

Special Project

MIGRATION: CITIES (IM)MIGRATION AND ARRIVAL CITIES

Inaugural Workshop in Athens, 6-8 February 2017

How are (im)migrants and receiving populations constantly making new forms of urbanism in the cities reflected in cultural, geographical, political and economic processes? The continued influx of migrants brings new challenges for contemporary cities. Migrants settle in an existing context, which can lead to polarisation, exclusion, enrichment and creation of new cultural resources. Migrants contribute to the vitality and diversity of today's global cities.

How are cities and citizens adjusting to this increasing diversity? What cultural, political and economic processes and transformations arise from these dynamics and what is their impact on the identities of the different groups affected? By representing these processes and transformations through their activities and functions, museums are engaging with contemporary urban life, seeking direct contact with different communities in the city, looking for ways of adapting, transforming and making cities work better and become more resilient. These urban dynamics require thoughtful engagement to allow museums to act as mediators of dialogues and places for a renewed kind of world citizenship.

The International Committee for the Collections and Activities of Museums of Cities (CAMOC) in partnership with the Commonwealth Association of Museums (CAM) and the International Committee for Regional Museums (ICR) have set out to explore the roles museums can have in collecting, presenting and collaborating in these processes through their joint project Migration:Cities. (Im)migration and Arrival Cities. The overall aim is to create a web platform for city, migration and other museums dealing with this issue as well as museum professionals to find relevant experiences, share knowledge and discuss ethical and meaningful ways to engage with new urban dynamics and the diverse realities of what Doug Saunders has called "Arrival Cities".

The platform will become a resource for museum professionals and a hub to discuss the preservation and representation of contemporary urban life in museums, offer different insights from various types of practical research tools and museums' and migrants' own experiences. It will also facilitate exchange and mentoring opportunities between professionals, act as a think-tank and contact zone between professionals and institutions alike.

Within this framework, CAMOC, together with its partners, will organise a number of workshops about museums and migration that will bring colleagues together to discuss these issues and share best practices.

The inaugural workshop took place in Athens where CAMOC, CAM, and ICR members and other participants exchanged experiences in one of the current epicentres of the migrant crisis in Europe. The intention was to learn from experiences that are real and happening, and examine them from three angles: museums, concerned citizens/organisations, and the (im)migrants themselves.

The Municipal Gallery of Athens kindly agreed to partner with this initiative and host this inaugural workshop. It brought together museum professionals, NGO representatives, psychologists, social workers, specialists in intercultural education and (im)migrants, who exchanged ideas in a highly interactive way.

The last day of the workshop was restricted to the project partners.

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PROGRAMME

Inaugural Workshop Athens, 6-8 February 2017

Project Partners: CAMOC, CAM, ICR

The Athens Workshop was organized in partnership with the Municipal Gallery of Athens

DAY 1 – 6th February 2017

Venue: Municipal Gallery of Athens. New building (**ATTENTION: Entrance to the venue via Grammatikou & Myllerou str. At Metaxourghio**). <https://www.facebook.com/athensmunicipalgallery/>,
 Nearest metro station: Metaxourghio, Line 2/The Red)

