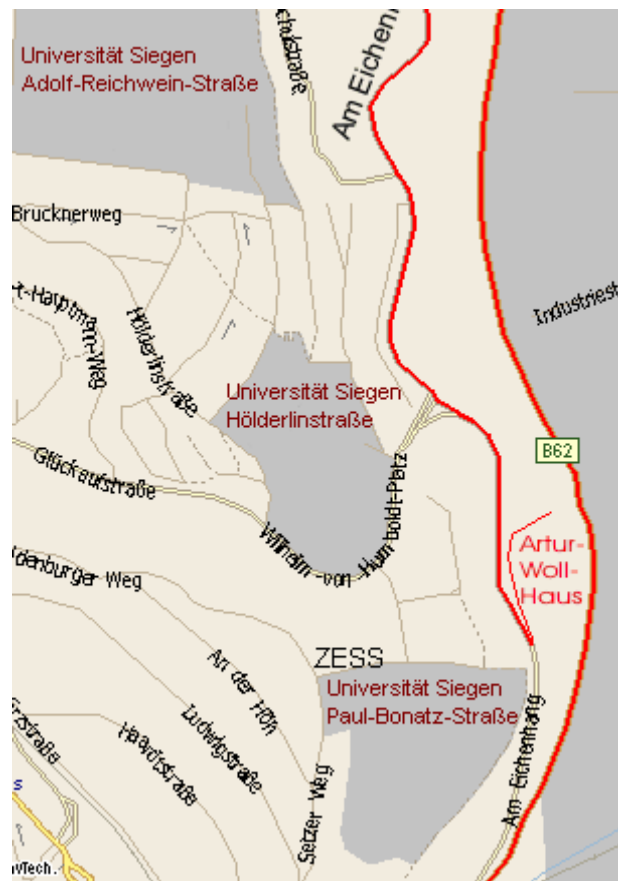


We live under the rule of a “biocracy” (Wolfgang Lipp). Biology and the life sciences have attained an enormous power of discourse in recent years, particularly since the decoding of the human genome and other advances in the field of genetic engineering. In view of this recent trend towards “gene centrism” (John Dupré 2003), the conference will offer a platform for a cultural and media-anthropological analysis of the contemporary mediatization of post-Darwinian bio-determinism as well as neo-determinist and neo-Darwinist culture, literature and art. We ask how naturalism, determinism and Darwinism – the eugenics of the 19th century and the genetic coding of the 20th century as well as their conceptual clusters – are positioned, embodied and staged in various media configurations and media genres and how particular media apparatuses have formed, displaced or stabilized virulent perceptions, collective symbols and patterns of attitude, i. e. various concepts of humankind. The conference aims at establishing and assessing the role of Darwin and cultural performances of his life and work in the context of the dominant positions of current bio-poetical research into ‘literary Darwinism’.



Organizers:

Prof. Dr. Eckart Voigts-Virchow

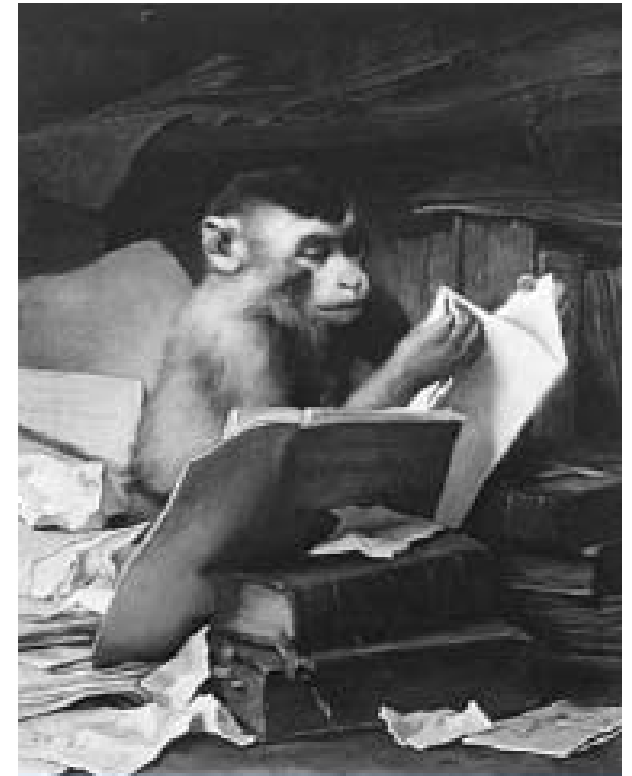
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Mit freundlicher Unterstützung der
Deutschen Forschungsgemeinschaft, der
Deutschen Gesellschaft für Amerikastudien
und der Universität Siegen.



**Darwin our Contemporary
International Conference**

**27-28 November 2009
Artur-Woll-Haus**

**Siegen University
Anglistik**

Conference Programme

Friday, 27 November 2009

09.30
Conference Opening

10.00-11.30
Chair: **Monika Pietrzak-Franger**

Ann Heilmann “Neo-Victorian Experiments
on Darwin, the Scientific Explorer, and
Gender”

Angelique Richardson “The Culture of Eugenics
since Darwin”

11.30-11.45
Coffee break

11.45-12.30
Chair: **Nicola Glaubitz**

Anja Müller-Wood “Adaptive Predispositions and
the Pleasure of the Text: Evolutionary
Perspectives on the Study of Literature”

12.30-14.00
Lunch break

14.00-15.30
Chair: **Cathy Waegner**

Susanne Scholz “Evolution, Heredity and
Visuality: Reading Faces with Thomas Hardy”

Julika Griem “Modernist Reflections of
Kept Apes”

15.30-15.45
Coffee break

15.45-16.30
Chair: **Mark Schreiber**

Angela Schwarz “A Dream come true?”:
Creating the Ideal Human Being in Science
Fiction Literature and Film (1945-2009)

19.00
Conference Dinner

Saturday, 28 November 2009

9:00 – 9.55
Conference Breakfast

10.00-11.30
Chair: **Pia Wiegink**

Monika Pietrzak-Franger “Enchanting Darwin:
Charles Darwin in Contemporary Media”

Dietmar Böhnke “Humouring Darwin: Satirical
Uses of Darwin(ism) in (Neo)Victorian
Culture”

11.30-11.45
Coffee break

11.45-12.30
Chair: **Mita Banerjee**

Christoph Heyl “The Posthumous Evolution
of the Dodo: From Charles Darwin to Lewis
Carroll and Beyond”

12.30-14.00
Lunch break

14.00-15.30
Chair: **Sonja Georgi**

Anna Barton “Neo-Victorian Poetry and the
Patterns of (Natural) History in *Possession*”

Nils Wilkinson “Ordering Darwin: Evolution
and Normativity”

15.30-16.00
Eckart Voigts-Virchow
and **Monika Pietrzak-Franger**
“Closing Statements –
Darwin and Neo-Darwinism”

Final Discussion
and Conference-Round-Up

16.00-16.30
Coffee