

LAURA PHILLIPS

Summary

I have 20 years of experience working in cultural heritage, museums and memory institutions. My research interests centre decolonizing frameworks and methodologies.

Education

PhD Candidate [All but Dissertation] Cultural Studies

2017 – present

Queen's University, Kingston ON

- Research Interests: Decolonizing arts, culture, museums & gallery spaces. Thesis Title: *Kingston Museums and Colonial Authority*.
- Supervisors: Professor Dylan Robinson, Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Arts; Professor Laura Murray.

MPhil, Archaeology

2007 – 2009

University of Bristol, UK [Masters]

- Dissertation topic: Collecting the 'Minoans' in 20th & 21st Century Bristol

Post-Graduate Diploma, Archaeology

2001 - 2002

University of Oxford, UK

- Research Area: Professional Archaeology and Heritage Resource Management

Honours BA, Classical Studies

1993 – 1997

Western University, London ON

- Major: Classical Studies

Experience

Adult Education Facilitator

Cree School Board, Eeyou Istchee

- Teaching essential and administrative skills to support staff, part time.

Teaching Fellow

Department of Languages, Literatures & Cultures, Queen's University, Kingston, ON

- Teaching undergrad course 'Unsettling Museums in Ka'tarohkwi / Kingston'.

Instructor / Co-facilitator

MuseumStudy.com

- 'Decolonizing Museums in Practice', part time - in certain months.

Intern

Mitacs Accelerated Internship, Queen's University, Kingston, ON

- Part of intern group – Abolitionist Dream mapping project run by Dr. Lisa Guenther, Queen's National Scholar in Political Philosophy and Critical Prison Studies

Research Assistant

for Professor Dylan Robinson, Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Arts, Queen's University, Kingston, ON.

Coordinator of Collections & Exhibitions

Anischaaukamikw Cree Cultural Institute, Ouje-Bougoumou, QC

Guest Curator: Pot-Pourri

Cultural Studies, Queen's University, Kingston, ON

- Curated exhibit 'Nalakwsis', a solo exhibit by a youth artist from Whapmagoostui Cree First Nation.

Teaching Assistant: Film & Media Studies

Queen's University, Kingston, ON

Freelance Consultant

Museums Association of Saskatchewan [MAS] (home based)

- Curriculum development for professional museum workshops 'Understanding Significance and Risk Management'.
- Tip sheets: 'Significance in the Museum Context', 'Assessing Significance', 'Research and Documenting Significance', 'Assessing Risk for Collections'.
- Curriculum development for professional museum workshops 'Responsible Curation and Exhibition of Indigenous Collections', in collaboration with Dr. Evelyn Siegfried and Audrey Dreaver.
- 'MAS Collections Stewardship Self-Assessment Workbook' based on the provincial museum standards.
- Tip sheets 'Responsible Curation and Exhibition of Indigenous Collections' and 'The Importance to Museums of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples & The Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Canada'.

Collections Manager

The Wolfsonian Museum, Miami Beach, FL

Head of Museums Documentation

Qatar Museums, QATAR

Museum Documentation Assistant

Bristol Museum & Art Gallery, Bristol UK

Senior Library Assistant

University of Bristol, Bristol UK

Heritage Datasets Development Officer

English Heritage, Swindon UK

Senior Collections Documentation Assistant

The Pitt Rivers Museum of World Cultures, Oxford UK

SKILLS OVERVIEW

- Curriculum development for students and adult learners.
- Exhibition planning and development.
- Collections research and development.

