

Nature, Culture and Perception: From the Amazon to the Alps

Conference
30th September – 2nd October 2019
Lucerne and Altdorf

Visual Arts and Science in Dialogue

A COOPERATION BETWEEN

UNIVERSITÄT
LUZERN

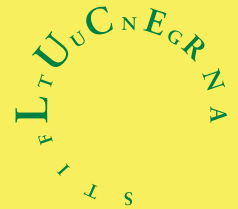
VIDEO WINDOW

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INTRODUCTION AND GOALS OF THE CONFERENCE



Boris Previšić and Bruno Z'Graggen

Humanity has long stretched the basis of its own existence, the biosphere, beyond its limits and is now threatening this acutely. On the one hand, the romantic image of the supremacy of nature is obsolete. The zone on our planet in which we are able to live is unique and, in comparison with the infinity of the universe, imperceptibly tiny. On the other hand, we irresponsibly overlook our calamitous attacks on the biosphere: attacks such as the emissions made by those who consume fossil fuels as they fly or drive or the impact of the factory farming made necessary by our meat consumption. It appears that we are still insufficiently aware of the scope and the consequences of the disappearance of the last major natural pristine refuges. Otherwise, wouldn't we have long since acted to arrest the rapid loss of biodiversity and climate change? Our conclusion is that there is a massive problem of both awareness and political (in)action.

The conference starts with this issue of perception and asks why we still haven't changed our behaviour. It has two goals: to draw attention to this destruction of our biosphere, in other words our self-destruction, and to consider sustainable solutions. It connects two natural habitats that could hardly be more different: the Amazon and the Alps. Upon closer inspection, these two regions are closely comparable due to the following characteristics: Both are endangered by resource depletion, overexploitation and accelerating climate change. And furthermore, each of these cultural regions provides a wealth of valuable experience of symbiotic relationships between man and nature based on centuries of tradition.

A close dialogue between art and science sheds light on the perception and analysis of this dramatic transformation and the threat that it brings. Five films are followed by six scientific inputs covering the specialist areas of climate research and cognitive perception as well as questions of power, law and resources in the two cultural regions. At the end, the conference asks how things can proceed in the future and which concepts of sustainability and justice are available.

PROGRAMME

PART 1

30th September 2019
stattkino Luzern, Bourbaki Panorama

17:30 – 18:00 Registration

18:00 – 18:15 **WELCOME**
Boris Previšić

18:15 – 19:45 **INPUT 1. ARTISTS' STATEMENTS**

INTRODUCTION
Bruno Z'Graggen

SCREENING OF THE 5 FILMS

Break

20:00 – 20:30 **DISCUSSION**
Rodrigo Braga, Cao Guimarães, Melanie Smith and Laurence Favre
Moderation: Boris Previšić and Bruno Z'Graggen



1 Rodrigo Braga
Mentira repetida, 2011
DCP, Colour, Sound, 5:24 Min.

2 Cao Guimarães
Concerto para Clorofila, 2004
DCP (from Super 8 Film in DV PAL),
Colour, Sound, 7:25 Min.



3 Melanie Smith
Fordlândia, 2014
DCP, Colour, Sound, P, 29:43 Min.

4 Ursula Biemann
Deep Weather, 2013
DCP, Colour, Sound, E, 9 Min.



5 Laurence Favre
Résistance, 2017
DCP (from 16mm Film), Colour, Sound, 11 Min.

PART 2

1st October 2019
Terrassensaal, KKL Luzern

9:30 – 10:00	INTRODUCTION Boris Previšić
10:00 – 10:45	INPUT 2. PLANETARY BOUNDARIES AND THEIR PERCEPTIONS Sarah Cornell Earth's Nature: Exploring the Challenges of Planetary Perceptions Feedback Focus: Boris Previšić Break
11:15 – 12:00	DISCUSSION Sarah Cornell, Rodrigo Braga, Laurence Favre, Cao Guimarães and Melanie Smith Moderation: Boris Previšić
12:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 – 16:45	INPUT 3. DIFFERENT PERCEPTIONS OF NATURE (RESOURCES): HISTORY, CULTURE, LAW AND POWER Hannah Meszaros Martin The Green Desert and La Casa Grande: The Politics of Planting and Environmental Truth-Telling in Colombia Feedback Focus: Daniel Speich Jonas Perrin Indigenous Land Rights in International and Ecuadorian Law: A Right to Veto? Feedback Focus: Klaus Mathis Break Mabe Bethônico Mining History in Brazil: Memory and Myth as Power Tools Feedback Focus: Malte Gruber
16:45 – 17:30	DISCUSSION Mabe Bethônico, Hannah Meszaros Martin and Jonas Perrin Moderation: Daniel Speich

