

Serial Academic Webinars

Cultural Transmission against Collective Amnesia: Bodies and Things in Heritage Practices

Third Session: Transmission through Digital Technology

Date: 27 February 2021 (Sat)

10:00 – 10:20 UTC (19:00 – 19:20 JST)

Introduction

10:20 – 10:50 UTC (19:20 – 19:50 JST)

Making Museum Objects Revive in Human Societies:

An Experience of an Image-Sharing Project between Africa and East Asia

Taku Iida (National Museum of Ethnology, Japan)

Ethnographic objects in museums are diaspora: they once served the daily necessities of people, whereas they now remain long distant from ex-users. In recent years, however, museums aimed to rebuild connections between objects and people who well know them or from the source communities by frequently sharing digital images through Internet devices. The author of this presentation proposes that a digital database can effectively preserve the diverse memories of people from all walks of life across ages and places. It also discusses the intangible factors, re-contextualizes tangible objects, and revitalizes the objects in human societies.

Dr. Taku Iida is a researcher in ecological and cultural anthropology. His recent interests are visual media, cultural transmission, and history of Japanese anthropology. He is the editor of *Living with Cultural Heritage* (in Japanese, Rinsen Book, 2017) and *Cultural Heritage in the Human History* (in Japanese, Rinsen Book, 2017).

10:50 – 11:20 UTC (19:50 – 20:20 JST)

Cultural Transmission in the Digital Age:

Learning Kastom in New Ireland, Papua New Guinea

Graeme Were (University of Bristol, UK)

This presentation will examine how digital technologies such as the internet and mobile phones have impacted on the transmission of traditional knowledge in New Ireland, Papua New Guinea. Taking the case study of the Mobile Museum project, a digital heritage project set up to provide remote access to culturally relevant objects housed in museums, this presentation explores how cultural revitalisation programmes are transforming the way traditional knowledge is acquired.

Professor Graeme Were is a researcher in Social Anthropology. His recent interests are museums, material culture, and heritage. His publications include *How Materials Matter: Design, Innovation and Materiality in the Pacific* (Berghahn Books, 2019).

11:20 – 11:50 UTC (20:20 – 20:50 JST)

Designing Participatory Community Archiving:

How to Share Community Information through Digitization and Digital Tools

Rikutarō Manabe (University of Tokyo, Japan)

Machidukuri, which is the process and practice of improving a neighborhood from the physical and social aspects to enable people to live a better life, begins with the identification and sharing of local resources with residents and interested individuals. I consider such observations as information and call it “community information” because community resources are important to the sustainability of the area. “Community archiving” is defined as the process of collecting, storing, and utilizing community information, as well as the interaction and enhancement between these individual elements. This presentation describes and analyzes the design and practices in the Bunkyo and Ota Wards in Tokyo. Furthermore, digitalization and using digital tools are key to the sharing of local resources to stimulate and promote the cultural activities of people beyond generations.

Dr. Rikutarō Manabe is a researcher in urban planning and designing. His recent interests are the digital and analog methodology in urban planning, citizen participation and information for urban planning. His publications include *Learning Design of Community Design* (University of Tokyo Press, 2016), *Innovations in Collaborative Urban Regeneration* (Springer, 2009), and *Urban Planning Leading by Citizens: How to Use It for Machizukuri* (in Japanese, Gakugei Shuppansha, 2009)

11:50 – 12:20 UTC (20:50 – 21:20 JST)

General Discussion

12:20 – 12:25 UTC (21:20 – 21:25 JST)

Closure