SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Sarah Saunders, Head of Learning & National Partnerships, The British Museum

Sarah Saunders was previously Director of Learning and Innovation at V&A Dundee from 2013 and has worked in the museums sector for 16 years. Formerly a design lecturer and manager in further education, she was Students Education Officer at the V&A from 2002-2006 where she coordinated events and interpretation for temporary exhibitions and gallery projects, notably the William and Judith Bollinger Jewellery Gallery. From 2006-2008 she was Learning and Programmes Officer at National Museums Scotland, working on events and interpretation for exhibitions including Jean Muir: A Fashion Icon and the World Cultures galleries for The Royal Museum HLF project. She was Deputy Head of Education at the National Galleries of Scotland 2008-2013, where her work included working on the redevelopment of the Scottish National Portrait Gallery.

Glenn Cumiskey, Digital Preservation Resource Manager, The British Museum

Glenn has worked for almost twenty years in digital preservation, national archiving, digitisation, oral history and traditional music projects both in Ireland and the United Kingdom. He has worked with the Irish Traditional Music Archive, and in partnership with RTÉ (the Irish National Broadcaster), the British Library National Sound Archive, the Department of Foreign Affairs, and the Department of Irish Folklore in numerous long-term digital projects. He is driven by a strong belief in the use of archives and digital technology to safeguard, democratise and provide access to hitherto inaccessible or endangered collections for the public good. He has increasingly become interested in the significant challenges that digital objects present from the perspective of long-term preservation. Glenn is a contributor to the Digital Preservation Coalition's 2nd edition of the Digital Preservation Handbook and is a member of the DPC Princess Street Group, a digital preservation network for National Libraries, Archives and Museums in the UK and Ireland.

William Kilbride, Executive Director, Digital Preservation Coalition

I am Executive Director of the Digital Preservation Coalition, a privileged and unique role which affords me international insights into the value of data, the deployment and architecture of digital services, and their profound, sometimes poorly-anticipated, impact on agencies in the real world. I got here by accident. Previously I was a lecturer and researcher in archaeology with research interests in computational analysis, only to discover that the discipline's interest in new technology had outstripped our capacity to look after the resulting data.

Simon Tanner, Professor of Digital Cultural Heritage, King's College London

Simon is Professor of Digital Cultural Heritage in the Department of Digital Humanities at King's College London. He is also Pro Vice Dean for Research Impact and Innovation in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities. He works with major cultural institutions across the world to assist them to transform their collections and online presence. He has worked on digital projects such as the digitization of the Dead Sea Scrolls and built strategy for a wide range of organizations; such as national libraries and museums across the world. Simon is currently doing research with the US National Gallery of Art on their digital strategy. His research interests encompass measuring impact and assessing value in the digital domain, digital asset management, digitisation and imaging. He teaches on the Masters in Digital Asset and Media Management and the BA in Digital Culture at King's. Simon tweets as @SimonTanner and blogs at http://simon-tanner.blogspot.co.uk/

Nicôle Meehan, Associate Lecturer in Museum and Gallery Studies, University of St Andrews

Nicôle is responsible for teaching elements of the Museum and Gallery Studies course that involve digital technology and theory. Nicôle is also conducting doctoral research in this area. Her interests lie in questions of networked memory in the digital age and the idea of the digital object as an object in its own right. Her research thinks about how museums understand and use digital objects, and the impact of this on their audiences.

Nicôle has previously worked in diverse roles across the museum sector in the UK and US. She has been Head of Education at the Hunterian Museum and Art Gallery (University of Glasgow), managed a digitisation traineeship programme for young people at the National Galleries of Scotland and Historic Scotland's (now Historic Environment Scotland) first Online Content Officer. During 2013-14 she was the Elsevier Fulbright Scholar in Bibliometrics which allowed her to spend a year in the US studying and finally working at the National Mining Museum, Colorado.

