DOING BIODIVERSITY
EXPERIMENTAL KNOWLEDGE TRANSFORMATIONS
FOR SUSTAINABLE FUTURES

Digital Workshop on 23 & 24 JUNE 2021

with public inputs by
CLAIRE WATERTON & HELMUT HILLEBRAND

HUMANITIES CENTRE FOR
ADVANCED STUDIES
FUTURES OF SUSTAINABILITY

Organized by:
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The planetary climate crisis and biodiversity loss have engendered many effects on the organization and the understanding of knowledge practices. Social and natural scientists agree that the “Anthropocene” challenges the hitherto hardly questioned separation of humans and nature more than ever before. Since the turn of the millennium, transnational, academic and public attempts to improve global biodiversity assessment and, simultaneously, mitigate biodiversity loss have accelerated on a formerly unknown scale. Therefore, today, and even more in light of the Covid 19 pandemic, a trans- and cross-disciplinary sensibility is needed to enable experimental and collaborative research. As the global ecological movement suggests, such accounts could foster better knowledge for sustainable futures. However, their still fragmented academic organization counteracts intellectual progress. As a consequence, the Anthropocene will remain a ‘poisoned gift’ not only to the humanities, but also for the natural sciences, if the effective entanglement of nature and society for which it stands remains unnoticed on the level of practical knowledge exploration. The digital workshop assembles scholars and citizens, representing different modes of enacting biodiversity for sharing their experiences and perspectives in “doing biodiversity”.

From Wednesday 23 to Thursday 24 June 2021 we invite you to find out which differences and commonalities might challenge or fuel collaborative approaches on biodiversity as a “boundary object” linking nature and society. On Wednesday evening, we welcome cross-disciplinary inputs provided by Claire Waterton, sociologist from Lancaster University, UK, and leading specialist on sociological biodiversity research, and Helmut Hillebrand, plankton ecologist and director of the Helmholtz Institute for Functional Marine Biodiversity at Oldenburg University, Germany. On Thursday, we assemble naturalists, sociologists, citizen scientists, and critical activists through three “learning cabinets” composed by small groups. Within the Learning cabinets, we discuss questions as following: How do marine biologists experience the political task to mitigate the problem of biodiversity loss? How do activists approach experts to support their goals? How do social scientists cooperate with citizens? How do species, artifacts, techniques, infrastructures intervene? And, what could we learn from our differences and heterogeneities for experimental democracy? In short, how could sustainable futures be created in light of the ecological and socio-economic challenges of the current global crisis? To address these questions and challenges, the workshop offers a practice-based opportunity. Three specialists, helping to enhance your exchange and cooperation, will host each Learning cabinet: Moritz Holtappels, biogeochemist at the Alfred Wegener Institute Bremerhaven, Vanessa van den Bogaert, education scientist at Ruhr-University Bochum, and Stefan C. Aykut, environmental sociologist at Hamburg University. The goal of the workshop is to get the participants more acquainted with the pleasures, difficulties and excitments of inter- and transdisciplinary encounters, and, in the long run, to create appropriate learning communities to overcome the academic division of labor between nature and society.

REGISTRATION AND CONTACT
For the evening event on Wednesday (in English) you don’t have to register. Please find all the details and access information for the webinar here:

For the Workshop on Thursday (in German), please register until 20 June 2021 at the mailing address given below. As the workshop is experimental and interactive, we invite you to tell us a bit about your background. Please send us a brief information about your area of activities, and possible experiences in collaborating with diverse groups (social, cultural, political or academic).

Registration: zukuenfte.der.nachhaltigkeit@uni-hamburg.de