

# Kulturarvsnoden

Invites to two open lectures

Understanding heritage led  
reconciliation in the  
post-Yugoslav space

By Višnja Kisić

9<sup>th</sup> of April 13:00 in B22

The Wars of Yugoslav Succession in the 1990s have been one of the pivotal points for the creation of international justice system and a testing ground for codifying practices and theories of transitional justice, peace-building and reconciliation by many academics, Western governments, multilateral agencies, international organisations and NGOs. Somewhat paradoxically, despite the diversity of actors and interventions focused on reconciliation, the post-Yugoslav space still lingers in 'conflict time', a period in which conflict is not absent, but rather played out through competitive heritage interpretations, antagonistic memorialization and memory wars. In this lecture I position heritage led reconciliation practices within this paradox and analyse most dominant approaches used by international actors in the name of reconciliation – post-war heritage reconstruction; professional capacity building and networking; and (re)interpretation of heritage – pinpointing to their underlying assumptions, effects and challenges. I argue that all three approaches stayed within the comfort zone of both the international and local heritage actors, treating heritage as universalizing and apolitical field. Thus, they avoided dealing with heritage related politics, contestations and dissonances, at the same time evading addressing the dominant divisive political processes and deeper roots of social violence.

Višnja Kisić is a researcher, lecturer and manager in the field of heritage management, interpretation and policy, with special focus on contested heritage, community engagement and mediation. She holds a PhD in Museum and Heritage Studies from University of Belgrade and MA in Cultural Policy and Management. She is a researcher and lecturer at the UNESCO Chair in Cultural Policy and Management, University of Arts, Belgrade and a trainer and consultant in heritage management, policy and outreach projects and professional capacity-building programs.

Heritage/Museums in  
contemporary society & two  
case studies from Croatia

By Darko Babic

19<sup>th</sup> of April 17:00 in B22

Although from the outside the museum/heritage world may seem static, it is at this moment extremely dynamic. Inclusiveness, co-curating, participatory approach, sustainability and so on are among the most used words in museum/heritage theory and practice today. This lecture will explore these trends foremost by examining two Croatian case-studies. The first is the Museum of Broken Relationships. The MBR is 'off the beaten track' of the museum establishment but is extremely popular among visitors. It both directly and indirectly challenges conventional ideas of the museum by addressing the emotional side as the most important through the catharsis experience it offers to museum donors and its visitors simultaneously. The second case looks at diverse perceptions around museum/heritage related work as it addresses atrocities (difficult heritage). This is done by comparing the interpretation of an ex-war area from the recent (1991-1995) conflict in the SE Europe (Croatia) with the still contested interpretation at another site (WWII memorial and museum of the ex-Nazi concentration camp). By using case-studies, the lecture questions the roles and responsibilities museums and heritage institutions have in contemporary society and attempts to redefine some theoretical elements in human-museum-heritage relations.

Darko Babic, (Assistant Professor PhD in Museum/Heritage Studies) is acting Chair of the Sub-Department of Museology & Heritage Management, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences University of Zagreb, Croatia. He has gained experience working as project manager on international projects, as an organiser of museum/heritage conferences, as an archivist and as assistant on national TV. Beside his University tasks Darko is active in contributing to the advancement of museum/heritage profession serving as Chairman of ICOM-ICTOP as well ICOM Croatia. His research interests include topics related to museums/heritage and development, management and interpretation.