

Laura-Edythe S. Coleman  
PhD MLIS BFA  
*Researcher, Professor, Presenter*

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## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Dr. Laura-Edythe Coleman is an American researcher and culture leader who bridges the fields of museum studies and information science to further our understanding of cultural institutions in society. She earned her Ph.D. in Information Science with a focus on Museum Informatics from Florida State University. Dr. Coleman is an Associate Professor and the Director of the pioneering Responsible Cultural Leadership Certificate Program. She previously held posts as a Director of the Arts Administration & Museum Leadership Graduate Program at Drexel University, lecturer for Museum Studies at Johns Hopkins University, and Information Science at Florida State University. Her areas of research and teaching include curatorial and museum studies, social justice and inclusion, political activism, cultural heritage informatics, research methods, and digital collections management. As a forward-thinking interdisciplinary researcher, she performs quantitative and qualitative studies and frequently forms research partnerships outside the museum and library fields. Dr. Coleman is a Fulbright Specialist in Library & Information Science. She is the Co-editor-in-chief for *Curator: The Museum Journal* and the Editor of the Special Issue: Museums' Response to War Crimes. Dr. Coleman is the author of the published books *Understanding and Implementing Inclusion in Museums* and *Curatorial Voice: The Gatekeeping of Culture*. As an internationally recognized expert in museums, Dr. Coleman frequently consults with museums. She presents and speaks at conferences, symposiums, and panels.

## **EDUCATION**

*Doctor of Philosophy*, (April 2016)

School of Information, College of Communication and Information, Florida State University.

Dissertation Title: *The Socially Inclusive Role of Curatorial Voice: A Qualitative Comparative Study of the Use of Gatekeeping Mechanisms and the Co-Creation of Identity in Museums*.

Dissertation Committee: Paul F. Marty (Chair), Melissa Gross, Michelle Kazmer, and Jennifer Koslow.

*Master of Science*, Library and Information Science, (August 2012)

School of Information, College of Communication and Information, Florida State University.

Concentration: Museum Informatics. Certificate: Information Architecture.

*Bachelor of Fine Arts*, Music Performance (August 1996), College of Fine Arts, University of Florida.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Authored Books**

Coleman, L.-E. (2025). *Curatorial Voice*. Taylor & Francis.

Coleman, L.-E. (2018). *Understanding & Implementing Inclusion in Museums*. Rowman & Littlefield

### **Invited Book Chapters**

Coleman, L.-E. & McLaughlin, H. (2024) Museum Studies for a Post-Pandemic World. The Next Evolution of Museum Studies: Museum Master Classes in Augmented and Virtual Reality.

Coleman, L.-E. & McLaughlin, H. (2021). 20th Century Museums, In *Libraries, Archives, Museums: Western Cultural Heritage Institutions Through the Ages*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.

### **Invited Journal Articles**

Coleman, L.-E., Fraser, J., & Doering, Z. D. (2022). Save the Ukrainian People First: They Carry their Culture in their Hearts. *Curator: The Museum Journal*, 65(S1), 5–14.

Coleman, L.-E. (2022). Official response to the Russian war crimes in Ukraine. *Curator: The Museum Journal*, 65(S1), 15–16.

Fraser, J., Coleman, L.-E., & Bennett, B. (2020). Neutrality is Not an Option, Museums Don't Need Left-over Statues. *Curator: The Museum Journal*, 63(3), 295–298.

Coleman, L.-E. (2020). The Necessity of Research Practice. *Curator: The Museum Journal*, 63(1), 9–13.

### **Invited Co-Editor-in-Chief**

Coleman, L.-E. (2025). *Curator: The Museum Journal*

### **Invited Journal Editor – Special Issue**

Coleman, L.-E. (Ed.). (2022). Museums' Response to War Crimes. *Curator: The Museum Journal*, 65(S1), 1–4.

### **Refereed Book Chapters**

Coleman, L.-E. & Moore, P. (2019). From the ground up: Grassroots social justice activism in American Museums, In *Museums and Activism*. New York, New York: Routledge.

