

# International Symposium “The Refuge of Objects / Objects of Refuge”

A Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz / Obama  
Institute for Transnational American Studies  
(JGU/OI), University of Delaware (UD) / Center  
for Material Culture Studies (CMCS), Winterthur  
Museum/Library Collaboration

The theme of the symposium is the material culture  
of “Refuge.” In view of recent political events and  
natural catastrophes that have displaced millions  
and created international humanitarian crises, this  
term has acquired a new sense urgency for students  
and teachers working in the fields related to material  
culture studies.

Definitions dating back to the great trans-Atlantic  
migrations of the seventeenth- and eighteenth centu-  
ries have characterized “refuge” in mostly spatio-pol-  
itical terms as insular settings of escape or privilege,  
as colonial enclaves or postnational territories, or as  
secular or sacred retreats.

Rather than rehearse the spatial premise of these  
terms, however, the aim of this symposium is to re-  
flect historically, methodologically, and theoretically  
on the material dimensions of “refuge,” that is, on the  
way in which objects generate or confound refuge, or  
accompany or encumber refugees, in short, the ma-  
teriality conditioning both the refuge and refugees.



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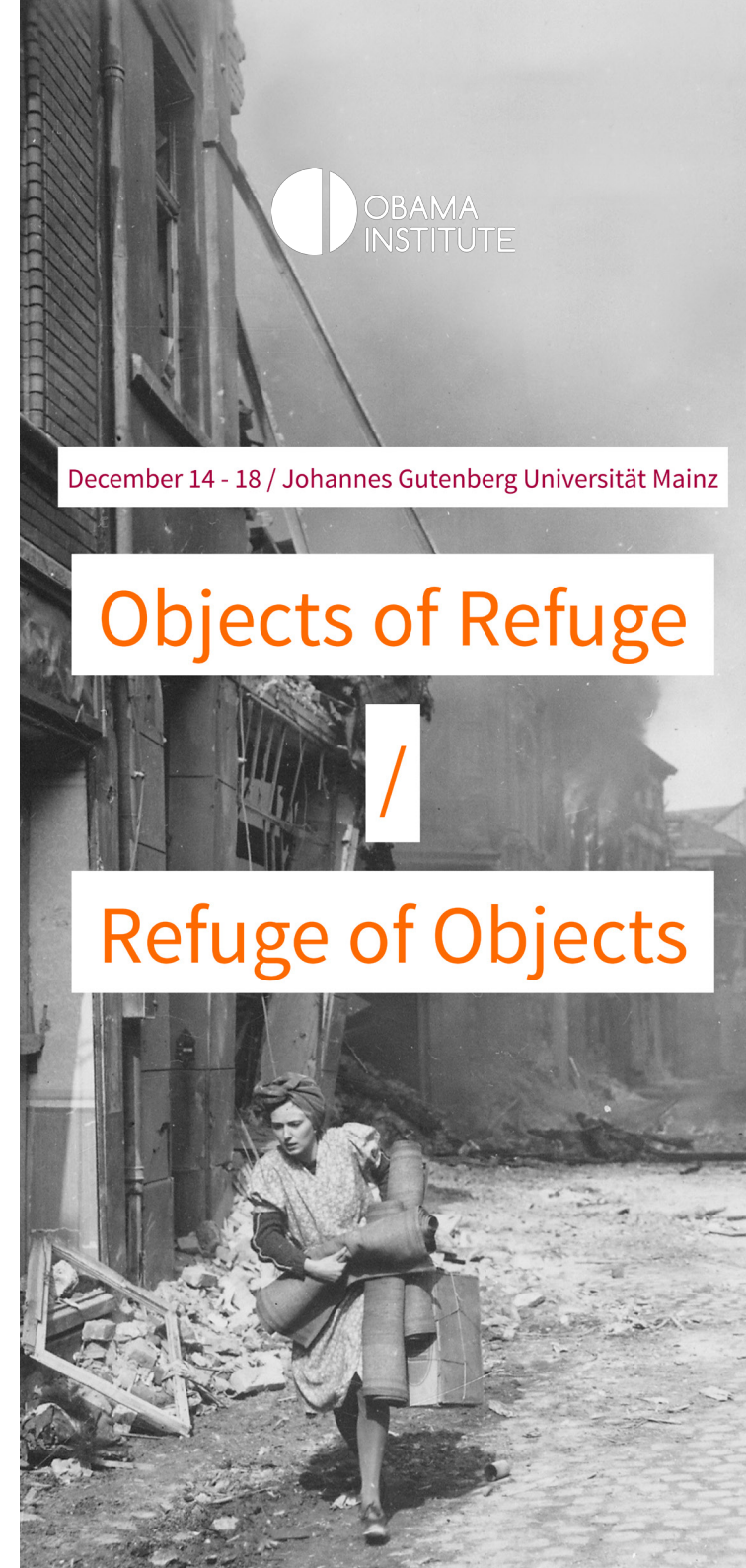