Sarah Younas, Digital Programmes Officer, Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums

Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums (TWAM) is a major regional museum, art gallery and archives service managing a collection of nine museums and galleries across Tyneside and the Archives for Tyne & Wear. Sarah has produced digital projects in the creative and heritage sector for nine years and her role focuses on collaboration with museum staff and the wider arts and technology sector to innovate and create richer interactions with growing and diverse audiences through developing exciting, bespoke authentic museum experiences in physical and virtual spaces. @sarahyounas

Carolyn Ball, Manager, Discovery Museum, Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums

Carolyn is Manager of Discovery Museum in Newcastle and led the team that brought Stephenson's Rocket home to Tyneside for the Great Exhibition of the North. A qualified archivist, Carolyn began her career in London before moving back to her native north east where she has worked in archives in both Durham and Newcastle. She has managed Discovery Museum since 2014, where she has the opportunity to showcase Tyneside's changing story, particularly in science and industry, maritime and social history.
@ctjball

Dafydd James, Head of Digital, Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales

I have 16 years' experience working in the cultural and learning sectors, including nine years leading teams with responsibilities for product development, software, exhibition displays, infrastructure, digital content and collections, e-commerce, digital learning, social media, marketing and customer service. My responsibilities have included introducing social media to a distributed organisation, establishing and developing new teams, and creating and delivering a digital strategy for a £30M change project. As part of my role, I am leading digital transformation at the National Museum and embedding user-focussed services across the museum by improving our project and product management methodologies, working on an internal digital skills framework and developing a more distributed model for digital content and audience development.

Dr. Geoffrey Belknap, Curator of Photography and Photographic Technology, National Science and Media Museum
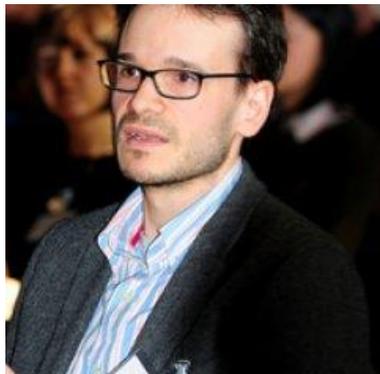
Geoffrey Belknap is a historian of photography, Victorian science, visual culture and periodical history. Having completed his PhD at the University of Cambridge in 2011 he has worked as a researcher and post-doctoral fellow at Harvard University on both the Charles Darwin and John Tyndall Correspondence Projects. He has also held a short-term fellowships at the Yale Center for British Art. His primary area of research has been the production and reproduction of photographic images in various sites of scientific communication. While he was a post-doctoral research assistant on the Constructing Scientific Communities: Citizen Science in the 19th and 21st Centuries at Leicester University, he investigated the broader uses of illustrations within Natural History periodicals in the mid- to late-Victorian period. He has published articles in the *British Journal for the History of Science, History of Science* and the various edited volumes. Geoff's book *From a Photograph: Authenticity, Science and the Periodical Press, 1870-1890* was published by Bloomsbury in 2016.

Hans Biorn-Lian, Digital Programmes Producer, Royal Museums Greenwich

Hans currently works as Digital Programmes Producer in the Learning & Interpretation team at the National Maritime Museum. His previous jobs include Digital Production Manager at the Philharmonia Orchestra where he worked on iOrchestra - a two-year festival of orchestra music in the South West Peninsula, and Time-based Media Project Manager at Tate where he worked on projects including the Turner Prize and the Tanks Commission. With a penchant for FM synthesis, Hans makes electronic music using vintage digital and analogue gear in his spare time.

Holly Hou, PhD Candidate, Loughborough University
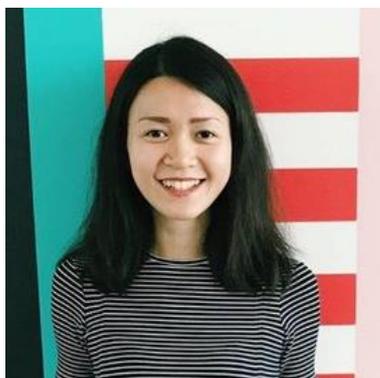
Holly Hou is currently in receipt of a fully funded scholarship from Loughborough University, as part of the Service Design Mini Centre for Doctoral Training (CDT). Her research explores how service design can improve the way networked images are used within digital engagement, in order to enhance the visitors' experience at museums. Holly is a design researcher, practitioner, and academic, with special interests in museum experience, Instagram, visual communication and service design. While practicing as a freelance designer, she lectures students from the Graphic Communication Bachelor's Degree course at School of the Arts, Loughborough University.
@holly_hou

Trudie Cole, Head of Acess & Participation, National Museum of the Royal Navy

Trudie works in museum learning, currently at the National Museum of the Royal Navy as Head of Access and Participation. She is a strong advocate for the power of museum learning and has undertaken research in this area. She is also interested in the role of museums and more broadly, heritage, in delivering social justice, with learning programmes being a vehicle for this.

