

Laura Van Broekhoven

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Profile

Dr. Laura Van Broekhoven was appointed Director of the Pitt Rivers Museum, University of Oxford, in March 2016. She also holds a Professorial Fellowship at Linacre College and is associated with the School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography. Dr. Van Broekhoven is an active member on numerous advisory boards; panels and networks either as chair or (founding) member. She was a participant in the Getty Museum Leadership Institute and is the author of several books, and numerous articles. She is regularly invited to serve on panels or be a keynote speaker at international conferences.

Laura strives to develop a more equitable decolonised praxis in museums including issues around shared and negotiated authority; restitution, reconciliation and redress and the queering of exclusionary binaries and boundaries with relation to social justice and inclusion.

Previously, she led the Curatorial Department of the National Museum of World Cultures (Tropenmuseum, Amsterdam; Volkenkunde, Leiden and Africa Museum, Berg en Dal) and was its Curator for Middle and South America. She was also Assistant Professor of Archaeology and Indigenous Heritage Studies at Leiden University, the Netherlands.

Her regional academic research has focused on collaborative collection research with Amazonian Indigenous Peoples and Maasai communities from Kenya and Tanzania; Yokot'an Maya oral history, Mixtec Indigenous market systems, and Nicaraguan Indigenous resistance in colonial times.

Current and Past Employment

Director – 2016-Present

Director, Pitt Rivers Museum, University of Oxford
Laura is also Professorial Fellow of Linacre College

Head of Curatorial Department National Museum of World Cultures, 2014-2016, Amsterdam, Leiden and Berg & Dal.

Responsibilities included participation in the NME Executive Management Team; general management of 16 curators, documentalists and project-workers; building a new sense of team for our department that had gone through a merger and austerity programme; quarterly and annual reports (administration, targets, finances), and report to general director on weekly basis. Setting up of a range of heritage and museum projects; including a traveling exhibits team and exploring

new projects in regions such as South Korea, China, Saudi Arabia, Mexico, and Brazil.

Head of Research, 2009-2014, Rijksmuseum Volkenkunde, Leiden.

Responsibilities included being part of senior management team, reporting to Director, overseeing the curatorial team of the NME, coach and guide curators and registrars in setting up projects, overseeing strategy and policy-making, representing the team at national and international conferences and committees, overseeing new acquisitions and project-planning.

Senior Curator Department of Middle and South America, 2001-2016.

Responsibilities included exhibits, project management and fundraising, lectures, conferences, publications, and assistance to general public, press, colleagues, collectors, donors, government, customs, concerning area of expertise and in particular the Museum's Middle and South-American holdings (ca. 24.000 objects).

University lecturer/UD Faculty of Archaeology, 1996-2016, Leiden University.

Responsibilities included creating and teaching courses at the undergraduate and graduate level, as well as supervising graduate students for their BA and MA thesis. It also included PhD research supervision and committees.

Postdoc, NWO (Dutch National Science Foundation) funded, 2002-2008

Responsibilities included general project management; setting up, executing and reporting on archaeological and anthropological fieldwork; writing academic articles and books; teaching, organising meetings and international conferences.

Education

Leiden University – PhD, 2002

Getty Museum Leadership Institute at Claremont Graduate University (2011)

Ph.D. degree in Archaeology and Cultural History, Leiden University (2002)

MA degree (*cum laude*) Leiden University (1995)

Boards and Committees

Member of GLAM Board, Member of University of Oxford Personnel Committee, Chair GLAM Collections Move Steering Group; Chair of GLAM Conservation Working Group, Chair PRM Executive Board Committee; Chair PRM Health and Safety Committee. Chair of Linacre College Health and Safety Committee; Member Governing Body Linacre College. Co-Chair Oxford and Colonialism Network (since 2017)

Board member of the Acquisition Committee of the Vereniging Rembrandt (2019-). Member of Women Museum Leaders Network (2019-joined WMLN Steering Group). Board member of the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology of the University of Cambridge University Committee (2018-present). Board member of Ruskin Committee of the Ruskin School of Art, Oxford (2017-present). Member of Linacre Governing body. Member of Advisory Board Material Agency Forum, Leiden (2016-present).

