

European Seminar 2019

Museums as Cultural Hubs: the Future of Tradition

Interpreting | Programming | Innovating

Memorial Spaces in Museological Contexts

2 to 4 May 2019

Organizers

Ducal Palace, Guimarães
Regional Directorate for Culture – North of Portugal
ICOM Europe
DEMHIST
ICOM Portugal
DEMHIST Portugal

Local Supporters

Municipality of Guimarães
Municipality of Vila Nova de Famalicão

Place

Ducal Palace, Guimarães, Portugal

Informations and registration

icom.seminar2019@gmail.com

Proposals for communications

Up to 30 December 2018

Museums as Cultural Hubs: the Future of Tradition

Just as Humanity is ever evolving, facing new limits, challenging present options and making up new inventive answers, so does the relationship with Memory and Tradition. The ability to build up and learn from all the generations that are our predecessors is the distinctive trace of humankind, this characteristic depends on memory to subsist, while tradition helps to shape and frame human options and actions.

Museums thus face a permanent challenge to safeguard the past, whereas promoting the understanding of present meanings and relations, that help to build a better, more inclusive future.

Present day societies are global, challenging institutions of memory to open up to new and different situations, while insuring a difficult balance between their inheritance and new ways of experiencing it.

Man is the measure of all human things, His residence (under no matter what shape or size) is therefore a privileged approach to all dimensions of Human activity.

Sessions

Interpreting Memorial Spaces in Museological Contexts

People value what they know and have learned to understand and appreciate. Memorial spaces embody traditions, talk about significant events or people.

The residential space is instinctively apprehended by those who visit, they identify human universal needs and though through different perspectives, feel in a familiar ground.

Nevertheless, museum professionals know that the untouched ground does not exist, what really 'talks' to visitors is the interpretation presented by museological options, regardless of all the difficulties posed by conservation and security constraints.

What should be the boundaries, how far can we go? What are museum professionals responsibilities and how can we face up these challenges?

Programming Memorial Spaces in Museological Contexts

Museums are no longer sleeping beauties, untouched by the passage of time, offering the visitor their enigmatic stillness. Museum professionals have to program activities, propose alternative approaches, and promote curiosity and discussion.

The role of museums in present day societies is evaluated by their ability to make memory and tradition tools to reinforce social cohesion, promote learning and knowledge, provide keys to unlock the planet diversity and increasing complexity.

Innovating in Memorial Spaces in Museological Contexts

Museums that deal with memory and tradition through the means of residences are often considered to be static, by vocation and respect by the frame provided by the container/house, contents/collection and personality/personalities they evoke.

How can we innovate without betraying tradition? How can we bring memory alive introducing different approaches?

Program

2 May, morning

10,30h - Opening Session

11h00 – Key-lecture by António Sampaio da Nóvoa (Portuguese Ambassador, UNESCO)

12h00 – Discussion

12h30 – Lunch (free)

2 May, afternoon

15h00 – Session 1: *Interpreting Memorial Spaces in Museological Contexts*

-Key-lecturer: Isabel Fernandes, Paço dos Duques de Guimarães (c. 30 min)

-4 to 5 communications (c. 15 min each)

-Discussion (c. 15 to 30 min)

17h30 – Visit to the Ducal Palace

19h00 – Dinner at the Ducal Palace

3 May, morning

9h30 – Urban walk visiting Guimarães historic centre

11h00 – Session 2: *Programming Memorial Spaces in Museological Contexts*

-Key-lecturer: Dorota Januszewska, Museum of King Jan III's Palace at Wilanów, Poland
(c. 30 min)

-4 communications (c. 15 min each)

-Discussion (c. 15 to 30 min)

13h00 – Lunch (free)

3 May, afternoon

15h00 – Session 3: *Innovating in Memorial Spaces in Museological Contexts*

-Key-lecturer: Luc Vanackeere, Gasbeek Castle (c. 30 min)

-4 communications (c. 15 min each)

-Debate (c. 15 to 30 min)

17h00 – Closing session

17h30 – Visit to Museum Alberto Sampaio

19h30 – Dinner (free)

4 May, morning

9h30 – Departure to Ceide, Famalicão

10h30 – Visit to Museum-House de Camilo Castelo Branco

13h30 – Lunch

15h00 – return to Guimarães

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