Exhibiting the Past: Museums, Collections and Heritage (AHAN7030)

2019-20



What to do with museum objects?

(Beijing Union University Museum, China – images from our 2019 Archaeology and Heritage Field School)

Updated due to Corona Virus changes on 24/03/2020

UWTSD, Faculty of Humanities and Performing Arts



(Using virtual reality)

PRIFYSGOL CYMRU
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
UNIVERSITY OF WALES
Trinity Saint David

AHAN7030, 2019/20, Dr Katharina Zinn

This module will incorporate lectures, guided reading and practical sessions.

Lecturer: Dr. Katharina Zinn

Credits: 20

AIM(S)

This course aims to make students acquainted with museums in the UK and also where possible, world-wide, to let them understand organisational structures within museums, museums and their audiences as well as their outside connections within the heritage sector, and to acquaint them with the issues and techniques associated with museum tasks. To achieve this, the students will research the history of collecting since ancient times. The module also gives an insight into the necessary practical knowledge and skills how to plan exhibitions.

Museums have occupied more complex roles in their communities. Therefore, effective museum planning is more important than ever. The course is largely based around the Museums operations in the UK and especially in Wales, but is based on the experiences of the teaching staff worldwide.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this module students should be able to:

- understand the wider and constantly changing framework within which museums exist in terms of government policy and the cultural and leisure sectors
- get aquatinted theoretically and practically with museums within the cultural sector but influenced by economical decisions
- detect possible audiences and is aware of tailored museum's work
- understand issues of managing as essential factor to running museums within the wider areas of culture and leisure
- provide an overview of key theories and models than underpin contemporary museum practice
- gained first experiences in curating

Syllabus: I expect you to have read the literature from the textbooks **prior** to each session!!!!

Date of sessions	Topic	Readings
Sess 1 **Thu 13/02**	Introduction to the course – aims and topics	
	What are museums?: Introduction to Museum Studies / Museology	Macdonald: Companion, h. 1-3, 26 Ambrose/Paine: Museum's Basics Alexander: Museums in Motion, ch. 1, 7-13 Hooper-Greenhill: Museums Knowledge, ch 1, 7 Prösler: Museums and Globalization (Macdonald/Fyfe, ch. 1) Kavanagh: Museum provision, esp. ch. 1+2 Vergo: New Museology, ch. 1
Sess 2	Fieldtrip to the **Petrie Museum, London**	Assess the museums according the "Guidelines for Critical Review of a Museum Exhibition" (see MOODLE)

Mon 17/02		(Alternatively, you can organize your own museum visit)
Sess 3 19/02	Museums and Cultural Memory	Urry: How societies remember the past (Macdonald/Fyfe, ch. 2) Smith: Heritage, ch. 2
	Heritage and museum OR the museum as heritage	Macdonald: Companion, ch. 13 Benton: Museums practice and heritage (West, ch.4) Pailos (et.al.): Heritage values (West, ch.2) Dicks: Encoding and Decoding the People CyMAL Museums Archives and Libraries Wales. *A Museums Strategy for Wales* Bennett: Pasts beyond Memory 36-63, 81-84 Walsh: Representation. 116-148. Zolberg: Museums as contested sites of remembrance (Macdonald/Fyfe, ch. 3)
Sess 4 26/02	History of collecting and museums	Macdonald: Companion, ch. 8 Bennett: Birth of Museum. 17-58. Arnold: Cabinets Alexander: Museums in Motion, ch. 2-6. Lewis: History of Museums Matthews: Collectors and why they collect
Sess 5 04/03	**Museums, communication and identity**: Networks, Agents and Objects	Macdonald: Companion, part IV Byrne (et.al.): Networks, Agents and Objects (Byrne: Unpacking the Collection, ch. 1) Bennett: Civic laboratories Museums, nations, identities Conn: Do museums, chapter 1,5 + 6 Day; Wagner: Objects as tools for talk (Nevile, et.al.: Interacting with objects, 101-124) Kavanagh: Museum provision, esp. ch. 33 Harrison: Heritage as social action (West, ch.7) Hooper-Greenhill: Museum, media, message, ch. 1 + 11 Hooper-Greenhill: Museums and their visitors, ch. 2,3+9 Smith: Heritage, ch. 5
Sess 6 11/03	Writing Object biographies Forum task: choose one object and prepare a 250 word object biography – discuss with your peers	Kavanagh: Making histories, making memories (Kavanagh: Making histories, ch. 1) Moser: Reconstructing Rose; Tolia-Kelly: Visuality/Materiality (Rose; Tolia-Kelly: Visuality/ materiality, ch. 1) Nevile, et.al.: On the interactional ecology of objects (Nevile, et.al.: Interacting with objects, 3-26)
Sess 7 18/03	Museum, display, design, knowledge? Preparation towards the workshop on curating an exhibition	Moser: The devil is in detail Hooper-Greenhill: Museums and the shaping of knowledge. Chapter 8: A useful past for the present

