

Curriculum Vitae  
**DR. BARBARA PLANKENSTEINER**

Frances & Benjamin Benenson Foundation Curator of African Art  
Yale University Art Gallery  
P.O. Box 208271  
New Haven, CT 06520-8271  
T +1 203 432 9711  
F +1 203 432 6019

**UNIVERSITY EDUCATION**

DOCTORATE (PHD.) IN SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

November 2002. Vienna University, Austria. Dissertation: From Nature to Culture and Finally Art. An Analysis of the Evolution of the Africa Collection at the Museum of Ethnology Vienna.

MASTER DEGREE IN SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY AND PHILOSOPHY

May 1991. Vienna University, Austria

**FURTHER EDUCATION**

MUSEUM LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE (MLI)

June 2012. Getty Leadership Institute at Claremont Graduate University, California, USA

HARVARD UNIVERSITY, Extension School. Cambridge Massachusetts, USA:

1995-1996 Courses in Museum Administration, Fundraising and Art and Culture of Indonesia

**EMPLOYMENT HISTORY (selection)**

KHM- MUSEUMSVERBAND Wien Austria

1998 to August 2015 **Curator of Sub-Saharan Africa Collections** Weltmuseum Wien.

2010 to August 2015 **Deputy Director** and **Chief Curator** Weltmuseum Wien (renamed since April 2013, formerly Museum für Völkerkunde)

October 2010 to May 2012 **Acting Director** Museum für Völkerkunde, Wien (Museum of Ethnology)

MAK, AUSTRIAN MUSEUM OF APPLIED ARTS VIENNA

1997 – 1998 **Guest Curator for temporary exhibitions.**

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT ALTO ADIGE, ITALY

1997 **Marketing Consultant** for newly established Archaeology Museum in Bolzano (exhibition site for the Ice Mummy).

HARVARD UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF FINE ARTS, PROF. SUZANNE BLIER,  
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS, USA

1996 **Research Assistant**

PEABODY MUSEUM HARVARD UNIVERSITY, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

1995 Voluntary work for Monni Adams, Associate Curator of Africa collection

ARCHITECTURE STUDIO OF ARCHITECT ELSA PROCHAZKA, WIEN

1993 – 1994 **Content Coordinator for Museum and Exhibition Projects**

AFRICA DEPARTMENT MUSEUM FÜR VÖLKERKUNDE, WIEN

1993 **Curatorial Assistant**

MARKET TOWN/COMMUNALITY HÜTTENBERG, CARINTHIA, AUSTRIA

1992 to 1993 **Project Director and Curator** of Heinrich Harrer Museum (author of Seven Years in Tibet, and his ethnographic collection)

## **EXHIBITIONS**

### Exhibitions as Curator and Co-Curator:

2012 *Fetish Modernity*. Exhibition in the framework of the RIME-EU-Project. Museum für Völkerkunde Wien, 2012/ 2013. Member of curatorial team

Other venues: Royal Museum of Central Africa, 2011; Museo de America Madrid 2011/2012; Narodni Muzeum Prague 2012; Museum Volkenkunde Leiden 2013; National Museum of World Culture, Gothenburg 2013/2014.

2011 *Abenteuer Wissenschaft. Etta Becker-Donner in Afrika und Lateinamerika*. Co-Curator

2010 *African Lace. Austrian Textiles for Nigeria*. Co-Curator with Nath Mayo Adediran. Exhibition in cooperation with National Commission for Museums and Monuments Nigeria.

Wien, Museum für Völkerkunde 2010/2011. Lagos National Museum 2012. Bregenz, Vorarlbergmuseum 2013/2014.

2007 *Benin - Kings and Rituals. Court Arts from Nigeria*. Lead Curator of International Exhibition Project, Cooperation with Ethnological Museum Berlin, Musée du quai Branly, Paris, The Art Institute Chicago and the National Commission for Museums and Monuments Nigeria. Dates: Wien, Museum für Völkerkunde 2007; *Benin. Cinq siècles d'art royal*. Musée du Quai Branly, Paris, 2007/2008, Berlin, 2008; Chicago 2008.

