

# Object Biographies



## International Conference

House of Science and Letters  
6 Kirkkokatu, Helsinki, Finland

Thursday, 1 March 2018 at 16.00-18.00				
Foreign conference participants have the possibility to attend a guided tour at the National Museum of Finland free of charge				
Friday, 2 March 2018				
9.00–9.30	Conference desk open			
9.30–11.20	PLENARY SESSION auditorium 104			
5 min	Opening words Renja Suominen-Kokkonen, Chair of the Conference committee			
5 min	Greetings from the Nordic Association of Conservators in Finland TBA			
90 min	Keynote lectures: <b>The Lives of Peripatetic Objects: on the Insecure Materiality of Matter</b> Claire Farago, Professor Emerita of Art History, University of Colorado Boulder, United States <b>Reconstructing biographies by strontium isotope analyses</b> Karin M. Frei, Research Professor in Archaeometry, National Museum of Denmark			
10 min	Discussion			
11.30–13.00	<b>Session 1A: Wood</b> auditorium 104 Chair	<b>Session 1B: Exceptional biographies</b> auditorium 309 Chair	<b>Session 1C: Theory and practice</b> auditorium 312 Chair	<b>Session 1D: Collective and forged biographies</b> auditorium 505 Chair
30 min	Parallel lives: object biographies of two medieval polychrome sculptures (c. 1420s) Bettina Ebert	Biography or Itinerary? Acknowledging the complexities of earth science knowledge objects Hannah-Lee Chalk	The Life-span of Artworks Between the Earth and the World Ari Tanhuanpää	Untrue stories, forged biographies? A sword, a chair, and a wedding chest Anu Lahtinen
30 min	<b>Panel discussion</b> Material for Interdisciplinary Study – Wood Use in Medieval North-Eastern Europe Visa Immonen	Plants as Objects: Tracing the Botany of the Anthropocene Elaine Ayers	Re-publishing and Updating a Product – The Cultural Neo-production Process as a Method to study Product Biographies and Meanings Lilli Sihvonon	A Collective Biography of Civil Uniforms Alex Snellman
30 min		A collaged biography of the plaster cast of Trajan's Column, Victoria and Albert Museum Sarah Healey-Dilkes	Active Values in Finnish Museums 2020 Nina Robbins	Biography of men's clothes in the village of Lahti since the late 19th century. Some aspects to the research, conservation and maintenance of archaeological finds of modern times Liisa Seppänen
13.00–14.00	Lunch break			

14.00–15.30	<b>Session 2A: Objects in changing contexts</b> auditorium 104 Chair	<b>Session 2B: Finnish, Karelian and Estonian handicrafts</b> auditorium 309 Chair	<b>Session 2C: Objects and ethnicity</b> auditorium 312 Chair	<b>Session 2D: War, politics and memory 1</b> auditorium 505 Chair
30 min	The Old State Drawing Room from Hamilton Palace Godfrey Evans	A Story of Rocking Chair Covers Suvi-Päivikki Kettula	Ládjogahpir from Dálvadas - Foremothers horn hat Eeva-Kristiina Harlin	Finland, World War II and the matter of foreigners' honour(s) Antti Matikkala
30 min	Wants, Comforts, and Well-Being: Redefining Spaces at the Virginia Armory Elizabeth Cook	I. K. Inha's Textile Collection Jenni Suomela	Hair as a Liminal Object: Materiality, Performativity and Ageing Bodies of Colour Sweta Rajan-Rankin	Tools used in making Finnish trench art Riku Kauhanen
30 min	The Vyborg Aalto Library, Russia - A Gellian reading Laura Berger	Artefact studies in Viljandi Culture Academy, University of Tartu Kadri Tüür	Object Biography of a Lappish ring : Perspectives to Design History in a Museum Leena Svinhufvud	Three artefacts, three survivors, one story. Operation "Kalavryta" Savvas Kazanis
15.30–16.00	<b>Coffee</b>			
16.00–17.00	<b>Session 3A: Manuscripts</b> auditorium 104 Chair	<b>Session 3B: Handicrafts and textiles</b> auditorium 309 Chair	<b>Session 3C: Personal fashions</b> auditorium 312 Chair	<b>Session 3D: War, politics and memory 2</b> auditorium 505 Chair
30 min	Tracing the historic meaning of two books of hours: the interdisciplinary research underlying conservation decisions versus 'object biography' interpretation Maria Casanova	Genealogy and Object Biographies - A Case Study of Embroidered Pictures in late 1800th Century Annika Winberg	Object Biography as Counterpractice: Encounters and Exchanges with Elsa Schiaparelli's Lobster Dress Claire Eldred	The Biography of a Campaign Button: Who Writes the Final Chapter? Claire Jerry
30 min	Tracing the Afterlives of Medieval Manuscripts: the "Mapping Manuscript Migrations" Project Toby Burrows	"Tablecloth is part of interior design" – Interpretations and stories of tablecloths Päivi Fernström	Fashioning an icon: the turbans of Carmen Miranda Alison Lister	Life-after-Life of the Socialist Neon Signs in Contemporary Poland: The Strategies of Preservation, Conservation and Musealisation Woiciech Szymanski
17.00–18.00	<b>Conference desk open / Technical demonstration at auditorium 104</b>			
18.30–19.30	<b>Reception hosted by the City of Helsinki (Empire Hall at the Old Town Hall)</b>			

