

Sensitive Legacy in University Collections: Between Adaptation and Restitution

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Organisers: Institute of Cultural Studies, University of Wrocław, the Urban Memory Foundation and Centre for European Studies – The Australian National University.

Audio-visual resources

1. *Aakurru Yintjingga – Indigenous Repatriation* (2017),
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yNG8Sytxlcw>

Freely available online. The Lama Lama people, of Queensland, explain the importance of the return of their female ancestor to Country – Yintjingga. This was facilitated through the Australian Government's Indigenous Repatriation Program. Video provided courtesy of the Lama Lama Land Trust, Lama Lama Tumra and the Yintjingga Aboriginal Corporation.

2. *Dark Science* (2007), <https://www.screenaustralia.gov.au/the-screen-guide/t/dark-science-2007/23841/>

Documentary tracing the footsteps of Swedish scientist Eric Mjoberg, who led an expedition to Australia in 1910. Gives a contemporary Indigenous perspective to the journey's aftermath and documents the return of the remains and artefacts Mjoberg acquired from communities that were visited.

Freely available online in five parts:

- Part 1/5: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dzvU_JE61mY&t=11s
- Part 2/5: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OS_YSchNCXw
- Part 3/5: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=URzow6K6vuk>
- Part 4/5: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RNyCpclg-Sg>
- Part 5/5: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rCQNxggwvAY>

3. *Etched in Bone* (2018), <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/etchedinbone>

Available for rent via Vimeo On Demand. Drawing on original footage from National Geographic, this carefully crafted documentary explores the impact of one notorious bone theft by a member of the 1948 American-Australian Scientific Expedition to Arnhem Land. Hundred of bones were stolen and deposited in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC. When the location of the bones became known to Arnhem Landers in the late 1990s, elders called for their return. This resulted in a tense standoff with the Department of Anthropology at the Smithsonian – and eventually in the repatriation of the bones.

4. *Long Journey Home* (2010),
https://returnreconcilerenew.info/ohrm/objects/videos_public/P00002814.mp4

Freely available online. *Long Journey Home* is a short documentary film that discusses the removal of Torres Strait Islander Ancestral Remains to overseas museums and the progress towards their return. The film includes interviews with Torres Strait Islander people on the importance of repatriation.

5. *Long Journey Home: Repatriation Symposium* (2014),
<https://www.nma.gov.au/audio/long-journey-home-repatriation-symposium>

Freely available online. In this series of lectures, Indigenous people at the forefront of repatriation, from New Zealand, Hawaii, Australia, the USA and Japan, share their experiences, challenges and successes in achieving the return of their ancestors from museums around the world.

6. *Returning Our Ancestors* (2020),
<https://www.aboriginalheritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/returning-our-ancestors>

Freely available online. *Returning Our Ancestors* is a documentary produced by the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council about the desecration of Aboriginal burial places in the name of research and the fight to return Ancestors to Country.

7. *Voices of Repatriation* (2015–), <https://returnreconcilerenew.info/community-stories/voices.html>

Freely available online. Since 2015, over 50 people in the Kimberley, the Ngarrindjeri Nation and the Torres Strait have shared their experiences and views on the repatriation of Ancestral Remains with the Return Reconcile Renew team. Short clips from these discussions are available here. More interviews are being undertaken in Australia, New Zealand and the USA and will be added to the Digital Archive in the future. These discussions form an important testimony about the impact of the taking of Old People and the importance of their return. They bear witness to a history that was largely hidden from view until the rise of the repatriation movement in the 1970s. Making such testimony available not only raises awareness of the issues but also provides important evidence of this history, and the impact that these devastating actions continues to have on Indigenous peoples worldwide. Importantly, acknowledging this history and understanding its significance is an important step in reconciliation.

8. *Yagan* (2014), <https://itunes.apple.com/au/tv-season/yagan/id881764892>

Available for rent via Apple TV. This film examines the life and death of Yagan, a proud Noongar warrior who was murdered and beheaded shortly after the establishment of the Swan River Colony in Western Australia, and the 180-year effort of the Indigenous community to return his stolen remains to Country.

Further reading

Fforde, C, McKeown, CT & Keeler, H (eds) 2020, *The Routledge Companion to Indigenous Repatriation: Return, Reconcile, Renew*, London & New York, Routledge.

Pickering, M 2020, *A Repatriation Handbook: A Guide to Repatriating Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ancestral Remains*, Canberra, National Museum of Australia Press, <https://www.nma.gov.au/about/publications/repatriation-handbook>

Pickering, M 2008, 'Lost in Translation', *borderlands*, vol. 7, no. 2.

Turnbull, P 2020, 'International repatriations of Indigenous human remains and its complexities: the Australian experience', *Museum & Society*, vol. 18, no. 1, pp. 6–19.

Turnbull, P 2017, *Science, Museums and Collecting the Indigenous Dead in Colonial Australia*, Cham, Palgrave Macmillan.

Winkelmann, A & Teßmann, B 2013, "... und gewinne die Leiche" – zur Geschichte eines australischen Skeletts in der Berliner Anatomischen Sammlung', in H Stocker, T Schnalke & A Winkelmann (eds), *Sammeln, Erforschen, Zurückgeben? Menschliche Gebeine aus der Kolonialzeit in akademischen und musealen Sammlungen*, Berlin, Ch. Links, pp. 184–198.