

**Making Museum Professionals: Transnational Forces
Online Workshop
13 May 2024 (online, hosted by Fordham University)**

Abstracts and Speaker bios

The Forces of Transnational Practice (1)

2.15 Bonita Bennett, Heritage Consultant, South Africa

Museum Activism for Democracy and Anti-Racism in South Africa

Biography: Bonita Bennett is an activist and scholar of memory based in Cape Town, South Africa. Her recent work has explored the intersection between memory, human rights and land restitution, using the District Six Museum as a platform from which to explore and activate this work.

2.30 Akash Bharadwaj, Shiv Nadar University

Regional Spaces, Transnational Aspirations: A Case Study of Bihar Museum

Various new museums are being established across Indian cities in consultation with local, national and multinational forces, including museum planning, architectural and design firms, and state bodies. They include state-of-the-art infrastructure, new media technologies, and a curatorial claim that they stand for a robust, democratic and accessible conception of culture, history, and identity. This presentation investigates the making of the Bihar Museum, which was inaugurated in the capital city of Patna in 2015. The museum was commissioned by the Bihar Government and conceived as a brand in collaboration with Lords Cultural Resources (a Toronto-based museum planning agency), the Japanese architectural firm Maki and Associates and design firms based in Mumbai to showcase the cultural identity of the region for the nation and the world. The new museum also acts as a nodal institution for other museums in Bihar with the mandate to establish a curatorial standard for museological practices in the region. By contextualising the museum within the region's political economy and transnational aspirations, this paper comments on the professional identity in Bihar as constituted by this new museum. In doing so, it links the emergence of a regional museum with urban aspirations and a desire to be part of the global world. The presentation brings out the paradoxes involved in the process.

Biography: Akash Bharadwaj is a doctoral candidate of the Department of History and Archaeology at Shiv Nadar University. His research interests include histories of museums, collections and exhibitionary practices to understand how they contribute to the making of a region, nation and the world.

2.45 Julia Harth, Ohio State University

ICOM's Impact: International Institutions and Professional Practice

For the last three years, I have worked on iterations of a research paper focused on ICOM's role in museum governance. The most recent version of this paper, submitted to a special issue of Arts Education Policy Review, traces how the research project evolved over time – first addressing the relationship between ICOM and UNESCO, then analyzing ICOM's response to the pandemic, then considering the changes introduced by ICOM's new strategic plan, and finally reflecting on how the process of investigation influenced my own professional practice. In each stage, I have critically examined hierarchies of power and colonial forces, questioning not only ICOM's Eurocentric policies but also the effects of global dynamics on local relationships. I propose to present about this iterative research methodology, discussing both the broader impacts of transnational exchanges and how a reflective process has shaped my work at the Columbus Museum of Art, specifically with the strategic initiative "Museum in Progress," which interrogates the colonial legacy of museums and reimagines institutional practices.

Biography: Julia Harth is a PhD candidate in Arts Administration, Education and Policy at The Ohio State University, specializing in Museum Education and Administration. She received her BA/MA in International Studies and BA in Art History from the University of Oklahoma. Julia's recent research relates to her professional experiences at the Wexner Center for the Arts and the Columbus Museum of Art.

3.00 Kahyun Lee, Royal College of Art / Tate Modern, UK

Transnational Narratives in Collection Display and Beyond at Tate Modern

In this paper I explore how transnational force has shaped the narrative of modern and contemporary art at Tate Modern. It introduces the application of the transnational approach, its results and limitations through case studies of permanent collection displays, Hyundai Commission and research programmes.

In 2000, Tate Modern was founded at a pivotal conjuncture of global currents restructuring the art world. The global shift underpinned curatorial practices aiming to showcase a multitude of art practices transnationally and transhistorically. The turn was a drive to depart from the perpetuated singular art historical doctrine of modernism in Europe and North America. With a vision to replace one history with many histories of art, Tate Modern introduced a thematic curating of the collection display. In contrast to a chronological or regional display, a thematic display adopted concepts and movements relevant across plural locations and time. Since its inception, the collection display has gradually changed and expanded challenging and revising the nation state-centred art histories by highlighting the global exchanges and flow of artists and ideas. Alongside the collection, ambitious Hyundai Commission projects in Turbine Hall explore the movement, exchange and diaspora informing the contemporary art world.

Biography: Kahyun Lee is a PhD candidate at Royal College of Art and a doctoral researcher at Tate Modern researching transnational curating. With an interest in interdisciplinary and transnational approaches and alternative histories, Lee has delivered projects at the Design Museum and Museum of Contemporary Art Busan.

The Forces of Transnational Practice (2)

3.45 Tamsin Russell, Museums Association, UK
The Impact of Brexit on Museum Professionals

Britain's exit from the European Union in January 2020 profoundly changed the landscape for UK museum professionals in terms of transnational opportunities, contacts and networks. This talk will consider what has changed, and in what ways, since then, and what might have endured.

Biography: Tamsin's career has focused on workforce and organisational development, in public and private sectors. She currently leads on workforce in the broadest sense at the Museums Association, from research to funding, strategy to delivery, providing career workshops, speaking on ethics, equity, and wellbeing; and leading formal professional development, mentoring and online learning programmes.

4.00 BeKuto waSirya a.k.a. Tony Kalume, Diversity Lewes
Technology as Transnational Force: Impact on Museum Professionals and Cultural Legacies

Biography: Tony Kalume is a researcher, community activist and curator with a masters degree from the University of Brighton. He is chair of Diversity Lewes, community organisation with a mission to celebrate diversity in its broadest sense.

4.15 Nicola Bird, Mila Malko, Valerii Malko, MultakaOxford,
Migration and Museums

MultakaOxford is a project based at the History of Science and Pitt Rivers Museum, part of Oxford University. Multaka means 'meeting point' in Arabic and is a person-led project which creates platforms and spaces for intercultural dialogue and learning. The project started in 2017 and is currently funded by Alwaleed Philanthropies. Watch the latest video to see the last year's activities. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tJjh20YOsLI>

Biographies:

Nicola Bird has been Project Manager for MultakaOxford since it started in 2017. An ESOL teacher for over 20 years, Nicola was community engagement officer for Oxford University's Gardens and Libraries and Museums for 10 years. Her work now focuses on the MultakaOxford project at the History of Science Museum and Pitt Rivers Museum. Before coming to museums, Nicola studied Social anthropology at Sussex University before travelling extensively with work.

Mila Malko is a journalist and philologist of Ukrainian language and literature. Mila has worked in Ukraine as a journalist on TV in the city of Sumy since 1982. Mila is an author and presenter. Amongst her television programs are - "Bereginya" and "I am a Woman" (about famous women of Sumy region). She was a presenter of live broadcasts on current topics in the region. Since 2003, Mila worked in Kyiv in the Parliament of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine as press secretary of the faction of deputies. Since 2009, together with her husband Valery, they have worked at Absolute International Timeshare and visited 22 countries. Now in Britain Mila is a volunteer for the MultakaOxford program.

Valerii Malko is a professional teacher, professor and Doctor of Philosophy,. Before the war in Ukraine, he worked at the Kiev National Trade and Economic University teaching History of Philosophy, Cultural Studies and Aristotelian logic, His hobby is travelling. Valerii and his wife have visited more than 20 countries as tourists and as employees of the international timeshare company Absolut.