- Decolonisation and (re)conciliation approach to life and work.
- Regional, provincial, national and international experience of collaborations and partnerships.
- Collaborations with internal / cross departmental partners.
- Policy and procedural development for collections care.
- Knowledge of legislation and procedures for arts, culture and museums / galleries.
- Multi-level leadership.
- Supporting development initiatives for fundraising.
- Motivation of staff to support a unified vision.
- Grant writing skills using creative approaches to projects.
- Monitoring of project and departmental budgets.
- Participant in regional, national and international heritage networks.
- Writing for diverse audiences, specialists and non-specialists.
- Planning and teaching of training courses and workshops.
- Strategic planning linking work plans and institutional priorities.
- Performance management, champion of professional development.
- Collections management for diverse collections, for institutions of all sizes and operating environments, including remote locations.
- Change management planning.
- Risk management, especially in relation to collections care.

Awards

- SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship 2018.
- Canadian Museums Association Mid-Career Professional Development Bursary, 2016.
- Canada Council for the Arts Inter-Arts Professional Development Bursary, 2016.

Grant Writing & Administration

- Arts Council of Canada: Creating, Knowing, Sharing
- Library & Archives Canada: Documentary Heritage Communities Program
- Library & Archives Canada: Listen Hear our Voices Program
- Young Canada Works Summer Jobs & Internships
- Heritage Canada: Museums Assistance Program

Select Professional Development & Publications

- 2021 – Book Review, “Jo-Ann Archibald, et al. Decolonizing Research: Indigenous Storywork as Methodology,” *The American Indian Quarterly*, 45 (1): 85-91.
- 2021- Publication (forthcoming), “Kingston Museums and Colonial Authority”, *Engaging Indigenous Communities: Respect, Reciprocity and Reconciliation*, Mount Allison University, NB [conference converted to publication].
- 2021 (forthcoming) – Co-editor, Focus Issue of *Collections: A Journal for Museum and Archives Professionals*, *Indigenous Collections: Belongings, Decolonization, Contextualization*.
- 2020 - Conference Poster, “Kingston Museums and Colonial Authority”, *Engaging Indigenous Communities: Respect, Reciprocity and Reconciliation*, Mount Allison University, NB [accepted – conference postponed]

- 2020 - Coordinated Publication (co-author, editor) on behalf of Aanischaaukamikw, "Book Review of the Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada", *Journal of Museum Ethnography*.
- 2019 - Publication, *Profiles of Collection Cataloguing & Documentation Efforts by Museums, Archives & Library Special Collections*, Primary Research Group.
- 2018 - Conference Poster, "Decolonising Collections Information", Digital Humanities 2018, Mexico City, Mexico; awarded conference bursary.
- 2018 - Conference Talking Circle Co-Leader, "Building Capacity for Indigenous Museums", Canadian Museums Association Conference, Vancouver, BC.
- 2017 - Conference Presentation panel member, "Exhibitions, Landscapes, Community Cultural Heritage and Healing", Carleton University, Ottawa, ON.
- 2017 - Conference Presentation panel member, "Welcoming the e mitsuits utstuden (beaded hood) home", Canadian Museums Association Conference, Ottawa, ON.
- 2017 - Publication: "Tipsheet: Responsible Exhibition and Interpretation of Indigenous Artifacts", *Museums Association of Saskatchewan*.
- 2017 - Publication: "Tipsheet: The Importance of UNDRIP and the TRC to Museums", *Museums Association of Saskatchewan*.
- 2017 - Publication: "Collections Stewardship: Self-Assessment Workbook", *Museums Association of Saskatchewan*.
- 2015 - Co-Authored Chapter: "Seeing Ourselves: Aanischaaukamikw Cree Cultural Institute – Community Consultations and Forward Planning", *Proceedings of Canadian Indigenous and Native Studies Association [CINSA] 2015 Conference*.
- 2014 - Co-Authored Chapter: "Collective Opportunities: Collections Management in Qatar", *Museums in the Material World: Collecting the Arabian Peninsula*.
- 2014 - Co-Authored Article: "A newly discovered Minoan Faience Plaque from the Knossos Town Mosaic in the Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery: A Technological Insight", *Annual of British School of Archaeology at Athens*, vol. 109: 97-110.

Professional Memberships

- Canadian Museums Association
- Ontario Museums Association
- Canadian Anthropology Society