

## Day 2: Creativity and display of the moss in museums: landscapes, objects and human remains

With Prof Melanie Giles, Prof John Wedgwood Clarke and Dr Rose Ferraby

This is a day to develop and share ideas around how we narrate and display peatland landscapes, objects and bog bodies in museums. How can we enhance the public imagination of these environments, that are often difficult to see and comprehend? Can we convey a different sense of value and worth in the present through the ways in which past human and non-human communities have inhabited and responded to them? And how might creative approaches help us think through these complex narratives, and create myriad ways of engaging museum visitors? Shifting the perspective away from work with communities on the ground to encounters in the museum allows us to frame those experiences and facilitate novel kinds of affective experience.

Based at Moesgaard Museum, the day will begin with a tour of the peatland displays to reflect on the novel ways in which this museum has sought to frame visitor understandings of the moss. This will be followed by a short 'poetic provocation' (led by John and facilitated by Mel) as a chance to create and share some initial thoughts and perspectives. After lunch there will be a chance to share projects and experiences through presentations by Aarhus researchers and the visiting artists and academics. Melanie Giles will be exploring ideas of presence and absence around bog bodies; John Wedgwood Clarke will tell the story of intersecting ecological and human narratives of the polluted Red River in Cornwall, UK; and Rose Ferraby will share how her arts practice has influenced her research around past and future landscape change. Invitations are sought for short (c. 20min) research project presentations.

**Location:** meet in the foyer - Moesgaard Museum, Moesgård Allé, Højbjerg

### *Schedule*

10-11.30 am Guided tour of the Galleries

11.30 am Coffee and Discussion

Move to Moesgård Manor (4206-139 Moesgård Lecture Hall)

12 pm Poetic Provocations: literary creativity and the moss (led by JWC/MG)

1-2 pm Lunch (Moesgård Canteen) at own cost except for speakers

2-4pm Research Presentations

- 2-2.20 pm John Wedgwood Clarke - Red River (Cornwall, UK)
- 2.20-2.40 pm Rose Ferraby
- 2.40-3 pm Melanie Giles - Affective Artefacts: using objects from the bog to 'presence absence'

3-3.20 pm Coffee Break

- 3.20-3.40 pm Cecilie Wilsborg - Unravelling the Enigmatic: Reassessing Early Iron Age Bog Bodies through Exploratory Data Analysis
- 3.40-4 pm Ina Thegen

4pm Close (with the opportunity to continue discussion at an informal Reception in the Garden at the Department of Archaeology and Heritage Studies)

## Biographies:

**Melanie Giles** is a specialist in prehistoric archaeology at the University of Manchester, with current projects focused on the archaeology of peatlands (including her monograph 'Bog Bodies' 2020) as well as wider studies of prehistoric burials, grave goods and the theme of violence and warrior identity. She has collaborated with a range of artists and poets, to support a range of museum exhibitions and research projects through collaborative, creative methods.

**John Wedgwood Clarke** is a poet and creative writing professor at the University of Exeter with a strong interest in the relationship between the human species impact on landscapes and the way nature responds. His work tends to focus on damaged and overlooked sites (e.g. his 2017 collection Landfill), where biodiversity thrives in unexpected ways. He takes an interdisciplinary approach to project work and often collaborates with other artists and scientists. You can read more about his recently completed project about a mine-waste polluted river at [www.redriverpoetry.com](http://www.redriverpoetry.com). His latest work focus on the cultural significance of bogs and their ecological complexity.

**Rose Ferraby** is an artist and archaeologist whose work often explores our relationships with landscape through time. She's interested in materials and how processes of making can create new understandings of place, from stone in deep quarries to wood in ancient monuments. Her creative work spans printmaking and collage, sound, film and writing to find ways of engaging the public imagination with landscapes and sites that are hidden or invisible. She is using this approach on nature recovery projects in the UK, working particularly with peatlands. You can explore her work online: [www.roseferraby.com](http://www.roseferraby.com)



Image credit: Rose Ferraby