	Forum task: upload the prepared discussion papers (critical review of the seen exhibitions)	Classen/Howes: Museum as Sensescape (Edwards, ch. 7) ➔ Discussions of the exhibitions seen: choose one exhibition seen during the field trips and compare with the student exhibition in the library – discuss with your peers
	Museum and archaeology: concepts and problems	Moser: Representing Archaeological knowledge in Museums Brodie: Illicit antiquities: the theft of culture (Corsane, ch. 10)
Sess 8 25/03	Curating of an exhibition: Exhibition design in relation to visitor management **Literature discussion and workshop** (preparing your portfolio assessment) Forum task: upload the first draft of the exhibition plan – we will discuss in class	Dean: Museum exhibition Stone: Presenting the Past (Corsane, ch. 17) Ambrose: Museums Basics, Units 29-34 Ambrose/Paine: Museum's Basics Kalfatovic: Creating Macdonald: Companion, part III
Sess 9 01/04	Case studies on aspects of heritage in museums Prepare one of the following: 1. Turn your museum digital 2. Heritage Crime: The problems of fakes in Museums 3. Whose heritage – museums and identities 4. Case Study: The Egyptian collection of the British Museum Forum task: **Upload** either a short discussion paper for others in the forum or – even better – record a little talk of yours on the phone and upload to this week's Forum	1. Discussion of the project **World Archaeology at the Pitt Rivers Museum: a characterization**: http://www.prm.ox.ac.uk/world.html 2. Macdonald: Companion, ch.26 http://www.ipl.org/div/kelsey/ http://www.antiquitiesonline.co.uk/Fake-Egyptian-antiquities_AWL7V.aspx http://www.thefakebusters.com/ http://www.thecollectionmuseum.com/?/blog/view/heritage-crime-exhibition-fakes-and-forgeries-quiz Brodie: Illicit antiquities: the theft of culture (Corsane, ch. 10) New: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amarna_Princess 3. Cuno: Whose 4. Moser: Wondrous Curiosities, chapters 2,4 and 5
Sess 10 08/04	Summary: Museums between past and future: a future for museums? AND Discuss your nearly finished portfolio with the class and receive formative feedback	http://www.guardian.co.uk/culture-professionals-network/culture-professionals-blog/2012/may/17/museum-development-future-debate http://www.aam-us.org/resources/center-for-the-future-of-museums http://www.museum-id.com/idea-detail.asp?id=283 Macdonald: Companion, ch.33 Kavanagh: Museum provision, esp. ch. 7+8
~~22/04~~	Submission of Portfolio ➔ **NEW deadline 06/05/2020**	
~~08/05~~	Submission of Essay ➔ **NEW deadline 22/05/2020**	

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Textbook:

Macdonald, S. 2011. *A Companion to Museums Studies.* Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell.

Readings:

Alberti, S.J.M.M. 2005. Objects and the Museum. In: Isis 96(2005)4. pp. 559-571.

Alexander, E.P. 1996. *Museums in Motion: An Introduction to the History and Functions of Museums.* Walnut Creek: Altamira Pr.

Ambrose, T.; Paine, C. 2006. *Museum Basics*. 2nd ed.

Arnold, K. 2006. *Cabinets for the curious: looking back at early English museums*. Aldershot,: Ashgate.

Bennett, T. 1995. The birth of the museum: history, theory, politics

Bennett, T. 2004. *Pasts Beyond Memory: Evolution, Museums, Colonialism*. London: Routledge.

Bennett, T. 2005. *Civic laboratories: museums, cultural objecthood, and the governance of the social*. CRESC Working Paper Series, Working Paper 2. Milton Keens: Open University

Boswell, D.; Evans, J. (eds.) 1999. *Representing the Nation: A Reader – Histories, heritage and museums.* London: Routledge.