9:00-14:00	<i>Cities and museums of cities in the post-migration era (PART I)</i>
9:00-9:30	Registration
9:30-9:45	<i>Welcome Speeches by the Workshop Hosts: Municipal Gallery of Athens & CAMOC</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Denys Zacharopoulos, Artistic Director of the Municipal Gallery, Museums and Collections of the City of Athens (Greece) • Joana Monteiro (CAMOC Chair / Director, Museum of Lisbon) • Dr. Marlen Mouliou (CAMOC Local Organiser, Lecturer in Museology, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens)
9:45-10:00	<i>The Migration:Cities Project</i> Marlen Mouliou, Gegê Leme, Nicole van Dijk (<i>Migration:Cities</i> Project Co-ordinators, CAMOC)
10:00-10:30	<i>Keynote speakers</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Petros Polychronis (Director of the Athenian Institute of Anthropos, Group and Family Psychotherapist, Greece): <i>What Do We Learn from Living Systems?</i> • Deyaa Orfali (Co-ordinator of Hope-School, Skaramagkas Refugees Camp, Athens-Greece): <i>Creating the Hope School, an experience to share</i> <p>This talk will focus on three topics: 1. Integration and mutual influence of civilizations between East and West 2. Museums contribution to the understanding of human interdependence and social relations, 3. Introduction about the Hope School and on how the refugees themselves can help other refugees</p>
10:30-10:45	<i>Hosting City: Its Voice</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amalia Zepou (Social Anthropologist, Deputy Mayor of Athens for Civil Society and Innovation, Initiator of Syn-Athina, Greece)
10:45-11:30	<i>City museums in the post-migration era</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Susannah Eckersley (Lecturer in Museum, Gallery & Heritage Studies, Newcastle University, UK): <i>Museums and Migration: Controversy, Crisis and Change?</i> <p>While museums internationally attempt to address the contemporary migration and refugee crisis, the German response has not only been unique politically, but arguably has unique roots in Germany's own difficult history and the collective, social memory of historical migrations both within and into Germany. The relationship between Germany's history of responding to refugee and migration crises and the German political reaction to the contemporary situation in Europe has been acknowledged, however its impact on museum representations and activities has not yet been analysed. Examples from various German museums will be analysed to uncover different approaches to addressing controversial topics (such as migration) in museums, of significance and interest for museum professionals and researchers internationally.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bram Beelaert (Curator and Head of Research, Red Star Line Museum, Antwerp, Belgium): <i>Co-creating with a feeling. Working with the audience in the Red Star Line Museum</i> <p>The Red Star Line Museum in Antwerp is dedicated to the history of the Red Star Line shipping company that transported nearly 2 million European emigrants to North America. The museum is located in the old disinfection and inspection facilities for the company's third class passengers. These are on the very quays in the old Antwerp harbor where people said goodbye to Europe and boarded, often in steerage, the vessel that took them to a new life. Today, Antwerp is home to approximately 170 nationalities, making it a city that continues to be shaped by migration. As a museum exploited by the city, it is the mission of the Red Star Line Museum to present the core narrative in a way that is appealing and recognizable for a broad contemporary audience, and especially to specific target audiences such as newcomers to the city. The museum's specific location, on a historic site of migration, makes it a meaningful and often emotional place for people to meet and to reflect on and share life experiences about migration.</p> <p>Dialogue, audience participation and increasingly co-creation play a central part in many aspects of the museum's practice, including research, collection building and the development of temporary exhibitions and related activities. Curator and head of research Bram Beelaert will share some of the museum's experiences highlighting future possibilities but also potential pitfalls.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nicole van Dijk (Curator, Programme Leader Research and Participation, Museum Rotterdam, Netherlands): <i>Collecting the social</i> <p>Like many cities all over the world, Rotterdam is facing very real challenges of super-diversity. Rotterdam has approximately 670.000 inhabitants with the wider city district counting 1.2 million people. You can find 176 nationalities in Rotterdam and today only half of the Rotterdammers are born or have parents who were born in the Netherlands. This makes Rotterdam a "super-diverse city".</p> <p>Museum Rotterdam sees it as one of its central tasks to help the city and its citizens to discuss and cope with these challenges. We think we can do this by bringing historical knowledge of the histories and past urbanisations of our city combined with the overall view of the contemporary communities we have. This also brings a fresh outlook and new mechanisms of collecting and learning to the knowledge base and practice of the museum itself. The Museum will increasingly also be a place where people can come together to discuss, learn and develop skills & strategies, to acknowledge 'differences', to live together in a modern 'super diverse' city.</p> <p>We developed an approach called 'The Active Collection' in which we scout and adopt contemporary objects in the city. We don't add these objects to the collection in our depot, but we mark those objects, add photos and description to our database and leave the object with their owners or communities. Building this collecting we see it gives us possibilities to collect intangible heritage as well. It gives us an instrument to collect the social processes in the city. Interactions between groups, conflicts and frictions between newcomers and citizens, are heritage we mark as 'Authentic Rotterdam Heritage' and follow through time. This enables us to bring these processes more quickly in the museum, which will become a place where we can discuss and develop strategies to live together in a safe setting.</p>
11:30-12:00	Coffee break
12:00-12:45	<p><i>Museums and migrant communities: Video projections by museum and other organisations</i></p> <p>Projects by the following organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Museum Rotterdam, Netherlands • Ethnological Museum of Thrace in Alexandroupolis, Greece • National Museum of Contemporary Art in Athens, Greece • FHXB Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg Museum, Germany • Frankfurt Historical Museum, Germany • The "Sit with me" project in Newcastle Museum – Newcastle University, UK • Chicago Council on Global Affairs, USA • Lower East Side Tenement Museum, USA • Museu da Imigração – São Paulo, Brazil • City Circles – "It's hard to draw a circle" project by the Academy of Design, Eindhoven, the Netherlands

