

Exploring Octopus Worlds

New Approaches for Interdisciplinary Collaboration

Workshop

22 & 23 June 2019 @University of Kassel, Campus Center, Moritzstr. 18, Room 1111

For several decades now, the live of animals and their roles in different cultures are being fundamentally reevaluated. This coincides with a push towards more integrative, interdisciplinary research perspectives wherein the humanities and the arts increasingly take their place alongside the sciences in studying the material aspects of nature; actor-network-theory, speculative realism, object-centered ontology and new materialism are among its most enigmatic theoretical manifestations. Our workshop brings together artists, scientists and scholars from different disciplines and artistic practices in an attempt to access the alien world of the octopus.

Exploring Octopus Worlds relies on octopuses as organisms to practice such collaboration while exploring the arts as a way of understanding the octopus as organism. Due to their highly aesthetic and decentralized being and alienness, octopuses provide the ideal creature for such explorations. Discussions will be object- and material-based by asking the invited presenters to bring along an item to introduce their work and develop their thoughts on octopuses and by interspersing the roundtables with various cultural, material and scientific texts on octopuses.

Please **register** for the workshop by **17 June** through: krebber@uni-kassel.de. Participation is free.

Saturday 22 June 2019

- 13:30 – 14:00 Welcome and intro to *Okto-Lab* (André Krebber, Maike Riedinger)
- 14:00 – 15:00 Chelsea Harry: “Aristotle’s Octopus”
- 15:00 – 15:20 *Coffee-break*
- 15:20 – 16:50 1st Workshop Session
Ruminations: Michiko Nitta, Michael Burton and Alexander Ziegler
- 16:50 – 17:10 *Coffee break*
- 17:10 – 18:10 2nd Workshop Session
Ruminations: Neozoon and Yvette Watt
- 18:10 – 18:20 *Break*
- 18:20 – 19:00 Reflections 1 – Syntheses and Synergies
- Dinner*

Sunday 23 June 2019

- 9:00 – 10:30 3rd Workshop Session
Ruminations: Ute Hörner, Mathias Antlfinger and Patricia Ribault
- 10:30 – 10:50 *Coffee break*
- 10:50 – 12:20 4th Workshop Session
Ruminations: Tanja Böhme, Martin Ullrich and Anne Hoelck
- 12:20 – 12:40 *Coffee break*
- 12:40 – 14:00 Reflections 2 – Syntheses and Synergies
- Lunch / Departure*

Exploring Octopus Worlds is part of *Okto-Lab*, an international research collaborative based at the University of Kassel and the University of Tasmania and currently funded by the DAAD. Please refer to <http://okto-lab.org/Participants.php> for information on the speakers. At present, *Okto-Lab* is working on 2 exhibitions that will take place in Hobart December 2019 and in Cologne June 2020.

Chelsea Harry is Professor of Philosophy at Southern Connecticut State University, USA and currently a visiting researcher at the University of Kassel. She works in the philosophy of nature with a particular interest in the relationship between theories of nature and concepts of time. Historically, she focuses on ancient Greek philosophy and late 18th-mid 19th century German philosophy. She is likewise interested in thinking about what kind of relationship we ought to have with the rest of nature now, in the 21st century.