

TRANSNATIONAL ISLAND MUSEOLOGIES



International Conference University of St Andrews 5-7 June 2024

ICOM's International Committee for Museology (ICOFOM), the School of Art History at the University of St Andrews, and the European Research Council (ERC) selected and UK Research & Innovation (UKRI) funded *Shared Island Stories* research project, are pleased to announce a hybrid (in-person and online) conference on the overarching topic of *Transnational Island Museologies*, to be held from 5-7 June 2024. The conference will also host the 47th ICOFOM Annual Assembly on Friday, 7 June 2024.

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Photo: Rodel, Isle of Harris, Scotland

TOPIC

While islands are conventionally associated with romantic ideas of local distinctiveness and isolation, many small islands share the growing problems of coastal erosion through rising sea levels and storm intensification, as well as economic recession, depopulation and inappropriate tourism development. This conference takes its cue from the theme of the research project *Shared Island Stories between Scotland and the Caribbean: Past, present, future* to unearth hidden stories and entangled spaces in emerging transnational island museologies.

Shared Island Stories is a five-year research project selected by the European Research Council (ERC) and funded by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI). It is coordinated by the School of Art History at the University of St Andrews and aims to investigate relationships between the archipelagos of Scotland and the Caribbean. Drawing on history, heritage studies, sustainable development, art history and memory studies, the project asks: Which collections from the islands tell unfinished stories of Empire? What is the role of heritage communities in sustainable development? How can island community museums partner with NGOs, policy and local organisations and businesses for climate action? How can health and well-being be understood in relation to community heritage, traditional ecological knowledge and island life? What does this new knowledge bring to debates on climate justice, especially as they relate to the role of youth?

CALL FOR PAPERS

The *Transnational Island Museologies* conference seeks to reflect on the role of museum practice and theory with regard to some of the most pressing ecological issues of our times by sharing knowledge from around the globe on the realities that affect remote, island and coastal communities.

We invite proposals for papers on the two sub-topics of:

(1) Indigenous and traditional knowledge, environment, and intergenerational transmission

(2) Hidden stories, entangled spaces: thinking through trans-national coastal and island museologies

TERMS OF SUBMISSION

Following an ICOFOM tradition, we welcome short articles to be published in advance of the conference, that will be collected, formatted and distributed before the event as a Materials for Discussion.

The process is as follows:

- A brief abstract of about **2000 characters** for a 15-minute presentation will be submitted by **1 January 2024** via the online form [<https://bit.ly/TransnationalIslandMuseologies>]. The proposals will have to integrate one of the two axes of analysis proposed. They will be written in one of the three languages of ICOM (English, French and Spanish). Validation of proposals will be given within two weeks.
- Selected proposers will send by **1 March 2024** a longer, 12,000-character paper, including notes and bibliography, for potential publication in the *Materials for Discussion* circulated before the conference via email [icofomstandrewsconference@gmail.com]. *If papers are not received by March 1, you will not be included in the publication.* Papers will strictly comply with the layout rules of ICOFOM and use APA citation style, available in [English](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#) (see links are embedded here). They should be formatted simply, double-spaced in 12pt font, as Word documents.
- Collected and formatted texts will be sent to the authors and conference participants, in an electronic version, during the month of **May 2024**.
- Selected conference participants will be invited after the event to submit a longer (6000-word) academic paper for publication in the *ICOFOM Study Series* peer-reviewed journal to be published in spring 2025.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact the organising committee via icofomstandrewsconference@gmail.com.

INDIGENOUS AND TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE, ENVIRONMENT, AND INTERGENERATIONAL TRANSMISSION

Internationally, there is growing recognition of the wisdom of indigenous and native knowledge in relation to climate resilience and the preservation of human and biodiversity. However, while indigenous biocultural diversity is increasingly valued, it is also being eroded at alarming rates. Part 1 of our conference will be dedicated to building knowledge around relationships between traditional ecological knowledge and museology, recognising the value of museums and heritage sites in remote, island and coastal communities as the loci of research and encounters for understanding adaptation to climate change through time.

In this forum, we will seek to better understand ways in which such traditional knowledge is influencing academia and public policies from a global perspective. At the same time, intergenerational transfer of traditional knowledge helps to safeguard identities and memories at risk of being lost. Museum and heritage sites can be focal points for this work by offering opportunities for people from different generations to engage with their heritage, thus strengthening their sense of identity and place. In seeking to move towards an ecological museology in times of climate emergency, we would like to consider:

- What is the role of community heritage in achieving local sustainability?
- How can global well-being be understood in relation to community heritage?
- How can rural, island and coastal community museums partner with NGOs, policymakers and local organisations and businesses for climate action?
- What can indigenous heritage and traditional knowledge in rural, coastal and island areas teach us about resilience in the face of climate change, biodiversity loss and coastal erosion?
- In what ways can museums and heritage sites work with local biodiversity, language and the unique nature of places towards local resilience?
- What are the challenges and opportunities in engaging with the sustainability debates from an environmental humanities perspective, notably oceanic theories?
- What does intergenerational transmission of indigenous and traditional knowledge bring to debates on climate justice, especially as they relate to the role of young people?
- How can the elderly be best valued as a resource for preserving memories of environmental and cultural change? How might their memories be used?

