

Humboldt Lab Tanzania

Objects from the Colonial Wars in the Ethnologisches Museum, Berlin – A Tanzanian-German Dialogue

On behalf of the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin ed. by Lili Reyels, Paola Ivanov and Kristin Weber-Sinn

Until today there are numerous objects in the storage of the Ethnologisches Museum Berlin which have been appropriated by the colonial power of former German East Africa between 1885 and 1918. The project "Humboldt Lab Tanzania" joins Tanzanian and German researchers, curators, and artists who critically discuss chosen artefacts.

Since relocation of the Ethnologisches Museum to Humboldt Forum public awareness for collections from former German colonies and objects of often problematic provenance has risen. Thus, participants from Germany and Tanzania attempt new ethnological, historical and museological approaches to display the entangled colonial History. Taken into account is the semantic change, which the objects underwent over time, as well as the issue of proper dealing with ethnological collections from colonial contexts. In which way and where can these sensitive objects and their histories be (re)presented in theory and practice of museums?



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The editors: Lili Reyels, Project Manager and Curator in Tanzania of Humboldt Lab Tanzania on Behalf of Ethnologisches Museum, Berlin; Paola Ivanov and Kristin Weber-Sinn, Ethnologisches Museum, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin – Preußischer Kulturbesitz

The authors: Andreas Eckert, Berlin; Paola Ivanov, Berlin; Elias Jengo, Dar es Salaam; Donatius M. Kamamba, Dar es Salaam; Audax Z. P. Mabulla, Dar es Salaam; Philip Chachu M. Maligisu, Dar es Salaam; Sarita Lydia Mamseri, Dar es Salaam/London; Bertram B. B. Mapunda, Dar es Salaam; Oswald Masebo, Dar es Salaam; Hermann Parzinger, Berlin; Lili Reyels, Berlin/Dar es Salaam; Kristin Weber-Sinn, Berlin

The artists: Amani Abeid, Nicholas Calvin Mwakatobe, Douglas Kahabuka, Pia Rutaiwa