

# Trials and Triumphs: sharing practice across the museum sector

AGM & Conference 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> April 2024 in  
partnership with

The Oxford University Museum of Natural History



## NatSCA

Natural Sciences Collections Association

### Thursday 18th April

10.00 – 10.25 Registration and coffee

10.30 – 10.35 Introduction & Housekeeping

Chair: Jen Gallichan

10.35 – 10.45 Welcome by Paul Smith, Director of Oxford

University Museum of Natural History



Museum of  
**Natural  
History**  
University of Oxford

### First Session

10:45 – 11:35 **Lightning Talks** (5 minutes each)

Chair: Yvette Harvey

1. **Importance of natural sciences collections for biocultural research. A view from the Global South.** Mariana Mondini, Florencia Agliano, M. Florencia Arias, A. Carolina Moreano, Mónica V. Pia, Daiana Coll, Camila Neveu Collado: Laboratorio de Zooarqueología y Tafonomía de Zonas Áridas (LaZTA), IDACOR, CONICET-UNC, Argentina
2. **Imaging amber: Creating a novel workflow to digitise Natural History Museum's amber collection.** Joseph Deane: Natural History Museum, London
3. **Suspicious specimens: a new tool to find potentially misidentified and misnamed specimens in biological data.** Sophie Roberts: Edge Hill University
4. **IPM insect monitoring in UK collections – Glue Traps (Offences) Act 2022.** Armando Mendez: Natural History Museum, London
5. **The Herbarium Handbook: Collecting knowledge and expertise from around the world.** Grace Flanagan: Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
6. **Mining the Gaps: Geographical biases and colonial history in the Natural History Museum, London.** Noah Hearne: Natural History Museum, London
7. **Making friends and influencing people: how to work together effectively.** Sebastien Lherondel-Davies and Kanchi Mehta; Swansea University, partnered with Swansea Museum and Amgueddfa Cymru (Museum Wales)
8. **Against all Odd(y)s – Where have all the oddy testers gone.** Amalia Lempriere, Sebastian Foxley: Royal College of Surgeons of England

9. **Bryozoans on the move....** Abbie Herdman: Natural History Museum, London
10. **Maximising student engagement through non-major interns.** Patti Wood Finkle: The Earth and Mineral Sciences Museum & Art Gallery at The Pennsylvania State University

### **11.35 – 11.55 Coffee Break & Trade Stands**

#### **Second Session: Learning and engagement**

Chair: Jen Gallichan

11.55 – 12.15 **Biodiversity: Inspiring teachers and KS5 students.** Kathy Moore & David Waterhouse: Freelance and Scott Polar Research Institute (recently of Norfolk Museums Service)

12.15 – 12.35 **Dead inspiring: how to encourage secondary schools to engage with natural science collections.** Clare Brown: Leeds Museums and Galleries

12.35 – 12.55 **Discover our dioramas.** Su Hepburn & Rebecca Lean: Brighton & Hove Museums / Booth Museum of Natural History

### **12.55 – 13.40 Lunch & Trade Stands, including:**

13.20 – 13.40 **Informal discussion about the Natural History GCSE, in the auditorium, led by Steph Holt: Natural History Museum London**

### **13.45 – 14.20 NatSCA AGM**

Chair: Jen Gallichan and Isla Gladstone

**Reports on the running of NatSCA and elections to the Committee.**

### **14.20 – 14.30 Short break**

#### **Third Session: Collections moves**

Chair: Yvette Harvey

14.30 – 14.50 **Dust in the wind: how to design exhibits with an eye for upkeep.** Becky Desjardins: Naturalis Biodiversity Center

14.50 – 15.10 **30,000 fossils in 8 days: From mammoth move to CMS integration – lessons for museum acquisitions.** Spyridoula Pappa: Natural History Museum, London

15.10 – 15.30 **Behind the glass: Practical lessons from diorama deinstallation.** Anastasia van Gaver: Natural History Museum of Denmark

## **15.30 – 15.50 Coffee Break & Trade stands**

### **Fourth Session**

#### **15.50 – 16.45 Discussion panel**

Chair: Jack Ashby

#### **Trials and Triumphs: gallery redisplay projects from across the museum sector**

Mark Carnall: Oxford University Museum of Natural History

Sara Merritt: Leeds Museums & Galleries

Tannis Davidson: Grant Museum of Zoology, UCL

### **Networking and Dinner**

#### **17.00 – 18.45 Informal pub get-together at a local pub (location TBC) or freshening-up break**

**19.00 Conference dinner:** A traditional Oxford college experience of a three-course meal in the dining hall setting of St. Cross College (Additional booking required)

## **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April**

10.00 – 10.25 Registration and coffee

10.25 – 10.35 Welcome & Housekeeping

Chair: Clare Brown

### **First Session: [Sharing museum practices](#)**

Chair: Laura McCoy

10.35 – 10.55 **Surprising Steedman's successes (and a disappointing disaster).** Claire Smith: Cole Museum of Zoology, University of Reading

10.55 – 11.15 **From microfossils to mammoths and everything in between – how do you measure 28 million specimens?** Katherine Hudson & Ellie Clark: Natural History Museum, London

11.15 – 11.35 **Oh crumbs! Responding to a biscuit beetle infestation within the Economic Botany Collection at RBG, Kew.** Gayathri Anand and Erin Messenger: Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

## **11.35 – 11.55 Coffee break & Trade Stands**

### **Second Session: [Decolonial practice and digital repatriation](#)**

Chair: Emma Murphy

11.55 – 12.15 **Perspectives from an East African museum: natural history collections, colonial legacies and the potential of thematic approaches.**

Charlotte Wood: University of Cambridge

**12.15 – 12.35 Cetacean (re)sources at the Natural History Museum, London.**

Sophia Nicolov and Richard Sabin: Natural History Museum, London

**12.35 – 12.55 SIGNIFY – recollecting Singapore’s historical biodiversity digitally.** Lydia Gan Xinjie: Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum, National University of Singapore

### **13.00 – 13.45 Lunch & Trade Stands**

#### **Third Session: Digitisation and data management**

Chair: Clare Brown

**13.45 – 14.05 DiSSCo UK: Unlocking the potential of UK Natural Science Collections through digitisation.** Helen Hardy: Natural History Museum, London

**14.05 - 14.25 Kew in the Digital Age.** Magda Steele: Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

**14.25 – 14.45 You've got what in your collection? (Or, a practical overview of the Latimer Core data standard).** Laurence Livermore: Natural History Museum, London

#### **14.45 – 15.00 Summary, closing chat and thank you**

Chair: Jen Gallichan and Patti Wood-Finkle

#### **15.10 – 16.45 Gallery Tours (Booking details to follow)**