Panel member Lifetime Achievement Award Stevin Committee (2017-2020). KITLV Board of Directors, Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies, board member (2013-2016). Board Member, Ethical Committee, Dutch Ethnological Museums (2006-2016); Board of Directors SIS, NGO Twin cities 'The Hague-Juigalpa' (2005-2014); Chair Acquisitions Committee, National Museum of Ethnology (2005-2009). Member, Publications Committee, National Museum of Ethnology (2008-2009). Chair Leiden Network: International network for the protection of cultural heritage against illicit trade (2007-2009); General Board and Founding Member, Wayeb: European Associations of Mayan Studies (since 1995).

Language Proficiency *Fluent:* Dutch, English, Spanish
Advanced: French
Intermediate: Portuguese, German

Selected Research Projects

2019– *Labelling Matters*, supported by Heif and TORCH.

2019-2023 Taking Care, Ethnographic and World Cultures Museums as Spaces of Care, co-financed by the Creative Europe programme of the EU; international consortium (Weltmuseum Wien, Austria (PI); National Museum of World Cultures, Netherlands; The Royal Museum for Central Africa, Belgium; Musée des Civilisations de l'Europe et de la Méditerranée, France; Statens museer för världskultur, Sweden; Linden-Museum Stuttgart, Germany; Museo delle Civiltà - Luigi Pigorini, Italy; Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology Cambridge, UK; Slovenski Etnografski Muzei Ljubljana, Slovenia; Museu Etnològic i de Cultures del Món/ Institut de Cultura de Barcelona, Spain; Nationalmuseet Kopenhagen, Denmark; MARKK - Museum am Rothenbaum. Kulturen und Künste der Welt Hamburg, Germany; Pitt Rivers Museum Oxford, UK)

2018– *Maasai Living Cultures*, supported by the Staples Trust and Delafield Fund, with Insihshare and Oltoi Le Maa.

2017– *Rethinking Shuar-Achuar Collection and Displays in Museums* (with Maria Patricia Ordoñez). Collaborative Project with Colegio de Ciencias Sociales y Humanidades, COCISOH. Universidad de San Francisco, Quito Shuar and Ashuar.

2014–2018 *Sharing a World of Inclusion, Creativity and Heritage. Ethnography, Museums of World Culture and New Citizenship in Europe (SWICH)*. EU Horizon2020 funded project of international consortium (Weltmuseum Wien; National Museum of World Cultures; Musée royal de l'Afrique centrale; Musée des Civilisations de l'Europe et de la Méditerranée; Museums of World Culture, Sweden; Linden-Museum, Stuttgart; Museo Nazionale Preistorico Etnografico Luigi Pigorini; Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Cambridge; Náprstek Muzeum, Prague; Museum of World Cultures Barcelona; Culture Lab - International Cultural Expertise).

2013–2016 *Renewal, Innovation and Change: Heritage and European Society (RICHES)*, FP7 ERC funded project of international consortium: Coventry University (lead); Hansestadt Rostock; Stichting Waag Society; The University of Exeter; Promoter S.r.l.; Fundacio Privada I2CAT; Syddansk Universitet; Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz; Türkiye Cumhuriyeti Kültür ve Turizm Bakanlığı.

2012–2016 Member of #decolonizethemuseum (<https://twitter.com/decolonizemusea>; https://www.materialculture.nl/sites/default/files/2018-08/riches_movie.pdf)

2013–2015 *Compartilhando Coleções e conectando Histórias NME and Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi, Brazil*. Project with Ka'apor community do Alto Turiacu with Claudia López and Mariana Francozo; funded by Ibermuseus "Conversaciones II" Programme of the Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture; NIAS; Goeldi, RMV.

2012–2017 *The Penard Carib Shamanic Encyclopaedia: On Sacrecy and Secrecy*. Project with the Vereniging van Dorpshoofden, Paramaribo Suriname; Rijksmuseum Volkenkunde and Universiteit Leiden.