2002 *Neu Erworben im Museum für Völkerkunde* („Newly Acquired“). Museum für Völkerkunde Wien

2001 *Ansichten. Malerei aus dem Kongo 1990-2000* („Views. Paintings from the Congo 1990 – 2000“), Co-Curator with Bogumil Jewsiewicki. Museum für Völkerkunde Wien

1998 *Austausch. Kunst aus dem südlichen Afrika* („ExChange. Art from Southern Africa“). Museum für Völkerkunde Wien

1993 New Installation of Permanent Collection Heinrich-Harrer-Museum, Hüttenberg, Carinthia, Austria

### Exhibition Collaboration (Selection)

2013 *Maximilian von Mexiko. Der Traum vom Herrschen*. Hofmobiliendepot Wien. Consultancy and African Object Selection

2011 *Angelo Soliman - Ein Afrikaner in Wien* („Angelo Soliman – An African in Vienna“), Wien Museum (Historical Museum of City of Vienna). Consultancy and African Object Selection

2011 *Wald/Baum/Mensch* („Forest/Trees/Men“). Exhibition at Museum für Völkerkunde Vienna, September 6 – March 13, 2012. Elaboration of Africa themes: African Object Selection and Description.

2011 *Erobern – Entdecken – Erleben* („Explore -- Discover – Experience“). County Exhibition Lower Austria, Hainburg. Elaboration of Africa themes: African Object Selection and Description.

2009 *Wir sind Maske* („We are Mask“). Exhibition of Kunsthistorisches Museum (Art History Museum) at the Museum für Völkerkunde, Wien. Elaboration of Africa themes: Object Selection and Description.

2009 *Mahlzeit* („Meals“) Stift Schlierbach, Upper Austria. Elaboration of Africa themes: Object Selection and Description.

2005 *Ur-Ethnographie*. Österreichisches Museum für Volkskunde, Wien

2004 „*Der freie, weite Horizont*“ *Die Weltumsegelung der Novara und Maximilians mexikanischer Traum*. Tyrol Castle, South Tyrol, Italy. Elaboration of Africa themes: African Object Selection and Description.

2004 *Geheimnisvoller Osten*. Burg Schlaining, Burgenland Österreich. Elaboration of Africa themes: Object Selection and Description.

2003 *Africa. Capolavori di un continente*. Galleria d'Arte Moderna, Turin.

2001 *Die Entdeckung der Welt. Die Welt der Entdeckungen*, Künstlerhaus, Wien. („World of Discoveries“). Elaboration of Africa themes: Object Selection and Description.

2001 *Exotica. The Portuguese Discoveries and the Renaissance Kunstkammer*, Gulbenkian Museum, Lisbon, before Kunsthistorisches Museum, Wien. Elaboration of Africa themes: Object Selection and Description.

#### **RESEARCH AND COOPERATION PROJECTS**

2014-2018 Successful applicant and project leader until July 2015: EU-Project *SWICH Sharing a World of Inclusion, Creativity and Heritage. Ethnography, World Culture Museums and New Citizenship in Europe*. Partnership with 10 museums ( MUCEM Marseille, Royal Africa Museum Tervuren, Museums of World Cultures Netherlands, Museums of World Cultures Sweden, Museum of Anthropology and Archaeology Cambridge, Museu del Mon Barcelona, Lindenmuseum Stuttgart, Naprstek Museum Prague, Museo L. Pigorini Rome)

2011 - 2012 Coordinator at Vienna Museum : EU-Project READ ME II, [*S]oggetti migranti*, Cooperation project (partners: Museo L. Pigorini Rom, Musée du quai Branly Paris, Royal Africa Museum Tervuren, Museum für Völkerkunde Wien)

2010- 2013 Associate Partner of EU- Hera Project "Creativity and Innovation in a World of Movement" (CIM) directed by Maruska Svasek, Queens University, Belfast

since 2010 *Benin Dialogue*, Initiator of regular working meeting to foster dialogue and collaboration with the National Commission for Museums and Monuments Nigeria, and the participation of European Museums.

