MUSEUMS IN TIMES OF MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

Malmö University 25–26 May 2016
Museums in Times of Migration and Mobility:

Processes of Representation, Collaboration, Inclusion and Social Change

Migration has, across time, contributed to the development and reshaping of societies and urban spaces. Today, migration movements have become a global phenomenon, where the number of countries affected – socially, economically and culturally – by migration is continually increasing. As in past times, the reasons why people move are varied and often intertwined. Sometimes it is about people fleeing poverty, war, ethnic conflicts, environmental disasters or different forms of persecution – for example religious. However, people also move for other reasons, such as work and studies in other countries, or out of curiosity and a sense of adventure.

International migration and mobility have implications for many sectors in society, including the museum sector. To be in tune with the times and relevant to all citizens, the museum sector needs, more than ever, to address issues that transcend national borders.

As important educational institutions often visited by, amongst others, school-children, museums have the potential to affect our notions of the world. By making museums places for exploring and learning about both the past and the present of issues such as migration, mobility, transnational connections and human rights, they not only become more relevant as cultural institutions, but may also facilitate positive changes in how people relate to each other in the wider society – thereby ultimately contributing to society’s sustainable development.

This conference seeks to lay the scientific groundwork for the ways in which a museum of migration in Malmö, through a democratic approach, could represent issues of migration, reach out to new audiences, find ways of collaborating with civil society and be a promoter of social change.
Malmö University was founded in 1998 and is a young, modern and international university. It is located in the city of Malmö, the third largest city in Sweden, in the transnational Öresund region with a total population of 3.5 million people. Located in the centre of the city, the university has played an important role in the transformation of Malmö from an industrial town to a centre of learning.

About a third of our first year students have an international background and our goal is to create a truly international study environment. We see a heterogeneous group of students and staff as a major asset. The activities of Malmö University are centred on the major challenges in our society today and we strive to become a university open to the world around us. Hence, our research is often multidisciplinary and is frequently pursued in collaboration with partners from outside the university. Malmö University conducts research and provides education in areas central to a sustainable community development, both locally, regionally and globally. Research and education at the university focus on challenges related to democracy and participation, the sustainable use of resources and the promotion of personal health.
The Malmö Institute for Studies of Migration, Diversity and Welfare (MIM)

MIM, Malmö Institute for Studies of Migration, Diversity and Welfare, was established in January 2007 as a research institute at Malmö University. It aims to strengthen Malmö University’s migration research profile, expanding its international network and building bridges to the world outside academia. We achieve this by attracting national and international external research funding and having regular non-prestigious intellectual encounters.

MIM welcomes international scholars who choose to locate or undertake parts of their research projects in Sweden. The Willy Brandt Guest Professorship is a fully financed research position at MIM that hosts prominent researchers from all over the world.

MIM is directed by professor Pieter Bevelander and consists of a nucleus of senior and junior researchers, the guest professor and a wide network of affiliated researchers.
Malmö is the commercial centre of southern Sweden and the country’s third-largest city after Stockholm and Gothenburg. Over the last 29 years, the city has experienced steady growth; it identifies as a transit city as its population originates from all parts of Sweden as well as from about 170 different countries around the world. Almost half of the population is under the age of 35, which also ensures a vibrant youth culture. For some time now Malmö has been undergoing a transition from an industrial city to a city of knowledge. Older industries, such as the once-dominant shipyards and manufacturing industries, have been replaced by investments in new technology and training programmes of the highest standard. Malmö University, which opened in 1998, accommodating some 15,000 students is an important component in the reconstruction of the city.

Centred in the Öresund region, with its now-famous bridge linking Malmö to Copenhagen, the city boasts a highly developed infrastructure and a rich institutional and independent cultural life. The strongest sectors in Malmö are logistics, retail and wholesale trade, construction and property. There are also a number of well-known companies within the fields of biotechnology and medical technology, environmental technology, IT and digital media fields. Co-operation between colleges, science parks and companies provides a basis for entrepreneurs and creative development in Malmö.
THE MALMÖ COMMISSION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

However, with the rapid development of the city, a wide disparity in the levels of health between the different socio-economic groups was noted; a pattern that is echoed in all of Sweden’s major cities. As part of the wider goal to make all aspects of Malmö ecologically, economically and socially sustainable, the city council decided to instigate the Malmö Commission, which was completed in 2013. As a result the strategic recommendations and findings of the Malmö Commission highlight what Malmö City and other key players need to do to positively influence its social determinants, with the aim of increasing the levels of good health for each and every one of Malmö’s around 320 000 inhabitants. The city now has a strong and well-substantiated focus on bridging the gaps between the citizens of Malmö.

