

Eunamus – European National Museums: Identity Politics, the Uses of the Past and the European Citizen

CONSORTIUM

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<http://www.eunamus.eu>

Eunamus is a research project funded under the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Commission. It is designed to form a conclusive account of the roles of national museums in a Europe that constantly negotiates its borders and internal complexion and adopts ideas, traditions and communities from around the world.



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
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European National Museums:
Making Communities and Negotiating Conflicts



25 January 2012
13.00 – 18.00

The Royal Museums of Art and History
Parc du Cinquantenaire, Brussels

Featuring a panel on the making of new history museums

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National museums are among Europe's most enduring institutions. They testify to Europe's rich cultural heritage and bear the legacy of aesthetic norms and democracy. The research project Eunamus is half-way in its investigation of the historical, contemporary and future roles of national museums. To explore the policy relevance of the emerging findings, the project is organizing a mid-project conference.

The aim of this conference is two-fold. On the one hand it explores historical and contemporary roles of national museums in relation to nation-building; on the other it discusses the challenges and negotiations in terms of collections, communities and citizenship that arise when polities create new museums. All over Europe, the founding of new history museums brings to the fore questions as to which stories should be told, which objects should be put on display, for what audiences and with what results and future possibilities.

New museums of history have been initiated in several European nation-states and even on a European level. Usually these initiatives are surrounded by populist debates of the pros and cons of using public funding for such large scale cultural projects or by objections from intellectuals due to the ideological nature of the projects. This conference brings together representatives from four initiatives in Brussels, Berlin, Warsaw and Paris.

The panel on new history museums is organised by Eunamus and the House of European History

Launched in 2007 by Dr. H.-G. Pöttering, then President of the European Parliament, *the House of European History* will host a modern exhibition and centre of resources on European history, offering permanent, temporary and travelling exhibitions, a collection of objects related to Europe, publications, a variety of different events and educational programmes for a large audience. The House will present different viewpoints on and interpretations of history and will be a forum for reflection and debate.

13.00–13.45 Welcome addresses

Professor Michel Draguet, General Director a.i. of the Royal Museums of Art and History, Brussels

Professor Peter Aronsson, Eunamus, Linköping University

Octavio Quintana Trias, Director, Directorate European Research Area, at the Directorate General Research and Innovation, Brussels

Xavier Troussard, Head of Unit Cultural policy and intercultural dialogue, at the Directorate General Education and Culture, Brussels

13.45–15.00 Panel: The museum as a cultural constitution, great narratives and conflicts in museum spaces

Professor Peter Aronsson, Eunamus, Linköping University

Professor Dominique Poulot, Eunamus, Université Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne

Professor Dr. Chrysoula Paliadeli, Member of the European Parliament

Dr. Martin Schaerer, museologist, former vice president of ICOM, president of the Ethics Committee of ICOM

Moderator: Dr. Gabriella Elgenius, University of Oxford

Presentation of Eunamus' wiki on heritage wars

15.00–15.30 Refreshments

15.30–17.30 Panel: Entering the mine-fields – the creation of new history museums in Europe

Taja Vovk-van Gaal, Academic Project Leader, House of European History, European Parliament, Brussels

Professor Dr. Rosmarie Beier-de Haan, Head of Collection and Curator, Deutsches Historisches Museum, Berlin

Dr. Robert Kostro, Director of the National Museum for Polish History, Warsaw

Dr. Charles Personnaz, Director of the Maison de l'Histoire de France, Paris

Moderator: Dr. Chantal Kesteloot, Centre for Historical Research and Documentation on War and Contemporary Society, Brussels

17.30–18.00 Closing session