

# Nature, Culture and Perception: From the Amazon to the Alps

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**Conference**  
30th September – 2nd October 2019  
Lucerne and Altdorf

Visual Arts and Science in Dialogue

A COOPERATION BETWEEN

UNIVERSITÄT  
LUZERN

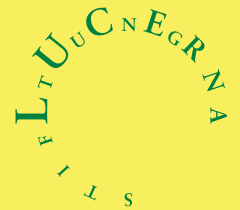
VIDEO WINDOW

HAUS  
FÜR  
KUNST  
DANIOTH PAVILLON  
URI

PATRONAGE



## INTRODUCTION AND GOALS OF THE CONFERENCE



Boris Previšić and Bruno Z'Graggen

Humanity has long stretched the basis of its own existence, the biosphere, beyond its limits and is now threatening this acutely. On the one hand, the romantic image of the supremacy of nature is obsolete. The zone on our planet in which we are able to live is unique and, in comparison with the infinity of the universe, imperceptibly tiny. On the other hand, we irresponsibly overlook our calamitous attacks on the biosphere: attacks such as the emissions made by those who consume fossil fuels as they fly or drive or the impact of the factory farming made necessary by our meat consumption. It appears that we are still insufficiently aware of the scope and the consequences of the disappearance of the last major natural pristine refuges. Otherwise, wouldn't we have long since acted to arrest the rapid loss of biodiversity and climate change? Our conclusion is that there is a massive problem of both awareness and political (in)action.

The conference starts with this issue of perception and asks why we still haven't changed our behaviour. It has two goals: to draw attention to this destruction of our biosphere, in other words our self-destruction, and to consider sustainable solutions. It connects two natural habitats that could hardly be more different: the Amazon and the Alps. Upon closer inspection, these two regions are closely comparable due to the following characteristics: Both are endangered by resource depletion, overexploitation and accelerating climate change. And furthermore, each of these cultural regions provides a wealth of valuable experience of symbiotic relationships between man and nature based on centuries of tradition.

A close dialogue between art and science sheds light on the perception and analysis of this dramatic transformation and the threat that it brings. Five films are followed by six scientific inputs covering the specialist areas of climate research and cognitive perception as well as questions of power, law and resources in the two cultural regions. At the end, the conference asks how things can proceed in the future and which concepts of sustainability and justice are available.

# PROGRAMME

## PART 1

30th September 2019  
stattkino Luzern, Bourbaki Panorama

17:30 – 18:00 Registration

18:00 – 18:15 **WELCOME**  
Boris Previšić

18:15 – 19:45 **INPUT 1. ARTISTS' STATEMENTS**

**INTRODUCTION**  
Bruno Z'Graggen

**SCREENING OF THE 5 FILMS**

Break

20:00 – 20:30 **DISCUSSION**  
Rodrigo Braga, Cao Guimarães, Melanie Smith and Laurence Favre  
Moderation: Boris Previšić and Bruno Z'Graggen



1 Rodrigo Braga  
**Mentira repetida, 2011**  
DCP, Colour, Sound, 5:24 Min.

2 Cao Guimarães  
**Concerto para Clorofila, 2004**  
DCP (from Super 8 Film in DV PAL),  
Colour, Sound, 7:25 Min.



3 Melanie Smith  
**Fordlândia, 2014**  
DCP, Colour, Sound, P, 29:43 Min.

4 Ursula Biemann  
**Deep Weather, 2013**  
DCP, Colour, Sound, E, 9 Min.



5 Laurence Favre  
**Résistance, 2017**  
DCP (from 16mm Film), Colour, Sound, 11 Min.

## PART 2

1st October 2019  
Terrassensaal, KKL Luzern

- 9:30 – 10:00 **INTRODUCTION**  
Boris Previšić
- 10:00 – 10:45 **INPUT 2. PLANETARY BOUNDARIES AND THEIR PERCEPTIONS**  
Sarah Cornell  
**Earth's Nature: Exploring the Challenges of Planetary Perceptions**  
Feedback Focus: Boris Previšić
- Break
- 11:15 – 12:00 **DISCUSSION**  
Sarah Cornell, Rodrigo Braga, Laurence Favre, Cao Guimarães and  
Melanie Smith  
Moderation: Boris Previšić
- 12:00 – 14:00 Lunch Break
- 14:00 – 16:45 **INPUT 3. DIFFERENT PERCEPTIONS OF NATURE (RESOURCES):  
HISTORY, CULTURE, LAW AND POWER**  
Hannah Meszaros Martin  
**The Green Desert and La Casa Grande: The Politics of Planting and  
Environmental Truth-Telling in Colombia**  
Feedback Focus: Daniel Speich
- Jonas Perrin  
**Indigenous Land Rights in International and Ecuadorian Law:  
A Right to Veto?**  
Feedback Focus: Klaus Mathis
- Break
- Mabe Bethônico  
**Mining History in Brazil: Memory and Myth as Power Tools**  
Feedback Focus: Malte Gruber
- 16:45 – 17:30 **DISCUSSION**  
Mabe Bethônico, Hannah Meszaros Martin and Jonas Perrin  
Moderation: Daniel Speich