2008-2009 cooperation with National Commission for Museums and Monuments Nigeria to further and support museum work, specifically for the National Museum in Benin City, development of new exhibition concept and new selection of objects to display. Organization of a conservation workshop for local staff supported by the Museum für Völkerkunde Vienna in 2009.

2008 – 2013 Coordinator at the Weltmuseum Wien: EU-Project RIME (International Network of Ethnographic Museums) as one of 10 European partner museums.

## **CONSULTANCIES / MEMBER OF COMMITTEES / FUNCTIONS**

2015 External project evaluator for Volkswagenstiftung Germany and Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft  
2013-2015 Member Board of Directors of ACASA (Arts Council of the African Studies Association)  
since 2013 Member of Board of ICME (International Committee for Museums of Ethnography)  
2013 External evaluator, Berghahn Books, Oxford, New York (Material Culture Studies)  
2011-2015 Deputy Speaker of Task Group Museums of the German Society for Ethnology  
2010 Member of scientific committee for the exhibition *L'Africa delle Meraviglie Arti Africane nelle Collezioni Italiane*, Palazzo Ducale e Castello D'Albertis, Genova  
2010-2013 Member of scientific consultancy board of Verein für Volkskunde (Society of European Ethnology, Austrian Folk Art Museum)  
since 2009 Member Advisory Board of the National Museum in Benin City  
2009 Member of examination board, Doctorate Anna Seiderer, University X Nanterre Paris  
2008 External reviewer of candidates for position of Professor for Postcolonial Studies, Academy of Fine Arts Wien  
2005 External appraiser for African art collection of Rainer Kreissl, National Gallery Prague  
2003 Member of scientific committee for the exhibition *Africa. Capolavori da un continente*. Torino, Galleria d'Arte Moderna.  
2009-2015 Board Member Alumni Society Institute for Cultural and Social Anthropology, University of Vienna, Austria  
2002-2012 Second Vice President Society of Friends of Ethnology, Vienna

## **AWARDS**

2013 *Distinguished Cultural Icon Award* "in recognition of the outstanding contribution to establishing a new working relationship in the heritage world" awarded by the National Commission for Museums and Monuments Nigeria in Benin City

2011 *Grand Prix du Jury and Meilleur Livre d'Art Africain*, presented by FILAF (Festival International du Livre d'Art & du Film), Perpignan for the book : African Lace. A History of Trade, Creativity and Fashion in Nigeria.

## **MEMBERSHIPS**

ACASA (Arts Council of the African Studies Association)  
ASA (African Studies Association)  
EASA (European Association of Social Anthropologists)  
DGV (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Völkerkunde): since 2011 deputy speaker task groupMuseum  
ICOM (International Council of Museums)

## **LANGUAGES**

German (mother tongue)  
Italian, English (fluent)  
French (good knowledge)  
Spanish, Portuguese (basic knowledge)

## **TEACHING**

Institute for Cultural and Social Anthropology, University Wien: 2002-2014 regular courses each semester on Museum Anthropology and African Art  
Institute for African Studies, University Wien: 2002 to 2009 regular courses and seminars on African art each semester.  
Institute for Museum Studies, Jos Nigeria: 2009 Workshop Concept Development and Organization of Exhibitions  
Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna, Institute of Sacral Arts: 1998/99 African Art

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

2011 *Abenteuer Wissenschaft. Etta Becker-Donner in Afrika und Lateinamerika*. Co-Author with Gerard van Bussel and Claudia Augustat. Wien.

2010 *African Lace. Eine Geschichte des Handels, der Kreativität und der Mode in Nigeria*. Co-edited with Nath Mayo Adediran. Wien, Gent : Snoeck Publishers.

2010 *African Lace. A History of Trade, Creativity and Fashion in Nigeria*. Co-edited with Nath Mayo Adediran. Wien, Gent : Snoeck Publishers.

