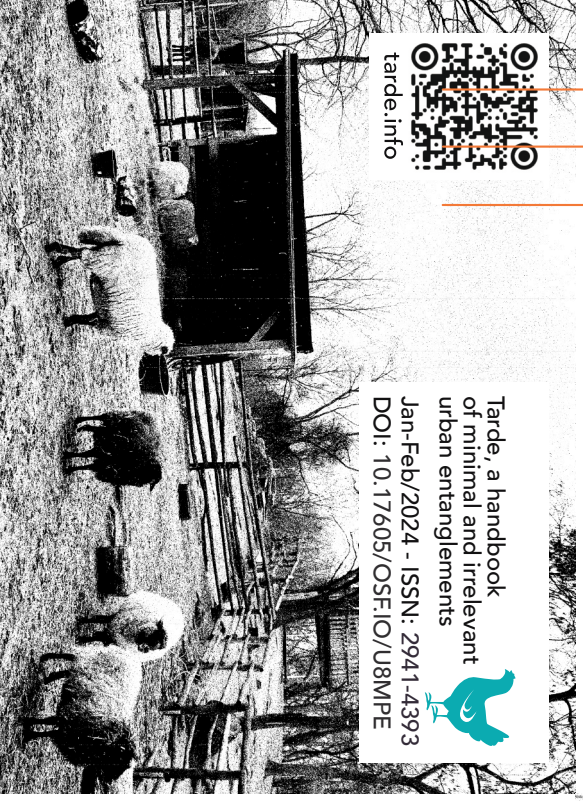

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Tarde, a handbook of minimal and irrelevant urban entanglements

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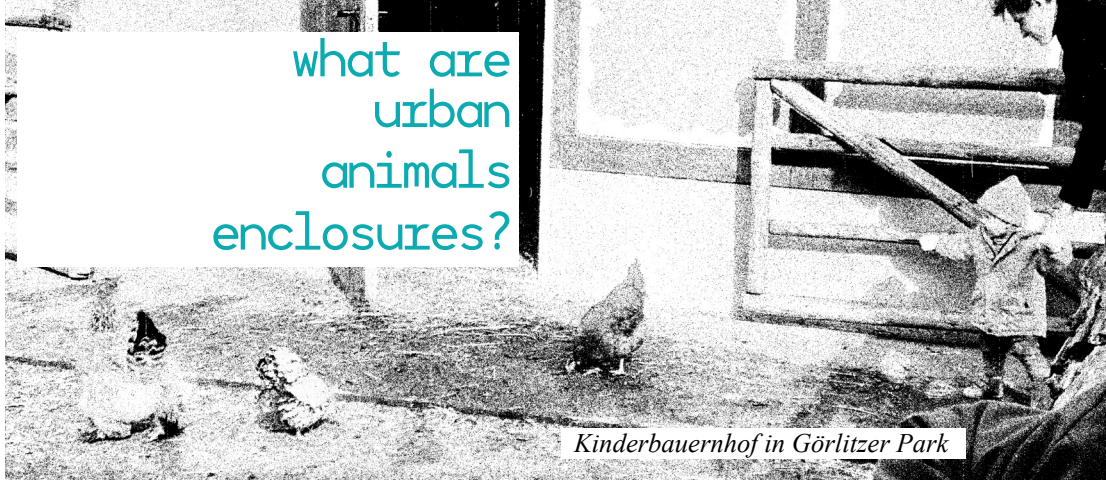
urban animal enclosures

A critical field guide to watch and (possibly) pet farm animals in Berlin

Tarde issue 03



what are urban animals enclosures?

Kinderbauernhof in Görlitzer Park

This issue will remain local and explore some urban public —even when run by private organizations— and (mostly) open places where humans go to see and possibly pet animals. Those locations around Berlin [1] will be called and categorized here as *urban animal enclosures* or just *animal enclosures*. However, despite the nominal intention to homogenize those places, they are heterogeneous conglomerates of spaces, networks, bodies, species, and administrative logics.

Broadly speaking, we are talking of urban farms (*Bauernhöfe*), farms for children (*Kinderbauernhöfe*), and petting zoos (*Streichelzoos*). Notwithstanding, some of those locations also identify themselves differently: *Tierhöfe* (animal yards); *Arche-Parks* (Ark Parks); *Wildtiergehege* (wildlife enclosures); *Tiergehege* (Animal enclosures), and *Tierparks* (zoos). However, far from being a matter of taste, that constellation of names shows different managerial logics and reflects diverse forms of being about and with the animals inside their installations.

