



Why Do We Value Diversity? A Cross-Disciplinary Workshop on Biocultural Diversity in Global Context

The Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, affiliated to LMU Munich and the Deutsches Museum, is hosting this workshop to examine the concept of biocultural diversity and explore the social, cultural, political, economic, and ecological implications of its definitions and uses. In this workshop, we are interested in reflecting on how, why, when, and where biocultural diversity has emerged as a key criterion in defining the health and well-being of socio-ecological systems, and considering future directions in its development and use.

We recognize that diversity is being portrayed and commoditized in more reductive ways as a genetic resource, as intellectual property, as cultural exoticism, and in niche marketing. The commoditization and mobilization of diversity in global economic relations raises new concerns about the relationship between practices of conserving biocultural diversity, and local and global pursuits of justice, equality, self-determination and sustainability. It is time to expand our examination of the concepts and values of diversity and re-assess the power relations and transnational networks involved.

Conveners: Gary J. Martin (Rachel Carson Center, Global Diversity Foundation), Diana Mincyte (RCC, New York University), Ursula Münster (RCC, LMU Munich)

Friday, June 03

18:00 - **Dinner** with RCC Fellows

Saturday, June 04

09:15 - 10:00 **Coffee** and **breakfast snacks**

10:00 - 10:30 **Introduction**
Christof Mauch and the Organizers

10:30 - 12:00 **Markets, Commodities, Values, and Economies**

Gibson, Katherine (University of Western Sydney):
Economic Diversity as a Performative Ontological Project
Gille, Zsuzsa and Jose Peralta (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign):
Waste and Biodiversity: Value and Disuse in a Former Corn Culture
Hébert, Karen (Yale University)
The Work of Wildness: Diversity and Difference in a Southwest Alaskan
Salmon Fishery

12:00 - 14:00 **Lunch break**

14:00 - 15:30 **Biocultural Becomings, Ontologies, and the Body**

Hird, Myra (Queen's University)
Volatile Bodies, Volatile Earth: Towards an Ethic of Vulnerability
Kirksey, Eben (City University of New York)
Thneeds Reseeds: A Figure of Biocultural Hope in the Anthropocene

15:30 - 16:30 **Ethnobotany break**

16:30 - 18:00 **Power, Conservation, and the Politics of Biocultural Diversity**

Amanor, Kojo (University of Ghana, Legon)
The Environmental Politics of Biocultural Diversity: Sacred Groves, Forest Trees, Soils
and Agriculture
Münster, Ursula (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München & Rachel Carson Center)
Contentious Diversities and Dangerous Species: Human-Animal Clashes in a Diversity
"Hotspot" of South India
Satsuka, Shiho (University of Toronto)
Biodiversity in Satoyama Conservation: Aesthetics, Science and the Politics
of Knowledge

18:00 - **Walk** to the Golden Bar at Haus der Kunst (art gallery)
for a **light dinner**

Sunday, June 05

09:00 - 09:30 **Coffee and breakfast snacks**

09:30 - 11:00 **Borderlands, Hybridity, and Contamination**

Tsing, Anna (University of California, Santa Cruz)

Contaminated Diversity in "Slow Disturbance": Potential Collaborators for a Livable Earth

Brown, Kate (University of Maryland Baltimore County)

Chernobyl Mono-cropped

Schaffner, Spencer (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign)

Biocultural Diversity and the Problem of the Superabundant Individual

11:00 - 11:15 **Coffee break**

11:15 - 12:45 **Biocultural Diversity on the Map and From Below**

St Martin, Kevin (Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey)

Mapping Biocultural and Economic Diversity in Northern Norway

Hathaway, Michael (Simon Fraser University)

The Politics of Making Biocultural Diversity

Mincyte, Diana (New York University & Rachel Carson Center)

The Geopolitics of Difference: Geographical Indications and Biocultural Otherness in the New Europe

12:45 - 14:45 **Lunch break**

14:45 - 16:15 **Policy and Conceptualizations in Biocultural Diversity**

Martin, Gary J. (Global Diversity Foundation & Rachel Carson Center)

Playing the Matrix: The Fate of Biocultural Diversity in Community Governance and Management of Protected Areas

Lousley, Cheryl (Lakehead University)

E.O. Wilson's Biodiversity, Commodity Culture, and Sentimental Globalism

Pádua, José Augusto (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro)

Pitfalls and Opportunities in the Use of the Biodiversity Concept as a Political Tool for Forest Conservation in Brazil

16:15 - 17:00 **Closing reflections**

17:00 - **Walk in the "English Garden"**

19:00 - **Dinner**

Venue: Rachel Carson Center
Leopoldstr.11a
80802 Munich

Transport: By subway (U-Bahn):

- **U3/U6**, disembark at Giselastraße and follow signs to the exit Georgenstraße. On exiting the subway station, you will be on Leopoldstraße. The RCC is located just a few meters away.

By bus: Line 54 or 154

- **Bus 54**, get off at Giselastraße. You will now be next to Leopoldstraße. Facing Leopoldstraße, turn left and follow the street approximately 250 meters to number 11a.
- **Bus 154**, get off at Georgenstraße. You will now be facing number 11a.



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