

Collections in Context

Putting Butterflies, Stones, and Orchids on Film



Dr. Bernhard C. Schär (D-GESS) & Dr. Michael Greeff (D-USYS)

ETH Zürich

Autumn Semester 2017

Time Wed 13:15 - 15:00

Location IFW C 33

Abstract Zurich holds huge scientific collections. They contain objects from around the world, some of them dating back to the 18th century. In this interdisciplinary seminar, students will visit and explore the histories of these collections, and present some of their findings on film.

Objectives Firstly, students will become familiarized with how historical collections in Zurich yield surprising new insights into the Global History of Science, Zurich, and Switzerland. Secondly, students will learn how old collections can produce new insights for current scientists working, e.g., on questions of ecology. Thirdly, the seminar will explore new ways of presenting historical narratives, namely on film. To this end, students will be supported by ETH communication experts in producing a short film on the Global histories of the Zurich collections.

Requirements Students are expected to engage with historiographical readings and historical source materials, participate in discussions with curators, and produce a film-script by the end of the term.

Readings can be downloaded here: <https://polybox.ethz.ch/index.php/s/GPHNy2UrisNG1Ib>

Contact regarding readings: martina.anderstatt@gmw.gess.ethz.ch

20.9.17 Introduction

[Global Histories of Science - The Zurich Collections](#)

27.9.17 Introduction into Video Production

Reading

Farber, Paul Lawrence. *Finding Order in Nature : The Naturalist Tradition from Linnaeus to E.O. Wilson*. Johns Hopkins Introductory Studies in the History of Science. Baltimore, Md: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2000, Chapter 1 and 2

4.10.17 Visiting the Botanical Collection

With Dr. Reto Nyffeler & Dr. Alessia Guggisberg
Zollikerstrasse 107, 8008 Zürich

<http://www.bg.uzh.ch/en/besucherinformation.html>

Reading

Farber, Paul Lawrence. *Finding Order in Nature : The Naturalist Tradition from Linnaeus to E.O. Wilson*. Johns Hopkins Introductory Studies in the History of Science. Baltimore, Md: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2000, Chapter 3 and 4.

11.10.17 Readings (Self-Study & Assignment)

Farber, Paul Lawrence. *Finding Order in Nature : The Naturalist Tradition from Linnaeus to E.O. Wilson*. Johns Hopkins Introductory Studies in the History of Science. Baltimore, Md: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2000, Chapter 5 and 7.

Delbourgo, James. „Sir Hans Sloane’s Milk Chocolate and the Whole History of the Cacao“. *Social Text* 29: 71–101, 2011.

Haraway, Donna. „Teddy Bear Patriarchy: Taxidermy in the Garden of Eden, New York City, 1908-1936“. *Social Text* 11: 20–64, 1984.

Boscani Leoni, Simona. „Men of Exchange: Creation and Circulation of Knowledge in the Swiss Republics of the Eighteenth Century“. In *Scholars in Action. The Practice of Knowledge and the Figure of the Savant in the 18th century*, Eds. André Holenstein, Hubert Steinke & Martin Stuber, 507–33. Leiden: Brill, 2013.

18.10.17 Major Themes in Collection History

Discussing your assignments

25.10.17 Readings on the History of Geology

Greene, Mott T. „Geology“. In *The Modern Biological and Earth Sciences*, 6: 167–84. The Cambridge History of Science. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009.

Optional:

Westermann, Andrea. „Inherited Territories: The Glarus Alps, Knowledge Validation, and the Genealogical Organization of Nineteenth-Century Swiss Alpine Geognosy“. *Science in Context* 22: 439–61, 2009.

01.11.17 Visiting the Geological Collections

With Dr. Andreas Müller
Entrance Clausiusstrasse
Building NO

Clausiusstrasse 26
ETH Zentrum

You can wait inside the building and have a look at the geological models by Heim.

8.11.17 Visiting the Entomological Collection ETH

Main entrance
Building WEV
Weinbergstrasse 56/58
ETH Zentrum

15.11.17 Entomology Readings

Harries, Patrick: *Butterflies and Barbarians: Swiss Missionaries in South-East Africa*.
Oxford: James Currey, 2007, p. 123-54.

Watanabe, Myrna E. 'International treaty poses challenges for biological collections'.
BioScience XX:1-8. 2015.

22.11.17 How to find a topic for your screencast or film

29.11.17 Self-Study

Work on your case studies

6.12.17 Self-Study

13.12.17 Self-Study

20.12.17 Presentations, Final Discussions

Literature

General

Ballantyne, Tony. „Colonial Knowledge“. In *The British Empire. Themes and Perspectives*. Ed. Sarah Stockwell, 177–98. Malden: Blackwell, 2008.

Bennet, Brett M. & Joseph M. Hodge (Eds.). *Science and empire : knowledge and networks of science across the British Empire, 1800-1970*. Britain and the world. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011.

Drayton, Richard. *Nature's government : science, imperial Britain, and the „improvement“ of the world*. New Haven, CT: Yale Univeristy Press, 2000.

Hagner, Michael. *Ansichten der Wissenschaftsgeschichte*. Forum Wissenschaft, Figuren des Wissens. Frankfurt am Main: Fischer Taschenbuch-Verlag, 2001.

Kupper, Patrick & Bernhard C. Schär (Eds.). *Die Naturforschenden : auf der Suche nach Wissen über die Schweiz und die Welt, 1800-2015*. Baden: Hier und Jetzt, 2015.

