

Difficult Heritage and „Nature“ (Hamburg, 19–20 Sep 24)

Universität Hamburg, Warburg-Haus, Sep 19–21, 2024

Registration deadline: Sep 22, 2024

Margit Kern

[German version below]

Difficult Heritage and „Nature“: Greening as Forgetting – Greening as Healing?

ERC Advanced Grant Horizon 2020: “Visual Scepticism. Towards an Aesthetic of Doubt” (Projektleitung: Prof. Dr. Margit Kern)

In post-World War II Germany, many National Socialist monuments fell into disrepair, and the overgrowth of their stone architecture by vegetation was readily accepted as a matter of course. Trees were planted as well in order to deliberately interrupt view axes. This strategy of “allowing the grass to grow over” a difficult historical legacy has been criticised in the research, and even interpreted as a strategy for repressing controversial memories. The conference relates this specifically German post-war situation to recent and current approaches to dealing with fascist and colonial monuments in many different countries. “Greening” as a strategy for addressing a difficult heritage – the use of nature as a transformative material – is currently experiencing an astonishing renaissance, although up to this point, researchers have not perceived significant parallels with the post-war situation. In some discussions, it has been suggested that toxic monuments should be abandoned to a natural process of decay, or instead that their transformation, assisted by nature, with its positive connotations, is implicitly related to processes of healing.

The conference will pursue two main lines of inquiry: analysed first will be the role of nature in dealing with the Nazi heritage during the post-war period; and secondly, current approaches to using nature when dealing with difficult heritage in the present.

PROGRAM

Thursday - September 19, 2024

09:00 Arrival and coffee

Introduction

09:30 Margit Kern, Universität Hamburg (Hamburg, Germany), Difficult Heritage and “Nature”: Greening as an Agent of Visual Scepticism and Its Limits

Panel: Difficult Heritage in Europe after WWII – „Greening“ and Forgetting? (Chair: Theresa Stankoweit)

10:15 Theresa Stankoweit, Universität Hamburg (Hamburg, Germany), Political Green. Designed Landscapes in Dachau and Nuremberg before and after 1945

11:00 Coffee break

11:30 Joachim Wolschke-Bulmahn, Leibniz Universität Hannover (Hannover, Germany), Greening as Healing? Or Greening as Hypocrisy? The Early Landscape Design of the Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp Memorial

12:15 Tilman Walther, Hochschule für bildende Künste (Hamburg, Germany), Wurzeln schlagen - Pflanzen und Steine als politischer Erosionsschutz in den Denkmälern deutscher Opfernarrationen der frühen BRD

13:00 Lunch break

14:00 Iris Lauterbach, Zentralinstitut für Kunstgeschichte (Munich, Germany), „Märchenschloss“, „Schambehaarung“, Biotop: Entnazifizierung durch Begrünung? Der Fall München

14:45 Lorenzo Ciccarelli, Università degli Studi di Firenze (Florence, Italy), Dealing with Fascist Monumental Sites Through the Use of Parks and Sports Facilities: the Foro Italico and Eur District in Rome

15:30 Coffee break

16:00 Florian Rietmann, Berliner Hochschule für Technik (Berlin, Germany) / Brandenburgische Technische Universität Cottbus-Senftenberg (Cottbus, Germany), Proras unsichtbare Präsenz - Umgang mit NS-Relikten in der DDR

16:45 Barry A. Jackisch, University of Toledo (Toledo, USA), Regreening, Remembering, Rebuilding: Berlin's Tiergarten Park after 1945

19:00 Conference dinner

--

Friday - September 20, 2024

09:00 Arrival and coffee

09:30 Karolina Kolenda, Uniwersytet Komisji Edukacji Narodowej (Krakow, Poland), Between Commemorating and Greening: Contentious Heritage and Nature in Krakow

10:15 Marcela Hanáčková, Mendelova univerzita v Brně (Brno, Czech Republic) / Architectural Institute in Prague (Prague, Czech Republic), Healing the Cruelty of War through Landscape and Regional Planning. Two Cases from Post-War Czechoslovakia

11:00 Coffee break

Panel: The Use of Archaeological Sites, Historical Parks, and Landscape Design in Framing and Reshaping Difficult Historical Legacies (Chair: Carla Guimarães Hermann)

11:30 Carla Guimarães Hermann, Universität Hamburg (Hamburg, Germany), Covering, Building, Mending: the Multiple Uses of Nature in the Valongo Wharf and Its Surroundings

12:15 Yuning Teng, Universität Hamburg (Hamburg, Germany), From National Disgrace to Pride: Detoxifying the Ketteler Monument's Colonial Memory through Relocation to a Park in Beijing

