International Symposium
“The Refuge of Objects / Objects of Refuge”

A Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz / Obama Institute for Transnational American Studies (JGU/OI), University of Delaware (UD) / Center for Material Culture Studies (CMCS), Winterthur Museum/Library Collaboration

December 15-17, 2016 (Johannes Gutenberg University, Germany)

Wednesday, December 14, 2016
17:30-19:30  Registration and Welcome Reception

Thursday, December 15, 2016
8:30  Introduction: Martin Brückner (CMCS) / Oliver Scheiding (JGU)
9:00-10:30 PANEL 1: Fugitive Things / Refuge in Fugitivity
Chair: Sandy Isenstadt

• Michelle Everidge Anderson (History, UD), “‘Housing is More Than Shelter’: The Material Culture of Migration in the United States”
• Laura Helton (English and History, UD; Visiting Fellow, Center for Humanities & Information, Pennsylvania State University), “The Materiality of Absence: Slavery, Fugitivity, and the Making of African American Archives”
• Rebecca Sheppard and Catherine Morrissey (Center for Historic Architecture & Design, UD), “Landscapes of Refuge: Recovering the Materiality of Underground Railroad Landscapes in Delaware”

10:30-11:00  Coffee Break

11:00-12:30 PANEL 2: Things of Refuge
Chair: Axel Schäfer

• Natalie Wright (Center for Material Culture Studies, UD), “4,000 Miles Overseas: Interpreting Displaced Japanese Tsunami Debris in North America, 2011-2016”
• Siobhan Carroll (English, UD), “Objects of Play, Objects of Refuge”
• Jesse Kraft (History, UD), “The Money of Refuge: How It Survived the Transit”

12:30-13:30  Lunch

13:30-15:00 PANEL 3: Things and Transition
Chair: Christopher Breu
• Suncica Klaas (American Studies, Potsdam), “The Rule of the Ruler: Cartography, Autobiography, and (Post-)Humanitarianism”
• Kaila Schedeen (Art History, UD), “Seeking Hózhó: The Material Landscapes of Will Wilson's AIR Weaves”
• Christian Berger / Clara Wörsdörfer (History of Art, Mainz), “Negotiating Materiality Through the Use of Elusive Materials in 1960s Art Practice”

15:00-15:30 Coffee Break

15:30-17:00 Keynote Lecture: Catharine Dann Roeber (Winterthur Program in American Material Culture), “Material Culture Studies, Connoisseurship, Close Looking and More: An Historical Overview of Studying Stuff”
Introduction/Chair: Martin Brückner

19:00 Dinner

Friday, December 16, 2016

8:30 Coffee

9:00-10:30 PANEL 4: Religion and Moving Things
Chair: Anja-Maria Bassimir

• Sarah Wasserman (English, UD), “Refuse, Refuge, Relic”
• Torsten Cress (Sociology, Mainz), “Witnessing Miracles, Organizing Experience: Things in Catholic Pilgrimage and the Role of Touch”

10:30-11:00 Coffee Break

11:00-12:30 PANEL 5: Migratory Letters and Prints
Chair: Babette B. Tischleder

• Alex Ames (History, UD), “‘The Quill is My Plow’: Religious Refuge, Reading, and Writing in German-Protestant Pennsylvania, ca. 1750-1850”
• Jana Hatakova, Johanna Seibert, Frank Newton (American Studies, Mainz), “(Re-)Reading Typographies: Generated Sentimental Spaces Through Nineteenth-Century Print”
• Allison M. Stagg (History of Art, FU Berlin), “A Foreigner and an Alien: Caricature Prints in America and England, 1800-1900”

12:30-13:30 Lunch

13:30-15:00 PANEL 6: The Refuges of Print Culture
Chair: Damien Schlarb

• Alexandra Ward (Winterthur Program in American Material Culture), “Decoupage: A Refuge for Prints”
• Jessica Conrad (English, UD), “Bottling Death and Brewing Sanctuary in Temperance Literature and Reform”

15:00-15:30 Coffee Break
15:30-17:00 WORKSHOP
Julian Yates “Notes from a Material Culture Underground: Actor Network Theory and Early Modern Studies”

19:00 Dinner

Saturday, December 17, 2016

8:30 Coffee

9:30-11:00 PANEL 7: Inanimate Objects as Life’s Refuge
Chair: Oliver Scheiding

• Kiersten Mounce (Art History, UD), “The Chaise Sandow, René Herbst, and Psychological Repose”
• Rosalie Hooper (Winterthur Program in American Material Culture), “The Complicated Lives of Inanimate Objects: A Case (Furniture) Study”
• Martin Brückner (English and Center for Material Culture Studies, UD), “Cartographic Transfers: American Mappery and the Refuge of Transitional Objects”

11:00-11:30 Coffee Break

11:30-13:30 ROUNDTABLE: The Refuge of Objects / Objects of Refuge

Participants: Christopher Breu (Illinois State University); Martin Brückner (CMCS/UD); Sandy Isenstadt CMCS/UD); Herbert Kalthoff (Soziologie, Mainz); Oliver Scheiding (JGU/OL); Babette B. Tischleder (Göttingen)

END