



Funded under Socio-economic Sciences & Humanities

*Material Identities:
Representing our National and European Selves
in
National Museums and Beyond*

And

Museum Citizens: National Museums and the European Citizen

A joint-conference of the EU Framework 7 EUNAMUS research consortium studying 'National Museums: Identity Politics, the Uses of the Past and the European Citizen'.

<http://www.eunamus.eu/>

WEDNESDAY 25 APRIL 2012: PUBLIC DAY

Venue: Old Parliament Hall, National Historical Museum of Athens

Morning Theme: Material Identities: Representing the National and the European Selves in National Museums and Beyond

10.00 Chair: Peter Aronsson (University of Linköping), Project Leader of EU FP7 Eunamus project investigating national museums, the uses of the past and European citizen. *Introduction*

10.10 Simon Knell on behalf of Eunamus: *Crossing Borders: Connecting Identities in Museums and Beyond*

Simon Knell, from the University of Leicester, UK, has led a consortium of partners, investigating the different ways in which museums and museum-like entities online, play a role in connecting identities across Europe. This presentation will discuss the European performance of art in cities and national museums, various forms of the distributed nation as performed in Norway, Sweden, England and Italy, and online, museum-like engagements around the subjects of Lake Prespa and Cold War. The work reported here was undertaken by Simon Knell, Bodil Axelsson, Lill Eilertsen, Eleni Myrivili, Andrew Sawyer and Sheila Watson.

10.40 Kylie Message: *Museums, multiculturalism and the Making of Australian Citizenship*

*Kylie Message is Associate Professor in the School of Archeology and Anthropology and Associate Dean (Research Training) in the College of Arts and Social Sciences at the Australian National University. She is author of *New Museums and the Making of Culture* (Berg, 2006), and is currently investigating how the protest and reform movements of the 1960s and 1970s have influenced practices of collection, exhibition and outreach in national museums.*

Abstract: *Museums have, since the 1970s, made an important contribution to the popular acceptance of multicultural policy in Australia. This paper examines the role that museums have played in the development of social inclusion policies in Australia, and also considers ways that museums have represented, staged, or reflected upon challenges to dominant conceptions of nationhood and citizenship. A range of national, community-located, and migration museums will be introduced, and I will invite comparisons to be drawn with museums in other national contexts that have also sought to represent cultural diversity.*

11.10 Conal McCarthy: *Reconciling nation and native: Indigenous art and settler nationalism at New Zealand's national museum*

*Conal McCarthy is a former museum professional and now Director of the Museum Studies programme at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. His most recent book is *Museums and Maori: Heritage professionals, indigenous collections, current practice* (Left Coast Press, 2011).*

Abstract: *What do indigenous people want from the nation and from national museums? Through an analysis of contemporary art and Māori identity at Te Papa, this paper explores the conference themes but seen from a Pacific perspective, revealing how this postsettler nation's complex relationship with the indigenous 'nation within' is at the heart of the museum while simultaneously threatening to pull it apart.*

11.40 Gabriella Elgenius: *Performing the Nation: National Days and the Politics of Recognition*

*Gabriella Elgenius is a member of the Department of Sociology and a British Academy Research Fellow of Nuffield College at University of Oxford. As well as contributing to the comparative aspects of EuNaMus, her research examines identities and social action, and diaspora communities in Britain. She is the author of *Symbols of Nations and Nationalism: Celebrating Nationhood* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2011).*

Abstract: *National identity and citizenship have remained a basis for policy-making, not only in the sphere of national museums but also with the related community initiatives of national ceremonies and national days. National days in Europe*

