

Of Humans and the Sea

Digital opening event of the series "ME (ER) TAMORPHOSEN: German-Chinese dialogue between science and art

Saturday, October 10, 2020,

10 a.m. to 12 p.m. (German time) / 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. (Chinese time)

The event will be broadcast on Zoom

(Registration by mail to info@tda-berlin.de by October 9, 2020, 6:00 p.m.)

The kick-off event of the "ME(ER)TAMORPHOSEN" series will take place on Saturday, October 10, 2020. In this Sino-German dialogue, scientists and artists from both countries enter into an exchange on ecological and social issues in the age of the Anthropocene, in which humans have become the most important influencing factor on the biological, geological and atmospheric processes of the earth's surface. The focus is on the element of water, which is an indispensable and highly changeable raw material in life and, as a source of inspiration, stimulates art and thought. While the pre-Socratic Thales of Miletus recognized the "origin and principle of all things" in water, Laozi ascribed the principle of "highest goodness" to this element, which "benefits all beings without conflict". The water thus becomes a carrier of philosophical insights that differentiate and connect western and eastern thinking.

Guests of the first Sino-German Dialogue are the polar researcher and director of the Alfred Wegener Institute, Professor Antje Boetius and Professor LU Zhibo, Vice Dean of Environmental Sciences at Tongji University Shanghai, who jointly discuss "The role of the ocean for life" and "Human impact on the fragile ocean".

The academic exchange is accompanied by dance and song performances of the Shanghai Theater Academy and a musical reading by actress Bibiana Beglau and harpist Amandine Carucci. You can see and hear texts of Charles Baudelaire, Bertolt Brecht, Friedrich Hebbel and Friedrich Hölderlin, as well as music of Claude Debussy and Albert Zabel. This creates an interdisciplinary and cross-border exchange with the sea, which is dedicated to the challenges that the age of the Anthropocene presents to mankind.

The series of events is organized by the "Chinese-German School for Postgraduate Studies" at Tongji University in Shanghai and the "Theater of the Anthropocene" at Humboldt University in Berlin. Project partners are the Alfred Wegener Institute, the DAAD, the Chinese-German University of Tongji University and the Shanghai Theater Academy.

Program overview:

(The scientific lectures are in English, the artistic contributions are in German and Chinese)

Opening	<i>Thomas Willems (CDHK /Tongji University)</i> <i>Dr. Frank Raddatz (Theater of the Anthropocene)</i>
Greetings	<i>Prof. Wu Zhiqiang (Vice President Tongji University)</i> <i>Dr. Dorothea Rüländ (DAAD General Secretary)</i>
<i>Dance performance:</i> Greetings from the sea	<i>Shanghai Theater Academy</i>
Musical reading and lecture: Of humans and the sea	<i>Bibiana Beglau (actress)</i> <i>Amandine Carbucci (harp)</i>
The role of the ocean in life	<i>Prof. Antje Boetius (Alfred Wegener Institute)</i>
Musical contribution: Ocean	<i>Shanghai Theater Academy</i>
Lecture: The human impact on the fragile ocean	<i>Prof. LU Zhibo (Tongji University, Vice Dean of Environmental Science)</i>
Dialogue and discussion	<i>Prof. LU Zhibo, Prof. Antje Boetius, participants</i>
Chinese choral song	<i>Shanghai Theater Academy</i>