
THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF NAMIBIAN HERITAGE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

UNIVERSITY OF NAMIBIA | UNIVERSITY OF BASEL | MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION OF NAMIBIA
TUESDAY 28 AUGUST TO THURSDAY 30 AUGUST 2018

CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR PRESENTATIONS

Post-colonial heritage and public history studies in Southern Africa have grown and been consolidated over the last decade. As a result, alternative ways of thinking “with” collections and “doing history” in broader public frameworks offer eclectic approaches, practices and visions for heritage and public history. Today these studies are entering a phase of critical reflection about previous and current representations of history. The potential exists for new visions of the form that a Namibian museum might take and the role that it might play in society.

Numerous local museum initiatives throughout Southern African allow increased public involvement in heritage and museums but also carry the danger of segmentation and simplification of complex local pasts and presents. On a national level, given the enduring constraints of state institutions, many heritage collections, including archival and library collections, are under threat.

At this crucial moment in time, the conference aims at encouraging vigorous intellectual debate on reconfiguring public history and heritage research and policies to involve communities, but also preserve the tangible and safeguard the intangible. With a clear focus on the Namibian heritage and history landscape, the conference invites scholars, curators and activists, community project leaders, policy makers and students from Namibia as well as from the wider Southern African region to participate in these discussions. We have some very limited funding that might be available to assist with the cost of travel and accommodation for some presenters from Namibia and Southern Africa.

We welcome paper, posters and audiovisual presentations and encourage book launches and exhibitions as part of the conference program.

Venue: University of Namibia, Windhoek
Organised by: Museums Association of Namibia and University of Namibia in collaboration with Centre for African Studies, University of Basel
Organizing Committee: Martha Akawa, Ndapewoshali Ndahafa Ashipala, Goodman Gwasira, Dag Henrichsen, Nehoa Hilma Kautondokwa, Luregn Lenggenhager, Giorgio Miescher, Jeremy Silvester

CONFERENCE THEMES

1. Safeguarding Archives, Library and Museums Collections
2. Defining the Roles of Communities in Community Museums
3. Coming Home: The Repatriation of Cultural Heritage
4. Does Colonial Heritage have a Future?
5. Memorializing the Liberation Struggle: Sites of Memory.
6. Liberation and Trauma: Cassinga 1978 – 2018
7. Selling Heritage: Heritage Economies
8. Living Museums, the Tourist Gaze and Ethnographic Displays in post-apartheid Southern Africa
9. Public Art and the Performance of History in Southern Africa
10. Human Remains in Southern Africa
11. Dealing with the Past: Narratives of Genocide
12. Museums as Educational Resource Centres

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION WITH ABSTRACT OF PRESENTATION

Please submit your application with an abstract of 200-400 words summarizing your presentation. We also encourage poster presentations by curators and museum representatives. The Conference might also use group discussions to deal with some important themes.

DEADLINE: 24:00 ON SUNDAY, 15TH APRIL 2018

Applications with abstract of presentation are to be sent to:

MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION OF NAMIBIA

Email: museums@iway.na

Postal Address: PO Box 147, Windhoek, NAMIBIA

