

IMAGE AND ACTIVISM: Amazonian Civic Engagement between South America and Germany

4:15 p.m. **Silvia Romio** (Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú): **The Conquest of Visuality: The Collaboration of Peruvian Amazonian Leaders with German Activists during the “Herzog Case”**

Indigenous leadership in Peruvian Amazonia currently relies on the cultural-specific uses of audiovisual technology such as photography, film, television and the Internet to co-define the imagery of indigenous peoples circulating in the public sphere and reimagine them as key actors for socio-environmental issues of national and international concern. Amazonian indigenous leaders, in particular Awajún, began using mass media in the late 1970s. Evaristo Nugkuag, who later established the first national indigenous organization in Peru, AIDSESEP (Interethnic Organization of Development of the Peruvian Rainforest), closely collaborated with German activists, photographers and filmmakers to disseminate images of a conflict: Awajún resistance to German cinematographer Werner Herzog’s shooting of *Fitzcarraldo*. Indigenous leadership was thus redefined as relying on transnational media activism.

4.45 p.m. **Andrea Scholz** (Ethnologisches Museum Berlin): **Sharing Knowledge: On the Life of Things in the Amazon and the Museum**

Museum cooperation with so-called source communities sometimes takes surprising turns when the partners engage in a truly collaborative, open process. The project “Sharing Knowledge” started as a cooperation between the Ethnological Museum Berlin and indigenous partners in Brazil, Colombia and Venezuela, with a focus on creating digital connections between the collections and their communities, between representations and practices. On the initiative of all partners, the focus on the “animation of things” shifted more and more from museum collections to manufacturing practices in indigenous communities, from digital exchange to analogue engagement. What methodological and ethical conclusions can be drawn from the project results?

5:15 p.m. **Ingrid Kummels** (Lateinamerika-Institut, Freie Universität Berlin): **The Anthropologist’s Data as Unexpected Memories: The Afterlife of Music Cassettes, Photos and Super 8 Films**

Museums are currently at the core of the debate over the restitution of material culture to the descendants of the peoples who created them. This applies to sound recordings and (audio)visual images once collected by anthropologists. Yet much of this material is not stored in museums: it is kept by anthropologists or their heirs in individual collections. Such music cassettes, photos and super 8 films are “unexpected memories” in the communities of origin, but may become a welcome point of departure for a dialogue on past history and cultural revitalization, as in the case of an Asháninka-Nomachiguenga village in the Peruvian Selva Central. In light of rainforest exploitation and the impact of Trans-Amazonian road

building, audiovisual memories of the past are seen as political instruments for shaping the present and reimagining the future.