

David R. Odo

Director of Student Programs
Research Curator of University Collections Initiatives
Harvard Art Museums
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SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

Dynamic museum professional with over nine years of experience in university art museums, a demonstrated record of innovative thinking, interdisciplinary teaching, respected scholarship, passionate mentoring, committed service, and successful implementation of new programs. Committed to leveraging the combined strengths of a world-class museum and university to foster an equitable and inclusive environment for students, visitors, and colleagues.

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Transdisciplinary Teaching with Collections, History of Collecting, Critical Museology; History of Photography, Materiality of Photographs, Photography and Coloniality; Japan, Asia, Oceania.

DEGREES

D.Phil., Social and Cultural Anthropology, St Antony's College, University of Oxford, 2004

Thesis: The Edge of the Field of Vision: defining "Japaneseness" and the image archive of the Ogasawara Islands.

M.Phil. (Distinction), Ethnology and Museum Ethnography, St Antony's College, University of Oxford, 1999

Dissertation: Visualizing the islands: visuality and representations of the Ogasawara Islands.

A.B., East Asian Languages and Cultures, Columbia College, Columbia University, 1989

Major coursework in East Asian history, literature, anthropology, and Japanese language.

MUSEUM AND ACADEMIC POSITIONS

**Director of Student Programs and Research Curator of University Collections Initiatives
Harvard Art Museums, Cambridge, MA, April 2014 – present**

Teach with the comprehensive collections of the Harvard Art Museums, working closely with colleagues from all divisions of the museums and faculty from across the university to provide students from a diverse range of disciplines and identities with opportunities to explore the collections outside of the formal curriculum. Oversee the Graduate Student Teacher program, which trains students from the Harvard Graduates School of Education to teach high school students from the Cambridge Rindge and Latin School with the museums' collections, and the undergraduate Student Guide program, which teaches Harvard College students to develop tours for museum visitors. Work with community audiences via student programs to enhance the museum's public outreach efforts. Work with other Harvard-owned collections to enrich teaching and research activities at HAM.

Lecturer and Instructor

**Department of Anthropology, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, January 2008 – June 2010;
Spring 2015 – present (occasional) and Museum Studies Program, Harvard Extension School**

Teach courses using museum collections on Japanese visual and material culture; the body; pain, suffering, and empathy; global photography; and material anthropology to undergraduate and graduate students.

Bradley Assistant Curator of Academic Affairs

Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, CT, July 2010 – March 2014

Developed interdisciplinary Yale course collaborations to promote teaching and learning from the Gallery's collection, especially in departments that have not traditionally used works of art in their curricula. Taught full courses and collections-based sessions to undergraduate, graduate, and professional students, and conduct workshops for faculty and teaching fellows. Managed student internship and fellowship programs.

Visiting Associate Professor

National Museum of Ethnology/Graduate University of Advanced Studies, Osaka, Japan, October 2009 – January 2010

Conducted preliminary research on public uses of history, cultural museums and cultural tourism to three "peripheral" regions of Japan (Ogasawara Islands, Okinawa and Hokkaido); served as consultant to professors and museum staff on teaching university courses using museum objects (modeled on my Harvard courses); explored future exhibition projects.

RESEARCH POSITIONS

Research Affiliate

Pitt Rivers Museum, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK, 2018 – present.

Collaborate with Oxford and other colleagues on various research projects. (Non-stipendary.)

Research Collaborator

National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, May 2009 – April 2012

Conduct research on Smithsonian collections in collaboration with Dr. Joshua Bell, Curator of Globalization. Current project: Photographs by American women travelers in Asia in the early twentieth century. (Non-stipendary.)

Visiting Curator/Associate of the Museum

Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, May 2007 – June 2010

Conduct research on museum collections for use in the classroom and publication; curated exhibition on photograph collections. (Non-stipendary.)

Manfred and Hanna Heiting Fellow

Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, the Netherlands, October 2006 – April 2007

Conducted research on photographs of 1880s Japan; research published 2008. Full fellowship support provided by the Heiting fund.

