

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES GRADUATES ~

Dissertation topics

Museological pathways:

Culture, Collections & Communications; Issues in Collection Management; Access & Learning

Issues of Authenticity in Attribution, Conservation and Presentation as applied to the English Historic Garden.
"Hidden Views" Exploring Access Issues Concerning Learning Disabled Adult Visitors and the Museum and Gallery Sector.
The Appropriation and Repatriation of Jewish Culture Property since World War II.
Challenging the Discourse of Conservation: The Development, Function and Position of the Conservation Process in the Museum System.
Ancient Egypt and English Museums: Attitudes Displayed Toward Egyptian Antiquities in the 19 th century, with Specific Reference to the Cultural Biography of an Egyptian Mummy and Coffin.
Can Modern Art be Relevant to all? A Consideration of the Methods that can be used to attract a more diverse Audience to British Public Art Galleries.
A Matter of Honour: Tracing the True Ancestry of World War II Spoliated Art. Southampton City Art Gallery: A Case Study.
How can Archaeology Museums increase their Visitor Numbers and Intellectual Access without losing Standards?
Education from Policy to Practice: Analysing the Provision of Museum Education in the context of Government Strategies.
Cultural Biography of Grand Tour Collections: Fresh Perspectives on British Cultural Heritage.
Confronting 'National Shame'. Issues of Exhibiting Britain's History of Slavery in Museums.
A Monumental Man: Outdoor Heritage and the Duke of Wellington.
Private Archives.
Children's Museums: A Genuine Museums Experience?
Guggenheim Museum Bilbao: The Museum of the 21 st Century?
Practical Considerations for the Development of an Open-Air Museum in Zimbabwe: What can Zimbabwe learn from British Open-Air Museums?

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Access all Areas or Capital Punishment? The Impact of the Heritage Lottery Fund.
Life through the Square Window. The Value of Film as an Historical Object.
Defining the Nation. An Analysis of the Representation of National Identity in the National Museums of Ireland.
Should it Stay or Should it Go? Is it Acceptable to Close this Museum? (Cumberland House Natural History Museum.)
Human Remains: Are the Existing Ethical Guidelines for Excavation, Museum Storage, Research and Display Adequate? Published as: BROOKS, M.M. and RUMSEY, C. 2007. 'Who knows the fate of his bones?' Rethinking the body on display: Object, Art or human remains? In: S. J. KNELL, S. MACLEOD and S. WATSON, eds. <i>Museum Revolutions: How Museums Change and are Changed</i> . London & New York: Routledge, 343-354. BROOKS, M. M. and RUMSEY, C. 2006. The body in the Museum. In: V.CASSMAN, N. ODEGAARD and J. POWELL, eds. <i>Human Remains: A Guide for Conservators, Museums, Universities, and Law Enforcement Agencies</i> . Lanham, MD: Altamira Press, 261-289.
A Reappraisal of the Scope for Conceptual Orientation Devices in Enhancing the Museum Experience.
Representing the Role of Women in the British Army. A Study of Accurate Female Representation in the Regimental Museums of England.
What can 'Holocaust Museums' in Britain Achieve?
A People's Heritage? To what Extent can the Use of the Historical Individual create a Valuable and Viable means of Communicating the Past within the Heritage Sector?
The Origins, Growth and Decline of Native Representations used at World Exhibitions: A Case Study of Native Peoples as a Means of Representing National and Cultural Identity during the late 19 th and early 20 th century.
Off the Wall: Bringing Painting Interpretation in the Historic House to a wider Audience by responding to different Learning Styles.
The Use of Theatrical Techniques in Museums, Historic Houses and Art Galleries.
Explaining Archaeological Sites to People.
Peopling the Past: An Evaluation of the Household as an Interpretation Theme in the Presentation of the Historic House, focusing on the Butes and their Properties.

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Brazil or Brasil? Exhibiting the Country and the Community in England.
'The Future of the Museum, lies in a Shift of Emphasis, from the Object as Signifier, to the Representation of People.'
A Critical Evaluation of how the Blitz is presented in Museums, in particular focusing on how significant the notion of a "Myth of the Blitz" is in the Interpretation the Museums offer.
The Ethics of using Ancient Egyptian Human Remains as Display Objects.
Designing Exhibitions for Learning: Developing a Modern Approach to Display in the V&A's British Galleries.
The Use of Arms and Armour in Museum Education.
The Role of Cultural institutions in the Regeneration of Cornwall.
Blockbuster Exhibitions, Print Media and Museum Visitors: a Cultural Phenomenon in Contemporary Taiwan.
Art, Society and Education: comparing Education Departments in Contemporary Art Institutions in Spain and England.
The effect of Marketing on Object Display and its Contribution to Visitor Orientation.
Performing Arts Museums: Preserving the Unpreservable.
(Re)Interpreting Art: How do Art Museums help their Visitors make Meanings from the Art on Display?
Public Archaeology: should the Public be involved in Archaeology? How can this be done?
Education or Commemoration? Can Museums of Crimes against Humanity fulfill their Commemorative roles without compromising Education?
What are the Difficulties of balancing multi-layered Interpretation in Historic Houses within the complex Object Biographies of these buildings?
Ethical issues involved in the Display, Presentation and Preservation of Eva Hesse's later Latex Pieces.
Museums and Representations of Tragedy.
How has Education changed in Historic Houses?
Museums and Social Inclusion: is the Current Agenda sustainable? Published as: West, C. & Smith, S. 2005. 'We are not a government poodle'.

