

Imagining the Next Generation of Museum Professionals: Bridging Gaps, Breaking Barriers

Programme

Joint **ICOFOM**, **ICTOP** and **COMCOL** Symposium
for the **27th ICOM General Conference**,
"The Future of Museums in Rapidly Changing Communities"
and the **ICOFOM 48th Annual Assembly**



ICOFOM



COMCOL



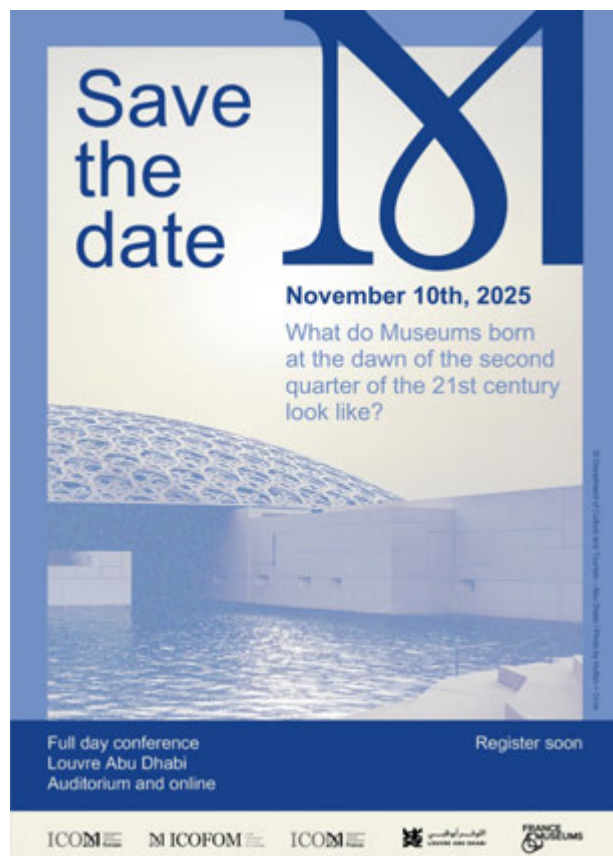
ICTOP

Imagining the Next Generation of Museum Professionals: Bridging Gaps, Breaking Barriers

Joint ICOFOM, ICTOP and COMCOL Symposium for the 27th ICOM General Conference,
"The Future of Museums in Rapidly Changing Communities" and the ICOFOM 48th Annual Assembly

Before Dubai, Monday 10 November 2025, 09:00-18:00

Venue: Louvre Abu Dhabi



Register via:

<https://www.eventbrite.fr/e/2025-what-new-museums-look-like-at-the-louvre-abu-dhabi-eau-tickets-1728258801599?aff=oddtcreator>

In November 2025, ICOM – International Council of Museums will hold its 27th General Conference in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, under the theme “The Future of Museums in Rapidly Changing Communities.”

At the dawn of the second quarter of the 21st century, the global museum landscape is transforming rapidly. Across the world, new museums are opening amid profound change — climate and health crises, social and geopolitical conflicts, and accelerating technological shifts. In this context, museums are called to be active contributors to sustainable development and to promote shared cultural and civic awareness.

Hosting this conference at the Louvre Abu Dhabi, in collaboration with ICOM France and France Muséums, is especially meaningful: the museum stands as a bridge between cultures, fostering dialogue and innovation.

Provisional Programme

09:15 – Welcome and coffee

09:45 – Official opening: DCT, ICOM UAE (Nasir), ICOM France, ICOM Europe, ICOFOM, Louvre Abu Dhabi, France Muséums (Moderator: JRD)

10:45 – 13:00 Presentations of “new” museums:

9 presentations, 15 minutes each (Moderator: Emilie)

13:00 – 15:00 – Lunch break and visit to the Louvre Abu Dhabi

15:00 – 15:45 – Summary of presentations and discussion (Moderator: Elke)

15:45 – 17:15 – Round table chaired by ICOFOM (Moderator: Marion)

17:15 – 18:30 – Closing cocktail

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Session A, A-17 – Wednesday 12th November 2025, 14:30 - 16:00

ICOFOM, COMCOL & ICTOP

A-17, The Dubai World Trade Centre (DWTC)

Facilitator(s): Prof. Karen Brown

Presentation

Dr Alexandra Bounia
(University of the Aegean)

