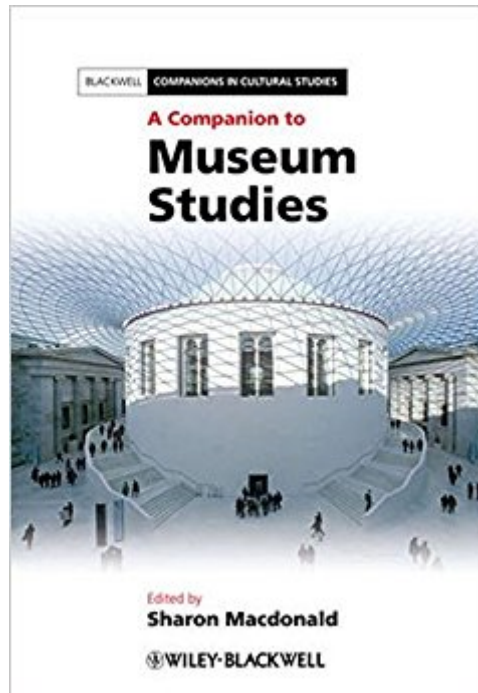


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# A Companion To Museum Studies



## Synopsis

A Companion to Museum Studies captures the multidisciplinary approach to the study of the development, roles, and significance of museums in contemporary society. Collects first-rate original essays by leading figures from a range of disciplines and theoretical stances, including anthropology, art history, history, literature, sociology, cultural studies, and museum studies. Examines the complexity of the museum from cultural, political, curatorial, historical and representational perspectives. Covers traditional subjects, such as space, display, buildings, objects and collecting, and more contemporary challenges such as visiting, commerce, community and experimental exhibition forms.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"This account captures a fresh, multi-disciplinary approach to the study of the development, roles, and significance of museums in our society. It expands museum studies and presents a wide range of theoretical perspectives. The essays examine the complexity of the museum from cultural, political governance, curatorial, historical, and representational perspectives, Sharon Macdonald is the author and Professor of Social Anthropology at the University of Manchester." (Neopoprealism Journal, 24 November 2011) ["The collection is not primarily a compendium of the work of ethnographers. The group of scholars Macdonald brought together reflects the current makeup of museum studies as an interdisciplinary endeavor."](#) (Museum Anthropology, April 2009)

"Required reading for museum professionals and scholars in museum studies, art and cultural

history, sociology of art, and anthropology ... The text is rich in information and diverse in perspectives; it both introduces and complicates in an intriguing and necessary way what we 'know' about museums ... Essential." (Choice) "This is a wonderfully comprehensive collection of essays, offering diverse perspectives, covering all aspects of the museum profession, and addressing contemporary and historical discourse " It really is the best compendium I've read in years." (Museums Australia)

“No one is better qualified than Sharon Macdonald to create this definitive companion to museum studies. The field has not only come of age but has also burgeoned in all directions. How wise then to capture the vibrancy of its interdisciplinarity by assembling the work of a veritable who’s who of museum studies. Each voice is at once distinct and in dialogue and debate with others. A vital text for the field.”

Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, New York University

“A Companion to Museum Studies is an indispensable guide to what has come to be called the New Museology. This set of papers by some of the most distinguished scholars of museums examines museums, displays and exhibits from the perspectives of different disciplines. No one attempting to study or teach about museums will be able to do without this aptly named Companion. It will be both guide and landmark in museum studies for years to come.”

Ivan Karp, Emory University --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

The book seems to contain a lot of articles related to museum studies, and I find it informative for a newbie to this field like myself. However, I find very scarce references to who are the audiences, and how to measure the impact of their visits to the museum in their perceptions of the themes of an exhibit. There seems to be a lot of claims about the constructed narratives in museums, but not so much as to the actual impact of that narrative into user's perceptions. I think this limitation is significant because it would provide evidence to back claims related to the contribution of museums to society. In terms of formatting, I got the kindle version, and it's missing the page numbers, which is a pity because I have trouble indicating how to cite (most citation formats do not accept locations for quotes). However, the text flows smoothly on the kindle and all the images and captions are clearly formatted.

I really like it. It is very useful for my studies. Easy to understand and easy to follow. I am still keep it in my personal library. I love to read more from same author.

Very interesting and well documented.

Maybe it's because I'm not well versed in this subject area, but I found that this book is just a parade of flashy lingo and random historical facts/incidents pieced together to make some obscure point about museums. This is a textbook for my Museum Studies class for students who have little to no experience in this field and this is probably the most confusing choice ever. It makes no sense to those fresh to Museum Studies. It makes it rather hard to learn. But, it indeed has its bright moments where there is sense made of certain points in Museum Studies and the history of museums. I think there's probably definitely better choices for those new to it all. This book is for a more seasoned veteran.

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