Postdoctoral Fellow

Freer Gallery of Art/Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, July 2005 – September 2006

Conducted research on the Rosin Collection of Early Japanese Photographs; presented research

findings at museum seminar. Full fellowship support provided by the Smithsonian Institution Fellowship Program.

Postdoctoral Fellow

Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, July 2004 – June 2005

Conducted supplemental research for book manuscript in progress, *The Edge of the Field of Vision: defining “Japaneseness” and the image archive of the Ogasawara Islands*. Full fellowship support provided by the Reischauer Institute.

Monbusho (Ministry of Education) Research Fellow

University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan, October 1999 – March 2001

Conducted doctoral fieldwork in the Ogasawara Islands; research on early Japanese photography, Japanese colonialism, and related topics; seminar member in Japanese cultural resources studies department. Full fellowship support provided by the Ministry of Education (Japan).

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

MONOGRAPHS/MANUSCRIPTS

The Journey of “A Good Type”: from artistry to ethnography in early Japanese photographs, Cambridge: Peabody Museum Press/Harvard University, 2015.

Unknown Japan: reconsidering nineteenth-century photographs, Rijksmuseum Studies in Photography, V. 4, Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, 2008.

The Edge of the Field of Vision: defining Japaneseness and the image archive of the Ogasawara Islands (in preparation).

JOURNAL ARTICLES/CHAPTERS IN BOOKS

“Reflections on Teaching with Objects out of Context.” In *Putting Theory and Things Together: Working with Museum Collections*, edited by Joshua Bell and Jennifer Shannon, Smithsonian Institution, forthcoming.

“Curating ‘A Good Type’.” In *Uncertain Images: Museums and the Work of Photographs*, edited by Elizabeth Edwards and Sigrid Lien. Surrey, England: Ashgate, 2014.

“Expeditionary Photographs of the Ogasawara Islands, 1875-1876.” In *History of Photography*, London: Taylor and Francis, May 2009.

Introductory Essay, Photography in Colonial Asia Special Issue. *International Institute for Asian Studies Newsletter*, Leiden and Amsterdam, Summer 2007.

“Photographing the Ogasawara Islands: thinking with nineteenth-century photographs of Japan.” *International Institute for Asian Studies Newsletter*, Leiden and Amsterdam, 2006.

“Constructing the Self as Other: early Japanese tourist images.” In *Oxford Companion to the Photograph*, edited by Robin Lenman. Oxford: OUP, 2005.

“Anthropological Boundaries and Photographic Frontiers: J.H. Green’s visual language of salvage.” In

Burma: Frontier Photographs 1918-1935: The James Henry Green Collection, edited by Elizabeth Dell. London: Merrell, 2000.

JOURNALS (EDITING)

Founding Editorial Board Member, *Trans-Asia Photography Review*. Features photo essays and peer-reviewed articles on historical and contemporary Asian photography, 2008 - present.

Guest Editor, Photography in Colonial Asia Special Issue of the *International Institute for Asian Studies Newsletter*, Leiden and Amsterdam, Summer 2007.

BOOK REVIEWS

Review of Christopher Pinney, *Photography and Anthropology*, In *History of Photography*, Volume 37, Number 3, 2013.

Review of Rosalind Morris, ed., *Photographies East: The Camera and Its Histories in East and Southeast Asia*, in *International Journal of Asian Studies*, Volume 8, Number 1, July 2011.

Review of Christopher Pinney and Nicholas Peterson, eds., *Photography's Other Histories*, in *Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History*, Volume 6, Number 2, Fall 2005.

SELECTED ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

ANNUAL MEETINGS

“Place, Image, Identity: Nagasawa Shinichiro’s photographs of the Ogasawara (Bonin) Islands,”
Twenty-Fifth Annual Japan Studies Association Conference, Honolulu, HI, January 2019

“The ‘Deep Local’ Comes to Campus: the global flow of contemporary indigenous art from Australia at the Harvard Art Museums,” American Anthropology Association, San Jose, CA, November 2018.

