



## Academy under Trees

### Europe's Evolving Approach to Collection Items from Colonial Contexts

**Online event on 10th June 2021 from 10:00 AM until 4:00 PM (UTC+2)**

Translation into German, French and English will be offered throughout the event.

Moderation: **Axel Rahmlow**, Deutschlandfunk Kultur, Berlin

### Program

Thursday, 10th June 2021

10:00 AM	<b>Opening speech</b> <b>Angelika Eder</b> , director, Genshagen Foundation <b>Noémie Kaufman</b> , project manager, Genshagen Foundation	
10:10 AM	<b>Introductory speech</b> <b>Marie-Cécile Zinsou</b> , chairwoman, Fondation Zinsou, Cotonou <b>Commentary from and exchange with</b> <b>Jean-Marc Ayrault</b> , Prime Minister (ret.), President of the Foundation for the Memory of Slavery, Paris	
10:50 AM	Coffee break	
	<b>Agoras</b> Two moderated discussions will simultaneously take place in digital rooms with the opportunity to switch during the breaks.	
11:00 AM	<b>Agora 1</b> Translation French-English Moderation: <b>Konstanze Fischer</b> , Deutsche Welle, Bonn	<b>Agora 2</b> Translation English-German Moderation: <b>Axel Rahmlow</b> , Deutschlandfunk Kultur, Berlin
11:05 AM	<b>FRANCE</b> <b>Maureen Murphy</b> , University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, Paris	<b>THE NETHERLANDS</b> <b>Wayne Modest</b> , director of Content, Nationaal Museum van Wereldculturen, Rotterdam
11:45 AM	Short break and room change	

11:55 AM	<b>SWITZERLAND</b> <b>Marc-André Renold</b> , director, Art-Law Center, University of Geneva	<b>GERMANY</b> <b>Inés de Castro</b> , director, Linden-Museum Stuttgart
12:35 AM	Short break and room change	
12:45 AM	<b>BELGIUM</b> <b>Mireille-Tsheusi Robert</b> , Bamko-Cran, Brussels	<b>GREAT BRITAIN</b> <b>Dan Hicks</b> , Professor of Contemporary Archaeology, University of Oxford
1:25 PM	Lunch break Possibility to meet in digital meeting rooms (without translation)	
2:25 PM	<b>Artistic performance</b> <b>meLê yamomo</b> , Assistant Professor of Theatre, Performance, and Sound Studies, University of Amsterdam	
2:50 PM	<b>Provenance research, restitution, circulation?</b> <b>The difficult path in dealing with collected items from colonial contexts</b> Discussion between <b>Didier Claes</b> , Galerie Didier Claes, president of the Brussels Non European Art Fair, Brussels <b>Larissa Förster</b> , Head of Department for Cultural and Collective Assets from Colonial Contexts, German Center for Lost Cultural Assets, Magdeburg <b>Sonia Lawson</b> , director, Palais de Lomé	
3:50 PM	<b>Conclusion of this year's Academy under Trees</b> <b>Geneviève Ancel</b> , Dialogues en humanité, Lyon	
4:00 PM	<b>End of the Event</b> Possibility to meet in digital meeting rooms (without translation) until 5:00 PM	

Registration until 8 June 2021 [here](#).

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# Short Biographies

## Our Keynote Speakers

### Geneviève Ancel

has been the coordinator of the “Dialogues en Humanité” since 2002 and promotes the worldwide diffusion of its concept. Geneviève Ancel became the head of cabinet under the French Minister of Environment, Huguette Bouchardeau. She subsequently became technical advisor for sustainable development issues in the Cabinet of Gérard Collomb, former Mayor of Lyon. Her work focuses on the protection of the environment and wider issues concerning humanity: its socio-political, civil, inter-cultural and intergenerational dimensions.

<https://dialoguesenhumanite.org>

### Inés de Castro

is director of the Linden-Museum in Stuttgart since 2010. She studied at the university in Bonn and holds a doctorate in ethnology. Her first posts at the Bavarian State Painting Collection and the State Archaeological Collection in Munich were followed by a research stay in Mexico in 2005. De Castro was the curator for the ethnological collection and subsequently took over the post of deputy director at the Roemer and Pelizaeus Museum in Hildesheim. The focus of her research is Mesoamerican archaeology and ethnology. As director of the Linden Museum, she champions the museum's self-critical examination of its colonial past and provenance research.

[www.lindenmuseum.de](http://www.lindenmuseum.de)

### Larissa Förster

is head of the Department for Cultural and Collective Assets from Colonial Contexts created in 2019 at the German Center for Lost Cultural Assets in Magdeburg and associate member of the Center for Anthropological Research of Museums and Heritage at Humboldt University in Berlin. She holds a doctorate in ethnology and her research focuses on Southern Africa. She engages with the question of provenance and restitution of objects in museums and human remains, as well as the connection between colonialism and the emergence of European museum collections.

[www.kulturgutverluste.de](http://www.kulturgutverluste.de)

### Sonia Lawson

is director of the Palais de Lomé. Abandoned for more than 20 years, the former palace of German and then French governors reopened its doors in 2019 after five years renovation work. It became the first art and culture centre in Togo. Today, it presents culture, design and visual arts to celebrate cultures of Africa and its diasporas. The challenge for Sonia Lawson, known for her role in the restoration and rehabilitation of places of cultural value, is to reinvent the historical and natural heritage in order to enhance African creative talents.

