

Museums in Ukraine Facing War, Civil Unrest and Conflict

ICMEMOHRI and IC Ethics Expert Meeting

Amsterdam 1-3 November 2023

PROGRAM

ICOM organizations ICMEMOHRI (International Committee for Memorial and Human Rights Museums) and IC Ethics, in cooperation with NIOD Institute for War Holocaust and Genocide Studies, are organizing the expert meeting *Museums in Ukraine Facing War, Civil Unrest and Conflict* from 1-3 November. Eight representatives of Ukrainian museums will discuss with international museum heritage and memory culture experts, in relation to war, mass violence and conflict. Besides the representatives from Ukraine, participants present are from Austria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Rwanda, Serbia and the USA.

In a sense, this expert meeting is a follow-up to a gathering with Ukrainian museum representatives organized by Dutch Culture earlier this year

Theme

The war in Ukraine poses museum professionals for huge challenges and dilemmas. They have to function in threatening conditions in a war where cultural heritage is under deliberately attack. What are the implications of this situation for their work, their personal lives and for the protection of their collections? How do they plan for the post-war period – both in terms of narrative and of collecting tangible and intangible heritage during the war? The expert meeting aims to work towards an outcome of initiating plans for the future and promoting a sustainable international cooperation.

In this expert meeting, ICMEMOHRI and IC Ethics offer Ukrainian museum professionals the possibility to exchange experiences; ideas, dilemmas and good practices with colleagues from countries that also faced armed conflict such as in Rwanda, Lebanon, Bosnia-Herzegovina and representatives of the Second World War and Holocaust Museums. Based on the needs of the Ukrainian participants, this expert meeting will offer a platform for discussing a broad range of questions like: How will historical and military events and the role of the aggressor be represented? How can museums be future places of remembrance and reconciliation? How do they work with and support contemporary artists? How can trauma be processed through culture and, in particular, through museum presentation? How to address ethical dilemmas such as cultural forensics and collecting? The expert meeting aims to work towards an outcome of initiating plans for the future and promoting a sustainable international cooperation.

Program

Wednesday 1 November 2023, expert meeting, day 1, NIOD

Time	Program	Location, NIOD Herengracht 380, Amsterdam
9.00 – 09.30	Walk in	
9.30 – 10.00	Welcome and introduction	<p>Martijn Eickhoff (NIOD, director) Jane Klinger (Chair, ICMEMOHRI) Lina Tahan, (Chair, IC Ethics)</p> <p>Andrea Kieskamp (IC Ethics): Introduction on the expert meeting: purpose and objective</p>
10.00 - 11.15	Session 1: Introduction, meeting each other	<p>Moderator: Lina Tahan (IC Ethics)</p> <p>Introduction round. All attendees introduce themselves and indicate from which quality they can contribute to this meeting. (Ukrainians participants, see also the continuation session after break).</p>
11.15 - 11.30	Coffee break	
11.30 – 13.00	Session 1; Continuation Introduction, meeting each other	<p>Moderator: Lina Tahan (IC Ethics)</p> <p>Ukrainian representatives state what the effects of the war are for their personal life, for their museums in particular and for their work under these war conditions.</p> <p>Milena Chorna (War Museum, Kyiv) Olha Mukha (Memorial Museum "Territory of Terror", Lviv) Olga Novikova (Khanenko museum of Art, Kyiv) Marhariyta Stafiichuk (Khanenko museum of Art, Kyiv) Nadia Tymchuk (Pavlichenko) (National Art Museum of Ukraine, Kyiv) Kateryna Chuyeva, (Ex-Vice Minister of Culture and information Policy, independent expert in Museology and Culture Heritage Protection of Ukraine, Kyiv) Roza Tapanova (National Historical Memorial Preserve, Babyn Yar) Irina Rybnitskaya, (National Historical Memorial Preserve, Babyn Yar)</p>
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch break	NIOD
14.00 – 15.30	Session 2: Collections: preservation of cultural heritage treasures and consequences for	<p>Moderator: Erik Somers (NIOD / ICMEMOHRI)</p> <p>How did the war affect the collection policy of the museums? For example, what are the consequences of evacuating cultural heritage treasures?</p>

	collecting policy as a result of the war.	<p>To what extent is collection policy changing, not only when it's about artistic objects (processing art), but also when it concerns items that bear witness to the war and its consequences? These objects will tell and explain the (historical) story in the museum. Museums give accounts of historical events.</p> <p>Museums face the issue of "decolonization" of the narrative of Ukraine. To what extent do the experiences of this "decolonization" within Ukrainian institutions differ from the broader perspective on it outside the museum world and cultural sector?</p> <p>Stephanie Archangel, (Curator Rijksmuseum), Dilemmas in presenting sensitive issues.</p> <p>Wim Hupperetz, (Professor on Museums, Heritage & Digital Curation, University of Amsterdam.) Museum collections and the added value through the use of digital media and a multidisciplinary approach</p>
15.30 – 15.45	Coffee/tea	
15.45 – 16.45	Session 2 : continuation Collections; preservation of cultural heritage treasures and consequences for collecting policy as a result of the war.	See above
16.45 – 17.00	Introduction visit Anne Frank House	Teresien da Silva , Em. Curator and Head of Research and Collections Department Anne Frank House.
17.00 – 17.30	Walk to Anne Frank House	
17.30 – 19.00	<i>Visit Anne Frank House</i>	
19.30	Dinner (optional)	Eetcafé Brakke Grond, first floor Nes 45, Amsterdam