Holly Crossen-White, Research Fellow, Bournemouth University

Holly's interest in digital collections arose from research for her PhD. This traced the story of drug-takers during the early twentieth century which was a key period in the history of British drug consumption. Holly used The Times Digital Archive and found it enabled her in some cases to follow individuals over time or to identify personal connections between drug-takers. This led Holly to develop an interest in the ethical issues which arise from the digitization and specifically the effect upon descendants of having a long forgotten ancestors placed back into the public domain, particularly if that life was associated with criminal activities or distressing personal circumstances. As a result Holly began to consider what digitization means to end-users and how the public engages with both digital archives and the historical content which they feature.

Ed Lawless, Education Manager: Samsung Digital Learning Programme, The British Museum

I help museums take advantage of digital technology and create enjoyable learning experiences for their visitors. I specialise in strategically developing, delivering and evaluating digital products and activity programmes for schools, families and other young visitors. I am constantly curious about historic museum collections and strive to understand the psychology of visiting a museum. I aim to create unforgettable and genuinely inspiring museum moments.

Sharon McMeekin, Head of Training and Skills, Digital Preservation Coalition

I lead the Digital Preservation Coalition's workforce development activities. This includes the successful workshop series' 'Getting Started….' and 'Making Progress with Digital Preservation', our annual student conference, and scholarship programme. I am also Managing Editor of the 'Digital Preservation Handbook' and previously participated in the APARSEN and E-ARK projects.With Masters degrees in Information Technology and Information Management and Preservation, both from the University of Glasgow, I am an archivist by training with a specialism in digital preservation. Before joining the DPC I spent five years as Digital Archivist with RCAHMS. I am also an Institute of Leadership and Management qualified trainer. As an invited speaker, I present on digital preservation at a wide variety of events, which have included CoSector's Digital Preservation Training Programme, PASIG 2017, and as a guest lecturer for Information Studies at Glasgow University.

Julie Allinson, Lead Developer, CoSector – University of London

I am interested in technology, the Web and the possibilities of linked open data. My background is very much in library and archives, but my roles have become much more technical over time and I'm now happiest writing code and making things.

I have worked with repositories for over 12 years and have been active in the Samvera community. I started out as a Librarian, strayed into archives and has now moved over to the technical side.

**Laura Giles, City of Culture Digital Archivist, University of Hull**

My work involves liaising with local cultural organisations to secure records and quality metadata, working with our partners at Cosector and Cottage Labs to help shape the digital archive technical infrastructure and developing best practice for appraising and cataloguing large volumes of diverse digital records.

Prior to this role my experience has completely been in corporate archives, having done a graduate traineeship at Boots Archives and spent 5 years post-qualification as an Archivist and Records Manager working for Unilever Archives and Records Management – which is where I got to grips with digital records following their installation of Preservica.

Tanya Szrajber, Head of Documentation, The British Museum

Tanya specialises in cataloguing, data standards and developing terminologies, and has contributed to the international standard SPECTRUM, produced by Collections Trust. She trains most of the British Museum collection database users, and advocates the importance of collaboration between documentation staff and curators, scientists and conservators in order to produce the highest object record standards and their availability online through the British Museum website. She contributes papers at conferences and seminars in the UK and abroad, such as CIDOC (Comité International de Documentation, part of ICOM) with a forthcoming paper in Heraklion in 2018, and gives presentations on cataloguing numismatics for the Money and Medals Network. She has a BA in Philosophy and Psychology from Somerville College, Oxford University and an MPhil in Medieval Art History from the Courtauld Institute, London. Her research interests include 19thC French lithography and medals.
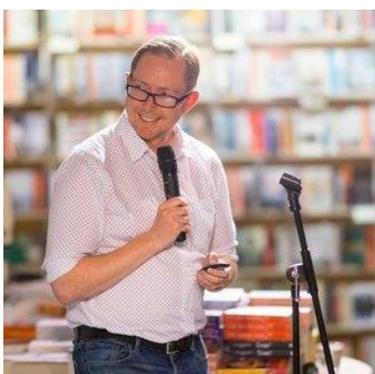
Jason Webber, Web Archive Engagement Manager, British Library

Jason has been working in web teams and on digital projects in the cultural sector for over 15 years. At the Natural History Museum he created and managed the 'Kids Only' section of the website (sadly no longer live). At the Museum of London Jason managed the collaborative 'Exploring 20th Century London' website and developed a series of pilot crowdsourcing projects including 'London Street Views 1840' (a Victorian version of Google street view). Since 2014 Jason has been working at the British Library for the UK Web Archive, promoting the service and creating and developing partnerships in the UK and internationally.

