

Susanne Boersma, MA

Curriculum vitae, August 2022

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EDUCATION

- 2018 – 2022** **PhD Anthropological Studies in Culture and History, University of Hamburg**
Museum Europäischer Kulturen - Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, SPK
POEM Marie-Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Network EU H2020
Thesis: 'The aftermaths of participation - Outcomes and consequences of participatory work with forced migrants in museums.' *[thesis submitted]*
Supervised by Prof. Elisabeth Tietmeyer & Prof. Gertraud Koch
- Summer 2019** **FUBiS Course: Europe, Migration, Refugees, Freie Universität Berlin**
- 2015 – 2016** **MA Art Museum and Gallery Studies, University of Leicester**
Dissertation: 'An engaging dialogue: On the potential of participatory curatorial practice applied to sculpture in the public space.'
Supervised by Prof. Suzanne MacLeod
- 2014 – 2015** **Minor Cultural Anthropology, University of Bologna**
- 2012 – 2015** **BA Cultural Studies, University of Amsterdam**
Dissertation: 'Memory and Emotion in the Museum of Broken Relationships'
- 2011 – 2015** **BA Theatre Studies, University of Amsterdam**
Dissertation: 'Randprogrammering in theaters voor een toegankelijke totaalbeleving' (*Side programming in Dutch theatres for an accessible and complete experience*)

TEACHING & ADMINISTRATION

- 2018 – present** **Guest lectures and additional teaching**
Guest lecture on 'Defining Curating in Museums' at Humboldt Universität Berlin with Christoph Bareither; guest lecture on 'Ethics of Memory Practices' at Radboud University Nijmegen; assistance with the seminar 'Community-Based Research: Social Impact Evaluation in the Cultural Sector' at the Universität Hamburg; organisation of a PhD colloquium on power relations and fieldwork at the Universität Hamburg.
- Winter 2021-22** **Lecturer at the Universität Hamburg**
Organising and lecturing at the seminar 'Museums and migration – On the ethics, practices and potential outcomes of exhibiting migration'
- 2020 – 2021** **Organisation of the online Knowledge Hub 7 Berlin, POEM H2020**
Organisation of the 7th Knowledge Hub: a week-long programme of lectures and training for POEM PhD fellows and supervisors, as well as the validation of the POEM Model and Toolbox.
- 2020** **Fellows' Representative in the Training Board, POEM H2020**
- Spring 2019** **Organisation of a conference, Museum Europäischer Kulturen, Berlin**
Organisation of and technical support at the international conference 'What's Missing? Collecting and Exhibiting Europe' in June 2019
- 2016 – 2017** **Dutch language assistant, University of Sheffield**

- 2015 – 2016** Department and Course Representative for Art Museum and Gallery Studies, School of Museum Studies, University of Leicester
- 2012 – 2013** Course Representative in the Cultural Studies Committee, University of Amsterdam
- 2010 – 2011** Study coach and tutor, Centrum voor Studiebegeleiding, Alphen aan den Rijn
Study coaching and individual tutoring sessions for mathematics and English language