PART 3

2nd October 2019
Haus für Kunst Uri, Altdorf
Exhibition: Desire and Reality. Depictions of Nature in Contemporary Art

9:00 – 10:00	Transfer Lucerne – Altdorf by bus
10:00 – 11:00	INPUT 4. DIVERSITY OF PERCEPTIONS IN CONTEMPORARY ART Barbara Zürcher and Bruno Z'Graggen Guided Tour through the Exhibition Accompanied by the Artists of the Exhibition: Mabe Bethônico, Rodrigo Braga and Cao Guimarães Break
11:30 – 13:00	INPUT 5. PRECARIOUS ALPS: THE END OF A MYTH Jon Mathieu Human-Nature-Relations in Alpine History: The Forest Transition, 1700–2000 Feedback Focus: Rodrigo Braga and Melanie Smith Barbara Keller Our Water: Six Models for the Future Feedback Focus: Cao Guimarães and Laurence Favre
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 – 14:45	INPUT 6. SUSTAINABILITY AND SOLIDARITY Klaus Mathis Sustainability and Solidarity: Challenges, Concepts and Strategies Feedback Focus: Melanie Smith and Mabe Bethônico Break
15:00 – 15:45	CONCLUSION: OPEN PLENUM DISCUSSION Where Are We Going to? The Future of the Amazon and the Alps: Common Sense or Differences? Moderation: Boris Previšić
15:45 – 16:30	Drinks and Farewells
16:30	Transfer Altdorf – Lucerne by bus

GENERAL INFORMATION

ORGANISED BY

Stiftung Lucerna, 6002 Lucerne

www.lucerna.ch

Contact: Silvia Cavelti, 041 229 55 32

Registration: www.lucerna.ch/Anmeldung
(free of charge until: 18th September 2019)



VENUES

PART 1 stattkino Luzern (places limited)

Bourbaki Panorama, Löwenplatz 11, 6004 Lucerne
www.stattkino.ch

PART 2 Terrassensaal, KKL Luzern

Europaplatz 1, 6002 Lucerne
www.kkl-luzern.ch

PART 3 Haus für Kunst Uri

Herrengasse 2, 6460 Altdorf
www.hausfuerkunsturi.ch

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KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Dr. Mabe Bethônico (BR), Researcher and Artist, Belo Horizonte and Geneva

Dr. Sarah Cornell (UK), Global Sustainability Science, Stockholm Resilience Center, Stockholm University

Barbara Keller MA (CH), Vice Director of the Swiss Alpine Museum, Berne

Dr. Hannah Meszaros Martin (CO), Forensic Architecture, Centre for Research Architecture, Goldsmiths University of London

Prof. em. Dr. Jon Mathieu (CH), History, University of Lucerne

Prof. Dr. Klaus Mathis (CH), Public Law, Law of the Sustainable Economy and Philosophy of Law, University of Lucerne

Jonas Perrin, PhD student (CH), Public Law, University of Lucerne

Prof. Dr. Boris Previšić (CH), Cultural and Literary Studies, University of Lucerne

Dr. Bruno Z'Graggen (CH), Curator of Video Window, Zurich, and Co-Curator of the Exhibition

Barbara Zürcher MA (CH), Director of Haus für Kunst Uri, Altdorf, and Co-Curator of the Exhibition

ARTISTS

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Ursula Biemann (CH), Zurich

Rodrigo Braga (BR), Rio de Janeiro and Paris

Laurence Favre (CH), Geneva and Berlin

Cao Guimarães (BR), Belo Horizonte and Montevideo

Melanie Smith (UK), London

FEEDBACK FOCUS

Prof. Dr. Daniel Speich (CH), Global History, University of Lucerne

Prof. Dr. Malte Gruber (D), Philosophy of Law and Law of Economy, University of Lucerne

IDEA, CONCEPT AND REALISATION

Prof. Dr. Boris Previšić (CH), Cultural and Literary Studies, University of Lucerne

Dr. Bruno Z'Graggen (CH), Curator of Video Window, Zurich, and Co-Curator of the Exhibition, www.brunozgraggen.ch/video-window