



CoHERE-TRACES Joint Conference

Critical Heritages and Reflexive Europeanisation

28-29 September 2017 | Berlin

Berlin Wall Memorial – Bernauer Str. 119 (corner with Gartenstrasse), 13355 Berlin, Germany

The Conference "Critical Heritages and Reflexive Europeanisation" is a two-day international event promoted by the major EU-funded research projects CoHERE and TRACES, to be held in Berlin on September 28th and 29th hosted at the Berlin Wall Memorial.

During the symposium emerging and established scholars from the two research programmes will discuss European heritage practices, narratives and their role in the current cultural context. Drawing on the two projects' research activities and preliminary findings, the selected contributions will draw out the conference topics through three cross-thematic panels: "Neglected Heritages", "Performing heritage(s)" and "Heritage and Crisis". The conference will feature also voices from another EU-research project, UNREST, and from the European Commission. A keynote speech by Prof. Astrid Erll and a round table with museum researchers and practitioners, discussing post-colonial approaches to contentious collections, will complete the programme.

CoHERE - *Critical Heritages: Performing and Representing Identities in Europe* and **TRACES** - *Transmitting Contentious Cultural Heritages with the Arts: from intervention to co-production* are two three-year projects funded in 2016 by the European Commission as part of the Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme, both focusing on the "Emergence and transmission of European cultural heritage and Europeanisation".

<https://research.ncl.ac.uk/cohere/>

www.tracesproject.eu

The **CoHERE** project seeks to identify, understand and valorise European heritages, engaging with their socio-political and cultural significance and their potential for developing communitarian identities. CoHERE addresses an intensifying EU Crisis through a study of relations between identities and representations and performances of history. It explores the ways in which heritages can be used for division and isolation, or to find common ground and ‘encourage modern visions and uses of its past.’ The research covers a carefully selected range of European territories and realities comparatively and in depth; it focuses on heritage practices in official and non-official spheres and engages with various cultural forms, from the living arts to museum displays, food culture, education, protest, commemorations and online/digital practice, among others.

We take a broad but delimited understanding of heritage (mindful of the notorious difficulty of assigning a consensus definition) as a representational, discursive and performative practice involving conscious attempts to valorise aspects of the past in the present. Within the purview of CoHERE, heritage can be official or unofficial, tangible or intangible, or mixtures of these. It may not always be a social good productive of perceived-to-be progressive identities, respectful intergroup relations or benign moral positions, suggesting the existence of plural ‘heritages’ that are sometimes in conflict with one another, rather than a monolithic ‘common heritage’. Likewise, contemporary connections with events, cultures and sites from prehistory to the recent past may all be important for identity construction, and this is recognised in the temporal depth of the research.

Through an innovative research methodology, **TRACES** investigates the challenges and opportunities raised when transmitting complex pasts and the role of difficult heritage in contemporary Europe.

European cultural heritage is inherently complex and layered. In the past, conflicting or controversial perspectives on different historical memories and experiences have been colliding in the rich cultural landscape of Europe and continue to do so in the present. These contentious heritages are often particularly difficult to convey to a wide public and can impede inclusivity as well as prevent the development of convivial relations. Nevertheless, if transmitted sensitively, they can contribute to a process of reflexive Europeanisation, in which the European imagination is shaped by self-awareness, on-going critical reflection, and dialogue across different positions.

TRACES involves a multi-disciplinary team that brings together established and emerging scholars, artists, and cultural workers to develop a rigorous, creative and all-round investigation on contentious cultural heritages, and to experiment with innovative research methodologies. In order to achieve these objectives, TRACES has initiated a series of “Creative Co-Productions” in which artists, researchers, heritage agencies, and stakeholders collaborate on long-term projects researching selected cases of contentious heritage and developing new participatory public interfaces. Theoretical investigations pertaining to different research fields and disciplines will support and complement these art-based research actions, analysing and expanding their outcomes with the aim to identify new directions for cultural institutions and museums to effectively transmit contentious cultural heritage and contribute to evolving European identities.



CROSS-THEMATIC PANELS

Neglected Heritages

Why do some pasts slip into oblivion? How are practices of remembering and forgetting shaped? Might there be cases where 'forgetting' is the better option? When, how and why should these heritages be 'reactivated', represented and transmitted?

Performing Heritage(s): Critical Practices and Processes

In what ways may heritage practices, processes and enactments enable the performance of multiplicity, diversity or the 'subversive'? In what ways is heritage social and political practice? Can conflict-based, agonistic heritage practice be conducive to the creation of a new European imagination?

Heritage and Crisis

What roles can and should heritage play to address social division and crisis in Europe? How can heritage – and especially contentious, difficult and competing heritage – contribute to a “reflexive Europeanisation”? Should it? How is heritage imbricated in conditions of crisis (social, political, ideological, financial), and how can heritage practice react to crisis?

ROUNDTABLE

Inside, outside and in-between: Decolonizing Engagements with Contentious Collections

The roundtable will be dedicated to the colonial legacy in ethnographic (and other) collections, and more specifically to the relations, tensions and possible alliances between activist, scholarly and institutional positions working on decolonizing perspectives. How can critical engagement with contentious collections inside and outside institutions (museums, cultural centres, universities) can be brought in contact? How can alliances be built? Which obstacles and contradictions emerge in this process? With international guests as well as speakers from the Berlin context, the roundtable aims to connect international reference cases, current debates and activities in Berlin on colonial legacies and collections with research of TRACES and CoHERE partners. The discussion with researchers working on different cases of contentious heritage will enable an exploration of colonial heritage as a resource for national as well European self-reflection in the light of “multidirectional memories”.



CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

→ Thursday 28th September

08.30 – 09.00 | Registration

09.00 – 09.30 | Conference Opening and Welcome

Axel Klausmeier

09.30 – 10.00 | Introducing CoHERE and TRACES

Chris Whitehead and Klaus Schoenberger

10.00 – 10.30 | Coffee break

10.30 – 11.45 | Cross-thematic Panel: “Neglected Heritages”

10.30 – 10.45 | “Inconvenient Narratives: Fringe Jewish Communities of Transylvania”

Julie Dawson

10.45 – 11.00 | “Architectural Intervention for the Valorisation of Neglected Heritages”

Francesca Lanz

11.00 – 11.15 | “Bringing It Home: Rethinking the Politics of Belonging, Sameness and Difference in Museums in the Current European Political Climate”

Rhiannon Mason

11.15 – 11.30 | “The Political Life of Everyday Objects in Forced Migration Museums”

Ilaria Porciani

11.30 – 11.45 | Q&A Session

11.45 – 12.45 | Cross-thematic Panel: “Performing Heritage(s)” (1st session)

11.45 – 12.00 | “Re-enactment as a ‘Process of Critical Thinking”

Mads Daugbjerg

12.00 – 12.15 | “Contentious Relations between Objects and Subjects”

Suzana Milevska

12.15 – 12.30 | “Tentatively on Mediations of Death Masks”

Blaž Bajič

12.30 – 12.45 | Q&A Session



12.45 – 14.00 | Lunch break

14.00 – 15.15 | Cross-thematic Panel: “Performing Heritage(s)” (2nd session)

14.00 – 14.15 | “Soft Power and Dark Heritage: Multiple Potentialities”

David Clarke and Marianna Deganutti

14.15 – 14.30 | “Multiperspectivity in War Museums: Possibilities and Limits”

Zofia Wóycicka

14.30 – 14.45 | “Long Kesh: A Slow Release Process”

Martin Krenn and Aisling O’ Beirn

14.45 – 15.00 | “Mass Grave Exhumations as Sites of Contentious Heritage”

Francisco J. Ferrándiz

15.00 – 15.15 | Q&A Session

15.15 – 16.30 | Cross-thematic Panel: “Heritage and crisis” (1st session)

15.15 – 15.30 | “Emotions and the Memory of War”

Wulf Kansteiner and Cristian Cercel

15.30 – 15.45 | “Agonistic Remembering and Social Cohesion”

Hans Lauge Hansen

15.45 – 16.00 | “On European Memory and Racism”

Chiara De Cesari

16.00 – 16.15 | “Ethnography of Artistic Co-Productions”

Arnd Schneider and Leone Contini

16.15 – 16.30 | Q&A Session

16.30 – 17.00 | Coffee break

17.00 – 17.30 | Cultural Heritage topics in the upcoming 2018-2020 H2020 work programme and European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018

Zoltán Krasznai

17.30 – 18.15 | Keynote Speech

Astrid Erll



→ Friday 29th September

11.00 – 12.00 | Guided visit to Berlin Wall Memorial site and exhibition

12.30 – 13.30 | Lunch break

13.30 – 15.00 | Roundtable “Inside, outside and in-between: Decolonizing Engagements with Contentious Collections”

Statements:

Bonaventure Soh Bejeng Ndikung, Tahir Della, Hodan Warsarme and Simone Zeefuik, Julia Binter

Responses:

Chiara de Cesari, Stephanie Endter, Wayne Modest, Regina Römhild

Moderation:

Nora Landkammer, Erica Lehrer

15.00 – 16.15 | Cross-thematic Panel: “Performing Heritages” (3rd session)

15.00 – 15.15 | “Bringing to Light: The Dilemmas of Displaying Contentious Historical Material”

Tal Adler, Joan Smith and John Harries

15.15 – 15.30 | “Performing Diversity in the Danube Delta, Romania”

Cristina Clopot

15.30 – 15.45 | “Some Historical and Contemporary Aspects of the Baltic Brand “The Singing Nations””

Rūta Muktupāvela and Valdis Muktupāvels

15.45 – 16.00 | “Emergent Heritage Dialogues”

Areti Galani, Gabriella Arrigoni and Lia Galani

16.00 – 16.15 | Q&A Session

16.15 – 16.45 | Coffee break

16.45 – 18.00 | Cross-thematic Panel: “Heritage and crisis” (2nd session)

16.45 – 17.00 | “Populist Parties in Europe and their Imaginaries: The Quest for Legitimacy”

Ayhan Kaya

17.00 – 17.15 | “Processes and Challenges of Unlearning in an Ethnographic Collection”

Esther Poppe



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17.15 – 17.30 | “UK and Greek Geography Curricula : A Conceptual Approach on Heritage and Identity in Times of Crisis”

Lia Galani

17.30 – 17.45 | “Museums and Migration in Europe: Controversy, Crisis and Change?”

Susannah Eckersley

17.45 – 18.00 | Q&A Session

18.00 – 18.30 |Closing Remarks



The conference is promoted by the EU funded projects: **CoHERE** – *Critical Heritages: Performing and Representing Identities in Europe* and **TRACES** – *Transmitting Continuous Cultural Heritages with the Arts*, both have received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme.