DEMHIST

ICOM
international committee
for historic house
museums

OPEN TALKS 2024

HISTORIC HOUSE MUSEUMS AND THEIR COMMUNITIES

DETAILED PROGRAM

** [PROGRAM SUBJECT TO CHANGE]

Photo Credits : DEMHIST Members : The Quaid-e-Azam House, The Eva Klabin House Museum ; Freepik / jcomp

DEMHIST ICOM international committee for historic house museums

MONDAY 25.11.24

Abel Salazar House Museum, Porto, Portugal

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

John Orna Ornstein (National Trust, UK)

John Orna-Ornstein is director of curation and experience and part of the executive team at the National Trust for England, Wales and Northern Ireland, with responsibility for leading the organisation's care for, and programming of, its historic places. The National Trust looks after around 500 heritage and natural properties in the UK, including 220 country houses and hundreds of miles of coastline. It has more than 5.5 million members.

John was formerly director of museums for Arts Council England and head of London and national programmes for the British Museum, where he started his career as curator of Roman coins. He studied archaeology at University College London.

SESSION 1
INSPIRE

"INSPIRING A SHIFT OF VALUES"

This first day will revolve around the key word "inspire", showing the role of house museums in inspiring current and future generations through their commitment communities, cultural heritage, and societal growth. Papers highlight the way house museums use collections and storytelling to preserve and celebrate local history, promote ethical reflection, and foster cultural sustainability and development.

Photo Credits : DEMHIST Members : Casa-Museum Abel Salazar ; Freepik

DEMHIST ICOM international committee for historic house museums

MONDAY 25.11.24

SESSION 1
INSPIRE

Abel Salazar House Museum, Porto, Portugal

PRESENTATIONS

- **Maria Szadkowska**, Museum of Prague, Czech Republic

Božena Rotmayerová. Modern Woman versus Domesticity.

This paper will focus on the role of the house-museum as a means of understanding the development of the household and the important role of women who were and still are the main managers of family life. Through historical changes in the 20th and 21st centuries, it will show how women's roles have evolved and how house-museums help to illustrate this change to visitors, providing aan important insight into the importance of women in the daily running of households.

- **Liisa Oikari**, The Mannerheim Museum, Finland

The rise of humanitarian values - Museums as platforms for resilience

The 2023 exhibition “Good Deeds” held at the Mannerheim Museum highlighted Gustaf Mannerheim’s significant yet often overlooked humanitarian contributions, focusing on his involvement with The Finnish Red Cross and The Mannerheim League for Child Welfare. By exploring these organizations' histories and impacts, the exhibition fostered discussions on accountability and social sustainability, emphasizing the role of humanitarian values in building resilient societies. It served as a platform to reflect on and advocate for humanity and equality amid contemporary challenges.

VIRTUAL TOURS

Matjaž Koman, Žirovnica Institute for Tourism and Culture, Slovenia

A Video Tour of Slovenia's Iconic House Museums on the Žirovnica Path of Cultural Heritage

Katarina Pocedić and Katarina Marić, Historical and Maritime Museum of Istria, Croatia

The Pula Fort Center – Fortified heritage as a link to the community

Photo Credits : DEMHIST Members : Casa-Museum Abel Salazar ; Freepik

OPEN TALKS 2024

DEMHIST ICOM international committee for historic house museums

TUESDAY 26.11.24

SESSION 2
INTERPRET

Gatchina Palace and Estate Museum, St. Petersberg, Russia

“INTERPRET THE PAST IN A NEW LIGHT”

For our second day, papers will focus on how museums and cultural institutions interpret historical and cultural heritage in ways that resonate with present - day communities. We will emphasize the role of interpretation in bridging the past with the present, fostering community engagement and addressing contemporary societal issues.

PRESENTATIONS

- **Alicja Marika Lubowicka**, Nicolaus Copernicus house, Poland

Material ways to remember things, or why do we need ugly (Copernican) souvenirs?

This paper examines the role of the Copernicus House Museum in documenting and preserving personal and private memories of Nicolaus Copernicus, focusing on how he is remembered locally beyond high art and political narratives. It highlights the museum's efforts to acquire and exhibit memorabilia, particularly from the Communist era, often undervalued. The cultural and social significance of these items, will be explored, illustrating how they reflect societal changes and more nuanced understanding of Copernicus's legacy.

- **Nirit Shalev Khalifa**, Ben Zvi Foundation, Jerusalem, Israel

A hut that is a home, which is a Museum

This proposal explores the "a hut that is a home" initiative, focusing on the preservation of historical huts once inhabited by Israeli leaders. It highlights the historical significance of the simple huts of PM David Ben-Gurion and President Izhak Ben-Zvi, now museums. It will examine the unique genre of preserving these temporary buildings, contrasting private and official residences, and their contemporary relevance in fostering multicultural unity and educational engagement through a blend of traditional and innovative museum practices.

Photo Credits : DEMHIST Members : Gatchina Palace ; Freepik / Anna Tolipova

DEMHIST ICOM international committee for historic house museums

TUESDAY 26.11.24

SESSION 2
INTERPRET

Gatchina Palace and Estate Museum, St. Petersberg, Russia

- **Denise Maior-Barron**, Claremont Graduate University, California U.S.A.

