

MEG 50th ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE 2025
Help! Care and Support in Museums

Draft Schedule

DAY 1:

8:45 – 9:15	Registration
9:15 – 9:30	Welcome
9:30 – 10:45	<p>Session One: What is Help and/or Care?</p> <p><i>Chair: TBD</i></p> <p>Emily Bradfield (Fitzwilliam Museum) – Caring for communities through participatory action research at the Fitzwilliam Museum</p> <p>Helen Mears (Royal Museums Greenwich) – Taking Care of Windrush</p> <p>Julie Adams and Ava Salzer (British Museum) – The Afterlife of Paradise: A Curatorial Case Study of Records, Recollection and Reassociation.</p> <p>Shikha Dwivedi (Kettle’s Yard, University of Cambridge) – Caring for ourselves and each other as museum staff.</p>
10:45 – 11:15	Coffee Break & Early Careers Group Meet-up
11:15 – 12:30	<p>Session Two: Can museums be ‘helpful’?</p> <p><i>Chair: TBD</i></p> <p>Mhairi Maxwell (National Museums Scotland) – ‘It couldn’t be helped’: contemporary collecting at National Museums Scotland</p> <p>Amy Shakespeare (University of Exeter) and Lucas da Costa Maciel (National Museum of the American Indian) – Mapping the Problem: Are Guidelines Holding Back Repatriation?</p> <p>Maria Cristina Juan (SOAS) – Collaborative Futures: Redefining Museum Practices for Marginalized Collections.</p> <p>Santiago Valencia Parra (British Museum) – Untitled - The Santo Domingo Centre of Excellence for Latin American Research</p>

	(SDCELRAR) at the British Museum: building relationships of aid, support, and commonality
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 14:45	<p>Session Three: Problematizing ‘Help’</p> <p><i>Chair: Meghan Backhouse</i></p> <p>Chris Wingfield (Sainsbury Research Unit, UEA) – From ‘Savourism’ to Mutual Aid: Help from the 1970s (and earlier)</p> <p>Thomas Fearon (University of Oxford) – Whose help is it, anyway? Rethinking Relationships through African Collections</p> <p>Anna Stein (Hockey Museum) – Are Museums really helping us?</p> <p>Anna Freed (Sainsbury Research Unit, UEA) – ‘Help the Disabled?’ Framing Global Disability Heritages in UK Museums: UK Disabled Perspectives</p>
14:45 – 15:15	Coffee Break
15:15 – 16:15	<p>Session Four: BFI Panel – Collections Care: Systems Included</p> <p><i>Chair: TBD</i></p> <p>Details to be confirmed</p>
16:15 – 17:20	<p>Session Five: Evolving Practices of Help in Museums</p> <p><i>Chair: TBD</i></p> <p>Elizabeth Elbourne (McGill University) – The display of San hunters in imperial Britain and the circulation of body casts: Complicating help</p> <p>Steven Hooper (Sainsbury Research Unit, UEA) – Helping Museum Ethnographers: preservation, guardianship and its challenges.</p> <p>Haidamteu Zeme (Indian Institute of Technology Delhi) – Museum Geographies: The Language of Archives in Producing People, Places, and Pauses through the Practice of Photography in Colonial Archives. (Work in Progress)</p> <p>Monica Janowski (University of Hull) – Bringing the Hull University SE Asia Museum back to life: the role of volunteers. (Work in Progress)</p>

17:30 – 18:30	Drinks Reception (1 hour)
18:30 – 20:30	Dinner (2 hours – Optional Extra £35)

DAY 2:

9:00 – 10:30	<p>Session Six: Help and Care for Staff, Visitors & Community</p> <p><i>Chair: Alba Ferrandiz-Gaudens</i></p> <p>Cornelia Thompson (University College London) – Healing and harm: what constitutes care in medical museums?</p> <p>Laurence Maidment-Blundell (University College London) – To safeguard or to stymie? How can volunteers be supported to communicate colonial and decolonial histories?</p> <p>Lisa Graves (Bristol Museums) – Taking time to make time, taking care to take care: evolution of the Colston Statue</p> <p>Zoe Cormack and Vikki Hawkins (British Museum) – From Conflict to Care: Reframing Stories of Displacement through Collaborative practice</p> <p>John Giblin (National Museums Scotland) – Reveal and Connect: Reviewing African and Caribbean Collections, Supporting Colleagues and Communities</p>
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 – 12:30	MEG AGM
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
16:15 – 17:20	<p>Session Seven: Panel discussion: Collections Moves as Collective Practice – Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Cambridge</p> <p><i>Chair: TBD</i></p> <p>Panellists (tentative):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mark Elliot - Lucie Carreau - Kirsty Kernohan

14:30 – 15:00	Coffee Break
15:00 – 16:00	<p>Film</p> <p><i>Gónô Tmutul: Building a House of Stories</i>, presented by Jovi and Cristina Juan. The film follows an Englishwoman, Billie Riley, on her journey to repatriate her collection of objects to the Tboli people of Lake Sebu, Philippines, 45 years after living with them</p>
16:00 – 17:00	<p>Session Eight: Innovative and Creative Practice</p> <p><i>Chair: TBD</i></p> <p>Gabriel Olubenga Matesun (University of Ibadan, Nigeria) – Unveiling the History and Tradition in a Digital Space.</p> <p>Alejandra Linares-Figueruelo (Universitat de Barcelona) – Ticket to Ride: Navigating Global-Local narratives in Satellite Museums.</p> <p>Francisco R. Carrasco (Luma Creations) – Searching for Footprints in the Reticent Sand: Embracing creative practice as a living and breathing strategy in museums.</p>
17:00	Closing Remarks