Developing Academic Training Curricula for Post-Digital Museology

Dr Rachel Roy
(University of British Columbia)

*A Contributory Approach: Tracing the participatory curatorial processes of a
contemporary collectors show at the Museum of Vancouver*

Eman Mohamed Taha
(The Grand Egyptian Museum)

From Object to Experience: The Mounting of artefacts in the Grand Egyptian Museum

Daniel Abidjo
(CY Cergy Paris Université / Institut National Du Patrimoine)



Collecter est-il un acte de soin ? La présentation et la transmission des collections muséales en Afrique

Patoo Cusripituck
(Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia, Mahidol University)

Participatory Safeguarding of Lawa Cultural Heritage through Museum Practice

Joint **ICOFOM, ICTOP** and **COMCOL Symposium** for the **27th ICOM General Conference, "The Future of Museums in Rapidly Changing Communities"** and the **ICOFOM 48th Annual Assembly**

ICOFOM Workshop: Young People Shaping the Future of Museology through the Lens of the SDGs

Facilitator(s): Jamie Allan Brown (ICOFOM and the University of St Andrews), Kaye Hall (ICOM Barbados and the Barbados Museum & Historical Society) and Melissa Alexandra Aguilar Rojas (ICOM Costa Rica).

For this session, Kaye Hall (ICOM Barbados and the Barbados Museum & Historical Society), Melissa Alexandra Aguilar Rojas (ICOM Costa Rica), and Prof. Karen Brown (ICOFOM Chair and the University of St Andrews) will offer comments and reflections on practice.

This workshop will also feature reflections from the ICOM Award for Sustainable Development Practice–nominated *Shared Island Stories* project, offering highlights from its transnational youth exchange between Barbados and Scotland, a collaboration between the Barbados Museum & Historical Society and the University of St Andrews.

Participants explore how museums can foster climate literacy, advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and support community adaptation strategies. Rooted in critical pedagogy and socially responsive museology, the series draws inspiration from youth engagement to promote mutual learning between young people, museum professionals, traditional knowledge holders, and other stakeholders. This ICOFOM-led workshop will offer both a reflection on the global series and an opportunity for participants to contribute to its findings.

Please bring an object or photograph with you that represents your community. The session is open to a maximum of 50 participants.



Word cloud of youth contributions generated from workshops

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Session C, C-19 – Thursday 13th November 2025, 14:30 - 16:00

ICOFOM, COMCOL & ICTOP

C-19, The Dubai World Trade Centre (DWTC)

Facilitator(s): Prof. Karen Brown

Presentation

Rita Capurro
(Museo e Tesoro del Duomo di Monza)

Religious museums and practices for inclusion. The Italian case.

Cheeyun Kwon
(Hongik University)

A New Curriculum for Museum Studies and Museum Staff: Emergency Preparedness and Response

Darko Babic
(University of Zagreb)

Zagreb Museological School: legacy, transformation, future visions

Noam Alon
(Sorbonne Nouvelle University)

Why there is no Curatorial Studies program in France?

Hélène Vassal
(Musée du Louvre)

Greening Museum Professions!

Olga Nator
(Universidad del Museo Social Argentino [UMSA])

Silvia Beatriz del Carmen Manzini
(Museo Manzini)

Status y peso del campo teórico de la museología en la formación de postgrado en Museología en Latinoamérica

Imagining the Next Generation of Museum Professionals: Bridging Gaps, Breaking Barriers

ICOFOM 48th Annual Assembly

Expo City Dubai Connect Conference Centre

Imagining the Next Generation of Museum Professionals: Bridging Gaps, Breaking Barriers

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About ICOFOM:

The International Committee for Museology (ICOFOM) is responsible for researching, studying, and disseminating the theoretical foundations of museology as an independent academic discipline, critically analysing the principal trends of contemporary museology.

Founded in 1977, it is composed of members from across all continents who address museum-related functions and the social role of museums. Each year, ICOFOM organises scientific and academic meetings in different countries to ensure meaningful exchanges among professionals worldwide.

In addition, ICOFOM has built a substantial theoretical documentary corpus through its flagship publication series, the *ICOFOM Study Series* (ISS). Over more than thirty years of continuous production, this series has become the most significant bibliographical collection on museology to date.

