
MUSEUMS AND THEIR PUBLICS

AT SITES
OF CONFLICTED
HISTORY

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
13-15 MARCH 2017

POLIN
MUSEUM OF THE HISTORY
OF POLISH JEWS



Museums and Their Publics at Sites of Conflicted History, 13-15 March 2017

POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, 6 Anielewicza St., 00-157 Warsaw, Poland

DAY 1: 13 March 2017

9.00 – 10.00 am Registration

Auditorium

10.15 – 11.00 am

Welcome: **Dariusz Stola**, Director, POLIN Museum, **Dorota Folga-Januszewska**, President, ICOM Poland

Opening remarks: **Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett**, **Małgorzata Pakier**

11.00 – 12.30 am

Keynote 1: **John Falk**, *The Museum's Agenda for Visitors and the Public's Agenda for Visiting Museums: Are They the Same?*

Chair: **Darlene Clover**

12.30 am – 1.30 pm Lunch break

1.30 – 3.30 pm – Parallel sessions

Auditorium

Art Museums and Politics of History

Discussion moderator: **Bruce Altshuler**

Zdenka Badovinac

Where does a museum speak from? Case study: Arteast Collection 2000+

Lolita Jablonskiene

Lithuanian National Gallery of Art: In(ter)dependent Discourses

Jorge Lopera, Viviana Palacio

The Medellín Museum of Modern Art (MAMM): A Museum in Transformation with the City

Conference Room A

Ethics and Education

Chair: **Angela Failler**

Darlene Clover, Tracey Murphy

Decolonising the Canadian Museum: Toward Public Pedagogies of Disruption and Transformation

Emmanuel Alcaraz

Perceptions by Public School within Algerian Museums Dedicated to Algerian Independence War Memory

Amy Sodaro

The Uses and Abuses of Memory in the National September 11 Memorial Museum

Stephenie Young

From Object to Artifact: Forensics, Memorialization, and the Srebrenica-Potočari Memorial Center

Commentary: **Stanisław Obirek**

Conference Room B

3.30 – 4.00 pm Coffee

4 - 6 pm - Parallel sessions

Symbolic Power and Majority Domination

Chair: **Roma Sendyka**

Ewa Klekot

*Silencing Conflicts, Aestheticizing Diversity:
Stories the Ethnographic Museum Tells*

Peggy Levitt

Alexandra Parrs

*Hiding in Plain Sight: The Coptic Museum
in the Egyptian Cultural Landscape*

Michał Bilewicz

*Commemorative Biases:
How to Go Beyond Them?*

Simina Badica

*Negotiating Biographies: An Ethnographic
Collection from the Second World War*

Written presentation:

Petr Agha

The Art of Dissent

Commentary: **Joanna Wawrzyniak**

Emotions and Experience

Chair: **Anna Ziębińska-Witek**

Geneviève Zubrzycki

*Expanding the Polish National Sensorium in
Jewish Museums*

Iwona Kurz

*Affective Museum. Conflicted Media and
Mediation of Conflict in Times of Hybridised
Memory*

Carlos Betancourt

Experiencing Collective History

Elżbieta Nieroba

*Emotions, Imagination, and the History
Museum*

Written presentation:

Xanthi Tsiftsi

*A Jewish Museum in the Post-Conflict
Terrain of Berlin: A Building Evolved
from and Evoking a Painful History*

Commentary: **Chaim Noy**

Short Presentations

Moderation & Commentary:
Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett

Łukasz Bukowiecki

*The Revealed Memory of (Un)fulfilled
Commemoration. Social Imaginaries
of the Never Established Museum
at the Former Geśiówka Prison in Warsaw*

Beata Chomałowska

Muranów: The Estate as a Memorial

Aleksandra Kubica

*POLIN's Museum on Wheels in Rural Poland:
An Invitation to Engage with Difficulty?*

Erica Fontana

*(Re)defining the Past: Museums and Public
History Institutions Amid Social Change*

Marek Łoś

*Analysis of Visitors' Opinions of Their POLIN
Museum Experience*

Zofia Mioduszevska

*Muranów: Techniques of Using
the Monuments*

Anna Wencel

*Challenging Stereotypical Narratives
in Polish-Jewish History: A Virtual Tour
of the Galicia Jewish Museum*

