



The Arctic Institute of North America presents the 2018 – 2019

Arctic Speaker Series

Finding Franklin? The Story Behind Death in the Ice – The Mystery of the Franklin Expedition Exhibition

Speaker:
Karen Ryan

Date:
Thursday,
April 18, 2019

Time:
6:00 – 7:00 pm

Location:
University of Calgary;
Science B 105



How does a museum exhibition go from idea to reality? What's involved in producing a show, who or what is a 'core team,' and where do the chosen artefacts come from? What are the sometimes-hard choices you must make for an exhibition to effectively work? In the case of *Death in the Ice*, how do you build a narrative humanising 129 people whose identities, over the course of 150 years, have been largely subsumed by the mythos of "The Franklin Expedition"? At the same time, how can an exhibition about a European disaster integrate the key historic and contemporary contributions of non-Europeans, for whom knowledge of the Franklin Expedition is a point of pride.

This presentation will try to answer some of those questions, in the process highlighting why it was important for this exhibition, presented at four venues in three countries, to include multiple sources of information – archaeological, historical, and Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit – while telling a story that is actively unfolding.

Biography: Karen Ryan joined the Canadian Museum of History in 2010, where she is Curator for Northern Canada. She is an Arctic anthropologist and archaeologist by trade, focussing on the Inuit and pre-Inuit occupations of the Arctic and sub-Arctic. She has conducted fieldwork throughout Nunavut, Nunatsiavut, and Nunavik, as well as in Newfoundland, and has published on the social and cultural prehistory of the Canadian Arctic, traditional ideology and shamanism, hunter-gatherer domestic architecture, and the application of contemporary technologies to archaeological practices.

Dr. Ryan is a Fellow of The Royal Canadian Geographical Society and holds an Honours BA in Anthropology and History from Memorial University of Newfoundland, an MA from McMaster University, and a PhD from the University of Toronto.

This event is **free and open to the public**

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