



**Council for Museum Anthropology  
Virtual Spring Symposium  
Presenter Bios**

*The Future is Now: Emerging Perspectives in Museology and Museum Anthropology  
Bios organized by session number*

**Session 1**

**Minke Nouwens** is an anthropologist (BSc, 2011; ResMSc, 2013) and fine artist (MFA, 2020) with a deep fascination into how digital and analogue objects shape the emergence and development of people's creative ideas. Currently, she is a PhD at Aarhus University (DK), where she researches the specific role of tools in design studios, and artworks in museums. Her accomplishments include an ISEA publication on the audience experience of interactive art at TENT (NL), artistic presentations at EYE Filmmuseum (NL) and POINTS (CH), and lecture positions at the University of Amsterdam (2017) and MIVC, St. Joost School of Art&Design (2020-2021).

**Cheryl Fogle-Hatch** founded MuseumSenses, a consulting business developing multi-sensory museum experiences that are accessible to everyone regardless of their visual acuity. Visit <https://museumsenses.org> to see examples of her work. She earned her Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of New Mexico; her doctoral research was an analysis of stone projectile points found in museum collections. She also mentors and teaches high school students in science programs run by the National Federation of the Blind.

**Lauren Race** is an accessibility designer and researcher at the NYU Ability Project, an interdisciplinary research space dedicated to the intersection of technology and disability. She designs and evaluates accessible educational tools in formal and informal settings. Visit <https://laurenrace.com/> to learn about her work. She earned a BFA in Communications Design, minor Art History from Pratt Institute, and a MA from NYU's Interactive Telecommunications Program (ITP).

**Lisa Mueller** is a PhD candidate in the department of Global and Sociocultural Studies at Florida International University. Her dissertation research focuses on how human rights museums in western Japan serve as interlocutors of identity in Buraku communities. For her MA in Asian Studies research project, she completed a qualitative content analysis of museum brochures and handouts at three human rights museums in western Japan. Her dissertation research also employs QualCA in an analysis of museum websites.

**Cathy McNeese** is a Graduate Student at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE) pursuing a Master of Science degree in Historical Studies, focusing on Native American Studies. I am simultaneously completing the requirements for a Post Baccalaureate Certificate in Museum Studies. I am on track to graduate in May 2022 and plan to pursue a PhD. in Historical Studies beginning in the Fall, 2022 semester. Currently, I am enrolled in an Anthropology Museum Internship with Professor Dr. Cory Willmott working on a comparative study of Native American Twined Bags from the Great Lakes region of North America.

## **Session 2**

**Justin McCarthy** is Yup'ik and Sámi and a PhD student in archaeology at the University of Washington. He previously received a Master's in Museology from the University of Washington and has worked at the Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture in the Bill Holm Center for nearly a decade and has served as a consultant for various museums. He has researched in museums across the United States and Canada.

**Pin-Yi Li** is a fourth-year Ph.D. student at the Department of Anthropology at University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her major research interest is national identity making in the national museums, with a particular focus on Taiwan and Singapore. Prior to coming to UW-Madison, she has completed her master's thesis "Singapore's Multiculturalism: Ethnography on the National Museum of Singapore" at National Taiwan University.

**Ella Crenshaw** is the Collection Manager of Ethnology at the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History in Norman, OK. She is originally from Oklahoma City and graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 2020 with a B.A. in Anthropology. Ella is currently pursuing her M.A. in Anthropology, also from the University of Oklahoma. Her research focuses on the maintenance, role, and value of institutional knowledge and memory within museums.

**Claire Nicholas** is Assistant Professor of Anthropology / Assistant Curator of Ethnology at the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History (University of Oklahoma). She is a socio-cultural anthropologist who employs ethnographic and historical methods to study the everyday practices and politics of making, displaying, and interpreting material and visual culture. As a museum anthropologist, she is committed to object-based research, the power of visual storytelling and public engagement through exhibits and programming, and the importance of collaboration with community stakeholders. Claire holds a PhD in socio-cultural anthropology from Princeton University and a DEA from l'Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales.

**Leonie Sophie Treier** is a PhD candidate at Bard Graduate Center and currently a Smithsonian Institution Predoctoral Fellow at the National Museum of Natural History researching George Catlin's Indian Gallery focusing on the previously neglected "ethnographic" objects in his multi-media exhibition. In my MPhil in Visual, Material, and Museum Anthropology at the University of Oxford, I studied a collection of historical

photographs in the collection of the Pitt Rivers Museum and their contemporary meanings by working with members of Santa Clara Pueblo, New Mexico.

