

Election of ICME-board members 2019-2022

Meet the Candidates

ICME board elections will take place during the ICME annual meeting in **Kyoto** on **Monday, 2 September 2019, from 16.30-18.00**. Only current ICME Voting Members* are eligible to vote.

Voting in Kyoto

Please remember to bring your ICOM card to Kyoto: the election committee in Kyoto will check your ICOM card with the 2019 sticker as proof of current membership.

If you are unable to go to Kyoto but would like to vote

If you are an ICME Voting Member but **will not be attending the annual conference in Kyoto, you can vote by proxy**, according to the ICME Rules, Section 9, 36.

All instructions on how to vote by proxy, and the proxy voting form, are available www.network.icom.museum/icme.

Please send your vote to the chair of the Election Committee, Susan Faine ICMEelection2019@gmail.com before midnight (GMT) 15 July 2019.

According to the ICME Rules “the Chairperson shall be elected prior to the other members of the Board. The Chairperson and the other members of the Board shall be elected for three years, and their mandate can be renewed once. A member of the Board may subsequently be elected Chairperson. However, no one may remain on the Board for more than twelve consecutive years. The newly elected Chairperson and the new members of the Board shall choose among themselves specific functions such as Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor and Webmaster.”

<http://network.icom.museum/icme/about-icme/icme-rules/>

*Voting Members are those who have paid for their 2019 ICOM membership fee, naming ICME as their voting affiliation. If you have any questions regarding your membership status please contact the ICME secretary: Sylvia Wackernagel, sylvia.wackernagel@gmail.com.

Chairperson candidate

Ralf Čeplak Mencin – Slovenia

Museum Counsellor, curator of non-European collections (Asia, Oceania, Australia)

Slovene Ethnographic Museum

Ljubljana, Slovenia



Biography: I was born in 1955 in Ljubljana, Slovenia, where I graduated Ethnology and Psychology. In Zagreb/Croatia I did my MSc in Museology. I have thirty-four years of experience as a curator in different museums (provincial, city, ethnographic) in Slovenia, including eleven years as the head of Ethnographic Museum in Goričane. In 1986 I worked in Namtau Teck Shing Hong NGO in Shenzhen /China.

My research work is focused in the field of Asian studies and Museology. I served two terms as chair of the Museum Association of Slovenia (1991-1993-1995), two terms as chair of the ICOM Slovenia National Committee (1997-2000-2003). I also served three times as a member of the board of ICME (1989-1992, 2007-2010 and 2016-2019) and ICOM - Europe (2002-2007), member of the ICOM Task Force on National Committees and Regional Organizations (2005-2007). In 1991, 1992 and 1993 I was member of the group of experts in the Ministry of Culture in Slovenia. In 1991 I initiated Museoforum, a nonformal museological educational event which is still going on. Since 2003 I am member of the editorial board of National Geographic Junior in Slovenia. I published 180 articles and three books, was co-author of the Museums Guide in Slovenia (1992), was editor of the scientific periodical Etnolog/The Ethnologist (2012-2015) and organised (was author or co-author) 35 museum exhibitions. In 2009 I initiated »The Romano Chon/Roma month, a cultural festival of the Roma (Gypsy) minority. I was nominated for the member of the ICOM board in the 22nd ICOM General Conference in Shanghai. My last exhibition Afghanistan – Slovene views (2016 – 2017) with an emphasis on the humanitarian and refugee crisis was nominated for the state professional Valvasor museum award, which I won (2006, 2011) already. I have given numerous lectures in Slovenia and abroad (Austria, China, Croatia, France, Germany, Hungary, Peru, Romania). I am a member of several professional associations.

Statement: As a Chair I'll continue to pave the way ICME has done so far and will do my best for the ICME continuation to strive towards a world of respect and appreciation of the tangible and intangible heritage of all Cultures, and the knowledge about it and the possibility to enjoy it should be equally disseminated worldwide. If elected, I would like to put my objectives into practice through my contribution and democratic collaboration with the ICME membership and other ICOM Committees since I have gained experience working on several boards and in the museum field.

