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Dr. Peter Bolz studied ethnology with a focus on North American indigenous cultures in Frankfurt/Main. His dissertation, published in 1985, is a field study of the modern reservation culture of the Oglala-Lakota on Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota, USA. From 1989 to 2012 he was head of the Native American collections at the Ethnologisches Museum Berlin. He was in charge of various exhibitions, most notable: "Indianer Nordamerikas. Vom Mythos zur Moderne" (North American Indians. From Myth to Modernity), shown from 1999 to 2016, and "Indianische Moderne. Kunst aus Nordamerika" (Native American Modernism. Art from North America), shown in 2012. His publications include studies on Native American art, the North American collections of the Ethnologisches Museum Berlin, and the history of this museum. Since his retirement from the museum in 2013 he works as an independent scholar in Stahnsdorf near Potsdam.

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Christiane Clados holds a PhD in Andean studies and a postdoctoral qualification (Habilitation) in social and cultural anthropology. Her research focuses on visual communication systems and image theory in the Andean region. She combines perception-oriented, semiotic, and digital heritage approaches (including 3D reconstruction and AI-based analysis) with perspectives from visual anthropology, media ethnology, and intercultural design. Her iconic approach and studies on framed graphic units contribute to the decipherment of indigenous sign practices.

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Yannick Dreessen is a junior curator in the collections of Mesoamerica at the Ethnologisches Museum Berlin. He studied in Berlin, Bonn, Cambridge and Lima, graduating with a B.A. in anthropology of the Americas and sociology and political Sciences, a B.A. in archaeologies and philosophy, and a M.A. in anthropology of the Americas from the Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn (2020, 2021 and 2023, respectively), as well as an MPhil in heritage studies from the University of Cambridge (2024). He has worked and researched in archaeological and anthropological projects in Mexico, Peru, and Germany. His research interests include the negotiations of heritage, as well as the values and practices concerning ancient materiality.

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Prof. Dr. habil. Jürgen Wasim Frembgen is a retired senior curator (Hauptkonservator) at the Museum Fünf Kontinente in Munich and former adjunct professor at the Institut für den Nahen und Mittleren Osten (Institute of Near and Middle Eastern Studies), Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich. He has been a visiting professor at Quaid-i-Azam University in Islamabad, the National College of Arts in Lahore, and Ohio State University in Columbus, USA. He has conducted ethnographic fieldwork in Pakistan (on an annual basis from 1981 to 2024) as well as in India, Iran, and Tunisia. His academic work focuses on Islam, the Sufi tradition, the veneration of Muslim saints, art and material culture, the anthropology of the body, social outsiders, and facets of popular culture. In addition, he writes narratives about his ethnographic experiences.

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Fiona K. Naeem is a junior curator in the collections of North Africa, West and Central Asia at the Ethnologisches Museum Berlin. She completed her PhD in global and area studies from the Institute for Asian and African Studies at Humboldt-Universität Berlin, where she specialised in oral and material histories of the Pamir region in Central Asia, working in Shughni and Tajik language. As doctoral research associate within the BMFTR-funded interdisciplinary research consortium De:Link//Re:Link: Local Perspectives of Transregional Processes of (Dis)Entanglements she focused on the role of China's Belt and Road Initiative in Pamiri heritage-making in Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast, Tajikistan. Her research interests include Pamiri cultural heritage, anthropology of rupture, and the nexus between language, heritage, and religion in Ismaili Muslim communities.

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Maria Cristina Martinez-Juan is a scholar/activist who is deeply engaged in Philippine material culture studies and reconnecting collections with their source cultures. As project lead of Mapping Philippine Material Culture (philippinestudies.uk/mapping), a global visual inventory of Philippine material culture kept in institutions outside of the Philippines, she has created a source-culture centred platform that seeks to reconnect dispersed material cultures with their communities of origin. Her mapping work has led to sustained relationships with Tboli, Bagobo, Blaan and Ifugao communities and has facilitated exhibitions and dialogues that bridge diaspora and homeland, underscoring indigenous identity and shared histories through high impact projects. Born and educated in the Philippines, but now working as an academic in the UK, she established Philippines Studies at SOAS in 2018, which has become a vital resource and research hub for Philippine studies, integrating scholars from the Philippines and creating a gateway for enabling research and engagement with Philippine archival material (texts, objects, sound recordings) in institutions outside the Philippines. By organising the Annual Philippine Studies Conferences, now in their 8th year, and a rich programme of art talks, seminars, writing workshops and book launches, she has been a strong advocate for creating spaces for the production of knowledge about the Philippines that emphasise indigenous agency within a decolonial framework.

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