

50TH ICME-ICOM ANNUAL CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 17-19, 2017
THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
WASHINGTON, DC, USA

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Migration, Home and Belonging

This year's theme of the ICME annual conference is *Migration, Home, and Belonging*. These topics are constantly and maybe now more than ever, relevant. People, and not the least, objects are moving. In addition, it is clear that this movement challenges established ways of defining migration, home and belonging.

ICME is interested in how museums and research is addressing historical and contemporary concerns related to *Migration, Home, and Belonging*. We anticipate that this theme can be approached in a myriad of ways. The papers at this year's conference show how diverse audiences are making the museum a 'home' and how the museum facilitates them finding a sense of 'belonging' to their sites. Some papers are analyzing the continuous discussions on the meaning of collections and why repatriation of objects are still somewhat controversial, and at the same time, necessary. Other speakers discuss historical and contemporary interpretations on collections and consider 'migration' from the perspective of object biographies.

The National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) in Washington D.C. is of course an excellent location for ICME to address the theme of *Migration, Home, and Belonging*. The NMAI itself raises a range of diverse voices and gives voice to communities who have been silenced in museum settings. Most importantly, the NMAI speaks of the strength of peoples making new homes and creating spaces of belonging. *Migration, Home, and Belonging* are universal socio-cultural concepts. These concepts impact the development of the sense of self, sense of place, and sense of other. The fundamental ideas of community, identity, and shared responsibility create a sense of belonging, therefore a home. Through adversity, peoples have maintained integrity with home and belonging vis a vis migration.

The role of the ethnographic museum is to promote understanding and tolerance of others in innovative ways through the growing collections of material culture, intangible heritage, and interpretative value, which we hold in trust. The conference

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also poses the question of how to make the museum into a place that is inclusive for all voices to be heard.

This year's conference has five sessions, including 25 papers, with different focuses. As the conference committee did not make a call for panels, the committee itself has divided the papers into different sessions according to similarity in themes and issues. Every classification may be disputed and so is this, but to the best of our ability, we have tried to fit together papers with similar focus. Browsing through the abstracts promises that this year's conference will be filled with interesting ideas, arguments, analysis and discussions on some of the most tense social and cultural topics of our times.

ICME thanks NMAI for sponsoring this year's conference.

We are looking forward to meeting you in Washington D.C. this October.

The Conference Committee of ICME:

Dr. Vivian Goldin
Dr. Ulf Johansson Dahre and
Martin Earring

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ICME Conference, 2017

Migration, Home, and Belonging

Conference Venue

The Rasmuson Theatre, National Museum of the American Indian

Day 1 - 10/17/2017 (Tuesday)

9-9:30am - *Opening remarks: Diana Pardue, ICOM Executive Council member, Dr. David Skorton, Secretary of the Smithsonian, & Dr. Vivian Golding, ICME President*

Conference Session I: Museology and Research

The focus of this session is on analyzing the role and work of ethnographic museums. The perspective in most papers locate an external view that is, trying to theoretically grasp the work being done at museums in relation to the theme of the conference.

***Moderator:** Dr. Viv Golding, Leicester University and Agnes Aljas, Estonian National Museum*

9:30-9:40 – **Introduction**

9:40-10:00 - **Agnes Aljas, Researcher, Estonian National Museum:** “Polyphonic exhibition meets visitor. Case study of Estonian National Museum Encounters”

10:00-10:20 – **Katy Bunning, Ph.D. candidate, University of Leicester:** “Culturally specific museums and national narratives: Who owns the racial past?”

10:20-10:40 – **Dr. Annette Fromm, Curatorial Consultant, Miami Beach:** “Migration, Home, Belonging as represented in American Museums: What is new under the sun?”

