

von Künstler:innen und Aktivist:innen ist, verhandelt die Ausstellung eben keine europäische oder nationale Perspektive, sondern muss als eine lokalhistorische Intervention gelesen werden kann, in die der entsprechende Berliner Bezirk eng eingebunden war.

Dieses Beispiel verweist auf das grundlegende Desiderat der Studie, die etwas hinter den Erwartungen zurückbleibt, die eingangs geweckt werden. Schließlich gelingt es mit den gewählten Beispielen kaum, systematisch zu beantworten, wie europäische Museen ihre Dekolonisierung umsetzen. Flankierende und vertiefende Analysen aus Frankreich, Belgien oder Italien wären hierzu nötig. Bemerkenswert ist zudem, dass Sieg – auch vor dem Hintergrund der Pandemie – den digitalen Raum in ihrer Analyse weitestgehend ausklammert, obwohl gerade in der Vermittlungsarbeit seit Jahren betont wird, welche Rolle ihm in der partizipativen und kritischen Museumsarbeit zukommt. Dennoch bleibt die Arbeit all jenen empfohlen, die sich theoretisch und praktisch mit der Frage beschäftigen, wie eine kritische, dekoloniale Erinnerungskultur etabliert und der Prozess „of unlearning imperial history“ (S. 20) gestaltet werden kann.

Anmerkungen:

- 1 Vgl. F. Bajohr/R. O’Sullivan, Holocaust, Kolonialismus und NS-Imperialismus. Forschung im Schatten einer polemischen Debatte, in: Vierteljahrshefte für Zeitgeschichte 70 (2022) 1, S. 191–202.
- 2 Hierzu auch der jüngst erschienen Sammelband: Brücke-Museum/Stiftung Deutsches Technikmuseum Berlin/Stiftung Stadtmuseum Berlin/D. Bystron/A. Fäser (Hrsg.), Das Museum dekolonisieren? Kolonialität und museale Praxis in Berlin, Bielefeld 2022.

**Bram Büscher: *The Truth About Nature: Environmentalism in the Era of Post-Truth Politics and Platform Capitalism*, Oakland, CA: University of California Press, 2021, 239 pp.**

Reviewed by  
Ulf Engel, Leipzig

The *Truth About Nature* departs from how since c. 2016 post-truth politics undermine facts about ecology and climate change by making use of social media and digital technologies. Bram Büscher’s book engages with the online campaigns by environmental actors to counter these activities. Geographically focusing on Southern Africa, the author demonstrates how the struggle for environmentalism is shifting gears and, by doing so, is feeding new forms of capitalism. In its empirical sections, the book follows several online environmental campaigns.

Büscher is a professor and the chair of the Sociology of Development and Change Group at Wageningen University & Research (Netherlands). He also holds appointments as a visiting professor at the Department of Geography, Environmental Management and Energy Studies of the University of Johannesburg and a research associate at the Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology of Stellenbosch University (both South Africa). From 2008 to 2014, he was as an assistant and later associate professor of environment and sustainable development at the Institute of Social Studies, Erasmus University in Rotterdam (Netherlands). He is the

author of *Transforming the Frontier: Peace Parks and the Politics of Neoliberal Conservation in Southern Africa* and co-author of *The Conservation Revolution: Radical Ideas for Saving Nature Beyond the Anthropocene*. Following an introduction on “The Truth about Nature?”, this book comes in three parts. The first part addresses what the author refers to as “(meta)theoretical bearings” and “truth tensions” (pp. 13–31). The second part dissects the political economy of digital platforms, post-truth, and power (pp. 35–78). And the third part empirically details four different dimensions of “environmentalism 2.0” (pp. 81–166). This is followed by conclusions. Some ideas contributing to *The Truth About Nature* have been developed in articles published between 2016 and 2017.