Mission Statement:

The ICOM International Committee for Museology (ICOFOM) is dedicated to researching, studying, and disseminating the theoretical basis of museums and museology, taking into account the diverse perspectives represented by an international community of museologists and museum scholars.

We understand museology as the study, theory, and philosophy of the museum field, together with the ethics of its practice and functions. It encompasses both museum theory and practice, as well as critical reflection on the museum and the existing body of knowledge that informs this reflection.

Vision Statement:

ICOFOM's vision is to foster the development of high-quality knowledge in the museum field and promote inclusivity by increasing diverse membership and engagement. As the International Centre for Museology, ICOFOM aims to reflect all regional currents of museology through an affirmative action policy.

2022-2025 Board:

Chair:

Karen Elizabeth Brown, University of St Andrews, Scotland

Supreo Chanda, University of Calcutta, India; Co-chair of Working Group on Ethics

Vice-chairs:

Anna Leshchenko, Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen, Germany; Chair of Working Group on Communications
Marion Bertin, Avignon Université, Centre Norbert Elias, France; Co-chair of Working Group on Conferences

Ernest Kpan, National Institute of Art and Cultural Action (INSAAC) in Abidjan, Ivory Coast

M. Elizabeth Weiser, Ohio State University, USA; Chair of Working Group on Publications

Treasurer:

Jamie Allan Brown, University of St Andrews, Scotland;
Manager of membership, Co-chair of Working Group on Conferences

(Margaret) ZHENG Yi, Fudan University, China

Secretary:

Lynn Maranda, Curator Emerita, Museum of Vancouver, Canada

Chairs of subcommittees:

Janet Tee, Malaysia – Chair of ICOM ICOFOM-ASPAC
Scarlet Rocio Galindo Monteagudo, Museo Nacional de la Acuarela Alfredo Guati Rojo, México – Chair of ICOFOM-LAC since 2023
Luciana M. de Carvalho – Chair of ICOFOM-LAC till 2023

Melissa Aguilar Rojas, Costa Rica; Co-Chair of Working Group on Website. Independent museology researcher and visual communication designer

Honorary Board member:

Bruno Brulon Soares, University of St Andrews, Scotland – Former Chair; Co-chair of Working Group on Ethics

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Joint ICOFOM, ICTOP and COMCOL Symposium for the 27th ICOM General Conference,
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International Committee Day – Saturday 15th November 2025, 09:30-17:00

ICOFOM 48th Annual Assembly –

Imagining the Next Generation of Museum Professionals: Bridging Gaps, Breaking Barriers

C3 Halls – Expo City Dubai Connect Conference Centre (C3)

Room: C3 Halls

IC Day Key Facts: On 15 November 2025, ICOM's International Committees (ICs), including ICOFOM will host dedicated ICs Day programmes across a wide range of museums and cultural institutions throughout Dubai and the UAE. Only registered attendees of ICOM Dubai 2025 are eligible to sign up for the ICs Day programme.



IC Day Venue: ICOFOM will hold its IC Day at the Connect Conference Centre (known as C3) at Expo City Dubai. Expo City Dubai is open 24/7 with various attractions and events. Whether you're coming by Metro, bus, taxi, or car, getting to Expo City Dubai is easy. C3 is fully accessible.

IC Day Transport: If you are registered as an ICOM General Conference delegate, transport is scheduled to be provided. Please contact the local organisers directly via <https://dubai2025.icom.museum/contact-us>, as ICOFOM does not organise this transportation.

By metro - The fastest and most sustainable way to travel. The Dubai Metro Red Line takes you from various locations in the city to the Expo 2020 station, situated in the heart of Expo City Dubai. Then it's a 10-minute walk from the Expo 2020 station to the Connect Conference Centre (known as C3).

By taxi - Dubai's taxis and car hires are plentiful. Taxis can be booked by phone, but the simplest way is to download the Careem, Uber or S'hail apps. Through the Careem app, you can also book Hala Taxi, which is Dubai's most affordable taxi.

IC Day Catering: Refreshments and lunch will be provided by the local organisers. The programme includes menus that are subject to change but will cater for a range of dietary requirements.

IC Day Speakers: If you are a speaker, please remember not to go over your allocated time and bring your presentation on a USB drive.