In recent years the City of Malmö has received many international awards for its endeavours towards sustainable city development and pilot projects such as Augustenborg and the Western Harbour. Culture is a strong key in the city’s development; Malmö recently joined the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) as a Leading City and was also appointed the first Fairtrade City of Sweden.

AN INTERNATIONAL HUB

Malmö is a border town as well as a transit city. This explains its long historic experience of international influx and collaborations in an intercultural environment. Through its international networks and its citizens, Malmö is seen as a highly international place, a reputation which has provided the city with certain experiences and perhaps may have led to a rather unique understanding regarding issues of migration and the constant flow of cultural expressions and ideas. Debates on inclusion, democracy, freedom of speech and anti-discrimination are natural contributions to the negotiation of politics and cultural life in a city that has been shaped by constant movement and interaction. Thus the experiences and the understanding of how migration affects the social, cultural and professional structures of a society should also be relevant at national and international levels. The historically quite recent establishment of Malmö University has added invaluable academic perspectives on the city, especially in the fields of democracy and migration.
A NEW MUSEUM FOR DEMOCRACY AND MIGRATION?

Throughout 2016 and until the spring of 2017, a pilot study will be carried out in order to assess the preconditions required to set up a national museum for democracy and migration in Malmö. A political initiative by the city council has resulted in a positive response from the Swedish government, which has provided the funding for the study. Three central national museum agencies – the National Historical Museums, the Swedish National Museums of World Culture and the Swedish Exhibition Agency – were all assigned by the government to provide assistance to Malmö in the research process. The pilot study is being assured by the Department of Culture of the City of Malmö. With its profound local knowledge and its extensive national and international networks, the Department of Culture will call upon a broad field of knowledge and perspectives. During the research period a number of dialogue meetings will be carried out, together with both civil-society and other relevant experts in the field. The conference Museums in Times of Migration and Mobility will provide an important overview of the research field and a vital forum for academic discourse relevant to the creation of museum for democracy and migration in Malmö in the future.
Conference venue

**WEDNESDAY 25th**
Orkanen building
Malmö University
Nordenskiöldsgatan 10
Room: D 138

Maps: see p 26.

**THURSDAY 26th**
Morning: Orkanen building,
Room D 138
From lunchtime: Malmö Museums
Malmöhusvägen

Maps: see p 26.
WEDNESDAY
MAY 25TH

MODERATOR
Fredrik Elg and Hanin Shakrah

08:00–09:00
REGISTRATION

09:00–10:00
WELCOME SPEECHES
Alice Bah Kuhnke, Swedish Minister for Culture and Democracy
Frida Trollmyr, Municipality Commissioner for Culture, Malmö City
Kerstin Tham, Vice Chancellor, Malmö University
Elisabeth Lundgren, Malmö City Director for Culture

10:00–10:45
KEYNOTE SPEECH
Peggy Levitt, Professor and Chair of the Sociology Department at Wellesley College and Co-Director of Harvard University’s Transnational Studies Initiative. Her new book, Artifacts and Allegiances: How Museums Put the Nation and the World on Display, was published by the University of California Press in July 2015. In her talk, Professor Levitt explores how museums around the world are making sense of immigration and globalisation.

11:15–13:00
MUSEUMS, MIGRATION AND TRANSNATIONAL CONNECTIONS

Pieter Bevelander, Professor in International Migration and Ethnic Relations, Malmö University, Sweden
David Fleming, Director, National Museums Liverpool, UK
Maja Povranović Frykman, Professor of Ethnology, Malmö University, Sweden

13:00–14:00
LUNCH

14:00–15:45
COLLECTING STORIES AND ARTEFACTS OF PAST AND PRESENT MIGRATION
Alistair Thomson, Professor of History at Monash University, Melbourne, Australia and former President of the International Oral History Association
Fredrik Svanberg, Head of Research, the National Historical Museum of Sweden
Malin Thor Tureby, Associate Professor of History, Linköping University, Sweden.
Jesper Johansson, Senior lecturer in social work, Linnaeus University, Sweden.

