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Tiergarten, Landscape of Transgression
(This Obscure Object of Desire)
in conversation with
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ETH Zürich D-ARCH
26.11.2018, 16.00–18.00
ONA Focushalle E7

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Tiergarten, 210 hectares of forest in the middle of Berlin and the oldest park in the city, is a place where many aspects of ecology, urbanism, heritage, daily culture, and politics are simultaneously present but also visibly transgressed. Over time, Tiergarten has become an island of anomalies that can be read as the radical expression of what is most urban and public in the city. Among many characteristics of Tiergarten is that here, human history and natural history are constructed together to shape a model for future environments in an ever-expanding sea of urbanization. This lecture ranges from Tiergarten’s transgression as a key to shift established ways of talking about what is considered urban to elements of the biotope map of West Berlin, a far-sighted document of 1984 proposing to dissolve the alleged antagonism between city and nature.