Jon Ablett, Acting Senior Curator in Charge, Mollusca, Natural History Museum

I am the Senior Curator in Charge of the Mollusca Collections at the Natural History Museum, a collection of around 8 million specimens. The collection is geographically and historically diverse comprising dry shells and tissue samples to whole animals preserved in alcohol. The collection is widely used by scientists within the museum and around the world in order to understand more about biodiversity, evolution and ecology. My research interests include the land snail fauna of South East Asia and India, Cephalopods and reconstructing the type collections and producing biographies for historically important malacologists.

Ben Rowson, Senior Curator: Mollusca, Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales

Malacology (the study of molluscs) based on museum shell, anatomical, and DNA/tissue collections, from urban and rural Wales to tropical rainforests. Current research focuses on: 1) past and present changes in the British slug fauna; 2) alpha taxonomy and biogeography in eastern Africa; and 3) the evolution of carnivorous "hunter snails" (Streptaxidae) worldwide. Findings are or have been applied to producing field guides, detecting invasive species and plant pests, reconstructing prehistoric environments, and parasitology. Results are communicated through talks, events, teaching, media, citizen science, and exhibitions as well as publication. Recent contract work on site/species surveys, archaeology, and conservation assessment.

Jim Turner, Digital Imaging & Access Developer, Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales

Specialist in Biological Imaging for taxonomic research, and the development of relational databases and web-based taxonomic tools for identification. Also has interests in the taxonomy of deep sea bivalves of the Protobranchia group from the North East Atlantic.

Patricia Falcao, Time-based Media Conservator, Tate

Patricia's role includes the conservation of new time-based media artworks coming to the Tate Collection. Ms. Falcao is part of a team at Tate developing the processes necessary for preservation of digital artworks. Ms. Falcao completed her MA at the University of the Arts in Bern with a thesis on risk assessment for software-based artworks, during 2013/14 she researched the use of virtualisation for the preservation of software-based artworks and she continues to develop research in this field.
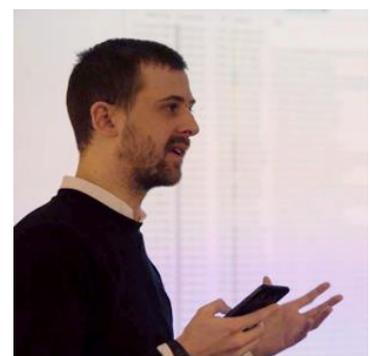
Tom Ensom, Digital Conservator, Tate / King's College London

Tom is a London-based digital conservator, and is currently in the final stages of his PhD at King's College London. This practice-led research, undertaken in collaboration with Tate, has focused on developing conservation documentation strategies for software-based artworks. Prior to starting his PhD, Tom worked in digital archives, holding a number of research and development related positions at the UK Data Archive. Tom's primary research interests relate to the preservation of complex digital things and the role of cultural memory institutions in their long-term care.

Laura Chaillie, Conservator, Horniman Museum & Gardens / University College London

Laura is in the final year of the archaeological conservation training process at University College London where she has focussed on the care of both historic and contemporary organic materials. Her research reflects a keen interest in the particular challenges of modern materials, specifically addressing the characterization and care of unstable polymers as well as the ontological and material complexities of time-based media. Other areas of interest include the intersection of conservation practice and emerging technologies, imaging approaches, and the care of electronic musical instruments.

Kevin Bacon, Digital Manager, Royal Pavilion & Museums, Brighton & Hove

The Royal Pavilion & Museums (RPM) is a local authority run service of five museums in Brighton & Hove. Kevin joined RPM in 2003, and having previously worked in front of house and as a curator, he became RPM's first digital lead in 2011. In this role he has led numerous projects, including the publishing of its online collections, in-gallery interactives, mobile tours, and the redevelopment of its main website. He has also delivered digital skills training to museums and community groups in the UK and internationally.
@fauxtoegrafik

Caitlin Peck, Curator, Museum of East Anglian Life

Caitlin leads on Search for the Stars and Fake News in the Age of the Horse, a project developing a touring exhibit exploring the reliability of historic news exchange. She has previous experience at international cultural consultancy Barker Langham and Derby Museums, among other heritage projects, and a background in charity sector communications. Caitlin holds an MA in Museum and Heritage Development from Nottingham Trent University and a BA from the University of Cambridge.

