

**Material Identities:
Representing our National and European Selves
in
National Museums and Beyond
And
Museum Citizens: National Museums and
the European citizen**



Athens, April 23rd-27th 2012

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

This workshop and conference has been organised as part of the Eunamus programme of research investigating national museums, the uses of the past and the European citizen. This project addresses, in its overarching trajectory, European desires for greater international social cohesion and considers how history and the past more generally, and as shaped in key national institutions, contributes to this. This workshop-conference is framed around one part of this study which considered “The Museology of Europe”. The aim of this part of the research programme was to move beyond the studies of designated and notional national museums and linear narratives, and consider – at different resolutions and in different media – other museological engagements centred on non-linear and non-narrative acts of representation. The results of this work are outlined in the project report, *Crossing Borders: Connecting Identities in Museums and Beyond* (Linköping: Linköping University Press, April 2012). The workshop component of this meeting brings together researchers from around the world, who will discuss a range of related themes from European and non-European contexts which will inform and enrich the Eunamus research consortium. The workshop is divided into three half days, each tackling a different theme as outlined below. The final half day is given over to a public event which will report on some of the results of this work and introduce a range of international perspectives on museums, nations, material culture and policy.

The first half day of the workshop allows a broad exploration of museums, nations, transnationalism, culture and the material object. The Eunamus work theorized that European citizens share a sense of Europe articulated in an implicitly understood language of objects and buildings defined, structured and shared in our national museums and beyond. Objects understood as Classical, Baroque, Romantic and Impressionist, for example, exist both in articulated form in the educational and academic system but also materially and implicitly in lived experience. Abstractions of reason and order have been translated and materialised in a language of objects, and distributed across Europe in the symbolic form of cities, and in the national museums and elite collections which form the central core of the national performance. The distribution of similar material things across Europe produces a connective tissue which permits a European citizen arriving in Oslo, Vilnius or Madrid to immediately sense a unifying cultural bond; a sense of belonging and implicit understanding; a sense of Europe as material.

The second half day examines representations of aspects of nations distributed across local, city and regional museums. Presentations here have thematic aspects which reveal that the complexities and subtleties of national definition are only to be understood in these more focused engagements. Indeed, in some nations it is difficult to locate a central, defining, national museum: rather, museums are shaped strong and politically influential regional identities.

The final half day of the workshop component revolves around research which sought to break down the walls of the museum entirely but yet hold onto the principal idea that European citizens can be united through acts of common representation. Here Eunamus researchers considered the new Europe forming online. In this post-national, post-disciplinary, post-museum, exhibitory environment, are new nation-like entities being formed and new European commonalities being negotiated, in an environment without authorities, which deploys a language of virtual material things? This was not a study of museum websites but of museum-like online entities. Are we here seeing the formation of a truly borderless European museum? And is this museum composed of the same connective tissue that unites our national museums?

Information on the public day is presented separately so that it can be united with the second conference-workshop with which it connects.

Venue: Acropolis Museum, amphitheatre

12.00 Lunch

13.00 Louisa Anastopoulou, Scientific Officer, European Commission, DG Research and Innovation, Brussels: Welcome

13.10 Peter Aronsson, Eunamus Project Leader: Welcome

13.20 Simon Knell: Introduction to Conference Themes

Theme 1: Material identities

Chair: Dominique Poulot

13.30 Project Speaker: Simon Knell: *National Museums, the Language of Art and European Identity*

Simon Knell is Professor of Museum Studies at the University of Leicester, and former Head of Department and Dean of Arts. He has published many books on museums and the cultural history of science and takes a particular interest in disciplinarity and material culture and the cultures and mythologies associated with them. He is currently undertaking a comparative study of European national galleries.

***Abstract:** European identity is here not to be understood as a subject or object - or anything firm or particular - but as a connective language utilised in acts of representation. The aspect of European identity explored in this paper is performed implicitly in national art museums, even in the most nationalistic acts of representation. This European mode of material expression also spills out into the cityscape of the capital and has, indeed, infected nations globally. Composed of arcane artistic thoughts and ideals it nevertheless possesses a ubiquity and a familiarity. It is used to materialise the nation but also forms the connective tissue that makes Europe a cultural reality.*

13.50 Guest Speaker: Rhiannon Mason: *The Postnationalism Museum*

Rhiannon Mason is Director of the International Centre for Cultural and Heritage Studies (ICCHS), Newcastle University in the UK. She has published on museums, galleries, heritage, national identities, cultural theory, and place and is involved in a European Project MELA: Museums in the Age of Migration. Previous publications include Museums, Nations, and Identities: Wales and its National Museums (University of Wales Press, 2007), and she is currently writing about the 'postnational museum' as well as the relationships between cultural memory, personal stories and museum representations of war.

