

QUEERING THE COLLECTIONS

Seksuele en genderdiversiteit in erfgoed



Warren Cup © Trustees British Museum



www.ihlia.nl/queering

The symposium was made possible with support of the Mondriaan Art Fund and the Amsterdam Public Library.

Collecting the past and present informs and inspires the future

The Amsterdam Museum, COMCOL, IHLIA and the Reinwardt Academy welcome all participants of the Symposium 'Sexual and gender diversity in heritage - Queering the Collections' on 20 March 2015.

Our vision is that by 2020 both LGBT and straight kids will find stories of people like themselves represented in the collections when they visit a museum or archive.

They can learn about their history, their heroes, the struggles for their rights. They will be able to see how their predecessors lobbied and lived and loved to create a world in which all of us are part of the story. A diverse community that will be recognized as a part of society.

This symposium is the starting point for a longer term project that we hope you are all willing to participate in.

The partners thank everyone for their efforts in organizing the symposium, especially the speakers, the members of the sounding board group, the financiers and volunteers.

Projectteam

Annemarie de Wildt, Amsterdam Museum

Carla Jansen, Bureau Marbles

Léontine Meijer-van Mensch, COMCOL / MEK

Joeri Kempen, project manager

Lonneke van den Hoonaard, IHLIA

Riemer Knoop, Gordion Cultureel Advies / Reinwardt Academie



Practical information

Conference Venue - OBA (Amsterdam Public Library) - Oosterdokskade 143 - 1011 DL Amsterdam.

Before 10.00 am please use the entrance door to the left of the revolving doors.

Registration Desk - IHLIA-desk | 6th Floor

Wardrobe | 7th floor

Public bathrooms | 7th Floor (see Floor maps), please show your badge for free entrance.

On the 6th floor the bathrooms are in the corridor near the conference rooms.

Plenary morning session: Auditorium | Theatre - 7th Floor

The morning tea break and lunch will be served just outside the Auditorium.

Afternoon sessions (both break-out and plenary) | 6th Floor

Drinks at 16.30h | the round bar on the 7th floor

WIFI logins for your mobile device

Network: 'OBA-hotspot'

User name: 'oba odecongres' | Password: 'ode2014'

Twitter tag: #queeringthecollections

Do's and Don'ts in the OBA:

No food and drinks allowed in the Library.

QUEERING THE COLLECTIONS

20 MARCH 2015 – Amsterdam Public Library, Oosterdoksade 143, Amsterdam

PROGRAM - the symposium is in English except for the workshops at 1.15 pm

- 9.30 am Entry with coffee and tea | **La Place - 7th floor**
- 10 am Opening and introduction by the moderator | **Theater van 't Woord - 7th floor**
Riemer Knoop, lector Cultural Heritage, Reinwardt Academy
- 10.10 am Welcome | Lonneke van den Hoonaard
- 10.15 am Column: **'Why is it necessary to queer our collections, why aren't we doing so already?'** | Siebe Weide, general manager Museum Network
- 10.35 am Key note speech: **'A Little Gay History: From Ancient Egypt to the Modern Museum'**
An introduction to 'Queering' in the United Kingdom focusing on the best practices. Same-Sex Desire Trail and A Little Gay History | Richard Parkinson, professor of Egyptology at Oxford and former curator of the British Museum

11.25 am Tea break | La Place

- 11.45 am Key note speech: **'Visible Lives'** | Drawing on a rich mix of international practice, as well as theoretical developments in the field, Richard Sandell builds a case for the queering of our diverse cultural institutions. | Prof. Richard Sandell, Professor of Museum Studies, University of Leicester
- 12.10 pm **'Museums, queer communities and sustainability'** | Participatory strategies and working with diverse interest groups is part of mainstream museological thinking, but how is it implied in practice? Reflections on some recent case studies. | Leontine Meijer-Van Mensch, deputy director Museum Europäischer Kulturen, Berlin

12.30 pm Lunch | La Place

- 1.30 pm Parallel workshops (in Dutch) case studies focusing on the following questions | **Conference rooms - 6th floor**
- 1|** How to determine whether something is queer heritage? Dilemmas and pitfalls. Pim Westerkamp, Curator, Nationaal Museum van Wereldculturen | **Room Haasse**
- 2|** How to present queer heritage and heritage of other minority groups? What stories do you share? Klaartje Schweizer, head of Collections and Curating, Openlucht-

museum Arnhem | [Room Vestdijk](#)

3 | Participative collecting. How do you involve queer communities in the processes of acquisition and presentation? Annemarie de Wildt, curator, Amsterdam Museum | [Room Carmiggelt](#)

2.30 pm [Tea break](#) | [Room Carmiggelt](#)

2.50 pm Presentation of best practice: Other Stories and Queering the Museum of Birmingham | [Combined Rooms Haasse Vestdijk - 6th floor](#)

Two examples of a 'queer' intervention by a an artist as a visiting curator.

