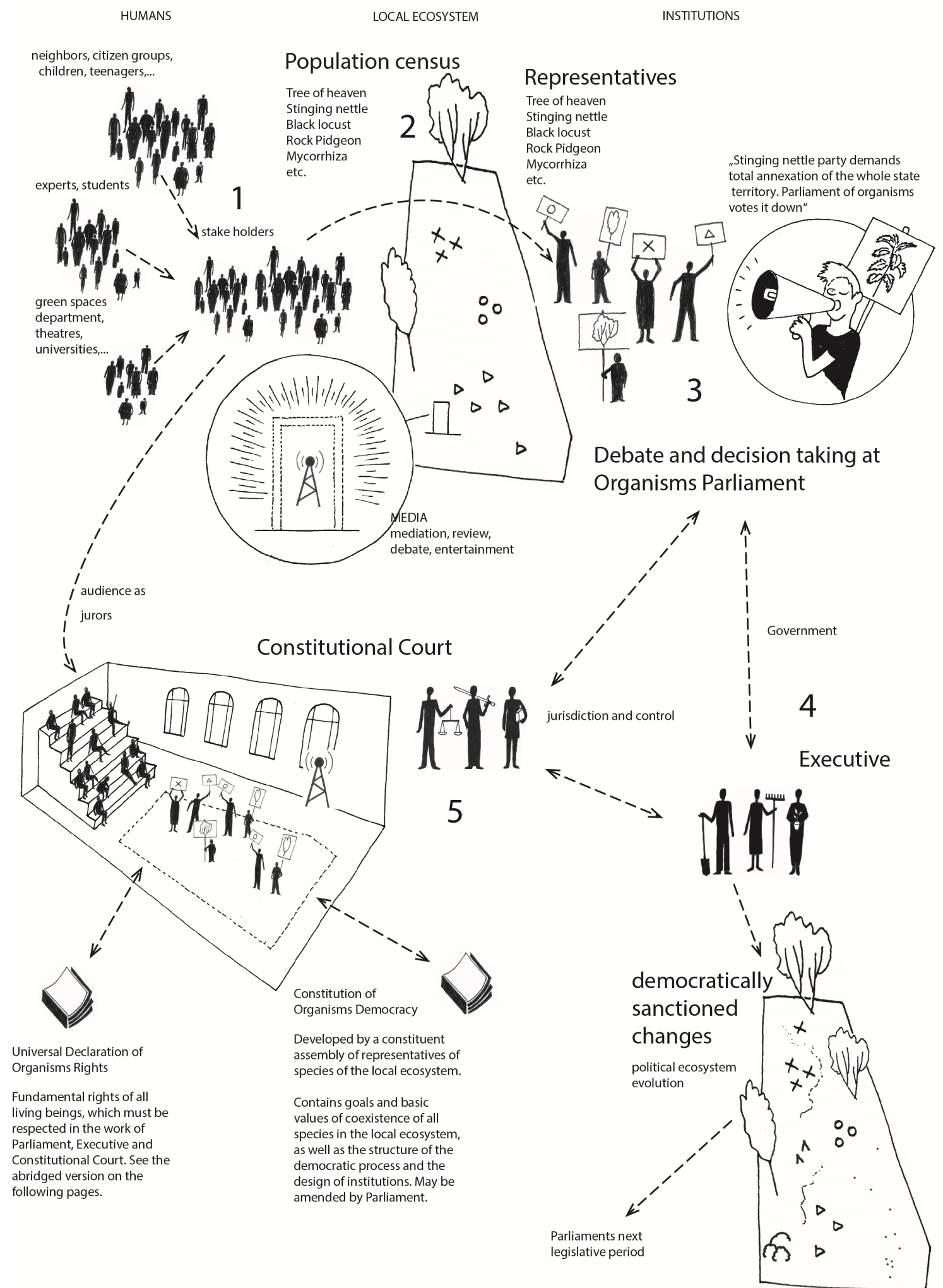


ORGANISMS DEMOCRACY

AND WHY WE SHOULD CARE ABOUT WHAT THE OTHER 8,7 MILLION* SPECIES WANT

*Current estimates range from 5,3 Million to more than 100 million species. So far around 2 million species have been described and named.

ORGANISMS DEMOCRACY Club Real and Organisms Democracy NGO 2017- ongoing



New to Berlin Arrived in 1699:



Acer negundo

Ash-leaved Maple (N-America)*

BEYOND NATURE – DEMOCRATIC INTERSPECIES POLITICS

Who lives here, in this ecosystem? Who has the right to be here? Or: Who can prevail here? How can we succeed in establishing relationships with other species apart from patriarchal protection and authoritarian exploitation? How can we step out of evolutionary competition? How can we translate ecological relations into political relations of interest? What are the „ecosystem-services“ that you and me provide in our every day life? Are there minimum standards for all living beings? What forms of imagination can we develop to collectively thrive?

