

MUSEUM STUDIES PROGRAM

Winter 2019 Visiting Scholar

A Swift Death and Steady Resurrection: Salvage Anthropology and U.S. Museums

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What should museums do with stolen artifacts? Should the response be similar with stolen knowledge? This talk explores the history and legacy of salvage anthropology as it relates to museums in the United States. Salvage anthropology was a movement responding to the perceived threat of extinction faced by indigenous societies around the world. The movement brought millions of material culture objects to museums, inspired the creation of audio recordings by the thousands, and pushed artists to depict Native Americans in new ways. Museums in the United States even began collecting human remains, with over 500,000 individual sets of human remains ultimately ending up in museum storerooms. This talk examines the complex history and legacy of salvage anthropology, especially for indigenous communities in the United States today.

Samuel J. Redman teaches public history, oral history, and modern U.S. history at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Redman is the author of *Bone Rooms: From Scientific Racism to Human Prehistory in Museums* (Harvard, 2016).

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Tuesday March 12, 2019, 6:30 pm
Helmut Stern Auditorium
U-M Museum of Art
525 S State Street, Ann Arbor 48109

All events are free and open to the public.

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