

MEG 2024 Conference – University of East Anglia, Norwich

Living Museums – Looking to the Future

25-26 April 2024

Hosted by the Sainsbury Centre and the Sainsbury Research Unit for the Arts of Africa, Oceania & the Americas

Thursday 25 April 2024

Thomas Paine Study Centre (TPSC) available 08.00 – 14.00

09.00 – 09.45 Registration (TPSC foyer)

09.45 – 10.00 Welcome and Conference Introduction (hosts and MEG)

10.00 – 11.00 **Session 1 [Community 1]** (3 presentations; 20+20+10)

Joanne Lai Chia Yin (The One Academy, Malaysia): Resisting revisionism: exploring former colonial museums as ‘safe spaces’ to address historical negationism movements in ethno-nationalistic post-colonial countries (20 mins)

Alba Ferrandiz-Gaudens (Sainsbury Research Unit, UEA): Bringing the past into the present at The Effect, a community museum in Guam (10 mins)

Danny Zborover, Louise de Mello and Rose Taylor (British Museum): The social role of museums and their collections: experiences with community museology in the Americas (20 mins)

11.00 – 11.30 Tea and Coffee (TPSC foyer)

11.30 – 13.00 **Session 2 [Repatriation]** (5 presentations; 20+20+20+10+10)

Tamara Price (MEG) Benin Curios for Sale: How financial value has been negotiated and changed around the Benin Bronzes (20 mins)

Ray Ingrey and Quaiden Williams Riley (Gujaga Foundation, La Perouse Aboriginal community) View from the shore: exploring the return of the Gweagal spears collected on Cook’s First Voyage (20 mins)

Iain G Johnston and Ophelia Rubinich (Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies) People’s things: repatriation practice and collection care, views from Australia (20 mins)

Iain G Johnston (Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies) “Yeah, bring them back. The whole lot”: Using Indigenous Frameworks to bring poorly provenanced international Indigenous collections home (10 mins)

Ophelia Rubinich (Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies) Collection Ecologies for Repatriation Practice: networks, relationships, journeys (10 mins)

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch (TPSC foyer)

13.45 – 15.00 Intro and tour of Sainsbury Centre Galleries (Jago Cooper)

Julian Study Centre (JSC) available 15.00 – 20.00

15.15 – 16.15 **Session 3 [Knowledge Exchange 1]** (60 mins: 3 presentations; 10+20+20)

Viveca Mellegård (University of London) How does Kew’s 19th-century archival collection contribute to the revival of indigo dyeing in West Bengal? (10 mins)

Elaine D. Alexie (University of Alberta) Visiting Relations: Gwich’in Knowledge Repatriation through Museum Collections Research (20 mins)

Njabulo Chipangura (University of Manchester) The restoration of community and object agency in encyclopaedic museums with African collections (20 mins)

16.15 – 16.45 Tea and Coffee (JSC foyer)

16.45 – 17.30 **Session 4 [Knowledge Exchange 2]** (50 mins: 2 presentations; 20+20)

Rachel Peat Underhill (The Royal Collection Trust) Knowing the Ancestors: New Meanings of Circulation through Mississauga Baskets (20 mins)

Chantal Knowles (Auckland War Memorial Museum | Tāmaki Paenga Hira) Te Aho Mutunga Kore – the eternal thread (20 mins)

18.00 – 19.00 Drinks reception (SCVA)

19.00 – 21.30 Dinner (SCVA)

Friday 26 April 2024

Julian Study Centre (JSC) available all day

09.30 – 10.30 **Session 5 [Community 2]** (60 mins: presentations; 20+10+10+10)

Zoe Cormack (Submitted on behalf of 4 curators in Sudan and the UK) Community museums in conflict: learning from recent experience in Sudan (20 mins)

Devina Dimri (TBC) A 'Political' Museum: Curation, Legitimization and Representation in The Tibet Museum, Dharamshala (10 mins)

Rui En Pok (University of Cambridge) Update on an ongoing community-initiated 'visual repatriation' project bridging the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology (MAA) Cambridge and the Kusu Island, Singapore, community (10 mins)

Emily Bradfield (University of Cambridge) Take a Walk in My Shoes: sensory ethnography and walking interviews, exploring how it feels to be 'in' the museum (10 mins)

10.30 – 11.00 Tea and Coffee (JSC foyer)

11.00 – 12.30 **Session 6 [Climate/Environment]** (90 mins: 5 presentations; 10+10+20+20+20)

Bridget McKenzie (Independent) Climate Museum UK, and how we address extractivism and 'Everyday Ecocide' in our processes and programmes (10 mins)

Erin Messenger (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew) Queering biocultural, science and natural history collections (10 mins)

Akinsola Adejuwon (Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria) Curating Climate: The Museum and Sustainable Future (20 mins)

Christina Peake (University of Westminster & The National Archives) Transforming Collections (Artist-In-Residence) (20 mins)

Ali Clark, George Nuku and Jane Miller (National Museums Scotland) Engaging communities with environmental themes through creativity (20 mins)

12.30 – 13.15 Lunch (JSC foyer)

13.15 – 14.15 MEG Annual General Meeting

14.30 – 15.30 **Session 7 [Legacies 1]** (60 mins; 3 presentations; 20+20+10)

Chrisyl Wong-Hang-Sun (The British Museum) Museums, 'Native' ethnography, and activism (20 mins)

Rohini Sharma (UCL) Living Museums - Looking to the Future (20 mins)

Sydney Stewart Rose (University of Oxford) A Different Type of Ghost in the Museum (10 mins)

15.30 – 16.00 Tea and Coffee (JSC foyer)

16.00 – 16.50 **Session 8 [Legacies 2]** (50 mins: 3 presentations; 10+10+20 and Close)

Zachary Kingdon (National Museums Scotland) Addressing Historical Injustices through Collaborative Re-Interpretation of Liverpool's Benin Collection (20 mins)

Kathleen Lawther (University of Leicester) Work in progress: the history and practice of collections documentation (10 mins)

Hope Ama Leslie (National Museums Liverpool) The Transatlantic Slavery and legacies in Museums forum (10 mins)

16.50 **Close**

