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## Updates from CARMAH

Dear readers,

We are pleased that CARMAH has been able to maintain its research during these difficult times and we continue to adapt our methods to meet the present challenges.

As we have been working through major developments concerning heritage and remembrance discourses, our collection of [CARMAH Reflections](#) has continued to grow. Three new pieces published in recent months reflect upon significant issues in contemporary discussions about heritage practices.

Available [here](#), [Magdalena Buchczyk](#) and [Duane Jethro's](#) text about the strong momentum of BLM explores contested histories and their physical traces in cities. [In another reflection](#), [Sarah Ullrich](#) and [Katharina Geis](#) observe ongoing changes in museum practices and their many digital initiatives in recent times. Lastly, [Duane Jethro](#) discusses the recently installed Christian decorations atop the reconstructed Berliner Schloss, in a piece that is accessible [here](#).

Below are further details about what we have been working on these past few months and

what we have to come in the near future.

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## People



In autumn, we are expecting new visitors and colleagues with exciting research lined up.

We will be welcoming **Callum Fisher** to CARMAH as a doctoral candidate. Having previously assisted with the **TRACES** project, his current research looks at museum collections from colonial contexts that are today divided between different types of institution. With a focus on ethnographic and natural history collections, he explores the generative potential of considering collections outside of these categories.



In addition to expanding our team, we congratulate some of our current researchers who are moving on to new challenges. We are grateful for the inspirational discussions we were able to have with them at CARMAH and look forward to continued collaboration in the future.

**Duane Jethro** has been with CARMAH as an Alexander von Humboldt Georg Foster fellow from 2017 until 2019. He joined the **"Making Differences: Transforming Museums and Heritage"** project from June 2019. He will be "repatriated" to South Africa, according to official COVID19 travel rhetoric, to take up a three year Junior Research Fellowship at the Centre for Curating the Archive in the Michaelis School of Fine Art. Among other exciting collaborations and engagements at the centre, he will work on the conceptual and visual aesthetic potential of the University of Cape Town's art collection for constituting publicness in contemporary Cape Town.



**Jonas Tinius**, who spent four years as a post doc on the **Making Differences** sub-project Transforming the Ethnographic with **Larissa Förster** and **Margareta von Oswald**, has now joined the ERC Consolidator Grant project **'Minor Universality. Narrative World Productions After Western Universalism'** based at Saarland University. As a scientific coordinator and postdoc, he will work with Professor Markus Messling (PI) and an interdisciplinary team of colleagues on possible alternatives to western universal museum conceptions and contemporary forms of curating, conducting fieldwork in France, Tunisia, and Germany - where he will oversee an artist-in-residency programme in collaboration with the HKW.

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## Two Postdoc research positions to work on analysis of the exhibitions and reception of the Humboldt Forum

Two researcher positions (E 13) are available from 01.10.2020 until 31.3.2022 to work within the sub-project **"Realizations and Reception: The Humboldt Forum Berlin"** as part of the main project **"Making Differences: Transforming Museums and Heritage"**, funded by **Sharon Macdonald's Alexander von Humboldt Professorship**. The researchers will work as part of a team to research the exhibitions of the **Humboldt Forum** (including analysis of content and

display) and their reception (including visitor research). As part of a team, they will play a role in the research design, conduct research and analyze the results, and to write it up in both report and publishable format. They will also contribute to wider project organization and outputs, and to the wider project concerns with questions of difference and transformation in relation to museums.

Click [here](#) for the full announcement in English or [here](#) you can find it in German. For more information on the project (under Realizations and reception in the Humboldt Forum, Berlin) please click [here](#). We are looking forward to hearing from you!

**Application deadline: 27th August 2020**

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## CARMAH at ACHS 2020: Heritage and the Future of Difference

CARMAH will be present at the [fifth biennial conference of the Association of Critical Heritage Studies \(ACHS\)](#), which will run as a fully virtual conference from 26th-30th August 2020. In addition to [Sharon Macdonald's](#) keynote speech on the 27th August, CARMAH will present the following curated session, within the subtheme 'Future Policies and Politics of Heritage':

### Heritage and the Future of Difference

26th August at 15:00-16:15 BST, moderated by [Duane Jethro](#) and [Christine Gerbich](#)

There is a widespread call today for heritage institutions — preeminent arbiters of social recognition — to be more inclusive and embracing of diversity so as to contribute to democratic processes. Museums especially have long played a central role in forging national and local senses of identity and belonging. Inherent to this process is marking as different or 'other' what is not 'us' or those who do not 'belong'. This panel looks at how and whether museums and heritage can be effectively repurposed to address more diverse agendas and futures. Specifically, it examines the politics and policies in heritage and museum settings that are key to making new futures, as well as the imaginaries, capacities and abilities that these foster. Through concrete ethnographic examples, panelists examine practices and processes that lead to shifts in possibilities for “doing” diversity and discuss unanticipated and sometimes even detrimental consequences that flow therefrom.