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Museums and social inclusion under New Labour. <i>International Journal of Cultural Policy</i> , 11 (3), 275-288.
Accessing Collections: is Open Storage the Answer?
How is an Anglo-Saxon Collection like Sutton Hoo relevant today?
TArts through time? The Representation of Women in Museums & Historic House Museums: An Evaluation of the Yorkshire Country House Partnership's Maids & Mistresses exhibitions.
By what means do British Industrial Museums interpret our Industrial Heritage to Children in today'' post industrial world?
The new Human Tissue Bill – solving some Problems by creating Others? A discussion of the Impact of the Human Tissue Bill on Museums.
Can Christian Material Culture have Spiritual Meaning in a Non-Ecclesiastical Context?
Live Interpretation at Historic Sites in England.
Cross-sectoral Developments and Discovery Centres.
Authenticity and Collections Management: A look at the UK Museums Registration Scheme and HMS Victory.
The Tate Gallery. Over 100 years of National Collection.
Korean Objects in the British Museum from the 19 th Century to the Present.
An Object Biography of the Benin Bronzes.
Do Roman Archaeological Site Museums affect the Visitor's Experience of the Site?
Getting Connected – Meaningful Art and Learning Experiences for Children in Art Galleries.
Are University Museums losing their Relevance as Internal Academic Resources? A Study of Four Anthropological/ Ethnographical Collections.
Connecting Historic Monuments and Buildings with their Landscape.
What difference does the use of Museum Theatre make to the Visitor Experience at a Social History Museum?
Social Integration made by Museums – Reality or Illusion? An Analysis of Multicultural Practice in Swedish Museums.

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The Shifting Meaning and Value of First World War Landscapes.
Culture: The Key to City Regeneration in a Post-colonial Country's Struggle: a Guggenheim Museum in Taichung, Taiwan.
Spoliation of Art and its Implications for Cultural Implications.
Mapping and Memorials: the Relevance of Exhibition Publications beyond the Museum Walls.
The Forgotten Mission: The Preservation and Funding Issues surrounding Spanish Adobe Missions in California.
Whose Historic House is it?
Horatio Nelson: Exhibiting the Hero in British Museums.
Museums go European? Problems and Benefits of EU-funded networking.
Welcoming the World – What Challenges do London Museums face when representing Refugees and Asylum Seekers?
Social Interaction within Family Groups leads to Cognitive Gain. A Study of Family Conversations within Museums with Special Reference to the Horniman Museum in South London.
Developing Audiences in Museums and Galleries of Modern and Contemporary Art. Can Marketing make a Difference?
Do Children have all the Fun in Fun in Museums?
Integration of Collection Information across the Domains of Museums. Libraries and Archives: Are the Communities Ready for it Yet?
Are National Trust House Accessible to Families with Pre-School Children? Can Historic Houses provide opportunities for Cognitive Gain and Social Interaction for this Group?
Power Plays: the Physical and Psychological Manifestations of power realised in the representation of Museums as Symbolic and Ideological currency in Movies.
Curators as Artists and Artists as Curators? Analysis of a supposed blurring of Roles in Contemporary Art.
Does the Digital Museum enhance the Museum Experience in the 21 st Century?
<i>CARTES-de-visite</i> in Museum Collections.
How do Museums and Galleries impact Communities on a Cultural level? A Study of the South Puget Sound Region in Washington State, USA.