Chairperson candidate

Martin Earring - USA (Mnicoujou/Oglala Lakota)

Special assistant to the Deputy Director
National Museum of the American Indian,
Smithsonian Institution

Washington DC, USA



Biography: Martin Earring is an enrolled member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe in Eagle Butte, South Dakota. He is the special assistant to the Deputy Director at the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) and has worked for the museum since the summer of 2004. Mr. Earring has worn many hats at NMAI, he has been a Visitor Services Representative, Cultural Interpreter, Cultural Information Assistant, and Curatorial research assistant.

Mr. Earring received a MA in Liberal Studies from Dartmouth College as well as BAs in Anthropology and French Studies from the University of South Dakota. Also, Mr. Earring remains actively involved with his tribes serving as a collections management consultant for a tribal visitor center located on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in Kyle, South Dakota, USA.

Statement: Mr. Earring (USA) has been a member of the International Committee for Museums and Collections of Ethnography (ICME) since 2009 and an ICME Board Member since 2013. In ICME/2009, he presented a paper on the importance of indigenous recruitment and retention at the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI). For ICME/2011, he wrote on challenging antiquated Indigenous American stereotypes through informal museum education and in ICME/2018, he shared about the National Native American Veterans Memorial oral history project.

Mr. Earring was selected for the ICME youth travel fellowships for 2010 and 2011, Shanghai, China and Banz, Germany. In 2017, he hosted a successful annual ICME conference in Washington, DC. During his time as an ICME board member, Mr. Earring raised concerns for the 2015 annual ICME conference slated to be hosted in Kazan, Tatarstan—human rights. During the 2017 annual conference, he created a fellowship sheet for sharing biographical information with ICME membership.

Mr. Earring would like to run for the next Chair of ICME (2019-2022). His goal is to nurture and grow the community, which is one of the long-standing strengths of ICME. Another goal is to expand ICME membership throughout the globe by recruiting and retaining new ICME members, specifically, young museum professionals and peoples of color. Mr. Earring will explore cultural appropriation and sensitivity through an international ethnographic lens. If elected Chair, Mr. Earring will also focus on communications and governance.

Board candidate

Agnes Aljas – Estonia *(2nd term)*

Research Secretary

Estonian National Museum

Tartu, Estonia



Biography: Agnes Aljas is a research secretary of Estonian National Museum and part-time lecturer of memory institutions in University of Tartu. Having background in ethnology (MA in Turku University, Finland) and cultural studies.

She has worked in museum field from 2004 (in Estonian National Museum and in Sami museum Siida, Finland) in different departments from exhibitions, research and communication. She is also PhD student of the Institute of Journalism and Communication in the University of Tartu.

Her research interests and recent publications focus on the audience studies and to the collecting and curating of contemporary culture. She has been conducting and analysing participatory actions in Estonian museums and conducting case study interventions in Estonian National Museum. Her museum exhibitions and research projects also deal with Estonian everyday life from 1980s to nowadays. She is also ICOM Estonia Chair and in many administrative tasks in Estonian museum field.

Statement: I will be happy to take part of ICME board and work in the best interest of its members. Having experience in administrating many webpages also currently, I would be well experienced to continue the work of previous ICME webmaster.

Board candidate

Jeremy Silvester – Namibia (*new*)

Director

Museum Associations Namibia

Windhoek, Namibia



Biography: I am the Director of the Museums Association of Namibia (MAN) and a member of ICME and ICOM Namibia. I have worked for MAN since 2005 and prior to that worked as a history lecturer at the University of Namibia for eight years.

