

Maritime Infrastructures of Collecting in Colonial Contexts

Organisers: Ruth Schilling; Antje Schmidt; Felix Schürmann
 Host: Deutsches Schifffahrtsmuseum – Leibniz-Institut für Maritime Geschichte
 Location: Bremerhaven, Germany
 Takes place: in person & online
 Date: 28th–29th of May 2026

Programme

| 28.05.2026 | |
|-------------|--|
| 13:30–14:00 | Welcome and Introduction (Ruth Schilling, Andreas Bohne, Felix Schürmann, Antje Schmidt) |
| 14:00–15:30 | Following Collectors and Traders (Chair: Ruth Schilling) |
| | Gudrun Bucher: <i>Otto Finsch (1839–1917) – From Collecting to Colonial Collaboration to Curating Exhibits about the “New German Citizens”</i> |
| | Rodrigo Campos Castello Branco: <i>“A special yacht for film expeditions”: German Filmmakers as Agents of Colonial Collecting</i> |
| | Jakob Wigand: <i>From Ship to Salesroom: Maritime Infrastructures and the Trade in Ethnographica in Hamburg around 1900</i> |
| 15:30–16:00 | Break for coffee and tea |
| 16:00–17:30 | Structural Boundaries and Opportunities (Chair: Felix Schürmann) |
| | Sonja Kinzler: <i>On the Christian-Albrechts-University’s Oceania Collection at the Kiel City and Maritime Museum</i> |
| | Sabine Herrmann: <i>The Oceans in an Archive Box – And How to Navigate them in the Digital Age</i> |
| | Andreas Bohne: <i>Maritime infrastructure and colonial collecting: Some thoughts from the DZK’s perspective</i> |
| 17:30–17:45 | Break for coffee and tea / Spotlight tours of the DSM exhibition |
| 17:45–18:45 | Evening Lecture: Kim Todzi, <i>Things in Transit: Maritime Logistics, Dislocation and the Making of Colonial Commodities</i> |
| 19:00 | Conference Dinner |

| 29.05.2026 | |
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| 09:00–10:30 | Traces of Maritime Infrastructures in Collections and their Data (Chair: Antje Schmidt) |
| | Katharina Süberkrüb: <i>What Remains Invisible: Exploring Maritime Contexts in Ethnological East Asian Collections</i> |

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| | Viola König: <i>“War, Trade, and Piracy, an Inseparable Trinity”</i> : Opportunities and Challenges for the Digital Reconstruction of the Mephistophelean Triad in Museum Collections |
| | Simone Franz, Lucas Haasis & Frank Marquardt-Schleffler: <i>Digitising the Colonial Archive: Materiality, Data Modelling, and Postcolonial Practice in the Prize Papers Project</i> |
| 10:30–11:00 | Break for coffee and tea |
| 11:00–12:30 | Practices of Collecting (Chair: Kim Todzi) |
| | Sarah Longair: Shipping the Forbidden Fruit: The Maritime World of Island Collecting in Nineteenth-Century Seychelles |
| | Jan Waßmann: <i>Collecting Asia through Maritime Trade: Museum Formation in the Port City of Bremen, 1800–1914</i> |
| | Friederike Odenwald: <i>Collecting Animals in and across the Oceans</i> |
| 12:30–13:30 | Lunch |
| 13:30–15:00 | Ships and Ports as Infrastructures (Chair: Tobias Goebel) |
| | Jennifer Tadge: <i>Naval Ships as Infrastructures of Colonial Collecting: A Case Study</i> |
| | Susann Liebich: <i>From Imperial Cargo to Colonial Knowledge? Customs, Ports, and the Making of Museum Collections in Nineteenth-Century Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand</i> |
| | Samuel Uwem & Elizabeth Adetola Umoh: Missionary Collecting and the Reclassification of African Ritual Objects in Colonial Nigeria |
| 15:00–16:00 | Recap and next horizons (with coffee and tea) |

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