PM Seminarium

11 mars 2026.

Arkeologi och antikens kultur, Stockholms universitet

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Exhibiting human remains in museums. Crossing different perspectives.

The exhibition of human remains represents a strongly debated and controversial subject. Scholars recognize the ethical issues that arise when displaying human remains in museums. Many have raised concerns regarding their correct preservation and the respectful treatment they should receive, but also the possible reactions and feelings elicited by their display in their descendants and in the public in general. From a scientific point of view, the analysis of human skeletal remains represents a unique source of information for enhancing our understanding of histories, with both local and global implications. Human skeletal remains are generally considered part of the cultural heritage. Still, they are seldom, if ever, explicitly mentioned in European countries' cultural heritage legislations, nor are they covered by any specific law. To try and solve some of the ethical issues raised, experts have drafted guidelines for museums professionals, both on international, national, and internal level. Nonetheless, while human remains are present in many European museums' collections, up until now this tendency has been more an exception rather than the norm.

In this seminar many different perspectives, related and intertwined in the understanding of human remains' exhibition in museums, will be investigated, specifically the perspectives of both museums' visitors and professionals for different European countries. At the same time an ancient historical perspective will be applied to a debate that was so far mostly focused on modern and contemporary history, inserting in the debate a whole category of human remains, the archaeological ones, that scholars had, up until now, left on the side, with very few exceptions.

Tid: Onsdag, 11 mars, 15.00-17.00.

Plats: Sal 334, Wallenberglaboratoriet eller Zoom.

Zoom länk: https://stockholmuniversity.zoom.us/j/66966094994

Mötes-ID: 669 6609 4994