<b>Saturday, 3 March 2018</b>				
9.00–9.30	<b>Conference desk open</b>			
9.30–10.25	<b>PLENARY SESSION</b> auditorium 104			
45 min	<b>Keynote lecture:</b> <b>Object biographies: Using Event-based Models on the Semantic Web</b> Eero Hyvönen, Director of Helsinki Centre for Digital Humanities (Heldig), Finland			
10 min	<b>Discussion</b>			
10.30–12.00	<b>Session 4A: Dangerous objects: practical health and safety issues in Finnish</b> auditorium 104 Chair	<b>Session 4B: Costumes and reconstructions</b> auditorium 309 Chair	<b>Session 4C: Caskets, fonts and biers</b> auditorium 312 Chair	<b>Session 4D: Archaeological insights 1</b> auditorium 505 Chair
30 min	Lääketeollisten museokokoelmien terveystarvit ja niiltä suojautuminen Henna Sinisalo	"My clothes which I brought to sea with me": An example of seventeenth century mariner's dress Ninya Mikhaila	Thinking outside the box: An exploration of the interpretation of 17th Century Embroidered Caskets at the V&A Elisabeth Murray	An ornamented antler artefact (6200 cal BC) from Lepaa, Southern Finland - ceremonial or everyday use? Kristiina Mannermaa
30 min	<b>Panel discussion</b> Haitta-aineet tutkijan näkökulmasta Kyselytunti haitta-aineista tutkijoille Katriina Ruuska-Jauhijärvi	Towards a New Methodology for Working with Historic Theatre Costume: A Biographical Approach Veronica Isaac	'Under a false name' The story of a lost and found historical baptismal font Risto Paju	Biographies of pots and potters: identifying and interpreting Neolithic mobility in the Baltic Sea region based on ceramic geochemistry Elisabeth Holmqvist-Sipilä
30 min		Seams, stitches and swordplay – the story of one early Finnish film costume Joanna Weckman	Tales along the last road: life stories of Finnish funeral biers Saila Leskinen	Life After Death: The post-excavation biography of the Lowbury Hill skeleton Sarah Morton

12.00–13.00	<b>Lunch break</b>			
13.00–15.00	<b>Session 5A: Social objects</b> auditorium 104 Chair	<b>Session 5B: Personal and object biographies combined</b> auditorium 309 Chair	<b>Session 5C: Global objects</b> auditorium 312 Chair	<b>Session 5D: Furniture and knowledge</b> auditorium 505 Chair
30 min	No-one wants my Myrna cups Satu Kankainen	Vilppu Jeremiaanpoika's reading boards: A literal case of object biography Anna Kuismin	Pacific Barkcloth: evidence of use, indigenous repairs and how conservation responds to them Misa Tamura	Context & Community: A 15th Century Torah Ark & its Modern Publics Stephanie Nadalo
30 min	Composing biographies of unwanted things Veera Kinnunen	Pastor Family's Immaterial and Material Heritage Katja Weiland-Särmälä	From a Colonial Curio to a Decolonial Icon – The Lives and Travels of Caribou Skin Parka VK136 of the National Museum of Finland Marika Sandell	Notes in Time and Music Jorma Rähkä
30 min	Everyday Object in Consumption Experiences: Exploration into Recalled Life Situations Involving a Thermos Bottle Toni Rynnänen	"This once belonged to him": Object-based biography of the first Finnish military pilot Väinö Mikkola Susanna Vallius	A Global 'Biography of a Family of Objects': Mamluk Metalwork in 14th- and 15th-Century Italy, Nigeria, China and Beyond Vera-Simone Schulz	Goethe's cabinets as epistemic furniture Diana Stoert
30 min	The Biography of an Office Chair: Designing Future Offices and Workers Virve Peteri	Objects as Life Anchors: Ekphrastic Memoirs and the Biographies of Objects Robert Kusek	From China to Finland: The Sino-African Exhibition of 1911–1912 and the Changing Meanings of Chinese Dress Leila Koivunen	Conservation and long-term preservation of the original furniture of the Finnish Parliament Building Laura Mikkola
15.00–15.30	<b>Coffee</b>			
15.30–17.00	<b>Session 6A: Textile biographies</b> auditorium 104 Chair	<b>Session 6B: Real and imagined bodies</b> auditorium 309 Chair	<b>Session 6C: Curious objects</b> auditorium 312 Chair	<b>Session 6D: Archaeological insights 2</b> auditorium 505 Chair
30 min	Snartemo textiles - luxury, politics and research Katja Kälheim	Rabivere bog body revisited – old finds, new stories? Riina Rammo	The Biography of Tracings and Transfers: The Rissanen Collection in the National Library of Finland Hanna Kemppi	Reused bracelets at the hillfort of Valjala in Saaremaa, Estonia Heidi Luik
30 min	Story about peacock, unicorn, deer and griffin Krista Vajanto	Long lives – Ethnographic mannequins' intersecting routes with humans, objects and places (1876-) Taina Syrjämaa	Clicker - fashionable object of 1876 Kaisa Kyläkoski	Corals, pelicans and lions: three 13th-14th century enamelled beakers from Viljandi and Tartu Arvi Haak
30 min	Knitting virtual tribes together: new chapters in object biographies Jane Malcolm-Davies	A Silent History: Narratives of the Fashion Display Mannequin June Rowe	Case Study on conservation of the Moomin Tableaux Riina Uosukainen	Researching the material culture of the medieval castle of Raseborg -collaboration between archaeologists and conservators revealing the biographies of found metal objects Elina Terävä
17.00–18.00	<b>PLENARY SESSION</b> auditorium 104			
60 min	Closing remarks			