

Thursday,
19 May 2016

ICI Berlin
in English

Symposium

Parasites are talked about in diverse spheres – the biological, the social, the informational, the economic – yet almost always as something undesirable. They are seen as causing damage, freeloading, stealing, abusing an unwitting or unwilling host – and thus deserving the attempts at exclusion and eradication that usually accompany their identification.

Critical responses to such exclusionary gestures tend to emphasise the injustice involved in labeling a group or individual as parasitic. But would there be critical potential in accepting, rather than rejecting the value and role of the parasite? Can the parasite be thought beyond the undesirable, the damaging, the unwanted – e.g. as desirable, productive, beneficial – while retaining its irreducibly subtractive character? This symposium, taking its leads from Michel Serres' writing on parasitism, will offer an opportunity to pose and explore this question collectively from an interdisciplinary perspective, through a diverse range of examples.

Programme

15:00 – 16:30 **Workshop**, Part I
16:30 – 17:00 **Coffee break**
17:00 – 18:30 **Workshop**, Part II

19:30 Keynote:
Daisy Tam:
Food and the City.
A Case of Hong Kong

Please note: there is no need to register for the evening event, but the workshop session will discuss short excerpts from Michel Serres. Please contact [info@ici-berlin.org] if you would like to register for the workshop and receive the excerpts in advance.

Theft Economies and Subtractive Ecologies: Rethinking Parasitism

Organized by James Burton