

Dear ICME Colleagues and Friends,

It is my pleasure to announce the establishment of a new Working Group to address the question of "What We Do" and the museums we represent.

Intermittently, over the past few years and in recent months, discussions have arisen over the mission and name of our international committee and the definition of the museums we represent.

The word "ethnography" has been problematized, due to current museological practice and postcolonial discourse, and the terms ethnography and ethnology have been scrutinized for the diverse meanings they have in different parts of the world.

Simply put, the mission, definition and sheer existence of ethnographic museums has undergone much revision and change in the 21st century, and it will be our job to explore what that means for our international ICOM committee.

Allow me here to introduce the makeup of our Working Group:

Dr. Laurie Kalb Cosmo, Art History Faculty, Temple University Rome, Italy/Research Associate, Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University, USA ICME ICOM Boardmember (**Working Group Chair**)

Dr. Graeme Were, Chair and Professor, Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Bristol, UK, ICME ICOM Boardmember

Doris Prlic, Coordinator of the European Union-funded SWICH (Sharing a World of Inclusion, Creativity and Heritage) Project, Weltmuseum, Vienna, Austria

Susan Faine, Independent Curator and Former Curator/Collections Manager, Jewish Museum of Australia, Melbourne

Eveline Lameer, Intern, Ethnographic Collections, University of Ghent Museum and Masters Candidate in Museums and Collections at Leiden University, the Netherlands

To accomplish the tasks before us, the Working Group will need your support and participation. Our decisions and recommendations will be based on sustained communication with you!

We will have goals and we will set deadlines. You will hear more about this in the coming months, as we define channels for reaching you..

Our ultimate deadline is the upcoming ICME ICOM meeting in Tartu, Estonia, from 9 - 12 October, 2018, where we will present a report based on our research and dialogues. We look forward to hearing from you often through this process and seeing you in Estonia!

Thanks so much for your time! More to come from us.

All best wishes,

Laurie