15:45–16:15
COFFEE

16:15–17:00
DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS

19:00 SHARP
CONFERENCE DINNER
3-course formal dinner at the Town Hall
THURSDAY
MAY 26TH

09:00–10:10
MUSEUMS, ACTIVISM AND SOCIAL CHANGE
Bonita Bennett, Director of District Six Museum, Cape Town, South Africa

Group presentation by:
Dragan Nikolić, Head of Research and Documentation at the Regional Museum, Kristianstad
Karin Hindfelt, Curator, Kulturen, Lund
Björn Magnusson Staaf, Associate Professor, Dept of Arts and Cultural Studies, Lund University
Aila Peterson, Curator and human ecologist, Malmö Museer
Charlotte Åkerman, Head of Collections Dept, Kulturen, Lund

10:10–10:40 COFFEE BREAK

10:40–12:40
MUSEUMS AND COLLABORATION
Parvin Ardalan, Journalist, women’s rights activist, previously Malmö City’s first guest writer in the ICORN scholarship program
Christina Johansson, Senior Lecturer in International Migration and Ethnic Relations, Malmö University, Sweden
Armando Perla, Curator at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights

Performance by Philippe-Alexandre Jacques, Choreographer and dancer

12:40–13:15
DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS

13:30–17:00
LUNCH AND ACTIVITIES AT MÅLÖ MUSEUMS

Malmö Museums offer guided tours, debates and other activities connected to democracy, migration, representation and inclusion. Take this opportunity to learn more about the ongoing pilot study for a national museum on democracy and migration in Malmö, and step inside the white bus on a tour about the museum as a refugee camp during end of World War II. Start with a bit of lunch and end the day and the conference with an ‘after work’ gathering within the museum precinct. Welcome to Malmö Museums!

ACTIVITIES AT MÅLÖ MUSEUMS

13:30–14:30
LUNCH MINGLING
Kommandanthuset – Idea lab sustainable development

Lunch mingling, with films, photo presentations and digital exhibitions presenting ‘Swedish Dads’ – Johan Bävman’s images of Swedish fathers on paternity leave that have made such an international stir! Experience ‘Welcome to Sweden’ – films and photo documentations on the museum becoming a refugee camp in 1945 for survivors of the Nazi concentration camps, as well as the many people coming to Malmö today, fleeing war and oppression (Photographers: Andreas Nilsson, Jenny Eliasson, Matso Pamucina).
PRESENTATION OF ‘LANGUAGE CULTURE IDENTITY’
Kommendanthuset – Idea lab
sustainable development
Malmö Museums has developed methods using the museum and other cultural activities for social cohesion and language skills development. This afternoon you have the opportunity to experience the LCI method.

A NATIONAL MUSEUM FOR DEMOCRACY AND MIGRATION IN MALMÖ.
Hörsalen, Teknikens and Sjöfartens hus
The City of Malmö has won government support for a pilot study on the feasibility of establishing a national museum on democracy and migration in Malmö. Make the most of a unique opportunity – we invite you to a dialogue with Culture Director Elisabeth Lundgren and the pilot study team!

GUIDED TOURS AT 14:30, 15:30 & 16:30
WELCOME TO SWEDEN 1945 – MALMÖ MUSEUMS AS REFUGEE CAMP AND THE WHITE BUSES
The White bus, Slottsholmen
In 1945, at the end of World War II, Malmö Museum was turned into a refugee camp for those women and men who survived the Nazi concentration camps and came to Malmö thanks to the Swedish Red Cross rescue operation, and the white buses. Grab the opportunity to join a guided tour on one of the few remaining buses, placed at the museum. In cooperation with the Swedish Red Cross, Save the Children, Xenofilia, Jewish Community of Malmö and Auto Images.

WE ARE ROMA – MEET THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE MYTH.
Slottsholmen
Meet Senija Vurzer and other representatives of the team organising an exhibition that will open at Malmö Museums in October 2016. The exhibition is produced by Gothenburg City Museum and Living History Forum, and you will get the opportunity to see samples of it.

WOMEN MAKING HISTORY
Teknikens and Sjöfartens hus
50 000 women living in Malmö were not born in Sweden; their stories will hardly be found in the official records of Malmö’s history. The project and exhibition ‘Women making history’ depicts 100 years of immigrant women’s lives and work in Malmö, gathers new narratives and reinterprets our view of the city. Meet Parvin Ardalan, journalist and activist and Malmö’s first guest writer, who initiated the project. ‘Women making history’ is a cooperation between Feminist Dialog, Malmö Högskola, ABF Malmö, Malmö City Archive, Malmö Museums and civil society.