***Abstract:** My paper examines the relevance of theories of postnationalism and globalisation for the national museum. I discuss how ideas of a 'postnational museum' have been developed in the literature and offer my own understanding of what it means and why it is useful for research and practice. I also consider whether the national museum's institutional identity as part of the nation-state apparatus mitigates against the adoption of many of fea-*

tures associated with postnationalism in other areas of society and culture. At the same time, I will argue that we can think about characteristics frequently associated with postnationalism not only as twentieth and twenty-first century phenomena, but as highlighting a problematic with a longer genealogy linked to the development of European museums. My paper concludes by asking whether the historical roots of European national museums in the emergence of specific notions of public, democratic culture in the late eighteenth and nineteenth-centuries makes a significant difference to contemporary debates about their public role in various national contexts today.

14.20 Guest Speaker: Antonis Liakos: *The New Museum of Acropolis in the Triangle of Ideology, History and Pleasure*

Antonis Liakos is professor of contemporary history and history of historiography at the University of Athens, chair of the Board of the International Commission for History and Theory of Historiography (2010-2015) and managing editor of *Historiein*. He is the author of the book *How the Past Turn to History* (Polis, 2007), and *Apocalypse, Utopia and History: The transformations of historical consciousness* (2011).

Abstract: *This paper discusses the way that both the Acropolis of Athens and its Museum, should be contextualized as parts of a global cities' network, where monuments of the past acquire their meaning (and significance) from the aesthetic pleasure they provide. The Museum is conceptualized as a double: on the one hand, it materializes the core of the national ideology, by connecting the modern Greek state with a classical antiquity. By this token, it strengthens the nation's bonds with European orientalist and philhellenic ideologies and it becomes an emblematic symbol of its historical genealogy. On the other hand, it excludes significant parts of its past, links of connections with other marking parts of the nation's history – it becomes de-historicized. Holding both views in balance, the tension between classicism and the need for historicization, the paper proposes that it is only through understanding the new forms of historical consciousness, the obsession with the present and therefore the desire for sublime experience, that the impact the Museum has in Greek and international audience can be interpreted. It is not the Museum's contextualization into its past, neither the desire to trace the impact it has onto our gaze on the past, but the function it has as a heterotopia that redeems its visitors of their everyday concerns through their participation in a cultural product defined by the transnationally determined aesthetics of experiencing a sublime past.*

14.50 Tea/Coffee

Chair: Conal McCarthy

15.20 Guest Speaker: Kristin Kuutma: *Materialising the European with its Other: Objects, Art and Ethnography*

Kristin Kuutma is Professor of Cultural Research at the University of Tartu. Her research and teaching focuses on cultural theory, cultural history and anthropology, ethnographic studies and knowledge production, critical studies of cultural heritage and representation. She is the head of the UT programme of the Graduate School of Culture Studies and Arts.

Abstract: *Affected by post-colonial sensibilities, the controversy surrounding the displays at Musée du quai Branly in Paris illuminate the potentially conflicting agendas of museum curators, anthropologists and politicians in constructing material representations. Quai Branly simultaneously expresses the aestheticisation of cultural objects by national elites, cultural recognition of Others through the designation of ethnographic objects as art, and approachability for museum publics achieved on Western or universal humanistic terms. The display of non-Europeans in European national museums is an ambiguous battleground where material culture is mobilised for political or na-*

tional effect, played out poignantly in Paris. This presentation explores the choice between the suggested moral struggle and a struggle between preferred systems of display.

15.50 Guest Speaker: *Huism Tan: Singapore, Multiculturalism, and the Asian Civilisations Museum*

Huism Tan is Fellow at the National Heritage Board Academy, Singapore. Prior to this, she was the Deputy Director, Curation and Collections and concurrently Senior curator for West Asia/Islamic collections at the Asian Civilisations Museum. She has survived three museum development projects in 13 years.

