

international conference



Locations of Memory

From building exhibitions
to education at
memorials/museums

PROGRAM

10–11 November

2021



Brno and Hodonín
u Kunštátu

10:20–12:00

Museum Exhibits from
Theme to Installation,
first thematic block
moderated by
Petra Svobodová

Petra Svobodová, Dušan Slačka
([Muzeum romské kultury / Museum of Romani Culture, CZ](#)):

Lety u Písku – Location of Memory and the Memory of a Location

Abstract: Since 2018, the Museum of Romani Culture has been administering the grounds of the defunct industrial pig farm that overlap the location of the former *Zigeunerlager* at Lety u Písku, as well as the cultural heritage memorial at the previously unmarked burial site for some of the victims of this camp. The museum has organized discussion fora at different levels involving interested members of the public, eyewitnesses to these historical events, relatives of the former prisoners, experts and others. As part of these debates and of the international landscape-architecture competition for the new memorial here, the form of the reverential grounds of this memorial has gradually been designed, including a building for visitors and an exhibition. This paper describes the course of this participatory reflection and its findings to date about the following questions: What should a memorial at a location where Romani and Sinti people suffered and died look like? What should be done with the industrial pig farm that was built in the place where the camp once was? What kinds of subjects and which time periods (beyond the camp's existence from 1942–1943) should shape the story that we want to tell visitors about this place? How can we combine the presentation of the exhibition with the other functions this reverential space should serve?

Tomáš Kavka ([Národní museum / National Museum, CZ](#)):

The Permanent Exhibit on the History of the 20th Century at the National Museum

Abstract: The exhibition called "History of the 20th Century" opened to the public in the summer of 2021 at the Museum Complex of the National Museum in the space called the Parliament of Nations, the building of the former Czechoslovak Federal Assembly. Its aim is to show the changes and the continuities in policy, public space, civil society and the private sector of the Czech lands in the 20th century in the context of the developments underway with respect to culture, the economy, politics and society. The exhibition asks and answers the question of to what degree any individual is dependent on those who wield political power and to what degree individuals are able to defend their personal freedom or, in reaction to developments, to create their own cultural practices. Work on the exhibition began in 2017. After creating the storyline, it was communicated to experts and different orientational and popularizing elements were included in it as a whole (educational aspects, audiovisual or mobile phone connections, classic printed guides). This presentation will communicate the perspective of one of the authors of this exhibition with regard to its concept, structure, targets, the course of its implementation and the resources used to create "History of the 20th Century" as an important part of the new exhibits in the biggest Czech museum administered by the state.

Lukasz Kukawski ([Muzeum i Miejsce Pamięci w Sobiborze / Museum and Memorial Sobibor, PL](#)):

The New Permanent Exhibition at the Museum and Memorial Site in Sobibór

Abstract: In my talk, I will present the stages of the creation of the core exhibition that is part of the new commemorative arrangements at the site of the former German Nazi death camp in Sobibór. I will discuss the purpose of the permanent exhibition, its scenario, its artistic choices, and I will delve into the documents and photos used.

13:00–14:30

Daily Operations of
Memorials/Museums,
second thematic block
moderated by
Radovan Krhovský

Viktor Janák ([Památník Zámeček / Memorial Zámeček, CZ](#)):

Pardubice Chateau Memorial – Construction of an institution of memory and a museum "from scratch"

Abstract: Several years ago, visionaries from the historical community and the city of Pardubice came up with the idea to modernize and reconstruct the area that was once used as an execution ground by the Nazis, a location that heretofore had just been open to visitors twice a year during ceremonies of commemoration. The aim of this modernization was to build a new memorial with an exhibition that will remind current and future generations of these wartime events in a dignified way. In 2017 an architectural competition was announced, and four years later the museum opened to its first visitors. Administration of the museum has been entrusted to a state-sponsored organization that was established during the course of the construction and completion of the exhibition. This paper focuses on the issue of creating a brand-new facility from scratch along with an institution that has not derived from the transformation of any previously-running unit. The aim is to share the know-how that has been acquired through this atypical experience, from the beginning of the project, to the establishment of the state-sponsored organization administering it, to its opening and first weeks in operation.