MINGLING
Restaurant Wega, Slottsholmen
Mingle with colleagues, old and new, in an ‘after work’ gathering at the museum restaurant, Wega! The bar will be open for cost-price drinks and snacks will be served.
Keynote speaker: Peggy Levitt

TITLE: Artifacts and Allegiances: How Museums Put the Nation and the World on Display

ABSTRACT: By some estimates, one in every seven people in the world today is an international or internal migrant. Our cities are increasingly diverse – in London alone, people from over 184 countries call the city ‘home’. So how do we learn to get along? Museums have always played a leading role in creating national citizens. In today’s global world, do they also create global citizens who engage actively with the diversity next door and across the world? In this talk, I explore how museums around the world are making sense of immigration and globalisation. Drawing on first-hand conversations with museum directors, curators and policymakers, descriptions of current and future exhibitions, and the inside stories about the famous paintings and iconic objects that define collections, I provide a close-up view of how the different kinds of institution balance nationalism and cosmopolitanism. What is it about particular cities and countries that helps to explain how their museums put immigration and diversity on display? What do we learn about the nation by looking at its cultural institutions?

BIOGRAPHY: Peggy Levitt is Professor and Chair of the Sociology Department at Wellesley College and co-Director of Harvard University’s Transnational Studies Initiative. Her new book, Artifacts and Allegiances: How Museums Put the Nation and the World on Display, was published by the University of California Press in July 2015.

Peggy was the CMRS Distinguished Visiting Scholar at the American University of Cairo in March 2015 and a Robert Schuman Fellow at the European University Institute in Summer 2015. In 2014, she received an Honorary Doctoral Degree from Maastricht University, held the Astor Visiting Professorship at Oxford University, and was a guest professor at the University of Vienna. She was the Visiting International Fellow at the Vrije University in Amsterdam from 2010 to 2012 and the Willy Brandt Guest Professor at the University of Malmö in 2009. Her books include Religion on the Edge (Oxford University Press, 2012), God Needs No Passport (New Press, 2007), The Transnational Studies Reader (Routledge, 2007), The Changing Face of Home (Russell Sage, 2002) and The Transnational Villagers (UC Press, 2001). She has guest-edited special issues of the journals Ethnic and Racial Studies, International Migration Review, Global Networks, Mobilities and the Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies. A film based on her work, Art Across Borders, came out in 2009.
Session: Museums, Migration and Transnational Connections

Pieter Bevelander

**Title:** Typologies of Migration: An Overview of Our Knowledge of Migration

**Abstract:** The various disciplines in the social sciences have different epistemologies and ask different research questions in relation to the phenomenon of migration. Based on the latest research, this presentation uses a series of simple pairwise concepts or dichotomies common in the migration literature to show a number of angles and perspectives, the aim of which is to provide a heuristic device or initial ‘mental map’ of the field of migration. The following dichotomies will be used: Process and Product, Internal and International, Voluntary and Forced, Temporary and Permanent, Legal and Illegal, and Exception and Norm. The idea behind this is not to convince the reader that these concepts have any lasting, concrete value. The idea is, rather, to deconstruct them and to underline the complexity of the issue and the fact that continuous discussion and more research on the phenomenon are needed.

**Biography:** Pieter Bevelander is Professor of International Migration and Ethnic Relations (IMER) and Director of MIM – Malmö Institute of Migration, Diversity and Welfare – and Professor in the Department of Global Political Studies, Malmö University, Sweden. His main research field is international migration and the different aspects of immigrant integration and attitudes towards immigrants and ethnic minorities. His latest research covers the socioeconomic and political impacts of the citizenship ascension of immigrants and minorities in host societies and the attitude of the native population towards immigrants and other minority groups. He has reviewed for and published in a number of international journals, and co-edited the following publications: with Don DeVoretz, *The Economics of Citizenship* (Malmö University, 2008), with Mirjam Hagström and Sofia Rönnqvist, *Resettled and Included? The Employment Integration of Resettled Refugees in Sweden* (Holmbergs, 2009), with Christian Fernández and Anders Hellström, *Vägar till medborgarskap* (Arkiv Förlag, 2011) and with Bo Petersson, *Crisis and Migration, Implications of the Eurozone Crisis for Perceptions, Politics, and Policies of Migration* (Nordic Academic Press, 2014).

