



ONLINE 2021

CIFA2021 ONLINE: ANNUAL CONFERENCE

21 - 23 APRIL 2021

SESSION TITLE

Decolonising archaeology, heritage and museums

SESSION ABSTRACT

There are growing bodies of research exploring how the discipline of archaeology and the notion of heritage are products of colonialism. As a profession which is 99.2% white (Aitchison and Rocks-MacQueen 2013, 99), it is clear that the racialised disadvantages inherent within society continue to resonate fundamentally in our work today. In February 2020

The Cifa Equality and Diversity Group began to explore how we might kick start the process of decolonisation, offering a series of consultation workshops throughout 2020 to inform the development of a cross sector 'Decolonising Toolkit'. Taking our lead from academic institutions, like SOAS, we argue that decolonising requires us to confront the forms of disadvantage associated with racism and colonialism that so beset our profession, and to expose and transform them through collective reflection and action (SOAS 2019). In this session we will feedback from these workshops, presenting the specific issues and remedial actions raised in the workshops.

This session co-led by the Cifa Equality and Diversity Group and the European Society of Black and Allied Archaeologists combines a series of 10-15 minute lightning talks and activities that consider decolonial practice in relation to ethnicity, disability, and gender; share current best practice, and tangible action, with a panel speakers from organisations and networks leading in the 'decolonise archaeology' field invited to critically reflect on decolonising throughout the heritage sector.

SESSION PROGRAMME

13:15 – 13:40	Introduction <i>Amal Khreisheh, South West Heritage Trust</i> <i>Hannah Cobb, University of Manchester</i> <i>Laura Hampden, European Society of Black & Allied Archaeologists</i>
13:40 – 14:00	Histories of collecting, empire and gender in the 19th century Caribbean <i>Dr Amara Thornton, UCL</i>
14:00 – 14:20	Decolonizing a people who never wanted to be colonised <i>John Uche Ngonadi, Department of Archaeology, University of Nigeria, Nsukka</i> <i>Chioma Vivian Ngonadi, Department of Archaeology, University of Nigeria, Nsukka / University of Cambridge</i>

	<i>Rosemary Eberechi Obi, Department of Archaeology, University of Nigeria</i>
14:20 – 15:00	Remedy in Action: (Interactive?) Activities
	A Reparative Framework <i>Laura Hampden, European Society of Black & Allied Archaeologists</i>
	Das' Decolonial bingo and tea <i>Subhadra Das, UCL</i>
15:00 – 15:15	Break
15:15 – 16:30	Panel discussion Chair: <i>Jeannette Plummer-Sires, British Museum</i> Panellists: <i>Dr Tehmina Goskar, Curatorial Research Centre</i> <i>Tabitha Kabora, University of Bradford</i> <i>Raksha Dave, Public Archaeologist and Broadcaster</i> <i>Laura Heath-Stout, Emory University</i>

SPEAKER ABSTRACTS

Histories of collecting, empire and gender in the 19th century Caribbean

Dr Amara Thornton, UCL

This presentation will explore the intertwined histories of collecting, empire and gender in the 19th century Caribbean, including a discussion of a recent collections history project, "Narrating the Diverse Past" and the digital interactive exhibition "Mapping Collections Histories: Barbados and Britain".

Decolonising a people who never wanted to be colonised

John Uche Ngonadi, Department of Archaeology, University of Nigeria, Nsukka

Chioma Vivian Ngonadi, Department of Archaeology, University of Nigeria, Nsukka / University of Cambridge

Rosemary Eberechi Obi, Department of Archaeology, University of Nigeria

The academic world is awash with the concept of decolonisation. People projecting this concept are on one side the "colonised" while on the other side the "colonisers". The agenda of both parties are not in sync. They are not in sync because the colonizers are now telling the colonised to change their mindset, cultures and technologies from that which they know is right. This paper explores the various pedagogies as it relates to the concept of decolonisation in the African continent. We will reflect on our experiences working with communities, students and colleagues in Africa on this issue and then suggest ways of challenging or engaging coloniality from both parties.