



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

**COSTS** — free of charge



## PROGRAM · MAY 9–11 2019

# Museums, Religion, and the Work of Reconciliation and Remembrance

### 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)