Katarzyna Wodarska-Ogidel

*Between Time, Space, and Nation:
The Theatrical Museum in Vilnius*

Bohdan Khikhlach

*Museum and Military Conflicts:
Ukrainian Experience*

6.00 - 6.30 pm Coffee

6.30 - 8 pm Auditorium

Keynote 2: **Sławomir Kapralski**, *Museum and Mnemonic Security in Central/Eastern Europe: Mediating Difficult Past*

Chair: **Ihor Poshyvailo**

9 – 11 am – Parallel sessions

Auditorium

**Postcolonialism:
The Voice of the Indigenous**
Chair: Ciraj Rassool

Annie Coombes
*Troubled Times: Conflicted Histories
in Kenyan Community Peace Museums*

Maarten Couttenier
Congo in Tervuren

Shih-Yu Chen
*Rethinking Taiwanese History in National
Museums: Representing Indigenous People
in Taiwan*

Martha Black
In a Manner of Speaking

Commentary: **Heather Iglioriote**

11.00 – 11.30 am Coffee

Conference Room A

Studying Museum Visitors (I)
Chair: John Falk

Jackie Feldman
*Holocaust Museums as Agents
of Citizenship: Between Historical Knowledge,
Commemoration, and Identity Politics*

Sharon Deane-Cox
*The Language(s) of Legacy: Translation,
Audioguides, and Visitor Experience in
Conflicted Spaces*

Andreja Rihter
*The Transformation of Special Historical
Museums of Revolution in the Balkans after 1989*

Chaim Noy
*Co-narrating Heritage? A Comparative Study
of Visitors' Public Participation in Two Museums*

Commentary: **Olga Kaczmarek**

Conference Room B

11.30 am – 1.30 pm – Parallel sessions

Silent Pasts and Stories
Chair: Barbara Mann

Elizabeth Jelin
*Voices and Silences Regarding Conflictual
Pasts: Memories and Museums
in South America*

Daniel Walkowitz
*Jewish Heritage as Remembered
and Forgotten: Looking for the Lost World
of Jewish Socialism*

Studying Museum Visitors (II)
Chair: Andreja Rihter

Anna Ziębińska-Witek
*Between Fear and Fascination: The Public
in Narrative Holocaust Museums*

Natalia Sineaeva-Pankowska
*How Visitors Perceive the Holocaust Gallery
at POLIN Museum?*

Short Presentations
Moderation & Commentary:
Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett

Numan Anwar
*Digital Preservation of Buddhist Heritage
Sites and Museums of Khyber Pukhtunkhwa,
Pakistan*

Vaclav Sixta
Virtual Museums and Their Publics

Ruth Linn

*It Happens in Western Democracies ...
Notes on the Disappearance of the Escape
from Auschwitz-Birkenau*

Roma Sendyka

*KL Plaszow Site, Its Users, Its Publics, and Its
Dreams of a Museum*

Written presentation:

Joanna Andrysiak**Agnieszka Dulęba**

*The Agency of Holocaust Objects of Art
and Strategies of Representation in Polish Art
Museums and Galleries*

Commentary: **Małgorzata Pakier**

Cayo Gamber

*The Vital Role of Tour Guides at
Auschwitz-Birkenau as the Caretakers
of Complex Narratives and Visitor Journeys*

Doreen Pastor

*"I Would Have Liked to See a Barrack":
Visitor Experiences at Two Concentration
Camp Memorials in Germany*

Commentary: **Marcin Napiórkowski**

William Blair

*Collecting the Troubles and Beyond: Material
Culture and Contested History in Northern Ireland*

Roberta Caldas

*The City as an Open-air Museum: Interpret-
ing Berlin Wall Victims in West Berlin*

Giulia Golla Tunno

*The Invisibility of Italy's Colonial Past:
The Collection of the Museo Coloniale of Rome*

Khoren Grigoryan

*The Lost Exposition, or Exhibition without
Museum Items*

Agata Gołąb

*Before the Museum Was Created. Public Appeals
for the Memorization of Durchgangslager 121 in
Pruszków and the Construction of the Museum*