## PART 3

2nd October 2019  
Haus für Kunst Uri, Altdorf  
Exhibition: Desire and Reality. Depictions of Nature in Contemporary Art

- 9:00 – 10:00 Transfer Lucerne – Altdorf by bus
- 10:00 – 11:00 **INPUT 4. DIVERSITY OF PERCEPTIONS IN CONTEMPORARY ART**  
Barbara Zürcher and Bruno Z'Graggen  
**Guided Tour through the Exhibition**  
Accompanied by the Artists of the Exhibition: Mabe Bethônico,  
Rodrigo Braga and Cao Guimarães
- Break
- 11:30 – 13:00 **INPUT 5. PRECARIOUS ALPS: THE END OF A MYTH**  
Jon Mathieu  
**Human-Nature-Relations in Alpine History:  
The Forest Transition, 1700–2000**  
Feedback Focus: Rodrigo Braga and Melanie Smith
- Barbara Keller  
**Our Water: Six Models for the Future**  
Feedback Focus: Cao Guimarães and Laurence Favre
- 13:00 – 14:00 Lunch Break
- 14:00 – 14:45 **INPUT 6. SUSTAINABILITY AND SOLIDARITY**  
Klaus Mathis  
**Sustainability and Solidarity: Challenges, Concepts and Strategies**  
Feedback Focus: Melanie Smith and Mabe Bethônico
- Break
- 15:00 – 15:45 **CONCLUSION: OPEN PLENUM DISCUSSION**  
**Where Are We Going to? The Future of the Amazon and the Alps:  
Common Sense or Differences?**  
Moderation: Boris Previšić
- 15:45 – 16:30 Drinks and Farewells
- 16:30 Transfer Altdorf – Lucerne by bus

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### ORGANISED BY

Stiftung Lucerna, 6002 Lucerne

[www.lucerna.ch](http://www.lucerna.ch)

Contact: Silvia Cavelti, 041 229 55 32

Registration: [www.lucerna.ch/Anmeldung](http://www.lucerna.ch/Anmeldung)  
(free of charge until: 18th September 2019)

### VENUES

**PART 1** **stattkino Luzern** (places limited)

Bourbaki Panorama, Löwenplatz 11, 6004 Lucerne  
[www.stattkino.ch](http://www.stattkino.ch)

**PART 2** **Terrassensaal, KKL Luzern**

Europaplatz 1, 6002 Lucerne  
[www.kkl-luzern.ch](http://www.kkl-luzern.ch)

**PART 3** **Haus für Kunst Uri**

Herrengasse 2, 6460 Altdorf  
[www.hausfuerkunsturi.ch](http://www.hausfuerkunsturi.ch)

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### SUPPORTED BY

foko  
Forschungskommission  
der Universität Luzern

FNSNF

SWISS NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

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## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

**Dr. Mabe Bethônico (BR)**, Researcher and Artist, Belo Horizonte and Geneva

**Dr. Sarah Cornell (UK)**, Global Sustainability Science, Stockholm Resilience Center, Stockholm University

**Barbara Keller MA (CH)**, Vice Director of the Swiss Alpine Museum, Berne

**Dr. Hannah Meszaros Martin (CO)**, Forensic Architecture, Centre for Research Architecture, Goldsmiths University of London

**Prof. em. Dr. Jon Mathieu (CH)**, History, University of Lucerne

**Prof. Dr. Klaus Mathis (CH)**, Public Law, Law of the Sustainable Economy and Philosophy of Law, University of Lucerne

**Jonas Perrin, PhD student (CH)**, Public Law, University of Lucerne

**Prof. Dr. Boris Previšić (CH)**, Cultural and Literary Studies, University of Lucerne

**Dr. Bruno Z'Graggen (CH)**, Curator of Video Window, Zurich, and Co-Curator of the Exhibition

**Barbara Zürcher MA (CH)**, Director of Haus für Kunst Uri, Altdorf, and Co-Curator of the Exhibition

### ARTISTS

**Ursula Biemann (CH)**, Zurich

**Rodrigo Braga (BR)**, Rio de Janeiro and Paris

**Laurence Favre (CH)**, Geneva and Berlin

**Cao Guimarães (BR)**, Belo Horizonte and Montevideo

**Melanie Smith (UK)**, London

### FEEDBACK FOCUS

**Prof. Dr. Daniel Speich (CH)**, Global History, University of Lucerne

**Prof. Dr. Malte Gruber (D)**, Philosophy of Law and Law of Economy, University of Lucerne

### IDEA, CONCEPT AND REALISATION

**Prof. Dr. Boris Previšić (CH)**, Cultural and Literary Studies, University of Lucerne

**Dr. Bruno Z'Graggen (CH)**, Curator of Video Window, Zurich, and Co-Curator of the Exhibition, [www.brunozgraggen.ch/video-window](http://www.brunozgraggen.ch/video-window)