10:40-11:00pm-**Coffee Break** (Sponsored by NMAI), Patron’s Lounge

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Conference Session I: Museology and Research, continue

11:00-11:20 – **Heather Howard Ph.D., Marsha McDowell Ph.D., Judy Pierzynowski, Student, and Laura Smith, Ph.D., Michigan State University:** “Indigenous Makers and the Animation of Material Narratives”

11:20-11:40 – **Gwyneira Isaac, Curator, National Museum of Natural History; Diana Marsh, PhD, American Philosophical Society; Anthony Shelton, University of British Columbia; and Laura O. Sunnucks, University of British Columbia:** “Borders: Museums in the Age of Mobility”

11:40- 12:00 – **Kadriye Tezcan-Akmehmet, Assistant Professor, Yildiz Technical University, Istanbul:** “Connecting with immigrant families through museum’s parent involvement programs”

12:00 – 12.30 **Discussion Session I**

12:30-2:00pm – **Lunch** (*Sponsored by ICME*)

Conference Session II: Collection Analysis

The collections are an important part of the identity of the ethnographic museum. In post-colonial and post-modern times, these have been challenged. However, new ideas are emerging out of the controversies on ethnographic collections. This session will be looking at what collecting is today and how the collections themselves can be re-interpreted in a new social and historical context.

Moderator: *Martin Earring, National Museum of the American Indian*

2:00-2:20 – **Taku Iida, Curator, Japan National Museum of Ethnology:** “Dissemination Projects at National Museum of Ethnology, Japan: Toward the Holothèque of the World”

2:20-2:40 – **Kayte McSweeney, Object Journeys Partnerships Manager, British Museum:** “Object Journeys – reimagining and disrupting the role and value of community co-creation”

2:40-3:00 – **Rebecca Naidoo, Curator, Durban Local History Museum:** “How the role of the ethnographic collection provides an expression of appreciation and recognition within the diverse community”

3:00- 3:20 – **Coffee Break** (*Sponsored by ICME*), *Patron’s Lounge.*

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Conference Session II: Collection Analysis, continue.

3:20-3:40pm - **Dr. Leah Niederstadt, Assistant Professor, Wheaton College:** "Provenance, Pedagogy, and the Liberal Arts: The Kilham Collection at Wheaton College"

3.40 – 4.00 – **Rema Zeynalova, Researcher, Azerbaijan Carpet Museum:** "Ethnoidentity of Azerbaijani carpet in the context of migration, home and belonging"

4:00-4:30 – **Discussion Session II**

5 - 7:00pm - ***Wine and cheese reception*** (Sponsored by NMAI), Inouye Terrace

Dinner on your own.

Day 2 - 10/18/2017 (Wednesday)

9-9:30am - ***Morning remarks: Ms Machel Monenerkit, Deputy Director of NMAI, Martin Earring, ICME Board Member, Special Assistant to the Deputy Director NMAI.***

Conference Session III: The Inclusive Museum

Increasingly in the twenty-first century, questions have been posed, all over the world, asking for whom do museums work, collect and exhibit objects. Ideas of integrating so-called target groups in the museum work have been firmly established. The papers in this session develop these discussions and outline the practical and theoretical experiences of museums when being socially and culturally inclusive.

Moderator: *Sylvia Wackernagel, the Silesian Museum of Gorlitz, Germany*

9:30-9:40 – **Introduction**

9:40-10:00 - **Hakimah Abdul-Fattah, M.A. graduate student, Columbia University Museum Anthropology:** "Where Artworks End and People Begin: Managing Black and African Identities in Museums"

10:00-10:20 – **Regina Faden, Ph.D., Historic St. Mary's City:** "Interpreting Intersecting Migrations at a Colonial Site"

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10:20-10:40 – **Eva Kuminková, Curator, Wallachian Open Air Museum in Rožnov pod Radhoštěm:**
“Museum and Identity: A Story of a Tradition Keeper”

10:40-11am-**Coffee Break** (Sponsored by NMAI), Patron’s Lounge

11:00-11:20 – **Eric Madison, Researcher, National Capital Trolley Museum:** “Washington Streetcars:
Creating a Sense of Place in a City of Transients”

