

Regionalizing the Anthropocene: An Interdisciplinary Conversation between the Global South and North

February 17-18, 2025

Bielefeld University – ZiF Plenary Hall

The Maria Sibylla Merian Center for Advanced Latin American Studies (CALAS) aims at putting the research result from its Laboratory of Knowledge, *The Anthropocene as a Multiple Crisis: Perspectives from Latin America* into dialogue with distinguished scholars from other world regions.

This Platform for Dialogue focuses on presenting and discussing the diverse topics of the CALAS Handbook series on the *Anthropocene as Multiple Crisis*. An important part of the project is its line on visual representations of the Anthropocene. Therefore, the evening program of the conference includes an exclusive screening of the the documentary *Anthropos* by film maker Miguel Sánchez. In addition, an art exhibition will present the work of the Mexican artist Fernando Efraín Sandoval who is the creator of the captivating cover art of the CALAS handbook series.

The contributions to the six-volume Handbook [*The Anthropocene as Multiple Crisis: Perspectives from Latin America*](#) think about the Anthropocene from a particular region of the Global South: The handbook offers a platform to discuss the multiple “anthropogenic” socio-environmental crises from a specifically Latin American point of view, without losing sight of their global and planetary dimensions. The objective is to systematize, from the perspective of Latin American social sciences and humanities, the multifaceted environmental crises that reached and crossed the planetary boundaries of the earth-systems and led to the new geological time of the Anthropocene. In doing so, it generates an empirical basis for the genealogy of the Anthropocene in so far under-researched global region with key regional and historical differentiations.

The main editors of the handbook series will present the overall research project, whereas the editors of each volume will present their specific topics which are based on the identified planetary boundaries ([Land Use](#); [Biodiversity](#); [Climate Change](#), [Mining and Energy](#); [Water](#); [Visual Representations of the Anthropocene](#)) and discuss them with scholars from Anthropocene research, Area Studies and Bielefeld University. An evening panel invites representatives of other Merian Centers and colleagues from the Global South to discuss the Anthropocene from a global perspective in regard to their specific regions.

Key concerns to be addressed are: Is it useful to regionalize the Anthropocene from other regions as well? What about the planetary dimension and aspects? How is this field conceivable between the different disciplines?

The conference is scheduled to take place from February 17 to 18, 2025, at the Center for Interdisciplinary Research (ZiF), Bielefeld University’s Institute for Advanced Study and the model center after which the CALAS was structured.



17/02/2025

09:00 Registration

09:30 Welcome and Introduction

Prof. Dr. Christiane Fuchs (Vice-Rector, Bielefeld University)
Prof. Dr. Eleonora Rohland (Co-Vice-Rector, ZiF, Bielefeld University)
Prof. Dr. Olaf Kaltmeier (Bielefeld University)
Prof. Dr. Gerardo Gutiérrez Cham (University of Guadalajara, Mexico)
Prof. Dr. Susana Herrera Lima (ITESO, Mexico)

10:30 Land Use in the Anthropocene

Moderation: Carolina Hormaza (Bielefeld University)

Book Presentation: Prof. Dr. María Fernanda López (FLACSO-Ecuador)

Prof. Dr. José Augusto Pádua (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)

Prof. Dr. Adrián Gustavo Zarrilli (National University of Qulimes, Argentina)

Prof. Dr. Olaf Kaltmeier (Bielefeld University)

Comments: Pd Dr. Eva Youkhana (Center for Development Research, Bonn University)

Dr. Franz Mauelshagen (Bielefeld University)

12:00 Opening Art Exhibition *The Anthropocene as Multiple Crisis*

Prof. Dr. Bernd Scherer (Humbolt- University, fellow at the Max Planck Institute of Geoanthropology)

Fernando Efrén Sandoval (Mexico)

12:45 Lunch @ZiF Cafeteria



14:15 *Biodiversity in the Anthropocene*

Moderation: Nadine Pollvogt (Bielefeld University)

Book Presentation: Prof. Dr. León Enrique Ávila Romero (UNICH, Mexico)

Prof. Dr. Olaf Kaltmeier (Bielefeld University)

Comments: Prof. Dr. Helmuth Trischler (German Museum / LMU)

Dr. Andrés Gerique (University of Erlangen-Nürnberg)

15:45 Coffee and Cake @ZiF Cafeteria

16:15 *Climate Change in the Anthropocene*

Moderation: Omar Sierra (Bielefeld University)

Book Presentation: Prof. Dr. Virginia García Acosta (CIESAS, Mexico)

Prof. Dr. Javier Taks (University of the Republic of Uruguay)

Prof. Dr. Eleonora Rohland (Bielefeld University)

Comments: Prof. Dr. Charlotte Wrigley-Asante (University of Ghana)

Prof. Dr. Bernd Sommer (TU Dortmund)

18:00 Dinner @ ZiF Cafeteria

19:00 Sneak Preview *Anthropos*

Prof. Dr. Bernd Scherer (Humbolt- University, fellow at the Max Planck Institute of Geoanthropology)

with Q&A to the director Miguel Sánchez (Mexico)



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09:30 Mining and Energy in the Anthropocene

Moderation: Luisa Ellermeier (Bielefeld University)

Book Presentation: Prof. Dr. Helge Wendt (FU Berlin)

Prof. Dr. Cecilia Ibarra (University of Chile)

Prof. Dr. Eleonora Rohland (Bielefeld University)

Comments: Prof. Dr. Kristina Dietz (Kassel University)

J-Prof. Dr. Tina Asmussen (Deutsches Bergbau-Museum Bochum)

11:00 Coffee Break @ ZiF

11:15 Water in the Anthropocene

Moderation: Dr. Ann-Kathrin Volmer (Bielefeld University)

Book Presentation: Prof. Dr. Ricardo Gutiérrez (UNSAM, Argentina),

Prof. Dr. Sofía Mendoza Bohne (University of Guadalajara, Mexico)

Prof. Dr. Susana Herrera Lima (ITESO, Mexico)

Comments: Prof. Dr. Birte Förster (Bielefeld University)

Prof. Dr. Julia Schmidt-Funke (Leipzig University)

12:45 Lunch @ZiF Cafeteria

14:15 Visual Representations of the Anthropocene

Moderation: Prof. Dr. Kirsten Kramer (Bielefeld University)

Book Presentation: Prof. Dr. Elissa J. Rashkin (University Veracruzana, Mexico)

Prof. Dr. Gerardo G. Cham (University of Guadalajara, Mexico)

Prof. Dr. Olaf Kaltmeier (Bielefeld University)

Comments: Prof. Dr. Bernd Scherer (Humbolt- University, fellow at the Max Planck Institute of Geoanthropology)

Prof. Dr. Timo Skrandies (Düsseldorf University)



15:45 Coffee and Cake @ZiF Cafeteria

16:15 Roundtable *Regionalizing the Anthropocene*

Moderation: Prof. Dr. Olaf Kaltmeier and Prof. Dr. Eleonora Rohland (Bielefeld University)

Prof. Dr. Barbara Göbel (Ibero-American Institute / Mecila)

Prof. Dr. Walter Pengue (National University General Sarmiento/ GEPAMA, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina / CALAS)

Prof. Dr. Christoph Antweiler (Bonn University)

Prof. Dr. Charlotte Wrigley-Asante (University of Ghana / MIASA)

18:30 Dinner @Café im Bürgerpark