

45th ICOFOM Symposium

Taboos in Museology: Difficult issues for museum theory

as part of the 26th ICOM General Conference held from 20 to 28 August 2022

Prague-Brno, Czech Republic

The time schedule corresponds to Central European Summer Time (CEST)

MONDAY | 22 AUGUST

16:00 – 17:15 ICOFOM Opening session (*Hybrid format*)

Location: Prague Congress Centre (PCC) 5. května 65 140 00 Prague 4. Room: [Club E](#)

Keynote speakers:

"Unspoken histories - legacies of trauma"

Muthoni Thangwa (National Museums of Kenya)

"Restitution and the museum as process"

Ciraj Rassool (Department of History – University of the Western Cape)

Moderator: Karen Brown (ICOFOM)

17:15 – 17:30 Book Launch Event with Lynn Maranda

TUESDAY | 23 AUGUST

14:30 – 16:00 **Multilingualism in ICOM: relevance and technical and financial feasibility of its extension / Multilingüismo en el ICOM: relevancia y viabilidad técnica y financiera de su ampliación / Pratique du multilinguisme au sein de l'ICOM : pertinence et faisabilité techniques et financières de son extension** (*Hybrid session + simultaneous translation in the three official languages of ICOM*)

Location: Prague Congress Centre (PCC) 5. května 65 140 00 Prague 4. Room: [Terrace 2B](#)

Speakers: François Mairesse, ... (to be announced soon)

Moderator: Juliette Raoul-Duval (ICOM France)

16:30 – 17:45 **Decolonising the Round Table of Santiago de Chile: 50 years after** (*Hybrid format*), co-organized by **ICOFOM, ICOM LAC, ICOM BRAZIL, ICOM CHILE, ICOM CANADA** and **MINOM**

Location: Prague Congress Centre (PCC) 5. května 65 140 00 Prague 4. Room: [South Hall 1B](#)

Speakers: Leonardo Mellado (ICOM Chile), Renata Motta (ICOM Brazil), Karin Weil (ICOM LAC), Michèle Rivet (ICOM Canada).

Moderator: Bruno Brulon Soares (ICOFOM)

17:45 – 18:00 Presentation of the project “Visualising Transnational Museology”

Karen Brown

Location: Prague Congress Centre (PCC) 5. května 65 140 00 Prague 4. Room: [South Hall 1B](#)

THURSDAY | 25 AUGUST

Location: National Technical Museum, Kostelní 1320/42, 170 00 Praha 7-Letná.

Room: Transportation Hall

(Non-hybrid)

09:15 – 09:30 Registration

09:30 – 09:45 Joint opening session for the international committees in the Transportation Hall

10:00 – 12:00 ICOFOM Opening session

Keynote speakers:

“Breaking the Taboo of Silence without Breaking the Nation”

Elizabeth Weiser (The Ohio State University, US)

"Objects from Oceania: Taboos Inside and Outside Museums"

Marion Bertin (Université d'Avignon, UFR SHS - Centre Norbert Elias, France)

“A Small Velvet Book About the Czech Museum Revolution”

Václav Rutar (National Technical Museum, Czech Republic)

Moderator: Anna Leshchenko

12:00 – 13:00 Lunch (Restaurant NTM)

13:00 – 14:15 Working session 1: Neutrality and Activism

Magali Dufau. *Neutral words or taboo words: What can or cannot be said in a museum (Paroles neutres ou paroles taboues : Ce qui peut être dit ou non au musée)*

Mari Viita-aho. *The taboo of activism in the museum field*

Olga Zabalueva. *Museology is not neutral: Thinking museums politically*

Katarzyna Jagodzińska. *Can museums play war?*

Barbara Landi. *Defining a method for uncovering “taboos” in museums*

Olivia Guiragossian. *A taboo called competition (Un tabou nommé concurrence)*

Bély Hermann Abdoul-Karim Niangao. *Emancipate minds and decolonize the museum (Emanciper les esprits et décoloniser le musée)*

Moderator: Daniel Schmidt

14:15 – 14:45 Coffee break (Restaurant NTM)

14:45 – 16:00 Working session 2: Collections and Publics

Héctor Valverde Martínez. *The problem of knowing the public (El problema de conocer a los públicos)*