Raj, Kapil & Otto Sibum (Eds.). *Histoire des sciences et des savoirs*. Bd. 2: Modernité et Globalisation. Paris: Seuil, 2015.

Raj, Kapil. *Relocating modern science : circulation and the constitution of knowledge in South Asia and Europe, 1650-1900*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007.

Rebeka Habermas & Alexandra Przyrembel (Eds.). *Von Käfern, Märkten und Menschen : Kolonialismus und Wissen in der Moderne*. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2013.

Renn, Jürgen (Ed.). *The Globalization of Knowledge in History*. Berlin: Edition open access, 2012.

Schär, Bernhard C. 'On the Tropical Origins of the Alps. Science and the Colonial Imagination of Switzerland, 1700-1900'. In *Colonial Switzerland. Rethinking Colonialism from the Margins*, ed. Patricia Purtschert & Harald Fischer-Tiné. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015.

Suarez, Andrew V. & Tsutsui, Neil D. 'The Value of Museum Collections for Research and Society'. *BioScience* 54: 66-74 (2004).

Geology

Markus, Ursula, Ursula Eichenberger & Augusto Gansser. *Augusto Gansser: From the Life of a World Explorer*. Zurich: AS-Verlag, 2012.

Markus, Ursula, Ursula Eichenberger & Oswald Oelz. *Augusto Gansser: aus dem Leben eines Welt-Erkunders*. Zürich: AS Verlag, 2008.

Schär, Bernhard C. 'Earth Scientists as Time Travelers and Agents of Colonial Conquest. Swiss Naturalists in the Dutch East Indies'. *Historical Social Research / Historische Sozialforschung* 40: 67–80, 2015.

Trümpy, Rudolf & Andrea Westermann. 'Albert Heim (1849-1937): Weitblick und Verblendung in der alpentektonischen Forschung'. *Vierteljahrsschrift der Naturforschenden Gesellschaft in Zürich* 153: 67-79, 2008.

Ulmer, Simone. „«Vater des Himalaja» im Alter von 101 Jahren gestorben“.

http://www.ethlife.ethz.ch/archive_articles/120111_Augusto_Gansser_Tod_su.html

Westermann, Andrea. 'Inherited Territories: The Glarus Alps, Knowledge Validation, and the Genealogical Organization of Nineteenth-Century Swiss Alpine Geognosy'. *Science in Context* 22: 439-461, 2009.

Krüger, Tobias. 'Eiszeit. Jean de Charpentier Als Tragischer Wegbereiter Einer Wissenschaftlichen Umwälzung.' In *Die Naturforschenden. Auf Der Suche Nach Wissen Über Die Schweiz Und Die Welt, 1800-2015*. Eds. Patrick Kupper & Bernhard C. Schär, 17–34. Baden: hier + jetzt, Verlag für Kultur und Geschichte, 2015.

Buckland, Adelene. *Novel Science: Fiction and the Invention of Nineteenth-Century Geology*. University of Chicago Press, 2013.

Rudwick, Martin J. S. *Bursting the Limits of Time: The Reconstruction of Geohistory in the Age of Revolution*. University of Chicago Press, 2007.

Entomology

Burga, Conradin Adolf (Ed.). *Oswald Heer, 1809-1883 : Paläobotaniker, Entomologe, Gründerpersönlichkeit*. NZZ Libro. Zürich: Verlag Neue Zürcher Zeitung, 2013.

Davis, Natalie Zemon. *Drei Frauenleben: Gliki, Marie de l'Incarnation, Maria Sibylla Merian*. Berlin: Wagenbach, 1996. (Chapter on Merian)

Davis, Natalie Zemon. *Women on the Margins: Three Seventeenth-Century Lives*. Cambridge Mass: Harvard University Press, 1995. (Chapter on Merian).

Ohl, Michel. "Das Panoptikum der Tiernamen". In *Die Kunst der Benennung*, ed. Michel Ohl, 145-165. Berlin: Matthes & Seitz, 2015.

Sauter, Willi. 'Die Entomologische Sammlungen an Der ETHZ'. *Vierteljahrsschrift Der Naturforschenden Gesellschaft in Zürich* 138: 2013–2218, 1993.

Botany

Cittadino, E. Botany. In P. Bowler & J. Pickstone (Eds.), *The Cambridge History of Science*, pp. 225-242. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009.

Londa L. Schiebinger. *Colonial Botany : Science, Commerce, and Politics in the Early Modern World*. Philadelphia, Pa: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2007.

Londa L. Schiebinger. *Plants and Empire. Colonial Bioprospecting in the Atlantic World*, Cambridge, Ma: Harvard University Press, 2004.

Anonym. Der botanische Garten Zürich. In *An die zürcherische Jugend auf das Jahr 1853*, ed. Naturforschenden Gesellschaft Zürich 1-23, 1853.

Neuenschwander, Erwin. Botanik. In *Historisches Lexikon der Schweiz*, 12.11.2011, URL: <http://www.hls-dhs-dss.ch/textes/d/D8257.php>

Landolt, E. Die Entwicklung der Botanik an der ETH Zürich. In *Botanica Helvetica* 100: 353-374, 1990. URL: https://www.ethz.ch/content/dam/ethz/special-interest/usys/ibz/plant-pathology-dam/documents/Landolt_1990.pdf