David Fleming

**Title:** Migration – It’s the Norm, Stupid!

**Abstract:** Migration, the movement of peoples within and between nations, is an entirely normal part of the human condition. Countries like the UK have experienced migrations throughout their histories, and the UK is essentially a group of nations that has been created through successive migrations, as anyone knows who has the slightest knowledge of such histories.

And yet, in the current climate, migration has become a burning issue, exciting hostility, nationalism and hatred, as though it were a new and threatening phenomenon rather than a continuation of the way in which the citizens of most nations have led their lives. Many migrations have been voluntary, many have been forced. All have created change. It is the responsibility of museums to explain
migration in all its complexity, and not stand by while people use for their own ends the febrile atmosphere that currently surrounds the issue.

In this presentation I shall consider various experiences of migration (emigration and immigration) in the UK and elsewhere, including the largest forced migration in history – the transatlantic slave trade – in which the city of Liverpool played such a prominent role, and the mass migration to Liverpool of Irish people in the 19th century that has left such a profound legacy.

BIOGRAPHY: Professor David Fleming, OBE, MA, PhD, AMA, became Director of National Museums Liverpool (NML) in 2001. He led a major modernisation of NML, which has resulted in its becoming a leading example of an inclusive museum service with a large and diverse audience.

Since he became Director, NML audiences have risen from around 700,000 to more than 3.2 million per year. He has been responsible for the creation of two new museums in Liverpool – the Museum of Liverpool and the International Slavery Museum.

David is President of the UK Museums Association, Convener of the Social Justice Alliance of Museums (SJAM) and President of the Federation of International Human Rights Museums (FIHRM). He is Visiting Professor of Museum Studies at Liverpool Hope University and Special Advisor to the Museum of Democracy in Rosario, Argentina. David chaired a Mayoral body looking at the cultural heritage of Liverpool, and sits on a Mayoral group looking at the legacy of The Beatles in the city.

He has published extensively and has lectured worldwide – most recently in Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Ireland, Poland and China – on museum management and leadership, city history museums, social inclusion, human rights, politics and ethics.

Maja Povranovic Frykman

TITLE: Migration Means Connection

ABSTRACT: My long-term, ethnographic research on labour and refugee migrants in Sweden allows for empirically grounding the critique of the ethnic lens – of seeking to explain the identities and trajectories of migrants, primarily in relation to their ethnicity. When considering a new museum of migration, it is of central importance to critically reflect on the implications of the representations of migrants as belonging to ethnic groups; putative homogeneous groups are not the actors and basic constituents of social life. New geographies of commonality and difference, divorced from lines of ethnic diversity, may be outlined if the representations are directed at the reasons for migration, education, gender and age, places, objects and material practices, rather than at ideas of common origin.

As an ethnologist interested in everyday material practices, I maintain that a sustained employment of the transnational migration paradigm would ensure that migration is not simply reduced to ‘immigration and the related aspects of integration’. If we intend to do justice to the daily realities of migrants’ lives, the museum’s representations should address their multiple transnational connections. However, this does not mean denying the equal importance of connections established and sustained in Sweden, in both everyday and institutional contexts. Moreover, connection as a leading concept with which to operate when
envisaging a museum of migration would call for representations of the changes over time implied in migration-related processes.

The concept of connection relates to daily practices and is not burdened by politically coloured meanings. It would also allow for the representation of non-migrant Swedes as included within transnational social fields, given that they have sustained relations with people living in other countries – often family members. The new museum of migration has the potential to show that their practices and concerns often correspond to those people who have migrated to Sweden – regardless of their origins.

**BIOGRAPHY:** Maja Povrzanović Frykman is Professor of Ethnology in the Department of Global Political Studies at Malmö University. She is also affiliated with the Malmö Institute for Studies of Migration, Diversity and Welfare (MIM), where she coordinates the international research group TRANSMIG (Transnational Practices in Migration) under the auspices of the European migration scholars’ network, IMISCOE.

Her main areas of research include war experiences, ethnicity and identity, place and belonging, as well as material culture and affects, while her special competence in the field of migration studies concerns concepts and practices within the domains of diaspora and transnationalism.


