



SIMA

SIMA 2025 PREPARATORY READINGS

Students in the program come from diverse backgrounds with different types of preparation. The following advance readings are intended to help ensure that everyone is familiar with some common terms and issues in anthropology that deals with materiality and multiple media types found in the National Museum of Natural History and other museums. The asterisked and bolds items are readings that we encourage your familiarization with, as they will be referred to throughout the training. Depending on your background, study these or skim these! Additional readings relating to individual lessons will be listed in the Syllabus. **Please note that some of these texts are historic in nature and are meant to help you get a sense of the ideologies and agendas of previous anthropologists associated with the Smithsonian and the wider discipline.**

Download materials here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/4l4ir76mtxlnb6q3hbhau/AM-dXvnKUSBIOi360vuTgmU?rlkey=3rqc90fwjuwixtwh779uf9bww&dl=0>

Ethics of Engagement

*School for Advanced Research

2023 *Standards for Museums with Native American Collections: A guide to all aspects of work within museums holding Native collections.* <https://sarweb.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/SMNAC-Final-Document.-May-2023.pdf>

*Anderson, J. and Atalay, S.,

2023. Repatriation as Pedagogy. *Current Anthropology*, 64(6): 670-691. [this is a long article but the piece raises a lot of important issues with working in museums and with collections; see in particular Anderson and Atalay's response to their commentators]

About Smithsonian collections-building:

Bell, Joshua A.

2015. "Bird Specimen, Papua New Guinea." In *Trophies, Relics and Curios? Missionary Heritage from Africa and the Pacific*. Karen Jacobs, Chantal Knowles and Chris Wingfield (eds). Pp. 57-62. Sidestone Press. [provides a sense of zoological collection formation]

Brady, Erika

- 1999 "Collectors and the Phonograph: "Save, Save the Lore!". *A Spiral Way: How the Phonograph Changed Ethnography*. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi. [Provides insight into the history of audio recording]

de la Cova, Carlina.

- 2019 "Marginalized bodies and the construction of the Robert J. Terry anatomical skeletal collection: A promised land lost." In Mant M and Holland A (eds.) *Bioarchaeology of Marginalized People*. Orlando: Academic Press, pp. 133-155. [provides insight into some of the anatomical skeletal collections at NMNH]

Fuentes, Marlon

Bontoc Eulogy (1995; 56 min) [This is a difficult to find film, but can be seen through Alexander Street Press and may be viewable via your library or YouTube. The film provides Indigenous insight and analysis into a troubled moment of colonial collecting in the context of the US occupation of the Philippines. **Do note the film has images of human remains.**]

Henson, Pamela

- 2008 "Nineteenth Century Smithsonian Anthropologists: Creating a Discipline and a Profession." *AnthroNotes* 29(1):12-18. [Short synopsis of the founding of anthropology at the Smithsonian.]

***Isaac, Gwyneira, and Joshua A. Bell.**

- 2013 "Smithsonian Institution." In *Theory in Social and Cultural Anthropology*, edited by R. J. McGree and R. L. Warms. London: Sage. 781-785. [Broad analysis of the history of anthropology at the Smithsonian from the 1840s to the present.]

Link, Adrianna

- 2016 "Documenting Human Nature: E. Richard Sorenson and the National Anthropological Film Center, 1965-1980." *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences* 52(4): 371-391. [Useful history of the Film Center, which was a precursor to the Human Studies Film Archive]

***Marsh, Diana E., Bell, Joshua A., Greene, Candace. and Turner, Hannah.**

2021. "Bridging Anthropology and its Archives: An Analysis from the Smithsonian's National Anthropological Archives." *Anthropology Today* 37(2): 19-22. [Discussion of a recent NSF project exploring the NAA and its users.]

Mother Tongue Film Festival

- 2021 "Archival Roundtable: Anthropologists as Storytellers." (<https://youtu.be/nk7trrP7bVU>). A roundtable discussion exploring the thirty-year collaboration between anthropologists and filmmakers Lina Fruzzetti (Brown University) and Ákos Östör (Wesleyan University), spanning numerous publications and six films, which are in the NAA/HSFA.
- 2022 "Archival Legacies of the Yanomamö Series - Restoration and Return." (<https://youtu.be/k5SNE8eqsmA>). This two-part roundtable considers the complicated legacies of the Yanomamö Film Series (1969–1976), which emerged from a collaboration between anthropologist Napoleon Chagnon (1938–2019), filmmaker Tim Asch (1932–

1994), and Yanomamö communities in southern Venezuela and northern Brazil. Distributed by Documentary Education Resources (DER) and archived in the Smithsonian's National Anthropological Archive, the series is a groundbreaking ethnographic media project that expanded the boundaries of documentary. The first roundtable is focused on the technical and aesthetic issues underlying the processes of preservation and digital restoration. The second panel explores the value of these films for the Yanomamö and anthropologists interested in more equitable collaborations.

***Nichols, Catherine A.**

- 2014** "Lost in Museums: The Ethical Dimensions of Historical Practices of Anthropological Specimen Exchange." *Curator* 57: 225-236. [Important piece that builds on Walsh, and others, to bring into view the role and ethics of specimen exchange.]

