

CARMAH COURSES Summer Semester 2023

BA Course by [Sharon Macdonald](#) & [Irene Hilden](#)

Heritage Matters

The aim of this Seminar is to provide an introduction to a range of social anthropological and European Ethnological perspectives and approaches through the lens of research on heritage. As such, the focus will be on themes that are important for broader social and cultural understanding, and that have been and continue to be the subject of various theoretical and methodological approaches, e.g. socio-political, global, affective and sensory. The Seminar will introduce a range of analytical concepts and theoretical perspectives through focus on specific topics and studies of tangible and intangible, cultural and natural, heritage. These will probably include debates over restitution, colonial memory politics, national history-making, and World Heritage listing among others. The Seminar will be in English and German.

For more information see: [Heritage Matters](#).

MA Course by [Sharon Macdonald](#) & [Maxim Le Calvé](#)

Anthropology of Techniques

The ethnographic study of techniques has had a tremendous influence on contemporary ethnology. Techniques have been described and analyzed as way to relate to the environment, to other-than-human beings, as well as to the human. In this Seminar, we will explore a range of literature (from British, French and German traditions) concerning 'techniques' and put these into dialogue with anthropological perspectives and empirical examples. This will entail looking from art to science and back, including toward design, and reflecting on creative processes and "chaines opératoires," involved in the construction of empirical knowledge. It will take us into consideration of ethnographic methods, and multimodal and design anthropology; and techniques including exhibitions and the performing arts. The exhibition-research project "Sketching Brains" will be one focus of the Seminar: <https://speculativerealitieslab.pubpub.org/sketching-brains-exhibition> The Seminar will primarily be in English but contributions, including MAPS, in German are also welcome. Most readings will be in English but some texts will be available in German and French.

For more information see: [Anthropology of Techniques](#).

BUA Course by [Isabel Bredenbröker](#)

Non-normative relations wanted: Testing queer methods at the Berlin Ethnological Museum (BUA | X-Student Research)

This course seeks to unpack theoretical approaches from within the anthropology of art, time and kinship, queer studies and museum studies in order to understand and co-create queer (non-normative) relations around objects in the collection of the Ethnological Museum Berlin.

The aim is to develop and hands-on apply a queer methodology that informs and instructs the analysis and the creation of new relations around artworks and 'ethnographic' objects, queer here relating to non-normative kinds of relations that are of vital importance for intersectional practice in the arts and the museum.

For more information see: [Testing queer Methods](#).

MA Course by [Magda Buchczyk](#) & [Franka Schneider](#) (MEK)

Makeshift Europe

This study project will critically address the question of displaying Europe through applied museum collection research. In 2011, the Museum Europäischer Kulturen (MEK) has developed the current main gallery to present its collection. Since, diverse actors ranging from authoritarian governments to decolonial activists, have been confronting and deploying the notion of 'Europe', 'identity' and 'heritage' in increasingly charged political contexts. At a critical juncture of the European project, in the context of post-utopian, post-Brexit, post-pandemic, post-colonial public sphere, museums like the MEK need to respond to these shifts. The study project will be the first makeshift, experimental, provisory step to problematize Europe in the museum.

Turning the MEK gallery into a laboratory of applied collection research, the student group will develop new research-based perspectives on the MEK collection in collaboration with the museum curators. The aim of the project is to mobilise and re-activate the collection as a vital, critical resource through a range of methods drawn from ethnology, material culture and museum studies. The seminars will provide practical skills in collection research ranging from object biography, visual approaches to archival methodologies, developing the participants' research and curatorial skills. Through the current debates about Europe and collections, the students will be encouraged to undertake their individual object research and develop group approaches in order to rethink Europe in the museum.

For more information see: [Makeshift Europe](#).

BA Course by [Larissa Förster](#)

Deutschland und Namibia: Forschungen zu einer (post)kolonialen Beziehungsgeschichte

Postkoloniale Ansätze decken in den Kultur- und Sozialwissenschaften mittlerweile einen sehr wichtigen Theorie- und Gegenstandsbereich ab. Dieser wird am Beispiel eines konkreten (historischen) Fallbeispiels im Seminar vertieft: der Geschichte der Kolonisierung des südwestlichen Afrika durch das Deutsche Reich sowie seiner Dekolonisierung bis hin zur zeitgenössischen Erinnerungspolitik und -kultur in den beiden Ländern. Historische und aktuelle Forschungen perspektivieren die Beziehungsgeschichte der beiden postkolonialen Staaten im Sinne einer Verflechtungsgeschichte, betonen historische Formen von Widerstand und Widerständigkeit, untersuchen wechselseitigen Projektionen und Aneignungen, diskutieren „hybride“ Praktiken, dekonstruieren koloniale Narrative und Topoi in der Selbst- und Fremdwahrnehmung, sensibilisieren für das koloniale Erbe in der Gegenwart, weisen auf neokoloniale Formen der wirtschaftlichen Ausbeutung hin u.ä. Das Seminar versucht, die theoretischen Zugänge der postcolonial studies mit konkreten Forschungsfeldern wie etwa der Reparations- und Restitutionsdebatte und Initiativen zur Dekolonisierung von Museen und städtischen Räumen in beiden Ländern zu verknüpfen.

For more information see: [Postkoloniale Beziehungsgeschichte](#).

BA Course by [Tahani Nadim](#)

Anthropozän - Das Making of

Der Begriff "Anthropozän" bezeichnet eine vom Menschen geprägte, neue geologische Epoche. Die menschengemachten Spuren, sei es Mikroplastik, "forever chemicals" oder die Klimakatastrophe, werden weit in die Zukunft reichen und erfordern es, dass wir Menschenzeit mit geologischer Tiefenzeit ("deep time") in Beziehung setzen.

Das Seminar wirft einen Blick in Wissenschaft, Museum und Sammlung als Orte, an denen ein neues geologisches Zeitalter hergestellt wird und hinterfragt die steile Karriere des Universalbegriffs kritisch. Es findet in Zusammenarbeit mit dem Museum für Naturkunde Berlin statt, ist angesiedelt zwischen Theorie und Praxis, und umfasst die Auseinandersetzung mit mehreren in Berlin ansässigen Sammlungen.

For more information see: [Anthropozän](#).

BA Course by [Jonas Tinius](#) & [Margareta von Oswald](#)

Awkward Archives: Ethnographic encounters with Berlin histories and presents

Archives do not just preserve the past, they allow for new questions about the present to emerge. They contain remnants of specific places and times, and they are the ground for new relations to spring and new connections to be made. In this seminar, we ask: Why archiving and for whom? How do archives shape societies and constitute knowledge? We will engage with "awkward archives" in Berlin – archives posing problems and causing disquieting frictions. In each of the seminar's modules, we address a particular modern ideology through a particular Berlin archive, including the following: Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Colonial Neighbours Archive of SAVVY Contemporary, Naomi Wilzig Art Collection, Museum of Natural History, a database of German colonial punitive expeditions, and the Hahne-Niehoff Archive of the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.

For more information see: [Awkward Archives](#).