Thursday, September 6, 2018

From 9:00 Registration
9:30–11:00 INTRODUCTION
9:30 Welcome Address
Ina Heumann, Holger Stoecker, Mareike Vennen, Joint research project “Dinosaurs in Berlin”
10:00 Keynote Lecture: Essential, Care and the Fossil Complex
Ciraj Rassool, University of the Western Cape
11:00 Break

11:30–13:20 SESSION I: Politics of Presentation
Chair: Patricia Rahemipour, Botanischer Garten und Botanisches Museum Berlin-Dahlem, Freie Universität Berlin
11:30 Decolonizing Botanical Collections
Anna Haebich, Curtin University
12:10 Web-like Analogies as a Decolonizing Order in Natural History Display
Fritha Langerman, University of Cape Town
12:50 Comment: Jonathan Fine, Ethnologisches Museum, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin – Preußischer Kulturbesitz
13:20 Lunch

15:00–16:50 SESSION II: Politics of Objects: Heritage, Property, Responsibility
Chair: Anja Schwarz, Universität Potsdam
15:00 Colonial Collections at Berlin’s Botanical Museum
Katja Kaiser, CeNak – Center of Natural History
10:40 Java Man and the Colonial Legacy of Fossil Collections
Caroline Drenthen, Open University of the Netherlands, Femke Sleijting, Utrecht University
11:20 Comment: Ina Heumann, Museum für Naturkunde Berlin
13:20 Lunch

18:30 PANEL DISCUSSION: Koloniales Erbe und Naturkunde
Chair: Tatani Nadim, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin / Museum für Naturkunde Berlin
19:00 The Natural History Museum and the Planckeras: Decoloniality at the Periphery
Ayasha Ashari, Goldsmiths, University of London
19:40 Putting Materiality to Work: Modelling Information on Historical Collections of Natural History in Social Justice Contexts
Martha Fleming, British Museum / University of Göttingen, Dominik Hünniger, University of Göttingen
20:20 Comment: Ina Heumann, Museum für Naturkunde Berlin

Friday, September 7, 2018

9:45 Welcome Address
Johannes Vogel, Museum für Naturkunde Berlin

10:00–12:00 SESSION III: Politics of Objects: Heritage, Property, Responsibility
Chair: Anja Schwarz, Deutsches Historisches Museum
10:00 Birds from the Colonies at the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin: Backgrounds, Relevance and Development
Soke Phahnt, Museum für Naturkunde Berlin
11:40 The Natural History Museum in Nigeria: Dynamics and Impact
Lucky Ugbudian, Federal University Ndufu Alike Ikwo
12:00 Lunch

Chair: David Blankenstein, Deutsches Historisches Museum
13:30 Birds from the Colonies at the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin: Backgrounds, Relevance and Development
Soke Phahnt, Museum für Naturkunde Berlin
14:10 The Natural History Museum in Nigeria: Dynamics and Impact
Lucky Ugbudian, Federal University Ndufu Alike Ikwo
14:50 Comment: Manuela Bauche, Museum für Naturkunde Berlin
15:20 Closing Remarks

VENUE: Technische Universität Berlin, Main Building, Conference Room 3006 (3rd floor, accessible via elevator), Straße des 17. Juni 135, 10623 Berlin
Natural history museums preserve a considerable, yet often unacknowledged part of the world’s colonial heritage. Their identity, collections, exhibitions and, importantly, much of their research activities are based on objects which underwent multiply translocations from colonized territories to museums in the Global North. Natural history museums took advantage of colonial endeavours and were deeply entangled in the exploitation of the colonies. However, natural objects are often displayed as “of Nature” – and framed within a narrative of Western scientific accomplishments and rationality. The complex histories of acquisition as well as the political context of the discovery and translocation of objects are thus rendered invisible. The workshop takes the growing tension between the entangled history of natural history museums and colonialism on the one hand and the invisibility of those entanglements on the other as a starting point for considerations about decolonization.

CONTACT & REGISTRATION (closing date August 30, 2018): pan@mfn.berlin
Further information: https://www.museumfuernaturkunde.berlin/en/forschung/leitthemen/dinosaur-berlin