



## MUSEUM STUDIES PROGRAM

# Colonial Archives and Decolonial Museology

**February 17, 4:00 – 5:30 pm**

### **Indigenous Epistemologies: Restorative Justice in Settler-Colonial Collections**

Moderator: Veronica Pasfield, Public Historian, Tribal Cultural Resources Consultant, Journalist, and Curator

Panelists:

- Cinnamon Catlin-Legutko, Director, Illinois State Museum
- David Michener, Curator, Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum
- Veronica Williamson, PhD Candidate, German Languages and Literatures & Museum Studies Certificate Student

The first panel considers collections relating to Native American past, present and future. Calling for a paradigm shift that emphasizes regeneration and restoration of indigenous ways of living, David Michener focuses on projects at the UM Matthaei Botanical Garden with deep connections to indigenous culture and agriculture: the Heritage Seed Project and the Mnomen Initiative, a collaborative indigenous garden project led by Anishinaabek community members. Veronica Williamson, speaking about her work with co-curator Lindsey Willow Smith (not present for the panel), confronts the visual layers of settler-colonialism in postcards and cartes de visite of Native American people. She ponders the possibility of reading the portraits against the grain and reflects on ways to re-historicize and re-humanize the photographs of indigenous people. Cinnamon Catlin-Legutko will share decolonizing museum practices that she co-led in her role as director of the Abbe Museum in Bar Harbor, Maine and now at the Illinois State Museum.

Register for above webinar via [Zoom](#).

**February 19, 12:00 – 1:30 pm**

### **Colonial Archives and Decolonial Museology: The National Museum of the Philippines and Philippine Collections at the University of Michigan**

Moderator: Kerstin Barndt, Director, Museum Studies Program

Panelists:

- Deirdre de la Cruz, Associate Professor of Southeast Asian Studies, Associate Professor of History
- Ana Labrador, Deputy Director-General, National Museum of the Philippines
- Ricky Punzalan, Associate Professor of Information, School of Information

The second panel in the series engages with UM's Philippine Collections, which include everything from papers of US colonial officers in the Philippines to thousands of photographs, from funerary objects in the Museum of Anthropological Archaeology to type specimens in the Museum of Zoology and plants in the Herbarium. Deirdre de la Cruz offers a set of reflections and critiques on 'epistemic' decolonization and considers the pedagogies of imperial archives. Based on his work with Philippine archives and with digital curation projects in the US, Ricky Punzalan envisions welcoming museum and archival spaces and UM programs for Philippine scholars and visitors with the goal of sharing collection work and imagining international collaborations. Ana Labrador reflects on her perspective as Deputy Director of the National Museum in Manila and discusses decolonizing museum practice in the Philippines.

Register for this above webinar via [Zoom](#).