

# WELTKULTUREN MUSEUM

## SHORT BIOGRAPHY

**Matthias Claudius Hofmann, M. A.**

Matthias Claudius Hofmann (b. 1978) studied ethnology and religious studies in Göttingen, Apia (Samoa) and Wellington (New Zealand).

His research interest is Polynesian ethnography, with a particular focus on Samoa. In addition to exploring the region's material culture and oral tradition he conducts ethnological research into objects and the theory of gift exchange.

For a number of years he worked as a museum educator for the Ethnographic Collection at Göttingen University, and as a research assistant he worked on the redesign of the permanent exhibition on Polynesia in 2010. In cooperation with the university library, in 2012 he co-curated *Samoa - People, Landscape and Culture in the South Pacific One Hundred Years Ago*, a special exhibition of photos taken between 1902 and 1905 by Otto Tetens, a natural scientist from Göttingen.

After spending twelve months in Samoa doing field research in 2014/15, he completed a scholarly traineeship from 2016 to 2018 at the Weltkulturen Museum. During this period he curated the exhibition *And the Beat Goes On... Barkcloth from the Collections of the Weltkulturen Museum* in 2017.

In 2018 he took over the Oceania section of the collection, initially in a stand-in capacity, and since 2020 as the official curator. He is co-curator of the current special exhibition *Worlds in Motion: Narrating Migration* (2019-2021).

## CONTACT

matthias.hofmann@stadt-frankfurt.de

+49 (0)69 212 34831