Abstract: *A multicultural society has always been a core characteristic of Singapore. Even before the arrival of the British in 1819, Singapore had a small population of indigenous seafarers, Malays and Chinese villagers. The rapid growth of Singapore as an important entrepot during the 19th and early 20th centuries saw a wide diversity of people settling on the island. Colonial labour policies saw the arrival of large numbers of migrant workers from China, India and the Malay world. By 1836, the Chinese were numerically dominant and remains so till today. The contemporary population of Singapore is around 5.18 million, of which there are three main ethnic groups – the Chinese, Malays and the Indians. This presentation reflects on the development of the Asian Civilisations Museum, whose mission is to explore the ancestral culture of Singaporeans, in the backdrop of Singapore’s multiculturalism.*

16.20 Discussion of all papers

17.30 Close

19.00 Conference Dinner Acropolis Museum

Venue: Acropolis Museum, amphitheatre

Theme 2: The Distributed Nation

Chair: Arne Bugge Amundsen

9.00 Guest Speaker: John Orna-Ornstein: *The British Museum: Connecting International-National-Regional-Local*

John Orna-Ornstein is responsible for leading the British Museum's partnership programmes, from local community partnerships to national initiatives. His roles at the BM have ranged from curatorial to learning, and he has also worked in the international development sector. He is currently a board member for the Museums Association, ICOM UK and the London Museums Group.

Abstract: *A growing sense of national and regional identity in the UK's four nations and nine English regions is reflected in a renaissance in regional and local museums. The British Museum has defined itself as a museum of the world and looks internationally to explain its value as well as for much of its audience. What, then, is its role in the UK and how do its global collections relate to regional and local identities? Can it play a role in helping to shape both the particular and the broad histories we need in the 21st century?*

9.30 Project Speaker: Lill Eilertsen: *Vikings, Saints and Sámis: Regionalized nationalism in Norwegian museums*

Lill Eilertsen has a Candidata philologiae-degree from the University of Oslo (art history and folkloristic). In 2009 she benefited from a scholarship from NTNU on video game aesthetics. She develops reports for the EuNaMus-project.

Abstract: *Norway presents a genuine museum history of distributed academic competence already from the nineteenth century. Regional forces craving their part of the national narrative accelerated from the mid-1800s, arguing that Norway was best defined by the Norwegians themselves and not by academics and bourgeois officials of Danish ancestry in the Capital (Oslo). Now centre has become periphery and vice versa in regional and local museum institutions stressing different epochs of the national history in order to present their part in it: The seat of the country's founding father, Viking king Harald Hairfine, is relocated to the West coast of Norway, Trondheim is revived as a national centre for pilgrimage in the mid-regions and the indigenous Sámis call for a separate nation in the North.*

10.00 Tea/Coffee

Chair: Gabriella Elgenius

10.30 Project Speaker: Bodil Axelsson: *Home, work and "difficult matters": studying and collecting contemporary Sweden as it evolves*

Bodil Axelsson is assistant professor at Tema Q, Linköping University. Her research revolves around history in popular culture, arts based research, and educational science. She leads Eunamus work on dissemination.

Abstract: *For more than thirty years, the nation-wide organisation Samdok has connected cultural historical museums in Sweden. Increasingly inspired by the postmodern and reflexive turn within ethnology and cultural research more generally, Samdok's contemporary studies have been active agents in dismantling the idea of a single and unproblematic cultural history for the nation. Even so, Samdok has followed in the footsteps of earlier generations of museum based ethnologists and formed a national geography of belonging around domestic environments and the work places. This paper situates Samdok's activities in a three-part chronology. The preparations, in which a group of museum people established a rational systematic approach to collecting in the modern era of mass consumption and disposability, are brought together into a first phase. If museums in an earlier era had come into being as a kind of cultural mosaic, they were here positioned as cogs in a collecting machine. The second phase is comprised of a period of household inventories and short-term workplace ethnographies producing contemporary social history for future use. In a third phase, analytical and problem-based perspectives were fully implemented. The members of SAMDOK direct their attention to Sweden's adjustments to a post-industrial economy, including cultural diversity, digitalisation and economic restructuring. Now, Samdok moved away from a celebratory approach to the nation so as to also include darker and more problematic experiences.*

11.00 Project Speaker: Sheila Watson: *England's distributed museums: manipulations of class identities.*

Dr Sheila Watson is a lecturer in the School of Museum Studies in the University of Leicester. A former museum professional she is particularly interested in history and national identity. Her research includes emotional responses to history exhibitions, the use of space and architecture to create affect, community museums and English identities. She is currently working on the representation of origins in national museums.