2010 *Benin*. Visions of Africa Series. 5 Continents Editions. Mailand. (English)

2010 *Bénin*. Visions of Africa Series. 5 Continents Editions. Mailand. (French)  
▪ As one of 6 nominated for Prix international du Livre d'Art Tribal, Sotheby's Paris 2010 ▪

2007 (Ed.) *Bénin. Cinq siècles d'art royal*. Wien, Gent: Snoeck.

2007 (Ed.) *Benin. Kings and Rituals. Court Arts from Nigeria*. Wien, Gent: Snoeck.

2007 (Ed.) *Benin. Könige und Rituale. Höfische Kunst aus Nigeria*. Wien, Gent: Snoeck.

2004 together with Stefan Khittel, Maria Six-Hohenbalken (Eds.): *Contemporary Issues in Socio-Cultural Anthropology. Perspectives and Research Activities from Austria*. Wien: Löcker.

2001 together with Bogumil Jewsiewicki: *AN/SICHTEN. Malerei aus dem Kongo 1990 – 2000*. Wien-New York: Springer.

1998 *ExChange. Art from Southern Africa Around 1900*. Museum für Völkerkunde, Wien.

1993 (Ed.) Catalogue *Heinrich-Harrer-Museum*. Klagenfurt: Ritter.

1991 together with Reinhard Johler and Ludwig Paulmichl (Eds.): *Südtirol im Auge der Ethnologen*. Wien/Lana: Edition Per Procura.

### Articles/Chapters

2016 (forthcoming) The Benin Treasures: Difficult Legacy and Contested Heritage. In *Cultural Property and Contested Ownership. The Trafficking of Artefacts and the Quest for Restitution*, edited by Brigitta Hauser-Schäublin and Lyndel Prott. Routledge.

2015 (in Print) African Lace: Agency and Transcontinental Interaction in Textile Design. In *Creativity in Transition: Politics and Aesthetics of Circulating Images* Edited by Maruska Svasek and Birgit Meyer. Oxford, New York: Berghahn Books.

2013 Objects or People? Discrepancies of Focus in the History of the Ethnography Museum.  
In: *Beyond Modernity. Do Ethnography Museums need Ethnography?* Proceedings of the International Colloquium, Museo Pigorini April 18th-20th, 2012 edited by Vito Lattanzi, Sandra Ferracuti, Elisabetta Frasca Espera, Rom.

2013 Afrikanisches aus dem Museum Miramar. In: *Maximilian von Mexiko. Der Traum vom Herrschen*, edited by Ilsebill Barta. Publikationsreihe der Museen des Mobiliendepots Vol. 31. Wien.

2013 African Lace: an Industrial Fabric Connecting Austria and Nigeria. *Anthrovision* (Vaneasa Online Journal), 1(2).

2012 *African Art Institutionalized in America*. Book review: Kathleen Bickford Berzock, Christa Clarke, eds. Representing Africa in American Art Museums: A Century of Collecting and Display. Seattle University of Washington Press, 2011. H-Net Book Review. Published by [H-AfrArts@h-net.msu.edu](mailto:H-AfrArts@h-net.msu.edu), September 2012.

2012 Book Review: Contemporary African Fashion, edited by Suzanne Gott and Kristyne Loughran. *African Arts* vol. 45(3): 91-92.

2011 „Auch hier gilt unsere Regel, Buschmanngut und Fremdgut auseinanderzuhalten“. Rudolf Pöchs Südafrika-Sammlung und ihre wissenschaftliche Bearbeitung durch Walter Hirschberg. *Archiv für Völkerkunde* 59-60: 91-101.

2011 „Eine Dame im Urwald“. Etta Becker-Donner, ein Leben für Museum und Wissenschaft, in *Abenteurer Wissenschaft*, pp. 9 – 23.  
Etta Donners Liberia-Forschung, in *Abenteurer Wissenschaft*, pp. 25-49.

