

## interdisciplinary conference poetics, ethics and politics of the forest in latin american cultures

## 22—23 june, 2022 collegium helveticum

Joint Institute of Advanced Studies from ETH, UZH, ZHdK  
Schmelzbergstrasse 25, Zürich

Organized by **Prof. Dr. Mayara Ribeiro Guimarães**  
(Federal University of Pará), currently Senior Fellow  
at the Collegium Helveticum and Guest Professor  
at the University of Zurich



For decades, indigenous leaders, intellectuals, artists, and researchers from Latin America have been questioning the sense of humanity present in the Western world under the sign of colonization and its legacy of violence. Founded on Eurocentric models of knowledge and systems of thought that do not contemplate the practices and cosmovisions of Amerindian cultures, this legacy has shaped Western ontology and its centrality. In it, the notions of truth and reality are associated with the fundamentality of the human subjectivity and define the power relations that organize the West. The idea of humanity present in Amerindian thought, in its history and epistemology, based on a cosmopolitics of the earth, puts into play an ontology (or ontologies) whose foundations reside in an alliance between the inhabitants of the forest (humans and more-than-humans). The claim of this other way of being in the world implies the opening and recognition of another system of knowledge and relations between beings, whose socio-political practices modify the way of doing politics and of managing/inhabiting territories, bodies, economies, subjectivities.



The aim of this conference is to discuss the relations between humans and non-humans, by reviewing histories of contact between different peoples and crossing over the scientific, political and poetic viewpoints that have the forest and its inhabitants as the center of critical debate. The event will bring together practitioners and scholars working in the literary and cultural studies and the arts, anthropology, ethnography, philosophy, as well as the biological and natural sciences to discuss the urgent transformation of the social and political relations of life and Earth.

## programm

### Wednesday, 22<sup>th</sup> June

- 13.30 Opening and Welcome words**  
Sebastian Bonhoeffer  
(Director of the Collegium Helveticum)  
Mayara Ribeiro Guimarães  
(Senior Fellow, Collegium Helveticum)
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- 13.45 Going between systems of knowledge**   
Jeremy Narby
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- 14.45 Lecture**  
Eduardo Góes Neves   
(University of São Paulo)
- 
- 15.30 Coffee break**
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- 15.45 History and ancestry according to Davi Kopenawa**  
Marco Antonio Valentim   
(Federal University of Paraná)
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- 16.30 Tearing up history and transforming the world: shamanic actions in Brazilian indigenous arts**  
Mayara Ribeiro Guimarães (Federal University of Pará/UZH/Collegium Helveticum)
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- 17.15 Forest Mind**  
Video screening by Ursula Biemann,  
followed by a conversation with the artist 
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- 18.15 Aperó in the foyer of the Collegium**
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- 19:15h Speakers' dinner at the restaurant**

### Thursday, 23<sup>th</sup> June

- 10.15 Lecture**  
Emanuele Coccia (EHESS) 
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- 11.15 Dreaming with dancing microbes...spirits**  
César Enrique Giraldo Herrera   
(University of Oxford/LCMR Bremen)
- 
- 12.00 Lunch with guests at the Collegium**  
(20 people)
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- 14.00 Lecture**  
Yacunã Tuxá (indigenous artist)
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- 14.45 Animal Domestication in the South American Ethnosphere**  
Marcelo Sánchez-Villagra   
(Paleontological Museum UZH)
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- 15.30 Coffee break**
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- 16.00 From rebellious tapirs to travelling shamans: resisting the extractivist logic**  
Lúcia Sá (University of Manchester) 
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- 16.45 Interview**  
Mary Louise Pratt (New York University) 
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- 17.30 On currents, circulation and power: understanding the Amazonian rivers**  
Javier Uriarte (Stony Brook University) 
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- 18.15 Final words**
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- 18.30 Aperó**