I was the Co-ordinator of the Africa Accessioned project, supported by ICOM, that enabled us to start mapping Namibian collections held in European museums, but also enabled us to develop a dialogue on this issue. The project has already helped to initiate important collaborative projects between Namibia and museums in Finland and Germany. The most recent of these has been a mobile exhibition and catalogue entitled *Oombale dhi Ihaka* which has used the small collection of a Finnish missionary collected in the Ondonga Kingdom as a means to reflect on cultural heritage issues in Namibia.

I have also been involved for the last three years in the important debate concerning the issue of Namibian human remains that were unethically collected and held in museums in Germany, Austria, South Africa and elsewhere. The project, supported by ICOM and ICME, seeks to encourage museums in southern Africa to develop its policies and procedures for working with communities concerning the repatriation of unethically collected human remains.

We believe that international collaborations can help release collections (that are, often, stored in cupboards in European museums) as resources that can help develop new ways to preserve and empower cultural memories in Africa. We are currently involved in the planning and early development of a number of new museums in Namibia, including the Museum of Namibian Music, a Museum of Namibian Fashion and the Zambezi Museum (as Namibia's first ecomuseum).

Statement: I believe that the greatest strength of ICME is the international network that it creates and my central goal should be to increase the geographical representation of ICME membership and to find ways to improve the 'cross-border' communication between members.

I believe that ICME should play a prominent role in the current debates about decolonizing the museum and that we should develop a strategy that includes strengthening ICME's membership in Africa.

I believe that recent developments present an important opportunity for ethnographic museums with international collections to refashion themselves. I believe that museums should be educational resources and hubs for cultural exchange, drawing on the history of their collections to make new cultural connections.

I believe that ICME should be active in supporting requests for museums to review their collections of human remains and transparent about the provenance of their collection. It is important that ethnographic museums celebrate cultural diversity and promote social harmony and deal with any legacies in their collections that are linked to colonial violence. I believe that the ICME newsletter and social media are important ways to build a real international community and would like to see these strengthened.

I believe that in order to support the new vision of ethnographic museums as hubs for cultural exchange ICME should adopt a new name. I also believe that ICME should seek external funding to support international exchanges at both staff and community level to give substance to its vision.

Board candidate

Rema Zeynalova – Azerbaijan (*new*)

Chief Specialist

Azerbaijan Carpet Museum

Baku, Azerbaijan



Biography: Rema Zeynalova is the Chief Specialist of the Azerbaijan Carpet Museum. Rema has worked for the museum since 2006 (Chief Specialist: 2015-present, Senior Researcher: 2008-2015, and Junior Researcher: 2006-2008). Ms Zeynalova's professional interests include public and community engagement, museum communication, dialogue-based and participatory learning.

Currently, Ms Zeynalova conducts a monthly project 'The history of one exhibit' and organizes lectures in the museum. In addition, Ms Zeynalova has experience as a curator in the exhibition dedicated to the poet Nizami Ganjavi's 870th anniversary in New Delhi (India) in 2012 and the exhibition Patterns of Magnificence – Azerbaijani Folk Art in Sofia (Bulgaria) in 2017.

Ms Zeynalova holds the B.A. and M.A. degrees in museum studies from Azerbaijan State University of Culture and Art. In 2017, Rema was awarded with the Honorary Diploma of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan for the efficient work in the promotion of the art of Azerbaijani carpet weaving. Ms Zeynalova has been a member of ICOM since 2014.

Statement: It will be great opportunity for me to be elected as ICME's board member, which certainly gives me platform to introduce the world to the ethnography of my country and region.

My first goal will be to realize hosting of ICME's next annual conference in Azerbaijan in year 2020, while successfully promoting the ICME's activities among Azerbaijani museum professionals and taking them together. Being part of the Azerbaijani museum sector for many years and after visiting many conferences within and outside of the country, I have developed a strong network across the world. I would be pleased if I can contribute with my network to ICME's further expansion and success.