“Craft: Contestation, Adaptation and Resistance,” Discussant, American Anthropology Association, San Jose, CA, November 2018.

“New Curatorial and Teaching Practice at the Harvard Art Museums,” 18th IAUES World Congress, Florianopolis, Brazil, July 2018.

“Roundtable in honor of Elizabeth Edwards,” co-chair, American Anthropology Association, Minneapolis, November 2016.

“Anthropology in the Art Museum,” American Anthropological Association, Chicago, November 2013.

“Interdisciplinary Teaching with Collections: Academic Collaborations at the Yale University Art Gallery,” American Anthropological Association, San Francisco, November 2012.

“Foreigners” or “Pioneer Settlers?” Non-Japanese subjects in early Japanese postcards of the Ogasawara Islands, Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Honolulu, April 2011.

“Transforming 19th-century Tourist Photographs of Japan into Anthropological Data.”

Anthropology's Unknown Asias, Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Chicago, March 2009 and Society for East Asian Anthropology of the American Anthropological Association, Taipei, Taiwan, July 2009 (paper read in Taipei by panelist Robert Oppenheim).

“Colonizing the Islands: national boundaries and photographic frontiers.” *Photography in Qing China and Meiji Japan*, Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Boston, March 2007.

SELECTED UNIVERSITY AND MUSEUM COLLOQUIA, SYMPOSIA AND PUBLIC LECTURES

“From Artistry to Ethnography in Early Japanese Photographs.” Center for Japanese Studies, University of Hawaii, Manoa, January 2019

“Early Japanese Photography.” The Pacific Club, Honolulu, HI, January 2019.

“Pain, Suffering, and Empathy in the Art Museum.” Museum of Anthropology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, February 2018.

“National Boundaries and Photographic Frontiers: early Meiji photographs of the Ogasawara Islands.” *Photography • Modernity • Japan—写真・モダニティ・日本*. University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, February 2018.

“Academic and Student Programs at the Harvard Art Museums.” New Roles of University Museums in Higher and Public Education, National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan, November 2017.

“Teaching with Photographs at the Harvard Art Museums.” Lecture presented with Laura Muir, Salted Paper Print Symposium, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, September 2017.

“Students at the Center: The Graduate Student Teacher Internship Program at the Harvard Art Museums.” IVLA Conference, Designing Visual Literacy Experiences, Lesley University, Cambridge, MA, September 2017.

“Students at the Center: Education at the Harvard Art Museums.” Keynote address at *Capacity through Culture – The Role of Culture in Education and Research*, University of Lund, Sweden, May 2017.

“The urban reveal: picturing the city in souvenir photographs of Meiji Japan.” Lecture at Asian Cities: Hubs of Interaction, Tradition and Transformation symposium, University of Tokyo, Japan, January 2017.

“From Artistry to Ethnography in Early Japanese Photographs.” Lecture at University of Missouri, Saint Louis, February 2016.

“Souvenir, Art, or Anthropology? Early hand-colored photographs of Japan from the collections of the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology.” Lecture at the Peabody Museum, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, September 2015

“Regarding Difficult Images.” Disaster and Vision panel, Shashin Symposium, New York, NY, April 2015.

“Ethnography and Photography” and “Photograph as Archive: Chansonetta Stanley Emmons” sessions for *Photography in Focus Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Faculty Workshop*, Bowdoin College Museum of Art, Colby College Museum of Art, May 2015.

“Rigorous Engagement: students at the center of the new Harvard Art Museums.” Paper presented at *Thinking with Collections* conference, Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford, June 2015.

Invited lectures regarding various aspects of my research on early Japanese photographs, visual anthropology and colonial history presented in October 2011 (Hampshire College, Massachusetts), April 2010 (McGill University, Montreal, Canada), February 2010 (Princeton University), December 2009 (International Christian University, Tokyo, Japan), and October 2009 (National Museum of Ethnology, Osaka, Japan).