2012–2016 *Turbulent Lives, Material and Cultural Biographies of Mixtec artefacts*, NWO Science4Arts project lead by Prof dr Maarten Jansen in joint collaboration with NME, Technical University Delft, the Italian MOLAB team and the Bodleian Library in Oxford; and in collaboration with EU FP7/CHARISMA/FixLab, AGLAE, Louvre, Paris. (with Martin Berger, Maarten Jansen & Ludo Sniijders)

2008–2013 *Ethnographic Museums and World Cultures (RIME)*, project funded by FP7 funded project of international consortium of ethnographic museums.

2004–2012 *Yesterday's Knowledge, Tomorrow's Future*. Learning from the Elders. Community Consultation project on Surinamese indigenous heritage (with Leiden University)

Selected Books & Papers

(planned for 2021) *Unearthing Colonial Complicities in Maasai PRM collections*. In *Pragmatic Imagination and the New Museum Anthropology*. Hodge, Christina and Christina Kreps [Eds]. Routledge.

2020 'Introduction' In Matt Smith, *Losing Venus*. Stockholm: Konstfack University of Arts, Crafts and Design.

2019 'Introduction' In *A Short Guide*. Pitt Rivers Museum. pp 5-21.

2019 'On Decolonizing the Museum in Practice' *Journal of Museum Ethnography* 32 .

2019 'Navigating LEGACIES, Calibrating Relevance at the Pitt Rivers Museum' 英國牛津皮特里弗斯博物館 (The Pitt Rivers Museum) 館長蘿拉凡布洛克文主題演講: 牛津皮特里弗斯博物館在理解藏品及調整其歷史遺留與相關性問題的經驗', *Art Museum Magazine* 2 (3).

2018 'Calibrating Relevance at the Pitt Rivers Museum' In *Dethroning historical reputations. Universities, museums and the commemoration of benefactors* edited by Jill Pellew and Lawrence Goldman, pp.65-81. Institute of Historical Research, School of Advanced Study. University of London, London.

2017 'Patrimônio Indígena e Coleções Etnográficas' (with Mariana Françaço). *Boletim do Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi*.

2017 'Conversações desassossegadas: diálogos sobre coleções etnográficas com o povo indígena Ka'apor' (with Claudia Leonor López Garcés, Mariana Françaço and Valdemar Ka'apor) In *Patrimônio Indígena e Coleções Etnográficas*. *Boletim do Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi - Ciências Humanas* 12(3), pp. 713-735.

2016 'Conquistando lo Invencible. Resistencia y Conquista en Nicaragua Central' In *Memorias del Primer Congreso Internacional del Área Cultural Gran Ulúa*. Fundación Científica Cultural Ulúa-Matagalpa, Matagalpa.

2015 'Mercados de la Mixteca. Si no hay carro, no hay negocio.' Sidestone Press, Leiden.

2013 'Creating Authenticity. Authentication Processes in Ethnographic Museums' (with Alexander Geurds). Sidestone Press, Leiden.

- 2013 'Ethnographic Heterotopia' In *Proceedings of the International Colloquium Do Ethnographic Museums Need Ethnography?* edited by Feracutti et al, pp. 91-99. Pigorini Museum, Rome.
- 2012 'Indigenous religious traditions in Central Nicaragua: Ethnohistorical documentation for an unknown archaeological record (with Alex Geurds)'. *World Archaeology. The Faculty of Archaeology at 50*, edited by C.C. Bakels, pp. 31-51. University of Leiden, Leiden.
- 2011 'Modernity? It's the economy stupid! Business as a catalyst for encounters, contact and production' (with Saskia Konniger, Laura Van Broekhoven and Wonu Veys) In *Fetish Modernity*, edited by Anne-Marie Bouttiaux, pp. 27-41. RMCA, Brussels.
- 2010 'Sharing Knowledge and Cultural Heritage in the Americas'. (with Cunera Buijs and Pieter Hovens). Sidestone Press, Leiden.
- 2009 'Bridging the Generation Gap. Creation (hi)stories and the Visual arts in Tamulté de las Sabanas, Mexico'. In *Religion and the Arts. Creation Myths and the Visual Arts: An Ongoing Dialogue between Word and Image*, edited by Mineke Schipper and Daniela Merola, Vol. 13 Issue 4, pp. 496-520.