Clémentine Debrosse. *Museums of ethnography and world cultures as taboo spaces*

Manuelina Maria Duarte Cândido & Giusy Pappalardo. *Reflections for reframing the taboos of collections*

Laurence Pauliac. *The taboo of polychrome sculptures in museology: The French example (Le tabou des sculptures polychromes en muséologie : L'exemple français)*

Rogério Victor Satil Neves. *The museum is coming out of the closet: The paradox in the genesis of the LGBT museum*

María Gabriela Mena Galárraga. *Museums as taboo for society: Reinventing practices through museological-affective approaches (El museo como un tabú para la sociedad: Revolucionarlo desde prácticas museológico-afectivas)*

Moderator: Bruno Brulon Soares

16:30 – 18:00 Guided tour around the National Technical Museum.

Evening event:

18:30 – 20:00 ICOFOM Reception at the Museum of Decorative Arts

Location: 17. listopadu 2, 110 00 Praha 1

FRIDAY | 26 AUGUST

Excursions in Brno

NB. 26 August is a museum visit day arranged by ICOM Czech Republic for the ICOM General Conference (not by ICOFOM). If you did not choose the "Museum Train to Brno" while registering and would like to join us in Brno for the sessions on 27 August, you will need to arrange the trip from Prague to Brno by yourself. Multiple inexpensive trains run directly from Prague to Brno on a daily basis.

The Museum Train arrives in Brno on the 26th at 11:00. If you have your luggage with you, we encourage you to leave it in the lockers at the station (for luggage of less than 15 kg the price is 90 CZK, or 3.5 euros). There will be 10 different tours in Brno that will start at 11:15. The Museum Train goes back to Prague on the same day. If you plan on staying overnight to attend the ICOFOM symposium the next day, you will need to make your own hotel and transport arrangements.

SATURDAY | 27 AUGUST

Location: Masaryk university, Faculty of Arts, the seat (building) of the Department of Archaeology and Museology. Address: Brno, Joštova 13.

9:00 – 10:30 Working session 3: Difficult Museologies

François Mairesse. *Museology at the risk of inequality (La muséologie au risque de l'inégalité)*

Nina Robbins. *Should an educational imbalance in the Finnish cultural sector be seen as a taboo?*

Olga Van Oost. *The (ir)relevance of research in the 'public' museum*

Lynn Maranda. *Taboos and conflict in museums*

Teresa Scheiner. *Museum practice and taboo: The difficult art of approaching difficult themes*

Amareswar Galla. *Are Indian museums or museology ready for change?*

Moderator: Elizabeth Weiser

10:45 – 12:15 Working session 4: Coloniality, Collaboration, and Conditions of Labor

Mariana Tezoto de Lima. *Repatriation: both a taboo and a trending topic*

Leonie Leeder. *Taboos of confronting coloniality within the Google Maya Project*

Marília Xavier Cury & Rebeca Ribeiro Bombonato. *The hegemonic taboo and collaborative social practices*

Wang Hsiao-Chiang. *Overcoming the taboos of collaboration: Primary research project of Indigenous museum value*

Julie Botte. *Gender, sexuality, and feminisms: Persistent taboos in museums (Genre, sexualité et féminismes : Des tabous persistants dans les musées)*

Elīna Vikmane. *Does the desire for digital advancement put museum staff at exploitation risk?*

Anna-Lou Galassini. *Working in the museum: taboos within the professions (Travailler au musée : tabous au sein des professions)*

Moderator: Marion Bertin

12:30 – 13:30 ICOFOM & ICTOP joint roundtable: The importance of Brno in the development of international museology

Speakers: Lucie Jagošová (Masaryk University) and Otakar Kirsch (Masaryk University), Bruno Brulon Soares (ICOFOM), Leena Tokila (ICTOP), Darko Babic (ICTOP), Teresa Scheiner (ICOFOM), François Mairesse (ICOFOM), Anna Leshchenko (ICOFOM).

13:30 **ICOFOM & ICTOP light reception** (by invitation of the Department of Museology, Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University in Brno)

Meetings of ICOFOM Board Members:

21 August – 17:30-19:00 – Conference venue

23 August – 13:00-14:00 – Conference venue

26 or/and 27 August – time and place to be defined