During the Seventeenth century Swedish scientists, aristocrats, kings and queens started collecting Sámi objects. Parallel to this, the researchers began, mainly in Uppsala, identifying and describing the Sámi people. The Swedish government had colonial ambitions, and a will to rule over the people of the north. This produced a need to understand the new subjects. Sámi would be induced, or if necessary, forced to abandon the own religion and convert to Christianity. They were also supposed to adapt to a new economic system and make way for Swedish speaking settlers. Collecting Sámi objects and the making descriptions of Sámi identity, material culture, and religion was not only part of a national project to control the Sámi people. Collecting and describing were also part of a general European colonial ideology and was related to other European countries’ policies conducted in Africa and America during the same period. In Sweden, as well as in Denmark/Norway, Sámi objects were collected, often under coercion. The objects were brought to Uppsala, Stockholm or Copenhagen, where they were incorporated into collections. In several cases it is known that the objects came to travel further as gifts or commodities to collectors in the Atlantic World, in London, Paris, Rome or Vienna.

**Jonas Monié Nordin** is PhD associate professor in historical archaeology and a researcher at the department of archaeology and ancient history at the university of Uppsala as well as at the Swedish History museum. His main research interest lies within the field of early modern globalization and birth of modernity through studies of colonialism and cultural contact. He has studied Scandinavian colonial encounters in America, India and Sápmi and is currently running two major research projects on colonial collecting of Sámi material culture and on industrialization of northern Fennoscandia. His background is within medieval archaeology where he has studied enforcement of power through architecture and space as well as the birth of new forms of organizing people through guilds.