Break-Out Sessions:
Departures
(For registered participants only)

(1) Working Through Colonial Pasts, Opening Postcolonial Spaces
Chair: Anna Brus (Siegen) / Martin Zillinger (Cologne)
Mary Mbewe (Cape Town): Moto Moto Museum Chisungu Collection: Colonial and Post-Colonial Encounters
Erica Jones (Los Angeles): Community Museums in the Grassfields: Palace Histories, Foreign Visitors, and Local Responses
Ntizodo Awono (Bremen/Hamburg): Museum and Colonialism. Provenance and Interpretations of the Cameroon-Collection in the Übersee-Museum Bremen
Lucia Halder (Cologne) / Antje van Wichelen (Brussels): NOISY IMAGES – Attempts to Colonial Imagery
Richard Tsogang Fossi (Hamburg): Eugen Zintgraff’s Encounter with Art Treasures of the Forest and Grasland People of Cameroon
Discussants: Stefanie Michels (Hamburg) / Ciraj Rassool (Cape Town)

(2) New Ventures into Restitution, Exchange and Cooperation
Chair: Michi Knecht (Bremen) / Nanette Snoep (Cologne)
Christoph Rippe (Stuttgart): A Contamination of Provenance? The Relevance of Extended Materialities in Restitution Processes
Munyaradzi Elton Sagiya (Masvingo): The Uncertain Future for the Great Zimbabwe Bird in South Africa: A Curator’s Perspective
Goodman Gwasira (Windhoek): Confronting a Past that Hurts: Ethnographic Collections in the Owela Museum, Windhoek, Namibia
Yann Le Gall (Potsdam): Remembering the Dismembered: A (Web)Site of Memory for Colonial Violence
Oliver Lueb (Cologne): The Absence of Community-Members – Challenges in Working with Spatio-Temporally (too) Far Away Collections
Gabriel Schimmerroth (Hamburg/Berlin): Five Months Zwischenraum – A Space Between
Discussants: David Anderson (Warwick) / E. H. Malick Ndiaye (Dakar)

(3) Politics, Infrastructures, and Publics of Future Collaborations
Chair: Michi Knecht (Bremen) / Nanette Snoep (Cologne)
Kiran Kumar (Hamburg): Archipelago Archives Exhibit
Wandile Goozen Kasibe (Cape Town): Investigating the Colonial Crime Scene
Philipp Schorch (Munich): Collaborative Ethnography in the Doing
Paul Tichmann (Cape Town): Challenges of Rewriting the Khomani San/Bushman Archive at Iziko Museums
Saive Sururu Mboro (Berlin): They want to mock us, don’t they? – six years of campaigning against the Humboldt Forum
Sara Moura (São Paulo): “We are Tupinambá and Want the Cloak Back!” Restitution Claims and the Place of Indigenous Art in the Brazilian Art Canon
Discussants: Katharina Schramm (Bayreuth)

The growing public awareness of colonial violence and historical injustice has put ethnographic collections into the spotlight of social and political debates. Museums are increasingly confronted with the challenge to decolonize their exhibition practices and examine their collection history for looted art, colonial entanglements, and systematic exclusions. The recent initiative of French President Macron to explore the modalities for restituting African objects from French collections has opened a new chapter in the debate on restitution and repatriation. While its actual implementation remains to be seen, the report by Felwine Sarr and Bénédicte Savoy has set a world-wide agenda for decolonizing museum collections and academic research in the coming years.

In order to envision alternative futures for these collections and new forms of co-operation, this conference brings together activists, curators, experts, young researchers and scholars from around the world. Over three days we will re-visit museum collections and the debates and practices that have evolved around them, discuss ongoing work in the longue durée of colonial and postcolonial encounters and bring views from the Global North and South into intensive dialogue.

Convenors: Anna Brus, Larissa Förster, Michi Knecht, Ulrike Lindner, Nanette Snoep, Martin Zillinger
Registration is requested
Contact: Leonie van Dreuten, ldreuten@uni-koeln.de
About the Conference
Monday, July 15

9:00 Opening of Registration
09:30-10:00 Introduction by the Organizers
10:00-12:00 Panel: Looting, Trading, Brokering, Collecting, Locating Agency and Desires
   Chair: Ulrike Lindner (Cologne)
   Speakers: Rebekka Habermas (Göttingen), Nicholas Thomas (Cambridge), Peter Pels (Leiden)
   Discussant: David Anderson (Warwick)
13:30-15:30 Panel: Transforming Objects. Rethinking Things and Humans at and between Different Locales
   Chair: Martin Zillinger (Cologne)
   Speakers: Erhard Schüttpelz (Siegen), Paola Ivanov (Berlin), Bernard Müller (Paris)
   Discussant: Helen Verran (Australia’s Northern Territories)
16:00-17:00 Opening Keynote: Zoë S. Strother (New York): Listening
17:30-20:30 Breakout-Sessions: Departures (For registered participants only)
   (1) Tracing Colonial Past, Opening Postcolonial Spaces
   (2) New Ventures into Restitution, Exchange and Cooperation
   (3) Politics, Infrastructures, and Publics of Future Collaborations (participants see below)
20:30 Optional: Refreshments & Snacks

Tuesday, July 16

10:00-12:00 Panel: Conflicts, Controversies and Iconoclasms: Contested Objects
   Chair: Anna Brus (Siegen)
   Speakers: Regina Höfer (Berlin), Bettina Brockmeyer (Erlangen), Holger Stoeker (Berlin), Tobias Wendt (Berlin)
   Discussant: Ciraj Rassool (Cape Town)
13:00-13:30 Optional: Guided Tour NOISY IMAGES (Lucia Halder), 1st floor
   Chair: Aurora Rodinò (Cologne)
   Speakers: E.H. Malick Ndiaye (Dakar), Felix Sattler (Berlin), Nelson Abiti (Kampala)
   Discussant: Nanette Snoep (Cologne)
16:00-18:00 Open Forum: On the Ethics and Politics of Return and New Forms of Cooperation
   Chair: Michi Knecht (Bremen)
   Speakers: Amber Aranui (Wellington), Thomas Lasly (Windhoek), Natascha Ketter (Berlin)
   Discussant: Verena Rodatus (Berlin)
20:00 Conference Dinner

Wednesday, July 17

09:30-10:30 Morning Keynote: Helen Verran (Australia’s Northern Territory): The Polity and the Ethnographic Museum: Where’s the Rub?
   Moderation: Souad Zeineddine (Cologne/Johannesburg)
10:45-12:45 Panel: Redressing Historical Injustices: Museums and the Challenges of Past and Present Laws and Ethics
   Chair: Jonas Bens (Berlin)
   Speakers: Folarin Shyllon (Ibadan), Alexandra Kummerer (Heidelberg/Berlin), Lanissa Förster (Berlin)
   Discussant: Fatima Kastner (Cologne)
14:00-15:30 PANEL DISCUSSION: Locating the Museum – Colonial Collections and their Publics
   With: Patrick Bahners (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung), Christian Kopp (Berlin Postkolonial), Bebero Lehmann (Black History Month Cologne), Nanette Snoep (Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum, Cologne)
   Moderation: Mohamed Amjahid (DIE ZEIT)