



CoHERE conference, POLIN Museum Warsaw, 22-24th November 2018

Call for papers: Who is Europe?

The final conference of *CoHERE – Critical Heritages: performing and representing identities in Europe* – seeks to explore and analyse productions and meanings of the European past in the present. The question ‘who is Europe?’ can take on different inflections today. We can think of disunity within, and fragmentation of, the EU and the uncertain purchase as a means of supranational collectivity. We can think of the development of xenophobic attitudes, essentialist mythologies of Europe and Europeans and discrimination towards ‘others’, and how these may contrast with the global mobilities that are a historical feature – perhaps a defining one – of Europe. It brings us, in short, to question what Europe is, how it has come to be, and what it means to feel European, or indeed non-European. In such questions, heritage is a core concern, for contests over the meanings of the past are part of wider social and political relations and tensions.

Heritage is made in the myriad practices and cultural forms where the past is valorised for the present, from folk traditions to museums and memorials, the management of historic sites and traditions, and everyday matters such as education, political discourse, home life, food consumption and people’s relations with place. Likewise, contemporary connections with events, cultures and sites from prehistory to the very recent past may all be important for the construction of identities, values and futures. Heritage practices in and of Europe certainly transcend the official domain of policy, and are variously informed by civil and uncivil visions, the politics of difference and co-presence, difficult pasts, relations with the ‘outside’, borders, margins, and migrations. It is the tense interplay of these that engages us with multiple Europes, and multiple subject positions, that are sometimes in conflict with one another, problematizing any project of building a ‘common heritage’ and a single citizenry or demos.

Key issues for our conference include:

- What counts as European heritage and memory? To whom, where, when and why? In what ways is it mapped, measured or fixed in place and time? What alternative conceptions are possible?

- What kinds of ‘past-presencing’ can be seen in Europe, across performative, representational and non/more-than-representational practice?
- What are the relations between European heritages and collectivities?
- What is the European past made to do in the present and for the future, particularly in a time of ‘crises’?
- How does heritage ‘travel’ between different institutional, social and personal spheres and how are identities negotiated and produced through this?
- What are the contemporary meanings and effects of global encounters, mobilities and trajectories in which Europe has played roles?
- What is the fit of European heritages with local, national and universal conceptions of heritage?
- What theoretical and critical perspectives can be articulated to contribute new understandings of European heritages? How might these be made relevant for current and future heritage practice?
- What are the relations between theory, criticality, ethics and heritage practice in the European dimension?

Call for abstracts:

We invite you to submit an abstract of up to 300 words, for presentations of up to 20 minutes, addressing the topics and questions above. The selection of abstracts will be completed in July.

Please send your abstract and a short bio **by 17th June** to both:

Dr Susannah Eckersley, CoHERE Deputy Project Coordinator, Newcastle University, UK
susannah.eckersley@ncl.ac.uk

and:

Zuzanna Schnepf-Kořacz, Specialist, Research Department, POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, Warsaw
zkolacz@polin.pl

CoHERE Project website: <https://research.ncl.ac.uk/cohere/>

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