



Bilder: Rechts: Installation view of Guardian Figure 1368-1644, Art Gallery of New South Wales (c./Jenni Carter); Mitte: Führungskräfte des Schweizer Baumwollimporteurs Volkart (Stadtarchiv Winterthur); Links: Benin Bronzes, British Museum, London, UK

Decolonizing the Museum

A Conversation on Colonial Heritage in European Collections

May 4, 2023, 6.15 pm

Alte Universität, Rheinsprung 9, 1.UG, Lecture Hall 101

Participants: Samuel Bachmann (Bern Historical Museum), Osarhieme Osadolor (University of Benin), Anna Schmid (Museum der Kulturen Basel)

Moderation: Ettore Morelli (University of Basel)

European museums hoard treasures of objects many of which were acquired under dubious circumstances. Although the colonial heritage in European collections has been widely debated in recent years, many questions remain unanswered.

How does one define ownership in a historical context of extreme power asymmetries? To what extent is the restitution of colonial objects a solution? And how are we to tackle the broader legacy of colonial knowledge production in which European museums were implied?

We have invited museum experts and historians to discuss these questions with us.

Organisation: Lucas Burkart & Julia Tischler (Department of History, University of Basel), Anna Schmid (Museum der Kulturen Basel), Roberto Zaugg (Department of History, University of Zurich)

A collaboration between the Basel Graduate School of History, the Department of History at the University of Zurich, and the Museum der Kulturen Basel.