The conference will examine two main topics of the new Transdisciplinary Research Area (TRA) Past Worlds and Modern Questions, namely cultural intangible heritage and communication, focusing especially on the interrelations between the two. Current questions addressing past cultural, political, social and economic constellations will be analyzed in broad geographical and historical perspectives. The conference aims to overcome the canonical timeline anchored in Eurocentric history, which affects in particular two areas of investigation: On the one hand, the area of museum studies, which has been transformed in recent decades by new methods of thinking about and doing museum work; on the other hand, concepts of understanding communication as a historical process of transfer which took place in the course of the so-called premodern age.

In this context, social functions, the meaning of present and historical representations, methods and objectivations of cultural memory can be grasped both in their specific regional context and as parts of global interdependencies that were or are shaped by colonial power relations. Collections and museums dealing with postcolonial issues can function as places where these issues may be both discussed and directly applied. Subsequently to the concluding discussion on April 8 there will be a roundtable in the BASA Museum on occasion of the 2nd Day of Provenance Research in Germany entitled Insights into Provenance Research in Ethnographic Collections which ties in perfectly with the contributions presented during the event.

Therefore, this conference aims to address issues of provenance and restitution, as well as current and past forms of intangible material cultural heritage in communication through space and time which alludes the interaction between past worlds and modern questions.
MONDAY, APRIL 6

3.00 - 3.30 PM  - Welcome Coffee

3.30 - 3.45 PM
Introduction "Past Worlds across Time and Space"
Prof. Dr. Volker Kronenberg
Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy
University of Bonn

3.45 - 4.00 PM
Presentation "Past Worlds across Time and Space"
Prof. Dr. Matthias Becher & Prof. Dr. Karoline Noack
TRA Past Worlds and Modern Questions
University of Bonn

4.00 - 5.00 PM
Taking their Heritage in their Hands. Indigenous Claims to Museums and Archaeology in Chile.
PH. D. Patricia Ayala Rocabado
Universidad Católica del Norte de Chile

5.00 - 5.15 PM  - Coffee Break

5.15 - 6.15 PM
Medieval Communication between Time and Space. Transcultural and Intercultural Approaches
Prof. Dr. Florian Hartmann
RWTH Aachen University

7.00 PM - Reception at Bonn University Club

TUESDAY, APRIL 7

10.15 - 11.15 AM
Charis - Gift - Grace. Historical, Cultural and Social Dimensions of a Complex Concept
Prof. Dr. Sabine Mainberger & Prof. Dr. Christian Moser
University of Bonn

11.15 - 12.15 PM
'... because our love has not ended entirely'. Communicating about War and Peace in the Rhine-Maas-Region (1550-1650)
Prof. Dr. Ralf-Peter Fuchs
University of Duisburg-Essen

12.15 - 12.30 NOON  - Coffee Break

12.30 - 1.30 PM
Moctezuma’s Daughter Isabel. Race, Class and Gender from the European and the Aztec Perspective
PD. Dr. Stefan Feddern
Kiel University

1.30 - 3.00 PM  - Lunch Break

3.00 - 4.00 PM
Indigenous Heritage Practice. Contentious Uses of the Past and Local Indigenous Communities’ Responses
Dr. Manuel May Castillo
LMU München

4.00 - 4.30 PM  - Coffee Break

4.30 - 5.30 PM
Intangible Cultural Heritage in Museums. Between Past and Future Presencing
Dr. Sophie Elpers
Meertens Institute, Amsterdam

6.30 PM - Dinner at Restaurant Bühne

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8

10.15 - 11.15 AM
Museum Collections as Mediators of Relationship. From Digital Exchange to Restitution of Agency
Dr. Andrea Scholz
Ethnological Museum of Berlin

11.15 - 12.15 PM
Concluding Discussion

12.15 - 12.30 NOON - Coffee Break

12.30 - 2.00 PM
Roundtable Part 1
On Occasion of the 2nd Day of Provenance Research in Germany
Insights into Provenance Research in Ethnographic Collections

2.00 - 3.00 PM  - Buffet BASA Museum

3.00 - 4.30 PM
Roundtable Part 2
On Occasion of the 2nd Day of Provenance Research in Germany
Insights into Provenance Research in Ethnographic Collections

4.30 PM
Inauguration Exposition BASA Museum