**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 (SRU)

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Thursday 25 April 2024

**Thomas Paine Study Centre (TPSC)**

09.00 – 09.45 Registration (TPSC foyer – tea/coffee available)

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

10.00 – 11.00 **Session 1:** **Community 1** **– Chair: Karen Jacobs (SRU)**

***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** – **Chair: Amy Shakespeare (MEG repatriation officer)**

***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). *Please note that this presentation will be filmed.*

***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, Director)

**Julian Study Centre (JSC)**

15.15 – 16.15 **Session 3: Knowledge Exchange 1 – Chair: Chris Wingfield (SRU)**

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

***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)

***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** **– Chair: Taf Makwabarara (Sainsbury Centre)**

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

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

18.00 – 19.00 Drinks reception (Sainsbury Centre Terrace)

19.00 – 21.30 Dinner (Sainsbury Centre Modern Life Café)

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Friday 26 April 2024

**Julian Study Centre (JSC)**

09.30 – 10.30 **Session 5:** **Community 2** **– Chair: Jago Cooper (Sainsbury Centre)**

***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** **– Chair: Steven Hooper (SRU)**

***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 – Chair: Alison Clark (JME editor/National Museums Scotland)**

***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** **– Chair: Meghan Backhouse (MEG chair/National Museums Liverpool)**

***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**