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Double-Rabbits and Cockroaches: Sketches from the Bestiary of Transgenetics

In the Anthropocene – that is, in the epoch defined by man's impact on the Earth – new questions arise regarding the relationships between animals, mankind, and machines, as well as plants and stones. Such questions do not concern the special position occupied by mankind, but rather the technical shape of the environment, the co-existence of different species, and also the cosmopolitan transformation of the concept of species itself and thereby its forms of reflection, such as those classified under the term speciesism. These issues also affect the relationship between art and science. What would otherwise generally be debated in separate arenas has found a forum for the exploration of similarities, for intermingling and interdisciplinary work, and not only through the efforts of artistic research. In fact, there has been a long-standing history of fascination with human abilities in which animals represent the point of convergence.

CV

Stefan Rieger, Dr. phil., since 2007 Professor for Mediahistory at the Ruhr-University of Bochum. Studied German and Philosophy, received a grant from the "Graduiertenkolleg" Theory of Literature (Konstanz) where he continued his research as member of the "Sonderforschungsbereich" Literature and Anthropologie. His doctoral dissertation was on baroque art of memory (Speichern / Merken. Die künstlichen Intelligenzen des Barock, München 1997). His Habilitation concerned the relation between Media and Anthropology. (Die Individualität der Medien. Eine Geschichte der Wissenschaften vom Menschen, Frankfurt/M. 2001.) Stefan Rieger was a recipient of a DFG Heisenberg fellowship. Since October 2012 Stefan Rieger is research fellow at the KuKo (Kulturwissenschaftliches Kolleg Konstanz).

Recent publications: Kybernetische Anthropologie. Eine Geschichte der Virtualität, Frankfurt/M. 2003; Vom Übertier. Ein Bestiarium des Wissens, Frankfurt/M. 2006 collaborative author: Benjamin Bühler; Das Wuchern der Pflanzen. Ein Florilegium des Wissens, Frankfurt/M. 2009 collaborative author: Benjamin Bühler; Schall und Rauch. Eine Mediengeschichte der Kurve, Frankfurt/M. 2009; Multitasking. Zur Ökonomie der Spaltung, Berlin 2012.