

Museums as Materialisations of Knowledge Orders (Köln, 13–15 Apr 11)

Universität zu Köln, Internationales Kolleg Morphomata, Apr 13–15, 2011

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Museums and Exhibitions as Materialisations of Knowledge Orders

The history of the museum is closely connected not only with the history of collecting and collections, but also with the history of science and the humanities in Europe and the Western world. Science museums, natural history museums, cultural history and art museums have - by means of their presentation of objects - always been sites of both the production and the circulation of knowledge. On the one hand, objects, artefacts and specimens have been collected and classified in order to gain empirical and/or theoretical insights and thereby produce knowledge. On the other hand, the resulting collections were and are used in exhibitions in order to communicate academic findings to a broader audience and thereby popularise scientific/academic knowledge. Hence, museum collections as well as displays can be understood as manifestations of specific, historically shaped popular or academic orders of knowledge. However, knowledge is not only stored and transformed through objects in museums. Rather, museums themselves can be regarded as artefacts and as »morphomes«, which establish, reinforce and transmit, but also transform and reconfigure systems of knowledge. The aim of the conference is to discuss different types of museums and exhibitions from this angle, and particularly to reflect on transformative moments in the history of museums.

Wednesday, April 13

Keynote Speech

19.30 Alain Schnapp (Paris) Aesthetics of Ruins, Aesthetics of Cabinets of Curiosities from the Ancient Near East to the Age of Enlightenment

21.00 Welcome Reception

Thursday, April 14

Collecting and Exhibiting the Self and the Other

09.00 Dietrich Boschung

Begrüßung / Welcome Address Larissa Förster & Jörn Lang

Introduction

09.45 Dominik Collet (Göttingen) Staging Separation - Distant Worlds in Early Modern Museums

10.30 COFFEE BREAK

11.00 Timon Screech (London) Mirrored Knowledge: Rangaku Collections in Japan

11.45 Christina Kreps (Denver) Expanding the Museum Concept Across Time, Space, and Cultures

12.30 LUNCH BREAK

14.30 Amy Lonetree (Santa Cruz) Indigenizing Museums: Representing Native Voice in National and Tribal Museums

15.15 Paul Williams (New York) Tangible Expressions of the Postcolonial Nation: Biculturalism at the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa

16.00 Discussant: Patricia Hayes (Cape Town/IK Morphomata Fellow)

Friday, April 15

Transformative Moments in Art, History and Science Museums

10.00 Susan Walker (Oxford) Crossing Cultures, Crossing Time: A Transformative Moment for the Ashmolean Museum

10.45 Renate Flagmeier (Berlin) Sammlungsstrukturen, Raumkompositionen und Dingkonstellationen

11.30 Heidi Amrein (Zürich) Some Thoughts on the Development of Knowledge Transfer at the Swiss National Museum

12.15 LUNCH BREAK

14.15 Helmut Trischler (München)

Die Kodifizierung der Wissensordnung von Naturwissenschaft und Technik.
Das Wissenschafts- und Technikmuseum an der langen Wende zum 20. Jahrhundert

15.00 Petra Lutz (Dresden) Die Popularisierung des Menschen.
Konstellationen von Objekten und Betrachtern im Deutschen Hygiene-Museum

15.45 Concluding Discussion

Reference:

CONF: Museums as Materialisations of Knowledge Orders (Köln, 13-15 Apr 11). In: ArtHist.net, Mar 12, 2011 (accessed Oct 3, 2026), <<https://arthist.net/archive/1058>>.