
Program

10:00 – 10:30

Welcome & Introduction

LISA ONAGA

(MPIWG)

10:30 – 12:00

Beastly Questions: Animal Answers to
Bio-cultural Issues

Naomi Sykes

(University of Exeter)

12:00 – 13:00 Lunch break

13:00 – 15:00

Ossa Loquuntur? Animal Bones and the
Humanities in the 19th Century

Irina Podgorny

(Universidad Nacional de La Plata)

15:00 – 15:15 Break

15:15 – 15:30 Wrap-Up



Abstract

This micro-workshop is the second of a series of cross-disciplinary inquiries designed to identify new approaches in the study of animals in history. By forging a conversation around the historical and scientific studies of animal bones, the possibilities for reading animal materiality as historical sources are explored. State-of-the-art zooarchaeological methods used to characterize ancient to more recent human-animal relations are discussed alongside historical challenges that have informed the reliability of, and relatedly, trust in various scientific practices. The fruition of integrative methods especially prompts workshop participants to explore how new historical puzzles have arisen in animal evolutionary history, or in the history of scientific analyses of animal proteins in connection to understandings of mobility and space.

To register and access the precirculated readings and papers that will be discussed in this micro-workshop, please email by September 3, 2018 event_dept3@mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de.



Proteins & Fibers Inquiry II

Animal Histories on
the Zooarchaeological Horizon



Micro-Workshop
September 13, 2018
10:00 - 16:00

Venue

Department III Conference Room 265
Max Planck Institute for the History of Science,
Boltzmannstraße 22, 14195 Berlin



Contact:

Lisa Onaga

lonaga@mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de

Department III: Artefacts, Action
and Knowledge. Histories of
Planning Research Theme.



Beastly Questions: Animal Answers to Bio-cultural Issues

NAOMI SYKES

Human immigration and biological invasions are high-profile topics in modern politics, but neither are modern phenomena. Migrations of people, animals and ideas were widespread in antiquity and these are frequently incorporated into expressions of cultural identity. However, the more recent the migrations, the more negative modern attitudes are towards them. In general, native is perceived as positive and 'natural', whereas the term 'alien' is attached negatively to cultural and environmental problems.

This paper will explore these value-judgements through the analysis of four animal species that have been transported around the world by people: the chicken (*Gallus gallus*), the European rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*), the brown hare (*Lepus europaeus*) and the fallow deer (*Dama dama*).

By integrating scientific approaches (e.g. genetics, geometric morphometrics and isotopes) with evidence from traditional (zoo) archaeology, (art) history, and historical linguistics, it will show how the dynamics of human-animal-environment relationships can be modelled over millennia. It will be argued that the resulting data not only provide a richer understanding of past cultures but also have implications for contextualising and mitigating present day bio-cultural issues.

NAOMI SYKES' research focusses on human-animal-environment interactions and how they inform on the structure, ideology, health and environmental impact of societies, past and present.

Her approach is to integrate archaeological data with wider scientific evidence (especially isotope and DNA analysis) and discussions from anthropology, cultural geography, (art) history and linguistics.

Naomi was trained as a zooarchaeologist at University College London. She undertook her PhD at the University of Southampton, where she remained as a post-doc until 2005. Following a one-year lectureship at Cardiff University, she was appointed to a permanent position at the University of Nottingham in 2006. In 2018, she moved to the University of Exeter, where she is the Lawrence Professor of Archaeology.

Ossa Loquuntur? Animal Bones and the Humanities in the 19th Century

IRINA PODGORNYY

Zooarchaeologists have tended to treat faunal remains associated to ancient people in archaeological sites as mere leftovers of human alimentation habits. Over the past years Nerissa Russell and Naomi Sykes have remarked that bones and shells can be more eloquent: bones and animal remains in general can tell other stories, a task that has, however, proven to be difficult. I explore the history of the formation of distinctions between the emergence of animal bones, first, as historical evidence, and second, as testimony of ancient food by tackling the nineteenth century excavations of so-called kitchen middens, namely the deposits or heaps of marine shells found on certain points of

the Danish shore. In particular, I refer to the work of Sven Nilsson (1787-1883) and Japetus Steenstrup (1813-1897), two zoologists well known in the history of archaeology for their innovations in the study of the prehistoric past: the use of ethnographic comparison and the stratigraphic excavation of the kitchen middens or *Køkkenmødding* of Denmark, a name invented by Steenstrup, professor for Zoology at the University of Copenhagen. Being of human origin, *Køkkenmødding* were defined as "real zoological museums of the animal kingdom, of the fauna, which man found on arriving in the country." Nilsson, a senior figure in the University of Lund, was himself an active hunter and his work on the birds of Sweden (1835) included a history of hunting and fishing. By the 1860s, their zoological research, based on the excavation of manure and recent garbage pits in spaces that included the Northern Sea, the Scottish islands, Iceland, Greenland, Labrador, and Newfoundland, defined a new method, both for archaeology and the zoology of sub-fossils.

IRINA PODGORNYY is an Argentinian historian of science, in particular of the fields of archaeology and paleontology, Permanent Research Scholar at the CONICET (Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas, since 1995), as well as Professor (ad honorem) and Director of the Archivo Histórico y Fotográfico at the Facultad de Ciencias Naturales y Museo of the Universidad Nacional de la Plata