HIDDEN STORIES, ENTANGLED SPACES: THINKING THROUGH TRANS-NATIONAL ISLAND MUSEOLOGIES

Bringing together the disciplines of history, art history, museum and heritage studies, memory studies and sustainable development, we seek to make sense of land ownership, extraction, and innovative community-based governance on archipelagos that are intertwined through oceanic travel and troubled shared histories. Incorporating a Round Table, titled 'Capitalism and Slavery', and an event organised by the University of St Andrews Centre for Contemporary Art. Part 2 of the conference seeks to acknowledge the power differentials between different islands, such as Scotland and the Caribbean, which were subject to rapid ecological change through colonialism or clearances.

For this theme, we particularly welcome new scholarship that pushes the boundaries of museology through cross-disciplinary approaches. Topics for individual papers may include but are not limited to:

- Re-reading capitalism and slavery.
- In what ways can island collections tell lesser-known transnational stories, nuancing the formation of such complex relationships? For example, what do collections tell us through images, photographs, art and material culture?
- How can we contest histories through relevant archives, such as revealing hidden histories through stories of everyday life?
- What agencies are entangled with mobility and displacement, for example sharing knowledge transnationally, using exchange as a form of resilience?
- Island life and creativity: how can the margin act as a space of creativity and resilience, and how has it been done in the past?
- Eco-feminist approaches relating to care and healing practices.

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Photo: Student Ambassador of the University of St Andrews on the Pier © The University of St Andrews

Keynote Speakers

Hilda Flavia Nakabuye
Founder, Fridays for Future Uganda

Conal McCarthy
Professor of Museum and Heritage Studies, Victoria University Wellington,
New Zealand

Organisers

This conference is part of a research project that was selected by the European Research Council (ERC) and funded by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) with project reference: EP/X023036/1. It is coordinated by the School of Art History at the University of St Andrews in collaboration with the International Council of Museums (ICOM)'s International Committee of Museology (ICOFOM).

ICOFOM Young Scholars Grants

Grants of €750 Euros will be awarded to a selected group of young scholars who meet the following criteria:

- Are a current member of ICOFOM;
- Plan to attend the conference to present in-person;
- Under the age of 40 (on the date of the conference); and
- Agree to submit a short impact statement after the conference.

SELECTION PANEL

The selection panel is comprised of representatives from the International Committee for Museology (ICOFOM), the University of St Andrews and the UKRI *Shared Island Stories* research project.

Conference Organisers

Jamie Allan Brown
(ICOFOM Treasurer; Research Fellow, School of Art History, Museums, Galleries and Collections Institute [MGCI], University of St Andrews)

Professor Karen Brown
(ICOFOM Chair; School of Art History, Museums, Galleries and Collections Institute [MGCI], University of St Andrews)

Local Committee

Dr Gönül Bozoglu
(School of Art History, University of St Andrews)

Dr Bruno Brulon
(School of Art History, Museums, Galleries and Collections Institute [MGCI], University of St Andrews)

Holly Bynoe
(PhD candidate, University of St Andrews)

Dr Heather Cateau
(Senior Research Fellow, University of St Andrews; University of the West Indies)

Dr Althea Davies
(School of Geography and Sustainable Development, University of St Andrews)

Dr Nicôle Meehan
(School of Art History, Museums, Galleries and Collections Institute [MGCI], University of St Andrews)

Professor Catherine O'Leary
(Institute for Identity and Memory Studies, University of St Andrews)

Dr Billy Rough
(School of Art History, University of St Andrews)

Dr Catherine Spencer
(School of Art History, Centre for Contemporary Art, University of St Andrews)

Lisa Williams
(PhD candidate, University of St Andrews)

Student Groups

Museum and Heritage Studies

Art History

African Caribbean Society (ACS)



Photo: St Salvator's Quadrangle in the summer © The University of St Andrews

International Committee

Melissa Aguilar Rojas
(Museum of Identity and Pride [MIO], Costa Rica)

Dr Marion Bertin
(ICOFOM Co-Vice-Chair; Avignon Université, Centre Norbert Elias, France)

Alissandra Cummins
(Barbados Museum and Historical Society, Barbados)

Professor Peter Davis
(Emeritus, University of Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK)

Dr Supreo Chanda
(University of Calcutta, India)

Dr Luciana M. de Carvalho
(Federal University of the State of Rio de Janeiro (UNIRIO), Brazil; Chair of ICOFOM-LAC)

Samuel Franco Arce
(Casa K'ojom, Guatemala)

Dr Scarlet Rocio Galindo Monteagudo
(Museo Nacional de la Acuarela Alfredo Guatí Rojo, México)

Ernest Kpan
(National Institute of Art and Cultural Action, Abidjan, Ivory Coast)

Anna Leshchenko
(ICOFOM Co-Vice-Chair; Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen, Germany)

Janet Tee
(Malaysia – Chair of ICOFOM-ASPAC)

Dr Natalie Urquhart
(National Gallery of Cayman, Grand Cayman)

Professor Elizabeth Weiser
(Ohio State University, USA)

(Margaret) ZHENG Yi
(Fudan University, China)

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