

ENHANCE ITN FINAL EVENT



Artwork by Ernst Haeckel, *Kunstformen der Natur*, 1904

(Um)Weltschmerz

An Exercise in Humility and Melancholia

- Time** 17-20 October 2018
- Venue** Deutsches Museum; LMU Munich; Rachel Carson Center; Rio Filmpalast (Munich, Germany)—specific venues indicated for each session
- Conveners** ENHANCE Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Network
Cospnsored by the Rachel Carson Center and the Deutsches Museum
- Abstract** (Um)Weltschmerz is an invitation to reflect on the deep ties that connect human beings' cultural and emotional lives to their changing environment(s). On this occasion, participants from media, policy, museum practice, and across the environmental humanities and connected fields will explore issues of ecological change, conflict, and ethics, as well as the scientific and technological worlds they are entangled with. Rather than seeking fixed answers, (Um)Weltschmerz aims to raise the following questions: How can we repoliticize debates about science and environment in a constructive way? What changes when we frame environmental issues in terms of justice? Are there secular ethical imaginaries that can connect the past and future in nuanced ways, beyond techno-optimism, collapsology, and calls to turn our backs on science and industry? What does climate change mean for communities on different ends of power asymmetries, and how are we to deal with it collectively in a post-truth world? What role do historiographies, museums, and political economies of media and technology play in public narratives of possible futures? Several of these sessions are open to the public to encourage broad participation.

Wednesday, 17 October 2018

- 14:00** **Registration opens**
Venue: Deutsches Museum, Centre for New Technologies
Coffee and snacks served
- 16:00** **Welcome and opening remarks, followed by opening of the (Um)Weltschmerz interactive exhibition**
Venue: Deutsches Museum, Centre for New Technologies
- 17:30-18:00** **Coffee break**
- 18:00** **Public Keynote: Interrupting the Anthro-(Obs)cene by Prof. Erik Swyngedouw, University of Manchester**
Venue: Deutsches Museum, Centre for New Technologies

In this talk, Prof. Swyngedouw uses ‘the Anthropocene’ to denote the proposed new geological era during which humans have arguably acquired planetary geo-physical agency, a term increasingly mobilized by both geologists and Earth Systems scholars. While recognizing a wide-ranging and often contentious debate, he holds that the Anthropocene is a deeply depoliticizing notion that off-stages political possibilities. This off-staging unfolds, he contends, through the creation of what we refer to as ‘AnthropoScenes,’ the mise-en-scene of a particular set of narratives that are by no means homogeneous, but which broadly share the effect of off-staging certain voices and forms of acting. His notion of the Anthro-obScene then, is his tactic to both attest to and undermine the performativity of the depoliticizing stories of ‘the Anthropocene.’

- 19:30** **Welcome buffet and refreshments**
Venue: Deutsches Museum, Centre for New Technologies

Thursday, 18 October 2018

- 10:00** **Guided tour of the Deutsches Museum (optional)**
by Deutsches Museum staff
Meeting point: public entrance of the museum
This does not concern ENHANCE staff or participants in the book workshop
- 12:00** **Lunchtime Colloquium**
What Can and Should the Environmental Humanities Do in Times of Crises?
Chair: Eveline de Smalen (ENHANCE)
Venue: Katholische Hochschulgemeinde, 1st floor, Leopoldstr. 11c (entrance to the left of the main building); food and drinks will be served.
- Discussants:**
- Serenella Iovino (ENHANCE board, Università degli studi di Torino, Italy, environmental humanities)
 - Robert Emmett (Global engagement specialist, Virginia Tech)
 - Miriam Remter (filmmaker at Primate Visions, anthropologist at LMU)
 - Felix Remter (filmmaker at Primate Visions, STS researcher at TUM)
- 14:00** **Free time**

This does not concern ENHANCE staff or participants in the book workshop

17:00 **Finger food at Rio Filmpalast**

18:00 **Public Film Screening**

***The Anthropologist (2016)* by Daniel Miller, Seth Kramer, and Jeremy Newberger**

Venue: Rio Filmpalast, Rosenheimer Str. 46 (S-Bahn Rosenheimer Platz);
finger food and refreshments will be served.

Synopsis: *The Anthropologist* considers the fate of the planet from the perspective of a teenager. Over five years, she travels alongside her mother, Susan Crate, an anthropologist studying the impact of climate change on indigenous communities.