13:00 Lunch break

14:00 Virginia Magnaghi, Università di Trento (Trento, Italy), The Green Afterlife of a Missed Fascist Acropolis. The Doss Trento and Cesare Battisti's Mausoleum from Its Design (1925) to the Present Day

14:45 José de Nordenflycht, Universidad de Playa Ancha (Valparaíso, Chile), Heritage in Transformation: Prison, Park and Human Rights Memorial in Valparaíso (Chile)

15:30 Haizea Barcenilla, Miguel Angel Barcenilla, Universidad del País Vasco (Bilbao, Spain), The Forest of Memory - The Memory of the Forest

16:15 Coffee break

16:45 Scott Maning Stevens, Syracuse University (Syracuse, USA), Landscaping Forgetfulness: Fort Niagara's Traumatic Past

17:30 Carolina Vanegas Carrasco, Universidad Nacional de San Martín (Buenos Aires, Argentina), Historicity and Memory in the "White City": the Statue of Sebastián de Belalcázar in the Colombian Social Upheaval

18:15 Apéro

--

Saturday - September 21, 2024

09:00 Arrival and coffee

Panel: Artistic Interventions into Difficult Heritage: Conceptualizations of Nature and Imaginations of Indigeneity (Chair: Johanna Spanke)

09:30 Johanna Spanke, Universität Hamburg (Hamburg, Germany), Plants as Decolonial Agents in Iván Argote's Monumental Interventions

10:15 Claudette Lauzon, Simon Fraser University (Burnaby, Canada), 'In My Culture There Are No Monuments': Indigenous Interventions in Colonial Public Spaces

11:00 Juliana Robles de la Pava, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (Berlin, Germany), The Catherwood Project Between the Ruins of the Indigenous Cosmological Imagination and the Colonial Historical Legacy

11:45 Lunch break

12:45 Leena Crasemann & Anne Röhl, Independent Scholar (Basel, Switzerland) & Universität Siegen (Siegen, Germany), Fashionable Promises of Bioremediation: The Kudzu Plant in Current Attempts to Decolonize Monuments

13:30 Hannah Lahusen, Universität Hamburg (Hamburg, Germany), Cultivating Counter-Memories in Santiago de Chile: Guerilla Gardening as a Subversive Strategy of Resisting Difficult Heritage

14:15 Aaron McIntosh, Université Concordia (Montreal, Canada), Invasive Species, Queer Kudzu, and Botany's Unruly Children

15:00 Apéro

--

Registration:

We kindly ask you to register on our homepage:

<https://www.visual-scepticism.uni-hamburg.de/activities-events/conferences/2024-difficult-heritage-and-nature/registration.html#23949960>

--

Nach dem Zweiten Weltkrieg verfielen in Deutschland viele Monumente des Nationalsozialismus und die Überlagerung von Steinarchitekturen durch Pflanzen wurde bereitwillig in Kauf genommen. Auch wurden bewusst Bäume gepflanzt, um Sichtachsen zu unterbrechen. Diese Strategie des "Gras über das schwierige Erbe wachsen zu lassen" wurde in der Forschung kritisiert und als eine Maßnahme der Verdrängung schwieriger Erinnerungen interpretiert. Die Tagung setzt diese spezifisch deutsche Nachkriegssituation in Beziehung zu aktuellen Entwicklungen im Umgang mit Denkmälern des Kolonialismus und Faschismus in vielen Ländern heute. Denn diese Lösung der "Begrünung" im Umgang mit schwierigem Erbe, die Nutzung von Natur als Material der Transformation, erlebt derzeit eine ganz erstaunliche Renaissance, ohne dass bisher eine Kontinuität in der Forschung gesehen wurde. In Diskussionen wird vorgeschlagen, dass „toxische“ Denkmäler einem natürlichen Verfallsprozess überlassen werden sollten, oder eine Umgestaltung mit Hilfe der Natur wird aufgrund deren positiven Konnotationen implizit mit Heilungsprozessen in Verbindung gebracht.

Die Konferenz wird zwei Hauptlinien verfolgen, zum einen soll die Rolle von Natur im Umgang mit dem NS-Erbe in der Nachkriegszeit analysiert werden, zum anderen die Nutzung von Natur bei der Aufarbeitung von schwierigem Erbe in der Gegenwart.

Anmeldung:

Wir bitten Sie, sich auf unserer Homepage kurz anzumelden:

<https://www.visual-scepticism.uni-hamburg.de/activities-events/conferences/2024-difficult-heritage-and-nature/registration.html#23949960>

Reference:

CONF: Difficult Heritage and „Nature“ (Hamburg, 19-20 Sep 24). In: ArtHist.net, Jul 19, 2024 (accessed Apr 30, 2026), <<https://arthist.net/archive/42368>>.