Communing Locals and Tourists: The multicultural interpretation at the Palace and Botanical Garden of Balchik (Bulgaria), former residence of Queen Marie of Romania (1875–1938)

This paper examines the Palace and Botanical Gardens at Balchik, formerly Queen Marie of Romania's residence. It explores the site's evolving interpretation since the fall of Communism, and its impact on Romanian and Bulgarian perspectives. Tourists now visit as a pilgrimage to honor Queen Marie, whose legacy has grown post-Communism. The study emphasizes the site's multicultural design and its dual management, showcasing broader social changes and opportunities for cross-cultural understanding and integration.

- **Galina Lysyakova**, The Leo Tolstoy State Museum, Russia

Nikolskoye-Obolyaninovo Estate

Estate heritage in Russia, a blend of folk and noble customs with Russian and Western influences, is often neglected, leading to the deterioration of these once vibrant cultural sites. The Nikolskoe-Oboliyaninovo estate, connected to Leo Tolstoy and Dmitry Mendeleev, exemplifies how local pride and community efforts are vital for preserving such historic properties. Plans are underway to restore the estate and create a sociocultural center, leveraging modern technology to celebrate its rich legacy.

- **Verena Perko**, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

How to present the tragic fates of great personalities to the public; the case of the Museum of the poet France Prešeren in Kranj, Slovenia

This proposal addresses the challenge museums face in presenting the tragic events or personal mistakes of significant figures, often opting for silence to maintain untarnished public images. It highlights the shift from modern-era political correctness to postmodernism, which

Photo Credits : DEMHIST Members : Gatchina Palace ; Freepik / Anna Tolipova

TUESDAY 26.11.24

SESSION 2
INTERPRET

Gatchina Palace and Estate Museum, St. Petersberg, Russia

questions singular truths and promotes storytelling. The paper aims to explore how museums can effectively represent uncomfortable histories while preserving their role as social catalysts and mediums for ethical reflection.

- **Alexander Belousov**, The Peterhof State Museum-Reserve, Russia

Is the Peterhof Museum 'ours' or 'theirs'?

This paper explores the evolving relationship between the Peterhof Palace Museum and the local city community, highlighting how the museum's transformation from an integrated part of the city to a separate, elitist entity has created social tensions. It examines the impacts of gentrification and museumification on local accessibility and engagement, discussing efforts to reconnect with the community. It aims to address the tension between preserving cultural heritage and achieving social consensus, questioning which should be prioritized.

VIRTUAL TOURS

Lana Bede, the Karlovac City Museums, Croatia
Raise your gaze

Lucija Perko, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
How can heritage products help contribute to a better awareness of culture and heritage: example of Plečnik House in Ljubljana, Slovenia

Photo Credits : DEMHIST Members : Gatchina Palace ; Freepik / Anna Tolipova

WEDNESDAY 27.11.24

SESSION 3
IMPACT

Sir John Soane's Museum, London, United Kingdom
photo: Gareth Gardner

"MAKE SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS ON COMMUNITIES"

With impact as our key word, papers on the third session will highlight how historic house museums can influence societal transformation within their communities. It will underscore the importance of innovation, empowerment, and sustainability in heritage sites, demonstrating their potential to address contemporary social challenges and foster community engagement.

PRESENTATIONS

- **Elena Montanari**, Universita Politecnica Milano, Italy

Open Atelier. Building new innovative formats for active audience participation and interaction with cultural heritage within European House Museums

This paper discusses the Open Atelier Project, involving four European House Museums from Denmark, Sweden, Iceland, and Slovenia, which developed and tested innovative audience engagement formats. The project aims to transform these museums into dynamic, co-creative spaces, engaging communities, especially young adults, in exploring cultural heritage. The presentation will explore the practical application of these formats, evaluate their effectiveness, and reflect on their contribution to museum reform and social change.

- **Sara Chafi**, University of Salah Boubnider Constantine3, Algeria

Empowering Communities, Preserving Heritage: The Ahmed Bey Museum's Dynamic Role in Social Change and Cultural Conservation

This proposal examines the Ahmed Bey Palace in Constantine, Algeria, now the National Public Museum of Arts and Cultural Expressions. It highlights the palace's architectural splendor and historical significance, symbolizing Algerian identity and resilience. The proposal explores how the palace's programming and community engagement initiatives address social change, promote diversity, and foster community empowerment, positioning it as a key player in leveraging cultural heritage for contemporary challenges.

Photo Credits : DEMHIST Members : Sir John Soane's Museum ; Freepik

WEDNESDAY 27.11.24

SESSION 3
IMPACT

Sir John Soane's Museum, London, United Kingdom
photo: Gareth Gardner

- **Ramesh Prasad Dawadi**, Living Traditions Museum, Nepal

An experimental story: Opportunity, Threats and Social Change

This proposal focuses on the Changunarayan Temple in Nepal, and the challenges of establishing a museum within its premises. Despite initial resistance from the local community, who valued the space for traditional religious activities and governance, the LTM successfully restored a historic building and opened the museum. Over time, through education and outreach, the museum gained acceptance, illustrating the transformative power of museums in preserving heritage and fostering development.

VIRTUAL TOURS

Alexander Bogatyrev, The Muranovo manor museun-reserve, Russia

The most honest manor in the Moscow region

Verónica Herrera, Colegio de San Ildefonso, México

Enjoy your trip! Guided but independent tours designed for diverse communities

Photo Credits : DEMHIST Members : Sir John Soane's Museum ; Freepik