Contributions:

- Introduction by [Sharon Macdonald](#)
- [Duane Jethro](#): Remapping Difference: Colonial Street Names, 'Decolonisation' and 'New' German Futures.
- [Nazlı Cabadağ](#): Queer Entanglements of Translocality: Turkish-Speaking New-Comers Negotiate Solidarity in Berlin.
- [Debbie Onuoha](#): Beyond Compare? Juxtaposition, Enunciation and African Art in Berlin Museums.
- [Christine Gerbich](#): On the Futurabilities of Museums: Unlearning Privileges in the Museum for Islamic Art in Berlin.
- [Margareta von Oswald](#): Museum Objects As Avatars. Thinking Within and Beyond the Museum's Infrastructures.
- [Jonas Tinius](#): Dis-Othering Diversity: Curating as Institutional Troubling
- A film on [Chiara Garbellotto's](#) and [Tahani Nadim's](#) research on Re-politicizing Participatory Data Practice: Citizens, Nightingales and Science in the Natural History Museum.

## Further contributions

In addition to CARMAH's session, [Anna Szöke](#) will contribute to the panel 'Arts and Creative Practice', convened by Colin Sterling, UCL. Her presentation 'A new way forward? Engaging in Creative Co-Productions' draws upon the research done in [TRACES](#) and its subproject Dead Images, investigating the format of Creative Co-productions, highlighting particular pitfalls and potentials of this collaboration.

[Magdalena Buchczyk](#) will be presenting her paper "Folk shirts, plastic cups and other dilemma of future-proofing at the Museum of European Cultures in Berlin" in the section 'The Future Museum: Collections and Collecting'.

She will also be co-convening a curated session on "Rethinking (post)socialist heritage - ambiguous afterlives and contested futures". The panel will look at how, since 1989, the heritage and museums of the former socialist and Non-Aligned Movement countries have experienced an unprecedented rupture. They will discuss how past heritage practices, from museum collecting, cultural exchanges to preservation and curatorial work, have been drastically transformed, looking at the contested legacy of (post)socialism and its impact on heritage futures

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## Digital Exhibition



We cordially invite you to visit the digital exhibition "[Curating the Digital](#)" (in German) of the MA study project of the same name at the Institute of European Ethnology and the Centre for Anthropological Research on Museums and Heritage (CARMAH) at HU Berlin. Over the course of one year, 23 students dived into different digital fields and now provide lively, ethnographic insights through texts, exhibits, images, videos and podcasts. These invite the visitors to experience the diversity and complexity of everyday digital curating practices.

Maybe of interest for teachers and instructors: Supported by the bologna.lab of the HU-Berlin, the project will create a multimedia best practice portfolio in the second half of 2020 to support teachers and coordinators of similar projects with guidelines, tech tutorials and inspirations.



We are happy to receive suggestions and individual requests for advice, guidance and insights that would be helpful to you (contact details on the website).

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## CARMAH at EASA

The biennial conference of the European Association of Social Anthropologists took a different format this year, as its 16th edition in Lisbon took place entirely online. Researchers from CARMAH made the following contributions:

**Magdalena Buchczyk** co-convened the panel '**Knowing Historical Traces, Eliciting Possible Futures**', looking at the ways in which historical traces incite powerful forms of action and imagination in the present. As part of this panel, **Anna Szöke**'s presentation '**Traces of past lives: Engaging with difficult histories**' explored how engagements with the traces of past lives can contribute to building ethical-reflexive futures.

**Alice von Bieberstein** took part in the panel **The Continuum of War: Narration, Accumulation and Dispossession in Transnational War Economy** with her paper **Spoils and treasures: the longue durée of governing through war**. Looking at the conjuncture between the search for 'Armenian' treasures and the war of the Turkish state against the Kurdish movement, this paper engages with the longue durée of 'war' as a means of governance and dispossession.

As part of the panel **Curating the (post)colonial in Europe and beyond**, **Margareta von Oswald** and **Jonas Tinius** jointly contributed the paper **Curating the (post)colonial in Europe and beyond**. Departing from their long-term research and publication project entitled 'Across Anthropology', they asked how we can theorise the convergences across activism, politics, and curatorial practice with view to trans-European postcolonial reckoning?

