

CURATORIAL DREAMING WORKSHOP: CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

Advance registration is required (details below). Space is limited.

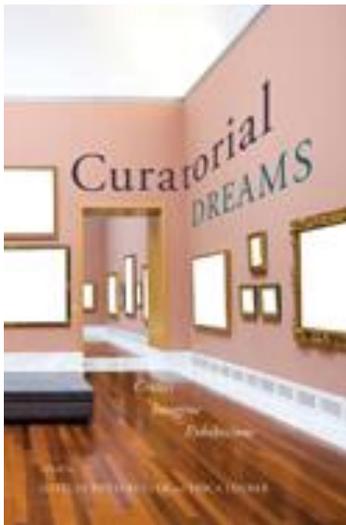
Time: 14 March 2017, 2:00-4:30

Place: POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, Warsaw



This Curatorial Dreaming workshop will bring together a small group of museum professionals, scholars, and students to conceptualize imagined exhibitionary moments in response to the theme of the conference *Museums and their Publics at Sites of Conflicted History*.

Each participant will be asked to bring to the workshop an object, image, story, or sound that they find particularly difficult to exhibit, whether for personal, institutional, disciplinary, or historical reasons. The workshop will begin with each person introducing themselves as well as their “artifact.” Following this, we will think and “play” with these materials in a participatory, creative, task-oriented setting.



Participants will leave with fresh ideas and inspirations for displaying their specific objects, as well as for dealing more generally with difficult subject matter in varied museums and vernacular sites. A key goal of the workshop is to give participants a creative space for experimentation that they may not have in their regular professional setting.

Mirroring the structure of our conference, this Curatorial Dreaming workshop aims to build dialogues and cooperation across sectors and domains. Participants will be encouraged to speak directly and vividly with each other, and to find concrete, creative solutions to proposed dilemmas. Participants will have opportunities to work individually as well as in small groups, experimenting with different ways of framing and presenting their materials.

Who should participate in this workshop?

For **scholars and students**, a Curatorial Dreaming workshop offers the challenge of translating research and theory into an engaging visual, and sometimes auditory, exhibition. Finding a key message, expressing the ambiguity and complexity that are the hallmark of scholarship, choosing specific images, objects and spaces, considering a target audience – such tasks are humbling and emboldening for academics.

For **museum professionals**, a Curatorial Dreaming workshop is an excellent opportunity to innovate and think creatively, to develop an exhibitionary moment without financial, bureaucratic, political, institutional, or infrastructure constraints. It can also offer opportunities for professionals who work separately in large institutions to come together in a safe context, and to discover inspirational sources, skills, and even solutions.

About the Workshop Facilitator

Dr. Shelley Ruth Butler teaches, researches, consults, and writes about museums and heritage sites that are situated in contexts of social and economic inequality, cultural diversity, and changing cultural politics in Canada and South Africa. She is inspired by exhibitions and interventions shaped by social justice, multiple perspectives, and individual and social well-being. She is co-editor of [*Curatorial Dreams: Critics Imagine Exhibitions*](#) (MQUP 2016) and author of the widely taught museum ethnography [*Contested Representations: Revisiting Into the Heart of Africa*](#) (University of Toronto Press 2011). Dr. Butler has worked with a variety of community advocacy and social service organizations, addressing issues such as immigrant and refugee women and work, and literacy and disability rights. She offers [Curatorial Dreaming workshops](#) to museum professionals, researchers, students, and community groups.

To apply for this workshop, please respond with a few sentences to the following questions:

1. Where are you currently based? Why are you interested in participating in this workshop?
2. In reading the workshop description, did a particular object, image, story or space come to mind? Why do you think this is?
3. Would you be able to submit your image (or object, anecdote, observation) to the workshop facilitator two weeks before the conference?

Space is limited to about 15 people. An effort will be made to bring together a group that is diverse in terms of skills and backgrounds. Potential resonance between different projects will also be considered. Please email your response to: Shelley.butler@mcgill.ca and aduleba@polin.pl by **31 January 2017**.



The event is organized within the framework of the Global Education Outreach Program



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