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IC Day Venue Photographs:

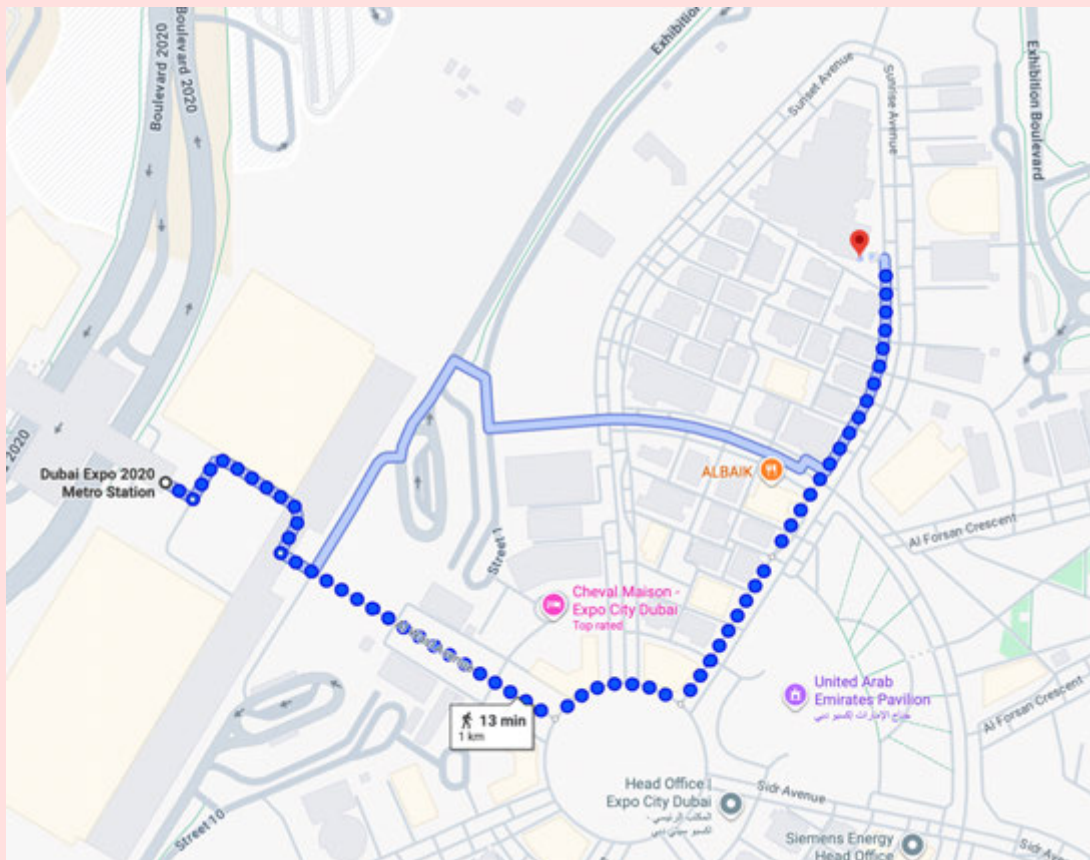


Plaza of the C3 Centre



Hall of the C3 Centre

IC Day Map: If you are using Google Maps or Apple Maps, search for C3 Parking. Please see the main ICOM General Conference website for further information - <https://dubai2025.icom.museum>.



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ICOFOM 48th Annual Assembly –

Imagining the Next Generation of Museum Professionals: Bridging Gaps, Breaking Barriers

C3 Halls – Expo City Dubai Connect Conference Centre (C3)

Room: C3 Halls

09:00-09:30

Registration and Networking

Room: C3 Halls, Expo City Dubai Connect Conference Centre (C3)

09:30-10:15

Welcome, Opening Remarks and Provocation

Room: C3 Halls, Expo City Dubai Connect Conference Centre (C3)

The ICOFOM International Committee Day opens with a warm welcome and introductory remarks by **ICOFOM Chair, Professor Karen Brown**, setting the stage for a dynamic programme of dialogue and exchange. **Professor Elizabeth Weiser, Editor of the ICOFOM Study Series and Chair of the Working Group on Publications**, will deliver an opening provocation.

The day will include the ICOFOM General Assembly, alongside eight parallel sessions as part of the 48th Annual Symposium, *Imagining the Next Generation of Museum Professionals: Bridging Gaps, Breaking Barriers*. This symposium will critically explore current global practices in museum studies education and professional training. It will examine how theory and practice align in today's museum sector, while addressing both ethical and practical challenges.

