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**Horrida lustra, horridae Musae:**

**Josephi Rodrigues de Mello *De rusticis Brasiliae rebus carminum libri IV***

Wednesday, 13 September 2017, 6 pm  
Zentrum für Alte Kulturen („Atrium“)  
Langer Weg 11, SR 5



In 1781 an exiled Portuguese Jesuit José Rodrigues de Mello published the four books of his *Brazilian Country Matters*, a description of Brazilian agriculture closely modeled on Virgil's *Georgics*. In his poem he dispenses advice on a wide variety of subjects, ranging from animal husbandry and growing tobacco to curing nearly-terminal illnesses using the manioc root, while at the same time painting a rather bleak picture of colonial Brazil and its indigenous inhabitants: venomous snakes and cannibalistic natives.

The purpose of this talk is to describe and contextualize the poem and discuss the possible intentions the author might have had at the time of writing and publishing.