



Works of modern art, archaeological or ethnographic artefacts and human remains generally occupy separate realms in the museum world.

Yet, the growing discourse surrounding claims on certain objects made to museums by former owners or communities of origin unite them in one very specific category. Their status appears unsettled as they are caught between conflicting desires and points of view. By bringing together speakers dealing with case studies related to different types of museums and collections, in Europe, Africa, Australia and Canada this conference aims to facilitate a transdisciplinary engagement with the issue of returns (a term that encompasses here both restitution and repatriation questions).

Location

Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz – Max-Planck-Institut
Palazzo Giffoni Budini Gattai
Via dei Servi 51, 50122 Florence

This event is supported by the "Museums and Controversial Collections. Politics and Policies of Heritage-Making in post-colonial and post-socialist Contexts" project of the Romanian National Authority for Scientific Research and Innovation, CNCS – UEFISCDI, PN-II-RU-TE-2014-4-2368

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Bucharest

Lecturer in Political Anthropology at the University of

Damiana Otoiu

"Objects in the Contact Zone – The Cross-Cultural Lives of Things" at the Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz

Postdoctoral fellow of the Max Planck Research Group of

Felicity Bodenstern

Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz

Director of the Max Planck Research Group "Objects in the Contact Zone – The Cross-Cultural Lives of Things" at the

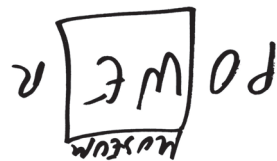
Eva-Maria Troelsenberg

CONVENORS

International Conference **21 - 22 October 2016**

WHAT DO CONTENTIOUS OBJECTS WANT?

POLITICAL, EPISTEMIC AND ARTISTIC CULTURES OF RETURN



Max-Planck-Institut



9:30 **Eva-Maria Troelenberg, Damiana Otoiu & Felicity Bodenstein**
Introduction

BIOGRAPHIES AND OBJECTS

Chair: [Costanza Caraffa](#)

10:00 **Fabrizio Federici** (Rome)
Baroque restitutions: the donations and re-uses of Francesco Gualdi

10:30 **Ewa Manikowska** (Warsaw)
Entangled identities. The recovery of eastern European photographic collections

11:00 Coffee Break

11:30 **Ulrike Saß** (Hamburg)
Saving lives with artworks. Do objects really want their stories to be told?

12:30 - 14:00 Lunch Break

THE SUBJECT OF RETURN: BETWEEN OBJECTS AND BODIES

Chair: [Annie Coombes](#)

14:00 **Noémie Étienne** (Bern)
Life-casts, relics, and human remains. The return of museum tools

14:30 **Christopher Sommer** (Wellington)
Of phrenology, reconciliation and veneration – An object biography of the life cast of Maori chief Tangatahara

15:00 **Larissa Förster** (Berlin)
The long way home. On the biography of returned objects/subjects

15:30 Coffee Break

16:00 **Cressida Fforde** (Canberra)
Major Sumner (Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority)
Ancestors or artefacts: contention in the definition, retention and return of Ngarrindjeri Old People.

16:30 **Damiana Otoiu** (Bucharest)
“Can biological history be determined?” South African museums in the “new” era of genomics

Keynote

17:30 **Bénédicte Savoy** (Berlin)
Le droit des objets

RETURN AND AFTERLIVES OF OBJECTS

Chair: [Anna Seiderer](#)

10:00 **Christoph Frank** (Mendrisio)
Genocide, capitalization and amnesia: an eighteenth-century French sculpture and its unexpected return to life

10:30 **Jenny Graham** (Plymouth)
The Ghent altarpiece and the Second World War: restitution and restoration as cultural patrimony

11:00 **Eugenia Kisin** (New York)
Resources and returns: totem pole afterlives in the anthropocene

11:30 Coffee Break

12:00 **Ruth E. Iskin** (Jerusalem)
The other Nefertiti: symbolic restitution in contemporary art

12:30 - 14:00 Lunch Break

14:00 **Lucas Lixinski** (Sydney)
Colonial and post-colonial discourses in the restitution of the Axum Stele (Ethiopia)

OBJECTS IN INTERMEDIATE “STATES”

Chair: [Christian Fuhrmeister](#)

14:30 **Elena Franchi** (Vicence)
Contentious and missing objects: the Landau-Finaly Collection in Florence and the EGELI Archives

15:00 **Andrzej Jakubowski** (Warsaw)
Failed states, de facto regimes and the return of cultural objects: the role of safe havens

15:30 Coffee Break

16:00 **Erin Thompson** (New York)
Return to the scene of the crime: what does the future hold for looted antiquities from Syria and Iraq?

Keynote

16:30 **Laurajane Smith** (Canberra)
Objects, agency and power: the pragmatic politics of heritage

Concluding discussion