### **Session 3**

**Haley Bryant** is a doctoral student in the Faculty of Information at the University of Toronto researching digital-first museum projects through the lenses of labor studies, media materialism, and critical operational museology. Before starting her program at U of T, Haley spent three years as a digitization specialist in the Department of Anthropology at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History after earning her MA in Museum Anthropology from The George Washington University in 2016.

**Maya Hirschman** is a doctoral candidate in the Faculty of Information at the University of Toronto. She has been working in museums and galleries, large and small, for almost 25 years and as a curator since 2006. Her interests are wide-ranging (settlement and immigration to Upper Canada, Indigenous-Colonial relationships and cultural appropriation/transfer, depictions of mental illness and hygiene, Second World War and Cold War radar history), but always with an emphasis on identity, memory, narrative and interpretation.

**Megan Hull** is a doctoral candidate in the Faculty of Information at the University of Toronto. Her research focuses on community museums, collective memory, and how nostalgia informs the formation of local identities.

**Bradley Clements** is a doctoral candidate in the Faculty of Information at the University of Toronto. His research considers the responsibilities of museums which hold items relating to Great Lakes treaties between Indigenous and non-Indigenous nations. Bradley has worked with collections, museums, galleries, artists, and communities of origin for over eight years and earned an MA in Visual Anthropology and Materiality from the University of Victoria in 2018.

### **Session 4**

**Mathias Hartmann** studied Cultural Anthropology and History at Goethe-University in Frankfurt with a focus on Latin America. He finished university with a master's degree and his thesis "Indigeneity as a Brand. Failed Indigenism and Plurinational Democracy in Bolivia". After university he held lectures about politics in Bolivia and did an internship in a TV production company. From 2019 to 2020 Mathias Hartmann did a traineeship at Greven Verlag Köln, a regional book publishing company in Cologne. After a parental leave, he started a PhD at Goethe-University in November 2021 and became speaker of the faculty's Doctoral Convention.

**Krystiana Krupa** serves as the NAGPRA Program Officer for the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign. She manages administrative compliance with NAGPRA for UIUC,

where she is also currently pursuing a Master's degree in Law. Her research efforts primarily address NAGPRA, repatriation, and the enduring impacts of colonialism on academic and professional spaces.

**Amelia Smith** is an emerging transgender museum professional. A graduate of the Masters of Museum Studies program at the University of Toronto, her work seeks to bridge the gap between trans studies and museum studies. This resulted in her first exhibition, *Transition Related Surgery: The Fight For Access*, on the history of gender affirming surgeries in Ontario. She has previously worked as an exhibit designer for the Transgender Archives at the University of Victoria, and in January of 2021, she began her website *notyouraveragecistory.com* where she publishes a monthly blog post covering transgender museum studies, queer and transgender history, as well as other subjects that influences her practice.

**Sofia Sireno** I have begun my academic path in the History department of Università degli Studi di Milano, focusing on anthropology and modern history studies. I am now finishing my Museum Studies MA at Leicester University: I have developed an interest in ethical and sensitive practices of collection care and management of cultural artifacts. Alongside my peers, I have established the first university's magazine dedicated to museum life: I have published monthly articles about debates and exhibitions related to the ethnographic sector. I have recently inaugurated an Instagram corner in which I share information about Pacific cultures material history and their life in museums. At the moment I am working on my dissertation research project, investigating ethical guidelines for the care, display and conservation of sacred objects of Northwest Pacific First Nations.

**Chris Green** is a PhD Candidate in Anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania. He graduated from the University of Evansville in 2011 with degrees in Archaeology and Writing. He went on to work in museum education and NAGPRA. He also has a Masters in Anthropology from Colorado State University and in Social Sciences from University of Chicago. His current research seeks to understand the roles museums and the past play in contemporary politics, and especially in decolonial politics. This research has included Indigenous contexts in the US but primarily focuses on the Kanak independence movement in the French South Pacific island of New Caledonia.

## **Session 5**

**Rachel Greiner** is a recent graduate of American Studies and Museum Studies at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. She has interned at several archives and museums, including the GLBT Historical Society, the Nevada Museum of Art, and the Jean Charlot Collection. Her thesis, titled *"We call to the voices of Waialua" Envisioning a Waialua Heritage Center Connecting Past, Present and Future*, is based on the collaboration between the North Shore Field School and community members developing a vision for a heritage center.