Stephanie Taylor, Senior Consultant, Cosector – University Of London

Stephanie is a "born digital" information professional, and has rarely handled any hard-copy books or journals in her career. She has a background in libraries, working in academic libraries in the UK. She went over to the "dark side" to work for a library software company, before working freelance, specialising in consultancy in all aspects of digital libraries. She combined freelance work with work as a researcher at UKOLN, University of Bath, specialising in institutional repositories, research information management, metadata and research date management. She currently works for the University of London Computing Centre (ULCC), where she is one of the tutors on the award-winning Digital Preservation Training Programme and also offers consultancy services in digital preservation.

Chris Awre, Head of Information Services, University of Hull

Chris holds responsibility for all aspects of information management regarding library resources and providing appropriate advice and services for corporate information management, including records management, at the University of Hull.

Paul Stewart, Research Associate, University of Teesside

Paul is an artist and researcher based at Teesside University. He will be researching the role that digital tools can have on creative opportunities for collaboration in art making. He is a lecturer in Fine Art and is completing a PhD by practice around the effects of neoliberalism on Higher Education structures and Critical Pedagogy as a methodology in art making. Other research interests include digital communities in art making and the effects of digital making on curation and collection processes. He joined the Creative Fuse team following co-directing the Middlesbrough Art Weekender 2017, and is editing a new issue of On Curating for summer 2018.

Dr Valerie Johnson, Director of Research & Collections, The National Archives

Valerie is responsible for supporting and coordinating innovative research, conservation and cataloguing programmes that use the National Archives' collections and enhance access. Alongside our leadership role for the archive sector, Valerie is also responsible for The National Archives' active support for archives of all kinds, to secure the best possible long-term future for their collections and services. She aims to further The National Archives' engagement and collaboration with researchers across the cultural heritage, higher education, academic and archive sectors.

Prior to this role, Valerie was Head of Research at The National Archives. She worked on a funded history project based at the University of Cambridge History Faculty, and holds an MA with Distinction in Archive Administration. She was awarded the Alexander R Myers Memorial Prize for Archive Administration, and won the Coleman Prize for her PhD thesis, 'British Multinationals, Culture and Empire in the Early Twentieth Century'. Valerie is a Registered Member of the Society of Archivists, a Trustee and member of the Executive Committee of the Business Archives Council, a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society; and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries. She has worked as an archivist and historian in the academic, corporate and public sectors.
@vjjohnson1

Gabriella Warren-Smith, Independent Curator

Gabriella Warren-Smith is an independent curator based in Liverpool, whose research investigates the impact of digital culture on the way humans think and behave. She is currently developing an exhibition programme, 'Cognitive Sensations', which will consider audience engagement in the digital age, focussing on the neurological impact of new technology. She works as an Innovation & Research Coordinator at FACT (Foundation for Art & Creative Technology), with a focus on increasing emerging technology engagement in the creative and digital sector. Gabriella is a Masters graduate in Art History & Curating and a BA (hons) graduate in Architecture, and has completed a course in Neurobiology

Rachel Bateson, Touring Exhibitions Co-ordinator, Science Museum Group

Based at the National Science and Media Museum in Bradford, Rachel is currently running Tim Peake's Spacecraft tour. The exhibition includes both physical and digital content, and tours alongside the Space Descent virtual reality experience. Rachel also manages touring aspects of digital packs, which are used by international venues to create new versions of contemporary exhibitions from the Science Museum Group. A career in finance and studies in medieval archaeology provide a wide-ranging background that supports Rachel in dealing with the challenges of touring.
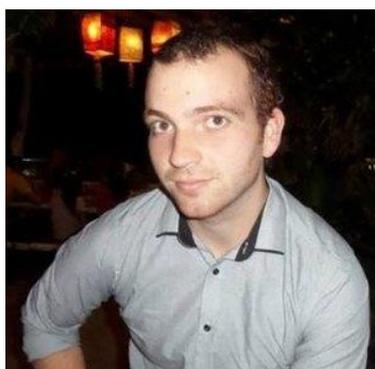
Sheldon Paquin, Exhibition Content Developer, Science Museum Group

Sheldon develops contemporary science exhibitions at the Science Museum, which are converted into digital packages for international display. His background in history, conservation, and heritage puts him in a strange position in the contemporary science team, allowing Sheldon to approach complicated scientific concepts from the perspective of the museum visitor (meaning he has a hard time understanding them too). He has worked with museums across North America and Europe to deliver temporary exhibitions.

