

ENGLISH SUMMARIES

Stig Toft Madsen: The Baton of Taxonomy

This article lays out how dedicated birdwatchers for whom birding constitutes “the most scientific of sports or the most sporting of sciences”, organize the search for, and identification of, rare species. To maintain personal lists of the species they have observed, birdwatchers make use of a scientifically sanctioned taxonomy. This allows birders to compete in an orderly fashion, while allowing the baton of taxonomy to remain in the hands of taxonomists. An examination of eight selected birding events in Denmark and Sweden in the autumn of 2019 shows the central role of digital photos circulated among peers to nudge birders towards a positive identification. Coincidentally, this makes it less meaningful to ascribe the discovery of a rarity to a single observer. The events in 2019 also show that laboratory-based DNA-analysis of bird feathers or droppings play an increasing role in clinching identification. As new technologies sideline hard-earned field skills, demands for more user-friendly, democratic taxonomies that support field skills are voiced. Postmodern critiques of science are strongest in the US and the UK. However, in Sweden, the father of taxonomy, Carl von Linné, has been recast as the father of scientific racism. Considerations of social justice have caused changes of nomenclature in Sweden, but given that birdwatchers cultivate a hard-nosed Popperian approach to empirical verification and falsification, postmodern scientific relativism cannot be expected to go down well with them.

Keywords: ornithology, species, taxonomy, citizen science, falsification, postmodernism

Juan Velásquez Atehortúa: Forming the *Chthulucenen*. About how Women Strengthen their Kinship Ties with Sea Turtles in Nicaragua

This article studies how women’s role as caregivers in the Nicaraguan fishing village of Padre Ramos are extended to sea turtles. According to Haraway the chthulucene is an era where humans can strengthen their kinship ties with all other life forms to life in order to live and die better together on earth. The village of Padre Ramos is visited every year by hawksbill turtles, which come to lay their eggs on the beach. As the species is threatened by extinction, the village decide to adopt the turtles as its flagship species and thereby to transit from hunting to caring for them. Although the villagers are arguably the most vital link to save

the turtles, they live under constant threat from being evicted from the nature reserve and die out as a community. For ten days, the author follows the women with a camera, while they occupy a piece of land in the village to build a playground with turtles as its thematic focal point. Through this action, the women act as “small critters” that compost the rotten moral practices of the authorities, stay with and make trouble, and come to reuse old car tires, wood and pallets to create a monument of the village’s kinship with the turtles.

Keywords: chthulucene, insurgent citizenship, women, flagskeppsarter, rhizovocality, Padre Ramos

Heather Anne Swanson: Methods for Multispecies Anthropology. Thinking with Salmon, Otoliths and Scales

This article proposes that multispecies anthropology and its curiosities about non-humans constitute a “minor anthropology” that poses challenges not only to anthropological categories, but also to anthropological methods. Through attention to Pacific salmon, I probe why and how anthropologists might explore the ways non-humans know and enact worlds via collaborations with natural scientists. Working with biologists, I examine salmon scales and otoliths, or ear bones, whose crystallization patterns act as a kind of fish diary, recording a fish’s migrations and relations. I take up these methods with an anthropological eye, asking how one might use such practices to learn about multispecies encounters that classical ethnography often misses. Lastly, I demonstrate how anthropologists can engage natural science tools while remaining alert to the politics of knowing.

Keywords: animal studies, knowledge practices, minor anthropologies, multispecies ethnography, salmon, social science methods

Stine Krøijer: Trees and Other(’s) Species in Amazonia

Most studies of multispecies entanglements have taken “the relation” as a self-evident analytical starting point. This article explores the limits of relationality, by describing how a Siekopai shaman is unable to relate to a new hybrid species of oil palm introduced along the Aguarico River in the Ecuadorian Amazon. The situation, which is experienced as a spatial and relational emptiness, has emerged after the Siekopai decided to clearcut part of their forested territory to engage in commercial palm oil production. I analyze this in an ongoing dialogue with shamanic knowledge about trees and other beings of the forest and outline two forms of ecological alterity, which in different ways connect plant species with the colonial history of the area.

Keywords: Amazonia, Secoya (siekopai), agroindustry, alterity, forest, species

Kristian Hoeck: Encounters with Erica. How Humans and Robots are Calibrated to Each Other

This article is about the human-robot encounter. It is about the concrete encounter between the semi-autonomous communication android Erica, and her various interlocutors, as well as the encounter as the communicative form that defines the robot-human relation. My basic question is: what defines a relationship when calibrated to the encounter between a human and a robot? Through the article, I show how the researchers test, map, and implement culturally mediated expressions on human behavior to the human-robot encounter. Both humans and robots are treated as communication systems that must find a common communicative form, which can be structured to the robot's algorithmic understanding and be expressed through decodable expression of human affinity. The relation itself, I suggest, can here be understood as a semiotic *form*, whose properties are expressed in the communicative connections the form enables. My claim is that in the staging of robot researchers, the relation itself is recalibrated as a form that can be aligned to both an algorithmically coded and a culturally mediated pattern of behavior. Finally I suggest that in the process, both robot and human are standardized to the techno-cultural calibration of human behavior.

Keywords: humanoid robots, semiotics, form, relationality, techno-science, standardization