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16:30 Uhr

Fencing Out the Wild: Managing Sharks and People at South African and Australian Beaches

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In this talk, I will discuss the world's two oldest and largest national shark control programs, those of South Africa and Australia. Scientists and policymakers in these two countries have spent more than a century attempting to dictate the movement and behavior of sharks to improve bather safety. In this pursuit, they have deployed technologies ranging from barriers, to nets, to drum lines, and even to electrical fields and depth charges. This presentation will examine these programs as prime examples of the enduring tensions between mobile nature and the real and imagined boundaries we use to administer it. Bather safety programs also offer a useful case study for exploring how efforts to control nature have historically intersected with schemes to discipline and distribute people. Finally, these programs reveal how shifting perceptions of nature, and predators especially, have forced officials to alter the placement and enforcement of barriers structuring exchanges between the human and non-human worlds.

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