

Who owns cultural assets? Who has narrative control? What could fair and just solutions look like in dealing with them, independently of restitution?

Discussions about historical appropriation practices for cultural assets in the context of their associated relocation are highly topical and widely reflected across different academic disciplines. Not only are seizures and sales of objects and collections considered problematic which were forced by violence or under dictatorial government structures, but widespread public criticism has also been directed towards the exhibition of artefacts with unclear provenance, amongst other issues.

Increasingly, such questions concern those who work in the art market, museums, politics and the media, scholars from diverse disciplines such as ethnology, archaeology, and law, as well as artists and writers. Yet the translocations as such rarely come into focus – with the people involved, the related traumas, discourses, gestures, techniques and representations, all of which will be the primary focus of the conference.

An event conceived by the team of the Leibniz-Prize-funded (DFG) project-cluster *translocations* at the chair of modern art history at Technische Universität Berlin (Bénédicte Savoy).

Open to the public. Admission is free but seats are limited. The conference language is English.

**Conference Venue:**

Technische Universität Berlin  
Fakultätsforum im Architekturgebäude  
(Architecture building, main entrance, corner Marchstraße / Straße des 17. Juni)  
Straße des 17. Juni 150/152  
10623 Berlin

For more information on the project-cluster *translocations* please visit  
[www.translocations.net](http://www.translocations.net) | [www.kuk.tu-berlin.de](http://www.kuk.tu-berlin.de)

Design: Nathalie Okpu

# *trans* International Conference *loca* Historical Enquiries into the Displacement of Cultural Assets *tions*

## 5 - 7 December 2019

TRANS  
LOCA  
TIONS  
TRANSLOCATIONS  
Historical Enquiries  
into the Displacement  
of Cultural Assets

Funded by  
**DFG** Deutsche  
Forschungsgemeinschaft

Technische  
Universität  
Berlin

## **translocations**

### **Historical Enquiries into the Displacement of Cultural Assets**

#### **International Conference**

5 - 7 December 2019

#### **Thursday 5 December 2019**

14:00 Registration & Welcome

14:30 Introduction  
*Bénédicte Savoy (Berlin / Paris)*

#### **I. Translocations: Methods, Challenges and Research Structures**

*Chair: Christine Howald (Berlin)*

15:15  
Locating Object Biographies Through Translocated Files - *Emma Hagström Molin (Berlin / Uppsala)*

15:45  
Questions of Ownership and Translocation: European Concepts versus South American Native Regimes - *Andrea Scholz (Berlin)* and *Thiago da Costa Oliveira (Rio de Janeiro / Berlin)*

16:15 - 16:45 Coffee Break

16:45  
Researching Objects = Researching Emotions? Lessons Learnt in the HERA Project TransCultAA - *Christian Fuhrmeister (Munich)* and *Donata Levi (Udine)*

17:15  
Displaced African Objects:  
A Challenging Paradox for Knowledge  
Production - *Romuald Tchibozo (Abomey-Calavi)*

17:45 - 18:15 Discussion

18:30 - 20:00 Reception

#### **Friday 6 December 2019**

9:30 Registration & Welcome

#### **II. Translocations and the Production of Knowledge**

*Chair: Mareike Vennen (Berlin)*

10:00  
Translocations, German Ethnology and Colonialism - *Hélène Ivanoff (Frankfurt/Main)*

10:30  
Colonial Translocations: From British India to Berlin: The Collection of L.A. Waddell - *Regina Höfer (Florence / Berlin)*

11:00 - 11:30 Coffee Break

11:30  
The Russian State Museums Reserve and the Museum Network: A Socialist Way to Manage Museum and Private Collections - *Maria Silina (Montréal)*

12:00 - 12:30 Discussion

12:30 - 14:00 Lunch Break

#### **III. Translocation / Transformation of Object Meaning and Status**

*Chair: Robert Skwirblies (Berlin)*

14:00  
Translocations of Jewish Ceremonial Objects (Judaica) after 1945 - *Anna-Carolin Augustin (Washington D.C.)*

14:30  
Looted Bells: Church Bells in the Great Mosque of Fez - *Isabelle Dolezalek (Greifswald)*

15:00  
Rachid ben Mohammed's Flag from Stanley Falls (1893): Emblem, Loot, Trophy and Decorative Object? - *Martin Hullebroeck (Paris / Bruxelles)*

15:30 - 16:00 Discussion

16:00 - 16:30 Coffee Break

#### **IV. The Space Left Behind – Strategies for Dealing with Loss and Absence**

*Chair: Merten Lagatz (Berlin)*

16:30  
Islands without History? Consequences of the Relocation of Danish Colonial Archives to the US and Denmark for the Memory of Slavery and Slave Emancipation - *Jan Hüsken (Berlin)*

17:00  
First Steps towards Restitution: Creating and Curating the Lesotho National Museum - *Qanita Lilla (Capetown)*

17:30  
"Translocations" on Display:  
Central Asian Cave Murals in Museums - *Ji Young Park (Berlin)*

17:30 - 18:00 Discussion

#### **Saturday 7 December 2019**

10:00 Registration & Welcome

#### **V. Legal Perspectives, Developments and Frameworks**

*Chair: Meike Hopp (Berlin)*

10:30  
„The German reputation would be seriously damaged.“ Berlin Museums, German Diplomacy and the Ottoman Antiquity Law - *Sebastian Willert (Berlin)*

11:00  
Stolen Ships, Maritime Law, and Eurasian Object Movements around 1600 - *Elsje van Kessel (St Andrews)*

11:30 - 12:00 Coffee Break

12:00  
When Politics Bypass their Own Heritage Laws: From Latin America to Paris and vice versa (1920s–1930s) - *Élodie Vaudry (Mexico City / Paris)* and *Léa Saint-Raymond (Paris)*

12:30  
Translocations of Objects from Africa to Germany (1884-1919): Today's Perspective on their Enablement and Justification - *Sheila Heidt (Cologne)*

12:30 - 13:30 Final Discussion