



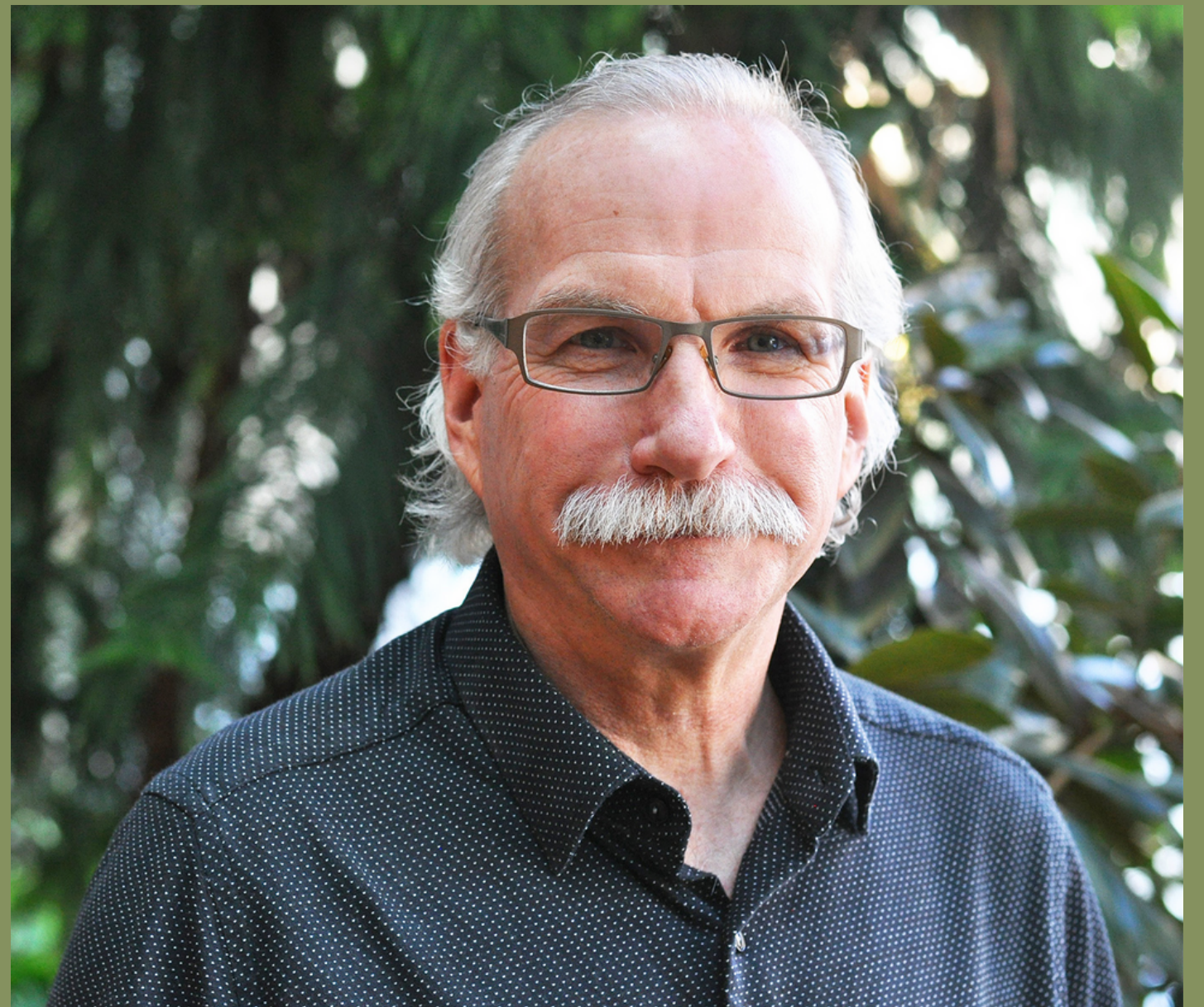
*We are honoured to invite you to
the third EnvHum Talk of the UniPécs!*

**Rachel
Carson
Center**
ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY

ON FRAGMENTS AND HOTSPOTS: CONTAINMENT AND CARE IN THE EXTRACTION OF MOUNT NIMBA

Gregg Mitman and Emmanuelle Roth

*ERC Advanced Grant,
Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, LMU Munich*



**21.03.2024 | 16:00 CET
ONLINE AND LIVE IN
PÉCS, HUNGARY**

PTE BTK KARI TANÁCSTEREM, IFJÚSÁG ÚTJA 6. , PÉCS

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Organized by
Environmental Humanities Research Group, University of Pécs;
Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, LMU Munich;
Department of European Ethnology - Cultural Anthropology,
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Social Sciences, Contemporary Challenges Research Center
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On Fragments and Hotspots: Containment and Care in the Extraction of Mount Nimba *Gregg Mitman and Emmanuelle Roth*

In an age of anxiety about climate change, species extinction, and disease outbreaks, the hotspot is an iconic image in tales of the Anthropocene. Its genealogies are many, and span biogeography, conservation science, disease ecology, and their economies of knowledge production. In a snippet of Zaire Ebola virus taken from a Nimba long-fingered bat that lived in an abandoned mining adit in a fragment of the Guinean Forests of West Africa, the scales and histories of the hotspot converge.

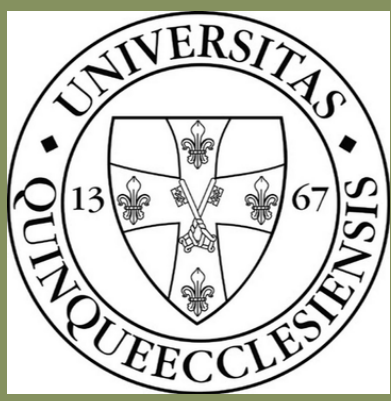
Situated on the Liberia-Guinea-Côte d'Ivoire border, the Mount Nimba region, with its precious iron ore formations, species-rich rainforests, and novel viruses, gives us a glimpse into what human, nonhuman, and inanimate beings can be to each other. The fractured formations and tectonic plates of friction that comprise Nimba's geological and life histories invite us to rethink categories of the social beyond those described by multispecies ethnography. Hotspots—of extractive investment, of biodiversity, of emerging infectious diseases—each thrive on particular bedrock and attract certain gatherings of science, politics, and capital. Changing strategies of containment and care have shaped relations between and among the living and nonliving actors in this extractive zone where the interests of mining, conservation, pandemic preparedness, local livelihoods, and ecotourism converge, collaborate, and collide.

In this talk, we follow the recent geo turn in the humanities and ask what new social worlds and power relations appear when we extend constituent players beyond the living to include, for example, the earth's rock strata or the discarded remains of human activities. In this fragment of the Upper Guinean Forests of West Africa, unexpected alliances among rocks, plants, animals, viruses and people appear as past relations are severed, new bonds are forged, and uneasy compromises are found in the disarray and order that cycles of capitalist extraction unleash and seek to impose.

<https://fragmentsoftheforest.com/>

Gregg Mitman is ERC Professor at the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, LMU Munich. He is a member of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and an award-winning author, filmmaker, and teacher whose interests span the history of science, medicine, and the environment in the United States and the world and include a commitment to environmental and social justice.

<https://gmitman.com>



ENVHUM-MOVIE

Rachel
Carson
Center
ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY

The Land Beneath Our Feet

20.03.2024 | 19:30 CET

Apolló Cinema, Pécs

free entrance, after the movie Q&A with Gregg Mitman