Board candidate

Peter Ride – United Kingdom (*new*)

Principal Research Fellow and Course Leader
of MA Museums, Galleries and Contemporary
Culture

University of Westminster

London, UK



Biography: Dr Peter Ride is the Course Leader for the Masters in Museums, Galleries and Contemporary Culture at the University of Westminster. Educated in Australia (ANU), he has worked in a wide range of museums and arts organisations in the UK with a particular emphasis on photography and digital media, including: the National Museum of Photography Film and TV; the Photographers Gallery; and DA2 Digital Arts Development Agency. His recent academic research is into multi-sensory visitor engagement in museums and looking at the way that digital media and interdisciplinary arts projects are presented within galleries and museums. His practical research also includes research projects addressing cultural engagement in museums in Qatar, and multi-sensory activity and art museums at Tate Modern, London and Jewish family history and identity with the Jewish Museum, London.

Current art based projects include representations of the New Silk Road in Uzbekistan and how Brexit is represented as a cultural phenomenon on social media in the UK. Recent writing includes 'Suspended: Art in the Threshold' in Parry, R. Page, R. & Moseley, M. (eds.) *Museum Thresholds: The Design and Media of Arrival*, Routledge 2018.

Statement: As an academic in Museum Studies I am committed to working with the future generations of museum curators and building an awareness of inclusive and accessible museum practices that address the issues of cultural representation across the museum, from collecting, display to the engagement of visitors. My background is in visual arts and modern history but I work across disciplines particularly aiming to address how cultural knowledge is shared and built on and how museum can benefit from participatory community-based projects.

My goal in applying to be a board member of ICME is to help contribute to and lead the ongoing and healthy professional dialogue about cultural rights, heritage and representation from an academic point of view, but also to address what the visitors' experience is and how museums can find new ways to experiment and engage with their publics.

I have previously worked on a number of organisations, committees and boards with members with diverse interests and I am a firm believer in the value of networks and strategic partnerships as a way of developing and supporting the cultural sector. ICME is possibly under-valued in the sector and I would welcome the opportunity to help raise its profile as a critical and valuable entity.

Board candidate

Chiedza Nyengetera Zharare – Zimbabwe (*new*)

Curator

Mutare Museum, National Museums and
Monuments of Zimbabwe

Mutare, Zimbabwe



Biography: I am aged 36, born and bred in Zimbabwe. I am a holder of Bachelor of Arts Honours in History and Development Studies and Master of Arts in African History. All degrees obtained from the Midlands State University in Zimbabwe. After obtaining the first degree, in 2007 I joined the Ministry of Education, Sport and Culture in Zimbabwe as a High School History teacher. In 2009 I then joined National Museums of Zimbabwe as an Assistant Curator of Antiquities. As a way of advancing my qualifications, I completed my Master of Arts in 2015.

On 1 January 2018, after achieving the needed credentials I was promoted to be the Curator of Antiquities at the same institution. I am in charge of a collection of ethnography, firearms, textiles, furniture, numismatics, kitchen utensils, vintage and classic cars as well as paintings and sculptures. My responsibilities include conservation and preservation of the above-mentioned collection, documentation and well as mounting exhibitions. Research work is normally done by way of conducting field works of a selected study area.

Statement: I intend to be an active ICME Board member. In the event that I am selected I will incite practical realities of museology in general and ethnology in particular and this will open up exceptional opportunities for horizontal exchange of experience between professionals specialising in ethnographic collections.

I hope to represent the continent of Africa as a whole and my country in ICME decision-making processes. During the course of the term as a Board member, I hope to make positive contributions towards the development of ICME and will encourage other museum professionals working with ethnography to join the Committee. With the spirit of team work I will be proactive in team events as well as encouraging and supporting team members.