Parezo, Nancy

- 1985 "Cushing as Part of the Team: The Collecting Activities of the Smithsonian Institution." *American Ethnologist* 12(4):763-774. [Provides insight into the BAE and the way in which collecting happened in the 19th century.]

***Turner, Hanna**

- 2016** "The computerization of material culture catalogues: objects and infrastructure in the Smithsonian Institution's Department of Anthropology." *Museum Anthropology* 39(2):163-77. [Discussion of the shifting informatics and cataloguing practices at NMNH.]

Walsh, Jane M

- 2002 "Collections as Currency." In *Anthropology, History and American Indians: Essays in Honor of William Curtis Sturtevant*. William L. Merrill and Ives Goddard, eds. Pp. 201 – 209. Smithsonian Contributions to Anthropology. Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press. [Useful discussion of early collections at the Smithsonian.]

About technical museum practices:

Burcaw, G. Ellis

- 1997 Registration and Cataloguing. In *Introduction to Museum Work*. 3rd edition, Pp. 93-101. Walnut Creek: AltaMira Press. [Orig. 1975; browse for basic concepts]

Echo Hawk, Roger

- 2002 *Keepers of Culture: Repatriating Cultural Items under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act*. Denver Art Museum. [Look over for main topics.]

Reibel, Daniel B.

- 2008 *Registration Methods for the Small Museum*. 4th edition. Lanham: AltaMira Press. [Skim the book topics to become familiar with the vocabulary]

Wintle, Pam

- 2013 "Moving Image Technology and Archives." In Bell, JA., Brown, A. and R.J. Gordon, eds. 2013. *Recreating First Contact: Expeditions, Anthropology and Popular Culture*. Pp. 31-

40. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Scholarly Press. [Provides insight into shifting film formats.]

About the history of anthropology, museums and the multimodal:

These sources provide both a historical take on the role of anthropology, museums and the multimodal, as well as commentary on this history:

Barbash, Ilisa. and Taylor, Lucien.

1996 Reframing Ethnographic Film: A "Conversation" with David MacDougall and Judith MacDougall. *American Anthropologist*, 98: 371–387.

Collier, Donald and Harry Tschopik, Jr.

1954 "The Role of Museums in American Anthropology." *American Anthropologist* 56(5):768-779.

Mead, Margaret

2003 [1975] "Visual Anthropology in a Discipline of Words." In P. Hockings (ed) *Principles of visual anthropology* Pp. 3-12. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter.

Pinney, Chris

1992 'The Parallel Histories of Anthropology and Photography.' In *Anthropology and photography 1860-1920* (ed.) E. Edwards, Pp 74-95. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Stocking, George W., Jr., ed.

1985 Introduction. In *Objects and Others: Essays on Museums and Material Culture*. George W. Stocking, Jr., ed. Pp. 3-14. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press.

Sturtevant, William C.

1973 Museums as Anthropological Data Banks. In *Anthropology Beyond the University*. Alden Redfield, ed. Pp. 40-55. Athens: University of Georgia Press.

Some approaches to objects, collections and the multimodal:

Appadurai, Arjun

1986 Introduction: Commodities and the Politics of Value. In *The Social Life of Things: Commodities in Cultural Perspective*. Arjun Appadurai, ed. Pp. 3-63. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Azoulay, Ariella

2010. "What is a photograph? What is photography?" *Philosophy of Photography* (1)1: 9-13.

Beck, Abaki.

2016 "Decolonizing Photography: A Conversation with Wendy Red Star." *Aperture* December 14. <https://aperture.org/blog/wendy-red-star/>

Bell, Joshua A.

2017 "A Bundle of Relations: Collections, Collecting and Communities." *Annual Review of Anthropology* 46:241-259.

Brown, Alison

2017 "Co-authoring Relationships: Blackfoot Collections, UK Museums, and Collaborative Practice." *Collaborative Anthropologies* 9(1/2): 117-148.

Clifford, James

1997 "Museums as Contact Zones." In *Routes: Travel and Translation in the Late Twentieth Century*. Pp. 188-219. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Christen, Kim

2011 "Opening Archives: Respectful Repatriation." *American Archivist* 74:185-210.

Edwards, Elizabeth

2012 "Objects of Affect: Photography Beyond the Image." *Annual Review of Anthropology* 41:221-234.

Edwards, Elizabeth and Hart, Joanna

2004 'Mixed Box: The Cultural Biography of a Box of 'Ethnographic' Photographs.' In *Photographic Objects Histories: On the Materiality of Images* (eds) E. Edwards & J. Hart, Pp. 47-61. London: Routledge.

Geismar, Haidy

2014 "Drawing It Out." *Visual Anthropology Review* 30: 97–113.

Gell, Alfred

1992 "The Technology of Enchantment and the Enchantment of Technology." In *Anthropology, Art and Aesthetics*. Jeremy Coote and Anthony Shelton, eds. Pp. 40-63. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Glass, Aaron

2018. "Drawing on museums: Early visual fieldnotes by Franz Boas and the indigenous recuperation of the archive." *American Anthropologist* 120(1): 72-88.