Coleman, L.-E. (2016). Social Inclusion and the Gatekeeping Mechanisms of Curatorial Voice: Are Museums Ready to be Agents of Social Justice? In *Progressive Community Action: Critical Theory and Social Justice in Library and Information Science*. Duluth, Minnesota: Library Juice Press.

Coleman, L.-E. (2015). Perspectives on Museum Informatics: Curatorial Voice re-imagined through Gatekeeper theory; Museum as Place re-envisioned through Nonaka's SECI ba. In *Annual Review of Cultural Heritage Informatics 2014 (Vol. 2)*. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield.

### **Refereed Journal Articles**

Coleman, L.-E. (2024). Book Review: The Role of Libraries, Archives, and Museums in Achieving Civic Engagement and Social Justice in Smart Cities. *Curator: The Museum Journal*.

Coleman, L.-E. (2016). The Socially Inclusive Museum: A Typology Re-imagined. *The International Journal of the Inclusive Museum*.

### **Refereed Conference Proceedings**

Coleman, L.-E. (2025). Gatekeeping Curatorial Voice. Galleries, Libraries, Archives & Museums: Engines of Innovation and Social Participation. 18<sup>th</sup> International Conference on the Inclusive Museum.

Coleman, L-E (2024). Responsible Museum Professionals. *Chance for Change: Opportunities in a Community*. PA Museums Annual Statewide Museum Conference

Coleman, L-E (2023). The phenomenon of shoes and empathy in museums. Awareness Week: *Walk a Day in My Shoes*. Centre for Excellence on Empathy, Equity & Diversity.

Coleman, L.-E., Hoffman, L., & McLaughlin, H. (2021). Virtual Experiences: Reinventing Museum Studies for the Pandemic and Post-Pandemic World. *Virtual Dialogue: Museum Academics and Professionals on Challenges in the Post-COVID World*. Online: 2021 Museum Studies International Symposium.

Coleman, L.-E. & McLaughlin, H. (2021). Reinventing Museum Studies for the Pandemic and Post-Pandemic World. Prepared for Lisbon, Portugal: The 14th International Inclusive Museum Conference. Deferred to Rethinking the Museum Philadelphia: PA The 15th International Inclusive Museum Conference (2022).

Coleman, L.-E., DeGroot, S., Phalen, S., & Lewis, Z. (2020, September 5). Internships past, present and future: Dismantling systems of power from the ground up. *Death To Museums*. Death to Museums.

Coleman, L.-E. (2018) Bringing Inclusion to American Museums: A Blueprint for Change. Presented in *Inclusion as Shared Vision: Museum and Sharing Heritage*. Grenada, Spain: The Inclusive Museum Conference.

Coleman, L.-E. & Phillips, A. (2017) Understanding Empathy in the Profession. Presented in *Diaspora, Integration and Museums*. Manchester, UK: The Inclusive Museum Conference.

Coleman, L.-E. (2016). The Socially Inclusive Museum: Perspectives From American Museum Researchers and Professionals. Presented in *The Museum in the Global Contemporary: short films*. Leicester, UK.: Debating the Museum of Now Conference at the University of Leicester.

Coleman, L.-E., Gorman, J., Moore, P., Paquet-Kinsley, R., & Taylor, C. (2016). Identity Construction, Community, and the Inclusive Museum. Presented in *Power, Influence, and Responsibility*. Washington, D.C.: AAM.

Coleman, L.-E., & Moore, P. (2016). A Crash Course in Inclusion for the Museum Practitioner. Presented in *Urbanism, Inclusion, and Cultural Freedoms*. Cincinnati: OH.: The Inclusive Museum Conference.

Coleman, L.-E. (2015). The Socially Inclusive Museum: Measuring Our Social Impact. Presented in *The Social Value of Museums: Inspiring Change*. Atlanta, Georgia: AAM.

Urban, R., Coleman, L.-E., & Marty, P. (2014). Libraries, Archives, and Museums: *Connecting Educational Communities and Cultures*. Presented in Connecting Collections, Cultures, and Communities. Seattle, Washington: ASIS&T.