Selected Conference
Papers and Public Lectures

- 2019 'Engaging with Change'. Roundtable on Management Models for University Museums. Universidad de Sao Paolo, Sao Paolo, 23 October.
- 2019 'Challenges and New Approaches at Pitt Rivers Museum'. Q&A, *St Margaret's Institute*, 2 October.
- 2019 'Museums and Colonial Legacies (with Xa Sturgis)'. *Meeting Minds*, 21 September, Oxford.
- 2019 'On Decoloniality and Praxis at the Pitt Rivers Museum'. *Esmee Fairbairn Collections Fund Network Day*, Museum Association, 25 June, London.
- 2019 'Change and the Pitt Rivers Museum'. *Contested Collections* panel with Guido Gryseels, director of Museum for Central Africa, Tervuren. Oxford University Belgo-Luxemburg Society, 27 April, Oxford.
- 2019 'Emerging Co-Curatorial Approaches at the Pitt Rivers Museum', *Barbara A. and Edward G. Hail Lecture Series*. Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology, 4 April, Brown University.
- 2019 'Introduction on Returns Policy, Pitt Rivers Museum', *UK Museums Roundtable discussion on restitution* organized by Arts Council England, International Council of Museums (ICOM) UK and British Council, 11 March, British Library.
- 2019 'Calibrating the Pitt Rivers Museum', School of Anthropology and Ancient History'. 16 January, University of Leicester.
- 2018 'Legacies and Futures at the Pitt Rivers Museum', The Material Reception of Antiquity. National Museum of Antiquities, 13-14 December, Leiden.
- 2018 'Change and the Pitt Rivers Museum', The Royal Historical Society Symposium: *The Future of History: Going Global in the University*, 22-23 June, Oxford
- 2018 'New Directions – SWICH conference: Exhibiting Cultures, Exhibiting Empire, Exhibiting Europe MAA, 11-13 July, Cambridge.

2018 'Navigating LEGACIES, Calibrating Relevance at the Pitt Rivers Museum 導航不同的遺產 校正我們博物館在皮特河博物館的相關性', International Forum of Museum Directors, 25 May, Nanjing.

2018 'Navigating legacies in anxious times', EEMDG Conference, Weltmuseum Vienna, 19-21 June, Vienna.

2018 'Introduction' *Multiple voices in a colonized world*. SWITCH Conference. Weltmuseum Vienna, 6-7 September, Vienna.

2018 'On Decolonising the Museum', The opportunities and limitations of Decolonising the Museum in Practice, Pitt Rivers Museum, MEG conference 11-13 April, Oxford.

2018 'Pressing Matters for Museum Decision-Makers', *Contested Historical Legacies in Public Spaces*, All Souls College, 26 March, Oxford.

2017 'Connecting and Reconnecting the Pitt Rivers Museum. Earning Trust, Building Relevance'. *Executive Session, Annual meeting American Association for Anthropology*, 1 December, Washington DC.

2017 'Making Rhodes History: Taking the Decolonisation Project Forward'. Panel discussion. *Common Ground Conference*. 10 August, Oxford.

2017 'Calibrating Relevance at the Pitt Rivers Museum'. History, Heritage and Ideology: the commemoration of benefactors. Institute of Historical Research. 24 March, London.

2016 'Un-ruffling Feathers: Ways of Coping in Ethnographic Museum Practice/Plumas desondulantes: Mediando las prácticas del museo etnográfico'. Collect and Display: Subjects and Objects of New World Knowledge. LAGlobal Conference 6 April, Madrid.

2015 'Reclaiming heritage: Materializing repair and redress in spaces of trauma, the Penard Kali'na Manuscripts Project'. *On the Poetics and Politics of Redress*. RCMC, November, Leiden.

