



ABSTRACT

Animal traces are unstable entities that scientists and practitioners have historically examined in different ways across multiple fields. This exploratory workshop is a space for scholars and practitioners in the humanities and sciences to discuss methodological, technical, political, and ethical challenges and responsibilities that come with endeavors of “reading animal materials,” that is, visualizing, analyzing, and characterizing objects derived from animal bodies. Through multi-disciplinary discussion bridging archaeologists, museum conservators, and historians, we strive to deepen our mutual understandings of how animal materials are studied and cared for as historical objects.

We will explore the following questions throughout the workshop in a series of roundtable discussions and presentations:

1. What are the processes, issues, and challenges involved in accessing and working with animal materials in various disciplines?
2. How do existing methods of analyzing animal materials shape distinct spheres of comprehension in and across the sciences, history, and history of science?
3. How do power, responsibilities, economic structures, etc., inform the choices that analysts make about their study subjects and objects? How do these limit or expand what can be knowable about particular animals, human cultures, and practices?



Animal Fibers: Alpaca, camel, lema, mohair, angora, dyed Merino wool, dyed Wensleydale wool. Tray and samples of the textile cabinet in the Textilmuseum, Tilburg, Photograph by Joep Vogels, 2011.

On Cover

Front to back: Bird feather. Optical Microscopy Technique, magnified 300x by Josef Reischig, CC-BY-SA 3.0; Hand-woven mid-twentieth century Amami Ōshima tsumugi silk, magnified at 200x by Nicole Ong, Biomaterial Matters, 2017; Lactose crystals, growing period 121 days, 10% solution Photo under polarized light by Maxim Bilovitsky, 2011

WORKSHOP

Animal Materials as Multiple Historical Problems in "Reading Animals"

ORGANIZED BY

LISA ONAGA

ISABELA DORNELAS



NOV 29–DEC 2, 2022

HARNACK-HAUS, LYNNEN ROOM

TUESDAY, 29 NOV

- 15:30–15:45** Registration
- 15:45–16:00** Welcome Address
- 16:00–17:15** 5-min Flash Introductions
- 18:00** **INFORMAL DINNER***

WEDNESDAY, 30 NOV

- 9:30–9:45** Overview of Activities
- 9:45–10:30** Icebreaker
- 10:30–11:00** **COFFEE BREAK**
- 11:00–12:00** Brainstorming Session
- 12:00–13:00** **LUNCH**
- 13:00–15:00** Roundtable 1:
Disciplinary Challenges
Ellen Pearlstein
Laurence Douny
Noel Amano

- 15:00–15:30** **COFFEE BREAK**
- 15:30–16:30** Research Presentation
Erin Freedman

THURSDAY, 1 DEC

- 10:00–12:00** Roundtable 2: Methods of
Analyzing Animal Materials
across the History of Science
Birgit Kantzenbach
Ellan Spero
Soraya de Chadarevian
Amanda Crompton
- 12:00–13:00** **LUNCH**

THURSDAY CONT.

- 13:00–14:00** Research Presentation
Isabela Dornelas
- 14:00–14:15** **COFFEE BREAK**
- 14:15–15:00** Walk to Museum (or 1 stop on
U3 to U-Dahlem-Dorf)
- 15:00–17:00** ALL HANDS ON: Basketry
Exhibition & Tour by Senior
Textile Conservator Salwa
Joram
Museum Europäische Kulturen
- 18:00** **INFORMAL DINNER**

FRIDAY, 2 DEC

- 9:00–11:00** Roundtable 3: Power,
Responsibilities, and
Knowable Animal Materials
Melanie Korn
Renée Riedler
Luis Campos
KC Serota
- 11:00–12:00** Future Plans
- 12:00–13:00** **LUNCH**
- 14:00–15:30** DAOULA | sheen—West
African Silk on its Way:
Exhibition & Guided Tour by
Co-Curator Laurence Douny

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

- Amanda Crompton**
MPIWG
- Birgit Kantzenbach**
Staatliche Museen zu Berlin
- Ellan Spero**
MIT
- Ellen Pearlstein**
UCLA
- Erin Freedman**
Harvard University
- Isabela Dornelas**
MPIWG
- Laurence Douny**
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
- Melanie Korn**
Conservator in Private Practice
- Lisa Onaga**
MPIWG
- Luis Campos**
Rice University
- Madhu Narayanan**
MPIWG
- Miles Powell**
Nanyang Technological University
- Noel Amano**
MPI for Geoanthropology
- Renée Riedler**
Weltmuseum Wien
- KC Serota**
Masterpiece International
- Soraya de Chadarevian**
UCLA

*Please contact Isabela to sign up (main dishes ca. 10€)