### **Invited Interviews**

Velie, E. (2022, November 4). Museum Org Demanded Loyalty; Scholars Resigned. Hyperallergic. <http://hyperallergic.com/775411/museum-org-demanded-loyalty-scholars-resigned/>

Benshoff, L. (Director). (2022, October 8). *Strike by Philadelphia Museum of Art workers shows woes of “prestige” jobs*. In *Morning Edition*. NPR. <https://www.npr.org/2022/10/07/1127400793/what-a-strike-at-a-philadelphia-museum-reveals-about-unionizing-cultural-institu>

AMA with Museologists. (2021, September 5.) *Musing with the Museologists Podcast. Hit Hard by the Pandemic, Museum Workers Redouble Union Efforts*. (2021, July 13). <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/daily-labor-report/hit-hard-by-the-pandemic-museum-workers-redouble-union-efforts>

### **Invited Lectures**

Coleman, L.-E., & Phillips, A. (2022). *Unboxing Empathy and Equity*. International School of Information Management.

Coleman, L.-E. (2021). *Inclusive Museum Design*. Museum Design Studio, Westphal College of Media, Art, and Design.

Coleman, L.-E. (2020). *The Nature of Museums*. Guest Lecture for Museums 801, Kansas University.

Coleman, L.-E. (2020). *Net Neutrality*. Information Ethics: Master of Library & Information Science Program. Tallahassee, Florida: Florida State University.

Coleman, L.-E. (2019). *Building Inclusive Museum Communities*. Van Gogh Connects Education Department. The Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Coleman, L.-E. (2018). *Building Inclusive Learning Communities*. Faculty Professional Development Summit, Krieger School of Arts & Sciences, Johns Hopkins University.

Coleman, L.-E. (2016). *Museum Informatics & the Socially Inclusive Museum*. Museum Informatics: Master of Library & Information Science Program. Tallahassee, Florida: Florida State University.

### **Invited Moderator**

*Genocide, Memory and Peace*. International Committee of Memorial Museums in Remembrance of Public Crimes (ICMEMO) Meeting (2019).

*Definition of Museum*, International Committee of Memorial Museums in Remembrance of Victims of Public Crimes (ICMEMO) & ICOM Ethics Meeting (2021, September 13).

*Transition from historical places to museum spaces, in Memory Building: Engaging Society in Self-Reflective Museums*. Cincinnati, Ohio and Washington, DC. ICMEMO & ICAMPT (2017).

### **Invited Judge/Reviewer**

Fulbright Review, Pennoni Honors College, Drexel University (2020 – Current).

Museum Design Studio Final Critiques, Westphal College of Media, Art, and Design (2021).

### **Poster Presentations**

Coleman, L.-E. (2017). *The Museum As Place: A Qualitative Case Study of the Applications of Nonaka’s SECI-ba in an American Museum*. Accepted in *Community Engagement & Social Responsibility, Works in Progress*. Atlanta, Georgia: ALISE.

Coleman, L.-E. (2016). The Socially Inclusive Role of Curatorial Voice: A Qualitative Comparative Study of the Gatekeeping Mechanisms and the Co-Creation of Identity in Museums. Presented in *Radical Change Inclusion & Innovation, ALISE Jean Tague-Sutcliffe Doctoral Student Poster Competition*. Boston, Massachusetts: ALISE.

Coleman, L.-E. (2016). The Socially Inclusive Role of Curatorial Voice: A Qualitative Comparative Study of the Gatekeeping Mechanisms and the Co-Creation of Identity in Museums. Presented in *iConference 2016*. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: iConference.

Coleman, L.-E., Moore, P., & Paquet-Kinsley, R. (2016). Museum Professionals and Inclusion: A Study in Practitioner Perception. Presented in *Radical Change Inclusion & Innovation, Works in Progress*. Boston, Massachusetts: ALISE.

