**The (Soft) Power of Museums**

**Thursday 21 June 2018, 11am – 3pm**

**King’s College London**

**Room 2.02 (NE), Bush House, 40 Aldwych**

**Organised by Btihaj Ajana (Digital Humanities) and Melissa Nisbett (CMCI**)

**Workshop summary**

Over the last ten years, terms such as ‘soft power’ have received growing political attention and have gained traction within governments around the world. Museums play a crucial role, acting as powerful instruments in promoting a country’s political, economic and strategic interests. They are vehicles of soft power, remediating and reconstructing notions of identity and memory, and conferring legitimacy on various authorities.

In this workshop, we will explore the interplay between museums and power, and discuss related issues around memory, representation and identity. The event will also act as a platform for exploring future research, collaborations and grant applications. External guest speakers will provide practitioners’ perspectives on the issues and challenges facing the sector.

**Programme**

**11:00 – 11:20:** Welcome and Introduction

**11.20 – 13:00:** Session 1 – Presentation by Laura Popoviciu, Curator (Government Art Collection), Eliza Gluckman, Deputy Director (Government Art Collection), and Richard Johns (University of York) followed by group discussion

**13:00 – 13:30:** Lunch

**13:30 – 14:30:** Session 2 – Presentation by Karen Exell (National Museum of Qatar and UCL Qatar) followed by group discussion

**14:30 – 15:00:** Concluding panel: Bringing together the group discussions and identifying ways forward and action points