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## Publications



**Margareta von Oswald** and **Jonas Tinius** have published the edition '**Across Anthropology. Troubling Colonial Legacies, Museums, and the Curatorial**' (2020) Leuven: Leuven University Press. The book features contributions by twenty-one anthropologists and curators who are grappling with how anthropology has been formulated, thought, and practised elsewhere and otherwise. [The entire book is free to download here.](#)



The results of the **Heritage Futures** project have been published in a book that explores the role of heritage and heritage-like practices in building future worlds. In addition to CARMAH's **Sharon Macdonald**, the book also includes contributions from Rodney Harrison, Caitlin DeSilvey, Cornelius Holtorf, Nadia Bartolini, Esther Breithoff, Harald Fredheim, Antony Lyons, Sarah May, Jennie Morgan and Sefryn Penrose (2020). **Heritage Futures. Comparative Approaches to Natural and Cultural Heritage Practices**, London: UCL Press. [Open-access]

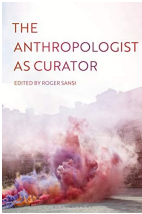


**Sharon Macdonald**, together with Helen Rees Leahy, is managing editor of the **International Handbooks of Museum Studies**, which have been published in new paperback editions. (2020) New York: Wiley-Blackwell.

**Jonus Tinius** outlines a series of public encounters with Nora Al-Badri, Khadija von Zinnenburg Carroll, Silvy Chakkalakal, Alya Sebti and Jonas Tinius, held at



the institute for foreign cultural relations (ifa) in '[Traces, Legacies, and Futures. A Conversation on Art and Temporality](#)' Third Text Forum 01/2020. [Open-access]



[Sharon Macdonald](#) and [Jonas Tinius](#) explore the relation between anthropological fieldwork and curatorial practice in '[The recursivity of the curatorial](#)' (2020) In: Roger Sansi (ed.). The Anthropologist as Curator. London: Bloomsbury, pp. 35-58.



[Christoph Bareither](#) uses an ethnographic analysis of digital photography and social media practices to explore the entanglement between difficult heritage and digital media. '[Difficult Heritage and Digital Media. „Selfie Culture“ and Emotional Practices at the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe.](#)' In: International Journal of Heritage Studies 2020, 1-16. [Open-access]

Commenting on the complex processes of decolonising arts institutions in Germany, [Jonas Tinius](#) contributes to the publication '[Beyond Afropolitan & Other Labels: On the Complexities of Dis-Othering as a Process.](#)' (2020) In: Kathleen Louw et al. (eds.). Brussels: BOZAR, pp. 11–14.




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## Upcoming Events

13th August - 13th September 2020

### Museum performance

[Alice von Bieberstein](#) will be a speaker in Tino Seghal's piece 'The Situation' as part of the exhibition 'Down to Earth' at Martin-Gropius-Bau.

24th August 2020

### Colloquium

CARMAH continues to collaborate with the German Lost Art Foundation. The colloquium '[Provenance Research](#)' will start on the 24th August, with a lecture by Paul Turnbull, Emeritus Professor of History and Digital Humanities, University of Tasmania.

27 August 2020

### Keynote presentation

[Sharon Macdonald](#) will give a keynote speech at the [fifth biennial conference of the Association of Critical Heritage Studies \(ACHS\)](#), which will run as a fully virtual conference from 26th -30th August 2020.

7th - 9th October 2020

### Conference

The online conference '[Digital Truth-Making: Ethnographic Perspectives on Practices, Infrastructures and Affordances of Truth-Making in Digital Societies](#)' will be co-hosted by CARMAH. The conference programme is now available online [here](#).

22nd - 23rd October 2020

### Keynote presentation

As part of the conference '[SnAppShots. Smartphones als Kamera](#)' at the Museum für

Fotografie, [Christoph Bareither](#) and Sabine Wirth will give the keynote presentation 'Interfacing the Everyday. Medientheoretische und ethnografische Perspektiven auf Smartphone-Fotografie.'

22nd - 23rd October 2020

### **Presentation**

[Sarah Ullrich](#) will present on the topic 'Digital curating of the museum [experience](#) on social media platforms' at the conference '[SnAppShots. Smartphones as cameras](#)'

30th - 31st October 2020

### **Workshop**

[New Perspectives in Turkey Studies in the German-Speaking Countries](#). [Nazlı Cabadağ](#) will moderate the workshop session "Solidarity and Sexual Dissidence"

11th - 13th November 2020

### **Presentation**

[Sarah Ullrich](#) and [Katharina Geis](#) will be contributing to the workshop on the DFG Schwerpunktprogramm 'Das Digitale Bild'. They will be discussing transdisciplinary research methods within the project, looking specifically at ethnographic approaches to 'the digital image'.

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Images included in this email have been provided by: Kasia Skrzypek, Tal Adler, Leuven University Press, UCL Press, Christoph Bareither, London Bloomsbury and BOZAR

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