**Emily Wilday** is an emerging scholar and recent graduate of the American Studies MA program at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Her research interests include U.S. settler colonialism, New England-Oceania ties, American whiteness and genealogy, anti-colonial praxis, and the affective and rhetorical dimensions of dispossession and consent. Most recently, her thesis research examined the ways the Mayflower/Plymouth/Pilgrim national foundation mythology functions to support the ongoing project of colonization. Born and raised on coastal Naumkeag, Massachusetts, and Pennacook territory and of British/Western European heritage, she is fundamentally indebted to the people, lands, and waters who have shaped the questions she's asking today.

**Marina George** is currently pursuing an MA in Art History (South Asia) and a Graduate Certificate in Museum Studies from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. She is a Teaching Assistant in the department of Art History, and moonlights as Arts Assistant for the East-West Center Arts Program. Marina was born and raised in India, where she worked as a researcher on national inclusive education policy and as a disability rights advocate. She is particularly interested in specialized museum programming for people with disability, and has trained for one year as a Graduate Intern in School and Access Programs at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. She has also been involved with Silent Tears, an international multimedia exhibition that raises the issue of violence against women with disabilities.

**Halena Kapuni-Reynolds** (Kanaka 'Ōiwi) is currently a Ph.D. student in American Studies and Museum Studies at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. He was raised in the Hawaiian homestead of Keaukaha on Hawai'i Island and has a B.A. in Anthropology and Hawaiian Studies (UH-Hilo, 2013) and an M.A. in anthropology with a focus in Museum and Heritage Studies (Uni. of Denver, 2015). His most recent publications include "Voyaging Through the Collection of The Denver Museum of Nature & Science" (Denver Museum of Nature & Science Annals, 2018) and "Nā Pana Kaulana o Keaukaha: The Storied Places of Keaukaha" in *Detours: A Decolonial Guide to Hawai'i* (Duke University Press, 2019). He currently sits on the board of directors for the International Institute for Indigenous Resource Management (Denver, CO).

## **Session 6**

**Ellen Zimmerman**, Archaeological Studies major at Oberlin College, Class of '23.

**Natalie Korzh**, Anthropology and Computer Science major at Oberlin College, Class of '22.

**Henri Feola**, Biology major and Anthropology minor at Oberlin College, Class of '22. I have worked with Oberlin's Alaska Native collection for over two years, and am passionate about anticolonial and decolonial approaches to museum curation.

**Amy Margaris**, Associate Professor and Chair of Anthropology, Oberlin College. I teach and publish in the areas of archaeology and museum anthropology with a focus on Native

communities in Alaska. As *de facto* curator of Oberlin's roughly 2000-item Ethnographic Collection, I am also involved in several initiatives to revitalize museum-less, historic campus teaching collections.

**Shándíín Brown** is a jeweler, Native American Art professional, and citizen of the Navajo Nation. Currently she works full-time at the Rhode Island School of Design Museum as the Henry Luce Curatorial Fellow for Native American Art and part-time as a Native American Art consultant for the Barnes Foundation. She graduated from Dartmouth College in 2020, where she earned her Bachelor of Arts majoring in Anthropology as well as Native American Studies and minoring in Environmental Studies. Previously she has held positions at the Heard Museum, Hood Museum of Art, Penn Museum, IAIA Museum of Contemporary Native Arts, and School for Advanced Research Indian Arts Research Center.

**Emily Jean Leischner** is a PhD candidate in the Department of Anthropology at the University of British Columbia. She is a settler scholar who studies museums using community-based methods to better understand their limits and possibilities as instruments of change. Her MA thesis "[Kulhulmcilh and lixsalh, Our Land and Medicine: Creating a Nuxalk Database of Museum Collections.](#)" reflected on the process of creating a digital database designed to prioritize Indigenous law, protocol, and expertise. She continues to work with the Nuxalk First Nation for her doctoral research which seeks to understand the historic and ongoing relationship between museum practice and settler colonialism.

**Inge Zwart** is a PhD student in Information Studies at Uppsala University's Department of ALM, writing her dissertation "Professional Take on Participation" as a Marie Skłodowska Curie fellow in the POEM\_Horizon 2020 ITN. As a Fulbright fellow she completed an MA in Public Humanities at Brown University (2017), she holds a BA in Liberal Arts and Sciences from University College Roosevelt, Utrecht University (2015). Her academic and professional work has been grounded in her interest in the functions of the past in the present.