



JEWISH CULTURAL HERITAGE

PROJECTS • METHODS • INSPIRATIONS
WARSAW 8–10 JUNE 2016

Program of the Conference:

Jewish Cultural Heritage. Projects, Methods, Inspirations.

8-10. 06.2016 (Wednesday – Friday)

The conference will explore issues related to Jewish cultural heritage in contemporary Europe – preservation, animation, engagement, and impact. For whom is Jewish cultural heritage being preserved and interpreted? What is its role in the renewal of Jewish life and memory? What is its impact on local and diasporic communities? How does Jewish cultural heritage figure in educational, artistic, and cultural programs? How is it deployed in wider historical and contemporary discourses? We will look at these issues through the prism of specific projects and initiatives – historic sites, heritage routes, museums, exhibitions, educational programs, artistic interventions, and new media. Participants will share innovative methods, ideas and good practices. Creative international networking will be the focus of the third day of the conference.

The conference is organized in collaboration with HL-Senteret in Norway and the “Never Again” Association from Poland. The conference was consulted with, among others, the beneficiaries of the Norway and European Economic Area Grants who conducted projects on Jewish cultural heritage. You will have chance to become acquainted with their projects during the conference. This project is supported by the EEA 2009-2014 Financial Mechanism and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009 – 2014 as part of the bilateral cooperation.

The conference will be held in English and Polish.

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08.06.2016 (Wednesday) DAY I

09.00 – 12.30 Registration

10.00 – 12.00 Guided tour of the Core Exhibition

12.30 – 13.00 **Official opening of the Conference**

Dariusz Stola, Director of the POLIN Museum

H. E. Karsten Klepšvik, Ambassador of Norway to Poland (to be confirmed)

Guri Hjeltnes, Director of the HL-Senteret

Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, Chief Curator of the Core Exhibition, POLIN Museum

13.00-14.00 Key note:

Jewish Cultural Heritage 1989-2015: hopes and reality. What kind of a success story?

Dr. Diana Pinto, Institute for Jewish Policy Research, London

14.00 – 15.15 Lunch

15.15 – 17.45 Discussion sessions:

Session 1

OPEN CALL

Restoration and Preservation: Meaning and Roles.

Dr. Orit Stieglitz, Bardejov Jewish Preservation Committee

A variety of different heritage buildings and spaces are being reconstructed or conserved. They are often the only trace of tangible Jewish cultural heritage remaining. By looking into different cases of renovated synagogues, buildings and spaces we would like to ask the question, what do these projects tell us about the role of tangible Jewish heritage today? What is reconstructed or not in different countries and for what purpose? How to animate renovated buildings? How to reinterpret newly reconstructed structures in post-Holocaust Europe? What role can they play for current Jewish and non-Jewish communities?

Form: Introduction, project and good practice presentations, discussion

Time: 2,5h

Session 2

OPEN CALL

Heritage routes – memory, commercialization and popularization.

Assumpció Hosta Rebés, The European Association for the Preservation and Promotion of Jewish Culture and Heritage (AEPJ)

The heritage routes are a special way of commemorating, caring and educating about Jewish history and heritage. Tangible heritage is presented and experienced by a very specific public – tourists. Sometimes the routes combine Jewish and non-Jewish heritage sites within coherent

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entities, elsewhere they are focused thematically. The sacred places, memorials and everyday-life spaces are combined into commercial tourist attractions and infrastructure.

That gives rise to a range of methodical and ethical issues.

Using different European examples we would like to ask about the current role, contexts and ideas involved. How are the tourist routes designed and implemented? What messages can they transmit and how do they communicate them to the public? How can we reconcile respect for the sacredness of some spaces with commercial use? What role do tourist routes play globally and locally for both the visitors and the hosts or any other party involved?

Form: Introduction, project and good practice presentations, discussion

Time: 2,5h

Session 3

OPEN CALL

Value and uses for oral history. Studying the past relationships of neighbors.

Dr. Dobrochna Kałwa, Institute of History, University of Warsaw

Many institutions in Western and Eastern Europe conduct oral history projects on Jewish minority-majority relations. In this session we would like to ask the question, how does studying the past relationships of neighbors contribute to the conservation of and public inclusion in Jewish heritage? What social, educational or self-awareness outcomes can be involved in using oral history? How does oral history interact with different actors and objects during different stages of the project: in the field, during interpretation and when transmitted to the public? How to address the ethical, methodological or interpretative concerns.

