

Léontine Meijer-Van Mensch

Germany – Nominated by ICOM Germany



Functions within ICOM

- Chair of the International Committee for Collecting (COMCOL) (2011-present)
- Editorial Board, Museum International (2014-present)
- Member, Resolutions Committee, ICOM 28th General Assembly (2013)

Academic Background

- Post-Graduate Studies in European Cultural Heritage Protection, Frankfurt/Oder, Germany (2003)
- B.A. and M.A. New and Theoretical History, University of Amsterdam (1999)

Current Position

- Deputy Director, Museum of European Cultures-National Museums in Berlin (2014-present)

Other Functions

- Lecturer of Heritage Theory and Professional Ethics at the Reinwardt Academy, Amsterdam (2006-2014)
- Co-Director, Mensch Museology, Museological Consultancy, Amsterdam-Berlin (2012-2014)
- Edu-Curator, Jewish Historical Museum, Amsterdam (2006)
- Coordinator, Graduate Programme "Europe Fellows", Slubice, Poland (2003-2005)
- Lecturer, Museology and Cultural Management, European University Viadrina, Frankfurt/Oder, Germany (2001-2005)
- Freelancer, Educational Department, Jewish Museum Berlin (2001-2005)
- Researcher, Jewish Museum Berlin (2000-2001)

Objectives

ICOM works for society and its development. This means that museums need to be inclusive; museums that are not just responsive and engaging, but most of all, participatory. This involves new definitions of authority and new definitions of the relation with any individual, group of individuals, organisation or political entity having a passive or active interest in what museums stand for. These new definitions will not be the same for all types of museums in all parts of the world. My vision of ICOM is that it continues to encourage debates on how museums can answer to the challenges of a contemporary world within their own context.

After important years of consolidation, ICOM can confidently look more outward once again. For me, this means that ICOM strengthens its function as a bridge-builder, connecting museum theory and museum ethics with museum practice.

ICOM can benefit if we stay more in tune with developments and innovations within other museological platforms, as well as in the larger heritage field. In my professional life I jump back and forth between museum theory and museum practice, trying to include a range of discourses and practices in my thinking. Intrigued by the social museological movement from Latin America, inspired by critical heritage theory from Australia and Canada, and originally based in Central European museology, I want to bring this heterogeneous museological toolbox into the Executive Council. In participating in the creation of a new International Committee, I have learned a lot about procedures and structures within ICOM. I know that they are important, but I also learned that sometimes it is important to be brave, and that it is beneficial to look outside the box and be daring.