Transdisciplinarity and the Museum of the Anthropocene

Abstract: The Museum of the Anthropocene (MoA) is an experimental and interactive program that creates short-term, interactive, and networked exhibitions in communities around the globe. Bringing together knowledge from across the disciplines, MoA installations explore the ways in which new knowledge emerges when scientists, social scientists, humanists, and artists work together with local communities. This presentation will discuss the theoretical framework for thinking about a museum in the Anthropocene as well as introduce the audience to its current project, The ecomposition Symphony.

Bio: Jason M. Kelly is Director of the IUPUI Arts and Humanities Institute and Professor of British History in the Indiana University School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI. He is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London and the chair of the "Memory, Place, and Community in Global Water Systems" Working Group of the Sustainable Water Future Programme, a project of Future Earth.

Dr. Kelly received his Ph.D. from the University of California, Santa Barbara and is the author of The Society of Dilettanti: Archaeology and Identity in the British Enlightenment [yalebooks.yale.edu] (Yale University Press and the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art, 2010), lead editor of Rivers of the Anthropocene [ucpress.edu] (University of California Press, 2017), and co-editor of An Anthropocene Primer [anthropoceneprimer.org] (2017).

As Director of the IUPUI Arts and Humanities Institute, Dr. Kelly supports IUPUI’s research mission by directing the IAHI grant programs, identifying and fostering transdisciplinary research collaborations, and organizing research workshops and symposia. He also acts as a liaison to the Indianapolis community, and in this capacity facilitates collaborative endeavors including performances, lectures, and research projects.

Dr. Kelly’s current research projects focus on the histories of the environment, sciences, and art and architecture. He is currently writing A History of the Anthropocene, a deep history of human-nature relations. He leads a major international collaborative project, Rivers of the Anthropocene [rivers.iupui.edu], which brings together scientists, humanists, and policy makers to study global freshwater systems and policy. He directs The Cultural Ecologies Project [culturalecologies.org], a research program and PhD track that works with community stakeholders to study and design cultural interventions across multiple scales — from the personal to the neighborhood to the city level.