<https://palaisdelome.com>

### Jean-Marc Ayrault

was mayor of Nantes from 1989 to 2012, member of the French Parliament from 1986 to 2012 and president of the Socialist Group in the French National Assembly from 1997 until his appointment as prime minister, leading the first government of François Hollande's presidency. He was prime minister from 2012 to 2014. From 2016 to 2017 he was Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Development. In 2018, Emmanuel Macron appointed him to lead the Foundation for the Memory of Slavery.

<https://memoire-esclavage.org>

### Didier Claes

is director of the Didier Claes art gallery that was founded in 2000 and specialised in the classical art from sub-Saharan Africa. The gallery has participated in a number of international fairs such as: BRAFA, TEFAF Maastricht, TEFAF NY, Biennale des Antiquaires in Paris, Frieze Masters London, San Francisco Tribal Show, AKAA and BRUNEAF. Didier Claes is member of the Belgian Chamber of Experts in works of art, of the Royal Chamber of antique dealers of Belgium, and of the National Syndicate of French antique dealers. He is also president of the Brussels Non European Art Fair (BRUNEAF) and vice-president of the Brussels Antiques and Fine Arts Fair (BRAFA).

[www.didierclaes.com](http://www.didierclaes.com)

### Dan Hicks

is professor of Contemporary Archaeology at the University of Oxford and Curator at the Pitt Rivers Museum. He was a visiting professor at the Musée du quai Branly in 2017-2018. Hick's new book, “The Brutish Museums: the Benin Bronzes, Colonial Violence and Cultural Restitution” was published in November 2020. It has been described by Ben Okri OBE as “a startling act of conscience,” was listed as one of the New York Times Best Art Books of 2020, with the recommendation: “If you care about museums and the world, read this book.”

[www.danhicks.uk](http://www.danhicks.uk)

### Wayne Modest

is the director of Content for the National Museum of World Cultures and the Wereldmuseum Rotterdam, and the head of the Research Center of Material Culture. He is also professor of Material Culture and Critical Heritage Studies in the faculty of humanities at the Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam (VU). Modest was previously, head of the curatorial department at the Tropenmuseum, Amsterdam, Keeper of Anthropology at the Horniman Museum in London, and director of the Museums of History and Ethnography in Kingston, Jamaica.

[www.materialculture.nl](http://www.materialculture.nl)

#### Maureen Murphy

is a lecturer for contemporary art history at the University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne and member of the French University Institute. From 2002 to 2005, she worked at the Musée du quai Branly, in 2006 at the Ecole du Louvre. She was in charge of acquisitions and conservation of 19th and 20th century collections at the Museum of the History of Immigration in Paris from 2007 to 2011. Her research focuses on modern and contemporary African art, as well as primitivism, the history of exhibitions and biennials, and post-colonial theories. She is also the author of “De l’imaginaire au musée. Les arts d’Afrique à Paris et à New York” (2009), and together with Mamadou Diouf of “Déborder la négritude. Arts, politique et société” (2020).

[www.pantheonsorbonne.fr](http://www.pantheonsorbonne.fr)

#### Mireille-Tsheusi Robert

is president of the non-profit association Bamko, a centre that focuses on reflection and action concerning racism against Black people. She works as an association researcher, trainer and author on diversity and gender issues. One of her books “Racisme anti-Noirs, entre méconnaissances et mépris” was published in 2017. Trained in educational sciences, she leads media and political campaigns to stand up for the respect of human rights. In this context, she has advocated a draft resolution on the restitution of African cultural assets at the Belgian parliament in Brussels.

[www.bamko.org](http://www.bamko.org)

#### Marc-André Renold

who studied in Geneva, Basel and Yale, is an ordinary professor at the University of Geneva, where he is responsible for teaching art and cultural property law. He is also director of Art-Law Centre, an institution dedicated to research and teaching in the field of art and cultural property law. Since 2012, he holds the UNESCO Chair in International Law for the Protection of Cultural Property. Renold is also a lawyer and member of the Geneva Bar, specialised in international art and cultural property law, as well as in museum and artistic property law.

[www.art-law.org](http://www.art-law.org)

[www.unige.ch](http://www.unige.ch)

#### meLê yamomo

is an assistant professor of theatre, performance, and sound studies at the University of Amsterdam. He is co-project leader and principal investigator of “Decolonizing Southeast Asian Sound Archives” funded by the European Joint Project Initiatives for Cultural Heritage. He is a 2020 Early Career Awardee of the Netherlands Royal Academy of Sciences. meLê yamomo is also a theatre director and composer, and is a resident artist at Theater Ballhaus Naunynstrasse where his creations “Echoing Europe – Postcolonial Reverberations” and “sonus – the sound within us” belong to the repertoire.

<https://site.meleyamomo.com>

#### Marie-Cécile Zinsou

is president of the Zinsou Foundation, created in 2005 in Cotonou. It is an exhibition space for contemporary African artists. The Foundation’s activities are artistic as well as cultural, educational and social. The Zinsou Foundation focuses with its projects on enhancing artistic heritages related to Africa, education, development and poverty reduction. In 2013, the Zinsou Foundation opened a museum for contemporary art in Ouidah.

[www.fondation-zinsou.org](http://www.fondation-zinsou.org)

### Our moderators

#### Konstanze Fischer

is a radio journalist. She moderates various daily news programs as well as the Health Magazine for the French-speaking Africa programme of the radio station Deutsche Welle. She works for the radio stations WDR and Deutschlandradio, and as a translator.

[www.dw.com](http://www.dw.com)

#### Axel Rahmlow

has been presenting daily news programs and moderating discussion rounds on Deutschlandfunk Kultur since 2013. He interviews people on all relevant topics from politics, culture and current affairs.

[www.deutschlandfunkkultur.de](http://www.deutschlandfunkkultur.de)