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Cycle XXXVIII

Supervisor

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Title of Research Project

Our Stories Abroad - Collaborative Narrative and Digital Restitution of Nias collection in Italian museums

Research location(s)

Anthropology and Ethnology Museum of Florence (Italy)
Nias Heritage Museum (Indonesia)

Scientific-disciplinary to which the project refers

Archaeology

Project Abstract

The decolonization movement worldwide has enlarged our perspective and offers possibilities on how museums should operate, especially on indigenous and complex collections. Even today, many Indonesian collections are being kept in museums in European countries. One such example is Nias collections that were brought back by Elio Modigliani from his expedition in 1886. These collections often misrepresent or rarely display adequate information while also alienated from the community of cultural origin.

Through systematic cataloging, digitalization collections, and field study of the local community, this project offers a collaborative approach to provide a more compelling narrative that represents the community of cultural origin while also discussing the possibility of digital restitution to provide remote digital access to the local people of Nias.

Keywords: collaborative narrative, digital restitution, indigenous, museum, Nias