December 14 - 18 / Johannes Gutenberg Universität Mainz

Objects of Refuge



Refuge of Objects



## Thursday, December 15, 2016

### 8:30 Introduction

*Martin Brückner (CMCS) / Oliver Scheiding (JGU)*

### 9:00-10:30 PANEL 1: Fugitive Things/Refuge in Fugitivity

*Chair: Sandy Isenstadt*

- Michelle Everidge Anderson (History, UD), “Housing is More Than Shelter”: The Material Culture of Migration in the United States”
- Laura Helton (English and History, UD; Visiting Fellow, Center for Humanities & Information, Pennsylvania State University), “The Materiality of Absence: Slavery, Fugitivity, and the Making of African American Archives”
- Rebecca Sheppard and Catherine Morrissey (Center for Historic Architecture & Design, UD), “Landscapes of Refuge: Recovering the Materiality of Underground Railroad Landscapes in Delaware”

### 10:30-11:00 Coffee Break

### 11:00-12:30 PANEL 2: Things of Refuge

*Chair: Axel Schäfer*

- Natalie Wright (Center for Material Culture Studies, UD), “4,000 Miles Overseas: Interpreting Displaced Japanese Tsunami Debris in North America, 2011-2016”
- Siobhan Carroll (English, UD), “Objects of Play, Objects of Refuge”
- Jesse Kraft (History, UD), “The Money of Refuge: How It Survived the Transit”

### 12:30-13:30 Lunch

### 13:30-15:00 PANEL 3: Things and Transition

*Chair: Christopher Breu*

- Suncica Klaas (American Studies, Potsdam), “The Rule of the Ruler: Cartography, Autobiography, and (Post-) Humanitarianism”
- Kaila Schedeen (Art History, UD), “Seeking Hózhó: The Material Landscapes of Will Wilson’s AIR Weaves”
- Christian Berger / Clara Wörsdörfer (History of Art, Mainz), “Negotiating Materiality Through the Use of Elusive Materials in 1960s Art Practice”

### 15:00-15:30 Coffee Break

### 15:30 Keynote Lecture

*Introduction/Chair: Martin Brückner*

Catharine Dann Roeber (Winterthur Program in American Material Culture), “Material Culture Studies, Connoisseurship, Close Looking and More: An Historical Overview of Studying Stuff”

### 19:00 Dinner

## Friday, December 16, 2016

### 8:30 Coffee

### 9:00-10:30 PANEL 4: Religion and Moving Things

*Chair: Anja-Maria Bassimir*

- Michael Emmons (Preservation Studies, UD), “Inscribing Sanctuary: The Protection of Early American Buildings Through Apotropaic Symbols, Concealed Blessings, and Ritual Signatures, 1690-1920”
- Sarah Wasserman (English, UD), “Refuse, Refuge, Relic”
- Torsten Cress (Sociology, Mainz), “Witnessing Miracles, Organizing Experience: Things in Catholic Pilgrimage and the Role of Touch”

### 10:30-11:00 Coffee Break

### 11:00-12:30 PANEL 5: Migratory Letters and Prints

*Chair: Babette B. Tischleder*

- Alex Ames (History, UD), “‘The Quill is My Plow’: Religious Refuge, Reading, and Writing in German-Protestant Pennsylvania, ca. 1750-1850”
- Jana Hatakova, Johanna Seibert, Frank Newton (American Studies, Mainz), “(Re-)Reading Typographies: Generated Sentimental Spaces Through Nineteenth-Century Print”
- Allison M. Stagg (History of Art, FU Berlin), “A Foreigner and an Alien’: Caricature Prints in America and England, 1800-1900”

### 12:30-13:30 Lunch

### 13:30-15:00 PANEL 6: The Refuges of Print Culture

*Chair: Damien Schlarb*

- Alexandra Ward (Winterthur Program in American Material Culture), “Decoupage: A Refuge for Prints”
- Jessica Conrad (English, UD), “Bottling Death and Brewing Sanctuary in Temperance Literature and Reform”

### 15:00-15:30 Coffee Break

### 15:30-17:00 WORKSHOP

Julian Yates “Notes from a Material Culture Underground: Actor Network Theory and Early Modern Studies”

### 19:00 Dinner

## Saturday, December 17, 2016

### 8:30 Coffee

### 9:30-11:00 PANEL 7: Inanimate Objects as Life’s Refuge

*Chair: Oliver Scheiding*

- Kiersten Mounce (Art History, UD), “The Chaise San-dow, René Herbst, and Psychological Repose”
- Rosalie Hooper (Winterthur Program in American Material Culture), “The Complicated Lives of Inanimate Objects: A Case (Furniture) Study”
- Martin Brückner (English and Center for Material Culture Studies, UD). “Cartographic Transfers: American Mappery and the Refuge of Transitional Objects”

### 11:00-11:30 Coffee Break

### 11:30-13:30 ROUNDTABLE: The Refuge of Objects / Objects of Refuge

Participants: Christopher Breu (Illinois State University); Martin Brückner (CMCS/UD); Ryan Cordell (Boston); Sandy Isenstadt CMCS/ UD); Herbert Kalthoff (Soziologie, Mainz); Mark Noble (Atlanta), Oliver Scheiding (JGU/OI); Babette B. Tischleder (Göttingen)