

REFRAMING THE MUSEUM

DECOLONIAL PRACTICES

**IN THE CONTEXT OF CENTRAL
AND EASTERN EUROPE**

CONFERENCE 13-14.11.2025

State
Ethnographic
Museum
in Warsaw



CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

REFRAMING THE MUSEUM. DECOLONIAL PRACTICES IN THE CONTEXT OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

THURSDAY, 13.11

10:00-11:00 Registration & Welcome Coffee

11:00-11:30 Opening Speech Magdalena Wróblewska, PhD
Director of the State Ethnographic Museum in Warsaw

11:30-11:40 Discussion

PANEL #1, REFLECTING ON THE COLLECTION

Moderator: Marta Skwirowska, PhD

11:40-12:00 Piret Koosa, PhD
Estonian National Museum

Heritage, Power, and Advocacy: Finno-Ugric Collections in Shifting Contexts

12:00-12:20 Matthias Thaden, PhD
Museum Europäischer Kulturen Berlin

Everyday Objects, Extraordinary Contexts: How the Berlin Museum of Ethnology Collected in Occupied Galicia, 1942

12:20-12:40 Maria Wodzińska, PhD, Joanna Barczuk
The State Ethnographic Museum in Warsaw

On the Borders of the Empires. A Case Study of the Altar of the Hand (Ikegobo) from the Collection of the State Ethnographic Museum in Warsaw

12:40-13:00 Discussion

13:00-14:00 BREAK

PANEL #2, BEYOND THE MUSEUM

Moderator: Amudena Rutkowska

14:00-14:20 Piotr Cichocki, PhD
Institute of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology
Interdisciplinary Postcolonial Research Group, University of Warsaw

Digitalization of Spirits or a Decolonial Paradox: A Case of Cooperation with Marginalized Communities in Northern Malawi

14:20-14:40 Agnes Dudek
Doctoral School of Humanities, University of Warsaw

Toward Ontological Openness: Decolonizing Plant-Human Relations in Iboga Ceremonies

14:40-15:00 Discussion

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15:00-15:30 BREAK

15:30-16:00 Keynote Speaker: Matthew Rampley, PhD

Why Is it Still So Difficult to Talk About Colonialism? Museums and Identities in Contemporary East-Central Europe (ONLINE)

16:00-16:30 Keynote Speaker: Sumaya Kassim

Love is the Familiar made Strange... Defamiliarising the Museum as a Doorway to Decolonising

16:30-17:00 Discussion

FRIDAY, 14.11

09:00-11:30 Guided Tours

11:30 -12:00 BREAK

PANEL #3, RESHAPING THE NARRATIVE

Moderator: Katarzyna Flis

12:00-12:20 Karolina Bukovskytė
Lithuanian Culture Research Institute

Reconceptualisation of Collections: A Case Study of the Icon Collection from the Former Museum of Atheism

12:20-12:40 Yana Hladyr, PhD
Institute of Slavic Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences / Pryazovskyi State Technical University (Mariupol–Dnipro)

Visualization of Museum Decolonization and Museal Cultural Texts in Ukrainian Cultural Media on Instagram as a Manifestation of Catharsis in Ukrainian Art (2022–2025)

12:40-13:00 Claudia Desile Abraham
Department of Art History at the Complutense University of Madrid
Can Museums Be Gardens? Pinacoteca Migrante (2024) as a Case Study

13:00-13:20 Magda Bodzan, Agnieszka Bułacik, Sara Herczyńska, PhD,
and Joanna Roszak, Prof.

Challenging the „Fiedler Gaze”: On Colonialism and the Potential for Change in a Biographical Museum in Small-Town Poland

13:20-13:40 Discussion

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13:40-14:40 BREAK

PANEL #4, RETHINKING THE ARCHIVES

Moderator: Maria Wodzińska, PhD

14:40-15:00 Agustina Andreoletti

Departments of Art Theory and Social and Cultural Anthropology,
University of Cologne

***Reimagining Colonial Archives: The Leaky Archive Project at Cologne's
Rautenstrauch-Joest-Museum (ONLINE)***

15:00-15:20 Jan Šejbl

National Museum - Náprstek Museum of Asian, African and American Cultures

***Changing Role of Photography. The Photographic Collections of the Náprstek Museum
in the Context of Decolonization***

15:20-15:40 Michael Falser, PhD Habil.

Institute of European Art History, Heidelberg University

***From Swakopmund to Windhoek – or from Krakow to Trieste? Decolonising Imperial Train
Infrastructures in Africa and Europe***

15:40-16:00 Discussion

16:00-16:30 Closing Remarks

