

# Susanne Boersma, PhD

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## EDUCATION

- 2018 – 2022**      **PhD Anthropological Studies in Culture and History, Hamburg Universität**  
**Museum Europäischer Kulturen - Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, SPK**  
As part of POEM, a Marie-Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Network EU H2020 project  
Thesis: 'The aftermaths of participation - Outcomes and consequences of participatory work with forced migrants in museums' [awarded magna cum laude on 30 October 2022]
- 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' [graduated with distinction]
- 2014 – 2015**      **Minor Cultural Anthropology, Università degli studi di 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 – ongoing**      **Guest lectures at different universities in Germany and the Netherlands**  
'Participation in heritage' as part of the MA seminar 'Makeshift Europe' with Magdalena Buchczyk. Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, December 2022; 'Participatory museum work with forced migrants' as part of the seminar 'Museum und Migration' with Joachim Baur. Technische Universität Dortmund, December 2022; 'Participation in museums' as part of the course 'MOVING THINGS: Ethnographically Accompanying an Exhibition Project on Forced Migration' with Andrea Lauser and Friedemann Yi-Neumann. Göttingen Universität, December 2021; 'Studying the impact of daHEIM: Glances into Fugitive Lives' as part of the course 'Community-Based Research: Social Impact Evaluation in the Cultural Sector' with Nils Geib. Hamburg Universität, May 2021; 'Ethics of Memory Practices' as part of the course 'The Ethics of Dark Heritage' with László Munteán. Radboud University Nijmegen, February 2021; 'Defining Curating in Museums' as part of the course 'Curating the Digital in Everyday Life' with Christoph Bareither. Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, May 2019.
- 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 Knowledge Hub 7: a 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**

## EMPLOYMENT

- 2018 – ongoing**                **Curator, Museum Europäischer Kulturen, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin**  
 Curating the exhibition 'Murcia: in Europe's Garden' and its cultural programme and catalogue, curating the cultural programme and exhibition on Scotland, as well as organising the international conference, and fundraising for, organising and editing the conference publication. Currently coordinating and curating the museum's new permanent exhibition.
- 2019 – 2020**                    **Project Lead 'Changemakers for Migration' [secondment], Hello Europe, Ashoka UK, London.**
- 2017 – 2018**                    **Exhibitions Manager, Atelier Van Lieshout, Rotterdam**
- 2016 – 2017**                    **Freelance work**, amongst which as a **Programme Assistant** at S1 Artspace, Sheffield; as a **Curator** at the School of Life Sciences, University of Dundee; **Dutch-English Translator** at Cooper Gallery, University of Dundee.
- 2015 – 2016**                    **Invigilator/Workshop Facilitator, Attenborough Arts Centre, Leicester**
- 2014 – 2015**                    **Office Assistant, Het Balletorkest (Dutch Ballet Orchestra), Amsterdam**
- 2013 – 2014**                    **Marketing Assistant, International Choreographic Arts Centre ICK, Amsterdam**

## PUBLICATIONS

- Boersma, S., Kist, C., Mucha, F., Zwart, I. & Econoumou, M. 'Shifting from 'inside-out' to 'outside in' – Envisioning ways of structurally integrating participatory principles in museums'. In: Koch, G., Smith, R. C. & Tran, Q. (Eds.) *Future Memory Practices. Concepts, Cases, Critique*. Routledge. [forthcoming]
- Boersma, S. & Tietmeyer, E. 'Ethical Practices – Applying Ethics in Participatory Museum Projects'. In: Koch, G., Smith, R. C. & Tran, Q. (Eds.) *Future Memory Practices. Concepts, Cases, Critique*. Routledge. [forthcoming]
- Boersma, S. & Sado, D. 'Donkeys, drawings and their descriptions – Reflections on collecting practices 'with' forced migrants'. *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, 2023. [Open Access](#).
- 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 VOLUMES

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

'Exhibiting Scotland in Europe', presentation as part of Reading Scotland, Scotland Hub, Johannes Gutenberg Universität Mainz, November 2022.

'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.

'Participatief werken in de (museums)praktijk', presentation for and conversation with students from the Reinwardt Academie, Museum Europäischer Kulturen, Berlin, June 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.

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

ICOM Germany (member since 2022)

Association of Critical Heritage (member since 2020)

## TEACHING AREAS

Participation in museums; Museums and migration; Ethical practices in museums; (De)colonial past and present of the museum; Europe and orientalism; Museum collections and repatriation; Contemporary curating; Museums as safe spaces; Collaborative research methods; Digital museum work.

## **LANGUAGES**

Dutch (fluent)

English (fluent)

German (professional)

Italian (intermediate)

Swedish (basic)

Norwegian (basic)