

# The Knowledgeable Object

Symposium: 28<sup>th</sup> November 2018



Museum of Ancient Cultures, Macquarie University

Objects are often said to be sticky with meaning.

Ever since antiquity they have been a fundamental way of knowing the world. They are also a focus for transmitting our understanding of the world to others and, as such, are both vessels that embody meaning and understanding the human experience in museum collections around the world, and primary source materials for a diverse range of learning and teaching possibilities.

Some scholars note that objects have a dual character, or contradictory nature. Their nature is definitive, observable, readily described and immutable. On the other-hand they lack fixity, are readily re-contextualised, multiply reinterpreted and ascribed highly variable values in their engagement with our ever-changing knowledge systems. Is it the tension between object and context that makes them such effective educational tools and mediators of meaning?



Objects from the Australian History Museum, Macquarie University Library

This symposium will explore what is it that makes objects so valuable in educational and museum contexts?

**We are seeking expressions of interest from education and museum practitioners and all GLAM sector professionals who would like to explore the following questions: -**

- How can we most effectively use objects in education at all levels?
- How do we remove barriers between Learning and Teaching practice and GLAM collections?
- How can we develop Object-Based Learning Communities of Practice (#OBLCoP) to unleash the power of objects?
- How does the digital revolution change our relationship with objects?
- What new creative ways are there for thinking, knowing and working with objects in cross-disciplinary contexts?
- How do we engage Primary / Secondary Schools with GLAM collections?
- How can we engage Higher Education more effectively with GLAM collections?
- OFBYFOR ALL: how can we motivate community engagement with GLAM collections?
- How do we empower educators and students to more effectively utilise GLAM collections?
- What new tools and technologies will best facilitate object engagement?

This symposium is a result of a Macquarie University learning and teaching strategic priorities project about connecting museum collections with curriculum. We will share what we've learnt, but we are also eager to hear from others interested in these questions.

We seek expressions of Interest for oral presentations, workshops, panel discussions and poster presentations.

**If you are interested, please submit an abstract (using the template attached to this email) by Fri 5<sup>th</sup> October 2018. Registration for the event will be free and will be open from late September.**

**Information about the emerging professionals workshop on 27<sup>th</sup> Nov. will be shared shortly.**

## FIND OUT MORE

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