DÉCOLONIZING NATURAL HISTORIES

Critical and practical perspectives in museum contexts

15-17 March 2023

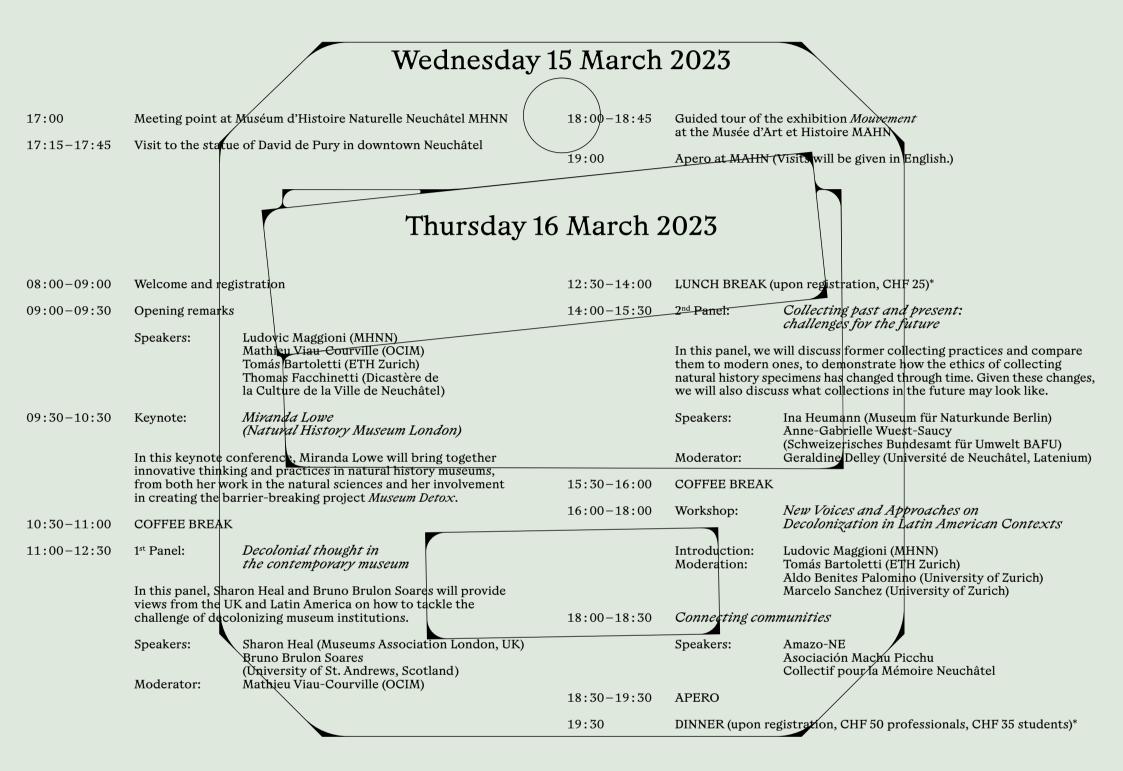
While decolonization has been the subject of much recent discussion in both ethnological and archaeological collections, it has largely been absent from natural history contexts. In addressing this topic in a natural history museum, this three-day conference will examine the circumstances under which hon-European collections have found their way into European natural history museums and develop practical tools for both collections management and public mediation that represent and include the participation of a diversity of voices and experiences.

Specifically, speakers from different Latin American and European countries will develop a critical reflection on decolonial thought and practices, including the identification of key issues and practices in a natural history context. Participatory workshops and other activities will also aim to create a space for meaningful exchange among participants to lay the groundwork for future collaborations and to develop practical toolkits for natural history museums and museum professionals interested in engaging in decolonial practices.



CONFERENCE PROGRAM

(preliminary program subject to change)



Friday 17 March 2023

08:00-09:00	Coffee & opening session: Ludovic Maggioni (MHNN)		12:15-13:45	LUNCH BREAK	(upon registration, CHF 25)*
09:00-10:30	3 rd Panel:	Naming natures	13:45-16:00	Workshop:	Public oriented museum practices
	A panel where we discuss how different communities from different contexts relate to the natural world around them, how they name species in the natural world and the place they hold in their cosmologies. Can different systems of classification exist in parallel? Or does one system always eclipse the other?			Introduction:	Anita Hermannstaedter (Museum für Naturkunde Berlin) Olivia Fahmy (independent art historian and curator) Priska Gisler (Bern Academy of the Arts HKB) Noémie Étienne (University of Bern)
	Speakers: Moderator	Victor Gonzalez (University of Kansas) Second speaker tbc Jessica Litman (MHNN)	16:00-16:30	Moderation: Conclusions and	Denise Bertschi (EPFL Lausanne) I perspectives
10:30-11:00	COFFEE B			Speakers:	Mathieu Viau Courville (OCIM) Ludovic Maggioni (MHNN) Thomás Bartoletti (ETH Zurich)
11:00-12:15	4 th Panel:	Decolonizing natural sciences through contemporary art	16:30-18:00	APERO	Denise Bertschi (EPFL Lausanne)
	The aim is to discuss exhibition practices between natural science and contemporary art. It is based on a reflection on how artistic				
	practices can enrich the process of dealing with contested natural history collections in aiming towards decolonization. Some examples				

of such transdisciplinary exhibition projects and methodology will be discussed.

Speakers: Bergit Arends (Courtauld Institute of Art, London)

Bianca Baldi (University of Antwerp)

Moderator: Denise Bertschi (EPFL Lausanne)

^{*} Pre-order meal options will be offered on the online registration form and payable on the morning of the conference, Thurday, 16 March, by cash or card.