These presentations will complement the broader joint symposium, collaboratively organised by ICOFOM, ICTOP, and COMCOL. Through diverse contributions and discussion, the symposium will engage with five central themes: *Museum Studies and the Curriculum*; *Museology*; *Diversifying Programmes and Practices*; *Collecting as an Act of Care*; and *Building Sector Capacity*.

We aim to foster robust dialogue among scholars, practitioners, educators, and students, addressing global and community-specific needs, diversity, decolonial methodologies, participatory collecting practices, and sustainable capacity building. The day will offer valuable insights and strategic conversations intended to help shape sustainable and inclusive futures for all participants.

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10:20-12:15

Parallel Sessions 1-4

Room: C3 Halls, Expo City Dubai Connect Conference Centre (C3)

Parallel Session invited speakers will critically engage with the symposium's five central themes: Museum Studies and the Curriculum; Museology; Diversifying Programmes and Practices; Collecting as an Act of Care; and Building Sector Capacity. These presentations will also complement the broader joint symposium, collaboratively organised by ICOFOM, ICTOP, and COMCOL. Through diverse case studies and critical discussion, Parallel Sessions will foster dialogue among scholars, practitioners, educators, and students, addressing global and community-specific needs, diversity, decolonial methodologies, participatory collecting practices, and sustainable capacity building. A joint Q&A with the speakers will be held at the end of each parallel session.



= Pre-recorded presentation

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10:20-12:15 Parallel Session 1 Room: C3 Halls, Expo City Dubai Connect Conference Centre (C3) Facilitator(s): Anna Leshchenko
Presentation
Dr Juhi Sadiya (Indian Institute of Heritage, Noida – Department of Museology) <i>Museum Studies in India: Challenges, Adaptations, and Sustainable Models</i>
Maria Chiara Scuder (University of Leicester)  <i>"Dryad Basketry: A Global Collection". Reflections on a cross-institutional collaborative PhD project</i>
Dr Nina Pearlmann (University College London [UCL]) <i>Building Sustainable Capacity Through Digital Leadership and Networked Learning</i>
Dr Kuoning Chen (ICOFOM-ASPAC) <i>The Role and Challenges of Museum in a Traditional Cultural Crafts Village in a Rapidly Changing Society</i>

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10:20-12:15 Parallel Session 2

Room: C3 Halls, Expo City Dubai Connect Conference Centre (C3)

Facilitator(s): Prof. Karen Brown

Presentation

Dr Marion Bérengère Bertin
(Université catholique de Louvain, ISPOLE)

*Caring for human/ancestral remains preserved in museum collections:
an overview from Belgium regarding human/ancestral remains originating from Congo*

Etienne Bonnet-Candé
(France Muséums)

Ranya Camille Nasser
(Abu Dhabi Department of Culture and Tourism)

Hervé Barbaret
(CEO of France Muséums)

Audrenn Trouillet
(France Muséums)

Bridging Expertise, Building Futures: France Muséums' Scalable Approach to Strengthening Museum Sector Capacity

Hitomi Inoue
(Aichi Gakuin University)

Makoto Muto
(Nagoya City Museum)

Role of Museum Curators in the Community: Focusing on Regional Festivals

Chelsea Wang
(National Taipei University of Technology)

Cultivating Museum Professionals: Rethinking Talent Development for the Real World

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10:20-12:15 Parallel Session 3 Room: C3 Halls, Expo City Dubai Connect Conference Centre (C3) Facilitator(s): Prof. Elizabeth Weiser
Presentation
Prof. Supreo Chanda (University of Calcutta) <i>The Future of Museology in India: Challenges and Transformations</i>
Chiara Parisi (Museum of Palaeontology and Prehistory "Piero Leonardi"; University of Ferrara) <i>De-Occidentalising Museology: Bridging the Western Gap in Natural History Museums through Asian Perspectives</i>
Olga Zabalueva (Umeå University) <i>Precarious labour, diversity and (in)equality in Swedish museum sector</i>
Zhang Zheng (Jilin University) <i>From Archaeological Site to Living Lab: Jilin University's Museum Practical Course as a Chinese Model</i>