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**Session: Collecting Stories and Artefacts of Past and Present Migration**

**Alistair Thomson**

**TITLE:** Moving Stories: Making Migrant History with Letters, Photographs, Life Writing and Oral History

**ABSTRACT:** Migrants articulate and share their migration experience in many forms, including contemporary photographs and letters and retrospective life-writing and oral-history interviews. Researchers using these different types of narrative to make histories about the migration experience and its meanings need to think hard about how best to interpret these life-story sources. For example, how a person narrates his or her migration experience might be affected by their motivations for narration and the influence of their audience, by conventions and expectations about how to tell their story, by the nature of remembering and the relationship between the time of the migration and the time of the telling, and by the shifting subjectivity of the narrator and the changing public stories and meanings available to help them make sense of their life and migration. My own migration-history research has focused on British migration to Australia after World War II, and especially the family dynamics and relationships of migration decisions and experiences. In this presentation I illustrate approaches and issues in making history with migrant life stories through the case study of one British migrant woman’s accounts – in her letters and photographs, in life-writing and oral-history interviews – of being a young migrant mother in the 1960s.
A New Migration Museum in the Swedish Museum Landscape

Fredrik Svanberg

A national museum landscape consisting of both central, regional and local museums was set up in Sweden between the mid-19th and the early 20th centuries. The cultural production of this institutional structure was geared to the construction and representation of an imagined homogenous nation and Swedishness. Its theming and practices of collecting and exhibiting were based on ideas of an excluding, essentialist nationalism. Though gradual changes in museum ideas and practices during the late 20th century have had a transforming effect, there is still great need for basic re-creations of museum practices in Sweden. A new migration museum, based on inclusive and non-essentialist practices of collection, representation and ways of audience interaction, as well as basic ideas about globalisation and human rights, may become a welcome addition and a catalyst for further developments in the general Swedish museum landscape at large. In order to achieve this, a new such museum needs to thoroughly engage with basic, core museum practices, and not limit itself to being an exhibition gallery or telling new, exciting stories. Its relations to representation, to the handling of the material world through the collecting and the setting up of (innovative) professional practices regarding participation through in- and out-reach schemes needs to be carefully considered.

Fredrik Svanberg is Head of Research at the National Historical Museum of Sweden and an Associate Professor of Archaeology. He has published a large number of works on issues of museum collecting, the uses of history, nationalism and history and the cultural history of the Viking Age. His latest research has focused on old anatomical collections and museums in Sweden, how Swedish museums represent people and the uses of the history of ultra-nationalist groups.
TITLE: Collections and collecting processes about and with persons categorised as immigrants at the archive of the Nordic Museum in Sweden in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

ABSTRACT: In our current research project, we investigate how and under what conditions a narrating cultural heritage – narratives about and by immigrants – has been created and collected at the Nordic Museum. In this presentation we explore the procedures, conditions of their creation and content of three collections of narratives (viva voce interviews and written life stories) – archived at the Museum at different times from the beginning of the 1970s to 2015 – by and about persons categorised as immigrants. This was a period marked by the conversion of Sweden’s self-perception as a homogeneous country with immigrants into that of a multicultural society. With intersectionality as a theoretical tool, we study how social categories such as nation, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, class and generation are used in the materials, interview extracts and questionnaires to construct narratives of inclusion and exclusion in relation to Swedish society. We also present analyses of a few interviews and/or written life stories from the different collections in order to illustrate how normative social categories and positions are narrated, negotiated and/or resisted by the interviewed subjects in the collected and archived materials.

BIOGRAPHY: Malin Thor Tureby is Associate Professor of History, Linköping University, Sweden. She is a founder and board member of Oral History in Sweden (OHIS) www.ohis.se.

Jesper Johansson is Senior Lecturer in Social Work at Linnaeus University, Sweden.

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Session: Museums, Activism and Social Change

TITLE: A Museum in Support of Change and Restitution: A District Six Museum Story

ABSTRACT: District Six was a community destroyed under apartheid in South Africa, largely because the diversity of its residents contradicted the Apartheid government’s desire for complete racial segregation. The District Six Museum (D6M) emerged out of a movement which agitated for the protection of the land from which people were forcibly removed, and for the rights of people to return. A place which could serve as a keeper of the community’s memory was seen to be a key instrument in this struggle and hence the Museum was born.

D6M continues to play a critical role in the process of restitution and redevelopment of District Six. It has an established track record of working in community with the many partners and collaborators who are invested in its story.

The pathways to this achievement have not always been obvious or smooth. They have for the most part required competencies that went beyond traditional Museum skills.
The socio-political context in which D6M has had to forge its way, especially in the latter half of its 21-year-old life, has been a climate in which the building blocks of community have become eroded. The solidarity necessary to organic community formation has been hard to hold on to; rampant self-interest in the battle for resources by those who have very little, coupled with the desire to accumulate wealth by those who possess much, have become dominant hallmarks of our times in South Africa. This is part of the context in which the Museum has had to operate and from which it has not remained disaffected.

