



## Network Conference

### Collections from Colonial Contexts: Challenges, Tasks, Strategies

24.11.2020, 09:00 – 15:30 (online)

Organized by the

"German Contact Point for Collections from Colonial Contexts"

The online conference takes Germany's Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2020 as an opportunity to present the German Contact Point for Collections from Colonial Contexts to European and international actors, and to identify and discuss the needs and interests of people and institutions in the countries and societies of origin.

#### Aims

The network conference "Collections from colonial contexts: challenges, tasks, strategies" is intended to make the German Contact Point for Collections from Colonial Contexts known among European and non-European experts. It provides a first opportunity to promote the networking of experts from the countries and societies of origin, Germany and Europe, and to identify future cooperation avenues for the German Contact Point.

The conference intends to help initiate and develop cross-border strategies for dealing with collections from colonial contexts. It also aims at identifying and documenting meaningful cooperation structures and partners at the European level that will help people and institutions from the countries and societies of origin to obtain comprehensive information about collections from colonial contexts.

#### Sessions

The online conference will focus on the following three areas of activity and objectives defined in the document ["Framework Principles for dealing with collections from colonial contexts"](#): a)

Transparency and documentation, b) Return, and c) Cultural exchange, international cooperation. In three thematic panels, participants will discuss and document the challenges, tasks and strategies related to these areas and will share successful practices and experiences. The discussions should result in recommendations for action and in the initiation of collaborations that contribute to overcoming the existing challenges and tasks when dealing with collections from colonial contexts.

Participants of the panel **Transparency and Documentation** will discuss best practices and challenges in the area of documenting collections from colonial contexts in Europe taking into account the following guiding questions: Which additional support do German and European institutions need for documenting and digitizing collections from colonial contexts? Which measures need to be prioritized? Are there ways of improving collaboration schemes with countries and societies of origin in the areas of documentation and digitization of collections for colonial contexts?

The starting point for the discussion in the panel on **Return** are the current political, ethical and legal challenges for the return of cultural objects from colonial contexts. In addition, the panel offers an opportunity to share current approaches in particular in the areas of science and research in connection with the return of collections from colonial contexts, and to identify relevant European and international measures and action models for the return of cultural objects from colonial contexts.

Participants of the Q&A session on **Cultural Exchange, International Cooperation** will share best practices and discuss the challenges in the areas cooperation and collaboration with the countries and societies of origin on dealing with collections from colonial contexts. In addition, the session offers the opportunity to discuss the needs and expectations on the part of the countries and societies of origin and agree on future perspectives and mechanisms for exchange and collaboration.

### Programm (as of 9 October 2020)

09:00 – 09:15	<b>Welcome</b> <i>Prof. Dr. Markus Hilgert</i> Secretary General, Cultural Foundation of the German Federal States and Director, German Contact Point for Collections from Colonial Contexts
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09:15 – 09:30	<p><b>Introduction to the work of the Federation-Länder Working Group on Dealing with Collections from Colonial Contexts</b></p> <p><i>Dr. Claudia Rose</i></p> <p>Ministry of Science, Research und Art, Baden-Württemberg</p>
09:30 – 10:30	<p><b>Panel 1. Transparency and Documentation</b></p> <p><b>Moderation:</b></p> <p><i>Prof. Dr. Eckart Köhne</i>, President, German Museums Association</p> <p><b>Panelists include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Prof. Dr. Wiebke Ahrndt</i>, Director, Übersee-Museum in Bremen</li> <li>• <i>Flower Manase</i>, Curator, National Museum of Tanzania</li> <li>• <i>Dr. Jonathan Fine</i>, Head of the Ethnological Museum, Berlin State Museums – Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation</li> </ul>
10:30 – 10:45	<p><b>Break</b></p>
10:45 – 11:00	<p><b>Presentation of the Department for Cultural Goods and Collections from Colonial Contexts, German Lost Art Foundation</b></p> <p><i>Dr. Larissa Förster</i></p> <p>Head, Department for Cultural Goods and Collections from Colonial Contexts, German Lost Art Foundation</p>
11:00 – 12:00	<p><b>Break</b></p>
12:00 – 13:00	<p><b>Panel 2. Return</b></p> <p><b>Moderation:</b></p> <p><i>Prof. Dr. Markus Hilgert</i>, Secretary General, Cultural Foundation of the German Federal States</p> <p><b>Panelists include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Prof. Dr. Ines de Castro</i>, Director, Linden-Museums in Stuttgart</li> <li>• <i>Te Herekiele Herewini</i>, Head of Repatriation, Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa</li> <li>• <i>Alexander Herman</i>, Assistant Director, Institute of Art and Law, United Kingdom</li> <li>• <i>Dr. El Hadji Malick Ndiaye</i>, Curator, Théodore Monod Museum of African Art - Institut Fondamental D'Afrique Noire in Dakar, Senegal</li> </ul>

13:00 – 13:15	<p><b>Presentation of the International Museum Cooperation Agency, Federal Foreign Office</b></p> <p><i>Dr. Andreas Görgen</i></p> <p>Head, Department of Culture and Communication at the German Federal Foreign Office</p>
13:15 – 14:15	<p><b>Panel 3. Cultural exchange, international cooperation</b></p> <p><b>Moderation:</b></p> <p><i>Dr. Andreas Görgen</i>, Head, Department of Culture and Communication at the German Federal Foreign Office</p> <p><b>Panelists include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>George Abungu</i>, Director, Okello Abungu Heritage Consultants</li> <li>• <i>Prof. Dr. Barbara Göbel</i>, Director, Ibero-American Institute, Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation</li> <li>• <i>Prof. Dr. Barbara Plankensteiner</i>, Director, Museum am Rothenbaum – Kulturen und Künste der Welt</li> <li>• <i>Prof. Dr. Beate Reifenscheid</i>, President, ICOM Germany</li> </ul>
14:15 – 14:30	<b>Break</b>
14:30 – 15:00	<b>Closing session</b>

### Conference audience

Representatives of the EU member states as well as the countries and societies of origin, representatives of other countries, experts from cultural and research institutions in Europe as well as the countries and societies of origin, representatives from cultural politics and cultural administration offices, and other experts who deal with issues related to collections from colonial contexts.

### German Contact Point for Collections from Colonial Contexts

The establishment of a German Contact Point for Collections from Colonial Contexts was jointly decided by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media, the Federal Foreign Office Minister of State for International Cultural Policy, the Ministers of Cultural Affairs of the Länder and the municipal umbrella organisations. The contact point, with its seat at the

Cultural Foundation of the German Federal States, aims in particular at individuals and institutions from the countries and societies of origin. As the new central port of call, it will provide information and advice on collections from colonial context in Germany, establish and promote cooperation networks, and collect, organise, document, publish and evaluate statistically pertinent data and information. In addition, the Contact Point supports the Federation-Länder Working Group on Dealing with Collections from Colonial Contexts in the elaboration and further development of the areas of activity and objectives defined in the “Framework Principles for dealing with collections from colonial contexts”.

## Registration

Participation in the online conference is free of charge. Due to limited capacity, prior registration for the conference by **November 2, 2020** is compulsory. After registration, participants will receive the information necessary to access the conference. The conference will be held in English.

### Registration to:

Kirstin Maier

[k.maier@kulturstiftung.de](mailto:k.maier@kulturstiftung.de)

## Further information

María Leonor Pérez Ramírez

Research Associate, German Contact Point for Collections from Colonial Contexts

Tel. 030 893 63 5 51

[m.perez@kulturstiftung.de](mailto:m.perez@kulturstiftung.de)