Benjamin Moreno, Owner, IMA Solutions & Anatomikmodeling SAS

My main interest is in Research and Development of new medical devices products and services using 3D visualization, high performance computing and 3D printing technologies. With a background in Biology, I founded two companies dedicated to Life Sciences and Biomedicine:

- IMA Solutions company is dedicated to Life Sciences and Cultural Heritage mainly focusing on 3D data acquisition, high performance computing 3D visualisation and Digital Media. IMA Solutions works with prestigious clients worldwide like the British Museum, Le Louvre, the Acropololis Museum, Natural History Museums...

- Anatomik Modeling company is dedicated to Biomedicine with the design of custom-made 3D implants for Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic surgery, Thoracic surgery, Pneumology and maxillo facial surgery.

Jude Dicken, Collections Information Manager, Manx National Heritage

Jude began her career as a professionally-qualified archivist working as an archivist at Windsor Castle, The British Library and the V&A. Jude currently works for the Isle of Man's heritage agency – Manx National Heritage – in managing, preserving and making available online museum, library and archives collections, as well as the island's historic environment and wildlife records and motorsport heritage. She also oversees the digital collections programme working with companies such as Axiell, Knowledge Integration, Archaeovision and the National Biodiversity Network to preserve, mine and release information in new ways to new audiences. (https://www.imuseum.im/, https://isleofman.nbnatlas.org/)

Allison Fox, Curator: Archaeology, Manx National Heritage

After graduating in archaeological sciences and a working as a digger for a while, Allison moved out of the field, into a planning office and then into a museum. Day-to-day, she can be cataloguing Mesolithic flints, giving evidence at Viking Treasure inquests, assessing the contents of a 1700s dock or trying to work out how to explain a massive medieval castle. Allison is keen to raise awareness and encourage curiosity about the past, sharing information with different audiences, at different levels, and via different methods.

Frank Hopfgartner, Senior Lecturer in Data Science, University of Sheffield

Frank Hopfgartner is Senior Lecturer in Data Science and Head of the Information Retrieval Research Group at the Information School of University of Sheffield. His research to date can be placed in the intersection of information systems, document analysis and data science. He has (co-) authored over 150 publications in above mentioned research fields, including a book on smart information systems, various book chapters and papers in peer-reviewed journals, conferences and workshops. To date, he has successfully acquired over £900,000 in research funding from national and international sources to support his research.

Dr Cathal Gurrin, Associate Professor, School of Computing, Dublin City University

Cathal Gurrin (@cathal) is an Associate Professor at the School of Computing at Dublin City University, assistant head of the School of Computing with responsibility for Research and Engagement, and a principal co-investigator at the Insight Centre for Data Analytics. Gurrin leads a group of 7 researchers dedicated to developing assistive technologies using wearable sensors and data analytics. The highly interdisciplinary approach advanced by his group, "lifelogging", integrates computer science, cognitive science and data-driven healthcare analytics to generate next-generation digital records of the individual, The basic idea is to provide a non-invasive, secure and privacy-preserving personal big data archive monitoring and analyzing continuously, for instance, health related data in a proactive manner for personalized health maintenance and restoration.

Dr Maria Economou, Senior Lecturer in Museum Studies, Information Studies, School Of Humanities, and Curator, Hunterian Museum, University Of Glasgow

Dr Maria Economou (DPhil, Oxon) is Senior Lecturer in Museum Studies / Curator, a joint post at the University of Glasgow shared between Information Studies and the Hunterian Museum, where she is responsible for the Digital Strategy. She co-ordinated the RSE-funded Scottish Network on Digital Cultural Resources Evaluationand is currently partner in: the H2020 EMOTIVE project on digital storytelling in cultural heritage; the MCSA POEM Participatory Memory Practices ITN; and the AHRC/ESRC Immersive Technologies Scottish Heritage Partnership. She was previously Associate Professor, Museology and New Technologies at the University of the Aegean (2003-13), where she directed the Museology Research Laboratory, and worked at the University of Manchester (2000-2003) and the Pitt Rivers Museum as Assistant Curator- Information Technology (1995-1997).