

# Heritage, Museums & Populism

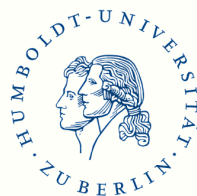
Conference, 7–9 October 2024, Berlin

---

The rise and re-emergence of populist politics across Europe has profound implications for social spheres and institutions, including museums and heritage. Because of heritage's identity-building capacities, it can become both a resource and a tool to support populist politics, exclusionary identity-building and political polarization. The populist use of the past functions as a form of selective storytelling and representation that can instrumentalise, appropriate and intervene in sites of cultural heritage, including monuments, memorials, street names, public iconography, archaeological sites, and museums.

This final conference of the international research project *Challenging Populist Truth-Making in Europe: The Role of Museums in a Digital 'Post-Truth' European Society* (CHAPTER), funded by the Volkswagen Foundation, will explore how the growing influence of populist politics is affecting museums in Europe and what this means for people working in the heritage and museum field. The three-day conference will include a keynote speech, panels, roundtable discussions and presentations of the main findings of the CHAPTER project. It will also see the launch of the CHAPTER museum app, which offers digital interactions and tours of exhibitions in Berlin, Krakow and London, aimed at inspiring young visitors to critically engage with populist truth-making.

**CHAPTER**



VolkswagenStiftung

**fluxguide**

## Schedule

### Monday, 7 October 2024

Location: Institute of European Ethnology, Humboldt University

Möhrenstr 41, 10117 Berlin

Room 408

14:00–14:30

Welcome and Introduction

Sharon Macdonald (Humboldt University Berlin)

14:30–15:30

Keynote

**Populism, Resistant Imaginations and Radical Solidarity:  
Museum Interventions for Tolerant Futures**

Chiara Bonacchi (University of Edinburgh)

15:30–15:45

Coffee

15:45–18:00

Panel 1

**Challenging Populist Truth-Making in Europe**

Chair: Christoph Bareither (University of Tübingen)

**Impacts of Populist Politics on Museums in Poland,  
Germany and the UK**

Julia Leser (Humboldt University Berlin)

**Difficult Politics and the Populist Culture Wars: How Fear  
Immobilises Practice**

Alice Millar (University College London)

**The Role of Museum Education in Building  
Counter-Strategies to Populist Practices in Polish Museums**

Marlena Nikody (Jagiellonian University Krakow)

**Countering Populism Online: Digital Strategies for Museums  
Confronted with Hate Speech**

Pia Schramm (University of Tübingen)

Tuesday, 8 October 2024

Location: Institute of European Ethnology, Humboldt University  
Möhrenstr 41, 10117 Berlin  
Room 408

9:30–11:00

Panel 2

**Heritage and the Re-Emergence of Nationalism**

Chair: Julia Leser (Humboldt University Berlin)

**Krasny Concentration Camp Memorial: The Russian World War II Site of Memory in Crimea**

Yurii Latysh (University of Londrina)

**Terrorist Heritage: On the Confiscation of Immaterial Heritage in the Name of Fighting (Populist) ‘Terror’**

Alice von Bieberstein (Humboldt University Berlin)

**Chauvinism Dressed with Self-Pity: The Role of the Foiba of Basovizza in Constructing and Spreading Nationalistic Identities**

Marco Bernardi (University of Turin)

11:00–11:30

Coffee

11:30–13:00

Panel 3

**Populism, Memory Politics and Museums In-Between**

Chair: Marlena Nikody (Jagiellonian University Krakow)

**Populist Practices in Museums Upside Down: The Case of Sweden**

Olga Zabalueva (Umeå University) &  
Armando Perla (Textile Museum of Canada)

**Museum Ethnography and Multi-Cultural Ethics During the Rise of the National Front in 1970s Britain**

Johanna Zetterstrom-Sharp (University College London)

**Regional Local History Museums and Memory Politics in Russia**

Alisa Maksimova (Ruhr University Bochum)

13:00–14:00

Lunch

14:00–15:30

Panel 4

**Museums' Resilience, Counter-Strategies and Emotional Practices**

Chair: Alice Millar (University College London)

**Resilient Exhibitions: Exhibition Design as a Possible Counter-Strategy of a Critical Historical Museum**

Maria Kobielska (Jagiellonian University Krakow)

**“Unpleasant but Endurable”: Dealing with Right-Wing Extremism as an Emotional Practice**

Julia Gilfert (University of Tübingen)

**State of the Art or Arts of the State? Populist Truth-Making in Two Varsovian Tier-1 Museums**

naveed L. salek nejad (Concordia University in Tiohtià:ke/Montréal)

15:30–16:00

Coffee

16:00–17:30

Roundtable 1

**Perspectives for Museums in Times of Difficult Politics**

Discussion with

Livia Dubon (Kingston University London)

Magdalena Zych (Ethnographic Museum Krakow) &

Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett (New York University)

Chair

Roma Sendyka (Jagiellonian University Krakow) &

Julia Leser (Humboldt University Berlin)

## Wednesday, 9 October 2024

Location: Institute of European Ethnology, Humboldt University  
Möhrenstr 41, 10117 Berlin  
Room 408

9:30–10:45

### Roundtable 2 **Museums, Digital Media and Politics**

Discussion with  
Haidy Geismar (University College London)  
Robin Boast (University of Amsterdam)  
Foteini Aravani (Museum of London) &  
Franziska Mucha (Historical Museum Frankfurt)

Chair  
Christoph Bareither (University of Tübingen) &  
Pia Schramm (University of Tübingen)

10:45–11:00

### CHAPTER App Launch Christoph Bareither, Pia Schramm (University of Tübingen)

11:00–11:30

Break & Walk to Humboldt Forum Berlin  
Schlosspl. 1, 10178 Berlin  
Exhibition BERLIN GLOBAL

11:30–12:30

### CHAPTER App: Museum Visit **Berlin Global, City Museum Berlin** Exploratory testing of the app

12:30–13:15

### CHAPTER App: Discussion **Challenging Populism through the Digital**

Discussion with  
Christoph Bareither, Pia Schramm (University of Tübingen) &  
Carina Doppler (Fluxguide)

Location: Humboldt Forum Berlin  
Schlosspl. 1, 10178 Berlin, Humboldt Lab Room

13:15–13:30

### Concluding Remarks