

Europeanizing museums between local and transnational levels



Prof. Dr. Stefan Krankenhagen
University of Hildesheim
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EXHIBITING EUROPE IN MUSEUMS

Transnational Networks, Collections, Narratives and Representations



WOLFRAM KAISER, STEFAN KRANKENHAGEN
& KERSTIN POEHL

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The Question Europe

- In how far is Europe an actor to transform the collections and exhibitions of existing museums?
- Which objects are selected to represent which European history, and how these then circulate?
- What master narratives of the history of (European) integrations are developed, which then compete for attention with each other, and with existing national and existing regional narratives?
- How are the discursive and material boundaries of “Europe” defined through museal representation?

Regions: Autonomy, Identity, Memory

- Regional museums find a transnational-European aspect useful in modernising long-established and introverted discourses;
- Regional museums are also employed to integrate different, or even contrasting, regional cultures of memory;
- Links to Europe and European integration can also serve to moderate historical ethnic conflicts through museal means;
- Some frontier regions use their museums to narrate co-operation and “friendship”, with obvious European connotations;
- Strategies for museal representation of regional history and identity can serve to shore up fragile legal and political autonomy.