teeth: Ivory as an Artifact of Classed Whiteness  
**MPIWG**
- Mat Paskins** Narratives of Casein  
**London School of Economics**
- Discussant** **Cyrus Mody**  
**Maastricht University**
- 11:30–12:00** **PROVOCATION**  
 Investigating Biomaterials  
**Peter Fratzl**  
**Max Planck Institute of Colloids and Interfaces**
- 12:00–13:00** **LUNCH BREAK**
- 13:00–15:00** **SESSION III**  
**Chair** **Martina Schlünder (MPIWG)**
- Kjell Ericson** Pearl Science and the Origins of Aquacultural Ecology in Japan's Ago Bay, 1950s–1970s  
**Kyoto University**
- Astrid Schrader** Microbial Rhythms on the Beach and in the Laboratory  
**University of Exeter**
- Discussant** **Clapperton Chakanetsa Mavhunga**  
**Massachusetts Institute of Technology**  
**MPIWG**
- 15:00–15:30** **COFFEE BREAK**

- 15:30–17:30** **SESSION IV**  
**Chair** **Kerstin Pannhorst (HU Berlin/MPIWG)**
- Scott F. Gilbert** The Shell: Defining Where We Stand  
**Swarthmore College**
- Irina Podgorny** Armored Animals  
**Museo de La Plata**  
**Argentina**
- Discussant** **Mathias Grote**  
**Humboldt University Berlin**
- 17:30–17:50** **FINAL DISCUSSION**



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