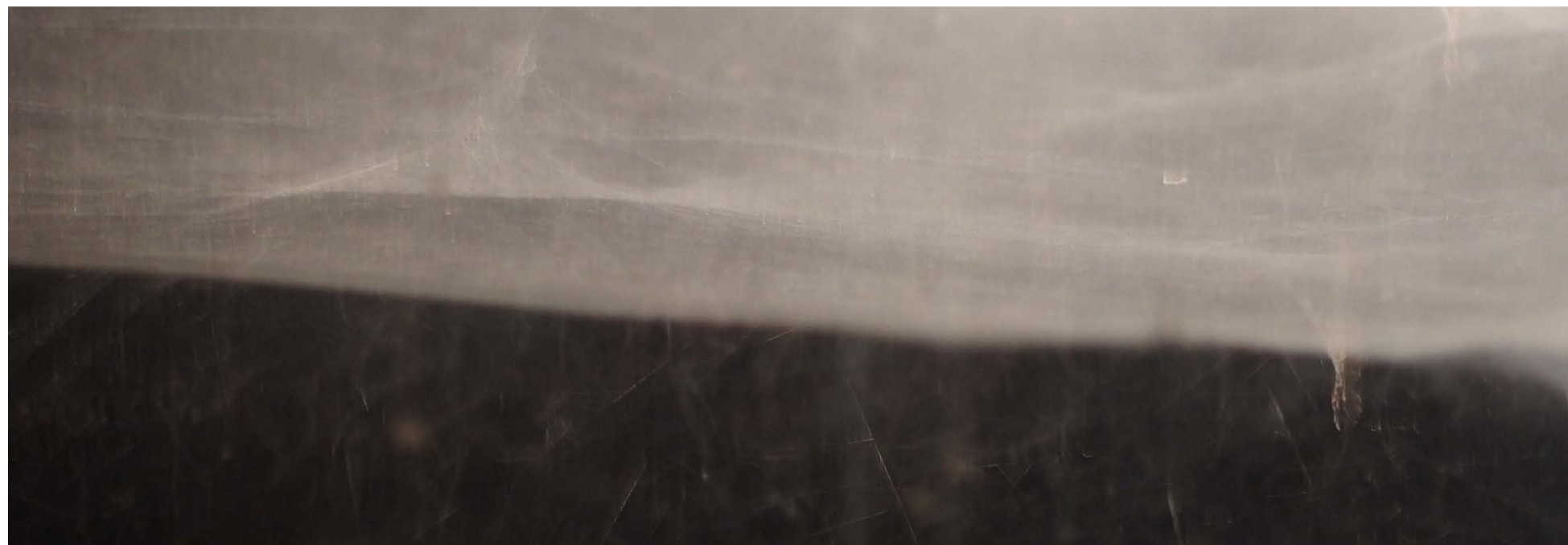


## WORKSHOP PROTEINS AND FIBERS



# Fibers of Existence—Disordering Animals

3–5 July 2023  
R. 265

Organized by  
Lisa Onaga & Isabela Dornelas

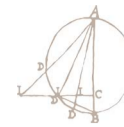
The history of natural fibers has often centered around vegetable fibers such as cotton, hemp, jute, and ramie; animal fibers such as wool and furs of different mammals; or the silken secretions of various insects. Fibrous minerals such as asbestos have also received much historical attention. In this workshop, we strive to understand the similarities and differences among and between plant and animal fibers. We do so in order to highlight the disciplinary biases that inform how we investigate certain kinds of fibers in nature, and in turn, sharpen the analytic contribution of the notion of “fibers” for the study of animals in the history of science, technology, environment, and medicine.

Animal fibers used on their own, or, more often than not, entangled with plants and inorganic materials, have existed in the form of objects as common as clothing, cleaning

tools, or musical instruments. Their ubiquity in ordinary life has made some animal fibers highly noticeable, while others remain invisible due to their ephemeral properties or how they are used specifically between or beneath the surfaces of things.

Contributions to this workshop foreground animal fibers and their distinctiveness in contrast to plant or other fibers. To do this, they show how animal fibers have historically been “in play” as diverse cultural objects and objects of scientific and technological detection, analysis, or mimicry. To historicize how human historical actors have engaged with or thought about animal fibers, this workshop promotes collaboration among individuals interested in multidisciplinary scholarship.

Image: Close-up of a tent spider's web exhibited at Tomás Saraceno: “Arachnid Orchestra.” Jam Sessions at NTU Centre for Contemporary Art Singapore. Photograph by Lisa Onaga, 7 Nov. 2015.



## JULY 3

<b>9:45–10:00</b>	Registration	<b>14:30–15:00</b>	COFFEE BREAK
<b>10:00–10:30</b>	Welcome & Introduction Lisa Onaga	<b>15:00–16:00</b>	“Forest and Ocean: The Ainu, the Inuit, Fisherfolk, Fish Oils, Fish Skin, and Grasses” Amanda Crompton & Elisa Palomino First Comment: Kyla Wazana Tompkins
<b>10:30–11:30</b>	Pop-up Exhibition All Participants	<b>16:00–17:00</b>	“Reading What Remains: Dung and Wool in the Historical Record” Dragana Filipovic & Melissa Charenko First Comment: Gabriel Rosenberg
<b>11:30–12:30</b>	LUNCH BREAK	<b>17:00</b>	Walk/Train to Happy Hour at Alter Krug Dahlem Königin-Luise-Straße 52 14195 Berlin
<b>12:30–13:30</b>	“Joining Fibers: The Behaviour of Socio-technical Values of Dung, Skin, and Bone” Madhu Narayanan, Sarah Teasley, & Renée Riedler First Comment: Isabela Dornelas		
<b>13:30–14:30</b>	“Masks, Birds, and Explosion Diagrams” Ellen Pearlstein & Soraya de Chadarevian First Comment: Cale Johnson		

## JULY 4

<b>9:45–10:00</b>	Registration	<b>15:00–15:30</b>	COFFEE BREAK
<b>10:00–12:00</b>	Special Seminar “On Fermentation and Energy: Some Thoughts on Method, Matter, and Scale” Kyla Wazana Tompkins	<b>15:30–16:30</b>	“Reclamation, Replacement, and Resilience: Animal-Derived and Bioinspired Materials in Protective Clothing Systems” Ellan Spero First Comment: Shahrouz Amini
<b>12:00–13:00</b>	LUNCH BREAK	<b>16:30–17:30</b>	“West African Wild Silks: Interdisciplinary Insights on the Characterization of Materials” Laurence Douny & Nikolai Rosenthal First Comment: Gabriel Rosenberg
<b>13:00–14:00</b>	Meet @ Library (R. 012) for “Book Talk” Animal Skins as Book Covers		
<b>14:00–15:00</b>	“Exploring the Interface between Text and Material Culture through the Lens of Animal Management” Matthew Collins First Comment: Erin Freedman		

## JULY 5

<b>9:45–10:00</b>	Registration	<b>12:00–13:00</b>	LUNCH BREAK
<b>10:00–11:00</b>	“Meeting in the Middle of Skin, Bones, and Guts” Mason Dean, Isabela Dornelas, & Chloe Hatten First Comment: Erin Freedman	<b>13:00–14:00</b>	Pop-Up Exhibition Unraveling All Participants
<b>11:00–12:00</b>	“Amyloid and the Making of Biofilm Forms” Grace Kim Butler First Comment: Lisa Onaga	<b>14:00–14:30</b>	Wrap-Up