

PRESS RELEASE

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Decolonial Ecologies. A *99 questions* podcast series by Aouefa Amoussouvi

Who has the sovereignty of interpretation over species and nature conservation: the affected countries in the Global South or the "First World"? The six-part series *Decolonial Ecologies* of the Stiftung Humboldt Forum explores these questions and sheds light on the different power dynamics intertwined within the construction of Ecology as an academic scientific field. The series also presents decolonial methodologies and instances of sustainable and inclusive environmentalism in both the Global South and the Global North.

The list of prominent conservationists in Africa is long. And it lines up with the decades-old narrative of the white hero saving wildlife in Africa, Mordecai Ogada notes. The conversation with the Kenyan ecologist is part of the new podcast *99 Questions - Decolonial Ecologies*. Host Aouefa Amoussouvi discusses with her interviewees the Western narrative of Ecology and addresses various decolonial practices in the Global South and Global North.

Together with researchers, activists and artists as guests, Aouefa Amoussouvi talks about the colonial history of national and conservation parks and how wildlife documentaries by white conservation icons as well as the story of "Tarzan" are linked to discriminating and racist conservation practices. She also discusses circular and global food systems and the true meaning behind labels like "organic", "local" and "fair trade". Other topics in the podcast are the interconnection between marine mammals and Black feminism, Indigenous knowledge in Patagonia and what it means to sing to the Patagonian peatlands, radio amateur tools for weather and earth imaging and many more.

Decolonial Ecologies brings together academic content, grassroots and field initiatives and artistic practices. Amoussouvi's guests challenge the Western mainstream narrative on ecology with intersectional feminist, queer perspectives, perspectives from BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color).

Speakers and host also examine the responsibility of museums and universities to deconstruct the colonial heritage of their structures. For example, they discuss how restitution of colonial artefacts by museums can be seen as a part of the climate and environmental justice agenda.

Guests (in alphabetical order):

- Samie Blasingame (USA/Deutschland), environmental and social justice researcher and activist,
- Ariel Bustamante (Chile/Bolivia), multi-disciplinary artist currently working on the ecology within the Andes and Patagonian wetlands;
- Sasha Engelmann (USA/UK/Croatia), lecturer in GeoHumanities at Royal Holloway University of London and author of *Sensing Art in the Atmosphere: Elemental Lures and Aerosolar Practices*;
- Alexis Pauline Gumbs (USA), writer, scholar, activist & author of *Undrowned: Black Feminist Lessons from Marine Mammals* and *M Archive: After the End of the World*;
- Mordecai Ogada (Kenya), wildlife ecologist, conservation policy expert & co-author, together with John Mbaria, of the book *The Big Conservation Lie: The Untold Story of Wildlife Conservation in Kenya*.

The podcast series *Decolonial Ecologies* is curated and hosted by Aouefa Amoussouvi. She is a French-Beninese multidisciplinary researcher, artist and curator based in Berlin, Germany. She holds a PhD in Theoretical Molecular Biophysics from Berlin Humboldt University and her practice explores the history of science and alternative narratives of knowledge production from the prism of feminism, intersectionality and decoloniality.

Link to the podcast: humboldtforum.org

One building, four partners: This diversity is founded on the collaboration of our partner institutions. The Humboldt Forum is a collaboration between the Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss; the Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz for collections from the Ethnologisches Museum and the Museum für Asiatische Kunst of the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin; the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin for the Humboldt Lab; and Kulturprojekte Berlin with the Stadtmuseum Berlin for the BERLIN GLOBAL exhibition.

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