

CALL FOR PAPERS TO BE PRESENTED AT THE 4th SEMINAR OF
EXPERIMENTAL MUSEOLOGY & ICOFOM'S INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

DEFINING THE MUSEUM OF THE 21st CENTURY: Latin American experiences

The Research Group “Experimental Museology and Image” (MEI), based at Rio de Janeiro State Federal University (UNIRIO), introduces the 4th edition of its Seminar of Experimental Museology, to be held in November 2017, raising the theme “Defining the Museum of the 21st Century: Latin American experiences”.

THEME:

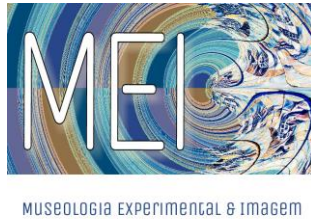
Following ICOM (International Council of Museums) and ICOFOM's (International Comitee for Museology) International Symposium, that took place in Paris in June 2017, the Research Group “Experimental Museology and Image” presents a Call for Papers to discuss the definition of museums in the 21st Century, exploring critical perspectives from Brazil and Latin America. With the support of ICOFOM and ICOFOM's Regional Subcommittee for Latin America and the Caribbean (ICOFOM LAM), the 4th Seminar of Experimental Museology has, as its main goal, to propose a decolonized outlook – based in Latin American experiences – about the role of museums in the 21st century, reevaluating ICOM's current Definition of a Museum, approved ten years ago, in 2007.

CALL FOR PAPERS - Thematic Working Groups (TWGs):

The analysis suggested begins with the official Definition of a Museum, according to the ICOM Statutes, approved by the General Assembly in 2007 (Vienna, Austria):

“A museum is a non-profit, permanent institution in the service of society and its development, open to the public, which acquires, conserves, researches, communicates and exhibits the tangible and intangible heritage of humanity and its environment for the purposes of education, study and enjoyment.” (ICOM, 2007).

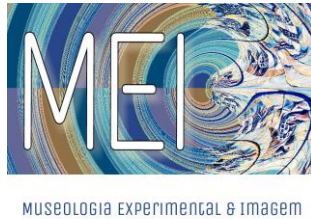
We also raise three fundamental questions about the re-definition of the museum:



- Who are museums for? Who is affected by the museum definition and what are the political, legal and social impacts in Latin American societies?
- Do we wish for a new definition or the current one is suitable for our realities, regarding cultural diversity, today's political and economic scenario and the range of museums?
- What's the social role of museums in the 21st century in a decolonized perspective?

Wishing to promote a debate around these aspects, we invite submissions to be included in one of the following thematic fronts (TWGs):

1. **Museums and Territory:** the papers should consider the different forms of musealization of places, “cultural landscapes” and the relationship of museums with their surroundings (Ecomuseums, community museums, neighbourhood museums, territory and open air museums), discussing also how the different forms and types of museums are related to societies and their “integral environment”.
2. **Museums and Emancipatory Education:** proposals that regard actions of museums aiming the emancipation of society through civic, popular and multicultural education (a concept based on Paulo Freire's theory: education as a social achievement that leads to freedom). The papers can bring insights about inclusion and accessibility at museums – in its diverse meanings –, focusing on advances, troubles and future forecasts.
3. **Cybermuseology:** analyses that point thoughts about museums in the new digital era and the cybermuseological dimensions around theory and practice in the contemporary world. The papers can swing towards the new practical and functional purpose of museums, as well as to the philosophical quests that the “virtual” world introduced to researches on spreading immaterial heritage.
4. **Trans-Museum:** the papers for this thematic front should consider museums as both material and virtual instruments of transition, transformation and transmutation, exploring the current gender studies. The approaches of the Queer Theory directed to museums and Museology (that don't match to labels or standards and transgress the global mindset) can also be considered, as well as the main thoughts from the global North.



SUBMISSION DETAILS AND DEADLINE:

The papers discussing the Definition of the Museum of the 21st Century, raising new topics and suggesting adjustments on the current definition approved by ICOM in 2007, can be presented as short articles, experience reports and essays of maximum 2000 words (not counting footnotes and bibliographic references) and should be in Arial font, size 11, without indentation and with no spaces between paragraphs. Footnotes and bibliographic references mentioned should also follow APA technical standards.

A short biography (maximum 100 words for each participant/author) has to be attached in the first page, containing educational background, home institution, practice area and contact e-mail. The references, including all quoted works, should be mentioned at the end of the articles, reports and essays.

All proposals must be sent until August 31st 2017 to the following e-mail: grupodepesquisamei@gmail.com, with the subject “Definição do Museu 2017”.

The communication activities of the four Thematic Working Groups will happen in Rio de Janeiro, in the 4th Seminar of Experimental Museology and ICOFOM’s International Symposium “Defining the Museum of the 21st Century: Latin American Experiences”, due to November 2017. The papers approved by specialized coordinators will be published in a work in digital format, planned by the Research Group Experimental Museology and Image (MEI) in partnership with ICOFOM (International Committee for Museology).

Rio de Janeiro, 10 July 2017.