

Creatures of Science. Living Models and the Construction of Scientific Communities.

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The present thesis, which is to be understood as a contribution both to history and anthropology of science, deals with the relationship of the construction and emergence of scientific communities and the use of models in science, or construction of new forms of knowledge. We deal primarily with the history of life sciences, especially behavioral sciences, which formed in the beginning of the 20th century as a relatively independent scientific field and a rather heterogeneous platform for a common research of life utterances and cognition of man and other animals. The thesis focuses mainly on living models, often used in biological and psychological research. Using Latour's concepts of modernity and hybridity, the thesis points at the hybridizing effect of behavioral sciences (the model always shapes and creates the modelled) and also at their ways of human and animal images. The second often serve as a basis for constructing the second. I also discuss some ways how implicit model properties, which influence the (seemingly) isolated sphere of science, affect the chances of a community for becoming a discipline. On three examples from the history of life sciences, i.e. the unsuccessful institutionalization of the so-called "new animal psychology", the emergence of Jakob von Uexküll's *Umweltlehre* and the history of the giant salamander as an object of science and culture, the thesis accents different parts of the theoretical framework, whereas the common denominator of these cases is the centrality of (living) models in the construction of scientific communities.

Keywords: history of life sciences, anthropology of science, modelling, living models, scientific models, disciplines.