

COURSE DETAIL

MUSEUMS IN ASIA AND AFRICA: HISTORICAL IMPULSES AND POSTCOLONIAL IMAGINARIES

Country

Germany

Host Institution

Humboldt University Berlin

Program(s)

Humboldt University Berlin

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Art History Anthropology

UCEAP Course Number

120

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

MUSEUMS IN ASIA AND AFRICA: HISTORICAL IMPULSES AND POSTCOLONIAL IMAGINARIES

UCEAP Transcript Title

ASIA&AFRICA MUSEUMS

UCEAP Quarter Units

4.50

UCEAP Semester Units

3.00

Course Description

This seminar examines the museum as a global institution that emerged through its entanglements with empire, colonial collecting practices, and systems of knowledge production. Divided into two parts, the course first traces the birth and colonial origins of the museum in Europe. It analyzes how collecting, classification, and display became intertwined with imperial ideologies and modes of governance. Finally, the seminar turns to museums in the colony, investigating how these institutions developed distinct trajectories as sites of both imperial control and local agency, as well as their roles in nationalist and postcolonial imaginaries. Through key readings in critical museology, postcolonial theory, and heritage studies, students engage with case studies from Asia and Africa. The seminar concludes by reflecting on what decolonial futures for museums might entail and how curatorial and collaborative practices can challenge established museological frameworks.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

533629

Host Institution Course Title

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Host Institution Course Details

<https://agnes.hu-berlin.de/lupo/rds?state=verpublish&status=init&vmfile=no&publ...>

Host Institution Campus**Host Institution Faculty**

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Institut für Kunst- und Bildgeschichte

Course Last Reviewed

2025-2026

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