Organisms democracy is a new urban practice, a hands on, experimental approach which is based on the idea that „nature“ does not exist as an entity, but instead there are a myriad of species, all of which have individual interests. Through a human-based political representation system that follows the decision-making logics of a republic, we make these interests visible and audible and try to find democratic solutions for conflicts of interest. We strive for the emancipation of all parties involved, based on the basic assumption that with democratic politics you step out of evolutionary competition as pure competition. With new formats to collectively create declarations and constitutions we try to establish a basis for the development of a democratic multi-species society.

Our starting points have been two documents: a Constitution and a General Declaration of Organisms Rights. Their core attempt is to work with diversity as something that has to be addressed and to work with diversity as

something that has to be addressed and represented beyond a holistic concept of nature – among human beings and other species alike. Through policy, minority protection and diversity are weighted in every conflict of resources arising in our common (as in any other) shared ground.

What our very tangible democracy does is to distinguish itself from those who say “nature already does it”. The popular assumption that in evolution „the fittest, i.e. most efficiently adapted“ will prevail, is based on a worldview of individual species fighting against each other and says very little about the success and sustainability of multi-species-societies. This concept of „nature“ is related to free market ideology, a risky basis for the survival and thriving of societies. Organisms Democracy is a chance to develop policies beyond the doctrine of „laissez faire, laissez passer, le monde va de lui même“ (1758, Vincent de Gournay). This theory „Let do and let pass, the world goes on by itself“ is the purest expression of Capitalism, where everything is controlled by the invisible hand of the market. A market that disguises itself as „nature“, an organic reality that precedes us and into which we were born. The practice of Organisms Democracy stands against this limited and limiting concept of „nature“, which is used to mask the individual interests of beings, mostly – but not only-humans. It's time to change the conversation, it's time to overcome egoistic species interests and move towards a democratic multi-species society.

ON MULTIPLE TEMPORALITIES & COLLECTIVE FORMS OF IMAGINATION TO THRIVE BEYOND SURVIVAL

Who was here first?

This question runs through all the processes of coexistence, both human and more than human which lie behind the conflict over who has a right to a place, and who has more rights than others in a place. In Organisms Democracy, we are often challenged to question the typical classification of old/new, native/alien, invasive/ noninvasive colonisation.

On 29 September 2019, during our 1st Organisms Executive Day, we set ourselves to the task of implementing a measure to build a memorial for “neobiota”, according to parliamentary resolution 11, introduced by Mahonia aquifolium Paz Ponce. Neobiota is the term used in (German speaking) ecology to describe the so-called ‚new‘ species, where new in this context means that they immigrated with the help of humans after 1492. Some of them have been in Berlin for 300 years, but they are still „new“ – such as the originally North American Ash Leaved Maple (Acer negundo, Eschenahorn in German, see visual) or the originally Chinese tree of heaven (Götterbaum), – and have spread throughout the city after the war, and colonised many barren sites. They are often vilified as weeds, but they have without doubt done a lot of pioneering work, playing a decisive role in repopulating urban ecosystems that were destroyed during the war and post-war period and are often more resilient in climate crisis.

The campaign “New to Berlin. Arrived in 1699” opened this debate among the 15 parliamentary representatives of the citizens of Organisms Democracy in Berlin, and was enshrined in the 9th article of the constitution, which deals with the very composition of the legislative body of the parliament of Organisms:

3. The Legislative Branch

Article 9. All legislative powers of Organisms Democracy are bestowed upon the Parliament of Organisms. This parliament consists of 15 members, who are chosen randomly from the community of citizen organisms to serve for one legislative period. Each of 7 subgroups of organisms provides 2 representatives. All

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Arthropods

Yellow-Legged Zipper Spider Trachyzelotes pedestris

Joanna-Marie Padberg



pic: Heiko Bellmann

ABOUT

- female spiders reach up to 6,6–9,4mm, male spiders 4,6–6mm, they are of slender build
- legs relatively short and strong, basic color deeply black, running legs at black close to the body, between patellan an foot they sport clearly a contrasted yellowish brown or reddish brown section. The front of the Cheliceres has prominent spike like hair, which are spaced very regularly in a parallel line leading inward at an angle.
- the prominently coloured legs are the origin of the alternate name: orange-legged Flat-belly-spider.
- nocturnal; their days are spent in living cocoons under stones or in protective moss layer
- mostly inhabiting the ground areas, can sometimes be found on blades of grass
- The Yellow-Legged Zipper Spider moves often very abruptly at high speed, then suddenly stops. Thanks to their black colour they are hard to spot on bare ground.
- fully grown from May to September