EMPLOYMENT

- 2018 – present** Curator, Museum Europäischer Kulturen, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin
Curating the exhibition 'Murcia: in Europe's Garden' and its cultural programme and catalogue, providing assistance for the workshop on Sámi Collections at the MEK about repatriation and planned provenance research, as well as organising the international conference, and fundraising for, organising and editing the conference publication. Currently coordinating the cultural programme and exhibition on Scotland for August-September 2022.
- Winter 2019-20** Project Lead, Hello Europe, Ashoka UK, London
Setting up the project 'Changemakers for Migration' as an integral part of Hello Europe's work with the aim to challenge political and media narratives.
- 2017 – 2018** Exhibitions Manager, Atelier Van Lieshout, Rotterdam
Managing acquisitions, negotiating with galleries and museums regarding installation and conservation, curating exhibitions, supporting the artists-in-residence.
- 2016 – 2017** Curator, School of Life Sciences, University of Dundee
Curating the exhibition 'A diagram of forces' in collaboration with artist Andy Lomas and computational physicist Rastko Sknepnek.
- 2016 – 2017** Programme Assistant, S1 Artspace, Sheffield
Writing funding applications for exhibitions and gallery renovations, arranging edition sales, curating an exhibition for the launch of Sculpture Park Hill.
- Summer 2016** Assistant Curator, LifeSpace Science Art Research Gallery, Dundee
Curating and installing exhibitions 'Silent Signal' and 'Printroom Dundee', wrapping and packing artworks, scientific objects and taxidermy, filling out condition reports, cataloguing artists' books, prints, video artworks from the University of Dundee's collection.
- 2015 – 2016** Invigilator/Workshop Facilitator, Attenborough Arts Centre, Leicester
Setting up and facilitating educational family workshops, providing information and help in the galleries, supporting with exhibition changes.
- 2014 – 2015** Office Assistant, Het Balletorkest (Dutch Ballet Orchestra), Amsterdam
Supporting communicational, productional and financial tasks for HR and redeveloping the organisation's website and intranet.
- 2013 – 2014** Marketing Assistant, International Choreographic Arts Centre ICK, Amsterdam
Writing press releases and marketing texts, organising print and distribution of marketing materials, maintaining contact with theatres and partners.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- International Society for Ethnology and Folklore (member since 2021)
Association of Critical Heritage (member since 2020)
Association of Social Anthropology (member since 2019)
DiscourseNet (member since 2020)

PUBLICATIONS

Boersma, S. Competing narratives – Stories of forced migrants within ethnographic museums. *Zeitschrift für Ethnologie* (Special Issue: Collaborative Projects as an avenue to transgress Western Epistemologies). *[forthcoming]*

Boersma, S. The Aftermaths of Participation. Outcomes and Consequences of Participatory Work with Forced Migrants in Museums. Transcript Verlag, Bielefeld, 2022. [Open Access](#). *[forthcoming]*

Zwart, I., Boersma, S., Kist, C. & Mucha, F. Care-ful participation in museums [Book review: The Museum as a Space of Social Care by Nuala Morse]. *Museum Worlds*, Vol. 9, 2021. [Access online](#).

Boersma, S. Exhibiting migration. In: Boersma, S. & Wittenzellner, J. (Eds.) *The Better Life – Photographs by Göran Gnaudschun*. Museum Europäischer Kulturen, Michael Imhof Verlag, Berlin, 2021. pp. 108-111. [Exhibition catalogue]

Boersma, S. Aandacht voor 'de vluchteling' – Stereotypische representatie van vlucht in musea. *Boekman Extra*, Amsterdam, Maart 2021. [Access online](#).

Boersma, S., Chahine, A., Mucha, F. & Zwart, I. The Archive of Forgotten Memories: A Participatory Process of Reflexivity. In: Tietmeyer, E., Edenheiser, I. & Boersma, S. (Eds.) *What's Missing? Collecting and Exhibiting Europe*. Museum Europäischer Kulturen 24, Reimer Verlag, Berlin, 2021.

Boersma, S. Facilitators of integration? Museums and their potential role in empowering refugees, *Museological Review*, Issue 24, June 2020, pp. 114-122. [Access online](#).

EDITED PUBLICATIONS

Boersma, S. & Wittenzellner, J. (Eds.) *The Better Life – Photographs by Göran Gnaudschun*. Museum Europäischer Kulturen, Michael Imhof Verlag, Berlin, 2021. [Exhibition catalogue]

Tietmeyer, E., Edenheiser, I. & Boersma, S. (Eds.) *What's Missing? Collecting and Exhibiting Europe*. Museum Europäischer Kulturen 24, Reimer Verlag Berlin, 2021.

Hutchinson, L. & Boersma, S. (Eds.) *Sculpture Park Hill. A social history of the sculpture park's location*. S1 Artspace, Sheffield, 2017.