Dominika Pasieczna
([Muzeum i Miejsce Pamięci w Bełżcu / Museum and Memorial Bełżec, PL](#)):

Museum and Memorial Bełżec – seventeen years of operations

Abstract: The aim of this presentation is to introduce the activity of the Museum and Memorial at Bełżec, which was established in 2004 as a branch of the Majdanek State Museum. Over the last 17 years, many events have been held there to honor the memories of the victims, and the educational aspect has expanded to include different formats for the popularization of knowledge about the camp and its history. The presentation takes into account the development of the collaborations between the museum and other institutions both abroad and in Poland, as well as with local organizations and partner organizations in the area of education. It will also cover the exhibition offerings that make it possible to share knowledge about the camp with other cultural heritage sites and institutions. Some research activity will also be presented that covers the accumulation of accounting records and archival investigations. There will also be a discussion of the very most important of the museum's projects, "Each Victim Has a Name", thanks to which, over the course of several years, the museum managed to aggregate a great deal of information about the otherwise anonymous victims who were murdered at the camp. In conclusion, we look at changes to the construction development of the museum, such as the expansion of the new educational facility located in the building where historically the office of the commander of the Bełżec extermination camp was located, as well as how the current museum space broadcasts into the online domain.

Anna Stróż-Pawłowska ([Instytut Solidarności i Męstwa im. Witolda Pileckiego / Institute of Solidarity and Bravery Witold Pilecki, PL](#)):

Strategy for the development of a memorial site based on the example of The Ulma Family Museum of Poles Saving Jews in World War II

Abstract: Every memorial site needs a dedicated development strategy that nurtures its *genius loci* and, in parallel, that also nurtures the proven, universalizing practices which increase its range of influence. How can a site keep its local profile as it becomes a recognizable locale on the international map of remembrance? How can a site maintain equilibrium between these two prongs of its mission, the global and the local? The answers to these questions can be found in the example of *The Ulma Family Museum of Poles Saving Jews in World War II*.

15:00–16:30

Education in
Memorials/Museums,
third thematic block
moderated by
Veronika Lucassen

Jolanta Laskowska ([Państwowe Muzeum na Majdanku / Majdanek State Museum, PL](#)):

Educational Activities of the Majdanek State Museum

Abstract: Most educational activities designed by and organized at the Majdanek State Museum are based on memorial pedagogy. This is a concept for the didactics of the education in history and a training in social behavior outside of schools where, by confronting visitors with actual historical sites and documentation, both the awareness-raising and the educational opportunities provided by learning about the crimes of the Second World War are revealed. This didactics is meant to combine reflection on the past with reflection on our own attitudes, opinions and predispositions. The didactic model is based on two criteria: Taking into account pupils' subjectivity and creating occasions to learn through discovery. A crucial role is played by creative, independent work and by research undertaken by students, whose activity should lead to their freely formulating personal conclusions about this history. These activities are not just an aggregation of knowledge, but also influence the development of the personality, aid with creating the moral system of values, and teach respect for human rights and social justice. The Majdanek Museum's programs are dedicated above all to the life stories of the former prisoners and are comprised of two parts: A tour of the memorial, and independent work with different documents during which students learn about the fates of former prisoners and the history of the concentration camp at Majdanek.

Jakub Jareš, Václav Sixta ([Ústav pro studium totalitních režimů / Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes, CZ](#)):

The Red Tower of Death at Jáchymov: a work in progress

Abstract: The Red Tower of Death represents a symbol of the forced labor performed by political prisoners mining uranium and is also a location that has long been spoken of as the site of a future memorial or museum. This paper focuses on a reflection of our experiences with opening the first-ever season for visitors to this place and the process of the birth of educational programs dedicated to the history of the Tower of Death. How can political prisoners' stories and the role of this site in the Cold War be included in the guides' syllabus? What questions can be asked of classes from primary and secondary schools visiting the site?

Natalija Tkachenko ([Miejsce Pamięci i Muzeum Auschwitz-Birkenau / Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum, PL](#)):

Education at Auschwitz: New perspectives and tools

Abstract: This presentation concerns the educational philosophy at the International Auschwitz and Holocaust Education Center, which is an integral part of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum. The presentation will cover a number of advances in joint research projects with the city and new proposals for education in the Auschwitz Museum.

16:30–17:00

Closing discussion

18:30

Gala evening at the Stiassni Villa

10:00–12:00

A guided tour will be given of the grounds of the Hodonín u Kunštátu Memorial to the Holocaust of the Roma and Sinti in Moravia, including its new exhibition entitled *Hodonín u Kunštátu: Intersecting Tragedies 1940–1950. Central Europe*, followed by demonstrations of the education program.

After returning to Brno, there will also be an opportunity to attend a guided tour of the permanent exhibition called *The Story of the Roma* and the current temporary exhibition, *Impressions of Journeys: The Photography of Claude and Marie-José Carret* at the Museum of Romani Culture.

Auspices over this international conference have been provided by the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway, Mr. Robert Kvile.