Trans-Environmental Dynamics: Understanding and Debating Ontologies, Politics, and History in Latin America

Time 29–31 October 2015

Venue LMU Munich

Conveners Eveline Dürr (LMU Munich), Ernst Halbmayer (University of Marburg), Ingrid Kummels (Freie Universität Berlin) and Karoline Noack (University of Bonn)

Abstract With this conference, we seek to broaden the current discussion of diverse and often conflicting environmental notions by focusing on the possibility of largely neglected ontological differences in conceptualizing the environment. It relationally considers the environment and ontologies as interactively and mutually created in specific contexts, which are politically charged and mostly asymmetrical. In order to advance the debate on Amerindian and non-Amerindian cosmologies and environmental issues in Latin America, we propose to link these current debates with a trans-environmental perspective. By broadening the lens and bringing a trans-environmental perspective to bear, one that understands environments as always interactively constituted, we seek to provide a more useful level of analysis that allows for a fresh discussion of environmental conceptions.

universität bonn   LAI Lateinamerika-Institut Freie Universität Berlin   LMU LUDWIG-MAXIMILIANS-UNIVERSITÄT MÜNCHEN   Philipps Universität Marburg Institut für Vergleichende Kulturforschung - Kultur- u. Sozialanthropologie und Religionswissenschaft

Thursday 29 October 2015

15:00   **Registration desk is open**

16:00 – 17:00 ## Welcome Address

Keynote: Evan Killick (University of Sussex)

Perspectives on Climate Change: Ontological Wars in Amazonia

17:00 – 18:00 ## Panel 1: Debating Pachamama

Radoslaw Poweska (University of Warsaw)

Pachamama, Buen Vivir and their Enemies: The Indigenous State and Dilemmas of Development in Bolivia

Francesca Mezzenzana (London School of Economics)

Pachamama in the Amazon: Reflections on the Nature of "Nature" Among the Runa of Sarayaku

Reception

Friday 30 October 2015

09:00 – 11:00 ## Panel 2: Debating Rights and Conflicts

Jonas Bens (Freie Universität Berlin)

Multiple Legal Ontologies? Indigenous Rights and the Noble Savage

Antje Gunsenheimer (University of Bonn)

Fetishisms of Dialogue

Laura Rival (University of Oxford)

Peace and Predation in Huaorani Land: Ontological Choices and Modes of Relations

Wolfgang Kapfhammer (LMU Munich)

Transcultural Encounters as an Amplification of Forms: Indigenous Ontologies, the State, and the Environment on the Lower Amazon in Brazil

Coffee Break

11:30 – 12:30   **Panel 3: Debating Development and Progress**

Volker von Bremen (Bread for the World - Misereor)

Indigenous Deals: Environmental and Development Projects Negotiated

Katharina Farys (Freie Universität Berlin)

Between Progress and Stagnation: Different Environmental Conceptions and Practices in the Trans-Environmental Process of Calakmul, Mexico

Lunch

14:00 – 16:00   **Panel 4: Debating Landscapes**

Juan J. Rivera Andía (University of Bonn)

Politics of Extractivism, Development, and Indigenous Ontologies in the Andes: Negotiating Conflicting Understandings of the Environment in Cañaris (Northern Peruvian Highlands)

Denise Pahl Schaan (Federal University of Pará), Co-Author: Eliana Teles Rodrigues

Relational Ontologies and Transforming Landscapes Among an African Descendant Community on Marajo Island, Brazilian Amazon

Helen Gambon (University of Bern), Co-Author: Patrick Bottazzi

The Political Ontology of Conservation: The Case of the Indigenous Territory and Biosphere Reserve Pilón Lajas, Bolivia

Saskia Walther (LMU Munich)

Ecotourism: Transenvironmental Formations

Coffee Break

16:30 – 18:00   **Panel 5: Debating Energy**

Vanessa Rosemary Lea (University of Campinas)

Ontological Environmental Conflict in Contemporary Brazil

Victor Cova (University of St. Andrews)

The Electric God

Oliver Liebig (LMU Munich)

Wind in the Transenvironmental Perspective: A Case Study from Mexico

Saturday 31 October 2015

09:00 – 10:30   **Panel 6: Debating Time and Space**

Sabina Aguilera (Freie Universität Berlin)

Knowing the Land, Knowing Oneself and Reconstructing Ancestral Paths: Some Ralámuli Reflections

Heike Schilling (LMU Munich)

Construction and Deconstruction of the Dimensions Time and Space in the Ecuadorian Achuar's World Perception Through Oral Tradition, Ritual Actions, and Social Everyday Practice

Maria Luísa Lucas (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro)

Between Strings, Stars, and Longhouses: Measure and Transformation in Timespace among the Hixkaryana

Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:00   **Panel 7: Debating Objects**

Ursula Johanna Regehr (University of Bern)

Dynamics of Coexistence: The Reconfiguration of Animist Environmental Conceptions and Practices through Multiple Processes of Colonization in the Gran Chaco

Daniel Graña-Behrens (Frobenius Institute, Frankfurt)

Animated Objects and Environmental Boundaries in Pre-Hispanic Mesoamerica

Lunch

13:30 – 14:30   **Panel 8: Debating Plants**

Alexandra Falter (University of Aberdeen)

Trans-Environmental Dynamics in the Bolivian-Andean Context: Anthropological Reflections on Human-Plant and Human-Animal Relations

Elke Mader (University of Vienna)

Dancing with the Spirit of the Palm: Ritual, Ontology and Transcultural Processes

Coffee Break

15:00 – 17:00   **Panel 9: Debating Rituals**

Alessandro Questa (University of Virginia)

Why Nawa People Dance? Environmental and Political Intervention through Masked Dancing in the Highlands of Puebla, Mexico

Eva Shamiran Youkhana (University of Bonn)

Viewing and Dancing Nature: Environmental Conceptions and Politics of the Danzantes Prehipánicos

Rosa Isela Aguilar (LMU Munich)

Miss Cempoalxóchitl: Tradition, Transculturality, and Recounter with Nature

Kyle A. Bladow (University of Nevada)

Filming the Pluriverse: Cinema and Trans-cultural Environmentalisms

Concluding remarks

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