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](http://www.jmberlin.de/museen-und-religion)

**COSTS** — free of charge
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 Llnagaay
  Signification and the Liquid Museum: The Jewish and the Ethnografic
  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

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
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

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