Boylan, P.J. 1992. *Museum 2000: politics, people, professionals and profit.* London: Routledge.

Byrne, S. (ed. et.al.). 2011.*Unpacking the Collection: Networks of Material and Social Agency in the Museum.* New York: Springer.

Carbonell, B.M 2004. *Museum studies: an anthology of contexts*. Malden, MA: Blackwell.

Classen, C.; Howes, D. 2006. The Museum as Sensescape: Western Sensibilities and Indigenous Artifacts. In: Edwards, E.; Gosden, C.; Phillips, R. (Eds.) (2006). *Sensible objects: colonialism, museums and material culture.* Oxford: Berg. pp. 199-222. Available online via http://www.david-howes.com/senses/WebClassenTheMuseumasSensescape.pdf [accessed 13/02/2013].

Conn, S. 2010. Do museums still need objects? Philadelphia: Univ. of Pennsylvania Pr.

Corsane, G. 2005. *Heritage, Museums and Galleries: an introductory reader*. London: Routledge.

Crooke, E. 2007. *Museums and community: Ideas, issues and challenges*. London: Routledge.

Cuno, J. 2008. *Who owns antiquity? Museums and the battle over our ancient heritage.* Princeton: Princeton Univ. Pr.

Cuno, J. (ed.). 2009. *Whose culture? The promise of museums and the debate over antiquities.* Princeton: Princeton Univ. Pr.

CyMAL Museums Archives and Libraries Wales. *A Museums Strategy for Wales*. 2010. Available online: http://wales.gov.uk/docs/drah/publications/100615museumstrategyen.pdf

Dean, D. 1994. *Museum exhibition: Theory and practice.* London: Routledge.

Dibley, B. 2005. The museum's redemption. In: *International Journal of Cultural Studies* 1(2005). pp. 5-27. Available online via Lampeter WorldCat.

Dicks, B. 2000. Encoding and Decoding the People : Circuits of Communication at a Local Heritage Museum. In: *European Journal of Communication* 15(2000)1. 15-61

Edwards, E.; Gosden, C.; Phillips, R. (Eds.) 2006. *Sensible objects: colonialism, museums and material culture.* Oxford: Berg.

Fromm, A.B (et.al.). 2014. *Museums and Truth.* Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publ.

Genoways, H.H. 2008. *Museums Origins: Readings in Early Museum History and Philosophy.* Walnut Creek, Cal.: Left Coast Pr.

Genoways, H.H.; Ireland, Lynne M. 2005. Museum Administration: An introduction. Walnut Greek: Altamira Pr.

Gray, C. 2011. Museums, Galleries, Politics and Management. In: *Public Policy and Administration* 26(2011)1. pp. 45-61. Available online via Lampeter WorldCat.

Hein, H.S. 2000. *The Museum in Transition: a philosophical perspective.* Washington D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Pr.

Henning, M. 2006. *Museums, media and cultural theory.* Maidenhead: Open Univ. Pr.

Hooper-Greenhill, E. 1992. *Museums and the Shaping of Knowledge*. London: Routledge.

Hooper-Greenhill, E. 1994. *Museums and their visitors.* London: Routledge.

Hooper-Greenhill, E. 1999. *Museum, media, message*. London: Routledge.

Hooper-Greenhill, E. 1999. *The educational role of the museum*. London: Routledge.

Hooper-Greenhill, E. 2007. *Museum and education: Purpose, pedagogy, performance*. London: Routledge.

Kalfatovic, M.R. 2002. *Creating a Winning Online Exhibition: A Guide for Libraries, Archives, and Museums.* Chicago: American Library Association.

Kavanagh, G. (ed.). 1994. *Museum Provision and Professionalism*. London: Routledge.

Kavanagh, G. 1996. *Making histories in museums.* London: Leicester Univ. Pr.

Lumley, R.1988: *The Museum time-machine : putting cultures on display*. London: Routledge.

Macdonald, S.; Fyfe, G. (eds.) 1996. *Theorizing Museums: Representing identity and diversity in a changing world.* Oxford: Blackwell.

