

WORKSHOPS | Friday, 10 November 2017

NEMO's 25th Annual Conference // Ghent, Belgium

Bente Bergmans



Bente Bergmans, Quality Advisor at the Netherlands Museums Association, conducted an in-depth fieldwork research about the underground music scene of Yogyakarta, Indonesia. After obtaining her Master degree in Cultural Anthropology with a specialisation in Media and Visual Culture at the Leiden University, Bergmans decided to step into the world of museums and worked as a Communications Assistant at Photography Museum FOAM in Amsterdam. She then joined the team of the Netherlands Museums Association as Quality Advisor, and is now in charge of the membership policy and focuses on topics such as de-accessioning, ethics and governance.

Gea Wold



Gea Wold is senior advisor quality and employers business at the Netherlands Museums Association. She has worked for more than 10 years in different jobs for the Dutch Museums Association. She now focusses on topics around quality, including de-accessioning, and employers business (labour market and human resource management in museums). She has a degree in Business Administration. Before embracing the museum field she worked several years at the University of Groningen.

Workshop: How objects (do not) end up in the bin

There is no museum without a collection, but what to do when the collection does not keep up with the changing brand identity of the museum? This workshop will elaborate on de-accessioning according to the Dutch model. The Netherlands have established a transparent digital platform on which museums can easily notify others about their proposed deaccessioned objects. What problems occur? And what rating models are used? And why even de-access in the first place?

Wiebke Ahrndt



Wiebke Ahrndt studied history, ethnology and Meso-American studies in Braunschweig, Goettingen and Bonn. From 1999 until 2002, she led the American department at the Museum der Kulturen (Museum of Cultures) in Basel. Since March 2002, Wiebke Ahrndt is director of the Übersee-Museum Bremen. In October 2006, she received an honorary professorship in the faculty of Cultural Science at the University of Bremen. Since May 2010, Wiebke Ahrndt is a member of the board, and since May 2011, vice-president of the German Museums Association (GMA). She was head of the GMA working group that published the 'Recommendations for the Care of Human Remains' and is now head of the GMA working group which prepares 'Recommendations for the Care of Collections from a Colonial Context'.

Workshop: Human remains and objects from a colonial context in museum collections – Recommendations from Germany

Museums are public institutions and must make a contribution to the growing debate on the handling of colonial collections. In light of the increasing claims for the return of human remains, the German Museums Association published the 'Recommendations for the Care of Human Remains in Museums and Collections' published in 2013. Since 2016 a working group of the GMA prepares the 'Recommendations for the Care of Collections from a Colonial Context' to be published in 2018. This workshop will discuss the core issues addressed by these recommendations, their consequences, the composition of the working groups and the political environment in which they arose.

Marc Jacobs



Marc Jacobs is the director of FARO. Flemish Interface for Cultural Heritage and professor of heritage studies at Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), HARP (History, Arts/Archaeology, Philosophy & Ethics). He coordinates the UNESCO Chair in Critical Heritage Studies and the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage at the VUB. He currently focuses on the cultural heritage paradigm, UNESCO, European institutions and heritage policies, heritage practices in China, sustainable development, actor-network theory, and heritage valuation and significance.

Workshop: How to assess and manage values of museum collections – Enriching Experiments in Flanders

In Flanders, a trajectory on valuation and significance assessment is started as part of the cultural heritage strategy of the Flemish government, with special attention for museum collection management. How does this fit into international developments and 21st century management models? How do programs in Australia, the Netherlands and other countries inspire this trajectory? Is it possible to enrich collections and collection management? What is the potential for local and regional collection strategies? Or for museum collections in particular?

Els Veraverbeke



Els Veraverbeke is the conservator at the House of Alijn, where, together with her team, she has nurtured a culture of out-of-the-box thinking. The House of Alijn's way of working is characterised by the museum's involvement of the public, unique communication strategies and multidisciplinary approach. As a historian specialized in (post-)modern mentality and emotional history, Els has succeeded in placing the culture and heritage of the everyday in the spotlight at the House of Alijn. Having curated many exhibitions and projects since 1999, she and her team have developed the House of Alijn as a forum built on public participation, societal engagement and contemporary relevance.