



## DOSSIER

### **The archaeology and ethnology collection: Transdisciplinary and plural perspectives**

Since the last third of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and early 21<sup>st</sup> century, we have witnessed a reduction in the borders between sciences – increasingly tenuous, considering the expressive increase in inter- and transdisciplinary investigations, especially in humanistic approaches – and emergence of understanding sociocultural diversity as a global requirement. In the former, the static and artificial demarcation of different areas of fields of knowledge are only justified by a disguised search for neutrality which, admittedly, is absent; in the latter, the awakening towards human diversity and need for respect are imposed on social contexts as imperative, without which a significant number of people would be denied the right to be, to feel, and exist.

Within the scope of these findings, procedures that shape the forms of curatorship of patrimonial archaeological and ethnological references appear to be removed from this dual condition – multi-scientific and associated with human diversity –, since they are mostly limited to restricted scientific protocols. In contrast, these collections stem from diverse, dynamic, and complex socio-cultural contexts, inbuilt conditions which, as a matter of principle, should evoke ontological approaches towards the selection and curatorship of collections which belong to the reserves of various safeguarding institutions.

Seeking to address this complex debate, the “Archaeology and ethnology: transdisciplinary and plural perspectives” dossier will seek to collate studies that tackle the dual condition which permeates the selection of collections that enter safeguarding institutions. On the one



hand, investigations that archaeology and ethnology collections adhere to through varying inter- and transdisciplinary friction among scientific fields will be welcomed. On the other, inclusive institutional perspectives of selecting and managing collections through the conduct and participation of social groups. In addition to this institutional focus, studies that analyse the reality of non-institutionalized collections not within the contexts of museums and technical reserves will also be welcomed. In this case, we hope for research and reports of social management experiences of archaeology and ethnology collections that demonstrate appropriating and giving new meaning to this patrimony from socially established protocols, through successful case studies on management and the social and public use of patrimony.

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