Matthews, R. 2009. Collectors and why they collect: Isabella Stewart Gardner and her museum of art. In: *Journal of the History of Collections* vol. 21(2009)2. pp. 183-189. → Available online via UWTSD subscription of http://jhc.oxfordjournals.org/

Meskell, L. 2004. *Object Worlds in Ancient Egypt: Material Biographies Past and Present.* Oxford: Berg.

Moser, S. 2003. Representing archaeological knowledge in museums: exhibiting human origins and strategies for change. In: *Public Archaeology* 3(2003). pp. 3-20.

Moser, S. 2006. *Wondrous Curiosities: Ancient Egypt at the British Museum.* Chicago: The University of Chicago Pr.

Moser, S. 2010. The devil is in the detail: Museum: Displays and the Creation of Knowledge. In: *Museum Anthropology* 33(2010)1, pp. 22–32.

Moser, S. 2014. Reconstructing Ancient Worlds: Reception Studies, Archaeological Representation and the Interpretation of Ancient Egypt. In: *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory* 21(2014)4. 1-46. → DOI10.1007/s10816-014-9221-z

Nevile, M.; Haddington, P.; Heinemann, T.; Rauniomaa, M. (eds.). 2014. *Interacting with Objects: Language, materiality, and social activity*. Amsterdam: Benjamins.

Pearce, S. M. 1990. *Objects of knowledge*. London: Athlone Pr.

Pearce, S. M. 1995. *Art in museums*. London: Athlone Pr.

Pearce, S. M. 1991. *Museum economics and the community*. London: Athlone Pr.

Rose, G.; Tolia-Kelly, D.P. (eds). 2012. *Visuality/ materiality: images, objects and practices.* Farnham: Ashgate.

Smith, L; Waterton, E. (2009). *Heritage, Communities and Archaeology*. Bristol: Bristol Classical Pr.

Stone, P.G.; Molyneaux, B.L. (1994). *The presented past: heritage, museums and education.* London: Routledge.

Vergo, P. (ed.) 1989. *The new museology.* London: Reaktion Books.

Walsh, K. (2002/1992). *The Representation of the Past: Museums and heritage in the post-modern world. London:* Routledge.

West, S. (2010). *Understanding Heritage in Practice*. Manchester: Manchester Univ. Pr.

World Archaeology at the Pitt Rivers Museum: a characterization. Available online: [accessed 14/02/13] http://www.prm.ox.ac.uk/world.html

ASSESSMENT

Coursework (100%)

1. Portfolio --> to be submitted Monday, ~~**22nd April 2020**~~ **new deadline due to Corona 06/05/2020@ 23:59pm**

    1. Written report (1500 words) --> here, the Guidelines for a critical evaluation/review of ONE of any museum exhibition you have seen during the last 6 months

        The easiest way is to join us on the fieldtrip to Oxford (Ashmolean Museum / Pitt Rivers Museum) on 14/02/2019. Distance students: You can choose any museum you like.

    2. Develop a plan for a small exhibition (special exhibition or addition to permanent collection) for your chosen museum (either one you are familiar with, working in or chosen from one of the large/small museums worldwide – this will influence the character of your portfolio).

        a. Proposal about a planned exhibition (750 words) - The plan should include facts like / decisions on reason/purpose and size of exhibition, venue, budget, set up, design (including catalogue, labels, colour design, cases etc.) --> here you should follow Ambrose/Paine: Museum Basics; Dean: Museum Exhibition; McDonald: A companion to Museum Studies (other theoretical literature could be included as well).

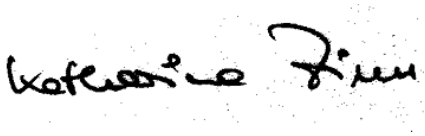
        b. Poster about the planned exhibition (worth 750 words) - This poster could either be directed to funding bodies or potential visitors, which will determine the

character of the poster. (Poster could be designed in any programme, but should be submitted as a PDF.)

2. Essay: 2,500 word (40% of overall module mark) due for submission Friday, ~~**8th May 20**~~ **new deadline due to Corona 22/05/2020@ 23:59pm**

Choose **ONE** out of the following 2 questions:

- Are museums institutions of cultural and collective memory? Discuss if this assumption would be correct or not. How did this idea change over time?
- The work of a heritage professional is happening in varied networks. Taking this as premise, critically discuss communication theories and their application as a central part of the daily work in museums.



Dr Katharina Zinn