2011 Exhibition Review: Dynasty and Divinity: Ife Art in Ancient Nigeria. British Museum London. *African Arts* 44(3): 80 -82.

2010 African Lace. A Recent Chapter in Nigerian Fashion History, in *African Lace* pp. 23-35.

2010 Silesian Linens, English Woolens, Colourful Waxprints. A Short History of the European Textile Trade with West Africa, in *African Lace*, pp. 57-70.

2010 African Lace. Material of a Trans-Continental History of Relations, in *African Lace* pp. 113-151.

2009 The Sudan Collections at the Museum für Völkerkunde in Vienna. In *Sudan Mission 1848-1858. Ignacij Knoblehar – Missionary, Explorer of the White Nile and Collector of African Objects*, edited by Marco Frelih, pp.107-110. Ljubljana.

2009 „Vom Lorbeer des Entdeckers zum Palmenzweig edler Menschlichkeit“. Ethnographische Objekte und die Evolution des Reisewerks Oscar Baumanns. *Archiv für Völkerkunde* 57/58: 221-246.

2009 Catalogue entries: *Wir sind Maske* herausgegeben von Silvia Ferino-Pagden. Wien: Kunsthistorisches Museum.

2009 Von Königstieren zu Bettvorlegern. Gedanken zur Großwild- und Trophäenjagd in Afrika. In *Möbel als Trophäe* herausgegeben von Peter Noever, pp. 22–29. Wien and Nürnberg: MAK and Verlag für Moderne Kunst.

2009 The Making of ... Genese und Rezeption einer Benin-Ausstellung. In *Das Unbehagen im Museum. Postkoloniale Museologien* edited by Schnittpunkt (Belinda Kazeem Charlotte Martinz-Turek and Nora Sternfeld), pp. 193–216. Wien: Turia + Kant.

2008 The Contemporary Production of “Antique” Benin Bronzes in Benin City and Cameroon. In *Original – Copy – Fake? Examining the Authenticity of Ancient Works of Art – Focusing on African and Asian Bronzes and Terracottas* edited by Stiftung Situation Kunst Bochum, pp. 178-190. Mainz: Philipp von Zabern.

2008 *Overlapping and Crisscrossing: An assessment of Ubangi Art*. Book review of Jan-Lodewijk Grootaers (ed.) Ubangi: Art and Cultures from the African Heartland: Mercatorfonds, 2007.  
H-Net Book Review. Published by [H-AfrArts@h-net.msu.edu](mailto:H-AfrArts@h-net.msu.edu), Jänner 2008.

2007 Exhibition Preview: Kings and Rituals. Court Arts from Nigeria. *African Arts* 40(4): 74–87.

2007 Kings and Rituals. Court Arts from Nigeria. *Tribal Arts* XI: 4/45: 104–119.

2007 Benin. Könige und Rituale. Höfische Kunst aus Nigeria (Museum für Völkerkunde, Wien). *NeuesMuseum* 7(1&2): 88–96.

2006 Geschenke und Gegengeschenke: Menelik und die Insignien der Macht auf dem Weg nach Europa. In *Äthiopien und Deutschland. Sehnsucht nach der Ferne*. Edited by Kerstin Volker-Saad and Anna Greve, pp. 158-167. München, Berlin: Deutscher Kunstverlag.

2005 African Art at the Museum für Völkerkunde in Vienna. *African Arts* 38(2): 12–37, 92.

2005 *Sensual Approach*. Book review of Art of the Senses. African Masterpieces from the Teel Collection, by Suzanne Blier, Christraud M. Geary, and Edmund B. Gaither.  
H-Net Book Review. Published by [H-AfrArts@h-net.msu.edu](mailto:H-AfrArts@h-net.msu.edu), Juli 2005.

2004 Catalogue entries: „Kap der Guten Hoffnung“ in *Der freie weite Horizont. Die Weltumsegelung der Novara und Maximilians mexikanischer Traum*. Exhibition catalogue: Schloß Tirol, 134–141.