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Contemporary Issues and Modern Museums.
How can the Macao Museums contribute to the Macao World Heritage Site?
Curating 'Performative Installations'.
Making the most of the rise in popularity of researching Family History. The Implications for Museums and Local History Centres.
Reminiscence Collections in Museums. Reminiscence and Handling Collections: Widening Access to Museum and Galleries for Ageing Populations.
Real and Virtual Contemporary Art Venues: How is greater Artist and Audience Participation being achieved?
Curating Performance Art.
The Practice of Collecting in the Hellenic tradition from the Era of Homer to the Fall of Constantinople.
Creative Marketing in the Arts & Heritage Sector.
How has the Portrayal of Warfare in Contemporary News Reports impacted on its Representation in Museums?
Protecting our Industrial Heritage: How Museums are Embracing the Industrial Revolution.
Museums, Refugees and Social Inclusion.
Medieval Scabbards and Sheaths from Dublin.
Public Art in universities: is Public Art on campus important? A Review of Southampton University's Provision, Strategy and Commissioning Process for Public Art.
Moving from Student to Museum Professional. Why is there difficulty in entering into the Museum Profession and what can be done about it?
Recent Developments in the Display of British Prehistory in the context of the Inspiring Learning for All framework and the developing Role of Museums as 'Community Learning' Centres.
Representing Culture: The Implications for Exhibiting the Experiences of Filipino Immigrants living in Britain today.

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Gallery Workshop Pack for Blind and Visually Impaired Visitors based on the Identification by Blind People of the Aesthetic Components of their Engagement with their Natural Environments.
Access and Academia: Can Museums present History that complies with Academic Standards and Public Practicalities?
What is the Role of Museums in the 21 st century and how effective are they as agents of social change?
Oral history: an Invaluable Tool or to be Avoided at all Costs? An Investigation into Hampshire's Museums' use of Oral Accounts of post World War 2 Conflict.
What Steps can the Museum Sector take to make Ethnic Diversity a reality? And what Implications does the Museum Associations Diversity scheme have for encouraging wider Diversity in terms of Social Status and Age?
How the Modern Concept of the Museum developed from the 15 th century onwards.
Spilling across Boundaries: Exhibition or Promenade Theatre.
What's in Store? Unlocking the Potential of Collections at English Heritage Museum Stores in the South East.
The Value of Current Report Writing Methodologies in the Study of Artefacts that have little or no Archaeological Provenance.
Simply Entertainment? Cultural Interpretation in Contemporary Art.
An Evaluation of the Education Strategies and Learning Experiences at Geevor Tin Mine and Museum.
Re-thinking the Slave Trade? In the Anniversary of the Abolition of Slavery, how are Museums presenting the Slave Trade?
A Study of the English Cathedral as an 'Architectonic Envelope' for Modern Art.
The Museum Visitor's Motivation Survey and different level of Education Research.
The Experience of Land Art, within the Landscape of its Conception, offers a more valid means of Understanding than Secondary Documentation exhibited in Museums.
The Impact Visitors have on Open Access Heritage Sites.
Looted Art is Looted History.
Human Exhibitions: Casts, Fossils and how we became Humans.

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Can Contemporary Collecting be used to enhance Community Engagement with Museums? A Review and Analysis of Practice in the South-west of England.
Full Throttle or Road to Nowhere? Exploring the Challenges of Collections Development within British Motoring Museums.
The 'New' Polish Community and Museum Engagement in the UK. Is the 'New' Polish Community recognised in British Museums?
'The Lost Era'. The Implementation of Stuart History in Secondary School Museum Education.
Improving Museum Education Service for Schools, focusing on Government Policy to encourage Schools to use Museums as an Educational Resource in Korea.
What are the novel ways that the Tate galleries, the V&A and the Serpentine encourage young London residents aged 16-25 to become engaged with Artworks through promoting a Sense of Place and belonging within the Gallery Space through engaging with the Art Collection?
A proposed Model to improve, develop and increase Access and Learning at the Bank of Thailand (BOT) Museum.
The Implementation of an Innovative <i>Heritage Classroom of the Future</i> at Fort Nelson whilst not compromising on the already popular <i>Hand Held History</i> formal Education Package.
The Influence of Film and Television Adaptations of Jane Austen's Novels on Historic Sites/Museums.
Westerham, Culloden and Quebec: the Cultural Portrayal of General James Wolfe.
Portuguese Colonial History represented in Museums and the Dialogue with Diversity.
How to market Museums for everyone? A Comparative Analysis of developing 'Audience and Market Plans' for Worthing Museum and Art Gallery and Essex Police Museum.
In what ways can Digital Archive Programmes in the UK inform the development of such Programmes in Taiwan?
What would be the Pros and Cons of applying the experiences and regulations of Western countries to the Art Market related legislation in Taiwan?
How are Curators of Modern Art responding to current Art Movements?

