

Dispersed Workshop. *Missionary objects and collecting (16th-20th centuries)*

Organised by Sabina Brevaglieri

Missionary objects and collecting (16th-20th centuries) is a new seminar series inspired by the heated debate surrounding the Humboldt Forum's opening in Berlin. The aim is to contribute to the interdisciplinary undertaking of plurally thinking the future of ethnological objects and collections in Europe today. This international initiative will present and discuss ongoing historical research dealing with missionary practices of attention, selection, and exposition of artefacts across time and space. The set of seminars will explore entanglements of missionary objects within the competitive and conflictual colonial spaces and address the essential role of the religious dimension in defining and expanding the complex meanings of these objects, as well as in continuously reconfiguring their contexts.

The papers will investigate missionary collecting as an actual *longue durée* phenomenon, mapping out the missionary engagement with objects through their wide destruction and dispersion, as well as the often invisible paths of their sedimentation. Despite discontinuities and differences over time, these seminars argue for *ancien régime* missionary collecting practices spreading beyond the culture of curiosity and aim at exploring them in tension and relation to later more organic ethnographical projects. The series concentrates mainly on the Catholic world, assuming shifted temporalities as one possible privileged entry point to further comparisons and entanglements between Protestant and Catholic worlds.

This series will strive to unveil the highly complex and competing spaces of possibilities between violent anti-idolatry object confiscation campaigns and shifting forms of attention regarding human material productions in missionary practices and related theological thinking. The seminars will explore artefact collecting at the crossroads between indigenous claims and missionary "duty of knowledge", institutional actions, and scholarly interests. The competing interests, claims, and agencies engaged in global circulations and local sedimentations of objects will be fully investigated. A differentiated "gift-economy" permeating missionary return-travels to Europe will be explored at the intersection of plural agencies, practices of scholarly transcription and antiquarian translations, aesthetic dimensions, and forms of intermediality. The possible juridical implications of these processes will also be addressed.

Presentation and discussion will be held in English, Italian, or Spanish. This series has been conceived as a **hybrid "dispersed workshop"**, involving different universities and sites both in presence and remote. According to the current difficult pandemic situation, and fluid local conditions, information on the single meetings will be punctually updated. **Online participation registration is required.** Please register per e-mail at sabina.brevaglieri@hu-berlin.de until the day before (13:00 CET) the seminar takes place. The link to remote participation will be sent to registered participants in the morning of the seminar day.

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Convenor: Sabina Brevaglieri

Program

4 March 2021, 5-7 pm

Davide DOMENICI

University of Bologna

Handling sacrifice. Reception and perception of Mesoamerican knives in early modern Italy

11 March 2021, 5-7 pm

Sergio BOTTA

La Sapienza Università di Roma

The Franciscan struggle against "sacred matter" in the New Spain (1524-1615)

25 March 2021, 5-7 pm

Manuela Águeda GARCÍA GARRIDO

University of Caen Normandie

Instrumentos de misión y objetos de idolatría en Filipinas: un ensayo de etnografía misional en tiempos del arzobispo Felipe Pardo (1677-1689)

Discussant (English): Birgit Tremml Werner - Linnaeus University

1 April 2021, 5-7 pm

Beatrice FALCUCCI

University of Florence

"O Nigrizia O morte". Le collezioni coloniali nei musei missionari in Italia 1882-1943.

Discussant (English): tba

The presentation is expected to be held in presence and will be kindly hosted by **Antonio Clericuzio, Università Roma Tre**

15 April 2021, 5-7 pm

Alessandro DI MEO

University of Tuscia Viterbo

Il museo cinese di Parma nella prima metà del Novecento

Discussant (English): Elisabetta Corsi

The presentation is expected to be held in presence and will be kindly hosted by **Elisabetta Corsi and Sergio Botta, La Sapienza Università di Roma**

22 April 2021, 5-7 pm

Mariana de Campos FRANÇOZO

University of Leiden

Searching for Athanasius Kircher's Brazilian collection

The presentation is expected to be held in presence and will be kindly hosted by **Antonio Clericuzio, Università Roma Tre**

29 April 2021, 5-7 pm

Sabina BREVAGLIERI

Humboldt Universität zu Berlin

The origins of Propaganda Fide Museum. Missionary artefacts in Baroque Papal Rome.

The seminar will be kindly chaired by Günther Wassilowsky