

M UMAC

ICOM
International
committee for
university museums
and collections

VOLUME 15 No. 2 2023

UNIVERSITY MUSEUMS AND COLLECTIONS JOURNAL
TRUTH-TELLING THROUGH UNIVERSITY MUSEUMS AND COLLECTIONS



umac.icom.museum

VOLUME 15 No. 2 2023

UNIVERSITY MUSEUMS AND COLLECTIONS JOURNAL ◀

UMAC 2023 Book of Abstracts
Truth-telling through university museums and collections

The University Museums and Collections Journal is published under a Creative Commons Licence
CC BY-SA 4.0



Authors retain copyright and grant the journal right of first publication with the work simultaneously licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution License that allows others to share the work with an acknowledgement of the work's authorship and initial publication in the UMAC journal.

Authors are able to enter into separate, additional contractual arrangements for the non-exclusive distribution of the journal's published version of the work (e.g., post it to an institutional repository or publish it in a book), with an acknowledgement of its initial publication in the UMAC journal.

Authors are permitted and encouraged to post their work online such as in institutional repositories or on their website, prior to and during the submission process, as it can lead to productive exchanges, as well as earlier and greater citation of published work.



Cover image:
Chau Chak Wing Museum by Anthony Fretwell
image courtesy of Fretwell Photography

The University Museums and Collections Journal (UMACJ) is a peer-reviewed, open call, on-line journal for the International Committee for University Museums and Collections (UMAC), a Committee of the International Council of Museums (ICOM).

If you would like information about upcoming thematic issues, or would like to propose a topic for possible consideration prior to submission, please contact the editorial office via umacjeditor@gmail.com

UMACJ Editorial Board 2022 – 2025

Kate Arnold-Forster | Director, University Museums and Special Collections, University of Reading, UK

Hugues Dreyse | Director, Jardin des Sciences, University of Strasbourg, France

Akiko Fukuno | Acting Director and Curator, International Christian University Hachiro Yuasa Memorial Museum, Japan

Margarita Guzmán | Curadora y Directora del Museo, de la Universidad del Rosario, Colombia

Gina Hammond | Manager, Psychology Test Library, Macquarie University, Australia

Lyndel King | Director Emeritus, Frederick R. Weisman Art Museum, University of Minnesota, USA

Alistair Kwan | Scholar and editor, New Zealand

Marta Lourenço | Director, Museum of Natural History and Science, University of Lisbon, Portugal

Ing-Marie Munktel | Retired, previously Director, Gustavianum, Uppsala University Museum, Sweden

Barbara Rothenmel | Director, Daura Gallery & Associate Professor, Museum Studies, University of Lynchburg, USA

Steph Scholten | Director, The Hunterian, University of Glasgow, UK

Andrew Simpson | Postdoctoral Research Affiliate, Chau Chak Wing Museum, The University of Sydney, Australia | Chair of Editorial Board, UMACJ

John Wetenhall | Director, George Washington University Museum, George Washington University, USA

Zhao Ke | Director, Electronic Science and Technology Museum of the University Electronic Science and Technology, Chengdu, China

Committee – Truth-telling through university museums and collections

Craig Barker (Chair); Michael Dagostino; Paul Donnelly; Gina Hammond; Felicity Knibbs; Anna Lawrenson; Katrina Liberiou; Elizabeth Litting; Li-Fu Lu; Jude Philp; Melanie Pitkin; Candace Richards; Andrew Simpson; Julian Woods.

Student organising committee:

John Fisher; Ruby Grant; Ali Mahmoud Hoballah Ibrahim; Sizhou Liu; Lauren Poole; Ting Ma; Amy Mogensen

Full Program:

Five days of thought-provoking discussions and learning together

sydney.edu.au/museum/whats-on/umac-2023/umac-program.archive

CONTENTS



Editorial

Truth-Telling through University Museums and Collections	86
ANDREW SIMPSON et al.	

