

TRÉSORS CACHÉS

LA COLLECTION DU
SIKKIM DE L'ABBAYE
DE SAINT-MAURICE

WORKSHOPS 2026



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La collection du Sikkim de l'Abbaye de Saint-Maurice

Le trésor de l'abbaye de Saint-Maurice en Suisse est connu pour ses manuscrits médiévaux, objets liturgiques, reliques et archives, qui sont bien étudiés depuis le XIX^e siècle, alors que son fond d'objets non européens demeure méconnu. Dans le cadre du projet FNS-Ambizione dirigé par Sara Petrella, trois workshops permettront de créer un espace de réflexion et d'échange autour de la collection du Sikkim qui constitue un ensemble rare d'objets himalayens, liés à la mission fondée en 1934.

HIDDEN TREASURES

The Sikkim Collection at the Abbey of Saint-Maurice

The treasury of the Abbey of Saint-Maurice in Switzerland is renowned for its medieval manuscripts, liturgical objects, relics, and archives, which have been well studied since the 19th century. However, its collection of non-European objects remains little known. Within the framework of the SNSF Ambizione project led by Sara Petrella, three workshops will provide a space for reflection and exchange around the Sikkim collection, a rare group of Himalayan objects linked to the mission founded in 1934.

Organisation Comité scientifique

Sara Petrella et Iris Terradura
Aurélia Valterio, Damien Kunik

Workshop 1 Politique des savoirs : collectes missionnaires et contextes coloniaux (Français), Université de Fribourg, 20.03.2026

Workshop 2 Le « sacré » en circulation : usages, (mé)interprétation et appropriation (Français), Abbaye de Saint-Maurice, 19.06.2026

Workshop 3 Mapping Decolonial Practices (English), Musée d'ethnographie de Genève, 18.09.2026

Workshop 3 Program

Friday, 18 September

9:15 Welcome Address, Damien Kunik
9:30-10:15 *Introduction: Participatory Museology, Ethics, and Geopolitics*, Sara Petrella, Iris Terradura

Sikkim and Kalimpong: Mapping a Contested Borderland - Historical, Political, and Anthropological Perspectives

Moderation: Sara Petrella

10:15-11:00 *Objects in Motion, Communities in Place: Bhotiya Transboundary Trade, Material Culture, and the Long Afterlife of Collection*, Kritika Uniyal (online)

11:00-11:15 Break

11:15-12:00 *Anti-caste and Indigenous Perspectives on Ethnographic Collections from India: Reflections on Decolonial Practice*, Ashok Danavath

Participatory Museology: Practices in the Making

Moderation: Damien Kunik

13:30-14:15 *Reanimating Tibetan Heritage: Transforming collections, Empowering communities*, Thupten Kelsang (online)

14:15-15:00 *Challenges and Limitations of Participatory Projects Dedicated to Collections through the MEG's Recent and Current Experiences*, Floriane Morin

15:00 Break

15:15-16:00 *Care in Participatory Museology - A (Small) Step toward Decolonial Relations?*, Emilie Thévenoz

16:30-17:00 *"Itinerary of Dialogue" in the Permanent Exhibition: Provenance Research and Collaboration with Source Communities*, Iris Terradura, Damien Kunik

17:00-17:30 Discussion and conclusion

Practical Information

Registration required; limited availability

Organisation Sara Petrella, Iris Terradura
Place Musée d'ethnographie de Genève
 Bd Carl-Vogt 67
 1205 Geneva
Date Friday, 18 September
Link Available upon request
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