Coleman, L.-E. (2015). Museum Informatics for the Socially Inclusive Museum. Presented In *Mirrors & Windows: Reflections on Social Justice and Re-Imagining LIS Education, Works in Progress*. Chicago, Illinois: ALISE.

Coleman, L.-E. (2014). The Socially Inclusive Museum: A Typology Re-imagined. Presented in the *Seventh International Conference on the Inclusive Museum*. Los Angeles, California.

Spears, L., Mardis, M., Coleman, L.-E., McClure, C., & Lee, J. (2014). Assessing Information Technology Educational Pathways that Promote Deployment and Use of Rural Broadband. In *Works in Progress. Berlin, Germany: iConference*.

Coleman, L.-E., Urban, Richard J., Marty, Paul F., Braun, Kathy (2014). LAM at Universities: Convergence in Graduate Education. Presented in *Connecting Collections, Cultures, and Communities*. Seattle, Washington: ASIS&T.

## **PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT**

### **Drexel University**

Graduate Certificate Program, Responsible Cultural Leadership

## **PROFESSIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE**

### **Drexel University**

*Director*, Responsible Cultural Leadership Certificate Program (2023-current)

*Assistant Professor & Director*, Arts Administration and Museum Leadership Graduate Program, Online & On-Campus (2021- 2023)

*Assistant Teaching Professor & Director*, Arts Administration and Museum Leadership Graduate Online Program, (2019-2021)

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **Drexel University**

MUSL 690 Community Responsive Museums

Graduate Online Course via Blackboard

AAML 660 Technology Tools For Cultural Leaders  
Graduate Online Course via Blackboard

MUSL 500 *History & Philosophy of Museums*  
Graduate Campus & Online Course via Blackboard

MUSL 530 *Museum Management*  
Graduate Campus & Online Course via Blackboard

MUSL 650 *Boards & Governance*  
Graduate Campus & Online Course via Blackboard

MUSL I599 *Independent Studies: Museum Think Tank*  
Graduate Online Course via Blackboard  
MUSL I699 *Independent Studies: Writing for Publication*  
Graduate Online Course via Blackboard

MUSL 750/755 *Practicum I/II*  
Graduate Online Course via Blackboard

AADM 757 *Political Activism in the Arts*  
Graduate Online Course via Blackboard

AADM 785 *Research Design*  
Graduate Online Course via Blackboard

AADM 798 *Thesis Development*  
Graduate Online Course via Blackboard

AADM 799 *Thesis Completion*  
Graduate Online Course via Blackboard

### **Johns Hopkins University**

*Lecturer*, Johns Hopkins University, Krieger School of Arts & Sciences, Advanced Academic Programs,  
Museums Studies (2017-2019)

460.609.81 *Museums in the Global Perspective*  
Graduate Asynchronous Online Course via Blackboard

460.611.81 *History & Philosophy of Museums*  
Graduate Asynchronous Online Course via Blackboard

### **Florida State University**

*Adjunct Faculty*, Florida State University, School of Information (2014-2019)

LIS 5787 *Information Architecture*  
Graduate Synchronous Online Course via Canvas & Collaborate

LIS 5405 *Leadership in Technology*  
Graduate Synchronous Online Course via Canvas & Collaborate

LIS 5203 *Assessing Information Needs*  
Graduate In-Person Course  
Graduate Synchronous Online Course via Canvas & Collaborate

LIS 4208 *Perspectives in Information Technology*  
Undergraduate In-Person Course

### **Oklahoma University**

*Adjunct Faculty*, Oklahoma University, College of Liberal Studies (2018)

LSMS 5423 *Controversy and the World of the Museum*  
Graduate Asynchronous Online Course  
LSMS 5173 *Museums, Cultures and Communities*  
Graduate Asynchronous Online Course

### **Teaching (other)**

*Teacher, Computer Science*, School of Arts and Sciences, Tallahassee, Florida (2016-2017)

*Teaching Assistant*, Florida State University (2012-2016)