Berlin's *animal enclosures* are characterized by mostly keeping and exhibiting pet and farm animals that either have been rescued or received as donations from particulars, farms, or animal shelters. Some of the *enclosures* are linked to schools and children's activities while others endorse a farm lifestyle. Most of the *animal enclosures* promote animal, environmental, or ecological education either by offering different activities such as workshops, and playful activities or by taking advantage of their physical infrastructure through signals and posters.

As a particular remark, the *Tierpark Neukölln* in *Hasenheide Park* (check it on our attached map) has a wide collection of local endangered pet and farm breeds such as *Deutsches Sattelschwein*, the *Vorwerkhuhn*, and the *Marderkaninchen*.

Some endangered farm breeds

Download and print the foldable file and paste it here!

If you expand this handbook and turn it around, you will find a couple of ethical issues we want to highlight regarding *animal enclosures*. And we want to do that by following a line that goes in between welfarist and liberationist approaches [2, 3, 4]. Also, our idea is to tease you with a bunch of open questions linked to an exercise of ethnographic exploration using our attached map, and a temporal reflection on captivity available on our website.

Kinderbauernhof Knirpsenfarm

Unlike zoos, *animal enclosures* are open and free-of-charge spaces that host primarily pet and farm breeds. Although some of those locations have exotic animals (parrots or lizards, for instance), they do not keep traditional-exotic zoo ones such as tigers, elephants, giraffes, pandas, or polar bears.

In general terms, the places this number is about are different from conventional urban parks, green spots, and traditional zoological gardens. In urban parks and green spots, for instance, wildlife thrives freely and multispecies contact is spontaneous. Meanwhile, in urban animal enclosures, human-animal contact is both facilitated and controlled. While enclosures allow humans to observe and interact with animals that would not usually be found in the city, most animals remain caged or in areas where human visitors cannot accede.

urban enclosures / parks & zoos

Ethical dilemmas in urban animal enclosures

As traditional zoos do, *animal enclosures* keep animals in captivity, under continuous surveillance, and surrogated to managerial and administrative procedures. It means that humans are the ones who decide about those animals' daily activities, diet, mobility, and reproduction.

Additionally, animals are maintained and exhibited in artificial scenarios under different logics and with multiple purposes. For instance, to serve as living pedagogical tools, entertainment, (eggs, honey, milk…) producers, and (breed/farm/nature/environment) *ambassadors* [2].

Berlin *animal enclosures* have birds trapped in little houses where they cannot fly; bunnies running behind bars; pigs exhibited in a wooden cabin with a small piece of land attached; ponies to ride in children's birthday parties; and chickens walking around reminding or showing us a traditional farm landscape.

The *enclosures*, archetypes of nature taming and domestication, are lively exhibitions of *otherness* people approach with strangeness, interest, and indifference (see our visitor perception survey).

After some explorations of urban animal enclosures around Berlin, a few ethical issues regarding the existence of those locations have appeared. The main concern is that to keep other beings in captivity even if one is not directly arming them and they are having a *good life* is a questionable act, to say the least, so:

* Why should we (humans) have the power over other beings?
* Where should farm animals be staying?
* Do they belong in farms linked to productive processes?
* Should they be sent to nature? Which kind of nature?
* Are not (some of) those urban enclosures sanctuaries as well?

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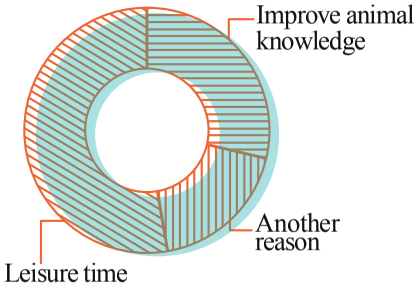
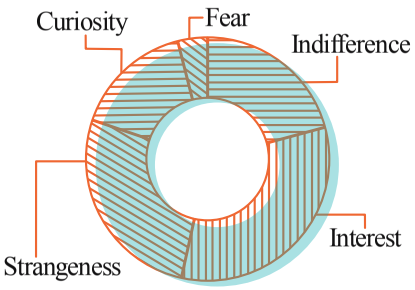
Survey on visitor perception

