

# Teaching with collections in higher education: demonstrating value

## Museum studies workshop University of Reading 10 June 2019

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This one-day workshop at the University of Reading will bring together staff working in higher education and the museums, archives, libraries and heritage sector to reflect on previous practice and share current practice on teaching with collections in higher education. We will also explore the possible development opportunities and future for this work.

### Programme

10.00 – 10.25

Registration and refreshments (provided) (**Seminar Room, Museum of English Rural Life**)

10.30 – 10.35

Welcome from Professor Elizabeth McCrum, Teaching and Learning Dean, University of Reading (**Seminar Room/Conference Room, Museum of English Rural Life**)

10.35 – 10.45

Introduction to UMASCS and teaching with collections, Kate Arnold Forster, Director of University Museums and Special Collections Services, and Dr Nicola Pickering, Teaching Fellow Museum Studies, University of Reading (**Conference Room**)

10.45 – 12.45

Presentations (**Conference Room**)

10.45-11.00 (11.00-11.05 for questions)

1. **Balancing collections best practice with promoting student access and coping with unprecedented demand: how The MERL and University of Reading Special Collections transformed its teaching with collections service**

**Adam Lines**, Reading Room Supervisor and Collections Academic Liaison Officer, University of Reading Special Collections and The Museum of English Rural Life

11.05-11.20 (11.20-11.25 for questions)

2. **Treasures from around the world and in our homes: teaching foundation students with museum collections**

**Dr Naomi Hetherington**, Tutor in English and Humanities, Department for Lifelong Learning, University of Sheffield and **Anita Hamlin**, Learning Officer, Museums Sheffield

11.25-11.40 (11.40-11.45 for questions)

**3. Teaching with Museums Collections in Manhattan: The Art History and Museum Professions Program at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City**

**Dr Alexander Nagel**, Assistant Professor, Department of Art History, Fashion Institute of Technology, New York, and **Dr Rachel Baum**, Assistant Professor, Department of Art History, Fashion Institute of Technology, New York

11.45-12.00 (12.00-12.05 for questions)

**4. Archives for Architecture Students**

**Anna McNally**, Senior Archivist, University Records and Archives, University of Westminster

12.05-12.20 (12.20-12.25 for questions)

**5. Diversifying the curriculum: how MoDA uses its collections to engage students in active learning**

**Dr Ana Baeza Ruiz**, Curator: Student Engagement, Museum of Domestic Design and Architecture, Middlesex University.

12.30 – 13.30

Lunch (**Seminar Room**)

Lunch is provided so please inform us of any dietary requirements

13.30 – 14.00

A chance to see a selection of University of Reading collection objects used for teaching (**Study**)

14.00 – 14.30

A report on the Collections-Based Learning Consultation with University of Reading Students (**Conference Room**)

**Jenny Pistella**, Heritage Learning Consultant

14.30 – 15.30

Group workshop (**Conference Room**)

Current strengths /opportunities and weaknesses / barriers to teaching with collections in HE, theoretical and practical.

Identifying benefits to learning of access to collections and museums and level of engagement.

How to facilitate best practice.

15.30 – 16.00

Final discussions (**Conference Room**)

Potential future shared projects?

What next?

How should we evaluate what we do?

How can students help to co-developing the curriculum?

How can we facilitate more collections research amongst students in HE?

16.00 - Conference close

To find out more about Museum Studies at the University of Reading please see

[www.reading.ac.uk/merl/LearnatMERL/merl-museumstudies.aspx](http://www.reading.ac.uk/merl/LearnatMERL/merl-museumstudies.aspx)