



WORKSHOP ON THE NOTION OF 'FAKE & REAL'

in Ancient and Modern Societies

Leiden, 15-16 March 2018

Call for Contributions

ABSTRACT | As an interdisciplinary Research Training Group (RTG) of Ph.D. Candidates and PostDocs in Archaeology and Cultural Anthropology from Frankfurt we are discussing concepts of value and equivalence. Our upcoming workshop in Leiden shall explore archaeological and anthropological perspectives on the phenomenon of **Fake (and the notion of Real) in ancient and modern societies – objects, contexts, and practices.**

Four panels covering each a particular topic shall explore notions of 'Fake (and Real)': Case studies and theoretical debate will initiate podium discussions. We aim to offer space for an exchange of ideas about 'Fake/ Real' in the interdisciplinary framework of Archaeology, Cultural Anthropology and Museum Studies. We encourage participants to contribute work in progress and raise incentive questions/ present open problems suitable for debate. This workshop is communicative; we look forward to fruitful discussions. **Apply now with your case study and to debate with us!**

COOPERATION FRANKFURT - LEIDEN

Our Workshop is a cooperation between the Frankfurt-based RTG 'Value and Equivalence' and Leiden University/ Museums. We will bring MA/ Ph.D. students from Frankfurt and Dutch Universities together in a joint round of discussions for an exchange of ideas. Our partners in Leiden are Mariana De Campos Francozo (Museum Studies; Anthropology of Material Culture), Ruurd Halbertsma (RMO, Museum Archaeology), Martin Berger (Museum of World Cultures) and David Fontijn (Archaeology).

DATE & LOCATION: 15 – 16 March 2018 in Leiden

The workshop is embedded into the official curriculum of Museum Studies at Leiden University (block 3).

Case studies and vivid discussionists wanted!

We welcome **impulse talks** (presentations of case study/ material) of **max. 15 minutes** length by MA/ Ph.D. students or early career researchers from Archaeology (any period), Cultural Anthropology, Museum Studies or related fields like Conservation. The focus is on objects and practices. Alternatively, you can announce us your wish to participate as a discussionist. Presenters of case studies participate automatically in their panel's debate, but you can get involved without presenting a case study (application as a **discussionist**).

PROGRAMME & PANEL MATTERS

Working language is English.

OPENING LECTURE: *defining the concept of Fake, which is basically a product of Western perception - versus cultural anthropological perspectives (by Dr Martin Berger, Museum of World Cultures/ Leiden)*

Podium Discussions - Key Topics:

- **Panel 1: Fake - Copy - Imitation**
- **Panel 2: Replica in Research and Museums**
- **Panel 3: Material**
- **Panel 4: Customs - Practices - Rituals**

1) Fake – Copy – Imitation

Some say we are currently living in an 'age of copy' – but what do notions like fake, real, copy, counterfeit, reproduction, imitation and original really mean when we describe societies of the present or the past, their material cultures and practices? Do they apply, has their attribution changed over time – or should we change it or our views? Archaeology and cultural anthropology can benefit from further exploring the notion of fake and real for a reassessment: a critical survey of established terminology, concepts and interpretations can potentially uncover judgments of value which are no longer authoritative. We would like to discuss this in our first panel.

2) Replica and Forgeries in Research and Museums

Replica and forgeries both are copies of original objects. The difference lies in the motivation behind their production – replica are legal copies whose nature is verifiable, while forgeries claim to be authentic originals and sometimes even fool experts and museum curators. How do museums deal with objects which turn out to be a forgery? What impact do forgeries have on research – do they damage the reputation of the humanities, and if so: how can we cope with that? Regarding exhibition practice, ethics play a role. How problematic is it that museums and exhibitions don't always mark replica as such on public display?

3) Material

Attributing authenticity to materials or disclaiming it is a cultural process: material is always 'real' regarding materiality, but its quality can be perceived as fake or real according to the specific set of values of the society dealing with it. Sometimes fake objects have a positive connotation and are attributed value, in other contexts similar or even the same kind of objects can be perceived as negative in relation to their material. Under which conditions and in which context are 'fake materials' considered as valuable or worthless? Who is in power of that definition?

4) Customs, Practices, and Rituals

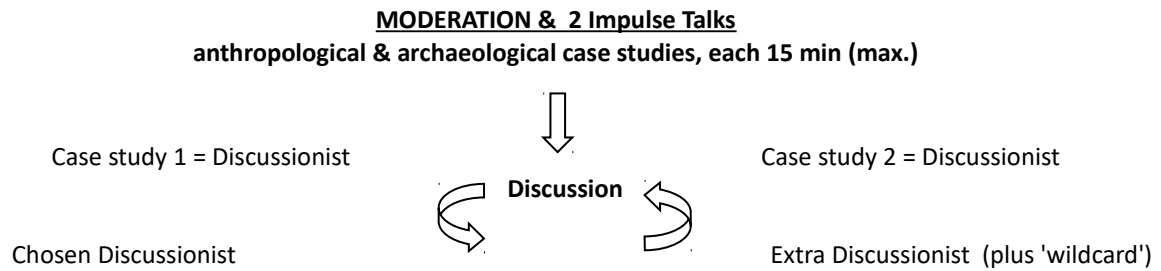
This panel examines how concepts of 'fake and real' are implemented by people performing customs, practices, and rituals in antiquity and modern times. Case studies shall investigate how objects and performances compose and reinforce such concepts. When is a practice seen as fake and when as real? What can be possible motivations behind the 'faking' of practices? Are deliberate processes at work? Examples could be the use of substitutes or masks during ritual performances, the destruction and deposition of artifacts in a specific environment and context – and our attempted interpretation of the traces and patterns of such customs, practices or rituals.

Please submit your application (abstract, short CV) **by Thursday 15th February 2018**

via e-mail to: workshop.fake.real@gmail.com

We are looking forward to your proposals!

SCHEME OF DISCUSSION ROUND: for each panel



- **Session chair** gives introduction to panel topic, moderation
- **Impulse talks:** two Early Career Researchers present a case study (15 min each)
- **Discussionists:** selected PostDocs/ PhD/ MA students
- Additional discussionist (**Wildcard**)

➤ **Interdisciplinary approach**

contrasting and complementary perspectives: Archaeology/ Anthropology/ Museum Studies

➤ **PARTICIPATION**

- **4 Session chairs** (Leiden/ Frankfurt) – by invitation
- **8 Impulse Talks** (mostly case studies)
- **Discussionists** – by application, limited number

CONTACT

Workshop Team 'Fake & Real'

Silke Hahn MA, Lanah Haddad MA, Réka Mascher-Frigyesi MA

e-mail: workshop.fake.real@gmail.com

Research Training Group 'VALUE & EQUIVALENCE' | Goethe University Frankfurt | Campus Westend
Norbert-Wollheim-Platz 1 | D-60629 Frankfurt/Main | GERMANY | +49 (0)69 798 32292 | value-and-equivalence.de



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