



Pressing Matter Biannual Consortium 2024 *Exhibiting Colonial Collections - Challenges and Possibilities*

Friday 28 June 2024 | Wereldmuseum Leiden, Steenstraat 1, Leiden, Grote Zaal
Online MS Teams via [this link](#)

Programme

- 09:00 – 09:30 *Walk-in with tea and coffee at the Grote Zaal*
- 09:30 – 09:50 **Welcome Remark and Introduction to the Topic**
Wayne Modest, Director, Content, Wereldmuseum & Programme Leader
Pressing Matter
- 09:50 – 10:30 **Reflections on the Topic**
Amber Aranui, Curator Mātauranga Māori, Museum of New Zealand Te Papa
Tongarewa & Critical Friend of Pressing Matter (online) &
Wonu Veys, Curator Oceania, Wereldmuseum

Case Studies (10:30 – 12:30)

- 10:30 – 10:50 **Taking and Exhibiting Loot: Laying Bare a Shared Practice of Civil Servants, Museum Officials and Military Agents**
Harm Stevens, Curator History (20th Century), Rijksmuseum & Elsbeth Dekker,
PhD Researcher Pressing Matter WP2B
- 10:50 – 11:10 **Exhibiting the Mission / the Mission Of Exhibiting: Display Lives of the Utrecht Missionary Society Collections**
Amélie Roussillon, Postdoc Researcher Pressing Matter WP3B

- 11:10 – 11:20 *Short break*
- 11:20 – 11:40 **Working with Native Communities: Legal and Ethical Issues**
Joe D. Horse Capture, Vice President, Native Collections and Engagement,
Autry Museum of the American West & Critical Friend of Pressing Matter
- 11:40 – 12:00 **diVRsity: Exploring Diversity in VR**
Shenghui Wang, Assistant Professor, Hybrid Intelligence Centre, University of
Twente & Victor de Boer, Associate Professor, Computer Science
Department, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam & PI of Pressing Matter (WP 1B)
- 12:00 – 12:20 **To Make One Particle: Revealing/Concealing Bodies and Histories**
Pansee Atta, Artist in Residence Pressing Matter
- 12:20 – 12:35 **Q&A Session**
Moderator: Paul Wolff Mitchell, Postdoc Researcher Pressing Matter WP3A
- *Lunch at the museum lounge (12:35 – 13:30)* -----
- 13:30 – 14:15 **Roundtable sessions around 3 themes**
Session 1: Legal Aspects with Respect to Exhibitions (Zijkamer)
Session 2: Ethical Aspects with Respect to Exhibitions (Grote Zaal)
Session 3: Possibilities and Limits of Digital/Virtual Exhibitions (Kleine Zaal)
- 14:15 – 14:30 *Short Break*
- 14:30 – 15:15 **Plenary: Reflections on the Roundtable Sessions and Coming up with
Concrete Recommendations**
- 15:15 – 16:00 **Keynote Lecture with Ciraj Rassool, Senior Professor, Department of
Historical Studies, University of the Western Cape & Critical Friend Pressing
Matter**
*Museums and Social Activism: The Postethnographic Museum, Restitutionary
Work and the Museum as Process*

Moderator: Paul Wolff Mitchell, Postdoc Researcher Pressing Matter WP3A

16:00 – 16:15

Q&A Session

Moderator: Paul Wolff Mitchell, Postdoc Researcher Pressing Matter WP3A

16:15 – 16:30

Summary and Closing

Wayne Modest, Director, Content, Wereldmuseum & Programme Leader
Pressing Matter

----- *Closing drinks at the museum lounge (16:30-17:30)* -----

Save the Date: the next Biannual Consortium meeting is scheduled for
Friday, 13 December 2024



Pressing Matter Biannual Consortium 2024

Exhibiting Colonial Collections - Challenges and Possibilities

Roundtable Sessions Instructions

This Biannual Consortium meeting aims to be interactive and therefore requires the engagement of the audience in the roundtable sessions. The idea of these roundtable sessions is to come up with answers to the questions below from 3 perspectives:

Session 1: Legal Aspects with Respect to Exhibitions (Zijkamer).

Chaired by Wouter Veraart, Professor of Legal Philosophy, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam & PI of Pressing Matter (WP 2B)

Session 2: Ethical Aspects with Respect to Exhibitions (Grote Zaal).

Chaired by Peter Pels, Professor in the Anthropology of Africa, Leiden University & PI of Pressing Matter (WP 3B)

Session 3: Possibilities and Limits of Digital/Virtual Exhibitions (Kleine Zaal). Chaired by Katja Kwastek, Professor of Modern and Contemporary Art History, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam & PI of Pressing Matter (WP 4B)

The final product will be recommendations from each roundtable session, guided by these questions:

- *In their attempt to ethically exhibit colonial collections, some museums seek the advice of different stakeholders, and especially representatives of specific communities. But who should we regard as the appropriate person to consult? And what are appropriate methods of consultation that could represent the expectations or desires of the community? Is community consultation the only method?*
- *how can colonial collections be (re)presented, and how may museums incorporate and question these historical layers of meaning within new displays?*
- *How can we acknowledge the exhibiting histories without replicating the violence and problematic discourses which are often associated with them?*
- *If, as we suggest in Pressing Matter, colonial collections hold potentialities to help us reconcile with the past, what role can exhibitions play to tap/optimize these potentials?*

Following up on the sessions, each chair of the roundtable will present the discussions in the plenary, as well as the answers/recommendations from their respective session. The plenary audience is invited to comment and ask questions.