

## Call for papers:

### "History of non-European objects: collection, appropriation, mediation".

Study day organized by the IRHiS UMR CNRS 8529 - University of Lille

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Date: Friday, December 6th, 2019

Languages: French, English



Adu Zatua – Nias - Museum Rietberg, Zürich - Andreas Praefcke

The IRHiS UMR CNRS 8529 organized at the University of Lille on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November 2016 an initial study day devoted to non-European collections in museums in the North-West of Europe. This meeting, which involved museum curators, researchers and PhD students from France and Belgium, resulted in an online publication: <https://books.openedition.org/irhis/3279>. Through the various contributions proposed, it was possible to grasp the history of the constitution and presentation of ethnographic museum collections in North-West Europe as well as the questions and various issues that arise from them. The aim was to make both researchers and public authorities aware of the importance to better consider these collections, to promote them in the eyes of the greatest number and to allow easier access to researchers.

During this second edition, a broader place will be given to the history of non-European objects from European museum collections. At a time when requests for restitutions are always more pressing, it

becomes essential to better understand the origin of collections and to re-contextualize objects. The principle of this study day will be to ask speakers to choose an extra-European object or a collection of non-European objects in particular, regardless of the geographical origin, and to tell its story: who were the owners, what were the conditions of its collection (instructions, normative framework, predatory activity, chance, simple coin-operated acquisition, etc.); what is the usage and what is the meaning of the object in its ethnographic context; how did the transition from the status of ethnographic specimen to that of a work of art take place; what is its economic value. It will also be asked to specify the mediation situation in which the chosen objects are placed and the possible improvements to better valorize the artifacts, at the moment when the will to "decolonize" the museums is always more palpable. This theme will be part of two areas of the IRHiS laboratory, the one devoted to visual and material culture and the one dedicated to the arts and memories in Northern Europe. The study day aims to encourage the cross-fertilization of disciplines and is open to historians, art historians, ethnologists, anthropologists, museum curators, librarians and students.

Proposals for papers must be sent to the organizers before September 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 in French or English. They should include a succinct presentation of the speaker and a title, a summary of ten lines and a short bibliography.

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