

POLITICS OF COLLECTING AND KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION

University of Applied Sciences HTW Berlin
Wilhelminenhofstraße 75A, 12459 Berlin
Room H001

ABSTRACT

In modern societies, the production of knowledge is closely associated with discipline – in every sense of the word. It defines the standards of Western methodologies and classifications, of academic disciplines and institutions as universal, while at the same time appropriating or excluding local or 'indigenous' knowledge and its respective global agents. Critical Museum Studies and Critical Heritage Studies reflect on the hierarchies of knowledge that exist in ethnographic and natural history collections and exhibitions in terms of their colonial legacy. Decolonizing knowledge and collections requires tracing how objects were acquired and translocated as well as the collaboration of diverse communities. It reveals the influence of local academic or 'indigenous' knowledge and its subsequent suppression, and highlights its current relevance for assuming political and ecological responsibility.

The research and exhibition project Researching Collecting is a collaborative effort of the Centre for Collection Development in Göttingen and the University of Applied Sciences Berlin (HTW), funded by the Volkswagen Foundation. This workshop is developed by Susanne Wernsing (HTW Berlin) in collaboration with Dominik Hünninger (University of Hamburg). Based on Göttingen's ethnographic and natural history collections, it aims to challenge methodologies and techniques of research and documentation of the global heritage.

20.11. ARRIVAL AND VISITING COLLECTIONS

2:00pm
to 8:00pm

Visiting collections in Berlin

21.11. INTRO

9:00am
to 10:30am

Welcome

Susan Kamel
University of Applied Sciences Berlin
Marie-Luisa Allemeyer
University of Göttingen

Project Researching Collecting

Gudrun Bucher
University of Göttingen
Susanne Wernsing
University of Applied Sciences Berlin

Fear and Loathing in Museums and 'Indigenous' Communities: Unlikely Lessons from Roger Fry

Ivan Gaskell
Bard Graduate Center New York City

10:30am
to 11:00am

Coffee Break

COLLABORATING – CRITICAL HERITAGE STUDIES

11:00am
to 1:15pm

NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS

Decolonizing Botanical Collections by Creating an Alternative Archive: The Hortus Malabaricus (1678-1693) in Kerala Today

Minakshi Menon
Max Planck Institute for the History of Science Berlin

Environmental Citizenship and Natural History Collections - Past and Present Knowledge Makers beyond the Academy

Dominik Hünninger
University of Hamburg

Comment and Discussion:

Miranda Lowe
Natural History Museum

1:15pm
to 2:30pm

Lunch

2:30pm
to 5:30pm

ETHNOGRAPHIC COLLECTIONS

The Collaboration Trope: About the Challenge of Sharing Knowledge, Skills and Objects in a Shared Exhibition Space

Maïke Powrozniak
Martina Wernsdörfer
Ethnographic Museum of the University of Zurich

Llangarlluku: Becoming Aware. Alaskans working to ensure awareness the past and revitalization cultural traditions and language

Helen Morris
Chugachmiut Anchorage

Comment and Discussion:

Ilija Labischinski
Monika Zessnik
Ethnological Museum of Berlin

Discussion in small groups with Chugach Elders:

Diane Selanoff, Patrick Selanoff und William Smith
Chugachmiut Anchorage

22.11.

DECOLONIZING – KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION

9:00am
to 10:45am

MUSEUM, EXHIBITION AND RESPONSIBILITY

The Tentacular Museum: Co-curation with the Changing Arctic

Lotten Gustafsson Reinius
Nordic Museum and Stockholm University

Comment and Chair:

Ayesha Keshani
Goldsmiths, University of London

Dialog: Museum, Exhibition and Responsibility

Susan Kamel
Ayesha Keshani
Patricia Rahemipour
Institute for Museum Research Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Preussischer Kulturbesitz
Lotten Gustafsson Reinius

10:45am
to 11:15am

Coffee Break

11:15am
to 1:00pm

DECONSTRUCTING – HIERARCHIES OF KNOWLEDGE

Data Natures: Problematising Digitisations of Natural History and its Collections

Tahani Nadim
Department for European Ethnology Humboldt University of Berlin and Natural History Museum Berlin

'Indigenising' the Museum in Auckland from the Inside Out

David Gaimster
Auckland War Memorial Museum

Comment and Discussion:

Demetrius Eudell
Wesleyan University and University of Göttingen

1:00pm
to 2:00pm

Lunch

RÉSUMÉ

2:00pm
to 3:30pm

Reconfiguring Collections in Coloniality's Extractive Anthropocene

Martha Fleming
British Museum

Decolonizing Methodologies

Goodman Gwasira
University of Namibia