Natalia Baryshnikova**Daria Khlevnyuk**

*Representations of Soviet Purges in Moscow
Museums: Is It Right Here?*

1.30 – 2.15 pm – Lunch break

2.15 – 4.30 pm – Visit POLIN Museum's core exhibition

Introduction: **Jolanta Gumula**, Deputy Director, POLIN Museum

2.15 – 4.30 pm – Curatorial workshop with **Shelley Ruth Butler** (by registration), Room A

4.30 – 6.30 pm – Parallel sessions**Jewish History – European Past and Present**

Chair: **Daniel Walkowitz**

Daniela Flesler, Adrian Perez Melgosa

*Negotiating Dissonance at Spain's National
Sephardic Museum*

Till Hilmar

*Drafting European Unity from Traumatic
Memories? Mnemonic Agency at the EU's
New History Museum in Brussels*

Brigitte Sion

*Jewish Museums in Europe: The Tension
Between a Particularistic Identity and a
Universalistic Mission*

Memory Community and Participation

Chair: **Piotr Kwiatkowski**

Scott Cooper, Karen Exell

*Bin Jelmood House: Negotiating a Contested
History in Qatar*

Karolina Łabowicz-Dymanus

*The War Remnants Museum in Ho Chi Minh
City as the Space of Cross-Cultural Dialogue*

Tanja Schult

*Remembering Together: Polin's Daffodil
Campaign (AKCJA ŻONKILE)*

Curating Diversity

Chair: **Nélia Dias**

Philipp Schorch, Sean Mallon,**Nina Tonga**

Materializing Samoan-German Legacies

Dario Miccoli

*Migrants, Refugees, Citizens: The Jews of
North Africa in French and Israeli Museums*

Diana Popescu

*Performing Local Memories of Multicultural
Pasts in Contemporary Poland*

Jelena Subotic

Museums and Political Memory After State Death: The Contested Yugoslav National Pavilion at Auschwitz

Commentary: **Daniel Logemann**

Chris Zisis

Visual and Material Displays of Migration Histories in Museums/Exhibitions in Germany. Case Study: Greek 'Gastarbeiter' in the BRD. Towards Collaborative Museum Work with Immigration Communities/Actors

Written presentation:

Kate M. Flynn

Museums, Heritage Development, and Public Policy in Northern Ireland

Commentary: **Dominique Bouchard**

Rhiannon Pickin

The Deserving and Undeserving Criminal: Conflicting Narratives of Crime and Punishment History in Courtroom and Prison Museums

Commentary: **Gabriel Koureas**

6.45 – 8 pm Auditorium

Keynote 3: **Eyal Naveh**, *History Education in a Post-Conflict Area vs History Education in an in-Conflict Area: The Challenges of Multi-Narrative Approaches*

Chair: **Jackie Feldman**

8 pm Reception for conference participants

DAY 3: 15 March 2017

10.00 – 11.15 am Auditorium

Keynote 4: **Nélia Dias**, *The Search for a Cultural Crossroad in a Diverse City: The MuCEM in Marseille*

Chair: **Ewa Klekot**

11.15 – 11.45 am Coffee

11.45 am – 1.45 pm – *Parallel sessions*

Auditorium

Museums and Art for Critical Change

Chair: **Renata Piątkowska**

Katarzyna Muthesius-Murawska

The Critical Museum Debate Continues

Ciraj Rassool

Aesthetics of Commitment? Forced Removals, Art and Social Practice in Cape Town's District Six

Conference Room A

Curating / Exhibiting Violence

Chair: **Artur Markowski**

Anthony Bale

Blood in London

Conference Room B

National Narratives: Writing, Disrupting, Transgressing (I)

Chair: **Eyal Naveh**

Efrat Ben-Ze'ev, Edna Lomsky-Feder

Dismantling the Canonical Generation: Historical Museums and (Un)tangling Personal and National Memory

Mikhail Gnedovsky

The Post-Soviet Museums' Competing Narratives

Elizabeth Crooke

The 'Fearful Object'

