MUSEUMS AND THEIR PUBLICS AT SITES OF CONFLICTED HISTORY

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
13-15 MARCH 2017
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

**Conference Room B**

Commentary: Stanisław Obirek

3.30 – 4.00 pm Coffee
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbolic Power and Majority Domination</th>
<th>Emotions and Experience</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chair: Roma Sendyka</td>
<td>Chair: Anna Ziębińska-Witek</td>
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<td>Ewa Klekot</td>
<td>Geneviève Zubrzycki</td>
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<td><em>Silencing Conflicts, Aestheticizing Diversity: Stories the Ethnographic Museum Tells</em></td>
<td><em>Expanding the Polish National Sensorium in Jewish Museums</em></td>
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<td>Iwona Kurz</td>
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<td><em>Affective Museum. Conflicted Media and Mediation of Conflict in Times of Hybridised Memory</em></td>
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<td>Carlos Betancourt</td>
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<td><em>Experiencing Collective History</em></td>
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<td>Elżbieta Nieroba</td>
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<td><em>Emotions, Imagination, and the History Museum</em></td>
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<td>Xanthi Tsiftsi</td>
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<td><em>A Jewish Museum in the Post-Conflict Terrain of Berlin: A Building Evolved from and Evoking a Painful History</em></td>
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<td>Commentary: Chaim Noy</td>
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<td>Michał Bilewicz</td>
<td>Łukasz Bukowiecki</td>
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<td><em>Commemorative Biases: How to Go Beyond Them?</em></td>
<td><em>The Revealed Memory of (Un)fulfilled Commemoration. Social Imaginaries of the Never Established Museum at the Former Gęsiówka Prison in Warsaw</em></td>
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<td>Beata Chomątowska</td>
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<td><em>Muranów: The Estate as a Memorial</em></td>
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<td>Aleksandra Kubica</td>
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<td><em>POLIN’s Museum on Wheels in Rural Poland: An Invitation to Engage with Difficulty?</em></td>
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<td>Erica Fontana</td>
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<td><em>(Re)defining the Past: Museums and Public History Institutions Amid Social Change</em></td>
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<td>Simina Badica</td>
<td>Marek Łoś</td>
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<td><em>Negotiating Biographies: An Ethnographic Collection from the Second World War</em></td>
<td><em>Analysis of Visitors’ Opinions of Their POLIN Museum Experience</em></td>
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<td>Zofia Mioduszewska</td>
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<td><em>Muranów: Techniques of Using the Monuments</em></td>
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<td>Petr Agha</td>
<td>Anna Wencel</td>
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<td><em>The Art of Dissent</em></td>
<td><em>Challenging Stereotypical Narratives in Polish-Jewish History: A Virtual Tour of the Galicia Jewish Museum</em></td>
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<td>Bohdan Khikhlach</td>
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<td><em>Museum and Military Conflicts: Ukrainian Experience</em></td>
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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
### DAY 2: 14 March 2017

#### 9 – 11 am – Parallel sessions

**Conference Room A**

**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 Igloliorte

**Conference Room B**

**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

### 11.00 – 11.30 am Coffee

#### 11.30 am – 1.30 pm – Parallel sessions

**Auditorium**

**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*

**Conference Room A**

**Studying Museum Visitors (II)**
Chair: Andreja Rihter

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

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

**Conference Room B**

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

Commentary: Małgorzata Pakier

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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

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

Robert Caldas
*The City as an Open-air Museum: Interpreting 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 Gołab
*Before the Museum Was Created. Public Appeals for the Memorization of Durchganglager 121 in Pruszków and the Construction of the Museum*

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

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**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

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**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*

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**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)*

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**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)tyangling Personal and National Memory*
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*

**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*

- **Karen S. Franklin**
  *Obermayer German Jewish History Awards: Contested Memories in Exhibitions and Museums in Small Towns in Germany, 1988-2016*

**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**

- **Commentary: Magdalena Saryusz-Wolska**
Miranda Meyer  
*Lebanon’s Spectral Museums: Representing Difference After Violence*

Natalia Cherhik, Svitlana Kopylova  
*Conflict in Museum History: The Experience of the Museum of the History of Zaporizhzhya Cossacks (in Polish)*

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

Commentary: Konstanty Gebert  
Commentary: Zuzanna Bogumił

**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 Failler, 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.