

THE ECOPOLITICS OF COHABITATIONS: HISTORIES AND FUTURES OF VECTOR-CONTROL (AS A GLOBAL CONCERN)

The symposium, entitled “The ecopolitics of cohabitations: Histories and futures of vector-control” is aimed to provide us with a cutting-edge framework to open-up an interdisciplinary discussion on the geographies and histories of vector control and disease prevention schemes. To adequately depict and give a comprehensive account of the global multispecies entanglements between regions, habitats, hosts, vectors and pathogens the symposium will provide a network platform and an exchange forum for young scholars from a variety of backgrounds and disciplines like e.g. anthropology, history of science, science & technology studies, entomology, geography and evolutionary biology. We aim to bring together empirical depth as well as novel conceptual frameworks that allow us to identify fundamental differences and commonalities *across* diseases and places. It is the system of proximities and distances between humans, mosquitoes and their environmental and socio- technical aspects that will be critically illuminated and compared. Bringing different disease regions of the world in conversation brings the engrained temporalities that transgress the histories of the “Global North” and the “Global South” to the fore, which form part of the past as well as present of biomedical (preventive) interventions. It furthermore questions and blurs the category of “tropical” diseases. Here the analysis and evolution of different technologies that are or have been favoured will be discussed critically. For instance growing environmental concern and activism seems to increasingly limit the scope and future of chemical pesticides for vector control. In turn the rise of genetically modified mosquitos equally provokes debates that are no less controversial in the way they seem to blur former borders between nature and culture. Thus, our core concern of the symposium lies on the conceptualization as well as methodological innovations of current trends and developments in coping with vector-borne diseases. Although our main focus is on interventions that predominantly effect the cohabitation of humans

and vectors, it is not reduced to this. We will also invite contributions that critically engage with broader political economy and that relate ecological observations to underlying questions of inequality, poverty and newly emerging forms of scarcity. Here we are interested in inventive methods that help to render visible the complex interactions between a variety of actors as well as structural constraints and how e.g. preventive measures of vector control interact with the peoples everydayness of living and working in affected regions.