



# WEDNESDAY SEMINAR

25.01.2023, 17:00 Uhr, HS-C

IKSA, NIG, Universitätsstraße 7, 1010 Wien, 4. Stock

**Jaanika Vider (Universität Wien)**

On the Tracks of Maria Czaplicka: An Ethnography of a Collection



Jaanika Vider is a historical and museum anthropologist whose research lies at the intersection of museum studies, visual and material anthropology, and history. She holds a DPhil from the University of Oxford where

her research examined early 20<sup>th</sup> century British Anthropology through a biographical focus on Maria Czaplicka and her Siberian collection.

Currently she is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology of the University of Vienna where her MSCA REWIRE project examines the legacy of ethnographic representations of the Arctic.

Vider is a Research Associate at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History and an Associate Researcher at the Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford.

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Can there be an ethnography of a museum collection and what would it look like? Arguing against Tim Ingold's proclamation that museum ethnography is simply oxymoronic, I show how a collection can serve as a basis for a rich and multifaceted ethnography. Focusing on the Siberian collection anthropologist Maria Czaplicka made for the Pitt Rivers Museum during the 1914-1915 Yenisei expedition, I examine how the collection unfolds when subject to different kinds of inquiries by different actors. Drawing on extensive museum and archival research as well as long-term participant observation in the museum and short-term fieldwork in Siberia, I demonstrate how objects within the collection extend temporally, geographically, and culturally through complex associations. What emerges is a fascinating narrative of desires, ideas and connections across time and space.

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