

Concepts such as fetish, magic, and the gift have often been attributed to 'kinship communities', and taken to be 'out of place' if not 'overcome' in modernity. But is Hegel's notion of the magic fetish in Africa so different from Marx's and Freud's descriptions of the crucial role of fetishes in modern societies? Freeing ourselves from evolutionist and structuralist conceptions allows us to take the fetish not merely as the object of an irrational and arbitrary choice of people in primitive cultures but a potentially universal mechanism of deception, fantasy or desire. Art and art history likewise attest to the continuing legacy of terms originally devised for the description of other, non-Western cultures and has most recently focused not only on fetishism and magic but the materiality and mediality of their objects. We are all fetishists; and if we tend to see the fetish through the optics of fixation, it is precisely because of its unsettling nature and composite fabrication; its capacity to produce and/or reproduce ordinary acts and events and to destabilize the boundaries between faith and law, icons and idols, object and referent, the natural and the artificial.

With

**Joshua Barker**

**Filipa César**

**Maria José de Abreu**

**Preciosa de Joya**

**Iracema Dulley**

**Wyatt MacGaffey**

**Ursula Helg**

**Rosalind C. Morris**

**Roger Sansi-Roca**

**James T. Siegel**

**Bruno Sotomayor**

In cooperation with DFG-Research Unit 1703 "Transcultural Negotiations in the Ambits of Art. Comparative Perspectives on Historical Contexts and Contemporary Constellations", Freie Universität Berlin

**DFG**



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**28 – 29**  
**April**  
**2016**  
**ICI Berlin**

**Symposium**

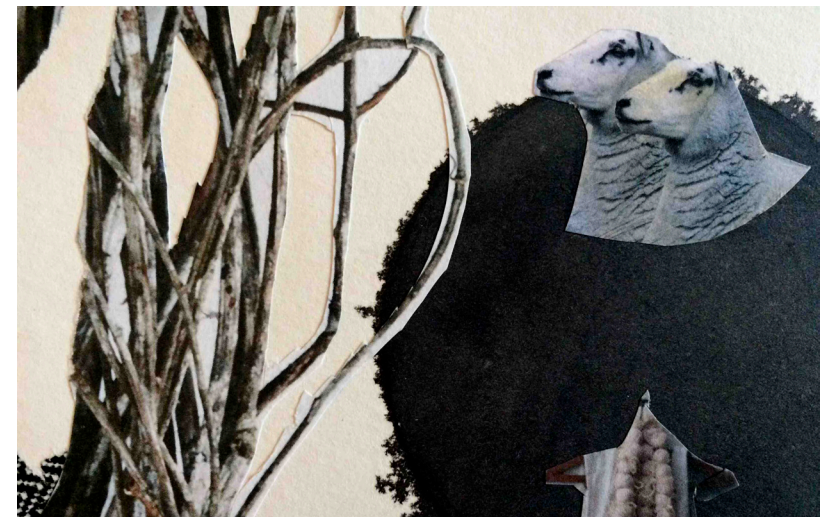


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# Recurrences

## Fetish, Magic, and the Gift

Organized by Maria José de Abreu,  
Preciosa de Joya, and Ursula Helg

## Programme

THURSDAY, 28 APRIL 2016

		11:40 – 12:00	Coffee break
	<b>Workshop:</b> Reflecting the Recurrences of Fetish, Magic and the Gift With <b>James Siegel, Rosalind Morris,</b> and <b>Joshua Barker</b>	12:00 – 12:40	<b>Bruno Sotto Mayor</b> Translating the /nkishi shi/ Sculpture in the Post-War (Angola/DRCongo)
		12:40 – 14:00	Lunch break
14:00	Introduction		
14:15 – 15:45	Part 1	14:00 – 14:40	<b>Roger Sansi-Roca</b> The Recursivity of the Gift in Art and Anthropology
15:45 – 16:30	Coffee break		
16:30 – 18:00	Part 2	14:40 – 15:00	Coffee break
		15:00 – 15:40	<b>Preciosa de Joya</b> Writing Their Bible: Reflections on a Filipino Millenarian Movement
19:30 pm	Keynote: <b>James T. Siegel</b> Gift, Fetish, Magic	15:40 – 16:20	<b>Maria José de Abreu</b> The Referent in Person: Fetish, Magic, Gift
	<b>Please note:</b> the workshop session will discuss short texts. Please contact <a href="mailto:info@ici-berlin.org">info@ici-berlin.org</a> if you would like to register for the workshop and receive the excerpts in advance.	16:20 – 17:00	Coffee break
		17:00 – 17:40	<b>Iracema Dulley</b> The Fetish in Translation

FRIDAY, 29 APRIL 2016

9:30	Morning coffee	17:40 – 18:20	<b>Rosalind Morris</b> The Fetish of Gold Returns
10:00 – 10:20	Introduction	18:20 – 19:00	Coffee break
10:20 – 11:00	<b>Ursula Helg</b> Kongo n’kisi, Opacity and the Crisis of Modernity	19:00	<b>Filipa César</b> Reading Matter: A Grin Without Marker
11:00 – 11:40	<b>Wyatt MacGaffey</b> Epistemological Reclassification of Kongo n’kisi		