Suggested Readings for the MA in Museum Studies, UEA

The following two books are ‘easy’ (and inexpensive) reads – not academic texts, but each informative or thought-provoking in its own way:


*Winner of the 2012 Costa Biography prize, this beautifully written book speaks to the power of objects and collections. De Waal’s own work as a ceramist has been influenced by the history of the family collection he traces here – and around two-thirds of the way through the book, his discussion of what happened to Austrian private collections after the Anschluss should give pause for thought about the role of museums as instruments of authority and state power.*


*Written by London-based, German-born gallerist Schubert, this is a readable overview of how European museums grew out of different national contexts, together with a consideration of some recent developments and trends in the sector.*

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If you would like to start digging a little deeper before you arrive, or if you have book tokens or Amazon credits burning a hole in your pocket, the following edited volumes are books we rely on throughout the course:


*The best overview of the field by far, edited by Prof. Sharon Macdonald – an anthropologist whose work on museums and heritage has been ground-breaking in many ways. This collection of specially commissioned essays is available in print and as an Ebook through the UEA library.*


*An edited anthology of scholarly work in or related to the field, this wide-ranging book was recently reissued in a smaller format, with minor additions or changes – which means the first edition can sometimes be found at a reduced price. Both are available as print copies at the UEA library.*


*Preziosi and Farago are eminent art historians who have brought together a wealth of ‘classic’ texts on the museum in this volume, grouped by themes and introduced by perceptive editorial comments. The downside is that the book is large and yellow (at least it’s easy to spot on a bookshelf), and the binding will collapse almost as soon as you open it. It’s a valuable collection, though, and the UEA and Robert Sainsbury libraries have three copies between them.*

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Last but not least, we recommend that students on the course join the Museums Association (www.museumsassociation.org) once you arrive here, at their preferential student rate. They usually send us complimentary copies of the September *Museums Journal* to distribute to students on the course, with details of their student membership scheme. You can at least familiarize yourself with their website before you arrive, as well as the ‘Museums’ section of the Arts Council England website (www.artscouncil.org.uk).