

Dear colleagues and friends,

On 6 and 7 October 2020, as part of a collaborative research project between the Museum für Naturkunde, University of Trier and Potsdam University, we will be holding a two-day workshop, 'Collecting A Continent: Reconstructing the Australian Archive of Berlin's Natural History Museum'.

We warmly invite you to join us for the opening session and keynote: "Strategies for First Nations' Communities in motivating museums to move beyond fear and assuagement" by Associate Professor Sandy O'Sullivan.

Event details

Date: Tuesday 6 October

Time: 9-10am CET (Berlin, GMT+2)

Location: via Zoom

Language: English

Speaker:

Associate Professor Sandy O'Sullivan

University of the Sunshine Coast, Queensland

Associate Professor Sandy O'Sullivan is a Wiradjuri (Aboriginal) academic, researcher and creative practitioner based in Queensland. They recently completed an international survey of 470 museum organisations addressing First Nations perspectives on museum collections, practices and exhibitions. Prof. O'Sullivan will speak to us about the key considerations and first principles for museum staff and researchers when beginning to address questions posed by colonial natural history collections, be they ethical, spiritual, cosmological, religious, health-related, political, practical or otherwise, with special reference to collections located outside Australia, in this case in Germany.

Publications by Sandy O'Sullivan:

- O'Sullivan, Sandy, 'Killing the Indigene: Interrogating the Support of First Nations' Diversity in the Modern University' in Gail Crimmins (ed), *Strategies for Supporting Inclusion and Diversity in the Academy: Higher Education, Aspiration and Inequality* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2020) 69-83.
- O'Sullivan, Sandy, 'Recasting Identities: Intercultural Understandings of First Peoples in the National Museum Space' in Pamela Burnard, Elizabeth Mackinlay and Kimberly Powell (eds), *The Routledge International Handbook of Intercultural Arts Research* (Taylor & Francis Ltd., 2016) 35-45.
- O'Sullivan, Sandy, 'Reversing the Gaze: Considering Indigenous Perspectives on Museums, Cultural Representation and the Equivocal Digital Remnant' in Lyndon Ormond-Parker et al (eds), *Information Technology and Indigenous Communities*. (AIATSIS Research Publications, 2013) 139-149.

Read more about Sandy O'Sullivan here: <https://www.usc.edu.au/staff/associate-professor-sandy-osullivan#biography>

Responses to the keynote will be given by:

Dr. Michael Pickering

National Museum of Australia

and

Ms. Katja Kaiser

Natural History Museum, Berlin

Register

Please register by sending an email to kate.m.davison@gmail.com using ‘Collecting a Continent GUEST’ in the subject heading, including your full name and affiliation and/or stating the reason for your interest in the event. A Zoom link and login details will be sent to you shortly before the event.

Support

The initial phase of the project is supported by preliminary funding from the Digital Cultural Heritage Studies (CHeST) initiative of Trier University and the Research Funding Unit of the University of Potsdam.

Read more about the project on our blog: <https://collectingoz.hypotheses.org/>