2015 'Co-Collecting in international/trans-national perspective.' Co-Collecting Workshop. Research Center for Material Culture, National Museum of World Cultures, October 2015, Leiden (organizer and presenter).

2014 'Decolonization, co-creation. Impact @ the Museum'. *Cultural Heritage: Recalibrating Relationships*. RICHES 1st International Conference, December, Pisa.

2014 'Ethnographic Returns. Case Studies in Repatriation and Restitution'. Paper presented at La restitution des collections ethnographiques et non-européennes. ULB/Faro, November, Brussels.

2014 'Advocacy: Making the case for museums of ethnography and world cultures' EEMDG Annual Meeting, September, Cambridge.

2014 'Museologia Colaborativa no Volkenkunde Museum (Leiden)'. Museu Nacional/UFRJ, March, Rio de Janeiro.

2014 'Conquistando lo Invencible: Resistencia y Conquista en la Nicaragua Central', Primer Congreso Internacional del Area Cultural Gran Ulúa- Matagalpa. March, Matagalpa, Nicaragua.

2013 'MEG Engaging Curators Series. The ethics and practicalities of working with and responding to communities: How can museums proactively, productively and co-productively work with communities in their local area and beyond?' June, Geneva.

2013 'Compartilhando Coleções e Conectando Histórias': exibindo A Festa do Cauim do Povo Ka'apor'. NIAS conference Tropical Lowland Indigenous Heritage in European Collections. (with Mariana Françoço). October, The Hague.

2013 'Sharing Curatorial Authority at the National Museum of Ethnology: Tropical Lowlands Projects'. Eighth Meeting Society for the Anthropology of Lowland South America, March Nashville.

2012 'Museum Collections and Indigenous Identities in the Postcolonial Era'. Symposium Culturas de Memoria. Construcción, Protección y Conservación de Patrimonio entre las tres Americas y Europa. Museum der Kulturen, September, Basel.

2012 'Developing an inclusive museum praxis: stakeholder communities and the National Museum of Ethnology'. Anthropology in the World Conference - Royal Anthropological Institute, British Museum, June, London.

2010 Voorzitter werkgroep 'Van Etruskisch Harnas tot Spaanse Prent' (with Steph Scholten), ICOM Conference: Omstreden Erfgoed: Museumethiek in de Praktijk.

2010 'Museum Futures and the Ethnological Museum', South Korea, Seoul.

2010 'Yesterday's Knowledge, Tomorrow's Future: Learning from the Elders'. Community consultations of the Suriname project at the National Museum of Ethnology, at the 5th Südamerikanistentagung Marburg, Germany.

(Co-)Curated Exhibitions

2020 Human Remains in Pitt Rivers Museum. New interpretation for Treatment of Dead Enemies display case PRM.

2019 Museo Gregorio Aguilar Barea, New Permanent Exhibition Gallery, co-curated with Alexander Geurds and Martha Villanueva;

2014 A Festa do Kawi dos Ka'apor (Goeldi Museum, Belem de Para, Brazil co-curated with Ka'apor, Claudia Lopez and Mariana Francozo);

2013 The Maya Code (Linden Museum, Stuttgart);

2012 Maya 2012: Science and Myth (NME Leiden);

2010-2013: Fetish Modernity (RIME exhibit Tervuren, Madrid, Prague, Vienna, Leiden, Stockholm);

2010 Refurbishment Permanent Galleries of the National Museum of Ethnology, Leiden;

2009 Maya 2012 (Rijksmuseum Volkenkunde Leiden);

2008 The Penard brothers in the Spotlights (Rijksmuseum Volkenkunde Leiden);

2005 Claudius Henricus de Goeje in Suriname (Rijksmuseum Volkenkunde Leiden);

2003 Met Kuifje naar de Inca (Rijksmuseum Volkenkunde Leiden);

1998 Museo Gregorio Aguilar Barea, Permanent Exhibition Archaeology Galleries.