Thursday 2 November 2023, Expert meeting, day 2, RESISTANCE MUSEUM AMSTERDAM

Time	Program	Location, RESISTANCE MUSEUM AMSTERDAM Plantage Kerklaan 61, Amsterdam
09.00 – 09.20	Walk in	
09.20 – 09.30	Welcome	Liesbeth van der Horst , director Resistance Museum Amsterdam

09.30 – 11.00	<p>Session 3:</p> <p>How is the story of war, mass violence and conflict told in museums?</p>	<p>Moderator: Andrea Kieskamp (IC Ethics)</p> <p>Experiences of other museums; how have they interpreted ‘their’ war and violence conflicts in their museum presentations? How was/is the strategy of the culture sector developed at state level. How were public and private initiatives involved. How can Ukrainians identify with war experiences in other museums? The transformation of crime scenes into places of remembrance. How does this process take place?</p> <p>Dionne Nagiriwubuntu, (Manager Genocide Museum Kigali, Rwanda / ICMEMOHRI). How is the 1994 genocide presented in the museum?</p> <p>Lina Tahan, (Affiliated scholar, University of Cambridge, PhD in archaeology and museology, Lebanon / IC Ethics, chair). The civil war in Lebanon. Problems of national identity and collective memory in the National Museum of Beirut and the Beit Beirut Museum.</p> <p>Bruno Boyer (Mémorial de la Shoah, Paris, director of international relations / ICMEMOHRI). Holocaust memorial museums and their relevance for today.</p>
11.00 - 11.30	<i>Coffee/ tea break</i>	
11.30 – 13.00	<p>Session 4:</p> <p>Coping with trauma and museums</p>	<p>Moderator: Henny Slegh</p> <p>What role can museums play in coping and processing with trauma? How can museums contribute to strengthening or restoring social cohesion?</p> <p>Henny Slegh, Mental health and psychosocial support specialist in conflict areas. Director International Programs Living with Peace Institute.</p> <p>Dionne Nagiriwubuntu, (Manager Genocide Museum Kigali, Rwanda / ICMEMOHRI). Trauma and the role of the Genocide Museum Kigali.</p>
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch break	Resistance Museum Amsterdam, Restaurant Plancius
14.00 – 15.30	<p>Session 5:</p> <p>Which story are we going to tell in the museum?</p>	<p>Moderator: Jane Klinger</p> <p>How do we Present different perspectives in the museum presentations? ‘Truth telling’; who determine the level of knowledge and what is the role of social media and fake news. What ethical dilemmas do we encounter when presenting sensitive topics? Hot topic: how to deal with the enemy?</p>

		Frans Damman , (H401, director. H401 is a place where Research, Art and Dialogue come together to investigate the human condition with all its contradictions. The central question is how we as a society, organizations and individuals with complex pasts want to deal with the present and the future.) The Heritage Contact Zone Toolkit. How can contested heritage serve as a space of encounter and creativity?
15.30 – 15.45	Coffee / tea break	
15.45 – 17.15	Visit Resistance Museum Amsterdam	Introduction Liesbeth van der Horst, director
17.15 – 18.30	National Holocaust Names Memorial. Daniel Libeskind (2020)	Walk and guided tour
18.30 – 21.00	Offered canal cruise including drinks and dinner	Depart: Amstel 51, opposite H'ART Museum (former Museum Hermitage Amsterdam) – The boat leaves exactly on time. Arrival: Leidseplein, Amsterdam

Friday 3 November 2023, Expert meeting day 3, Allard Pierson Museum

Time	Program	Location, Allard Pierson Museum Oude Turfmarkt 127 – 129, Amsterdam
09.00 – 09.30	Walk in	
09.30 – 09.45	Welcome	Els van der Plas , (director Allard Pierson Museum) The Allard Pierson Museum borrowed art treasures from the Crimean museums then the Crimean War broke out (2014). Who is the owner of the artifacts? The items are now returned to the state of Ukraine and not to the Crimean museums
09.45 – 11.15	Session 6: Museums facing war and young generations.	Moderator: Lina Tahan (IC Ethics) How can we learn from the events of war and mass violence? What is the educational task of museums? What educative tools are available to us? How can museums foster historical awareness and contribute to forming independent, critical and socially aware fellow citizens. What are the experiences of other museums? Nevena Bajalica and Miško Stanišić , (Terra-forming) human rights, diversity, and tolerance, combating discrimination, and intolerance, (Among other things experiences in Serbia) Jurmet Huitema-de Waal , Anne Frank House, education