“Transcending Intentions: early Japanese photographs at the intersection of science and souvenir.” Visiting Scholar Public Lecture, Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, University of Oregon, May 2009.

“Fieldwork in the Archives: new understandings of 19th-century photographs of Japan.” Invited lecture, Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, Washington, DC, February 2009.

“Souvenir Photographs and the Anthropological Gaze: New understandings of 19th-century photographs of Japan.” Invited lecture, Duke University, Department of Art, Art History, and Visual Studies, January 2009.

“‘A Good Type’: Curating an Exhibition of Early Japanese Photographs.” Harvard University, September 2007.

“Between Tourist Souvenir and Sojourner Memento: a nuanced view of Meiji-era photograph albums of Japan.” Public lecture, Rijksmuseum/University of Amsterdam, Netherlands, April 2007.

“Selling Pictures of ‘Japan’: photographic practice, cultural heritage and nation building in the Meiji era.” *Research Seminar*, Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, April 2006.

“Japan’s Others: the early anthropological photography of Torii Ryuzo.” *Revisiting the History of Visual Anthropology*, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK, September 2005.

“An Ethnography of Photography: defining ‘Japaneseness’ in the Ogasawara (Bonin) Islands.” *Japan Forum*, Harvard University, Cambridge, April 2005.

“Cultural Diversity in the Ogasawara Islands.” *Museums and Heritage Agencies in Multicultural Societies*, National Museum of Ethnology, Leiden, Netherlands, November 2004.

SELECTED ADDITIONAL TEACHING PRESENTATIONS

WORKSHOPS

“Academic and Co-Curricular Engagement at the College Art Museum: The View from Harvard” (public lecture) and “Engaging with the Art Museum: The Classroom and Beyond” (workshop for students, faculty, and museum staff), Mead Museum of Art, Amherst College, Amherst, MA, April 2017.

Workshops for undergraduate students (researching collections of photographs) and faculty (teaching with photographs) at Colgate University, Hamilton, NY, March 2016.

“In Focus: Teaching with Photographs.” Mellon Foundation Workshop for faculty at Bowdoin College and Colby College, Brunswick and Waterville, ME, May 2015.

SELECTED GUEST LECTURES

“Early Japanese Photographs in the Harvard Art Museums’ Collection.” Lecture for *Japanese Print Culture* (taught by Alice Tseng), Boston University, Harvard Art Museums, Cambridge, MA, February 2019.

“Early Japanese Photography.” Lecture for *Japan: Print Media* (taught by Ignacio Adriasola), University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, February 2018.

“Thinking with Photographs” and “Curating Photographs.” Visiting Scholar Lectures for *Arts and Visual Literacy* (taught by Phaedra Livingstone), University of Oregon (Eugene), May 2009.

“Visual Anthropology and Visual Studies.” Lecture for *Theories of Visual Studies* (taught by Jennifer Weisenfeld), Capstone Seminar for Visual Studies, Duke University, January 2009.

“Charley Longfellow’s Japanese Objects.” Lecture at the Longfellow House (National Park Service), Cambridge, MA, for the Harvard University history course, *Confronting Objects/Interpreting Culture: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on North America* (taught by Laurel Thatcher Ulrich and Ivan Gaskell), November 2008.

“Ethnography and Photography: a case study in the Ogasawara (Bonin) Islands.” Anthropology Course (taught by J.G.G.M. Kleinen), University of Amsterdam, Netherlands, November 2006.

CURATORIAL TALKS

“Art Study Center Seminar: Early Photographs of Japan.” Harvard Art Museums, Cambridge, MA, September, 2018.

Gave numerous gallery talks relating to my exhibition, “*A Good Type*”: *tourism and science in early Japanese photographs*, to Harvard undergraduate and graduate classes, from Anthropology, Art History and Expository Writing; gave several talks to students and faculty from other universities, October 2007 – April 2008.