Commentary: **Monica Eileen Patterson**

Karen S. Franklin

Obermayer German Jewish History Awards: Contested Memories in Exhibitions and Museums in Small Towns in Germany, 1988-2016

David Duindam

Self-inscription at the Hollandsche Schouwburg, Amsterdam: The Latent Indexicality of In-situ Memorial Museums

Alejandra Naftal

Sitio de Memoria ESMA: Ex Centro Clandestino de Detención, Tortura y Exterminio. Transforming a Place of Terror in a Space of Transmission, Education, and Reparation

Commentary: **Magdalena Saryusz-Wolska**

Gabriel Koureas

Conflicted Histories in the Re-designed Imperial War Museum London: Heroes and Perpetrators

Peter Kulchyski

Undoing the Logic of the Spectacle: Indigenous Engagement with Museum Practice and Public History in Canada

James Deutsch

The Smithsonian's Newest Museum: Conflicted History on the National Mall of the United States

Commentary: **Martijn Eickhoff**

1.45 – 2.30 pm Lunch break

2.30 – 4.30 pm – *Parallel sessions*

Seeking Dialogue and Reconciliation

Chair: **Elizabeth Crooke**

Dominique Bouchard

Curating Across the Divide: Lessons from Ireland, Northern Ireland, and Hong Kong

Barbara Mann

The Absent Museum: Local Art and Conflict in Jerusalem's Musrara/Morasha Neighborhood

Ihor Poshyvailo

The Maidan Museum: Addressing History of the Now

National Narratives: Writing, Disrupting, Transgressing (II)

Chair: **Krzysztof Persak**

Karen Ellwanger

Knowledge Production in Local Museums in the Light of New Border Formations

Marcin Napiórkowski

Warsaw Rising Museum: How Does Memory Commemorate Itself?

Monika Heinemann

Museums and Their Anticipated Audiences: Presenting Polish History During the Museum Boom

Nostalgia

Chair: **Geneviève Zubrzycki**

Maria Cabrera Arus

Cuba Material: A Collection of Cuban Material Culture

Martijn Eickhoff

Fort Vredeburg Museum in Yogyakarta, Indonesia; 'Amazing Heritage' and the Merging and Silencing of Colonial, Anti-colonial, and Post-colonial Violence

Łucja Piekarska-Duraj

We Could be Heroes ...: Tadeusz Pankiewicz and Oscar Schindler in Musealised Postmemories

Miranda Meyer

Lebanon's Spectral Museums: Representing Difference After Violence

Commentary: **Konstanty Gebert**

Nataliia Cherhik**Svitlana Kopylova**

Conflict in Museum History: The Experience of the Museum of the History of Zaporizhzhya Cossacks (in Polish)

Commentary: **Zuzanna Bogumił**

Mario Panico

Is Nostalgia Possible in the Museum? Notes for a Semiotic Proposal

Commentary: **Katarzyna Bojarska**

4.30 – 4.45 pm Coffee

4.45 – 6.15 pm Auditorium

Closing Roundtable: *Difficult Knowledge in Public – Thinking through the Museum*

Chair: **Erica Lehrer**

Panelists: **Shelley Ruth Butler, Angela Failer, Heather Igloliorte, Aleksandra Janus, Monica Eileen Patterson, Hanna Radziejowska, Magdalena Zych**

6.15 pm - Closing remarks

Academic Committee:

- Professor Bruce Altshuler (New York University)
- Professor Annie E. Coombes (Birkbeck University of London)
- Professor Dorota Folga-Januszewska (ICOM Poland)
- Professor Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett (POLIN Museum), Chair
- Dr. Gabriel Koureas (Birkbeck University of London)
- Dr. hab. Iwona Kurz (University of Warsaw)
- Professor Erica Lehrer (Concordia University)
- Dr. Małgorzata Pakier (POLIN Museum), Conference Convener

Organizers:

The conference was made possible thanks to the support of the Taube Foundation for Jewish Life & Culture, the William K. Bowes, Jr. Foundation, and the Association of the Jewish Historical Institute of Poland.



The international conference *Museums and Their Publics at Sites of Conflicted History* is financed under contract no. 565/P-DUN/2016 by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education within the framework of disseminating research findings.