2004 Catalogue entries in Bussel, Gerard van. 2004 *Geheimnisvoller Osten. Schrecken–Schätze–Schicksale*. Burg Schlaining: Europäisches Zentrum für Frieden.

2004 Catalogue entries: Österreichisches Museum für Volkskunde (ed.). 2004. *Ur-Ethnographie. Auf der Suche nach dem Elementaren in der Kultur. Die Sammlung Eugenie Goldstern*.

2003 „Völlige Fühllosigkeit dem Künstlerischen gegenüber...“ Der Streit um den „asiatischen Kunstsaal“ anlässlich der Neueröffnung des Museums für Völkerkunde in Wien im Jahre 1928. *Archiv für Völkerkunde* 53: 1-26.

2003 Catalogue entries in Wilfried Seipel (ed.): *Der Turmbau zu Babel. Ursprung und Vielfalt von Sprache und Schrift*. part II Sprache. Wien: 294-297.

2003 Catalogue entries in Ezio Bassani: *Africa. Capolavori da un continente*. Torino: 345-347.

2001 together with Peter Kann: Die Welt der Entdecker aus ethnologischer Sicht. *Neues Museum* Nr.3/2001.

2001 Endstation Museum. Österreichische Afrikareisende sammeln Ethnographica. In: *k.u.k. kolonial. Habsburgermonarchie und europäische Herrschaft in Afrika*. Edited by Walter Sauer, pp. 257-288. Wien:Böhlau.

2001 Der Mythos des heroischen Entdeckers in Afrika und die Ethnologie. In *Die Entdeckung der Welt. Die Welt der Entdeckungen. Österreichische Forscher, Sammler, Abenteurer*. Edited by Wilfried Seipel, pp. 275-283Wien: Kunsthistorisches Museum.

2001 „Rein und Schön“. Weibliche Genitalverstümmelung in Afrika und Schönheitsoperationen in Europa und den USA: ein Vergleich. In *SexPolitik. Lust zwischen Restriktion und Subversion*. Edited by Doris Guth & Elisabeth von Samsonow. Wien: Turia + Kant.

2000 Afro-portugiesische Elfenbearbeiten. In *Exotica. Portugals Entdeckungen im Spiegel fürstlicher Kunst- und Wunderkammern der Renaissance*. Edited by Wilfried Seipel, pp. 126-140. Wien: Kunsthistorisches Museum.

2000 Kulte, Künstler, Könige in Afrika. Exhibition Review *African Arts* 32 (2).

#### **EDITING BOARD (Journals)**

since 2003 Co-Editor *Archiv für Völkerkunde*, Wien

2013-2015 Consultant Editor *Open Arts Journal* ([www.openartsjournal.org](http://www.openartsjournal.org)), London

#### **LECTURES, CONFERENCES (Selection)**

October 2015 “The Weltmuseum Wien and its history: The world within, but without Europe?” *Europe from the Outside In: Imagining Civilisation through Collecting the Exotic*. Centre for Research into Dynamics of Civilisation (CREDOC), University College London.

October 2015 „Ethische Herausforderungen in der ethnographischen Museumswelt“ Museum und Ethik, Volkskundemuseum, Wien.

June 2015 "Renovation Plans and Conceptual Foundations for the Weltmuseum Wien" and "Return and Dialogue. Two Sets of Experiences from Vienna" *Museum of Cultures, Wereldmuseum, Varldskulturmuseet ... What Else? Positioning Ethnological Museums in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* VolkswagenStiftung Hannover

June 2015 Presentation panel discussion *Complexity* in the series *Themes. Men in Society*. Culture Dept. Provincial Government, Bozen, Italy.

April 2015 "African Art and William Fagg's Contemporaries in Austria" *William Fagg and the Study of African Art* The Courtauld Institute of Art, London.

December 2014 „Die Bedeutung ethnographischer Dokumentationen zur Herkunftsbestimmung materieller Kultur in ethnographischen Museen“ *Das Ethnographische Archiv*. Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Berlin.