CURATORIAL EXPERIENCE

EXHIBITIONS

From Artistry to Ethnography in Early Japanese Photographs

CGIS South Building, Japan Friends of Harvard Concourse, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA June 22 – September 27, 2015

Neolithic Chinese Vessels

Harvard Art Museums, University Study Gallery, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA May – August 2015

Visiting Curator

Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, May 2007 – June 2011

Curated exhibition, “*A Good Type*”: *tourism and science in early Japanese photographs*, October 2007 – April 2008. Secured outside funding for this exhibit, which offered a critical re-examination of Japanese photography. Conducted research, selected photographs, and wrote all exhibition text; managed exhibition team, working closely with design, marketing, archival, conservation, and other museum departments; organized lecture series in conjunction with exhibit; conducted gallery tours for Harvard and outside students and general public; gave exhibit-related guest lectures in Harvard classes. Reviewed by area newspapers and in an essay in *Afterimage*, Volume 36, Number 6 (2009).

Co-curator

Pitt Rivers Museum, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK, 1998

Co-curated *Going Home: Continuity and Change in Mongolia*. Worked with photographer Barbara Hind to exhibit her contemporary photographs of urbanization and its impact on rural life in Mongolia. Exhibit traveled to Trinity House, Leicester, UK. Supervised by Elizabeth Edwards.

Co-curator

Pitt Rivers Museum, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK, 1997

Co-curated *Women’s Lives: Photographs by Beatrice Blackwood in the Solomon Islands*. Examined lives of women in the Solomon Islands through Blackwood’s fieldwork photographs from 1929-1930. Supervised by Elizabeth Edwards.

SELECTED ADDITIONAL GRANTS, DISTINCTIONS AND AFFILIATIONS

Committee Work, Harvard Art Museums, 2014 – present.

Board Member, Council for Museum Anthropology, American Anthropological Association, 2018 – present.

National Advisory Panel Member, Summer Institute in Museum Anthropology, Department of Anthropology, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC. 2018 – present.

International Advisory Board Member, Lifelong Labs, Hong Kong, 2018 – present.

Full Committee Member, Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies, Harvard University, Cambridge, July 2015 – present.

Associate in Research, Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies, Harvard University, Cambridge, 2005 – 2014.

Affiliated Fellow, International Institute for Asian Studies, Amsterdam, Netherlands, 2005; 2006 – 2007.

Japan Foundation Research Grant, Endowment Committee, 2003.

Dr. Chun-tu Hsueh Research and Travel Award, University of Oxford, 2003.

Sasakawa Fund Research Grant, University of Oxford, 1998, 2000, 2003. **Distinction**, awarded for

M.Phil. degree, University of Oxford, 1999.

Philip Bagby Studentship in Social Anthropology, Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Oxford, 1998 – 2000.

Blakemore Foundation Grant, Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies, Yokohama, Japan, 1999.

University of Oxford Committee for Graduate Studies Grant for Special Research Purposes, 1998 – 1999.

Graduated first in class, Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies, Yokohama, Japan, 1989.

Stanford University Language Grant, Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies, Yokohama, Japan, 1988 – 1989.

SELECTED ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Producer

Nippon Television (NTV) News Bureau, Washington, DC, 2001 – 2002

Produced and researched news stories on US and international events, especially US policy in the aftermath of 9/11; interviewed government officials and area experts in English and Japanese; coordinated domestic and international travel and technical logistics for news team.

Producer, Director, General Sales Manager

KIKU TV/JN Productions, Honolulu, Hawaii, 1990 – 1997

Produced, wrote, and directed television advertising and programming; coordinated location news production for Japanese network clients; voice-over and on-camera work; managed advertising team and marketed advertising and production services to media agencies and individual businesses; high degree of client interaction, including cold-calling potential advertisers and presenting marketing plans to local and national advertising agencies.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Museums and Heritage Agencies in Multicultural Societies, International Institute for Asian Studies master class, National Museum of Ethnology, Leiden, Netherlands, 2004.

Advanced Intensive Japanese for Professionals, Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies, Yokohama, Japan, 1999.

Advanced Intensive Study of Japanese, Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies, Yokohama, Japan, 1988 – 1989