

Anthropological Knowledge as More-Than-Human Co-Production

Submission of Abstract for **DGSKA conference 2023**

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Format: Roundtable

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In times of pressing geo-ecological crises, underexplored dimensions of human and non-human entanglement hauntingly come to our ethnographic as well as everyday attention. To make sense of the current condition and how it affects our ethnographic field-sites it seems important to understand knowledge as always more-than-human, that is, as something that has always been created in co-production between different actors. In this context, the creative empirical capture of field experiences and the creation of diverse as well as multimedia and speculative-driven knowledge formats is crucial to grasping multi-species responses to social-ecological change and to securing wider impact of this knowledge also beyond academia.

Based on our workshop of the GAA working group "Environmental Anthropology" in May 2022, which examined "unruly sites of more-than-human entanglements", we would like to discuss first findings at a roundtable and controversially debate the (dis-)advantages of creative ethnographic methods. The roundtable format is best suited for such a debate because it gives room to the potentially critical evaluation of these methods as well as exploring their manifold possible areas of application from different perspectives.

What possibilities, for example, are opened up by "interviewing a plant", writing ethnographic novels, or speculative fiction? And what are their limitations? While many anthropologists agree on the importance of non-human entities for human affairs, (how) can we think of a less asymmetrical anthropology not centered around human logos? And how does this debate relate to earlier and ongoing debates on decolonial epistemologies and methodologies? In this context, we would like to invite anthropologists who have experience with graphic novels and other speculative formats, or have worked with or an interest in multi-species methods.