emerged, as a rule, in the period of 'invented traditions' and came to constitute a central part of the nexus of national symbolism through which nations proclaimed their distinctiveness and independence. When national days are explored systematically, a pattern emerges with reference to origins, types, designs and degree of success. Most national days in Europe are successful in terms of participation and continue to appeal to their citizens. However, there are exceptions and national-day-debates have thus re-emerged on the political agenda; new ceremonies are created, existing commemorations adapted as previously marginalized groups are being recognized as part of the politics of recognition, regret and apology. Moreover, community-building projects within the ceremonial spheres are in operation world-wide and employed to promote, celebrate, enforce or re-create identities. Significantly, as one example among many, this process reemerged with the alleged crisis of an overall British identity mediating the many identities through the notion of 'Britishness' (Heath and Elgenius, 2007). Britain, a multi-national and multi-ethnic state, was in this context described as challenged from within and from without, with reference to devolution and ethnicity. Such considerations have been at the fore for the quest of a Britain Day, the modernizing of existing commemorations (Remembrance Sunday), the invention of new celebrations (Citizenship Days, Citizenship Ceremonies) following the nationalization of citizenship, the lessons learned from the Queen's Golden Jubilee in 2002, the plans for her Diamond Jubilee in June and the Olympics in July 2012. It is in such contexts, the performance of nationhood stand out as analytically interesting as national days appear, not only as markers and tools of nation-building, but as proxies for complex notions of belonging. This paper develops arguments put forward in Symbols of Nations and Nationalism: celebrating nationhood, and explores the syncretic nature of national days and national day design.

12.10 Questions and discussion

Lunch Break

Afternoon theme:

Museum Citizens. Identity Politics, the Uses of the Past and the European Citizen

13.10 Alexandra Bounia on behalf of EUNAMUS: Introduction to second part of the conference

Chair: Simon Knell

13.20 Guest Speaker: Maria Economou: *Evaluation in museums: Layering the field*

Maria Economou is Assistant professor at the Department of Cultural Technology and Communication of the University of the Aegean. She studied Archaeology and History of Art at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, has an MA in Museum Studies from the University of Leicester and a DPhil from the University of Oxford. She worked as a lecturer at the Universities of Manchester and Glasgow and as an assistant curator at the Pitt Rivers Museum. She has published extensively on museological issues,

particularly on the use of new technologies in museums, evaluation and visitor studies.

Abstract: *The presentation will focus on the impact of evaluation research and visitor studies in museums over the last few years. It will examine the socio-economic changes which have influenced work in this area, as well as the different scientific fields which have underpinned the different approaches. It will also look at the methodological issues and the shift of emphasis from quantitative to qualitative paradigms as well as the ways of combining the two. Finally, it will refer to the difficulties of measuring large scale impact of cultural work and of assessing online museum activities.*

13.50 Guest Speaker: Mary Leontsini : *Historic museums as sites for sociability*

Mary Leontsini is Assistant Professor of Gender Theory at the Department of Early Childhood Education in the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

14.20 Guest Speaker: Manussos Marangoudakis: *Europe as a civilization in comparative perspective*

Manussos Marangoudakis is Associate Professor at the Department of Sociology, University of the Aegean. He has written extensively on the sociology of civilizational and the role of religion and technology in shaping late modernity. He is the author of American Fundamentalism - How Political, Scientific and Religious Debates in the West Shaped Intolerant Protestantism in America, Papazisi Pbl., Athens 2010. Currently he is working on cultural patterns and civil consciousness in Greece.

Abstract: Europe, first as the West, and later as part of a much wider, Western world, has been characterized by specific social features that dissociated it from the rest of axial civilizations (i.e., Islam, China, India, and the Orthodox Commonwealth), features that guaranteed its 'restless' character that turned modernity into a global condition. The presentation examines the current condition of these social features, their systemic character as they are crystallized in the EU political and economic structures, and reflects on the process of developing a pan-European identity in the framework of multiple modernities.

15.00 Tea/Coffee

15.30 Project Speaker: Alexandra Bounia: *Key findings – quantitative data*

16:00 Project Speaker: Jocelyn Dodd: *Key findings – qualitative data*

16:30 Project Speaker: Pille Runnel/Pille Pruulmann-Vengerfeldt: *Research experience*

Alexandra Bounia is Associate Professor of Museology at the University of the Aegean and the leader of WP6. Jocelyn Dodd is Director of RCMG of the University of Leicester.

Pille Runnel is director of Research at the National Museum of Estonia.

Pille Pruulmann-Vengerfeldt is a Senior Research at the Institute of Journalism and Communication of the University of Tartu.

17:00 Discussion

17:30 Close of conference