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What would be the Pros and Cons of introducing the HLF system used in the UK to Macau?
How is the Culture of Supermodernity affecting Museum Practices in the UK?
Is it the job of a Museum to present a History which is palatable to most, or to challenge perceptions?
In what ways does the Work of Mark Dion encapsulate and critique Museological Processes?
A Museum of Ideas: How did the Pitt Rivers Museum (Oxford) represent their Ethnographic Material in the 1880s and how does this differ to current Representations?
What can be done to overcome the problems of Families of Children with Learning difficulties visiting Museums and Galleries and is it worth it?
Representation and Interpretation of Basque Histories around the World.
Museums after Political Change: the Role Museums play in Reconciliation and the Creation of a new National Identity.
The Search for Rupert Brooke, a Paper Trail through Time.
What are the Challenges that the recently unified Athenian archaeological Museums/Sites face nowadays? How should they respond to these Challenges and more specifically how could the Display of Archaeological Treasures be changed in order to reveal their different Values and attract more Visitors?
How can Museums improve their historical Cartography to make it more dynamic, engaging and relevant to the Artefacts they aim to Interpret?
Exploring the Relationship between heritage sites and their Museums: a Comparative Study of selected Chinese and British examples on the World Heritage List.
How have demands for Repatriation of 'Objects' held in Museums affected the Ethics, Policies, Politics and Practices of Museums in the UK?
State of Mind or Nation State – an Investigation into the Representation of Stateless Communities and Emerging Countries at the Venice Biennale.
How can Religious Artefacts, such as a Collection of Vestments embroidered by the Dominican nuns of Carisbrooke Priory now stored at Carisbrooke Castle Museum, be Used, Interpreted and Displayed so as to engage increasingly Secular Museum/Gallery Audiences of the 21 st century?

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Linking Museums to <i>Girl Guiding</i> in the UK.
The Challenges of displaying contemporary Sculpture in Galleries and Public sites in the UK and how to overcome them.
Looking at Enid Blyton as an example of a writer who has no dedicated Museum, why do we have Museums dedicated to Writers, what do they have to offer and how important are they?
Is <i>Mr Straw's House</i> a window on a forgotten Life? Why was it important that this Grocer's Home from the 1920s was saved for the Nation?
What is Curating [Contemporary Art]?

History of Textiles & Dress pathway

Anachronism – Friend or Foe of Performance? Modernists versus Traditionalists on the Use of Anachronism as a form of Communication in Contemporary Creative Performance.
Mary, Queen of Scots at the Victorian Fancy Dress Ball.
A Study of Early Cinema Costume- the Accuracy of representing Eras past on Screen.
Protestantism and the Silk Boom in the Cevennes 1815-1853.
Use it or Lose it: An Enquiry into the Conservation of Miao Braid Making.
Is it important to keep the (1960s) Clothes of Mr and Mrs Tobitt?
The Durability of the Quilted Petticoat in England 1700-1850: a Longitudinal Study.
Knitting as Intangible Heritage: an Enquiry into the Acquisition and subsequent Use of Knitting Skills in England in the 20 th and 21 st Centuries.
Silent Needles, speaking Flowers: The Language of Flowers as a tool of Communication in Women's Embroidery in Victorian Britain.
Analysis of the Relationship of Clothing and Social Class through the use of Wills and Inventories 1600 and 1650.
Dressing up: Adorned in Dress Trimmings from the 1920s and 30s.
What happened to the Apron?
Mourning Attire: Practice and Consumption in Hampshire.

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Touching Memory; Clothing as Experience.
The Partnerships of Women engaged in the Textile Trade in 14 th century England.
Empress Eugénie of France: an Icon of Fashion and an Arbiter of Taste: how far can we trace the clothing of Eugénie through her Reign and Exile?
Looking at Contemporary Women's magazines to analyse Female Fashion from 1836 to 1846.
The Clothing Label: its Significance and its Biographical Potential.
Women's Straw Hats 1800-1850: Can a Chronology of Materials and Production Techniques provide accurate Provenance and better Documentation of Straw Hats?
A study of three English Patchwork and Appliqué Coverlets of the early 19 th Century with particular reference to the types of Fabrics and their potential Origins.
The Social and Aesthetic Development of Corsets and Fashion from 1580-1720.
Which Social Rank(s) were the Sumptuary Laws passed between 1337 and 1483 in England aimed at controlling through restrictions on Dress?
The Dress of the London 'Office Girl' between 1920 and 1950.
'Behind the Scenes': an Investigation of the Preservation and Presentation of Theatrical Costume in contemporary British Museums and Theatres.
The Impact of commercial Display Windows on English Society and Fashion from 1900 to 1925.
What can be learnt from Studying the 1950s Press Books from the London Couture House of Mattli?
The Changing Role of Church Textiles in the sixteenth Century: three case studies.
Accidental Survival or Carefully Planned legacy? An examination of extant examples.
How have Non-human Characters in the theatre been represented through Costume, and have Audiences understood the Representational Conventions used?
To what extent are the Female Garments relating to Claydon House, Buckinghamshire for the period 1660 to 1690 representative of the clothes worn by Elite Women in England at that time?

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