

THE GREAT LABORATORY OF HUMANITY

Collection, Patrimony and the Repatriation of Human Remains

PADOVA, 30 MAGGIO - 1 GIUGNO 2016

UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI PADOVA
CENTRO INTERUNIVERSITARIO DI STORIA CULTURALE
DIPARTIMENTO DI SCIENZE STORICHE, GEOGRAFICHE E DELL'ANTICHITÀ
DIPARTIMENTO DI BIOLOGIA
DIPARTIMENTO DI MEDICINA
ASSOCIAZIONE RICERCHE CARDIOPATIE ARITMICHE

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Organization:

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In the 19th century, the rise of the paradigm of 'race' increased the interest of scientists in measuring and comparing human skeletons. Western global domination enabled the collecting of human remains stolen from burial places or battle camps and acquired through commercial transactions; meanwhile, the remains of the 'Fathers of Nations' were transformed into sacred 'monument-bodies'. This dual process of the patrimonialisation of 'evidence-bodies' and 'monument-bodies' began to be challenged in the postcolonial era, when the affirmative actions of Indigenous peoples took the form of campaigning for the return of ancestral remains housed in Western museums. Human remains have become the site of a symbolic fight and the 'body-of-proof' of science's false neutrality.

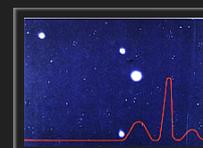
The conference, conceived and organized by the Centro Interuniversitario di Storia Culturale, aims to address the acquisition, circulation and treatment of human remains, from the practices of colonial collecting and their monumentalizing use in the epoch of nation-building, until the present-day repatriation movement. Through local contexts it will focus on the processes of patrimonialisation and the empowering of human remains, on the relationships between scientific objectification and political sacralization, and on the chasm that separates the cultural and biological sciences.



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Associazione Ricerche
Cardiopatie Aritmiche

Monday, May 30th

Archivio Antico, Palazzo Bo

h 9:30 Opening and Welcome

Jean-Loup Amselle (EHESS, Paris) keynote lecture:

Museum Temporalities and Spaces

Collections: 'Evidence-bodies'

h 11:00 - 13:30

chair: Gaetano Thiene

Fausto Barbagli (ANMS), *Human Remains as Scientific Heritage: Between Past and Future of Museum collections*

Fabio Zampieri (Università di Padova), *Overview of Medical Museology in Europe: from the 18th century Wunderkammer to early 19th century Decline*

Elena Canadelli (Università di Padova), *Skulls and Bones in Museums: The Italian Scenario between the 19th and 20th centuries*

Alberto Zanatta (Università di Padova), *Medical Museology and the Anatomical Collections at the University of Padua Medical School: 1855-1930.*

Roger Blackley (Victoria University of Wellington), *Head Case: Horatio Gordon Robley and his Collection of Preserved Maori Heads*

Discussion

h 13:30 Buffet Lunch

Patrimonialisation: 'Monument-bodies'

h 14:45 - 18:00

chair: Carlotta Sorba

Guido Barbujani (Università di Ferrara), *Genetic Analysis of the Remains Attributed to the Evangelist Luke*

Roberto Balzani (Università di Bologna), *Dante's Remains and the Politics of Mystery in 19th century Italy*

Nicola Carrara (Università di Padova), *Giovanni Canestrini (1835-1900) and the Strange Case of Petrarca's Skull*

Irene Barbiera (Università di Padova), *Ethnic Bodies: in Search of Ancestors in the 19th and 20th centuries*

Silvia Cavicchioli (Università di Torino), *Human Remains and Politics in 19th century Italy*

Silvano Montaldo (Università di Torino), *Exhibits of Scientists' Skeletons in the 19th century*

Francesca Sbardella (Università di Bologna), *Processing Human Remains: The Construction of Political Objects and Processes*

Discussion

h 18:00 Visit to the Anatomical Theatre

Tuesday, May 31st

Sala Conferenze Orto Botanico

Repatriation of Human Remains I

h 9:30 - 13:00

chair: Annalisa Oboe

Kathleen Fine-Dare (Fort Lewis College), *The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA)*

after 25 years: *Accomplishments, Challenges, and New Conversations*

Paul Turnbull (University of Tasmania), *Understanding and Misunderstanding Repatriation*

Franca Tamisari (Ca' Foscari Venezia, University of Queensland), *Repatriation and the Paradox of Recognition*

h 10:40 Coffee Break

Emmanuel Kasarhérou (Musée du Quai Branly), Anna Pains (Università di Verona), Adriano Favole (Università di Torino), *La Restitution de Atai: une Question Ouverte dans le Monde Kanak et Calédonien*

Discussion

h 13:00 Buffet Lunch

Repatriation of Human Remains II

h 14:40 - 17:30

chair: Telmo Pievani

Gaye Sculthorpe (British Museum), *The British Museum: Changing Legislation, Policies and Practice*

Fenneke Sysling (University of Utrecht), *Skulls, Repatriation and Internal Colonialism in the Netherlands*

Maria Teresa Milicia (Università di Padova), *Contending for Skulls: The Case of the Lombroso Museum*

Helga Sanità (Suor Orsola Benincasa, Napoli), *Unknown Skulls between Patrimony, Devotion, Art and Museums: The Cemetery of the Fontanelle and the Souls of Purgatory in Naples*

Discussion

h 17:30 Visit to the Orto Botanico Antico (UNESCO site)

h 20:00 Conference Dinner

Wednesday, June 1st

Sala Conferenze Orto Botanico

Ethical Issues: Controversies and Challenges

h 9:30 - 13:00

chair: Ambrogio Fassina

Alberto Garlandini (ICOM), *The ICOM Code of Ethics for Museums: The International Reference for the Professionals and the Museum Community*

Claudio Tuniz (ICTP UNESCO Trieste, Centro Fermi di Roma), *Whose Bones are they? Hominin Fossils as Cultural Heritage and Biological Archive of Humankind*

Giovanni Pinna (ANMS), *Le Restituzioni e i Sensi di Colpa dell'Occidente*

Francesca Monza (Università di Chieti), *Museums and Human Remains. Ethical Issues in Curating and Display*

h 11:00 Coffee Break

Giorgio Manzi (Museo di Antropologia "Giuseppe Sergi", Roma), *Why Bother with Dusty Human Bones?*

Final Discussion and Conclusions

h 13:00 Buffet Lunch and Farewell