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10:20-12:15 Parallel Session 4

Room: C3 Halls, Expo City Dubai Connect Conference Centre (C3)

Facilitator(s): Melissa Alexandra Aguilar Rojas

Presentation

Nadia Cannata
(University of Rome La Sapienza)

Maia W. Gahtan
(Kent State University)

Collecting Language as Intangible Cultural Heritage

Uula Neitola
(Finnish Cultural and Academic Institutes)

Trust, tools and capacities: Youth perspectives to capacity building in museum and cultural heritage sector

Ogou Franck Komlan
(Ecole du Patrimoine Africain – EPA)

La formation des professionnels des musées en Afrique : rôle de l'Ecole du Patrimoine Africain-EPA et perspectives

Héctor Valverde Martínez
(Universidad de la Comunicación)

The Reverberation of the Museum: What's Missing in Mexican Museum Training Programs?

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12:15-13:15

Lunch and Networking

Lunch Served 

Room: C3 Halls, Expo City Dubai Connect Conference Centre (C3)

Lunch Buffet Menu (Subject to Change)



Salads

Shrimp Salad, Mixed Greens, Parmesan & Orange Vinaigrette (F)
Kale Salad With Dried Cranberry and Mixed Seeds (VEDGF)

Starters

Baked Vegan Cauliflower Gratin with Plant Based Parmesan (VEVGDF)(GF)
Spinach and Cheese Quiche (VG)
Vegetarian Spicy Samosas with Mint Chutney (VG)

Main Courses

Traditional Lamb Kabsah with Crunchy Nuts & Raisins (ND)
Grilled Chicken Breast, Mushroom Sauce aside (NF)
Oven Grilled White Fillet, Capers with Lemon Butter Sauce (FXD)
Vegetarian Layered Lasagna (VGXNF)
Olive Oil Sautéed Vegetables (VEVG/NFDF)
Baked Rosemary Potatoes (VEXVGXNFDF)
Steamed Basmati Rice (VE)(VG)NFDF)

Desserts

Lokaymat with Organic Date Syrup & Roasted Sesame Seeds (VG)
Revisited Croissant Based Umm Ali (ND)
Dark Chocolate Cake (VG)
Fresh Grown & Exotic Sliced Fruits Platter (VEVG)(NFDF)(GF)

Beverage

Coffee, Tea, Juices & Water, Soft Drinks

Vegan (VE) - Vegetarian (VG) - Nuts Free (NF)

Dairy Free (DF) - Gluten Free (GF) - Fish / Shellfish (F)

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13:15-14:45

Parallel Sessions 5-7

Room: Expo City Dubai Connect Conference Centre (C3)

Parallel Session invited speakers will critically engage with the symposium's five central themes: Museum Studies and the Curriculum; Museology; Diversifying Programmes and Practices; Collecting as an Act of Care; and Building Sector Capacity. These presentations will also complement the broader joint symposium, collaboratively organised by ICOFOM, ICTOP, and COMCOL. Through diverse case studies and critical discussion, Parallel Sessions will foster dialogue among scholars, practitioners, educators, and students, addressing global and community-specific needs, diversity, decolonial methodologies, participatory collecting practices, and sustainable capacity building. A joint Q&A with the speakers will be held at the end of each parallel session.



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13:15-14:45 Parallel Session 5

Room: C3 Halls, Expo City Dubai Connect Conference Centre (C3)

Facilitator(s): Anna Leshchenko

Presentation

Annissa Maulina Gultom
(National Museum of Ras Al Khaimah)

Private Museums and Collectors in Ras Al Khaimah: Community-based act in safeguarding cultural heritage

Janis Garjans
(The Society for Promotion of the Museology in the Baltics)

Baltic Museology School (BMS) for long-term strengthening of the sector's capacity

Elina Vikmane
(Institute of Arts and Cultural Studies; Latvian Museum Association)



Rethinking Professionalism in Museum Education: Findings from Latvia's First National Survey

Hsiao-Chiang Wang
(University of Glasgow)

Yen-Ting Lin
(University of Glasgow)

Migration Museology: Museums as Methods for Integration

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13:15-14:45 Parallel Session 6

Room: C3 Halls, Expo City Dubai Connect Conference Centre (C3)