		<p>Jasminko Halilovic, Founder and director War Childhood Museum, Sarajevo</p> <p>Luc Eekhout, Development Director Netherlands, War Childhood Museum</p>
11.15 – 11.30	Coffee-tea break	
11.30 – 13.15	<p>Session 6: continuation</p> <p>Museums facing war and young generations.</p>	<p>Moderator: Lina Tahan (IC Ethics)</p>
13.15 – 14.15	Lunch break	Kapitein Zeppos, Gebed Zonder End 5
14.15 - 15:30	<p>Session 7:</p> <p>Working together - future</p>	<p>Moderator: Ophelia Leon (ICMEMOHRI)</p> <p>What can organizations like ICMEMOHRI and IC-Ethics, as well as more broadly, the international cultural sector mean to colleagues in Ukraine? How can we jointly meet the needs of Ukrainian museums?</p> <p>Lina G. Tahan (Chair IC-Ethics) Jane Klinger (Chair ICMEMOHRI)</p> <p>Vanessa Fraga Pol (CER) will talk about possibilities for funding and gives an overview of existing initiatives for supporting museums in Ukraine. She will make an inventory of the most pressing needs of the group.</p>
15:30 – 15.45	Coffee/tea break	
15.45 – 16.45	<p>Closing session, conclusion</p>	<p>Moderators: Andrea Kieskamp (IC Ethics), Teresien da Silva (ICMEMOHRI) and Erik Somers (ICMEMOHRI / NIOD)</p> <p>What did we think of this three-day meeting? A round-up of attendees. What did everyone learn from it? What are the expectations for the future? To conclude: what did it achieve in concrete terms? What follow-up actions can we undertake?</p>
17.30 – 19.00	Visit the Mouse Mansion	<p>Karina Schaapman, (artist, director) Museum Mouse Mansion. Muntplein 8, Amsterdam</p>
19.30	Dinner (optional)	Indrapura Indonesian Restaurant, Rembrandtplein 40, Amsterdam

About us:

ICMEMOHRI, The International Committee of Memorial and Human Right Museums. In a world where democratic values are being forsaken and oppression is a daily occurrence and in recognition of the violation of human rights as a precursor to crimes against humanity, ICMEMOHRI aims to foster a responsible memory of history in the interests of peace, remembrance, and reflection through commemorating the victims of State, socially determined, and ideologically motivated crimes. The aims of IC-MEMOHRI are to foster a responsible memory of history and to further cultural cooperation through education and through using knowledge in the interests of peace, which is also a key goal of UNESCO.

IC Ethics: The ICOM International Committee on Ethical Dilemmas (IC Ethics) is an open forum on practical challenges regarding ethical dilemmas in the museum profession. IC Ethics is a space where museum professionals can reflect, share and discuss ethical dilemmas, helping them to make more informed choices. IC Ethics:

- offers a channel of communication between ICOM members facing similar ethical dilemmas in their everyday practice;
- shares professional approaches to ethical dilemmas;
- gathers, in cooperation with all other committees in ICOM, experiences on museum ethics to foster the dissemination of good practices;
- provides input to ethical debates through different forms of knowledge dissemination; and does not pass formal judgments about right or wrong.

Organizing Committee Expert Meeting 'Museums in Ukraine Facing War'

Andrea Kieskamp, working group (IC Ethics)
Teresien da Silva, working group (ICMEMOHRI)
Erik Somers, working group (ICMEMOHRI, NIOD)
Jane Klinger (ICMEMOHRI)
Ophelia Leon (ICMEMOHRI)
Lina Tahan, (IC Ethics)

Locations:

Locations meetings:

- **NIOD Institute for War Holocaust and Genocide Studies** (1 November)
Herengracht 380, Amsterdam
- **Resistance Museum Amsterdam** (2 November)
Plantage Kerklaan 61, Amsterdam
- **Allard Pierson Museum** (3 November)
Oude Turfmarkt 127 – 129, Amsterdam

Location site visits:

- **Anne Frank House** (1 November)
Prinsengracht 263 – 267, Amsterdam (entrance Westermarkt 20)
- **Resistance Museum Amsterdam** (2 November)
Plantage Kerklaan 61, Amsterdam
- **National Holocaust Names Memorial** (2 November)
Weesperstraat, Amsterdam
- **Museum Mouse Mansion** (3 November)
Muntplein 8, Amsterdam

Restaurants dinner:

- **Eetcafé Brakke Grond** (1 November)
Nes 45, Amsterdam
- **Canal Cruise** (2 November, **offered**)
Departure: Amstel 51, opposite H'ART Museum (former Museum Hermitage Amsterdam)
Arrival: Leidseplein, Amsterdam
- **Indrapura Amsterdam**, (3 November)
Rembrandtplein 40, Amsterdam

Contact persons (working group)

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