



## Seewiesen Colloquia

Speaker invited by: Dept. Kempenaers

Thursday, December 06, 2012, 13h, House 4, Lecture Room

### The NaMu Bayern Initiative: a Life Sciences Museum Bavaria on the horizon

Discussion round - how can scientists and scientific research institutions like the MPI Seewiesen support the communication of research in modern society and get involved?

Dr. Auguste v. Bayern,  
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An exciting project is on the way in Bavaria, bearing the chance for (life-)scientists to build a bridge to education and society and to thus promote research and the importance of Life Sciences. The "Namu initiative" publicly and politically promotes the implementation of a state-of-the-art Life Sciences Museum for Bavaria. Located prominently at Nymphenburg castle in Munich it will become the nucleus of a new cultural center of Munich along with the Staatliche Naturwissenschaftliche Sammlungen Bayern, the other local museums and the famous botanical gardens. The planned museum is intended to fill the yawning gap in the cultural, educational and academic landscape of Bavaria and at the same time complement Life Sciences as a counterpart to the technology-focussed Deutsches Museum. It is a project to be implemented by the ministry of Arts and Sciences along with a private initiative and broad support from the public. The planned museum sets high expectations as it is supposed to meet the highest standards and compete with the best natural sciences museums in Europe. The motivation is to create not only a modern platform for education and a forum for environmental and life-science-related question for the general public, but also a public outreach centre for scientists. Given the growing decline in young academics in the natural sciences, regardless of the increasing economical importance of the life sciences and biotechnologies, the probably most important function is to serve as a link between schools and academia. The aim is to awaken interest in nature and natural sciences in kids and inspire young people to pursue an academic/scientific career.

As scientists it is one of our responsibilities to share our knowledge, to contribute to innovation in our society and to inspire others with the results of our research. In this respect the planned museum could be used as an efficient platform for this purpose. The „NaMu“ project and the initiative will be presented followed by a discussion on how scientists and scientific institutions like the MPI Seewiesen can get involved.

## Who is Auguste von Bayern?

2008 PhD            University of Cambridge, UK  
since 2008        Postdoctoral researcher, Department of Zoology, University of Oxford, UK  
since 2010        guest research associate of the MPI Seewiesen

## Selected publications:

- Auersperg A.M.I., Szabo, B., von Bayern A.M.P., and Kacelnik A. 2012. Spontaneous innovation in tool manufacture and use in a Goffin's cockatoo. *Current Biology* 22(21): R903-R904.
- Troscianko J., von Bayern A.M.P., Chappell J., Rutz C. and Martin G. 2012. Extreme binocular vision and a straight bill facilitate tool use in New Caledonian crows. *Nature Communications* 3:1110: 1-7
- Auersperg A.M.I., von Bayern A.M.P., Gajdon G., Huber L. and Kacelnik A. 2011. Flexibility in problem solving and tool use of kea and New Caledonian crows in a Multi-Access-Box paradigm. *PLoS One* 6(6): e20231.
- von Bayern A.M.P., Heathcote R.H., Rutz C. and Kacelnik A. 2009. The role of experience in problem solving and innovative tool use in crows. *Current Biology* 19(22): 1965-1968.
- von Bayern A.M.P. and Emery N.J. 2009. Jackdaws respond to human attentional states and communicative cues in different contexts. *Current Biology* 19(7): 602-606.