D6M has had to draw deeply on its resources in order to demonstrate that its existence is a testimony to the possibilities of solidarity, and the model which it continues to create and refresh serves to demonstrate how individuals acting with a common purpose can create something dynamic and renewable.

**BIOGRAPHY:** I was appointed as Director of the District Six Museum in Cape Town, South Africa, in June 2008, after having worked in the research and archival section of the Museum since 2001.

This job has enabled me to combine the best of the different worlds that I inhabit: the worlds of education, of a commitment to making a positive difference and of being a permanent defender of human rights – with a fair amount of creativity and breaking some traditional moulds thrown in for good measure. Going back to my days as a young student activist and community organiser, the stories of how people make sense of their lives against all the odds have always interested me. This led me to focus on the life narratives of people who had been forcibly removed from various areas in the Western Cape, as the subject for my Master’s dissertation. The stories of our city continue to fuel my passion, and both buffers and ignites my responses to the invisible ceilings which I see and experience as restricting individuals and communities from becoming the best versions of themselves – ourselves.

**TITLE:** Chasing the Hidden, Unapproachable and Untold: From Urgent to Long-Term Documentation and Research Project Collaboration with Regard to Migrants and the Reception of Refugees in Sweden in 2015

**ABSTRACT:** This paper deals with the process of contemporary documentation and research collaboration between three museums and a university institution: Regionmuseet i Kristianstad, Malmö Museer, Kulturen i Lund and ABM/The Department of Arts and Cultural Sciences at Lund University.
We highlight the internal dynamics of the experience of documenting recent migration to Europe in general and to Malmö, Scania and Sweden in particular. Our main intention is to present the ongoing contemporary documentation research project which covers individual experiences and memories of war, oppression and migration, belonging and identity, the daily realities of migrants’ lives and their everyday material practices. Our special focus is on the strategies and tactics of activism and civil-society practices through a wide range of events and actors, as well as a questioning of the authorities’ ability and capability in regards to the reception of refugees.

Methodologically, this phenomenological investigation focuses on how migration experiences and the reception of refugees are expressed in action and what the consequences of these actions are.

Session: Museums and Collaboration

Parvin Ardalan

TITLE: Women Making History

ABSTRACT: The movement and project ‘Women Making History’ is about visualising the hidden and untold stories about immigrant women’s history in Malmö, Sweden. ‘Women Making History’ began in 2013 with the aim and mindset of exploring different feminist methods of communication for collecting stories and re-writing the history of immigrant women’s lives and work in order to visualise and document the hidden economic and social layers of the City of Malmö.

The aim has never been to limit the project in such a way that it ended up in a box of collected stories but, rather, to involve the storytellers in the processes of participation. Up to the present day, Women Making History has arranged seminars, workshops, lectures and exhibitions, carried out interviews, published newsletters and set up a tumble site.

The endeavour was initiated by Feminist Dialog, Malmö Stad and Malmö Museum and went on to include Malmö University, ABF, Malmö City Archive, civil society and women’s organisations, networks and individuals. At the seminar we will share our experiences and stories with you!

BIOGRAPHY: Parvin Ardalan, a journalist and women’s rights activist, was awarded the Olof Palme Prize in 2007 for her struggle for equal rights in Iran. She co-founded the ‘Markaze Farhangiye Zanan’ (Women’s Cultural Centre) and the ‘One Million Signatures Campaign’ for the repeal of discriminatory laws against women in Iran. From 2010 to 2012, Parvin Ardalan was Malmö City’s first guest writer.

Christina Johansson

TITLE: Learning About Migration: Schools and Museums in Collaboration

ABSTRACT: Museums are not isolated islands. Societal changes such as new phenomena, ideas and policies are causing the museum sector to revise and restructure its work. Currently, we can see the trend whereby museums devote more attention to processes of globalisation, migration and cultural diversity, thereby successively becoming important sites for the representation of and learning
about these issues. As important educational institutions, museums not only reflect society, but also participate in the social processes by which perceptions and attitudes are created. One important visitor group for museums is children. Statistics indicate that as much as 40 per cent of Swedish museums’ public activities are dedicated to preschool and other schoolchildren. This presentation focuses on how museums in Sweden address phenomena related to migration. Particular attention will be paid to museums’ role in educating children about migration. The focus of the analysis is a role-play jointly developed by a museum and a theatre company, the aim of which was to stimulate children’s understanding and empathy for people who have been forced to flee their homes. Issues that will be discussed are: What did the school children who participated in the role-play learn? Did the role-play become an integrated part of the regular education offered in class? What are the special benefits of museums as sites of learning?