Ginsburg, Faye

2002 "Screen Memories: Resignifying the Traditional in Media." In Ginsburg, F., Abu-Lughod, L. and B. Larkin, eds. *Media Worlds: Media Worlds: Anthropology on New Terrain*. Pp. 39- 57. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Hennessy, K., Lyons, N., Loring, S., Arnold, C., Joe, M., Elias, A., Pokiak, J.

2013 'The Inuvialuit Living History Project: Digital Return as the Forging of Relationships Between Institutions, People, and Data.' *Museum Anthropology Review* 7(1-2) Spring-Fall 2013: 44-73.

Ingold, Tim

- 2009 "On Weaving a Basket." In *The Object Reader*. Caroline Candlin and Raiford Guins, eds. Pp. 80-91. New York: Routledge.

Isaac, Gwyneira

- 2011 "Whose Idea Was This?: Museums, Replicas, and the Reproduction of Knowledge." *Current Anthropology* 52(2):211-233.

***Joyce, Rosemary A. and Susan D. Gillespie.**

- 2015 "Making Things out of Objects That Move." In *Things in Motion: Object Itineraries in Anthropological Practice*, edited by R. A. Joyce and S. D. Gillespie. Santa Fe: SAR Press. 21-38**

Keane, Webb

- 2003 "Semiotics and the social analysis of material things." *Language and Communication* 23:409-25.

Kingston, Deanna Paniataaq

- 2003 "Remembering our Namesakes: Audience reactions to archival film of King Island, Alaska." In Peers, Laura and Brown, Alison eds. *Museums and Source Communities: A Routledge Reader*. Pp. 123-135. London: Routledge.

Kopytoff, Igor

- 1986 "The Cultural Biography of Things: Commoditization as Process." In *The Social Life of Things: Commodities in Cultural Perspectives*. Arjun Appadurai, ed. Pp. 64-91. Cambridge: University of Cambridge Press.

Larkin, Brian.

- 2013 "The Politics and Poetics of Infrastructure." *Annual Review of Anthropology* 42:327-343.

***Mullings, Sireita, Sobers, Shawn. And Thomas, Deborah A.**

- 2021 "The Future of Visual Anthropology in the Wake of Black Lives Matter." *Visual Anthropology Review* 37: 401-421.**

Phillips, Ruth and Chris B. Steiner

- 1999 "Art, Authenticity, and the Baggage of Colonial Encounter." In *Unpacking Culture: Art and Commodity in Colonial and Postcolonial Worlds*. Ruth Phillips and Chris B. Steiner, eds. Pp. 3-19. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Thomas, Jeff

- 2014 "At the Kitchen Table with Edward Curtis." In Evans, B, and Glass, A. eds. *Return to the Land of the Head Hunters*. Pp. 128-144. Seattle: University of Washington Press.

***Tsinhanahjinne, Hulleah J.**

- 2003 "When Is a Photograph Worth a Thousand Words?" In *Photography's Other Histories* (eds) C. Pinney & N. Peterson, Pp. 40-52. Durham: Duke University Press.**

Scherer, Joanna C.

- 1992 "The Photographic Document: Photographs as Primary Data in Anthropological Inquiry," pp. 32-41 in *Anthropology and Photography*. Elizabeth Edwards, ed. New Haven: Yale University.

Sekula, Allan

- 1986 "The Body and the Archive." *October* 39: 3-64. [Do note this article has images of human remains.]

Smith, Trudi, and Hennessy, Kate

- 2020 "Anarchival Materiality in Film Archives: Toward an Anthropology of the Multimodal." *Visual Anthropology Review* 36(1):113-136.

About exhibition practices:

Ames, Michael

- 1991 "Cannibal Tours, Glass Boxes and the Politics of Interpretation." In *Cannibal Tours and Glass Boxes: The Anthropology of Museums*. Michael Ames, ed. Pp 139-150. Canada: University of British Columbia Press.

Kaplan, Flora ed.

- 1995 *Museums and the Making of "Ourselves": The Role of Objects in National Identity*. London: Leicester University Press. [book – skim topics]

Karp, Ivan, Christine Kreamer, and Steven D. Lavine, eds.

- 1992 *Museums and Communities: The Politics of Public Culture*. Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press. [book – skim topics]

Karp, Ivan, Corinne A. Kratz, Lynn Szwaja, and Tomás Ybarra-Frausto, eds.

- 2006 *Museum Frictions: Public Cultures/Global Transformations*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press. [book – skim topics]

About SIMA:

Greene, Candace S.

- 2015 "Museum Anthropology." In *Emerging Trends in the Social and Behavioral Sciences*, Robert Scott and Stephen Kosslyn, eds., Hoboken: John Wiley and Sons.

Nichols, Catherine and Lowman, Chris

- 2018 "Introduction to the Special Issue: Recognizing the Summer Institute in Museum Anthropology." *Museum Anthropology* 41(1): 5-12.

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