

# Re-imagining the Museum in the Global Contemporary

## ICOM ICME 51st Annual Conference 2018

October 9-12, 2018, Estonia National Museum, Tartu, Estonia

**Keynotes:** Andrea Witcomb, Philipp Schorch, Pille Runnel, Wayne Modest

**Programme:** <http://enmconferences.ee/program>

**Registration information:** <http://enmconferences.ee/registration> (early bird open until August 1st)

ICOM ICME 2018 annual conference "Re-imagining the Museum in the Global Contemporary" is a 4-day long event presenting more than 40 presentations from all over the world to reflect upon the complex contexts in which museums exist today, and to creatively examine the range of new and future roles we might productively employ in our respective and interconnected institutions.

ICME is the international committee of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) devoted to ethnographic museums and collections from local, national, and/or global cultures and societies. Our annual conference brings together diverse museum scholars and practitioners from across the world.

It has now been fifteen years since Andrea Witcomb published *Re-imagining the Museum*, but her text remains relevant today. Museums are situated in a world of rapidly changing global politics, contested digital technologies, and increasing socio-economic inequalities. Within this 'global contemporary,' we recognize that various ideologies and ethical perspectives greatly influence and impact our work, in regard to understanding collections, designing exhibitions, and various other aspects of museum work.

As contemporary museum professionals, we are constantly asked to perform a range of roles that take us out of our traditional comfort zones, as we seek collaborative action across boundaries including: nation, ethnic identity, class, disability, gender and sexual preference. Museums have often ventured into difficult discussions and the engagement of diverse audiences. We might prioritise storytelling and sharing curatorial power so that myriad stories can be told in exhibition spaces, programmes and outreach to attract more diverse audiences. At the same time, such work can be seen as radical change threatening collections care, research and the place of the object in 'new' museums devoted to opening dialogue.

The conference presents the question: Are these various positions mutually exclusive? We aim to offer a space to consider that a 'both and' rather than an 'either/or' perspective may be possible, moving us beyond binary positions that put 'progress' and 'tradition' in unhealthy tension.

ICME is delighted to present four keynote speakers: Dr Wayne Modest (Netherlands), Dr Pille Runnel (Estonia), Dr Philipp Schorch (Germany) and Dr Andrea Witcomb (Australia). Details of their research interests can be found at <http://network.icom.museum/icme/conferences/annual-conference/icme-2018-keynote-speakers/#c20732>.

The conference is hosted by Estonian National Museum, in Tartu, Estonia (<http://www.erm.ee>). Post conference tours are organised by ICOM Estonia and ICOM Finland.

Conference websites: <http://network.icom.museum/icme/conferences/annual-conference/>;  
<http://enmconferences.ee/en>

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1993650297567207/>

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