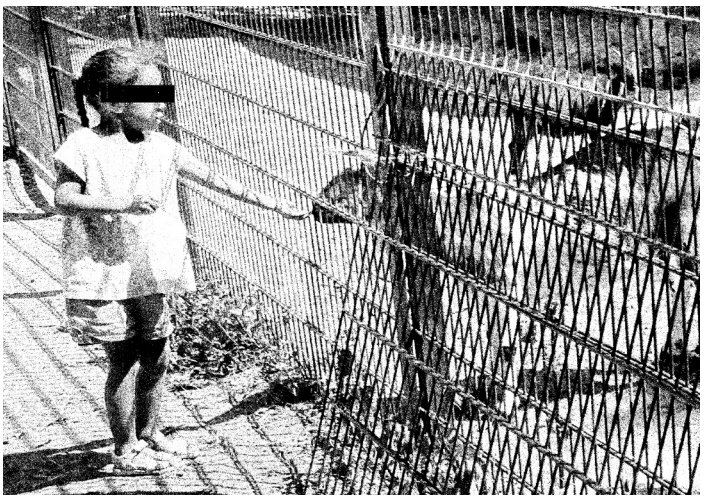
Those are the partial results of a survey carried out in two Berlin animal enclosures: the *Tierpark Neukölln* in Hasenheide Park and the *Kinderbauernhof* in Görlitzer Park. We present the reasons people have to go to the enclosures and how they describe their experience in those places. To see the full survey, scan the QR code above.

What is the reason to visit the animal enclosure?





What word describes better your experience watching animals?



* Where is captivity then considered acceptable?
* Shall those places be closed? Entirely? To humans only?
* But if they close, where should those animals go?

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This number has been curated by:
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GEORG SIMMEL CENTER FOR METROPOLITAN STUDIES

Tarde issue 03

Kinderbauernhof in Mauerplatz

How to fold this sheet

provisional map of Berlin urban animal enclosures

Flip this up

Tarde urban animal enclo-sures

An ethnographic exercise

Tarde issue 03

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This field device has the main components to carry out an ethnographic exploration of an urban animal enclosure. Despite some of its elements working exclusively for Berlin, you can replicate this exercise in any other similar urban scenario around the world. The artifact is composed of a temporary map with the names and locations of twelve urban animal enclosures in the city, a folding guide, a brief introduction to the exercise, and a space to start drafting, sketching, and experimenting. Of course, this artifact can be expanded, modified, or reinvented in the way you want according to your experiences watching and maybe petting farm animals in urban enclosures.

List of animal enclosures

- Tierpark Neukölln (Hasenheide 8, 10967)
- Kinderbauernhof Knirpsenfarm (Malchower Ch 2, 13051)
- Tierhof Marzahn (Alt-Marzahn 63, 12685)
- Kinderbauernhof am Mauerplatz (Adalbertstraße 71, 10997)
- Kinderbauernhof auf dem Görlitzer Park (Wiener Straße 59B, 10999)
- Charlotteburger Ziegenhof (Danckelmannstraße 16, 14059)
- Kinderbunter Bauernhof (Luxemburger Str. 25, 1335)
- Erlebniswelt Tier im Jungfernheidepark (Heckerdamm 274, 13627)
- Domäne Dahlem - Königin (Luise-Straße 49, 14195)
- Arche-Park am Kienbergpark (Hellersdorfer Str. 159, 12619)
- Wildtiergehege Rehberge (Kol.Steinwinkel 11, 13351)
- Tiergehege Viktoriapark (Charles-Corcelle-Ring 26, 13405)

Instructions

Visualize this exercise as a quick ethnographic *incursion* in a more-than-human urban set-up previously defined as an animal enclosure. We want you to select one of those places, go there, and walk around for approximately one hour, observing and describing a series of situations and scenarios between the animals in captivity and the people around them. The idea is to critically decompose the selected location by paying attention to its (1) infrastructures, (2) beings, and (3) relations. Beside, we offer you some methodological directions to guide you along with this exploration. Remember the questions from the handbook. Feel free to use them as departure points to formulate your own ones… or not. Finally, you can write, draw, map, count, make a survey, take pictures or record videos, just be creative!

Kinderbauernhof in Görlitzer Park

(1) Infrastructures. Look at the materials and spaces composing the enclosure. Are the animals caged? Are they behind bars? Do you share some spaces with the animals? Can they freely move around? How are their cages, houses, and pens? Does the enclosure have educational elements such as posters or signs?

