

Call for Registrations

Philosophy, Archaeology and Community Perspectives: Finding New Ground
Workshop

October 22-23, 2018

University of Konstanz
Universitätsstraße 10
78464 Konstanz
Building V, Room: V1002

Western philosophies of different orientations have inputted the theoretical and epistemological construction of archaeology, especially the critical archaeological turn in theory and practice in the last decades. However, some philosophers today are de-constructing some aspects of philosophical thought (such as phenomenology) that informed the work of archaeologists concerned with theoretical issues. As philosophers pursue a globalized philosophy that has sources in non-Western systems of thought and reveals how mainstream philosophy dominates over other traditions and renders them silent or forces them into epistemic obedience, an interesting twist to the relationship between philosophy, theory and archaeology seems to arise and deserves to be studied. Demands to “decolonize” the philosophical canon are now gaining in currency within the discipline, while archaeologists, having gone relatively early through long discussions on Eurocentrism and other adherences to Western narratives, have been re-thinking the world in the last decades with a critical look, using key elements of archaeological studies, i.e. materiality and a long-term perspective, as well as especially relevant case studies, and topics, such as postcolonialism, feminism, and violence.

The aim of this workshop is to shift the focus from epistemological issues, the dominant theme in previous disciplinary engagements, to a different aspect of philosophical studies, namely ethics, which is becoming key in the practice of a highly socially embedded science such as archaeology while also accompanying new attempts from philosophy itself to unmask cultural hegemony. The main tectonic line to follow during the workshop will be the discussion of the tensions arising from a perceived socially responsible research to be carried out among living communities. Are academic accounts still in danger of becoming impositions on local ways of understanding the world, and how? Can archeology and philosophy collaborate to prevent this sort of imposition from happening? How does the social positionality of researchers impact upon their research? How can socially responsible research make room for differences among situated knowers, differences which can be traced back to their social positionality? What is the level of epistemic diversity one should aim for?

Scientific Program

1st day: October 22nd

17:00 Alison Wylie (University of British Columbia, Canada): Keynote lecture: Witnessing and translating: The Indigenous/Science project

2nd day: October 23rd

· 8:30 Opening of the day

· 9:00 Stefan Burmeister (Museum Kalkriese, Germany): On ethnicity

· 9:30 Alfredo González Ruibal (National Council for Scientific Research, Spain): On the long-term

· 10:00 Reinhard Bernbeck & Susan Pollock (Freie Universität Berlin, Germany): On violence

Coffee break

· 11:00 Barbara Hausmair (State Office for Cultural Heritage Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany): On subalternity

11:30 Felipe Criado (National Council for Scientific Research, Spain): On heritage

Lunch break

· 14:00 Laurent Olivier (National Museum of Archaeology Saint-Germain-en-Laye, France): On the politics and ethics of the past

· 14:30 Francesca Biagioli (University of Vienna, Austria): On knowledge production

· 15:00 Georgina Stewart (Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand): On critical indigenous theory

Coffee break

· 16:00 Monika Kirloskar-Steinbach (Oxford College, Emory/Konstanz): On world philosophies

· 16:30 Closing discussion

· Alison Wylie: Discussant

The event is kindly hosted by the Zukunftskolleg, University of Konstanz.

Organizers: María Cruz Berrocal (Zukunftskolleg Research Fellow), Francesca Biagioli (Zukunftskolleg-Alumna), Barbara Hausmair (Zukunftskolleg-Alumna), Monika Kirloskar-Steinbach (Oxford College, Emory/Konstanz)

We welcome registrations from students, researchers and anyone who is interested in the above topics. Attendance is free but limited to 25 persons. To register, please send an e-mail to

georg.weigand@uni-konstanz.de
until October 15, 2018.

You will receive a confirmation email or a notification about your name being added to the waiting list.

Kind regards,

María Cruz Berrocal, Francesca Biagioli, Barbara Hausmair and Monika Kirloskar-Steinbach