**BIOGRAPHY:** Christina Johansson is Senior Lecturer in International Migration and Ethnic Relations at Malmö University. She has published extensively on the relations between state, nation, migration policy and the representation of migration. For several years she was affiliated with the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for European History and Public Spheres in Vienna, where she was engaged on a project focusing on how educational institutions in various countries remembered migration. In her book Museums, Migration and Cultural Diversity: Swedish Museums in Tune with the Times? (StudienVerlag, 2015), she investigates how museums have adapted to a new era characterised by globalisation and migration. Currently she is engaged on a research project concerning the collaboration between museums and schools.
in the exhibit. A popular exhibit amongst museum goers, the migrant worker's niche offers an insight into the lives of an almost-forgotten group of migrants in Canadian society.

**BIOGRAPHY:** Armando Perla was born and raised in El Salvador, where he attended law school and co-founded a not-for-profit legal office. Due to his human rights work, he was forced to flee to Canada, where he was recognised as a conventional refugee in 2001. Armando completed his Bachelor of Laws at l’Université Laval in Canada and holds a Master’s degree in International Human Rights Law from Lund University and the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law in Sweden. Armando is currently a curator at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights (CMHR) and an instructor at the Faculty of Law at the University of Manitoba. Armando has curated exhibits on subjects which include forced migration, migrant workers, linguistic rights, women’s rights, bullying, human trafficking and the sexual exploitation of children.

Armando has conducted a great many oral histories with activists, survivors and refugees. These histories have been exhibited through his curatorial work at the CMHR. He has worked in different capacities with organisations such as the Manitoba Interfaith Immigration Council in Canada, Covenant House Guatemala, the Centre for Justice and International Law in Washington DC and Lund University Commissioned Education in Sweden. Armando has published on topics such as migrant workers’ and children’s rights.

**PERFORMANCE:** ‘A better life?’

This is an 8–10-minute solo piece. The style is contemporary ballet. The focus of the story is the motivation for migrant workers to leave their homes: to provide a better life for their families. The dance starts with the symbolism of family, of farewells, followed by the symbolism of a contract signature. The migrant’s name, which is also the name of his family, is the beginning of it all. We follow with representations of a long journey and then of hard work and sometimes abuse. However, the worker never gives up. At this point the audience will have an understanding of the story. In the second part, there is an introspective view of the emotions of the migrant worker. We view his loneliness, his sadness, and also his strength, his reason for existence, fuelled by his family.

**BIOGRAPHY:** Originally from Ottawa, Philippe-Alexandre Jacques started his professional journey training with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School in Canada. After graduation, he continued his studies on the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School’s Aspirant Program, during which he had the occasion to perform in and tour internationally with many of the company’s productions, such as Twyla Tharp’s The Princess and the Goblin and Moulin Rouge. During this time, Philippe-Alexandre also explored the realm of choreography, creating for his fellow Aspirants and for more-independent projects like the David Suzuki Blue Dot Tour. His desire to expand his knowledge in contemporary movement led him to participate in programmes such...
as the Nederlands Danz Theatre Summer and Springboard Danse Montréal. Since his time in the Aspirant Program, Philippe-Alexandre has created many well-received works, including a piece entitled Text Me on the subject of child sexual exploitation, in collaboration with Beyond Borders ECPAT Canada. He has also created a site-specific dance for the Gardiner Museum of Ceramics in Toronto, in collaboration with the National Ballet School of Canada, and a solo work on principal dancer Jaime Vargas on the subject of Agricultural Migrant Workers for the 2015 International Metropolis Conference in Mexico City. He is currently working as Choreographer and Artistic Coordinator for the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School while dancing independently. His latest appearance was in the 2016 Q Dance.
Organising Committee

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Acknowledgements

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Map over central Malmö

1. MALMÖ UNIVERSITY, ORKANEN
Nordenskiöldsgatan 10

2. MALMÖ MUSEUMS
Malmöhusvägen 6

3. TOWN HALL
Stortorget, Old town