

Giovanna Vitelli, PhD, MCIfA
Head of Curatorial and Research

The Hunterian, University of Glasgow
giovanna.vitelli@glasgow.ac.uk

Recent Appointments

2019- **The Hunterian, University of Glasgow**
 Head of Curatorial and Research

As a member of the Senior Leadership team, I contribute to strategic planning and operations, with responsibility for academic engagement and research and curatorial content development and stakeholder partnerships for provenance research and repatriation. I am responsible for direct line management of 10 staff, Grades 7-8.

Leadership

- Hunterian Strategic Advisory Board – Academic Liaison
- Head of Research – collections based, interdisciplinary and cross-university partnerships
- Member, College of Arts Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee (RKEC)

Programming and Museum practice

- Hunterian repatriation and return programme: senior team member
- Practice research methodologies: coordinator for University partnerships
- Co-Head, Collections Development Group (CDG) with oversight of acquisitions, loans, sampling and disposals

Research and Teaching

- Lead management / coordination of Hunterian academic teaching and research
- Lead for REF-related university partnerships on Impact Case Studies
- Active research and publishing profile in museum-based practice research, transdisciplinary method and theory

People

- Strategic planning, values-based leadership implementation
- EDI-led focus on well-being, team working and professional skills development
- Ongoing team sessions with community stakeholders to foster more inclusive cross-collections programming
- Development of performance and professional support structure using mentoring, coaching, PDRs

2012-2018 **Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford**
 Director, University Engagement Programme (UEP)

From this new post, I launched and developed an internationally recognised programme to promote the academic use of museum collections across the university, with a \$2.1m (£1.6m) grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Staff of 7 (Grades 3-8).

Leadership

- Created a vision and strategy to position the UEP as a teaching, mentoring and knowledge hub for cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural community partnerships
- Organised the first GLAM Teaching Forum in 2018, advocating and building the evidence base for recognition of Oxford museums' academic potential and collections assets
- Established regular channels of communication with University stakeholders, Trustee Boards, Senior Management and key decision makers, to advocate for museum relevance to the university mission

Teaching and academic partnerships

- Led the UEP team with new cross-disciplinary teaching partnerships as a sub-faculty member in History of Art, Anthropology, History, English Literature and Said Business School
- Teaching focus on European 18th and 19th c. decorative arts: ceramics, glass, textile, silver, works on paper
- Created the Ashmolean Faculty Fellowships in 2015 to lower barriers to collections use.
- Launched an online Project Portal bringing together curators, students and art practitioners, focusing on the intersect of research and public engagement for the temporary exhibitions programme
- Oxford Teaching Excellence Award (2015)

External engagement

- International conference contributor, panelist or keynote across Europe and North America
- Led seminars, workshops and/or teaching sessions in over 15 higher education/heritage institutions/museums across the world, including Australia, Sweden, Canada, Germany and Italy
- Published (2014, 2015, 2016, 2020, 2023) on innovative method and theory

Digital

- Founder member, *Cabinet*, Oxford's online learning platform for cross-disciplinary study of texts and objects
- OXTalent Award 2017 for digital innovation on Cabinet project (Cabinet team)

2011-2012 **University of Maryland, St Mary's College, USA.**
Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology

2009-2011 **Université Laval, Québec City, CA.**
CELAT Chercheure/Research Fellow, Centre de recherches Cultures – Arts– Société.

Selected Private Sector Appointments (pre-2009)

British Museum. Launched first BM Development Trust for private sector philanthropy

University of Oxford 'Campaign for Oxford'. Head of Individual Giving. First major capital campaign, which raised £340m

City of London:

Financial Services Authority (FSA) authorised person

Vice President/Client Manager: Merrill Lynch Europe, Lazards, Kidder Peabody, Bank of America

Co-Founder and Partner, Gargoyle Partners LLP 2002-2005 (financial advisory firm)

Education

PhD., University of Reading UK, Faculty of Science. Archaeology

University of Oxford, UK. Magdalen College, Tavella-Stewart Postgraduate Scholarship

Graduate Diploma, Architectural Association School of Architecture, London. Conservation

A.B., Harvard University, Cambridge MA. Anthropology

Cert.Dip., City University, London. Accounting and Finance

Service

- UMAC Vice-Chair, 2022-25 ICOM-UMAC. (University Museums and Collections)
- Editorial Contributor, *UMAC Journal*, 2022-
- Trustee of the Dalrymple Lectures, University of Glasgow 2019 -
- Trustee and Treasurer, M L McIntyre National Begonia Trust 2022 –
- Treasurer, Scottish Pottery Museum Community Board 2025 -

Selected Recent Publications/Digital Outreach

Chapters in Edited Volumes

- 2024 Vitelli, G. “European museum collections and knowledge co-production: developing a praxis”, in Kreps, C. and C. Hodge, eds., *Pragmatic Imagination and the New Museum Anthropology*, London, Bloomsbury Press, 206-227.
- 2020 Vitelli, G. "The University's Museum. Towards Integration, Alignment and Access." In Keller-Drescher, L. and E. Kluth, eds., *Transferzonen - Universität | Sammlung | Öffentlichkeit. Dokumentation der 11. Sammlungstagung | 8. Jahrestagung der Gesellschaft für Universitätssammlung e.V.* 2019. Münster, Zentrale Kustodie der WWU, 15-21.
- 2015 Vitelli, G. “Tradition and Inventiveness: Decolonising an ‘Indian’ Bell”. In S. Brown, A. Clarke and U. Frederick, eds. *Object Stories: Artefacts and Archaeologists*, Walnut Creek, CA: Left Coast Press, 71-76.

Monographs

- 2010 Vitelli, G. *Entering the Collections: A Critique and Overview of Québec City's Historical Collections as Community Resources*. Québec Ministry of Culture (MCCCF).

Journals, Social Media

- 2020 Peers, L. and G. Vitelli. “Teaching Anthropology with Museum Collections”, in *Teaching Anthropology (TAI). Learning Through Ethnography: Product, Process, Practice: Special Issue*. 9(1):74-81. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.22582/ta.v9i1>
- 2018 Vitelli, G. Review of Scott, E.M. (Ed.) 2017, *Archaeological Perspectives on the French in the New World*, in *Post-Medieval Archaeology* 52(3), 433-34.
- 2017-2019 [The Powhatan Mantle Facebook Group](#), created to bridge between descendant communities of the Chesapeake Bay, US, and specialist forensic/academic research on the Powhatan Mantle (17th c. ancestor). 500+ mainly Indigenous community members at peak.
- 2016 Williams, A. and G. Vitelli. “Polite Science and the Uses of Objects”. *Romantic Textualities* XV. [Blog](#)
- 2015 Vitelli, G. “One Object, Many Meanings: Narratives in the University Museum”. In L. Meijer-van Mensch and A. Mac Devitt, eds., *ICOM Museum International. Museum Collections make Connections*. Vol 65, 257-260.

More detailed Conference and Publication information available on request