Monday, November 21, 2016
9:00  REGISTRATION
9:30  INTRODUCTION
9:50  Welcome Address
Joachim Neumann, Holger Stoecker, Marco Tamborin, Maria Veil
Koren, Joint Research Project “Dinosaurs in Berlin”
10:00  Keynote Lecture I
Objects in Transit: Commodities and Communication
Jim Sarcid, University of Cambridge
11:00  Break
11:30–12:50  HIERARCHIES
Chair: Gent Spytler, Universität Bayreuth
11:30  Hartung, Investigating, and Exhibiting Great Apes. On Working Conditions in Colonial Cameroon and the German Reich, 1890–1926
Britta Lange, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
12:10  Collecting Fossils in Colonial German East Africa. Work and Workers at the Tendaguru Excavation, 1909–1913
Holger Stoecker, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
12:50  Lunch Break
14:00–16:00  GLOBALIZATION
Chair: Anke de Haes, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
14:00  The Journey of a Man with a Fish: The Life of a Hair Dynasty Object in a South Africa Museum, Nicola Krötzinger, University of the Witswatersrand, Johannesburg
15:20  Excavating at Kuumbi Limestone Cave: Regional and Global Links in East African Prehistory, Felix Chami, University of Dar es Salaam
16:00  Break
16:30–18:00  COMPETITION
Chair: Berit Klüster, Technische Universität zu Berlin
16:30  Building Dinosaurs as Socialist Wells, Cuban Corals at the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin, 1965–1975
Manuela Bauche, Museum für Naturkunde Berlin
17:10  The Epistemology of Authenticity: Plaster Cast Reproductions in 19th Century Museums, Lukas Rieppel, Brown University, Providence
17:50  Catering at the Grimm-Zentrum
19:30–22:00  FINAL DISCUSSION
Comments: Ina Podgorny, Museum für Naturkunde Berlin
VENUE: Jacob-und-Wilhelm-Grimm-Zentrum, Gesundheits-Scholl-Straße 13, 10117 Berlin
Various kinds of work have to be invested in objects before they become worthy of collection, before they can be researched, preserved, and exhibited. Work on the dinosaur skeleton of Brachiosaurus brancai in Berlin’s Museum für Naturkunde, for example, extended far beyond the decades of the fossil’s preparation in the Museum. This object’s history also includes the colonial forced labour on cotton plantations in German East Africa at the beginning of the twentieth century that produced the packing material necessary for transporting the findings to Europe. Such figurations of work across time and space form the focus of the conference: Which materials and what kinds of immaterial labour were necessary to acquire or produce a given object, in order to transport it, examine it, exhibit it, or evaluate it? What existing knowledge, and which social, political, and legal conditions characterized this work? What types of materials, tools, or techniques were used?
The conference is part of the research project „Dinosaurs in Berlin. Brachiosaaurus brancai as political, scientific and popular icon“. It is conceptualised and organised in cooperation with the base project Mobile Objects, Cluster of Excellence Image Knowledge Gestaltung of the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.
Funded by the Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung.
REGISTRATION (closing date November 13, 2016): https://hu.berlin/workingonthings CONTACT: pan@mfn-berlin.de

Tuesday, November 22, 2016
9:00  INTRODUCTION
Ina Podgorny, Museum für Naturkunde Berlin, Tahan Nazrin, Museum für Naturkunde Berlin
9:30  Keynote Lecture II
My Stürze Museum, James Delbourgo, Rutgers University
10:30  Break
11:00–13:00  MANAGEMENT
Chair: Jochen Nening, Scientific Collections of the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
11:00  Working on Photo-Objects: Photographs as Mobile Actors in Archeology, Ethnology, and Art History, Stéphanie Klamm, Kunsthistorisch, Peta Wodtke, Antikensammlung, both Staatliche Museen zu Berlin – Preußischer Kulturbesitz
11:40  Reconstructing the Puzzle: Argentine Theater and Literary Periodicals of the Early 20th Century – Piece by Piece
Peter Abkräger, Christoph Müller, Iben-Amerikanisches Institut
12:20  Belaboring the Catalogue: Classification Work in the British Museum, Sebastian Fellen, Max-Planck-Institut für Wissenschaftsgeschichte Berlin, Rebecca Kahn, King’s College London
13:00  Break
14:00–16:30  VALUATION
Chair: Anja Schwarz, Universität Potsdam
14:00  Transporting the Tropics: Collecting and Preserving the Victorian Botanical Empire, Elaine Ayers, Princeton University
14:40  The Rise and Fall of the 21st Century Collecting: Storing, and (not) Displaying, Ricky Reeves, University of Glasgow
15:20  Break
15:40  Economies of Collecting, Transporting, Conserving and Exhibiting Natural History Objects in the Ottoman Natural History Museum 1835–1850, Semih Çelik, European University Institute, Florence
16:20–17:00  FINAL DISCUSSION
Comments: Ina Podgorny, Museum für Naturkunde Berlin
VENUE: Jacob-und-Wilhelm-Grimm-Zentrum, Gesundheits-Scholl-Straße 13, 10117 Berlin

Various kinds of work have to be invested in objects before they become worthy of collection, before they can be researched, preserved, and exhibited. Work on the dinosaur skeleton of Brachiosaurus brancai in Berlin’s Museum für Naturkunde, for example, extended far beyond the decades of the fossil’s preparation in the Museum. This object’s history also includes the colonial forced labour on cotton plantations in German East Africa at the beginning of the twentieth century that produced the packing material necessary for transporting the findings to Europe. Such figurations of work across time and space form the focus of the conference: Which materials and what kinds of immaterial labour were necessary to acquire or produce a given object, in order to transport it, examine it, exhibit it, or evaluate it? What existing knowledge, and which social, political, and legal conditions characterized this work? What types of materials, tools, or techniques were used?
The conference is part of the research project „Dinosaurs in Berlin. Brachiosaaurus brancai as political, scientific and popular icon“. It is conceptualised and organised in cooperation with the base project Mobile Objects, Cluster of Excellence Image Knowledge Gestaltung of the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.
Funded by the Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung.
REGISTRATION (closing date November 13, 2016): https://hu.berlin/workingonthings CONTACT: pan@mfn-berlin.de