November 2014 Keynote Lecture „*The Weltmuseum Wien. History, Vision and Challenges*“ Retreat Conference Institute for Social Anthropology Austrian Academy of Science, Wien.

October 2014 Panel discussion *Wo liegt die Zukunft für Ethnographische Museen?* Organizer and moderator, Weltmuseum Wien

June 2014 "Benin – Kings and Rituals: Court Arts from Nigeria. Impact and Aftermath" *Une "histoire croisée de l'Ethnologie*. Colloque EHESS Paris.

April 2014 "African Lace. Eine österreichisch-nigerianische Textilgeschichte" *Kleiderfragen: Mode und/oder Tracht?* Salzburg University.

March 2014 "A Historic Collection Revisited. The Representation of Africa at the Weltmuseum Wien" and panel discussant "Objects and Stories: Exploring Colonial Contexts" *ACASA (Arts Council of the African Studies Association)-Triennial* Brooklyn Museum, New York.

October 2013 Co-panel chair: „Die Verortung der Dinge. Ethnologische Museen zwischen Wissenschaft, Öffentlichkeit und Politik“ *Conference of Deutsche Gesellschaft für Völkerkunde*, Mainz.

July 2013 Panelist at final discussion *The Future of Ethnographic Museums*, EU-RIME project final conference. Pitt Rivers Museum Oxford.

June 2013 Discussant at panel: "The entrails of 'beautiful' and 'proper' cultural heritage: diggers, middlemen and white collars in the grey trajectories of the transnational African art trade" *5<sup>th</sup> European Conference on African Studies*. Lisbon

February 2013 Co-organizer and participation at *Meeting of Nigerian Officials and European Museum Representatives over the Benin Bronzes in European Museums*. Benin City, Nigeria

January 2013 "From Museum of Ethnology to Worldmuseum and what it entails" *Colloque Musées d'Ethnologie au 21<sup>ème</sup> siècle*. Paris Maison de Sciences de l'Homme, organized by the National Museum of Ethnology Osaka.

November 2012 „Konzeptwandel. Die Evolution der Museumskonzeption des Museums für Völkerkunde Wien“ and co-organizer *Eine alte Institution neu gedacht. Neuaufstellungen ethnologischer Sammlungen in jüngster Zeit*. Conference of task group Museum of the German Association of Anthropologists. Köln University.

November 2012 *Disturbing Pasts. Memories, Controversies and Creativity*. Conference in Cooperation with The Open University, London. Member of organizational committee. Panel chair: *Colonial Pasts and the Exhibitionary Order*. Museum für Völkerkunde Wien.

September 2012 "Flamboyance and Wealth. The Impact of African Lace on Power Dressing in Nigeria". Conferenza di Studi Africani, Pavia University.

April 2012, "Objects or People? Discrepancies of Focus in the History of the Ethnography Museum" *Beyond Modernity. Do Ethnography Museums Need Ethnography?* Museo L. Pigorini Rom, organized in context of EU-Project RIME. Lecture:

October 2011 Second Workshop on Sharing Collections of Benin. Museum of Ethnology in Berlin.

September 2011 "Verdrehte Objektwissenschaft. Authentizität im Spannungsfeld von Markt und Postkolonialismus" (Distorted Object Scholarship: Authenticity in the Conflict Zone between Market and Postcolonialism) Plenary Lecture *Conference of the German Society of Ethnology* Vienna University.

June 2011 Presentation of African Lace Catalogue. Festival International du Livre d'Art, Perpignan

May 2011 *Benin Arts and the Collector's Dilemma in the 20th Century*. Palazzo Ducale Genova

March 2011 *Reassembling Traditions in the World of Fashion: The Story of "African Lace" in Nigeria and Austria*. ACASA-Triennial, Los Angeles UCLA.