11:20 – 11:40- **Domenico Sergi, Ph.D., Horniman Museum and Gardens:** “Co-curating a refugee boat at the
Horniman Museum and Gardens London”

11.40 – 12:00 - **György Szeljak, Curator, Museum of Ethnography, Budapest:** “Immigrants, objects and
curators. Encounters in the field and in the museum”

12:00 -12:30 – **Discussion Session III**

12:30- **Lunch and afternoon on your own**

6pm – **ICME Dinner, Dutch treat****

A reasonably priced dinner will be arranged at a restaurant close to the conference venue for all who wish
to continue conversations. **RSVP Deadline: Friday September 15, 2017.**

Day – 3 10/19/2017 (Thursday)

9-9:30am - **Closing Remarks: Dr. Kevin Gover, NMAI Director & Elizabeth Duggal, Deputy Director of the
Hirshhorn Museum & Former ICOM US Co-President.**

Conference Session IV: Exhibition Analysis

The papers in this session address the conference theme from the perspective of the exhibition.
Our authors analyze key displays and ideas, such as interactivity and the digital, to progress engagement
and understanding. Geographically the papers discuss a wide range of objects and their complex
biographies, at sites in Kenya, Russia, Israel and Canada.

Moderator: *Mario Buletic, Ethnographic Museum of Istria*

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9:30-9:40 – **Introductions**

9:40-10:00 - **Lace Marie Brogden, Ph.D., Laurentian University; and Tobias Sperlich, Ph.D., University of Regina:** “The Navajo in Saskatchewan: Re:reading a display of First Nations and American Indian objects at a local Saskatchewan museum

10:00-10:20 – **Galia Gavish, Museum Curator, Jerusalem:** “*Drop of Milk*”

10:20-10:50am-**Coffee Break** (Sponsored by NMAI), Patron’s Lounge

10:50-11:10 – **Daniela Moisa, Assistant Professor, University of Sudbury:** “From Ethnography to Museology: Critical ethnography of the Exhibition of success houses in the context of mobility”

11:10-11:30 – **Albert Otieno Owino, Senior Curator, National Museums of Kenya:** “Celebrating the Hindu heritage and reverence of snakes through the exhibition ‘The Rich history and culture of Omieri’”

11:30 – 12:00 **Discussion Session IV**

12:00 – 1:30pm **Lunch**

Conference Session V: Repatriation

Who owns the objects in the museum? For too long this question was thought to be settled and the ownership of originating communities was ignored. Nowadays the answer is seen to be more complicated and the repatriation of objects is on the agendas of many ethnographic museums. Why are objects repatriated, and what social and cultural consequences will it have? The papers in this session will raise these and other important issues in this politically sensitive museum field.

Moderator: *Dr. Ulf Johansson Dahre, Lund University*

1:30-1:50 – **Meghan O’Brien Backhouse, Benjamin Hill and Nicholas Crowe, Pitt Rivers Museum:** “Moving Human Remains”

1:50- 2:10 – **Supreo Chanda, Assistant Professor, and Indrani Bhattacharya, Assistant Professor, University of Calcutta:** “The Problem of Migration and Identity Crisis Initiatives of the Indian Ethnographic Museums to be Home and a place of Belongings”

2:10-2:30 – **Coffee Break** (Sponsored by ICME) Patron’s Lounge

2.30 – 2.50 – **Inger Jensen, Curator, the Norwegian Museum of Cultural History:** “Coming Home. Bååstede –return of Sami Cultural Heritage”

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2:50 – 3:10 – **Eva Dagny Johansen, Curator, Alta Museum:** "Na, maid dál? Our Sámi cultural heritage heading home"

3.10 – 3.30 – **Discussion Session V**

3:45 – 4:15 – ***ICME-Annual Members meeting***

4:15-5:30pm - ***Closing wine and cheese reception, Patron's Lounge (Sponsored by NMAI)***

Dinner on your own.

Post Conference Participants: Please meet at the Washington Union Station train station (Starbucks) at 06:30AM, Friday October 20th, 2017.

Note: *Programme subject to change.*