

ANTHROPOLOGY IN THE MUSEUM

Week 1 Jan. 15 Getting acquainted; goals and core concepts of the course

HOW COLLECTIONS TAKE SHAPE IN THE PAST...

Week 2 Jan. 22 Just what is a museum anyway?

Banks, Marcus

2001 Reading Pictures. In *Visual Methods in Social Research*, by Marcus Banks. Pp. 1-12. Sage Publications Limited.

[consider the evident surface of objects against evidence of their history]

Gosden, Chris and Frances Larson

2007 What is a Museum? In *Knowing Things: Exploring the Collections at the Pitt Rivers Museum, 1884-1945*, by Chris Gosden and Frances Larson. Pp. 1-13. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

[think about museums as sets of networks among people]

Pearce, Susan M.

1994 Introduction. In *Interpreting Objects and Collections*. S. Pearce, ed. Pp. 1-6. New York: Routledge.

[think about things out there in the world, and the sub-set in the museum]

Thomas, Nicholas

2010 The Museum as Method. *Museum Anthropology* 33(1): 6-10. (Available electronically through Aladin)

[consider alternatives of moving from questions to objects, or from objects to questions]

Week 3 Jan. 29 Says Who? Documentation and Attribution

Greene, Candace S.

1992 Attribution, Documentation, and the Ideal Type. In *Art and Artifacts: Essays in Material Culture and Museum Studies in Honor of Jane Powell Dwyer*. H. Juli, ed. Pp. 9-17. Brown University Research Papers in Anthropology, 5. Providence: Brown University.

[focus on the concepts bound up in attribution and documentation]

Sturtevant, William C.

1966 Ethnographic Collections and Curatorial Records. *Museum News* 44(7): 16-19.

[consider what concerns computerization has and hasn't resolved in 50+ years]

Guide to Collections Records, Ethnology and Archaeology Collections. Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, Department of Anthropology.
[read this one carefully; keep it for continual reference]

Week 4 Feb. 5 Surely there must be more...: Enhancing Museum Records

Grafe, Steven

2001 Walking in Strange Gardens: Early Floral Design in the Columbia River Plateau, by Steven Grafe. In *Painters, Patrons, and Identity: Essays in Native American Art to Honor J.J. Brody*. Joyce M. Szabo, ed. Pp. 263-280. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press.

[look at how he gathered information, how he used it to construct collection history]

Hollinger, Eric R.

2003 Inventory and Assessment of Human Remains and Funerary Objects Potentially Affiliated with the Menominee Tribe in the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution. Unpublished report, Repatriation Office, NMNH.
[**Focus on pages 21-47.** Make a list of the types of sources used – with awesome results]

Norcini, Marilyn

2008 Frederick Johnson's 'River Desert Algonquin' Materials at the University of Pennsylvania Museum: A Collection History, by Marilyn Norcini. *Museum Anthropology* 31(2):122-147. (available electronically through Aladin)

[look at types of information gathered to support an intellectual history]

Week 5 Feb. 12 How did they end up here? Building Context of Collecting

O'Hanlon, Michael.

2000 Introduction. In *Hunting the Gatherers: Ethnographic Collectors, Agents, and Agency in Melanesia, 1870s-1930s*. Michael O'Hanlon and Robert Welsch, eds. Pp. 1-34. New York: Berghahn Books.

[think about how collecting was influenced – before, during, after “the scene”]

Foster, Robert

2012 Notes for a Networked Biography: The P.G.T. Black Collection of Oceanic Things. *Museum Anthropology* 35(2): 149-169. (available electronically through Aladin)

[try to envision similar networks extending out around your own collection]

Lawson, Barbara

- 1994 Artifact Collecting and Anthropology. In *Collected Curios: Missionary Tales from the South Seas*, by Barbara Lawson. Pp.1-20. Montreal: McGill University.
[focus on how museum systems “isolate” objects and “obfuscate” histories]

Bell, Joshua A.

- 2013 "The Sorcery of Sweetness: Intersecting Agencies and Materialities of the 1928 USDA Sugarcane Expedition to New Guinea," pp. 117-141. In, *Reassembling the Collection: Ethnographic Museums and Indigenous Agency*, ed. R. Harrison, S. Byrne, and A. Clarke. School for Advanced Research Press. Santa Fe.