HABITAT

- mostly inhabiting the ground areas, can sometimes be found on blades of grass
- Europe, Caucasia, Turkey and Iran, and the only Zipper Spider found in Middle - Europe
- prefers warm, open and dry habitats with sparse vegetation
- can be found: stony steppes, quarries, semi-lawn, vineyards, chalky low nutrient meadows, sometimes also in dry, sunny woodland or sunny wood edges, street sides or human housing•

ALIMENTATION

- catches her prey as hustle predator, no nets. Prey is jumped at and immobilised by venom and spider silk.
- probably a large variety of small insects

USERS/PREDATORS/ENEMIES

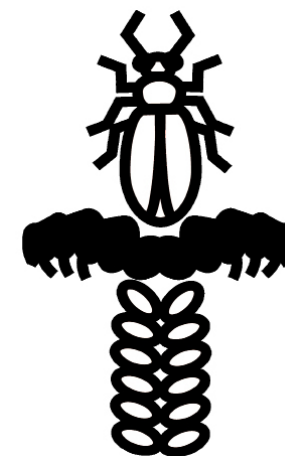
- birds and bigger predating insects and spiders
- Humans killing individual spiders, destroying spider habitats.



Joanna-Marie-Padberg loves to take long walks in nature with her dog. She thinks that every living being should have rights and that the members of the human species should snap out of their over consumption. She demands living space, friendly treatment and respect in the name of the Yellow-Legged Zipper Spider.

Parliamentary Demands:

In Parliament Joanna vouches for the ratification and spreading of the UDOR - Universal Declaration of Organisms Rights



Example of a data sheet. Data sheets are used to prepare humans for their parliamentary representational role. This sheet is from the context of the first parliamentary session in Gelsenkirchen on the premises of a former coal mine in 2021.

organisms are divided into the following subgroups: Bacteria/Protozoans/Viruses, Fungi/Mosses/Lichens, Arthropods, Vertebrates, Mollusca/Worms, Trees/Shrubs/Climbers, Herbs/Grasses/Perennials. The 15th member of parliament is appointed to the neobiota group to guarantee the continuous presence of at least one representative of this group of citizen organisms in parliament. Neobiota are all organisms, who have been spreading globally with the help of humans since 1492.

*CONSTITUTION Organisms Democracy_Berlin 2019

Representing this disputed group of species within Parliament is important because the debate about diversity, about being alien or not and acting invasive or not and under which circumstances is important for finding solutions to the conflicts of interest in a democratic ecosystem. The globalized community of species in Osloer Strasse and the human and more than human diversity in the district allows us to facilitate conversations about migration, freedom of movement, new and old ecosystem relations. Or should we say “harmony”, as was recently expressed in Chapter Two of the Constitution of Organisms Republic Augsburg? This constitution was written during a Constitutional Convent of 49 species-representatives: Girdlet Snail Katrin Dollinger, Common Marrigold Heidi Jovanova, Worm Slug Lilli Dordević, Amber Wood Coackroach Igor Dordević, White Candida Gabriele, Common Orange Eichen Gloria, Norway Maple Michael, Apple Aphid Gerhard, White-Lipped Snail Antonella, Mycobacterium Phage 13 Dorothea, Ground Elder Tine, Swamp Cypress Kristina & Julia, Sorrel Rust Max Kunze, Goldcrest Myriam Kammerlander, European Green Woddpecker Christoph Weller, Springy Turf Moss Isabelle Rohrbach, Smooth Snake Ralf Ostermaier, M Migrant Hawker Marianne Ramsay-Sonneck, Buchnera Aphidicola Marie - Pierre & Perry, Red European Earthworm Paz Ponce, European Beaver Chiara Kunz, Ornamental Banana Elke Seidel, Tree of Heaven Isabella Helmi Hans, Chromatium okenii Georg Reinhardt, Hedgehog Tick Marion Buk-Kluger on February 18th at Saalbau Krone and stimulated by contributions of impulse givers: Kerstin Schlögl-Flierl, Jens Soentgen, Biao Xiang, in the context of the Brecht Festival Augsburg:

Chapter 2: Migration and Harmony (formerly Freedom of Movement)

Article 5

The term „freedom“ in the name of Chapter 2 is replaced by the term „harmony“, as freedom is too human-centered a concept in this context.

Article 6

Migration must be understood as a way of being.

Article 7

Stopping mobility as well as forcing it disrupts harmony.

This results in three responsibilities for human people.

- Allow space for all more than human species.
- Respect the limits and boundaries of more than human species
- Acknowledge coexistence

This freedom, or harmony, is constantly at odds with fear, Jens Soentgen (Augsburg Univ., Wissenschaftszentrum Umwelt) warned the authors during the Constitutional Convent, and this was reflected in Chapter one of the constitution:

Chapter 1: Fear-free space

Article 1

The territory of the Republic of Organisms shall be free of human-centered norms and assessments. The term „Invasive Species“ shall serve as an example of a human-centered norm in this context.