3.00 pm Presentation of best practice: 'Unstraight Perspectives', Sweden | Museums and the LHBT community collecting and presenting artifacts alongside one another.

3.05 pm Presentation of best practices: the use of apps to tell 'queer' stories:

***** | Queer Project Würzburg / Museum Europäischer Kulturen and University of Würzburg, Mona Zimmer, Patricia Pfeiffer, Susanne Ries, students of the University of Würzburg.

***** | PinkPerspectives Tour | Amsterdam Museum and Waag Society, Annemarie de Wildt | Europride 2016: an app tour guide for 'queer' objects and exhibitions

3.15 pm Observations from the workshops, Riemer Knoop

3.30 pm Discussion with the participants, speakers and Tanja Ineke, chair of COC Netherlands, moderated by Riemer Knoop. Issues that will be discussed:

***** | How do we put 'queering' on the agenda? How can we involve more heritage institutions?

***** | Dilemmas and issues around 'queer' collecting Looking ahead: who has plans to queer, what are the opportunities for cooperation?

4.15 pm Closing speech, Martin Berendse, director Amsterdam Public Library

4.20 pm [Drinks](#) | [La Place](#)

5.15 pm Optional: visit to the exhibition 'I Believe I Am Gay' in the Bijbels Museum Herengracht 366-368, Amsterdam

