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INSTITUTE

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Aula Mazzariol

Malcanton Marcorà

Zoom Link: <https://unive.zoom.us/j/86139547871>.

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# Of Humans and Microbes connecting the histories of microbial and macrobial life in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries

**Claas Kirchhelle**, CERMES3 Paris

This is a microbial world. Over the past two decades, genomic methodologies in microbiology and multispecies approaches in the social sciences have explored the awe-inspiring antiquity, diversity, and speed of microbial life as well as how human health and industries are shaped by and shape our planetary microbiota. However, integrating stories of humans and microbes in history has proven challenging. While genomic data has been used to rewrite the history of individual pathogens, microbes and critical historiographic investigations of the modern

infrastructures used to study them remain rare. This presentation provides an overview of recent research projects on the history of microbial collections, valuation, and (extra-) terrestrial stewardship as well as attempts to monitor the global microbiome via bacteriophages and sentinel organisms. It highlights the value of critical historiography in uncovering path dependencies and blind spots in current biomedical research as well as the value of interdisciplinary collaboration when it comes to developing new ways of conceptualising the microbial commons.