

Fellows



Rosa Eidelpes

IFK_Research Fellow

Duration of fellowship

01. March 2017 bis 30. June 2017

Rosa Eidelpes

PROJECT TITLE

Natural Epistemologies between the Old and New World

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The research project investigates misunderstandings of early modern conceptions of nature by way of the conquest of America and its inhabitants. Using the example of the *Historia general de las cosas de Nueva España*, written by the Spanish Franciscan monk Fray Bernardino de Sahagún in cooperation with Aztec informants between 1558-1579, the project explores changes in the boundaries between nature and culture brought about by contact with the New World: The twelve volume illustrated work imagines itself as a universal encyclopedia in the tradition of Pliny. But the ability to harness nature into an encyclopedic order is disrupted by the variety of phenomena in Mexico and infiltrated by the traditional parameters of order within the Aztec categories of world description. Is this an "epistemic crisis" brought on by confrontation with the New World? What new knowledge and ways of writing about nature incited the discovery of America?

CV

Rosa Eidelpes studied general and comparative literature, philosophy and sociology in Berlin and Paris. She wrote her dissertation about the relationship between literature and ethnology and the primitivistic dissolution of the mimesis in the context of French surrealism. She has been a research fellow at the Peter Szondi Institute of Comparative Literature at the Free University of Berlin since 2015.

Publications

„Von der empirischen Imagination zur natürlichen Ästhetik. Roger Caillois' anti-anthropozentrische Theorie der Kunst“, in: Anne von der Heiden und Sarah Kolb (Hg.), *Roger Caillois. Logik des Imaginären*, Berlin (im Erscheinen); „Masken des Sakralen. Ethnologische Reflexionen zum Verhältnis von Maske und Subjekt“, in: Friedrich Balke, Bernhard Siegert, Joseph Vogl (Hg.), *Archiv für Mediengeschichte* 15, Paderborn 2015, S. 155–166; „Batailles Primitivismus. Stationen einer transgressiven Reintegration“, in: Cornelia Wild (Hg.), *Lendemains. Études comparées sur la France* 40/157 (2015), Magdeburg 2015, S. 25–39.