

# Making a Difference: Showing the Positive Impact of Natural History Collections

AGM & Conference 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> May 2025 in partnership with The Manchester Museum



**NatSCA**

Natural Sciences Collections Association



## Thursday 8th May

10.00 – 10.20 Registration and coffee

10.25 – 10.30 Introduction & housekeeping

10.30 – 10.40 Welcome by Esme Ward and George Young, Manchester Museum,  
University of Manchester

## **First Session**

10.40 – 11.20 **Lightning talks** (5 minutes each)

Chair: Patti Wood Finkle

1. **Opening the doors: presenting natural history collections to the public.** Grace Flanagan: Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
2. **Engaging for impact: how the digitisation team is reaching stakeholders in the margins.** Glory Turnbull: Natural History Museum, London
3. **Balancing resources and responsibilities: strategies for curator-led public engagement.** Beatriz Vieite: University of Aveiro, Portugal
4. **Cue the Kew internship.** Clare Drinkell: Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
5. **Making an exhibition of ourselves: displaying and not displaying human remains in the Grant Museum.** Hannah Cornish: Grant Museum of Zoology, University College London
6. **Bringing digital collections to the social media masses: 80 million specimens, with at least as many stories.** Skye Neal: Natural History Museum, London
7. **Utilising plant traits from herbarium collections and species descriptions to enhance conservation efforts in southeast Asia's biodiversity hotspots.** Alison Moore: Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
8. **A time capsule of extinction: Scottish wildlife in taxidermy.** Caitlin Jamison: Montrose Museum, Scotland

## **11.20 – 11.40 Coffee break, trade stands, & posters**

### **Posters:**

**Anything but boring: a case study in the use of drill core at the British Geological Survey (Keyworth, Nottingham) for palaeontological research.**

Meghan Jenkinson (presenter)<sup>1,3</sup>, Crispin Little<sup>1</sup>, Michael Howe<sup>2,3</sup>, Simon Harris<sup>2,3</sup>, Alex Dunhill<sup>1</sup>: <sup>1</sup>The University of Leeds; <sup>2</sup>The British Geological Survey; <sup>3</sup>The Geological Collections Group

**Discovering microplastics in the deep ocean: using a private natural history collection to bring science to life in the classroom.** Andrew Taylor: Andrew Taylor Natural History Collection

## **Second Session [Education & Accessibility](#)**

Chair: Laura McCoy

**11.40 – 12.00 Addressing accessibility: ideas for inclusive natural history displays.** Anna Massignan: National Museum of Ireland – Natural History

**12.00 – 12.20 Nature needs everyone's help, and the Real World Science network are working together to help it thrive!** Fareeda Atwan: Natural History Museum, London

**12.20 – 12.40 A new museum display for the blind: does it make a difference?** Claire Smith, Amanda Callaghan, Caitlin Walton, and Emma Dunford: Cole Museum of Zoology, University of Reading

## **12.40 – 13.30 Lunch & trade stands**

### **13.30 – 14.05 NatSCA AGM**

Chair: Jen Gallichan & Isla Gladstone

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

### **14.05 – 14.15 Short break**

## **Third Session [Colonial legacies](#)**

Chair: Emma Murphy

**14.15 – 14.35 The colonial legacies of natural history collections: specimens from the Caribbean as a case study.** Patricia Torres-Pineda: Museo de Historia Natural "Eugenio de Jesús Marcano" & University of Michigan Museum of Zoology

**14.35 – 14.55 Hidden hands in colonial natural histories: lessons from four case studies at McGill.** Anna Winterbottom & Victoria Dickenson: McGill University, Montreal, Quebec

14.55 – 15.15 **Altering the face of nature: connecting Liverpool's natural history heritage and institutions.** Deana Heath: University of Liverpool

15.15 – 15.35 **A visitor intrudes and decolonises natural history: a not so scientific perspective?** Su Liu: University of Sheffield

### **15.35 – 15.55 Coffee break & trade stands**

#### **Fourth Session [Discussion panel](#)**

Chair: Jack Ashby

15.55 – 16.55 **Indigenous Perspectives on Natural Sciences at Manchester Museum** Alexandra Alberda and Georgina Young, Manchester Museum

### **Networking and dinner**

#### **17.00 – 18.45**

Informal get-together [Brewdog](#) Manchester Outpost or freshening-up break

#### **19.00**

**Conference dinner:** Join us at [Zouk](#), an Indian and Pakistani restaurant for dinner. **(Additional advance booking required)**

### **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May**

10.00 – 10.15 Registration & coffee

10.15 – 10.25 Welcome & housekeeping

#### **First Session [Collaboration, Digitisation, & Sustainability](#)**

Chair: Eimear Ashe

10.25 – 10.45 **Ways to skin a (large) cat: re-establishing relationships between live and dead collections.** Emma Murphy: National Museum of Ireland – Natural History

10.45 – 11.05 **The hosted portal of the Arctic University Museum of Norway, an example of how to provide open access to natural history collections.** Vanessa Pitusi & Andreas Altenburger: The Arctic University Museum of Norway

11.05 – 11.25 **DiSSCo UK – unlocking impact from the UK's natural science collections.** Helen Hardy (NHM), Vincent Smith (NHM), Laurence Livermore (NHM), Sally Jennings (NHM), Tao Tao Chang (AHRC), & David Selway (AHRC): The Natural History Museum London and the Arts & Humanities Research Council

11.25 – 11.45 **KISS\* at the Dead Zoo [\*keep it simple & sustainable].** Paolo Viscardi & Aoife Hurley: National Museum of Ireland – Natural History

## **11.45 – 12.00 Coffee break & trade Stands**

### **Second Session [Repatriation](#)**

Chair: Patti Wood Finkle

**12.00 – 12.20 Kākāpō, Kiwi and Tūi fly home: Colchester Museums' repatriation of culturally significant bird specimens to Aotearoa New Zealand.** Sophie Stevens & Ricky-Lee Erickson: Colchester Museums and Tāmaki Paenga Hira, Auckland War Memorial Museum

**12.20 – 12.40 A restitutive commitment to community and to the natural environment through storying with natural history collections.** Pauline Rutter: Independent Academic & Archival Artist

**12.40 – 13.00 Natural history repatriations: how and why to do it.** Mike G. Rutherford: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow

## **13.00 – 13.45 Lunch & trade stands**

### **Third Session [Stories our collections tell](#)**

Chair: Jen Gallichan

**13.45 – 14.05 Women of the Riverflies: researching under-represented female naturalists and collectors in the NHMUK's Ephemeroptera, Plecoptera and Trichoptera collections: enriching party data in the museum's collection management system and increasing women's public profiles by creating Wikipedia biographies.** Louise Berridge: Natural History Museum, London

**14.05 - 14.25 Nature's memory: how natural history collections help save the world.** Jack Ashby: University Museum of Zoology, Cambridge

**14.25 – 14.45 Reimagining the collections of Thomas Pennant at the Natural History Museum.** Stephanie Holt: Natural History Museum (Curious Travellers Project), London

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

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