Abstract: *England has no national museum despite the fact that the English are enthusiastic museum makers. This paper explores two post war developments that represent apparently contradictory or competing notions of Englishness – the rise in popularity of the stately home as a museum and the development of industrial/rural life museums during times of rapid social and industrial change. The former are often understood to be representations of an elite class and culture, the latter a subaltern or dissonant response to the grand narrative of nation that focuses on the great and the good. However, this paper suggests that if we place these developments within their historical contexts we can understand them to be manifestations of a middle class appropriation of certain types of history and heritage. Within middle class imaginations these narratives of aristocratic lifestyles and the stories of lives of grinding poverty and deprivation were made symbols of a domesticated old world with traditional values.*

11.30 Discussion

12.00 Lunch

Theme 3: Online -Transnational

Chair: Kylie Message

13.30 Guest Speaker: Robert Saunders: *Mediated Memories and Digital Identities*

*Robert A. Saunders is an Associate Professor of History and Politics at the State University of New York—Farm-
ingdale. He is author of several books, including Ethnopolitics in Cyberspace: The Internet, Minority Na-
tionalism, and the Web of Identity (Lexington Books, 2010). His research investigates the impact of various
media on national identity, international relations, and geopolitics.*

Abstract: *The advent of the internet revolutionized the capacity of national minorities to represent their identity, whether it be to themselves, the majority nationalities of their state(s) of residence, or the wider international community. Cyberspace presents a virtual repository cum public space wherein those groups which lack access to the state apparatus can store, catalogue, and present a nearly limitless amount of content, including alternative histories, memories, songs, stories, images, and audio-visual material, as well as engage in discussion and debate about such content. By opening up spaces for digitally-enhanced, performative culture and the mass mediation of memories, the spread of new media across Europe has transformed the realities of national identity production and maintenance, partially delinking it from the state and statist elites. Previously voiceless minorities—like the Roma—are utilizing the Web to educate the world about their troubled past, while others—such as the Russians who were “marooned” by the dissolution of the USSR—are employing the internet to engage in mediated nostalgia for the (lost) Soviet ideal. By combining elements of the agora and the museum in cyberspace, national minorities are seeking to redress centuries of “cultural violence,” make themselves seen/scene, and ensure that their voices are heard in the current globalised era.*

14.00 Project Speaker: Andrew Sawyer: *Cold War connections on Flickr*

Andrew Sawyer worked in a new media company for ten years, and then as an editor supporting the development of Leicester's MA/MSc in Digital Heritage. His PhD was gained by a computer-based study of political prints from the early years of the Dutch Republic, and he has published on new media and museums. Currently he works on the Eunamus project where he has been investigating military museums and new media, and assisting with visitor studies.

Abstract: *This paper examines the extent to which online transnational communities develop around imagery of historical aspects of European experience, or physical sites representing conflicts in which two sides are engaged in communication or which represent a shared historical past. To do this it takes the image hosting site Flickr as a case study.*

14.30 Project Speaker: Eleni Myrivili: *Virtual Prespa: Online Discourses and Subjectivities in a Transnational Border Region*

Eleni Myrivili is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Cultural Technology and Communications at the University of the Aegean, in Greece. She holds a Ph.D in Anthropology from Columbia University (N.Y.), while her Master's degree is in Performance Studies from New York University (N.Y.). She has been working on issues of national-borders, representation, and in new media, and has published several articles and co-edited two books.

Abstract: *This paper examines the virtual representations of a multi-national border region in the South Balkans through its virtual presence in cyberspace. The questions that this inquiry pursues are: What happens to the national discourse and what kinds of identifications take place within the representational space of an on-line digital border region?*

15.00 Discussion

15.30 Visit to the Acropolis Museum

19.00 Conference Dinner

WEDNESDAY 25 APRIL 2012: PUBLIC DAY

On this day, this workshop turns into a public event. The morning session continues the themes of the workshop but for broader public consumption. This workshop concludes with lunch, and after lunch passes into an adjoining conference discussing European citizens, national museums and identity.

Venue: Old Parliament Hall, National Historical Museum of Athens

Morning theme: National Museums and the Making of Ourselves

In this session speakers will explore the role of museums in the negotiation of identities.

10.00 Chair: Peter Aronsson, Project Leader of EU FP7 Eunamus project: *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 multi-cultural 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 re-emerged 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 de-volution 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

Conference ends.

The next conference/workshop starts in the afternoon session.

