



Jewish Museum Berlin

EBERHARD KARLS
UNIVERSITÄT
TÜBINGEN



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO

9 - 11 MAY 2019

Museums, Religion, and the Work of Reconciliation & Remembrance

A Religion & Public Memory (RPM) Workshop at the Jewish Museum Berlin

WORKSHOP

Many different kinds of museums do the challenging work of narrating religion, including large public museums such as the Canadian Museum of History, public thematic museums such as the Jewish Museum Berlin, and museums run by religious organizations, such as the Vatican Museum.

As caretakers (and owners) of objects held to have spiritual power among their communities of origin and as storytellers of contested narratives of nations and peoples, museums cannot avoid their responsibility to reflect on questions of reconciliation and remembrance. Increasingly, this includes acknowledging the colonial and sometimes violent provenance of many of the objects in the care and keeping of museums, as in movements to repatriate artifacts of Indigenous peoples of North America, or the ongoing public debates about the Humboldt Forum in Berlin. For those museums that tell stories of violence and injustice, such as museums whose mission includes remembering the Holocaust, sites for reflection are just as important as sites of display.

In a time of increased calls for the repatriation of objects acquired through colonial networks and the restorying of national histories of exclusion and violence, our workshop focuses on how categories of religion and spirituality have become significant for new kinds of relationships between museums, objects, and communities. Taking a critical approach to discourses of public memory and reconciliation (e.g. as in the context of truth and reconciliation commissions), we ask how arguments about the spiritual claims of museum objects can help us to better understand the politics and possibilities of what Ruth Phillips calls the "second museum age."

Featuring a public panel on Thursday evening and a two-day workshop bringing together curators with junior and senior scholars from Europe, Canada, and the United States, the event will galvanize a conversation across theoretical, curatorial, and historical perspectives.

LOCATIONS — **Thursday, May 9 2019**
W. Michael Blumenthal Academy of
the Jewish Museum Berlin, Auditorium
Fromet-und-Moses-Mendelssohn-Platz 1,
10969 Berlin (opposite the museum)

— **Friday, May 10 &
Saturday, May 11 2019**
Jewish Museum Berlin, Auditorium
Lindenstraße 9-14, 10969 Berlin

REGISTRATION — www.jmberlin.de/museen-und-religion

COSTS — free of charge



PROGRAM · MAY 9–11 2019

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THURSDAY — MAY 9

W. M. Blumenthal Academy · Auditorium

18.30 Welcome

Inka Bertz
Jewish Museum Berlin
Pamela Klassen
University of Toronto
Monique Scheer
University of Tübingen

19.00 Keynotes

Yahguudangang - To Pay Respect

Jisgang Nika Collison
Haida Gwaii Museum, Kay LInagaay

Signification and the Liquid Museum:

The Jewish and the Ethnographic
Léontine Meijer-van Mensch
Museums of Ethnology in Leipzig,
Dresden and Herrnhut

MODERATED BY Sharon Macdonald
CARMAH, Humboldt University Berlin

21.00 Reception with finger food and drinks

FRIDAY — MAY 10

Jewish Museum Berlin · Auditorium (ground floor)

9.00 CONSERVATION AND SPIRITUAL CARE

We Are NOT All Treaty People YET: Renewing Treaty Relationships at the Manitoba Museum

Maureen Matthews
Manitoba Museum, Winnipeg

Digitizing What Is Valued:

How Do We Care For, Protect, and Respect the Digital Data of Repatriated Belongings?

Hannah Turner
University of Leicester

Indigenous Knowledge Conservation and Spiritual Care as Nation-Building at //hapo Museum, Freedom Park, Pretoria

Duane Jethro
CARMAH, Humboldt University Berlin

10.30 Coffee Break

FRIDAY — MAY 10 (CONT.)

10.45 PROVENANCE AND ANCESTORS

Sins of the Ancestors. Collection, Provenance, Repatriation of African Objects

Cécile Fromont
Yale University

Provenance Hiccups and the Definition of Jewish Objects

Michal Friedlander
Jewish Museum Berlin

The Colonizing Properties of Property and the Transformation of Indigenous Cultural Heritage

Robin Gray
University of Toronto

12.15 Lunch

13.45 DISPLAY AND DEVOTION

Exhibiting Islam or Exhibiting the Arts of Muslims? Collection Display and Reception at the Aga Khan Museum

Ruba Kana'an
University of Toronto

Native and Wandering Jews

Yaniv Feller
Wesleyan University

Visiting with the Ancestors:

The Indigenization of Museums as Ritual Spaces

Laura Peers
Trent University

15.15 Coffee Break



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FRIDAY — MAY 10 (CONT.)

15.45 ACQUIRING AND RELINQUISHING

**A Bible and a Whip:
Complexities of Restitution Negotiations**
Inés de Castro
Linden Museum, Stuttgart

**Scarcity, Dispossession and Salvage: The Work of
a Reconciliation Quilt to Think These with Care**
Cara Krmpotich
University of Toronto

**Respecting the Dead in Museum Collections -
Negotiating Conflicts with Artistic Research**
Tal Adler & Anna Szöke
CARMAH, Humboldt University Berlin

SATURDAY — MAY 11

Jewish Museum Berlin · Auditorium (ground floor)

9.30 Optional Tour of the Jewish Museum Berlin with
Miriam Goldmann, Jewish Museum Berlin

11.00 Coffee Break

11.15 CURATION AND STORIES

**Curating Echoes:
Collecting the Past to Tell Stories for the Future**
Peter Manseau
The Smithsonian National Museum
of American History, Washington DC

Mrs. Rockefeller's Exquisite Corpse
Courtney Bender
Columbia University

**Curating Relationships - Working with Muslim
Youth in the Museum for Islamic Art in Berlin**
Christine Gerbich
CARMAH, Humboldt University Berlin

12.45 Lunch

SATURDAY — MAY 11 (CONT.)

14.15 OBJECTS AND STORIES

**Thresholds of Sacrality: Contexts for
Exhibiting Items of Anishinaabe Significance**
Alan Corbiere
Carleton University

**(Dis-)Enchanting Objects:
How Curators Attribute Values to Things**
Thomas Thiemeyer
University of Tübingen

**Naming in Collections: Scratching Woman,
Bogoraz, and the Jesup Collection**
Marisa Karyl Franz
University of Toronto

15.45 Coffee Break

16.15 BELONGING AND DIFFERENCE

**On the Question of (not) Showing. Spirituality as
a Category of Knowledge in the Humboldt Forum**
Friedrich von Bose
Humboldt University Berlin

**Who Belongs?
Legal and Cultural Barriers to Equal Membership**
Ayelet Shachar
Max Planck Institute, Göttingen

**Multidirectional Heritage in Museums: On
Post-Holocaust, Post-Colonial and Post-Socialist**
Alina Gromova
Jewish Museum Berlin

17.45 Next Steps Planning

SUNDAY — MAY 12

9.00 Optional Museum Tour (not in JMB)