Un-Disciplining the Museum?

Changing Practices of Care, Knowledge and Display

Tuesday 18 and Wednesday 19 April 2023
Museum of Archaeology & Anthropology and Emmanuel College, University of Cambridge
Thursday 20 April 2023
Centre for Material Culture, Cambridge

Tuesday 18 April

Emmanuel College, University of Cambridge
St Andrew's St, Cambridge CB2 3AP

09:00-09:30 Registration, Tea and Coffee

09:30-09:45 Welcome & Introduction: The Undisciplined Museum
Joanna Zetterstrom Sharp (MEG Chair), Anita Herle and Mark Elliott (MAA, University of Cambridge)

09:45- 11:15 Session 1: Practice within and beyond discipline

1922 and All That: Artefactual Histories for the 21st Century
Chris Wingfield (Sainsbury Research Unit, University of East Anglia)

The Ceramic Object: Re-explored, Re-created, re-engaged
Lisa Robson (Ulster University)

Entangled Knowledges: Kaartdijin, Science and History in the Robert Neill collection
Tiffany Shellam (Deakin University) with Larry Blight, Ross Chadwick, Ali Clark, Shona Coyne and Lester Coyne

Museum Disciplines and Loose Threads: The Dispersed Collections of Hamburg's Former Museum Godeffroy
Callum Fisher (CARMAH, Humboldt University)

11:15-11:40 Tea and Coffee

11:40-13:00 Session 2: Changing & Challenging Documentation

Decolonising Object Records, Indigenising the Database: A Case Study of the British Museum's Online Collection
Chukyi Kyaping (University of Manchester)

Who Do You Say You Are? Updating Cultural Group terminology
Megan Backhouse (National Museums Liverpool)

*Abstracts for all of the presentations are available at https://maa.cam.ac.uk/whats_on/events

What's the difference between a drum and a kazoo?
Eleanor Beestin-Sherriff (MAA, University of Cambridge)

Digital love – performing care on the ground, capturing it through digital environments
Lucie Carreau (MAA, University of Cambridge)

13:00-14:00 Lunch

14:00-15:45 Session 3: Confidence and Comfort

Gods in Glass Cases: Confidence and uncertainty in the collection and display of 'More-than-Objects'
Imogen Coulson (MARKK/Digital Benin)
& Alisa Santikarn (University of Cambridge)

Challenging castelessness in South Asian museum collections
Danika Parikh (University of Cambridge Museums)

MultakaOxford: People first, everything follows.
Nuha Abdo and Jumana Hokan (MultakaOxford)

Care, Hesitancy and Uncertain Knowledge: Seeking Restorative Justice for Ancestors in Edinburgh University's Anatomical Museum
Nicole Anderson (University of Edinburgh)

Displaying Colonialism: Curatorial Confidence and Comfort
Andrea Potts (University of Brighton)

15:45-16:15 Tea and Coffee

16:15-16:45 Session 4: Colour: Art, Science and Power. Multidisciplinary approaches to research and display
Anita Herle (MAA, University of Cambridge)

17:00-18:00 MAA open for private view
Museum of Archaeology & Anthropology, Downing St., CB2 3DZ

18:00 -19:15 Drinks Reception at MAA

19:30 Conference Dinner
The Tiffin Truck, 22 Regent Street (5-10 minute walk from MAA)

Wednesday 19 April

Emmanuel College, University of Cambridge
St Andrew's St, Cambridge CB2 3AP

09:00-10:30 Session 5: Democratising Care: Democratising Knowledge

Decolonising the museum as a shared praxis – Zulu Traditional Beadwork Provenance Research

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Njabulo Chipangaura (Manchester Museum)

Global and Local Perspectives on Democratising Knowledge with Wikimedia
Leah Emary, with Richard Nevell, Lucy Hinnie (Wikimedia UK), Lucy Moore (University of York) and Martin Poulter (Khalili Collections)

Taking Risks and Taking Care: A case study from the John Rylands Library
Inbal Harding (John Rylands Library, University of Manchester)

Lighting Togo Inen in the Ethnographic Museum: Evenki Reconciliation Ritual at the Pitt Rivers Museum
Faye Belsey (Pitt Rivers Museum, University of Oxford)
& Anya Gleizer (School of Geography & the Environment, Oxford)

10:30-11:00 Tea and Coffee

11:00-12:15 Session 6: Reports and Work in Progress

Revealing the History of Collecting Pre-Columbian Ceramics in UK Museums
Catherine Hirst (University of Sussex)

The 'Pre-Disciplinary' Early African Collections of the National Museums Scotland
Zachary Kingdon (National Museums Scotland)

Anthropologists and photographers: priorities and practicalities for the Poignant and Elliott collections at MAA
Glenn Adams, Eona Bell, Kirsty Kernohan & Gemma Ovens (MAA, University of Cambridge)

Greater in Spirit, Larger in Outlook
Alice Lodge and Ian Channell (Epping Forest District Museum)

Renewing Relations: Indigenous Heritage Rights and (Re)conciliation in Northwest Coast Canada
Bryony Onciul (University of Exeter) [read by Johanna Zetterstrom-Sharp]

In the eye of the beholder
Heather Richardson (National Museums Scotland)

Doing data differently: community-led information management at the Pitt Rivers Museum
Byrony Smerdon (Pitt Rivers Museum)

Taking Care at the Pitt Rivers Museum
Ashley Coutu & Thandiwe Wilson (Pitt Rivers Museum)

12:15-13:15 Annual General Meeting of the Museum Ethnographers Group

13:15-14:15 Lunch

14:15-15:45 Session 7: Histories of Change/Hidden Histories

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Recovering and Restoring Knowledge of Indigenous Collaboration in Museum Documentation: Mikel Utsi and the Sami Collections of Cambridge
Anna Freed (Natural History Museum)

From abridged to annotated – making space for multiple voices
Katrina Dring (MAA, University of Cambridge)

All Change? Liberating Collections Care from Discipline
Claire Wintle (University of Brighton)

15:45-16:15 Tea and Coffee

16:15-17:00 Session 8: A Sainsbury Centre Approach to Un-Disciplining the Museum Construct
Jago Cooper (SCVA, University of East Anglia)

Thursday 20 April

Centre for Material Culture

10:00-13:00 Inside a Stores Move: thinking practice, process and responsibility
(Lucie Carreau, Ayesha Fuentes, Mark Elliott the Stores Move team)

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