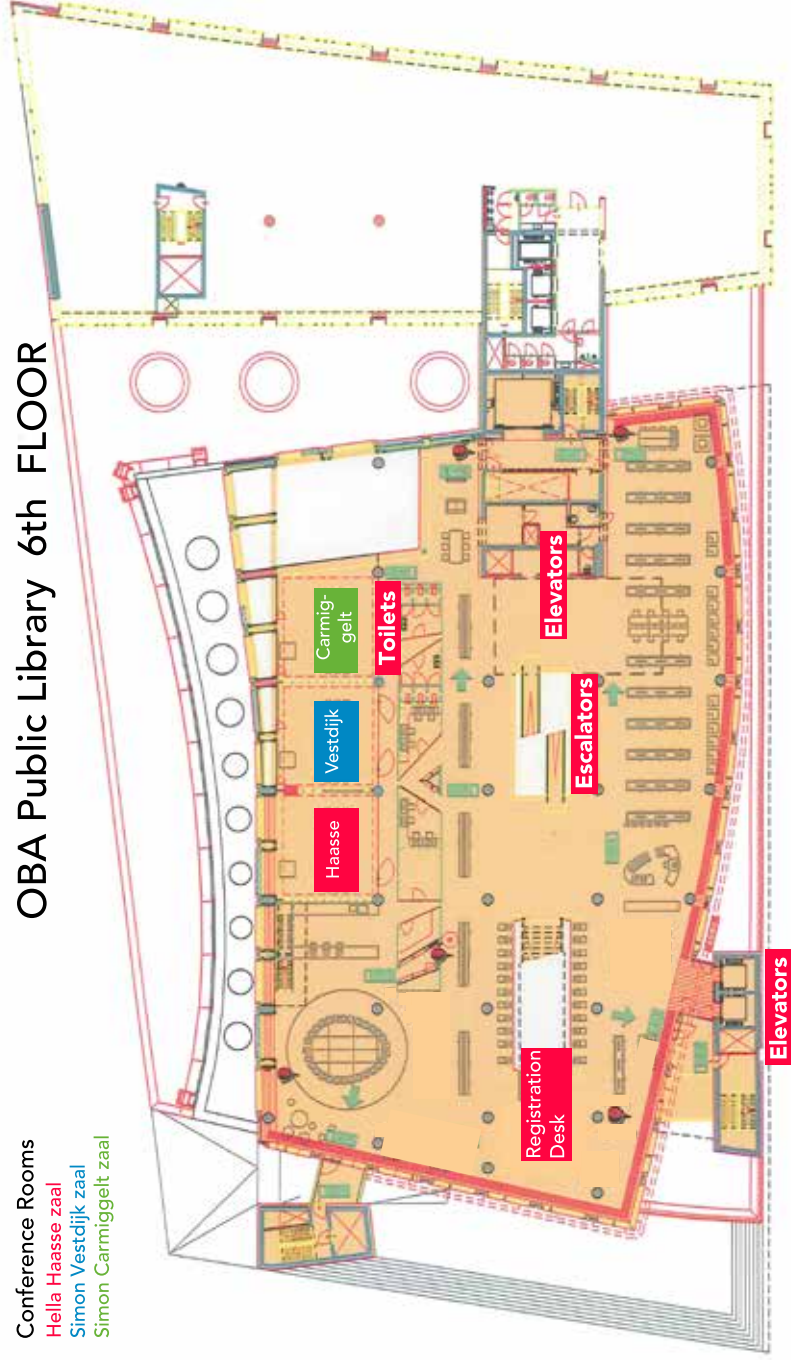
Conference Rooms

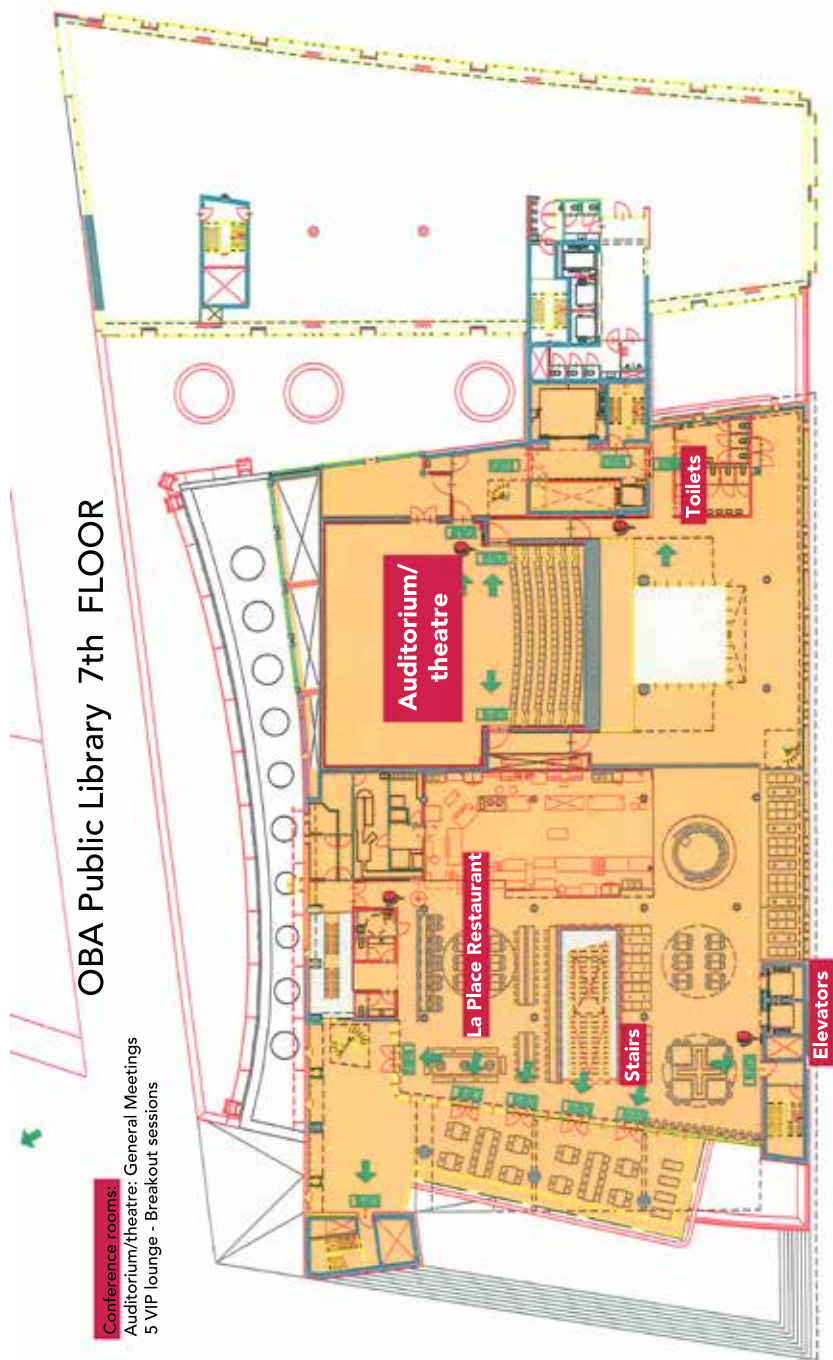
Hella Haasse zaal

Simon Vestdijk zaal

Simon Carmiggelt zaal

OBA Public Library 6th FLOOR







Current exhibition at IHLIA | 6th floor

The key-note speakers

Richard Bruce Parkinson (UK) is a British Egyptologist. He is Professor of Egyptology at the University of Oxford and a fellow of The Queen's College, Oxford. From 1991-2013 he was a curator in the Department of Ancient Egypt and Sudan, British Museum. During this time he played an important part in queering the British Museum, which led to the 'Same Sex Trail', a guide to LGBT-related objects in the museum's collection, audio tours and 'A Little Gay History', a groundbreaking publication by the British Museum that discusses the history of same-sex desire exemplified by a large number of historical objects.

Richard Sandell (UK) is Professor of Museum Studies at the University of Leicester. His most recent book (with Eithne Nightingale) – Museums, Equality and Social Justice – examines the ways in which cultural institutions are caught up in broader struggles for equal human rights and includes the first detailed analysis of transgender representation in museums. He is a Trustee of the Museums Association and Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

Léontine Meijer-van Mensch (NL) is deputy director of the Museum for European Cultures – State Museums Berlin and guest-lecturer in museology at the University of Würzburg. She is active in the board of several (international) museum organizations, among others chairperson of COMCOL, the ICOM International Committee for Collecting.