Article 2

The right to exist and the possibility to reproduce are fundamental rights of every organism.

Article 3

All organisms must be protected from aggression, therefore space is needed for all. Aggression can act as a threat to existence. Vulnerability of all organisms must be protected. Hunting for subsistence food is allowed as an exception.

Article 4

Within the territory of Organisms Republic Rote Torwallanlage the human species, as the apex predator, shall behave exclusively non-violently.

Generally the constitutional frames of the four Organisms Democracies we have been developing with citizen groups from the four cities Vienna, Berlin, Gelsenkirchen and Augsburg regard themselves as immigration friendly polities. Organisms Democracy Berlin, Osloer Straé (2019, in chapter 6) grants active immigration aid to three critically endangered species every legislation period, represented by a Migration Advocate who verifies & voices their claims. The Organisms Parliament has to mandate, then the Organisms Executive to take the measures, locate the necessary habitat by means of a grid pattern of the territory and raffle of the grid sections. These measures, by principle, can't be allowed if they endanger already endangered species. However, well-established citizens with growing populations may be repelled or single individuals may be relocated outside of Organisms Republic if absolutely necessary for the establishment of the new species. The practice of Organisms Democracy, built on foundational documents — the respective Constitution, the Declaration of Organisms Rights — gives us room to experiment with different modes of coexistence between humans and more than human species in a given territory. Getting to know the species of a concrete ecosystem is the important first step but also an endless process of new encounters as there are no strict borders and new citizens are permanently arriving, waiting to be discovered to become part of the process of democratic development. Every conflict arising between the citizens is a chance to arrive at new agreements, negotiations, and possibilities to recalibrate human centred values, and see things from another perspective. Every human participant of an Organisms Parliament chooses one of the randomly picked 15 species to voice their interests and bring forward proposals and vote in their name. One of the results of studies in disturbance ecology is that very many species can only exist and coexist in the presence of regular medium disturbances. These disturbances, which might be caused by megaherbivores or rivers changing their course can also become part of Constitutional Documents of Organisms Democracies as it happened in Augsburg:

Chapter 5: Productive disturbance

Article 16

Productive disturbance is a planned necessary measure carried out by human beings, which must serve all organisms in the long term.

Article 17

The goals of a Productive Disruption are balance and resilience within the Republic of Organisms, and equality of all organisms.

Article 18

The necessary conditions are:

- Consultation of all species
- Consent orientation
- The well-being of the entire Republic of Organisms takes precedence over the good of each individual organism.

Article 19

Every organism has the right to request a Productive Disruption.

Article 20

The vote on a possible Productive Disruption shall take place in the Parliament with a two-thirds majority.

Article 21

The evaluation of a Productive Disruption is mandatory and modifications of the measure are possible.

Joseph Jeleman represents the Sycamore Maple at the 1st session of the Organisms Parliament Berlin 2019 Photo: Brygida Kowalska-Nwaimo



As a form of urban practice, Organisms Democracy hopes to become a model for how to deal with new and future ecosystems, to involve human citizens and activate their interest in helping to shape democratic multi species societies.

We need you for that!

If you want to represent a species in one of the Organisms Parliaments in Berlin, Augsburg or Gelsenkirchen please contact us at info@clubreal.de

Representatives of 15 Species at the 4th Parliament of Organisms in Berlin Osloer Str. in 2021 Photo: Hannah Lu Verse

UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF ORGANISMS RIGHTS

Based on the certitude of common origin of life on Earth and the continuously shared population of our planet for more than three billion years, based also on the count of between two and nine million discernible species and as many forms of interspecies relations, this document states basic rights for all organisms on Earth.

These rights are designed to allow:

A positive containment of single species with extreme expansive forces, who are claiming absolute dominance and total control over other species (regionally or globally).

The preparation of a political solution including all species. The foundation of a democratic system with all organisms being equally heard.

Article 1: Right of Life

The right of life of every organism is protected. No living being may be intentionally killed. Unless: In emergency situations in order to secure the continuation of the defender's life, if no alternative ways of alimentation are possible. Should the actions of an organism pose a serious threat to the survival of another organism. It is forbidden to pass a law, which will put a species under death sentence.

For the full text of the Universal Declaration of Organisms Rights and Constitutions of Organisms Democracies Berlin and Augsburg, further information and participation please visit >>>> ORGANISMSDEMOCRACY.ORG and clubreal.de or come to a guided tour of Organisms Democracy Berlin Osloer Str. 107/108

Club Real 2023: Mathias Lenz, Paz Ponce, Marianne Ramsay-Sonneck, Georg Reinhardt