If I am selected, I will participate in workshops and conferences, information obtained from the will be shared with various community museums in our region and also sent to various universities whom we work with to make them available to their university staff and students. Therefore with the information provided above, being selected to be an ICME Bard member will be an investment on myself, my career, organisation, country and the African continent at large

Board candidate

Abdelrahman Othman Elsayed – Egypt (*new*)

Curator/Head of Museum Exhibitions

Museum of Religions, Bibliotheca Alexandrina



Biography: Abdelrahman Othman is a Curator (Head of Museum Exhibitions) for Museum of Religions, Bibliotheca Alexandrina and previously was a curator for Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities since 2011. His responsibilities include collection research, museum education, and museum exhibitions. He participated in organizing permanent and temporary exhibitions of National Museum of Egyptian Civilization and Egyptian Museum in Cairo for 8 years.

Abdelrahman is a Ph.D. candidate in Heritage and Museum Studies, Faculty of Tourism and Hotels Management, Helwan University since Oct 2017. He earned his master's degree in Museum Studies from Faculty of Tourism and Hotels Management, Helwan University, and published his thesis "*Collection Management of Ethnographic Museums: A comparative study between Ethnographic Museum in Cairo and National Museum of Ethnology in Osaka, Japan*".

In 2012, he earned a diploma of cultural anthropology (two years) from Cairo university, where obtained his bachelor of Archaeology since 2008. In 2015, he attended in comprehensive training course in Ethnographic Museum at the National Museum of Ethnology, Osaka, Japan for 4 months and also attended many international conferences and workshops related with Museology and museum Anthropology like, China, Tunisia, Georgia, USA, Germany, UK, Estonia, and Finland.

Moreover, he attended many comprehensive workshops in Museology in Egypt like: The National Research Council of Italy (CNR), French University in Egypt (UFE) and Institute Français d'Archéologie Orientale (IFAO). He published many papers, articles, and an Arabic edition book (*entitles, the ethnographic Museum*) in the field of ethnographic museum to raise awareness of the importance of ethnographic museums in developing communities.

In recognition of his efforts in the development of Museological performance of Egyptian museums for 2018, Abdelrahman an award-winning curator prize in 2018, awarded by ICOM-Egypt. also, has been awarded the Microsoft Education Award, awarded by Microsoft. and recently has been awarded the American Alliance of Museums membership (AAM).

Statement: It is my pleasure and gratitude to apply in ICOM-ICME election 2019 as a board member. I am Egyptian Curator, 31 years old, a young member of ICOM since 2015. I have a strong passion to be a board member as an Arabic representative of ethnographic museums curators in Middle East.

In the Middle East we have a large number of Ethnographic Museums (about 300 museums), which have a great importance in developing our enrich cultural heritage, because they acquire enormous collections of material culture and objects belonging tangible and intangible heritage, which reflect the features of daily life in Middle East and present aspects of popular culture in all forms. Despite its importance, they do not receive sufficient attention starting with acquisitions process, collection researches, documentation, preservation, security, risk management, and finally displaying them properly commensurate with their importance and meet the visitor need who is considered the founder of popular culture.

If elected, will do all efforts to achieve the following objectives:

- Establishing a new active network between ICOM-ICME with Arabian Ethnographic Museums and academic institutions where are teaching anthropology and museum studies.
- Encouraging many hundreds of young curators who are working in ethnographic museums in Middle East region either to join to ICOM-ICME members and or help them to be an active member.
- Organizing many workshops, seminars, post conferences, and field studies in Middle East communities, in cooperation with international professionals of ICME and encourage new young member of ICME to participate in then publish it in ICME reviews.
- Running joint project between ICOM-Egypt, the Egyptian Geographical society, and ICOM-ICME to develop the oldest ethnographic museum in Middle East, established in 1898.
- Launching international campaign for rescuing the ethnographic museums especially located in conflict regions in Middle East.

I hope this outline will meet or raise the expectations of ICOM-ICME members, and I am very confident that there is a unique opportunity for empowering youth in next ICME board to express their hopes, dream, and idea. Your voting will shape the future of Arabian ethnographic museums. Don't hesitate! Looking forward to meet you in Alex 2022!