



Transforming Maze / Long Kesh Conference

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TRACES

Transmitting Contentious Cultural Heritages with the Arts. From Intervention to Co-production

TRACES is a three year research project funded in 2016 by the European Commission within the Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme. Through an innovative research methodology, TRACES investigates the challenges and opportunities inherent in transmitting awkward pasts in contemporary Europe. Contentious heritage is often particularly difficult to convey to the public and can impede inclusivity and convivial relations. Nevertheless, if transmitted sensitively, it can contribute to a process of reflexive Europeanisation, in which the European imagination is shaped by self-awareness, on-going critical reflection and dialogue across different positions.

Involving a multi-disciplinary team, which brings together established and emerging scholars, artists and cultural workers, TRACES will develop a rigorous and creative investigation on a range of contentious cultural heritages. To do so, it sets up a series of Creative Co-Productions in which artists, researchers, heritage agencies, and stakeholders work together in longer term engagements, to collaboratively research selected cases of contentious heritage and develop new participatory public interfaces. These art-based research actions will be supported and complemented by theoretical investigations, analysing and expanding their outcomes.

TRACES main goal is to identify new directions for cultural institutions and museums, aimed at effectively transmitting contentious cultural heritage and productively contributing to evolving European identities.

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FACTSHEET

Abstract: TRACES is a three year research project funded in 2016 by the European Commission within the Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme. Through an innovative research methodology based on an experimental in-depth artistic/ethnographic approach, TRACES focuses on the challenges and opportunities inherent in transmitting contentious cultural heritages in contemporary Europe. Involving a multi-disciplinary team, which brings together established and emerging scholars, artists and cultural workers, TRACES develops rigorous and creative investigations on a range of contentious cultural heritages. To do so, it sets up a series of art-based research actions supported and complemented by theoretical investigations, in order to eventually identify new directions for cultural institutions and museums, to effectively transmit contentious cultural heritage and productively contribute to evolving European identities.

Project Duration: March 2016-February 2019 (3 years)

Project Coordinator: Prof. Klaus Schönberger, Universitaet Klagenfurt, Austria.

Funding scheme: European Union Horizon 2020. SOCIETAL CHALLENGES - Europe In A Changing World - Inclusive, Innovative And Reflective Societies. Reflective 2: Emergence and transmission of European cultural heritage and Newcastle University Europeanisation.

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TRACES Research Fields

TRACES is structured around five experimental Creative Co-Productions, supported and complemented by theoretical and empirical investigations pertaining to five main research fields:

Artistic Research: Creative Co-Production Beyond Intervention develops and analyses participatory methods and models of innovative contemporary creative collaborations between artists, researchers, heritage agencies, and their stakeholders.

Ethnographic Research on/with Art Production critically examines the collaborative processes between art and research also in relation to challenges posed by the post-colonial legacy of museums' collections.

Research on Education and Stakeholder Involvement investigates learning and exhibiting contentious cultural heritage in Europe, in order to identify ways in which educational settings can provide spaces of conflict and negotiation.

Performing Heritage: Creative Everyday Practices in Popular Culture conducts ethnographic fieldwork into contentious heritages with a focus on intangible heritage. As the theoretical backbone of the project, it evaluates, contextualises and brings together practical and theoretical results from TRACES investigations for public use.

Contentious Collections: Research on Material Culture of Difficult Cultural Heritage undertakes comparative and contextual analysis in order to identify the particular challenges and potential involved in transmitting contentious cultural heritage and to identify new ways of mediating difficult collections.

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TRACES Creative Co-Productions

ABSENCE AS HERITAGE | Mediaş, Romania

Team: Julie Dawson, Anda Reuben, Razvan Anton. Partner/Host: NGO Hosman Durabil. Other institutions/partners: Mediaş Synagogue.

AWKWARD OBJECTS OF GENOCIDE | Krakow, Poland

Team: Erika Lehrer, Roma Sendyka, Wojciech Wilczyk, Magdalena Zych. Partner/Host: Centre for Memory Studies/Jagiellonian University.

CASTING OF DEATH | Ljubljana, Slovenia

Team: Alenka Pirman, Jani Pirnat. Partner/Host: Domestic Research Society. Other institutions/partners: The National and University Library, the Moderna Galerija Ljubljana, the National Museum of Contemporary History.

DEAD IMAGES | Vienna, Austria - Edinburgh, United Kingdom

Team: Tal Adler, Linda Fibiger, John Harries, Joan Smith, Anna Szoeka, Maria Teschler-Nicola. Partners/Hosts: University of Edinburgh, Natural History Museum, Vienna.

TRANSFORMING LONG KESH/MAZE PRISON | Belfast, Northern Ireland

Team: Martin Krenn, Aisling O'Beirn. Partner/Host: Ulster University.

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TRACES Partners

Universitaet Klagenfurt – Institute for Cultural Analysis (A) Klaus Schönberger (Project Coordinator), Marion Hamm, Gisela Hagmair, UNIKUM

Politecnico di Milano – Department of Architecture and Urban Studies (IT) Luca Basso Peressut, Francesca Lanz with Suzana Milevska

Humboldt-Universitaet zu Berlin – Institute of European Ethnology (DE) Sharon Macdonald, Tal Adler, Regina Römhild, Anna Szöke

Universitetet I Oslo – Department of Social Anthropology (NO) Arnd Schneider, Leone Contini

Zürcher Hochschule der Künste – Institute for Art Education (CH) Carmen Mörsch, Nora Landkammer, Karin Schneider

Hosman Durabil (RO) Julie Dawson, Anton Razvan, Anda Reuben

Naturhistorisches Museum – Department of Anthropology (A) Maria Teschler-Nicola

The University of Edinburgh – Social Anthropology, Archaeology and the Edinburgh College of Art (UK) John Harries, Linda Fibiger, Joan Smith

Uniwersytet Jagiellonski – Research Centre for Memory Cultures (PL) Roma Sendyka, Erica Lehrer, Wojtech Wilczyk, Magdalena Zych

University of Ulster – Research Institute for Art and Design (UK) Aisling O’Beirn, Martin Krenn

Društvo za domače raziskave (SLO) Alenka Pirman, Jani Pirnat.