*Usability Analysis and Design*

*Project Management for Information Technology*

*Excel for Business*

*Introduction to Information Technologies*

*Network Administration Linux and PHP*

### **Instructional Design & Development**

*Faculty*, Drexel University (2019-current)

Graduate Certificate Program *Responsible Cultural Leadership*

AADM 690 *Equitable Cultural Practices*

MUSL 620 *Sustainable Cultural Practices*

MUSL 690 *Culturally Responsive Museums*

Redevelopment of MUSL 500, MUSL 530, MUSL 650, AADM 757, AADM 785

*Adjunct Faculty*, Oklahoma University, College of Liberal Studies (2018-2019)

### **Professional Experience**

*Help Desk Analyst*, College of Communication and Information, Florida State University (2011-2014)

*Research Assistant*, Information Institute, Florida State University (2013)

## **PROFESSIONAL, ACADEMIC, AND SERVICE ACTIVITIES**

### **Professional Boards**

Board Member, Center for Excellence in Empathy, Equity, and Diversity (2021-current)

Board Member, International Committee of Memorial Museums in Remembrance of Victims of Public Crimes (ICMEMO) (2017-2018)

Board Member, Education, Cincinnati Museum Center (2004-2006)

### **Professional Review Activities**

Associate Editor, *Curator: The Museum Journal* (2017-current)

Manuscript Reviewer, *Curator: The Museum Journal* (2018-current)

Manuscript Reviewer, International Committee of Memorial Museums in Remembrance of Victims of Public Crimes (*ICMEMO*) (2017-2018)

Associate Editor, *The International Journal of the Image* (2016)

Manuscript Reviewer, *The International Journal of the Image* (2016)

Manuscript Reviewer, *The International Journal of the Inclusive Museum* (2014-current) Contributing Editor, *The International Journal of the Inclusive Museum* (2014)

### **University and Departmental Service**

Fulbright Reviewer, Drexel University (2020-current)

Drexel University Committee for Online Quality & Compliance (2021- current).

Drexel University Faculty Senate, Representative for Westphal College (2020-2022).

Caucus Committee on Academic Affairs (CCAA) for Westphal College (2019-2021).

Graduate Programs, Graduate Certificates, and Lifelong Learning, Westphal Faculty Committee (2020-current)

Westphal Faculty Caucus (2019-2022)

### **Professional Affiliations**

American Alliance of Museums (AAM)

Americans for the Arts (AFTA)

American Society for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T)

Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE)

American Library Association (ALA)

Beta Phi Mu (BPM)

United States Committee of the Blue Shield

International Council of Museums – US (ICOM\_US)

International Committee of Memorial Museums in Remembrance of Victims of Public Crimes (ICMEMO)

Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums (MAAM)

Museum Computing Network (MCN) MuseWeb

New England Museums Association (NEMA)

### **HONORS AND AWARDS**

Westphal Mini-Grant, (2020) for work *Curatorial Voice*

Fulbright Specialist, Library & Information Science (2018-2021)

11th International Inclusive Museum Conference Emerging Scholar Award (2018) Grenada, Spain.

American Alliance of Museums *Volunteer Grant* (2018). Phoenix, AZ.

International Council Of Museums – United States ICOM-US *Travel Grant Award* (2016). Milan, Italy.

American Alliance of Museums *Volunteer Grant* (2016). Washington, DC.

*ALISE Jean Tague-Sutcliffe Doctoral Student Research Poster Competition*, Awarded 3rd Place, (2016) Boston, MA

7th International Inclusive Museum Conference *Graduate Scholar Award* (2014) Los Angeles, CA

American Society for Information Science and Technology ASIS&T *Volunteer Grant* (2014) Seattle, WA

School of Information, *Lewis-Marxsen Fellowship Endowment* (2014)

School of Information, *Departmental Scholarship Liz Cropper Award* (2013)  
School of Information, *Professors' Choice Scholarship Dr. Alphonse Trezza Award* (2013)  
Museum of Florida History, *Presidential Volunteer Service Award: Translation of La Florida Bibliography*, (2012) Tallahassee, FL.