



## 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 Kantenbach**  
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€)