Keynotes

PROFESSOR JENNIFER BARRETT	90
PROFESSOR GAYE SCULTHORPE	91
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR ALI BAKER	92

Concurrent Sessions

1A1	Past, present and future of university museums	93
	CHAIR: PAUL DONNELLY	
1A2	Impact of war and violence on collections	98
	CHAIR: DOMINICK VERSCHELDE	
1A3	Art and truth-telling; photography	102
	CHAIR: ANGELA GODDARD	
1B1	Who are university museums for?	105
	CHAIR: JULIE BANKS	
1B2	Rethinking archives, terminology and collections	110
	CHAIR: EVE HADDOW AND TRACEY HOUGH	
1B3	Art and truth-telling; contemporary projects	115
	CHAIR: CHARLOTTE DAY	
1C1	Expanding across campus	120
	CHAIR: JOHN FISHER	
1C2	Repatriation, a global context	126
	CHAIR: LEAH LUI-CHIVIZHE	
1C3	Art and truth-telling; social and political	131
	CHAIR: MICHAEL DAGOSTINO	
2A1	The Carrolup Centre for Truth-telling	136
	CHAIRS: JANE KING AND STEPH SCHOLTEN	
2A2	Scientific investigation and interpretation	140
	CHAIR: AMY MOGENSEN	
2A3	Engaging school students and their teachers	146
	CHAIR: LIAM MCGEAGH	

2B1	Stewardship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander collections and exhibitions CHAIR: JENNIFER BARRETT	152
2B2	Spaces, sustainability and re-evaluating structure CHAIR: GINA HAMMOND	158
2B3	Who are university museums for? Creating digital environments CHAIR: KELSEY MCMORROW	164
2C1	Ancestors, remains and collections CHAIR: MELANIE PITKIN	170
2C2	Lessons learnt and future strategies for museum development CHAIR: ANNA LAWRENSON	176
2C3	Learning across museum spaces CHAIR: JULIAN WOODS	182
3A1	Renewed and new university museums CHAIR: SIAN TILEY-NEL	186
3A2	Student engagement with Object-Based Learning CHAIR: ANDREW SIMPSON	192
3A3	Legacy collections of Natural History CHAIR: TONY GILL	198
3B1	What does it mean to be a socially responsible curator/ artist/scientist? CHAIR: ANN STEPHEN	202
3B2	Student engagement with creative programs CHAIR: GILLEAN SHAW	207
3B3	Meeting the challenges of legacy collections CHAIR: JUDE PHILP	211
3B4	Short talks, Tall ideas CHAIR: EVE GUERRY	217
3C1	Indigenous Contemporary Art: Practice and Politics CHAIR: FIONA SALMON	233
3C2	Curating exhibitions, student development and audience access CHAIR: KATRINA LIBERIOU	236
3C3	Confronting shortcomings and new knowledge creation CHAIR: STELLA MCDONALD	241
	POSTER SESSIONS	245
	WORKSHOPS AND ROUNDTABLE	261
	UMAC 2023 AWARD FINALISTS	266
	AUTHOR INDEX	268



DIGITAL APPLICATIONS IN UNIVERSITY MUSEUMS: THE CASE OF UNIVERSITY MUSEUM OF PALEONTOLOGY AND PREHISTORY “P. LEONARDI”, FERRARA, ITALY

Chiara Parisi^a, Ursula Thun Hohenstein^b & Elena Marrocchino^c

a. Doctoral candidate, b. President, University Museum System of Ferrara, c. Researcher, University of Ferrara, Via Savonarola, 9, 44121 Ferrara FE, Italy
prschr@unife.it

Keywords: digital tools, gamification, education programs

Abstract

Technology can help us better understand an exhibited object, only partially visible inside a showcase, through the use of innovative systems such as augmented reality, 3D models and many others.

The case study presented here concerns the application of digital technologies: from the collection's 3D models to the use of mapping and game-quiz tools for visual and textual narrative support in order to create teaching units addressed to elementary schools offering in-depth courses and support for school activities.

The project was conducted in 2020 in the University Museum of Paleontology and Prehistory “P. Leonardi” of the University of Ferrara (Italy). The Museum is facing public closure due to structural damage caused during the violent earthquake that hit Emilia-Romagna in 2012. Furthermore, while developing the project, the Museum was subject to further restrictions due to the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic.

In this scenario, the application of virtual models and innovative digital communication methods were the only solution to allow the Museum to remain, virtually, open. The digital narrative process was submitted to various elementary school classes in the city of Ferrara who welcomed the initiative with significant participation. The satisfaction surveys submitted revealed the willingness to participate again, in the future, in this kind of museum program. The project highlighted the important contribution of the University Museums in offering support and depth for school programs.

Biographical notes

Chiara Parisi: PhD student in “Environmental sustainability and well-being” with a research project on “Communication of sustainability and wellbeing through naturalistic museums”.

Ursula Thun Hohenstein: President of the University Museum System of Ferrara; Associate Professor at the University of Ferrara in Scientific and Naturalistic Museology.

Elena Marrocchino: Tenure Track Researcher in geochemistry at the University of Ferrara. Director Deputy for the incoming student's orientation activities and member of the Public Engagement Board of the Department of Environmental and Prevention Sciences.