

## 9. The secret life of hunter and gatherer collections and exhibitions

### 16182 - Shamanic Objects in the Museu do Indio at Manaus.

Presentation type: Oral presentation

**Author(s):** Athias, Renato (*Núcleo de Estudos e Pesquisas sobre Etnicidade (UFPE), Recife, Brazil / Brasilien*)

This presentation is related the description of the objects of the Hupdah from the Northwest Amazon that are displayed in the Museu do Indio in Manaus. The Hupdah lives in the Upper Rio Negro region in the Brazilian side of the Border with Colombia, and are part of the linguistic family Maku and are considered hunters and gatherers in ethnological literature of this region. The objective of this paper is to present a description and analysis of Hupdah objects that are in this museum aims to understand the universe of Hupdah and their cosmology, mainly when those object are dealing and related to a shamanic use.

## **16134 - Milingimbi Collections: Linking Research, Museums and Communities**

Presentation type: Oral presentation

**Author(s):** *Hamby, Louise (The Australian National University, Acton, Australia / Australien)*

The Australian Research Council Linkage grant: The legacy of 50 years collecting at Milingimbi Mission is a project that showcases the large material culture collections dispersed around the world from Milingimbi, an island in the Arafura Sea off the mainland of the Northern Territory. The team is composed of research fellows from the Australian National University, a curator from Museum Victoria and Indigenous people from Milingimbi. The collaboration is exploring the ways in which knowledge is confirmed and rediscovered within collections and how this knowledge is used to reinvigorate the practices within communities and confirm identity. The material evidence of the past is embedded in both objects and photographs that form the legacy collections and in the memory of Indigenous people today. In order for this to occur there are obstacles to overcome for this community and many others. The location of their materials, the content and access restrictions need to be determined before there useful dialogue can take place between museums and community members. This paper will provide a background to the collections, explore the methodology of the team and point to a cross-cultural model and curatorial practice informed by Yolngu an anthropological epistemologies that could be employed by museums. An examination of new initiatives stemming from this project demonstrate a different approach to exhibitions and collaborations that has come about through interactions between academia, curators and Indigenous people.

## **16019 - Do hunters and gatherers' exhibitions have to live outdoor in order to survive ?**

Presentation type: Oral presentation

**Author(s):** MAZET, Laurent (*Sagnlandet Lejre - the Land of Legends, LEJRE, Denmark / Dänemark*)

At the Centre for Historical-Archaeological Research and Communication, open air museum Sagnlandet Lejre (Denmark - since 1964), 10 years of increasing interest for its international Hunter & Gatherer Culture Festival / the Athra Gathering, are about to sketch a new relationship between scholars, re-enacting craft experts / presenters and the public, linking experimental archaeology and ethno-anthropology by various communication forms.

Without claiming to compete with the synoptic and genuine interest of traditional Stone Age and ethnographic museum collections, our reconstructing of artifacts, structures and environments of hunter-gatherers' everyday life, deploys new opportunities for both scholars and visitors to question the items and unfold their interpretation in terms of fabrication, function and status in former societies.

Archaeologist Laurent Mazet, current manager for the Prehistoric areas in Sagnlandet Lejre, will bring three illustrated examples of communication forms and situations improved along the Athra Gathering: 1) Past and modern hunter-gatherer cultures side by side, 2) Family stays in Stone Age, and 3) experiments and demos about artifactual links through times and continents (ex. ski archaeology).

Sometimes these sessions have revealed the prejudices about Early Stone Age or more recent Hunter-Gatherer cultures, but they however, have created by dialogue, the grateful experience for all parts of recognizing new paths on the way to knowledge. 1) The visitor's empathy for former humans' life and adaptation context, call it an identification process, motivates curiosity for basic know-how that everyone can even adopt (ex. food recipes and processes). 2) Confronted to candid users, re-enacting craft experts can measure the validity of their reconstructions in situation (ex. Is there any universal (Danish) design items beyond the ages?). And 3) the confrontation of the scholar and researcher's theories with the experimentation's reality, enhances the variables and human factors for further improvements of their investigations.

All in all, the presenters' insight creates experience and immersion for our guests, who very often declare their determination to revisit the traditional museum collections, now with a totally different insight, behind every single genuine artifact, inside some certainly esthetic but often dehumanized showcases.

## **16016 - Collection histories and present. Paul Schebesta's African collection at the Weltmuseum Wien.**

Presentation type: Oral presentation

**Author(s):** *Haumberger, Nadja (Weltmuseum Wien, Vienna, Austria / Österreich)*

The collection of Father Paul Schebesta housed at the Weltmuseum Wien from what is today known as the DR Congo is extensive in quality and number. While the Viennese School of Ethnology functioned as a backdrop for the acquisition of these collections, the presentation aims to focus more on the way we see and make use of these collections today. The suggested gap between researcher and museum practice is used as an element to shed light on to Schebesta's work in connection with the collections as well as providing contemporary suggestions for more visibility to African Hunter Gatherers in a museum context today.

## **16006 - Central African Hunter-gatherers in the public collections in Paris**

Presentation type: Oral presentation

**Author(s):** *Bahuchet, Serge (Muséum national d'histoire naturelle, Paris, France / Frankreich)*

In Paris, two public institutions maintain large sets of material culture from « Pygmy » Hunter-gatherers from Central Africa, the Musée du Quai Branly and the Muséum national d'histoire naturelle. None of these collections can be seen nowadays in the permanent displays.

In this paper we will explain the origins and evolution of these collections from CAR, Congo, DRC, Cameroon and Gabon, and describe their ethnographic characteristics. Then we will briefly exemplify the use of these collections in some recent temporary exhibitions, as well as in the coming new Musée de l'Homme (to be open October 2015).