Form: Introduction, project and good practice presentations, discussion

Time: 2,5h

Session 4

OPEN CALL

Exhibition Narratives: Museums and Memorials.

Prof. Barbara Kirshenblatt –Gimblett, POLIN Museum

Are Jewish museums in Europe today Holocaust museums by another name? Is it possible to recover a thousand-year history of Jewish life in the very places where millions of Jews perished? This is the challenge for Jewish museums in Europe today. This talk will explore the relationship between museums of Jewish history and Holocaust museums and memorials. How does the Holocaust figure in exhibitions dealing with Jewish history, and how does Jewish history figure in Holocaust museums and memorials? These questions will be explored through the perspective of POLIN Museum, which faces the Monument to the Ghetto Heroes, and in relation to examples from across Europe.

Form: Introduction, project and good practice presentations, discussion

Time: 2,5h

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18.00-18.45 Guided tour of the exhibition “Frank Stella and Synagogues of Historic Poland”

19.00-20.30 Welcome dinner

09.06.2016 (Thursday) DAY II

9.00 – 10.00 Key note:
Dark matter: The role of the Internet in society and the future of memory institution.
Michael Peter Edson, UN Live Museum for Humanity

10.00 – 10.15 Coffee break

10.15 – 12.45 Discussion sessions

Session 5

Jewish cultural heritage online – data bases, platforms, repositories.

Michael Tobias, JewishGen, Jewish Records Indexing – Poland

Witold Wrzosiński, Foundation for Documentation of Jewish Cemeteries,

Marla Raucher Osborn, Gesher Galicia, Rohatyn Jewish Heritage

chaired by Michał Majewski, POLIN Museum

The development of various online project has made access to various types of archival and library resources increasingly easy over the last few years. Both large, commercial databases and smaller ones, created by people passionate about history, are now available to the public. There are many great tools, but because of their sheer abundance, not all of them are being used to their full potential. Together with experts from three organizations working to describe archival materials and popularize historical research, we will reflect on the future of such projects, their interdependence and possibilities of their integration.

Form: Expert’s presentations and panel discussion, open for public

Time: 2,5 h

Session 6

OPEN CALL

New Media in Jewish heritage education.

Michael Peter Edson, UN Live Museum for Humanity

How to use modern media and technologies successfully, creatively and efficiently?
How can new media help to effectively educate about Jewish heritage and reach out to the public. How are they currently used, and what could be done in the future? There are a number of very interesting projects that can share good practices (use of mobile apps,

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multimedia platforms, interactive storytelling). From their examples we would like to address the above questions.

Form: Introduction, project and good practice presentations, discussion
Time: 2,5h

Session 7 OPEN CALL

Medium, object, story. Using multimedia in narrative exhibitions.

Arnaud Dechelle, University of Lincoln – School of Architecture and Design – Design for Exhibition and Museums

The presence of new media and technologies in narrative exhibitions has lately become the norm. However the use of multimedia in exhibitions and the relation between technologies and collections raises many questions. While focusing mainly on Jewish heritage institutions we would like this discussion to explore the wide range of possibilities and challenges that multimedia brings to historical narratives. How can new technologies best support an object and convey a story? How can they work with and not against artefacts and collections? Where does their role begin and end? Can guidelines for their correct use be defined when dealing with sensitive material? How to best develop multimedia presentations and interactive tools that are engaging and relevant yet historically sound and accurate?

Form: Introduction, project and good practice presentations, discussion
Time: 2,5h

Session 8 OPEN CALL

Creative approaches to cultural memory and education.

Chair to be confirmed

Cultural memory is a collective process that involves culturally shaped ways of experiencing, understanding, expressing, and negotiating the past. Any consideration of the past takes place in the present and bears on the future. How is cultural memory understood and approached in different educational projects? What methodologies, concepts, and principles guide cultural memory projects related to Jewish history and the Holocaust? What is the potential of objects, drawings, music, theatre, and other creative approaches? The goal of this session is to share the most interesting methods and projects using such creative approaches to cultural memory and education both within and outside the classroom setting.

Form: Introduction, participant presentations, discussion
Time: 2,5h

12.45 – 14.00 Lunch

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14.00 – 15.00 Key note:
Whose heritage? Jewish heritage and social engagement
Ruth Ellen Gruber, Jewish Heritage Europe

15.00 – 15.15 Coffee break

15.15 – 17.45 Discussion sessions

Session 9

OPEN CALL

Working with local communities in the field of the Jewish cultural sphere and memory.
Emil Majuk, Grodzka Gate – NN Theatre Centre

Who is the “local community”? What are diverse aspects of working with local communities? What kind of relations between which actors need to be taken under consideration when working in the field of Jewish cultural heritage? To whom, and for what reason, are projects considering Jewish history and memory addressed? What social issues can be addressed by the projects operators, what impact (planned for or not) do they have, and what obstacles do they meet? What is local communities agency, and how do they participate in Jewish heritage initiatives?

