**Barbara Plankensteiner (Weltmuseum, Zurich)**

**Benin – Kings and Rituals: Court Arts from Nigeria.**

In 2007-2008 the Weltmuseum Wien has organized an unique international exhibition on the art and cultural history of the West African Kingdom in collaboration with three partner museums, the National Commission for Museums and Monuments Nigeria and the Royal Court of Benin. The paper will present the concept of the project, give an overview of the presentations at the four venues, discuss the challenges experienced, and the long-term impact on the representation of the Benin kingdom in museums. It will further address an important outcome of the relationship built during the process that led to the foundation of a “Benin Dialogue”, a cross-continental endeavour for collaboration in respect of the difficult cultural heritage and legacy shared by European, American and Nigerian museums.