December 2010 Organizer and Chair of Workshop: New Cultures of Collaboration: Sharing of Collections and Quests for Restitution: the Benin Case. Paper: "The History of Benin Collections in Europe and the USA" Museum für Völkerkunde Wien

November 2010 *Concept for the Fusion of the Museum of Ethnology and the Austrian Museum of Folk Art in Vienna* together with Matthias Beitzl. Workshop: Second Encounter -- Reintegrating Europe into the Ethnographic Museum Discourse. In the context of the EU-RIME Project. Co-organization of workshop.

October 2009 *Austrian Lace. Austrian Embroideries for Nigeria*. Museum für Völkerkunde Wien

June 2009 Panel Chair *Reshaping Africa Exhibits*, AEGIS, Third European Conference on African Studies, Leipzig

May 2009 *Benin – Kings and Rituals. History of an Exhibition*. Conference of Friends of African Culture Society. Museum Rietberg, Zürich

December 2008 *The Tropenmuseum for a Change!* Discussant Tropen Museum, Amsterdam

August 2008 Co-Panel Chair and Introduction *Collection Itineraries*. EASA conference Lubljana.

July 2008 *The History and Transformation of a Benin Exhibition*. The Art Institute of Chicago.

October 2007 *Angles on Benin – Concept and Reception of a Benin Exhibition*. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual Meeting der African Studies Association, New York.

May 2007 2011 Organizer and Chair of Benin Conference, Museum für Völkerkunde Vienna. Paper: *Benin Art. The Causes and Routes of its Dispersal Worldwide*.

February 2007 "The Actual Production of „Antique“ Benin Bronzes in Benin City and Cameroon and their Distribution" *Original – Copy – Fake*, Ruhr-University Bochum.

September 2006 "African Material Culture at the Austrian Museum für Völkerkunde: Revealing Multiple Histories and Representations of Objects" 9th *EASA Biennial Conference Europe and the World*. Bristol

February 2006 "Conflict on Competence between Art History and Anthropology? The Criticisms of the Exhibition Views, Painting from the Congo 1990-2000" Museum of Ethnology Munich

November 2005 "Benin Bronzes" from Bamum. A Preliminary Reconsideration of the Brasscasting Industry in Fumban" *48<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of African Studies Association*. Washington D.C.

June 2005 "African Contemporary Art at the Museum für Völkerkunde in Wien" *Globalized contemporary African art: its subtexts and its antithesis*. Iwalewa House, Bayreuth.

May 2005 "The „Benin Matter“. Benin and its Art after 1897 in the German-Austrian perception" Lecture in the context of project Broken Memory. École des Haute Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris.

May 2005 "Reconstructing Collection Histories of Ethnographic Objects: an Exploration into a Complex Territory" Table Ronde *Patrimonialisation* Institute Français de l'Archéologie Orientale (IFAO) and Centre d'Études et de Documentation Économiques, Juridiques et Sociales (CEDEJ), Cairo, Egypt.

March 2005 "The Liberia Collection of Etta Becker-Donner" Museum für Völkerkunde, Wien.

October 2004 "African Figures in the Living Room. The Representation of Africans in Popular Austrian Art of the 1950 and 1960s" *Colonial and Postcolonial Constructions of Africa*. Königswinter. Köln.

September 2004 "An Austrian Lady in the Bush". Etta Becker-Donner's (1911-1975) Highly Popular African Experience and her View of the Female Question" *Biennial EASA Conference*. Wien

April 2004 "Reflection on Collection Strategies at the Africa-Department of the Ethnological Museum in Vienna" *13<sup>th</sup> Triennial Symposium on African Art of the Arts Council of the African Studies Association*, Harvard University, Cambridge

March 2004 "The History of Collections at the Museum für Völkerkunde in Vienna, Austria. An Overview". *Non-European Ethnographical Collections in Central and Eastern Europe* organized by ECHO-Project, Budapest

April 2001 "Where the Paintings Live. Wall Decoration and the Urban Living Room in the D.R. Congo" *ACASA-Triennial*, Virgin Islands

May 2001 "Exhibiting Central African Urban Art in an Ethnology Museum: Context and Public" *Conference of Canadian African Studies Association*, Quebec City.