Facilitator(s): Prof. Karen Brown

Presentation

**Nada Guzin Lukic
(Université du Québec en Outaouais [UQO])**

Politics and Practices of EDI and Post-Migratory Realities in the Canadian Context

**Weetarawan Ratchadamrongkit
(Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia, Mahidol University)**

Living with dead animals: Multispecies relation in natural history museum

**Mauricio Vanheusden
(Cooperativa El Recuerdo)**

Museology and indigenous languages: a call to action

**Scarlet Rocío Galindo Monteagudo
(Museo Nacional de la Acuarela Alfredo Guatí Rojo; ICOFOM LAC)**



Museums Studies our Museology Curricula in Latin-American and the Caribe

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13:15-14:45 Parallel Session 7

Room: C3 Halls, Expo City Dubai Connect Conference Centre (C3)

Facilitator(s): Marion Bérengère Bertin

Presentation

Magali Tatiana Dufau
(University of Toulouse Jean Jaurès)

Kossi Gbemako Théodore Atrokpo
(University of Toulouse Jean Jaurès)

Overcoming barriers and authoritarian drifts: the strength of citizen and participative sciences applied to the museum

Sethu Kumar
(Indian Institute of Heritage)

Fostering a Transdisciplinary, Inclusive, and Resilient Museum Community for a Sustainable Future

Hu Kaiyun, Liu Lang and Zuo Qi
(Shanghai University; 5-12 Wenchuan Earthquake Memorial Museum)

Trauma site museums and Collection Donors: Practices from the 5-12 Wenchuan Earthquake Memorial Museum

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14:45-15:15

Afternoon Coffee and Networking

Coffee and Snacks Served ☕

Room: C3 Halls, Expo City Dubai Connect Conference Centre (C3)



Afternoon Coffee and Snack Menu (Subject to Change)

Savory

Mixed Vegetable Cutlets, Chipotle Vegan Mayo (VE)
Porcini Mushroom Vol Au Vent with Truffle Scent (VG)
Corn Fed Chicken Teriyaki Tartlets

Sweet

Mini Mango Mousse Tarts (VG)
Mini Dark Chocolate and Raspberry Eclair (VG)
Assorted Macaroons (VG)

Beverage

Coffee, Tea, Chilled Juices & Water

Vegan (VE) - Vegetarian (VG) - Nuts Free (NF)

Dairy Free (DF) - Gluten Free (GF) - Fish / Shellfish (F)

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15:15-16:15

ICOFOM Board Meeting

Room: C3 Halls, Expo City Dubai Connect Conference Centre (C3)

The Annual Meeting of the International Committee for Museology (ICOFOM) brings together members from across the globe to reflect on the past year's achievements and outline strategic priorities for the years ahead. Chaired by Professor Karen Elizabeth Brown (University of St Andrews, Scotland), with Vice-Chairs Dr Anna Leshchenko (Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen, Germany) and Dr Marion Bertin (Avignon Université, Centre Norbert Elias, France), the meeting will also be supported by Treasurer Jamie Allan Brown (University of St Andrews, Scotland) and Secretary Lynn Maranda (Curator Emerita, Museum of Vancouver, Canada). The annual gathering provides a vital platform to discuss developments in museology, strengthen international collaboration, and shape the future direction of ICOFOM's research, events, and publications. An election of the next Board will also take place during the meeting.

Agenda:

1. Call to order
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Approval of the minutes of the 2021 Annual Assembly
4. President's Report
5. Treasurer's Report and Approval thereof
6. Sub-Committee Reports
 - LAC
 - ASPAC
1. Future Plans
2. Results of ICOFOM elections for the new Board

16:15-17:30

ICOFOM-ASPAC Board Meeting

Room: C3 Halls, Expo City Dubai Connect Conference Centre (C3)

The Annual Meeting of the ICOFOM-ASPAC Regional Alliance Asia-Pacific Board brings together leading museologists to discuss developments and priorities across the region. Chaired by Janet Siew Mooi TEE (former Director, Textile Museum Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia), with Margaret Yi ZHENG (Fudan University) as Vice Chair, and Shin-Chieh TZENG (Tainan National University of the Arts) as General Secretary, the Alliance supports dialogue on the evolving roles of museums. ICOFOM-ASPAC has fostered collaboration around key themes, including museology, heritage protection, community engagement, and sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region.