ProSaDi
Provenienz- und Sammlungsforschung Digital

Call for Participation
Workshop
Cowrie Shells and Critical Fabulation – Collaborative Narratives in and out of the Archive

04.-05.03.2027, Oldenburg

We warmly invite you to participate in our collaborative and reflective workshop focused on sensitive heritage held at the *Landesmuseum Natur und Mensch Oldenburg* as part of a research project on cowrie shells.

During the workshop, participants will be granted access to a selection of cultural belongings, most of which were taken in colonial contexts, primarily from Tanzania. Together, we will examine catalogue records, provenance data, and archival descriptions to identify gaps, biases, and missing perspectives within museum documentation.

Drawing on Saidiya Hartman's concept of critical fabulation, we will engage with the limits of institutional records, which are often incomplete, silent, or shaped by colonial perspectives. Reflecting on these archival absences, participants will have the opportunity to creatively imagine possible histories, meanings, contexts, and trajectories.

Confirmed guest speakers are **Alma Simba** (Justus Liebig University Gießen) and **Matthew Hansen** (SAVVY Contemporary, Berlin). The programme further includes tickets for the performances of the artists **Khaleb Brooks** and **Ludomir Franczak** at the *Spielraum* of the State Theatre in Oldenburg on 4th March. Both artists will also take part in the workshop.

The workshop is open to anyone interested in critically engaging with colonial history, archives, creative curation, and/or with an interest in cowries. The main language will be English, but we can help with translations in German if needed. Spaces are limited to 20 participants.

To sign up for the workshop, please send an email stating briefly why you would like to participate to Louise Adams (kontakt@prosadi.de) by 1st December 2026.

www.prosadi.de

Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg

landesmuseum oldenburg natur und mensch

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