This conference aims to discuss the data collected using both qualitative and quantitative methods in nine European museums: the National Museum of Scotland, the National Museum of Ireland, the National Museum of Estonia, the National Historical Museum in Greece, the Open-Air National Museum of Latvia, the Nordiska Museet in Sweden, the Deutsches Historisches Museum in Germany, the Museum of Catalan History in Spain and the Rijksmuseet in the Netherlands. It starts just after the end of the conference organised by WP4 of the same project and continues for the next two days in closed sessions.

During the first day, keynote speakers will discuss issues of identity formation on a personal, national and European context, while the research teams from the Universities of Leicester, of Tartu and of the Aegean will present key findings from the research. During the next two days, further interrogation of the data will take place and the impact of the findings to future research will be discussed.

12.00 Lunch

13.00 Peter Aronsson: Welcome

13.10 Alexandra Bounia: Introduction to Conference Themes

Chair: Dominique Poulot

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 Pdl., 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 it '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 the public day

19:00 Dinner

Venue: Amphitheatre of the Byzantine and Christian Museum

Chair: Simon Knell

9.00: Guest Speaker: Andromache Gazi: *Making and Re-making Identities in the Museum*

Andromache Gazi is a former museum professional, and now a Lecturer in Museology at the Department of Communication, Media and Culture, Panteio University, Athens. Her research interests include museum history and ideology, the theory and practice of exhibitions, museum communication, and museum text.

Abstract: *Identity is a notoriously elusive concept and one that is very difficult to pin down to exhibit in a museum. Identity may be based on ethnicity, race, class, gender, age, religion, or other attribute. It may be personal, regional, national, post-national, trans-cultural, and global. Whatever the case may be, identity is culturally determined, and defines a person both as part of a group and as an individual. Although identity plays a crucial role in stabilising a sense of “self”, it is asserted and reasserted in a continuously unfolding process. How can museums contribute to this constant interplay among the various facets of identity? The museum, it has been argued, can be seen as a place where people go to actively make and re-make their identities, to select, reject and manipulate the images and identities represented within. The view adopted here is that museums should offer more opportunities to interrogate our existing identities, and explore alternatives. My intention is to discuss the museum as a place which provokes reflection and thinking about identity in ways which are not always possible in our everyday lives. Given that much effort has been put into elucidating the role of the museum in shaping and/or reinforcing national or post-national identity, my focus will be on how museums may affect identity on a smaller scale (e.g. personal, local, communal).*

9:30 Guest Speaker: Dimitris Plantzos: *“Hellas mon amour”*: reversing the colonial gaze in contemporary Greece

Dimitris Plantzos is a classical archaeologist, educated at Athens and Oxford. He has published on Greek art and archaeology, archaeological theory, and modern receptions of classical heritage. Since 2009 he is the Director of the Argos Orestikon Excavation Project (www.argosorestikonproject.org). He teaches classical archaeology at the Department of History and Archaeology, University of Ioannina.

Abstract: *Greece owes its establishment as a modern nation-state to its classical past, systematically colonized by the European elites. As a result, Greek “national” museums duly exhibit their collections as tangible evidence for their country’s antiquity, or (in the words of Michael Herzfeld) as if in order to “remind the world that the country is still inhabited”. As the neo-classical ideal is however collapsing in the midst of a global financial and political crisis, Greece is often deemed unfit to safeguard its own past, and its widely advertized modernity is repeatedly criticized as “belated”, “incomplete”, or plain “inadequate”. The paper combines post-colonial theory with discussions of trauma as a historical agent in order to investigate ways in which contemporary Greeks strive to reverse the colonial gaze by re-claiming ownership of their (neo)classical past through a series of alternative, devised, performances of archaeological ethos.*

10.30 Tea/Coffee

11:00 Workshop: Interrogating the data session I

12.30 Lunch

Chair: Kristin Kuutma

13.30 Workshop: Interrogating the data session II

15:00 Tea/Coffee

15:30 Workshop: Interrogating the data session III

19.00 Conference Dinner

FRIDAY 27 APRIL 2012: RESEARCH SEMINAR

Venue: Amphitheatre of the Byzantine and Christian Museum in Athens

Chair: Peter Aronsson

9.00 Visit to the Byzantine and Christian Museum

11:30 Coffee/Tea

12.00 Final remarks and future directions of research regarding national museums and their visitors

13.00 Lunch / End of conference



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