

Natural-Cultural Memory in the Anthropocene

Tracing – Archiving – Remembering

September 17-19, 2025, Leibniz-Zentrum für Literatur- und Kulturforschung, Meierottostr. 8, 10719 Berlin

Wed, Sep 17

14.00 – 14.30 Introduction

GABRIELE DÜRBECK, SIMON PROBST (University of Vechta) & GEORG TOEPFER (ZfL Berlin)

14.30 – 15.30 Keynote

SVERKER SÖRLIN (Environmental Humanities Laboratory & Center for Anthropocene History, KTH Stockholm)
What Cryo-archives Tell Us. Elemental Environing in a Melting World

Panel 1: Traces and Material Witnesses

16.00 – 16.45 CLAIRE COLEBROOK (Monash University, Australia), TBA

16.45 – 17.30 SUSAN SCHUPPLI (Goldsmiths University of London) - online, TBA

18.00 – 18.45 KNUT EBELING (Weißensee Art College, Berlin) and HANNA HENNENKEMPER (Staatliche Akademie der Bildenden Künste, Stuttgart)
Cones, Gazes. A Dialogue between Art and Theory

Thu, Sep 18

Panel 2: Natural Archives and the Archival Turn

9.00 – 9.45 ZACHARY NOWAK (The Umbra Institute, Perugia)
Matters of Justice. Critical Perspectives on Natural Archives

9.45 – 10.30 DAVID SEPKOSKI (University of Illinois)
Inscribing the Fossil Record: Cultural Assumptions in the Reconstruction of Life's History

Panel 3: Seeds and Fossils. Artistic Perspectives on Natural Archives

11.00 – 11.45 FERN WICKSON (UiT the Arctic University of Norway) and SARA SCHNECKLOTH (University of South Carolina) - online
Conserving the Biocultural Diversity of Agricultural Seeds: Planting an archive of artworks alongside the Svalbard Global Seed Vault

11.45 – 12.30 MAARTEN VANDEN EYNDE (Drogenbos, Belgium)
Ars Memoriae. The Art to Remember

Roundtable: Museums in the Anthropocene

14.00 – 15.30 RICK CROWNSHAW (Goldsmiths University of London), ELISABETH HEYNE (Natural History Museum, Berlin), MIRA SHAH (Bernisches Historisches Museum) & ANNE MACKINNEY (Humboldt University, Berlin)

Panel 4: Rocks and Corals. Literary Perspectives on Natural Archives

16.00 – 16.45 OLIVER VÖLKER (Goethe University, Frankfurt)
Reading Rocks. The Readability of the Geological Past in Romanticism

16.45 – 17.30 MICHELE NAKAKAS (Miami University)
Coral Temporalities: Literary Studies and Natural Archives

Reading

18.30 – 20.00 JUDITH SCHALANSKY
Natural Archives in the Anthropocene

Fri, Sep 19

9.00 – 10.00 Keynote

JÜRGEN RENN (MPI of Geoanthropology, Jena)
Remembering, Repeating and Working through: on the Duality of Psychoanalysis and the Anthropocene

Panel 5: Cultural Memory in the Anthropocene

10.30 – 11.15 STEF CRAPS (Ghent University, Belgium)
Ecological Apologies. Reckoning with Extinction and Repair

11.15 – 12.00 JESSICA RAPSON (King's College, London)
Natural-Cultural Memory and Environmental Justice

13.15 – 14.00 KATE RIGBY (MESH, University of Cologne)
Intercultural Memory for Catastrophic Times

14.00 – 14.30 Final Discussion

Organized by GABRIELE DÜRBECK, SIMON PROBST (University of Vechta) & GEORG TOEPFER (ZfL, Berlin)

Moderation ANNE-SOPHIE BALZER (University of Augsburg), ALEXANDRA BÖHM (GNM Nuremberg/University of Erlangen-Nuremberg) & PATRICK STOFFEL (Leuphana University Lüneburg)

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More: www.uni-vechta.de/en/natural-cultural-memory-in-the-anthropocene

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