NON-ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Boersma, S., Kambunga, A., Kist, C., Moraitopoulou, E., Mucha, F., Tan, Q., Zengenene, D. Validating new tools: One step closer to developing practical outputs for POEM. Contribution for the POEM Newsletter. Issue 7, 2021. [Access online](#).

Tietmeyer, E. & Boersma, S. Looking back at Knowledge Hub 7. Contribution to the POEM Newsletter, Issue 7, 2021. [Access online](#).

Boersma, S. Reflecting on the ethical implications of social inclusion. Contribution to the POEM Newsletter, Issue 6, 2021. [Access online](#).

Boersma, S. & Mucha, F. What's Missing? Reflections on the thought-provoking conference at Museum Europäischer Kulturen, 26-28 June 2019 in Berlin. Contribution to the POEM Newsletter, Issue 3, 2019. [Access online](#).

Boersma, S., Moraitopolou, E. & Theocharidou, M. The POEM Image Film: A participatory project. Contribution to the POEM Newsletter, Issue 2, 2019. [Access online](#) or [view the POEM film](#).

TALKS & CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

'Feeling at home in the museum – Transforming into and maintaining a 'safe space' for participants, Panel 'Museums, participation and belonging', en/counter/points workshop, Museum Friedland, July 2022.

'The aftermaths of participation', Alternative presentation, POEM Closing Conference 'Futures of Participatory Memory Work', University of Hamburg, March 2022.

'Connecting people, connecting practices – The potential of extending participatory work into the online realm', Paper presentation with Cassandra Kist, SIEF Conference 'Breaking the Rules: Power, Participation, Transgression', University of Helsinki [online], June 2021.

'Constructing a (different) message – Reflecting approaches and narratives that constitute discourses on migrants in museums', IMISCOE Spring Conference on 'Messaging Migration and Mobility', University of Oxford & COMPAS [online], March 2021.

'A story to keep? Infrastructures for the inclusion of forced migrants' narratives in museum collections', Panel 'Infrastructures and future possibilities for participation', ACHS2020 Conference, University College London [online], August 2020.

'The museum as a facilitator: Stimulating the integration of recent refugees in Berlin', ASA19 Conference on 'Anthropological Perspectives on Global Challenges', University of East Anglia, September 2019.

'Extending and internalising participatory practices', POEM Opening Conference on 'Participatory Memory Practices: Connectivities, Empowerment, and Recognition of Cultural Heritages in Mediatized Memory Ecologies', Museum der Arbeit, Hamburg, December 2018.

'Interpreting Public Sculpture', Museum Studies Dissertation Conference, University of Leicester, Leicester, June 2016.

DEVELOPED TOOLS

[Why \(not\) participate!?](#) A deck of cards to help plan and evaluate participatory work in museums. Created with Cassandra Kist, Franziska Mucha and Inge Zwart, as part of POEM, an EU H2020 project.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Moderation of the artist talk with photographers Colin McPherson, Jeremy Sutton-Hibbert and Stephen McLaren from 'Document Scotland', Europäische Kulturtage, Museum Europäischer Kulturen, August 2022.

Moderation of the conversation with film directors Jonas Egert and David Preute of 'Backswing', 'My home is my Golfplatz', Europäische Kulturtage, Museum Europäischer Kulturen, August 2021.

REMIX Workshop. With Franziska Mucha. Museum Europäischer Kulturen, Berlin, February 2020.

Why (NOT) participate?! A workshop with museum practitioners on participation. With Inge Zwart and Franziska Mucha. Museum Europäischer Kulturen, Berlin, November 2019.

'The Archive of Forgotten Memories', One Stop Shop, Conference 'What's Missing? Collecting and Exhibiting Europe', Museum Europäischer Kulturen, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Berlin, June 2019.

Q&A with Dr Rastko Sknepnek, Programme of the 'Dundee Science Festival', Dundee, November 2017.