BIODIVERSITY AND PEACE

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SYMPOIESIS

Sýn (greek): „together“
Poiesis (greek): „making“

the co-creation of the world by insects & humans

“*Sympoiesis* is a simple word; it means ‚making-with.‘ Nothing makes itself; nothing is really autopoietic or self-organizing. In the words of the Inupiat computer “world game,” earthlings are *never alone*. […] That is the radical implication of sympoiesis. *Sympoiesis* is a word proper to complex, dynamic, responsive, situated, historical systems. It is a word for worlding-with, in company. Sympoiesis enfolds autopoiesis and generatively unfurls and extends it.”
Haraway 2016

Making the world in company –
humans recruiting the help of insects, plants and other critters?

We take serously the idea that biodiversity involves the moral community of living beings who depend on each other, provide services for each other and who need to work out conflicts of interest among each other.

WHAT CAN CITIZEN SCIENTISTS DO?

Some cues for co-creation:

- citizen scientists as narrators of successful cohabitation – storytelling
- biomimetics, looking for bioinspired ~~*technology*~~ sociality – brainstorming
- tentacular togetherness, mutiple agencies in an extended public sphere – monitoring
- warfare, biodiversity loss and reemergence on the battlefield – retooling
- boundary objects and human conflict, more than weeds? – ugly things can make our lives better and are really quite beautiful
- slow innovation, scarce resources – culture of sharing

#MORETHANWEEDS #KRAUTSCHAU

SYMPOEITIC PRACTICE

BioDivKultur-Krautschau in Darmstadt 2022
initiated by the Senckenberg Institut Frankfurt

The idea is to use street chalk to draw attention to hidden green critters in cracks in walls, joints and gaps in the asphalt. For this purpose, they are identified and labelled. This practice is to fight against so-called *plant blindness*, a phenomenon that describes the fact that plants in the cityscape are only perceived as green "background noise", but not consciously.

WHO WE ARE

In the context of the German FEdA initiative, the BioDivKultur project and IANUS-Peacelab aim to create and sustain a community of citizen scientists, makers and tinkerers. Civil actors concerned with insect life in urban green spaces seek to establish communities as public spaces for thinking about peaceful cooperation within and beyond them.

BIODIVKULTUR

HACKA ANTHROPO ARTHROPOTHON

At eye level - it's about human-insect relationships, about sustainable cohabitation especially in urban green spaces that need to be mowed regularly.

We invite you to a creative weekend, to explore project ideas - and then we can actively support their further development.

The Arthropothon addresses individual participants and small groups, technical hobbyists, people interested in biology or social sciences. We invite everyone who wants to participate in the brainstorming or who already has some ideas:

- how humans and insects perceive each other (see, hear, feel, taste)
- what we (can) know about each other (how are we doing, and what)
- cultural awareness for peaceful biodiverse co-creation

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References:
- Haraway, Donna J.. *Staying with the Trouble : Making Kin in the Chthulucene*, Duke University Press, 2016, p. 58.
- Unpublished: Daum, Sonja N. K.. Eine Praxis der (technischen) Fürsorge: Ästhetik und Biodiversitätsschutz, In: M. Tamborini (Hrsg.), *Die Ästhetik der Technowissenschaften des 21. Jahrhunderts,* 2022.
- https://www.senckenberg.de/de/krautschau/

Pictures:
- “Peace” Maureen Belaski
- “Glockenblume” Sonja N. K. Daum

GEFÖRDERT VOM
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