(1) Working Through Colonial Pasts, Opening Postcolonial Spaces
Chair: Anna Brus (Siegen) / Martin Zillinger (Cologne)
Mary Mbewe (Cape Town): Moto Moto Museum Chisungu Collection: Colonial and Post-Colonial Encounters
Erica Jones (Los Angeles): Community Museums in the Grassfields: Palace Histories, Foreign Visitors, and Local Responses
Ndzodo Awono (Bremen/Hamburg): Museum and Colonialism. Provenance and Interpretations of the Cameroon-Collection in the Übersee-Museum Bremen
Lucia Halder (Cologne) / Antje van Wichelen (Brussels): NOISY IMAGES – Attempts to Colonial Imagery
Richard Tsogang Fossi (Hamburg): Eugen Zintgraff’s Encounter with Art Treasures of the Forest and Grasland People of Cameroon
Discussants: Stefanie Michels (Hamburg) / Ciraj Rassool (Cape Town)
(2) New Ventures into Restitution, Exchange and Cooperation
Chair: Michi Knecht (Bremen) / Nanette Snoep (Cologne)
Kiran Kumar (Hamburg): Archipelago Archives Exhibit
Wandile Goozen Kasibe (Cape Town): Investigating the Colonial Crime Scene
Philip Schorsch (Munich): Collaborative Ethnography in the Doing
Paul Tichmann (Cape Town): Challenges of Rewriting the Khomani San/Bushman Archive at Iziko Museums
Mnyaka Sururu Mboro (Berlin): They want to mock us, don’t they? - six years of campaigning against the Humboldt Forum
Sabrina Moura (São Paulo): “We are Tupinambá and Want the Cloak Back!” Restitution Claims and the Place of Indigenous Art in the Brazilian Art Canon
Discussants: Katharina Schramm (Bayreuth)
(3) Politics, Infrastructures, and Publics of Future Collaborations
Chair: Michi Knecht (Bremen) / Nanette Snoep (Cologne)
Kiran Kumar (Hamburg): Archipelago Archives Exhibit
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Discussants: Katharina Schramm (Bayreuth)

Goodman Gwasira (Windhoek): Confronting a Past that Hurts. Ethnographic Collections in the Owela Museum, Windhoek, Namibia
Yann Le Gall (Potsdam): Remembering the Dismembered: A (Web)Site of Memory for Colonial Violence
Oliver Lueth (Cologne): The Absence of Community-Members – Challenges in Working with Spatio-Temporally (too) Far Away Collections
Gabriel Schimmerroth (Hamburg/Berlin): Five Months Zwischenraum – A Space Between
Discussants: David Anderson (Warwick) / E. H. Malick Ndiaye (Dakar)

The growing public awareness of colonial violence and historical injustice has put ethnographic collections into the spotlight of social and political debates. Museums are increasingly confronted with the challenge to decolonize their exhibition practices and examine their collection history for looted art, colonial entanglements, and systematic exclusions. The recent initiative of French President Macron to explore the modalities for restituting African objects from French collections has opened a new chapter in the debate on restitution and repatriation. While its actual implementation remains to be seen, the report by Felwine Sarr and Bénédicte Savoy has set a world-wide agenda for decolonizing museum collections and academic research in the coming years.

In order to envision alternative futures for these collections and new forms of co-operation, this conference brings together activists, curators, experts, young researchers and scholars from around the world. Over three days we will re-visit museum collections and the debates and practices that have evolved around them, discuss ongoing work in the longue durée of colonial and postcolonial encounters and bring views from the Global North and South into intensive dialogue.

Convenors: Anna Brus, Larissa Förster, Michi Knecht, Ulrike Lindner, Nanette Snoep, Martin Zillinger
Registration is requested
Contact: Leonie van Dreuten, ldreuten@uni-koeln.de

The Museum Collections in Motion Conference 2019 is organized by University of Cologne, Bremen University and Rautenstrauch-Joest-Museum Cologne in cooperation with boasblogs.org and the Museum Collections in Motion Circle.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE JULY 15-17, 2019
Venue: Rautenstrauch-Joest-Museum Cologne

A cooperation of University of Cologne, Bremen University, the Rautenstrauch-Joest-Museum Cologne and http://boasblogs.org/
Monday, July 15

9:00 Opening of Registration

09:30-10:00 Introduction by the Organizers

10:00-12:00 Panel: Looting, Trading, Brokering, Collecting, Locating Agency and Desires

Chair: Ulrike Lindner (Cologne)

Speakers: Rebekka Habermas (Göttingen), Nicholas Thomas (Cambridge), Peter Pels (Leiden)

Discussant: David Anderson (Warwick)

Lunch Break

13:30-15:30 Panel: Transforming Objects. Rethinking Things and Humans at and between Different Locales

Chair: Martin Zillinger (Cologne)

Speakers: Erhard Schüttpelz (Siegen), Paola Ivanov (Berlin), Bernard Müller (Paris)

Discussant: Helen Verran (Australia’s Northern Territories)

16:00-17:00 Opening Keynote: Zoë S. Strother (New York): Listening

17:30-20:30 Breakout-Sessions: Departures (For registered participants only)

(1) Tracing Colonial Pasts, Opening Postcolonial Spaces
(2) New Ventures into Restitution, Exchange and Cooperation
(3) Politics, Infrastructures, and Publics of Future Collaborations (participants see below)

Optional: Refreshments & Snacks

Tuesday, July 16

10:00-12:00 Panel: Conflicts, Controversies and Iconoclasms: Contested Objects

Chair: Anna Brus (Siegen)

Speakers: Regina Höfer (Berlin), Bettina Brockmeyer (Erlangen) / Holger Stoecker (Berlin), Tobias Wendt (Berlin)

Discussant: Cinja Rassool (Cape Town)

Lunch Break

13:00-13:30 Optional: Guided Tour NOISY IMAGES (Lucia Halder), 1st floor


Chair: Aurora Rodanó (Cologne)

Speakers: E.H. Malick Ndiaye (Dakar), Felix Sattler (Berlin), Nelson Abiti (Kampala)

Discussant: Nanette Snoep (Cologne)

16:00-18:00 Open Forum: On the Ethics and Politics of Return and New Forms of Cooperation

Chair: Michi Kracht (Bremen)

Speakers: Amber Aranui (Wellington), Thomas Lasty Giusch / Nelson Abiti (Kampala), Julius Binter (Berlin) / Cynthia Schimming (Windhoek)

Discussant: Verena Radatus (Berlin)


20:00 Conference Dinner

Wednesday, July 17

09:30-10:30 Morning Keynote: Helen Verran (Australia’s Northern Territory): The Polity and the Ethnographic Museum: Where’s the Rub?

Moderation: Souad Zeineddine (Cologne/Johannesburg)

10:45-12:45 Panel: Redressing Historical Injustices: Museums and the Challenges of Past and Present Laws and Ethics

Chair: Jonas Bens (Berlin)

Speakers: Folarin Shyllon (Ibadan), Alexandra Klemmer (Heidelberg/Berlin), Larissa Förster (Berlin)

Discussant: Fatima Kastner (Cologne)

14:00-15:30 PANEL DISCUSSION: Locating the Museum – Colonial Collections and their Publics

With: Patrick Bahners (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung), Christian Kopp (Berlin Postkolonial), Bebero Lehmann (Black History Month Cologne), Nanette Snoep (Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum, Cologne)

Moderation: Mohamed Amjahid (DIE ZEIT)