Tibetan monasteries are known as repositories of a wide range of ancient objects. Originally a considerable part of these collections was an integral part of the furnishing of the monastery and its temples, and thus accessible to the visitor. Today, many monasteries have added museum spaces to their premises. While the original impetus for such spaces appears to be rooted in an attempt to accommodate the needs of tourists, the aims and contents of these vary greatly. These spaces are an expression of a modern transformation, the impact of which on the collections is the main focus of this workshop.

The workshop is part of an AHRC-funded research project—‘Tibetan Buddhist Monastery Collections Today’—which directly collaborates with monasteries in Ladakh and Mustang to document, assess and support the management of their collections. Representatives of these institutions will participate in the workshop.

Admission free but registration required:
https://www.soas.ac.uk/art/events/
Programme

Venue: Wolfson Lecture Theatre, Senate House

Thursday 8th November 2018
14:00–14:30 Welcome and Introduction

14:30–17:30 Panel 1: Monastery Collections Today
Discussant: Christian Luczanits, David L. Snellgrove
Senior Lecturer in Tibetan and Buddhist Art, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London
14:30–15:30
Nawang Othsal, Chakdzod (Treasurer) of Hemis Monastery
Managing a Monastery Collection
Monique Filsnoël, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London
The Collection of Ogyen Choling
15.30–16:00 Tea break
16:00–17:30
Phuntsok Wangchuk, The University of Hong Kong
Exploring Ladakh’s Buddhist Canonical Texts: An Analysis
Agnieszka Helman-Ważny, Challenges in preservation of the Mardzong manuscripts collection in Chôte monastery in Lo Monthang, Upper Mustang, Nepal
Discussion

Friday 9th November 2018
9.30–12.30 Panel 2: Monastery and Museum
Discussant: Louise Tythacott; Pratapaditya Pal Senior Lecturer in Curating and Museology of Asian Art, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London
9.30–10.30
Tenzin Sangpo, Khenpo (abbot) of Kag Chode Thupten Samphel Ling
A Museum in the Monastery
10.30–11.00 Tea break
11.00–12.30
Tsunma Nawang Jinpa, Independent Scholar
At Hemis and Chemde in Ladakh: Are Museums or Exhibition Temples? Could the Difference Matter?
Nelly Rieuf, Conservator
The Development of Matho Monastery Museum
Discussion
12.30–14:00 Lunch Buffet

14.00–17.30 Panel 3: Collection records
Discussant: Christian Luczanits, David L. Snellgrove
Senior Lecturer in Tibetan and Buddhist Art, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London
14.00–15.00
Tsering Tharchin, Construction and Accountant in Charge of Chemrey Monastery
Traditional Monastery Collection Records
Tsering Tashi, Mustang Sakya Buddhist Association
Vision for Collection Records
15.00–15.30 Tea break
15.30–17.00
Nawang Rinchen, YDA Ladakh
Vision for Heritage Records
Chiara Bellini, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London
Project Records
Discussion

Saturday 10th November 2018
9.30–13.00 Panel 4: Curating Collections
Discussant: Clare Harris, Professor of Visual Anthropology, University of Oxford
9.30–11.00
Khenpo Tsewang Rigzin, Abbot of Namgyal Monastery, Mustang
Traditional Curating of a Monastery Collection
Naomi Collick, Curator, Chiddingstone Castle
The display of Tibetan Buddhist objects at Chiddingstone Castle, a historic home
Karolina Lisowski, M.A., Institute for the Science of Religion, University of Bern, Switzerland
Curating Tibetan Buddhist Objects in Western Museums – A Case Study of the “Tibet Museum – Buddhist Art” in Gruyères, Switzerland
11.00–11.30 Tea break
11.30–12.30
Ziyi Shao, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London
The role and challenge of National Museum of Bhutan: national identity, collection management and tourism
Louise Tythacott, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London
Curating Collections at Chemrey Monastery, Ladakh
Discussion