

CALL FOR PAPERS
ON THE PROPERTIES OF THINGS
COLLECTIVE KNOWLEDGE AND THE OBJECTS OF THE MUSEUM
RYERSON UNIVERSITY, OCT. 25-26, 2018



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On the Properties of Things: Collective Knowledge and the Objects of the Museum brings together academic researchers and museum professionals who are interested in developing new, connective ways of engaging with the museum as both an institutional structure and an idea. Objects in museums have various “properties” that derive from their materiality, their cultural history, and their knowledge-building capacity. This event proposes an approach to the properties of such objects through the framework of “collective knowledge.” We aim to challenge the historical, disciplinary boundaries of museum cultures (scholarly, curatorial, administrative, pedagogical, scientific, artistic, and literary) and to facilitate connections between realms usually held apart, such as the arts and sciences, research and education, Eurocentric and Indigenous knowledges and practices, and between the academic and the public spheres.

Through a day of playfully-themed panels and roundtables this event will facilitate cultural and disciplinary exchanges aimed at fruitfully informing how we understand museums and their objects. We welcome proposals connecting to any of the thematic groupings below, as well as on other subjects that emphasize collaborative, cross-disciplinary research on—or practice in—museums.

- relics, totems and remains
- collection and re-collection
- palimpsest and pentimento
- the poetics of the museum
- instrumentality and hands-on knowledge
- Indigenous objects, collections, and knowledge creating practices
- the nature of knowledge in museums

Keynote speakers: Ruth Phillips, Professor of Art History, Carleton University and Paul Smith, Director, Oxford University Museum of Natural History

Please send 250-word proposals for short conference papers (15 minutes) or roundtable contributions (10 minutes) by July 31 as an email attachment to:

onthepropertiesofthings@gmail.com

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