12:45-13:30	Participants' digest – Discussion in smaller groups led by group co-ordinators
13:30-14:00	Synthesis of ideas by the groups - Presentations in the plenary
14:00-15:30	Light lunch break
15:30-18:30	<i>Cities in the post-migration era – Working with the communities (PART II)</i>
15:30-15:45	<p><i>Offering formal state education in the children living in the Refugee Camps in Athens</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christos Stefanou (Refugee Education Coordinator in Eleonas Camp, Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs): <i>Inclusion of refugee children in the Greek formal education system</i> <p>As of October 2016, Greek schools have opened their doors to children residing in refugee camps implementing for the first time a specially designed introductory education programme. In this workshop insight of the programme, as experienced by the Refugee Education Coordinators in the most central camp of Athens, will be presented and commented in comparison to respective programmes in other refugee hosting countries.</p>
15:45-16:30	<p><i>NGOS working with Migrants and/or Refugees in Athens</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gerasimos Kouvaras (General Director, Action Aid Hellas): <i>Open schools, open minds, open cities</i> <p>The role of school as a “community hub” is critical for the integration of migrants and the embracement of cultural diversity. In the dialogue between the school and the local community, civil society organisations can play a key role. ActionAid, as an organization rooted to the Greek educational community and promoting global solidarity and active citizenship, puts its efforts this year to mobilise thousands of school children to support the right of refugee children to have access to quality education.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eleni Kotsoni (Mental Health Activity Manager, Médecins Sans Frontières, Greece): <i>"We think of "refugees"... and the persons vanish"</i> <p>Following the closure of the main Balkan migration route, approximately 60 000 refugees and migrants are stranded in Greece, both on the mainland and the islands, living in often overcrowded, precarious and/or appalling conditions in 60 official and unofficial sites across the country. At the same time these people are deprived from any real information regarding their future. They are deprived of any significant feelings of perspective. 60 000 people... and still, even living to a close proximity of Elliniko camp in residential Athens, one may be almost oblivious to 3000 people living next door. We know that "refugees" live there, and they almost automatically disappear behind the fences of an "invisible bubble". Is working for a humanitarian organization and/or NGO the only way to connect with them? To what extent do humanitarian missions facilitate or hinder the interaction between local communities and migrants/ refugees?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Nadina Christopoulou (Anthropologist, Melissa Network co-founder & coordinator): <i>Women Building Bridges</i> <p>Melissa Network is a grassroots-based initiative that aims to build bridges and open windows in the city. The name comes from a vision of society as an open beehive of communication and exchange. Involving migrant women from 45 different ethnic backgrounds, Melissa Network has launched an integration project for newly arriving refugee women, in order to support them through their first steps in a new place. Reversing the flow away from the camps, it aims to also support literacy, build their confidence, provide psychosocial support and make their voices heard. Ultimately, it aims to also shift the debate from basic aid to empowerment, and to bring forth the vision of a better future that has motivated their journeys.</p>
16:30-17:00	Participants' digest – Discussion in smaller groups led by co-ordinators
17:00-17:30	Coffee break
17:30-18:00	Synthesis of ideas by the groups - Presentations in the plenary
18:00-18:30	Reflecting on <i>Migration:Cities</i> Project - Concluding remarks
From 20:00 onwards	<p>Dinner (Optional. Reservation required. To Avgou tou Kokora Restaurant at 46 Leonidou & Myllerou Str.)</p> <p>Cost per person approximately 15 Euros</p>

DAY 2 – 7th February 2017

Morning site visits to Melissa Network of Migrant Women in Greece – Dialogue and interaction with the Melissa community	
Venue: (18 Feron Str. near Victoria square. https://www.facebook.com/pg/Melissanetworkgreece33/about/?ref=page_internal Nearest metro station: Victoria, Line 1/The Green)	
9:30-11:00	Group 1 (non-Greek speaking participants)
11:30-13:00	Group 2 (Greek speaking participants)
Afternoon site visits (optional)	
13:30-14:30	National Museum of Contemporary Art, Athens – a guided visit to an industrial building transformed into a museum, http://www.emst.gr/en/ & http://www.emst.gr/en/museum/the-fix-building/ (Metro Line 2, Syngrou Fix Station)
14:30-16:30	Municipal Gallery of Athens, Old Building (51 Piraeus Str.). Visit to the exhibition <i>It's hard to draw a circle</i> (https://www.facebook.com/events/146871899142381/) (Metro Line 3, Kerameikos Station)
17:30-19:30	GR80s.Greece in the Eighties at Technopolis, a historical and cultural participatory exhibition, http://www.gr80s.gr/index.php/ekthesi-gr80s (Metro Line 3, Kerameikos Station) Entrance fee: 6 euros
If you stay in Athens more days and would like to visit other exhibitions currently on, ask Marlen Mouliou for suggestions	

DAY 3 – 8th February 2017

Venue: Municipal Gallery of Athens. New building (Leonidou & Myllerou Str. at Metaxourghio.
<https://www.facebook.com/athensmunicipalgallery/>, Nearest metro station: Metaxourghio, Line 2/The Red)

Technical Workshop on the <i>Migration:Cities</i> Project – Designing the next steps	
9:30-10:30	Meeting of the <i>Migration:Cities</i> Project management partners (CAMOC/CAM/ICR) with potential partners – Open only to representatives of museums and other organisations who would like to contribute to the project
10:30-14:00	Only for the core <i>Migration:Cities</i> Project management partners – Closed technical meeting
15:00-17:00	A guided visit to the New Acropolis Museum (Metro Line 2, Acropolis Station, http://www.theacropolismuseum.gr/en/content/getting-here) Entrance fee: 5 euros (free of charge for ICOM card holders)

CAMOC <http://network.icom.museum/camoc>

CAM <http://www.maltwood.uvic.ca/cam/>

ICR <http://network.icom.museum/icr>