



WORKING WITH NATURE IN AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND: AN ETHNOGRAPHY OF COASTAL PROTECTION

BREMER
STUDIENPREIS
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**Friederike Gesing, University of Bremen /
Universität Bremen / Rotunde im Cartesium /
Enrique-Schmidt-Str. 5 //**

This talk opens up a conceptual perspective on coastal natures emerging from coastal protection practices. To work with nature and not against it: this sociotechnical imaginary provides a shared understanding of alternative, *soft* coastal protection for a growing community of practice. Based on long-term fieldwork in Aotearoa New Zealand, Friederike Gesing draws on close ethnographic encounters with dune restoration volunteers, coastal management experts, surfer-scientists, and Maori conservationists. Understanding their soft protection projects as sociomaterial practices, she shows different coastal naturecultures in the making, emerging as do-it-yourself protection, native landscape, threatened public space, or nature enhanced through soft engineering. /

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