Büscher aims to connect in a narrative way three interwoven layers of the overall debate: “the level of everyday environmental politics, the more structural level of political economy and the level of (meta)theory or epistemology, and how all these and their relations are changing due to the rise of new media and online platforms” (p. x). Notions of post-truth clearly relate to the UK Brexit referendum in June 2016 and the election of Donald Trump as US president in November that year. However, these events certainly did not start a world in which “alternative facts” compete with, or even replace, established knowledge but are rather an expression of a global breakthrough of post-truth politics and power with more complex roots. This has led to new dynamics in environmentalism: activists have started countering the spread of “alternative truth”. These efforts, in turn, are met by a new logic of capital accumulation that Büscher – and based on Nick

Srnicek and Shoshana Zuboff, respectively – refers to as “platform capitalism”, “surveillance capitalism”, and their algorithm logic. This new variant of capitalism “thrives on the sharing, cocreation, and individualization of products and information online [...] while turning all these into commodifiable data” (p. 7, original emphasis).

To some extent, following the German philosopher Hannah Arendt,<sup>[3]</sup> Büscher develops a transformative notion of truth – a political ecology of truth “that opens up space for structural change” (p. 10). Expanding on his notion of truth tensions – the need to be critical of any truth claim – the author recalls debates from science and technology studies and the sociology of knowledge to conclude that “truth distinguishes itself from fact by incorporating history, context, [and] positionality” (p. 21). Following these conceptual considerations, Büscher then investigates the actors using environmental online platforms, starting with an interview-based investigation into the rise and professionalization of social media in conservation organizations. Illustrations draw on the practices of well-established global organizations such as the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), including the development of mobile phone games, such as Rhino Raid for WWF South Africa. In the following chapters, and with a view to disentangling further examples from Southern Africa, Büscher analyses online platforms “for good” and protecting elephants, how the South African Kruger National Park (a game reserve) is used to develop new wildlife platforms and forums on social media, and finally how the issue of rhino poaching is dealt with in this context.

To conclude, Büscher's book on the digitalization of conservation efforts offers fascinating insights into the challenges and pitfalls of engaging with the contemporary crisis of environmentalism in Southern Africa and beyond. He dissects the mechanisms of how this form of activism, on the one hand, is producing narratives to counter post-truth politics but, on the other hand, also is strengthening new forms of platform capitalism. The repeated emphasis of the latter is owed to Büscher's own normative positionality ("structural change is necessary", p. 169). Nevertheless, he certainly has developed a critical argument about the embeddedness of conservation politics in Southern Africa in a very particular history and context. The way in which he relates these dynamics to a discussion of Foucauldian truth, power, and change policies certainly makes it worth reading this book.

## Notes:

- 1 N. Srnicek, *Platform Capitalism*, London 2016.
- 2 Sh. Zuboff, *The Age of Surveillance Capitalism: The Fight for a Human Future at the New Frontier of Power*, London 2019.
- 3 In der anglophonen Rezeption meist mit Bezug auf Hannah Arendt (H. Arendt, *Essays in Understanding 1930–1954*, New York 1994).

**Richard Němec (ed.): Raumkonstruktionen: Digital Humanities und die "Messbarkeit" des NS-Regimes, Berlin: De Gruyter Oldenbourg, 2021, 175 pp.**

Reviewed by  
Ihor Doroshenko, Leipzig

Eastern Europe always held a special place in Nazi ideology. It was an arena for implementation of different crucial Nazi policies such as *Lebensraum*, *Generalplan Ost*, *Blood and Soil*, and so on. An essential role in all these plans and policies was dedicated to the spatial practices that were used to measure, to describe, and in the end to colonize the new occupied territories. The book *Spatial Constructions: The Digital Humanities and the "Measurability" of the Nazi Regime* demonstrates how modern interdisciplinary methods of digital humanities can offer new perspectives and bring new insights into the question of, basically, how the Nazis dealt with space in Eastern Europe.

The book consists of seven chapters, each dealing with different aspect of the spatial constructions of the Nazi regime. For instance, in the introduction, "The Digital Humanities and the 'Measurability' of the Nazi Regime", the author, Richard Němec, describes the challenges of tracing Nazi history through architecture. He argues that standardized planning data for different regions can be traced within the extensive territory of the National Socialist sphere of rule – from occupied