Week 6 Feb. 19 Artifacts at Home: Understanding Context of Use

Banerjee, Mukulika and Daniel Miller

- 2003 Mina’s Story. In *The Sari*, by Mukulika Banerjee and Daniel Miller. Pp. 11-19. New York: Berg.
[think about the complex sentiments of a person **using** an object]

Rhoads, Bernadine, Herwona Toyebo and Beatrice Ahpehtone Doyah Smith

- 2000 Gifts of Pride and Love: Kiowa and Comanche Cradles. B. Hail, ed. *Selections: Keintaddle*, pp. 88-93; *My Grandmother Guohaddle*, pp. 52-57. Bristol: Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology, Brown University.
[think about the types of information people can provide about heritage objects]

Week 7 Feb. 26 Learning to Look

Greene, Candace S.

- 1992 Attribution, Documentation...
[revisit this article from Wk. 3, focusing here on the process of attribution]

Greene, Candace S.

- 1992 Soft Cradles of the Central Plains. *Plains Anthropologist* 37 (139): 95-113.
[look at steps in identification, examining construction and embellishment]

Prown, Jules

- 1982 Mind in Matter: An introduction to material culture theory and method. *Winterthur Portfolio* 17 (1): 1-19.
[focus on methodology of description, deduction, speculation, pp.7-12]

Week 8 Mar. 5 Complicated Lives: Artifacts as Facts

Appadurai, Arjun

- 1986 Introduction: Commodities and the Politics of Value. In *The Social Life of Things: Commodities in Cultural Perspective*. Arjun Appadurai, ed. Pp. 3-6. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
[a classic considering museum objects as commodities of value]

Kopytoff, Igor

- 1986 The Cultural Biography of Things: Commoditization as Process. In *The Social Life of Things: Commodities in Cultural Perspective*. Arjun Appadurai, ed. Pp. 64-68. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
[consider object biography as a method to explicate regimes of value]

Phillips, Ruth

- 2005 Dress and Address: First Nations Self-Fashioning and the 1860 Royal Tour of Canada. In *The Art of Clothing: A Pacific Experience*. S. Kuchler and G. Were, ed. Pp. 135-153. London: UCL Press.
[look at how objects interrupt and complicate conventional narratives]

-----SPRING BREAK-----

...AND CARRY MEANING IN THE PRESENT

Week 9 Mar. 19 Repatriation: Applying Knowledge to NAGPRA

Hollinger, Eric R., Betsy Bruemmer and Anne-Marie Victor-Howe

- 2005 Assessment of Tlingit Objects Requested for Repatriation as Objects of Cultural Patrimony and Sacred Objects in the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution. Unpublished report, Repatriation Office, NMNH. **This will be provided in hard copy. Focus on pages 1-25.**
[look esp. at complexity of determining communal property and right of possession]

NAGPRA, law and regulations, available at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nagpra/>

Week 10 Mar. 26 Visiting with the dead: Physical Anthropology

No readings assigned.

Week 11 Apr. 2 Records Systems: Putting Things into Boxes

Edwards, Elizabeth and Janice Hart

2004 Mixed Box: the cultural biography of 'ethnographic' photographs. In Photographs Objects Histories. Eds. E. Edwards and J. Hart. New York: Routledge. Pp.47-61.
[think about the impact of various classificatory schemes on ways of understanding; what types of boxes are used to order collections]

Newell, Jenny

2012 Old Objects, new media: Historical collections, digitization and affect. Journal of Material Culture 17(3): 287-306.
[use this to think through the place of online images as surrogates]

Phillips, Ruth and Christopher Steiner

1999 Art, Authenticity, and the Baggage of Cultural Encounter. In Unpacking Cultures: Art and Commodity in Colonial and Postcolonial Worlds. Phillips and Steiner, eds. Pp. 3-19. Berkeley: University of California Press.
[the biggest box of all is the museum – consider what gets into what type of museum]

Week 12 Apr. 9 Who Cares? Identity, Ownership, & “Museumification”

Ames, Michael

1992 Cannibal Tours, Glass Boxes, and the Politics of Interpretation. In Cannibal Tours and Glass Boxes: The Anthropology of Museums, by M. Ames. Pp. 139-150. Vancouver, BC: UBC Press.
[an early wakeup call on the politics of representing “others”]

Brown, Michael F.

2003 The Missionary's Photographs. In Who Owns Native Culture? By Michael F. Brown. Pp. 11-41. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
[issues and challenges in the domain of cultural privacy]

McMullen, Ann

2008 The Currency of Consultation and Collaboration. Museum Anthropology Review 3(2), 2008. (an online only journal, students should download)
<http://scholarworks.iu.edu/journals/index.php/mar/article/view/88/169>
[on-the-ground examination of cultural politics of “doing the right thing”]

Week 13 Apr. 16 Student Presentations

Week 14 Apr. 23 Student Presentations

Apr. 30 FINAL REPORTS DUE