

Museum Entanglements

October 21 – 22

2021

workshop

Over the last decade, the scenario of European ethnographic museums has been slowly changing, taking into consideration wide-ranging topics that would theoretically assist institutions to discover “the next step” for their work. The debate surrounding postcolonialism became a hot topic in the museological sphere, and talks over restitution, provenance research, among other delicate topics, became the keywords in any ethnographic meeting – as they would dictate the approach of professionals towards the collections held in Europe. More particularly in Germany, debates intensified after the “long summer of provenance research”, articulating complex topics regarding colonial entanglements, heritage, and possible reparations. The workshop seeks to better comprehend the circumstances and recent happenings in the museum sphere, with the particular goal of merging practice and scholarly theory.

The workshop intends to contribute to the European museum decolonizing effort and shall provide a space for discussing shortcomings, strategies, developments, and realities from the inside of museum institutions, as well as scholar perspectives. A special focus will be on collection management and exhibition design – museum professional experience, provenance research and colonial heritage – museology collection theories, and engaging the archive – digitalization and data management.

Preliminary Timetable - Museum Engagements

Thursday, 21.10.2021

Time	Title	Speaker
13:00 – 13:15	Welcome & Introduction	
13:15 – 14:00	Open Histories - Do Objects talk and how to listen?	Karolin Leitermann
14:00 – 14:45	'Hidden Histories' of Expeditions	Marina Heyink
14:45 – 15:30	Collection Archaeology – a Methodological Experiment	Martin Nadarzinski
Coffee break		
16:00 – 16:45	Collection Work	Gudrun König
16:45– 17:30	Skilled Collectors or Means to an End?	Jennifer Tadge
17:30 – 18:15	Temporal and geographical boundaries in provenance research	Patrick Hege
Coffee break		
18.30-19.15	A long-term definition for the changeable permanent. The ICOM museum definition	Markus Walz
Conference Dinner		

Friday, 22.10.2021

Time	Title	Speaker
09:00 – 09:45	Colonial Curios: Indian Handicrafts and Souvenir Production in the late 19 th Century	Dipika Nadkarni
09:45 – 10:30	Beyond Restitution: Object Biographies and Provenience Research in Luebeck's Ethnographic Collection	Lars Frühsorge
Coffee break		
10:45 – 11:15	'Provenance Research at the MARKK: Investigating Hamburg's Colonial World Trade Networks and Collections from West Africa and Oceania	Jamie Dau
11:15 – 12:00	Emerging Technologies in the Museum: Challenges and Perspectives	Julia Gerda
12:00 – 12:45	'Managing Data Friction: Recommendations for Collaborative Data Management in the Digital Humanities	Kristin Schuster
12:45 – 13:30	Values and epistemic horizons. Reflections on the relation between museums and collections.	Hans P. Hahn & Ohiniko Toffa (discussant)
Lunch break		
14:30	Guided Tour - Weltkulturenmuseum	