Form: Introduction, project and good practice presentations, discussion
Time: 2,5 h

Session 10

OPEN CALL

Social engagement – heritage of diversity or burden of xenophobia? Programs promoting open attitudes and a diverse society.

Yury Boychenko, the Anti-Discrimination Section at the Office of the United Nations' High Commissioner for Human Rights based in Geneva

Session prepared by the “Never Again” Association

The history of the relationship between the Jewish diaspora and the surrounding majorities is a heritage that teaches acceptance and coexistence within diversity or is it rather a burden of xenophobia and personalization of fears of the Other? How is combating anti-Semitism combined with other minorities' issues; are there limitations to using the Jewish example in that matter? How is educating about anti-Semitism connected to current social issues, problems and conflicts? What kind of projects or initiatives are undertaken in Europe; to whom are they addressed and do they have an impact?

Form: Introduction, project and good practice presentations, discussion
Time: 2,5 h

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Session 11

OPEN CALL

Artistic practices as a medium for memory and social change.

Dr. Erica Lehrer, Concordia University

How can artistic practices be used as a medium for memory and social change? What kind of projects and activities have already been done in the field of Jewish culture in Europe? What impact did they have, what obstacles did they meet? We are going to focus on examples of the best initiatives: engaging and including local communities, participatory approach, addressing social problems and public debate, even on controversial subjects. How can common memory be recalled or constructed thanks to artistic intervention?

Form: Introduction, project and good practice presentations, discussion

Time: 2,5 h

Session 12

Audience development and use of evaluation in programming.

To be confirmed

The workshop will focus on audience development and overview of evaluation methods that are useful in programming or strategy making for projects or institutions. The workshop will contain: audience segmentation techniques, audience research methodologies and creative evaluation practices.

Form: Workshop

Time: 2,5 h

Session 13

Networking possibilities. Jewrope – network of Jewish places, programs and artists.

András Borgula, KIBIC Alliance of Hungarian Jewish NGO's

The workshop is a response to the practitioners request and need to develop networking between Jewish related artists, places and programs in Europe. To create a tool that permits consulting with one another and the sharing of programs and initiatives. This workshop will be the incubator for a European website or network where venues, program providers, and artists can all be present together. We will discuss the possible network's accessibility to a broader public. As the point of departure we will use the example of the Hungarian website www.akibic.hu.

Form: Workshop

Time: 2,5 h

17.45 – 18.45 Coffee break

19.00 Theater performance “ The final cut”, Golem Theater

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10.06.2016 (Friday) DAY III

09.00 – 10.30 Plenary Session:

Where do we go from here? Glimpse into the future of Jewish Cultural Heritage projects.

Chaired by Prof. Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett

Official closing and invitation to public activities

Dariusz Stola, Director of the POLIN Museum

10.30 – 11.00 Coffee break

11.00 – 15.00 Public activities

11.00 Active mapping of the European Jewish Heritage Projects (participants will mark on a large map of Europe their projects with pictures and a short description, they can speak about their initiatives, leave comments on the map, and ask each other about their work. It will be open to the public too).

11.00 – 15.00 Project Village: participating institutions can present themselves: by presenting their project, doing their own small installation or little exhibition, giving out their own materials or organizing small workshops. All organizations can apply for space during the call for papers. They can also propose an activity that will contribute to the program of village events. The idea is to have the participants of the conference co-create the program of the event and share their work and achievements publicly. There will be a space for the village in POLIN Museum.

14.00 Lunch for the conference participants / picnic

10.30 – 18.00 Film presentations

15.30 – 17.00 Study visits and walks

Visiting Warsaw streets with a mobile app and a guide – following life and work of Janusz Korczak, a renowned Polish-Jewish educator, children's author, and pediatrician.

Visit to the Warsaw Jewish cemetery in Bródno.

Remigiusz Sosnowski, Director of Bródno Jewish Cemetery in Warsaw

Visit to one of the Warsaw football stadiums, organized by “Never Again” Association. During the visit we will follow an initiative that fights anti-Semitism and xenophobia in a space of football culture.

Guided tour of Jewish Warsaw – past and present.

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