Comments by Prof. Susan Crate (George Mason University) followed by public discussion

Chair: Arvid van Dam (ENHANCE)

Friday, 19 October 2018

9:30-11:00

Plenary Discussion

Climate Change: Rethinking Science, Risk Perception, and Impacts

Chair: Jeroen Oomen (ENHANCE)

Venue: Deutsches Museum, Centre for New Technologies

Discussants:

- Wolfram Mauser (LMU Munich, geography)
- Wändi Bruine de Bruin (Leeds University Business School)
- Werner Krauß (University of Bremen and RCC, anthropology)

11:00-11:30

Coffee break

11:30-13:00

Plenary Discussion

Producing Nature and Science from Past to Present: Colonialism, Authoritarianism, and Progress

Chair: Claire Lagier (ENHANCE)

Venue: Deutsches Museum, Centre for New Technologies

Discussants:

- May-Britt Öhman (Uppsala University, gender and technoscience studies)
- José Augusto Pádua (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, environmental history)
- Irina Velicu (University of Coimbra, political ecology)

13:00-15:00

Lunch with musical accompaniment by Rut Elliot Blomqvist (singer-songwriter & editor at Uneven Earth)

Venue: Deutsches Museum, Centre for New Technologies

15:00-16:30

Public Keynote: The Quest for Environmental and Climate Justice in the United States

by Prof. Robert Bullard, Texas Southern University
Venue: Deutsches Museum, Centre for New Technologies

Climate change is the defining global environmental justice, human rights, and public health issue of the twenty-first century. The most vulnerable populations in the United States and around the world will suffer the earliest and most damaging setbacks because of where they live, their limited income and economic means, and their lack of access to health care. However, not all of the populations residing within these hazard zones have the same capacity to prepare for, respond to, cope with, and rebound from disaster events. Having worked with New Orleans post-Hurricane Katrina and having witnessed firsthand Hurricane Harvey in Houston, Prof. Bullard's talk will focus primarily on the U.S. and the need for empowering vulnerable populations, identifying environmental justice and climate change “hot-spot” zones and designing fair, just, and effective adaptation, mitigation, emergency management, and community resilience and disaster-recovery strategies. He will offer strategies to dismantle institutional policies and practices that create, exacerbate and perpetuate inequality and vulnerability before and after disasters strike.

19:30 (Um)Weltschmerz dinner
Venue: Paulaner am Nockherberg restaurant, Hochstr. 77

Saturday, 20 October 2018

9.30–11:00 **Public Roundtable**
How Do Citizens’ Organizations Redefine Environmental Policy?
Chair: Anna Antonova (ENHANCE)
Venue: Lecture Hall D 209, LMU Munich (Geschwister-Scholl-Platz 1)

Discussants:

- Mihir Shah (President, Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation)
- Elena Feditchkina Tracy (Forest governance coordinator, WWR Russia)
- Xavi Pié (Barcelona city administration, environmental policy)

11:00–11:30 **Coffee break (Halle A 280)**

11.30–13:00 **Public Keynote: An Elegy for the Earth: Environmental Values in a Post-faith Age**
by Prof. Sheila Jasanoff, Harvard University
Venue: Lecture Hall D 209, LMU Munich (Geschwister-Scholl-Platz 1)

Not so long ago, humanity found reason to celebrate and protect nature as the work of divine creation, hence not to be spoiled or desecrated by human hands. The Romantics deplored the excesses of industrialism, and even the environmentalists of the mid-twentieth century agreed that economic interests should not take precedence over the existential rights of other natural things. The new science of the Anthropocene may be seen, at one level, as the ultimate sanction for destroying nature — since, after all, the Earth as we know is but

another product of human activity. From this standpoint, there is little reason for not weakening protections for endangered species, and even risking the climate itself, on theories ranging from “the fittest will survive” to “technology will emerge on demand to fix problems that need fixing.” Where then can we turn for ethical warrants to preserve, protect, or restore a sense of harmony with nature? Does it mean turning the clock back on science and industry, or are there secular imaginaries that can connect past and future in more creative ways? In exploring these questions, Prof. Jasanoff will draw on texts from law, literature, and environmental writings.

13:00–14:00

Lunch (Halle A 280)

14:00–15:30

Closing Public Plenary

Going beyond Relativism in Media: Environmental Crisis and Scientific Controversies in a Post-truth World

Chair: Irma Allen (ENHANCE)

Venue: Lecture Hall D 209, LMU Munich (Geschwister-Scholl-Platz 1)

Discussants:

- Maria Gunther (Senior science editor at *Dagens Nyheter* newspaper, Sweden)
- Elisabeth Abergel (Université du Québec à Montréal, STS)
- Andrea Geipel (Deutsches Museum Virtual Reality Lab)
- Sara Penhryn Jones (Independent documentary filmmaker and Rachel Carson Center)

15:30–16:00

Closing *Kaffee & Kuchen* (Halle A 280)

19:00 onward

All participants staying in Munich will receive a free pass to the Long Night of the Museums.



Rachel
Carson
Center

Deutsches Museum



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