(2) Beings. Which are the animals inhabiting the enclosure? How many of each species are there? Can you spot other animals around the enclosure that *do not belong* there? Who are the people in the enclosures? What kind of workers does this location have? Who are the visitors of the enclosure? What age are they? With whom are they visiting the place?

(3) Relations. Which are the ways humans use to interact with animals? Can people access to the places where the animals live? Can people touch, ride, feed, or play with the animals? Do animals from different species interact with each other? Do humans interact in the same ways with the different species?

Weekends are the best days to visit the enclosures

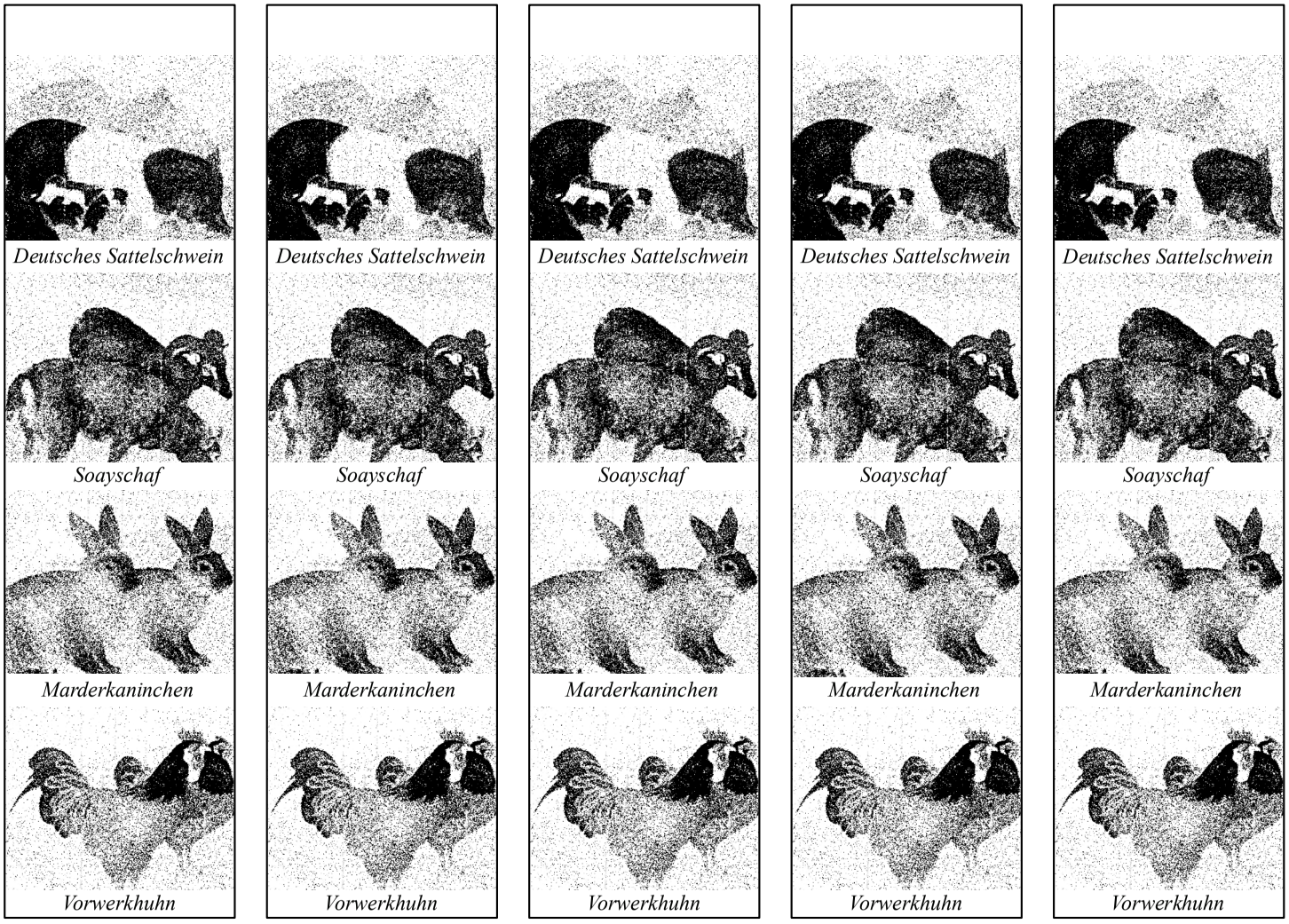
Fieldwork data sheet

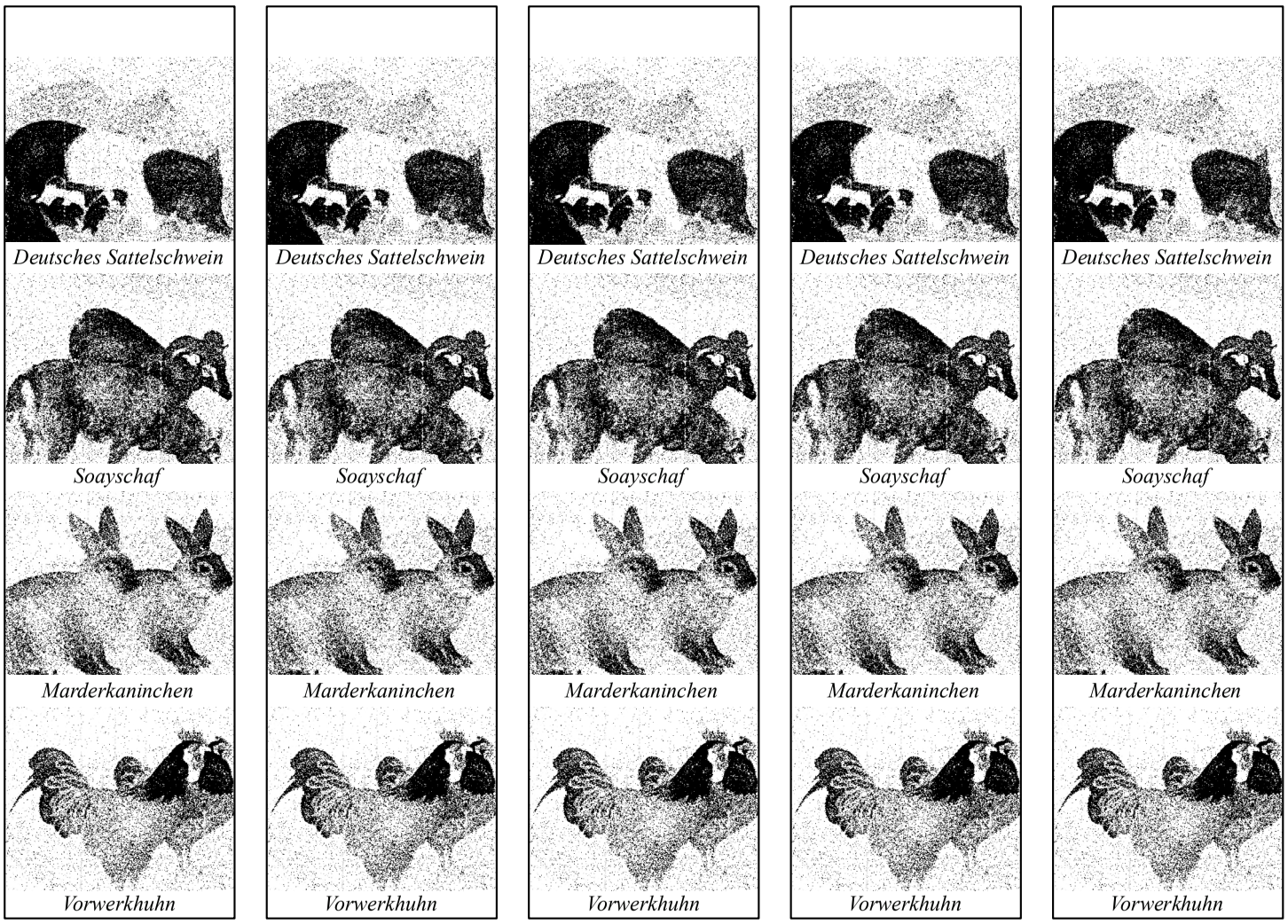
Date: _____

Location: _____

Starting time _____

Creative space


Deutsches Sattelschwein
Soayschaf
Marderkaninchen
Vorwerkhuhn


Deutsches Sattelschwein
Soayschaf
Marderkaninchen
Vorwerkhuhn